

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

February 2016

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and diverse Christian community that seeks actively to love and serve God, each other, and the world.

—Mission Statement

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann, Jr.

Interim Minister

Rev. David K. McMillan

Pastor Emeritus

Dennis Elwell

Minister of Music

Sharon Parker

Director of Christian Education

Margene Biedermann

Junior Choir Director

Jane Rozmiarek

Carol Rozmiarek

Interim Office Staff

Earlene Ford

Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins

Custodian

Church Office Hours

Tuesday–Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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Letter from the Pastor

Sainthood

I grew up in a very mixed neighborhood from a religious perspective. There were many Protestants. But there were also lots of Roman Catholics, and a large Jewish community as well. We schooled together, by and large, and lived together in remarkable accord.

One of the broadening experiences which that afforded me was to allow me to get a glimpse of the faith taught to my Roman Catholic friends. In gym, especially, was there a time of learning. As we changed clothes, I could see that many of my buddies wore thin chains around their necks with medals hanging from them which had been blessed by their priest; especially revered were those medals blessed by the Pope.

The medals were replicas of and symbols for saints which were believed to be especially benevolent towards their lives. Saint Christopher was a particularly busy Saint, judging from the frequency of display.

We have seen in the news in the last few years that the Pope is moving actively to elevate a number of the giants of the faith to Sainthood. It is an exacting process, and to receive Canonization it has to be demonstrated that a person had wrought special things during their life, and had lived in a visibly saintly way. Clearly, those invested with Sainthood were extraordinary people who stood out from the rest of us, even from the rest of us faithful people.

And so it came as a real eye opener when I was introduced to some of the letters of Saint Paul in scripture.

Especially noteworthy is I Corinthians 1: 2. This verse is part of the greeting from Paul’s letter, and tells us that what the letter says is addressed “to the church... to those who are sanctified in Jesus Christ, called to be saints...”

Called to be saints! The folks who are the church, those sanctified in Jesus, are called to be saints. All of them. Called to be saints. You. Me. The fellow sitting up ahead of us in the next pew who is nodding during the sermon. The woman who baked the brownies for coffee time. The kid who ran into us during coffee time and almost knocked us over. The guy who dented our fender while parking at the curb. Those who are called to be saints are not those who walk about with auras wreathing their heads; they are folks just like you and me, who put their trousers on one leg at a time.

We... are called... to be saints.

Saint Jason.

Saint Sabrina.

Saint Elizabeth.

Saint Kevin.

Saint Kate.

Take a look in the mirror; now would be a good time. And try that tag on for size. Call yourself “Saint (insert your name here).” See how it fits. If it seems too big a hat to wear, then resolve to grow into it. By God’s help. Resolve to grow into it. With God’s help, make that the purpose of this Lenten season.

We are called...to be saints!

—Drew

Worship & Music

Sundays in February

February 7, 2016

Transfiguration Sunday

Communion

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Lynn Pompa

Acolyte: Anna Lemley

Communion Servers: Larry McGhee, Phil Sheau,
Trudy Sheau, Mike Rottinger, Deb Rottinger,
Elizabeth Cosgriff

Flowers given by: Jim & Kim McDaniel

February 14, 2016

First Sunday in Lent

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Dick Williamson

Acolyte: Sarah Stephens

Flowers given by: Laurie Geers

February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Suzy Brandt

Acolyte: Spencer Shah

Flowers given by: TBA

February 28, 2016

Third Sunday in Lent

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Amarilis Stricker

Acolyte: Amanda Duckworth

Flowers given by: Artia Benjamin

ANNUAL MEETING

The Session announces that the Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation of Overbrook Presbyterian Church will held in the sanctuary following worship on **Sunday, February 14, 2016**.

All business proper to a general meeting of our congregation will be addressed.

MUSIC NOTES FROM THE CHORAL ROOM

Children and Youth Choirs to Present a Festival at Overbrook Church in February

On **February 21, at 2:30 p.m.** (note the change in time from the originally scheduled 3:00 p.m. starting time), the Children's and Youth Choirs from Ardmore Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, in Wynnewood, and Overbrook Church, are going to present a festival in the Sanctuary of Overbrook Church. Similar in design to the festival held two years ago at Overbrook Church, and under the respective music directors, the choirs will celebrate the life of Helen Kemp, one of the giants of the children's choir venue who passed away in the fall of 2015, and feature a newly commissioned piece for the occasion by American composer, Wayne Wold. The festival is free, with a Free-Will Offering received. Be sure to hear and enjoy this wonderful afternoon of music, and celebrate the young singers of the three churches.

PALM SUNDAY, 2016 AT OVERBROOK

For many years both at Overbrook Church and liturgically throughout the Christian church, Palm Sunday was a time to just specifically celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Curiously, the Sunday preceding Palm Sunday was often denoted as Passion Sunday. In recent years, a liturgical approach for Palm Sunday has evolved with the observation of usual Palm Sunday celebrations, combined with a progression to the passion story and beginning of Holy Week. Dr. Mann has proposed that the sermon on Palm Sunday be musical in content, and to that end, The Overbrook Choir and Overbrook Quartet soloists, accompanied by a string quartet and two oboes, are going to present portions of George Frideric Handel's, *Messiah*, which musically set the passion story in Part II. The choruses and arias will be blended with appropriate scripture texts, many which are part of the original libretto of *Messiah*, selected from the scriptures by Charles Jennens. Palm Sunday in 2016 will be on March 20th, as spring and Holy Week begin. Plan to make this unique worship service an important part of your spiritual journey to the cross.

Mission & Outreach

FORMULA, DIAPER, TOY COLLECTION CAMPAIGN

As part of the Overbrook Presbyterian Church Year of Service, the Mission and Outreach Committee is spearheading a Formula, Diaper, Toy Collection campaign for the months of February, March and April, 2016. These articles are vital to the health and development of infants and babies born to HIV positive women in our area.

The beneficiaries of this collection effort are the babies and their mothers that receive care at the Family Care Center (FCC), a HIV clinical practice and program at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in conjunction with the Penn Community Infectious Disease Practices of the Presbyterian Medical Center. The FCC began in 1988 as a novel initiative that became a model for HIV/AIDS Care for children, mothers and families forged by a partnership between Children's Hospital's and Penn Medicine's Infectious Disease Divisions. Annually, the FCC care for approximately 150 babies and their mothers as well as about 150 HIV infected children and adolescents.

Quality formula for infants born to HIV positive mothers is vital to these babies' normal development as they are medically vulnerable during their first year of life and proper nutrition is essential. Although medications administered during pregnancy and delivery have practically eliminated HIV transmission from mother to child in the United States, infected women continue to give birth each year. Yet HIV infected mothers cannot breast feed their infants as the disease would be transmitted to the babies through the mother's milk. Because HIV disease is most prevalent among our poorest people, mothers cannot afford the *Similac Advanced Powder* formula recommended by pediatricians. Since this formula is not a medication it is not covered by Medicaid insurance. The government's WIC nutrition program for women, infants and children, besides its income eligibility barriers, does not provide the more nutritious infant formula in sufficient supply. Consequently poor and lower income families cannot afford the cost of this infant formula.

Diapers and hypo-allergenic baby wipes are also important for health development for infants and like the quality formula are often too costly for poorer families. The cleanliness these products provide are indispensable in avoiding the infections to which these babies are particularly prone. Contagions can leave infants susceptible to immune suppression and a range of illnesses.

Lastly, Development Toys are important for mental development among this subset of the infant population which suffers the greatest risk of cognitive delay. Again, these items cannot be purchased among families with incomes at poverty levels when basic subsistence items such as rent and food require most of the family income. The availability of an item as a rattle or stacking ring is taken for granted among most Americans, but for low income families such things are an unaffordable luxury.

The items are available in most places like: Target, Rite Aid, CVS, Costco, BJ's, supermarkets and even Amazon. Cash donations can be made in lieu of shopping for the items or look for a "Baby Store" during coffee hours in February stocked by Nancy Gilhool.

Deacons

Prayer List

For our homebound members and friends

Mary VandenBerge, Binnie Savage, Bette Ann Johnston, Judith Swartz, and Madelon Cogdill

For those facing a loss

The Taussig-Lux family on the loss of Brian's uncle Hal

For those facing health challenges

Becky Lazo as she continues her recovery from foot surgery; Suzy Brandt after her heart tests at Lankenau; Pat Dillon after her knee surgery early this month

Please contact one of our Deacons to add names or concerns to this list. We can be reached by email from the church website, by leaving a message in the Church Office, or by speaking with one of the Deacons in person.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2	Sean Whalen	2/16	Jeff Roth
2/3	Irene N'Tokou Gasonu Nick Henry	2/20	Aiyana Long
2/4	Kevon Bratcher	2/21	Serge Geraldo Akuvi Gumedzo
2/5	Beulah Wilson	2/22	Charles Brown Hyunkyung Sung
2/6	Asa Hausmann	2/23	Helena Bryant Julia Spadaro
2/8	Arthur C. Piatt	2/25	Samuel Wong
2/10	Amos Paul	2/27	Sabrina Johnson Nyani O'Leary
2/11	Asta Gundrum	2/28	Yannick Geraldo
2/12	Alex Gattone	2/29	Katie Ziemba
2/14	Brett Kaercher Ian McDaniel		
2/15	Estalene Ferrillo		

Congregational Life

Conversations at the Crossroads Make Sure You Don't Miss This Opportunity!

The facilitators of our mission study team are scheduling small group meetings in February. Many of the meetings will take place in the homes of church members. We hope that everyone will be able to attend one of the meetings in their own neighborhood, but if not, there will also be three or more meeting opportunities at the church so that everyone can attend one.

The purpose of the Mission Study is to reflect on where we, as a church, have been, where we currently are, and where we are going. We will share and record our ideas and thoughts in the small group meetings. It is important that we get input from as many members of the Overbrook Church family as possible. The Mission Study is mandated by the Presbyterian Church and the results will provide information for the process of calling a new pastor.

We are looking for volunteers to host meetings in homes across our region. Our team members will facilitate the meeting. No one needs to provide a meal, just light refreshments and a space for a meeting of 8 to 12 people. (And we can help with the refreshment part, too!) You can choose the date that works best for you.

If you would be willing to provide a space for one of these special meetings, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact any of these facilitators of this process: Kate Shackelford (keshack@aol.com), Edelen Carroll (carrollvirgo@verizon.net) Rachel Carnahan, (jbrc117@verizon.net) Bob Harden Jr., (rjharden@dow.com) Deb Rottinger, (rottinger@woodlynde.org) or Sarah Stephens (sarah.stephens74@gmail.com).

AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Our church has a set of bylaws which determine the way we govern ourselves, elect officers, hold meetings of the congregation, etc. The Presbytery of Philadelphia has asked all its churches to amend their bylaws to include a policy on dealing with sexual misconduct. The recommendation is that the policy be the same as the Presbytery policy, which can be found at <http://presbyphl.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-2013.pdf>, if you are interested in reading a long, densely-worded document. There are a few other proposed changes: provision for an alternate member-at-large for the Representative Nominating Committee, in case one of them is unable to serve.; clearing up some confusing and contradictory wording about quorums; and preventing a conflict of interest between the Session/Trustees of the church and the Board of Trustees of the Preschool. The process for amending the bylaws are that proposed changes must be approved by the Session, done at its meeting on Jan. 12, 2016, and then by the congregation at its next meeting, which will be the Annual Meeting on Feb. 14, immediately following worship. If you would like more information about the bylaws in advance of the Annual Meeting, please get in touch with Sara Davis, Clerk of Session. And please come to the Annual Meeting to vote on the changes - they are your bylaws.

A reminder that all fundraisers held under the auspices of the church, either at the church or offsite, must be approved in advance by the Session. This includes events for which tickets are sold, items are for sale or donations are collected. Requests for approval may be submitted through any Session member or the Clerk, Sara Davis and should include the place, date, time and purpose of the event. Session meets the second Tuesday of the month, so please plan ahead.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2015	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$47,068.98	\$43,720.77	\$533,256.80	\$480,928.47
Total Expenses	\$43,131.98	\$43,532.60	\$447,418.96	\$478,858.60
Net	\$3,937.00	\$188.17	\$85,837.84	\$2,069.87

Congregational Life

FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Feb. 7 *Sign up now!*
 Feb. 14: Phil & Trudy Sheau
 Feb. 21: Angie Goodall
 Feb. 28: Johnson Family

Please look for the 2016 sign-up board in the Wistar Morris Room. Contact Amarilis Sticker at 484-343-0679 with coffee hour questions.



Overbrook Book Club

OPC Book club will be held on **Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 pm** at the home of Elizabeth Mendoza (14 Bennington Rd., Havertown) This month's selection is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Please RSVP to Elizabeth at 610-446-2455 or egmendoza@comcast.net.

Upcoming books: *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett (March 8)

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates (April, date TBA)

Urban/Suburban Book Club

Meeting: **Tuesday February 16, 2016 - 12:00 pm**
 Location: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

February's selection: *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe

This is a book club of diverse membership involving members of several Presbyterian churches, including Overbrook. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Alyce Marsh at 215-472-7886.



—Edelene Carroll

Family Sports & Game Night

Sports & Game Night will take place on **February 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm** at the Church. Join us in playing half-court basketball or board games. \$5 per family covers pizza and drinks. We look forward to having you join us for fun, food and fellowship. Please contact Jason Sheau at JSheau@yahoo.com or 215-450-5190 for more information.



OPC Youth: Basketballs and Meatballs

Come out for Sports & Game Night on **Friday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 pm**...Play basketball and/or help make soup for Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. We'll be shooting baskets in Fellowship Hall and making mini-meatballs for Italian Wedding soup in the kitchen. Good fun! Great aromas!



Here is a list of the new and returning church officers who were installed on January 10

The Session

The Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann, Jr., Moderator ♦ Sara K. Davis, Clerk of Session

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Jeffrey Bowker	Rachel Carnahan	Edelene Carroll
Elizabeth Cosgriff, Pres. Of Corp.	Ron Homer	Bob Kothari *
Raelyn Harman	Will Schick	Jane Rozmiarek
Kate Shackelford, Church Treas.	Jason Sheau *	Aimerie Scherluebbe *
Kevin Trindade	Karen Wong	Sean Whalen *

The Board of Deacons

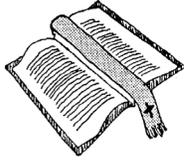
Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
John Baker	Nicole Stokes-Robinson	Terri Hunter *
Tyrone Frisby	Sabrina Johnson	Stephanie Morris *
Vince Gilhool	Elienne Paul	Davorka Sabljak
Angie Goodall	Larry McGhee	Carol Tulba *
Mike Rottinger, Moderator	Brad Biedermann, Treasurer	Ellen Valudes *

* newly ordained and installed

Christian Education

BIBLE STUDY

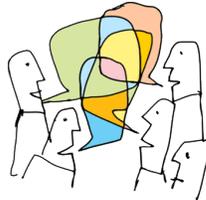
Wednesday mornings
10:00 to 11:30 AM
McMillan Chapel



Rev. Drew Mann welcomes all OPC members and friends to participate in a study of the Gospel of Luke. Adult Bible Study meets each **Wednesday morning from 10:00-11:30 am** in the Chapel.

ADULT FORUM

Sunday mornings
9:15 to 10:15 AM
McMillan Chapel



The Adult Forum theme for February is African American Voices: Stories of Strength, Dialogues for Social Justice. On February 7, we welcome Dr. Linda Nelson, distinguished anthropologist and Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Africana Studies at Stockton University as our introductory speaker. Please join us for this engaging series. Adult Forum meets each Sunday morning in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15. The welcome is warm; the coffee is hot.

MLK Morning of Service

With enthusiasm and good spirit over seventy members of our congregation and community came together on January 17 for OPC's MLK Morning of Service. Accepting the call...God's Work, Our Hands, teams of all ages packed, cooked, built, created, and restored. In the spirit of Dr. King, we worked to serve those whom we may never meet; we worked to renew hope and bring the promise of joy to others.

At the conclusion of the morning, we were able to send sixty containers of soup, seventy servings of cornbread, and sixty breakfast bags to Aid for Friends, for distribution to area shut-ins. The Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County gratefully received thirty family personal care kits and fifteen craft boxes for children and youth. Twelve fleece blankets for babies and toddlers were made for patients at CHOP and will be distributed to their parents staying at the Philadelphia Ronald MacDonald House. One hundred friendship bracelet kits were assembled for children at CHOP, and three windowsill herb gardens were planted and are ready for delivery to OPC shut-ins.

While the great majority of the efforts were directed to the broader community, two projects served needs within our church. Child safety was assured as a team of fine carpenters and painters built protective radiator covers for the K-1 Sunday School Room. Staining and polishing teams focused restoration efforts on the aging oak furniture and doors in the Sanctuary, Chapel and Wistar Morris Room.

It was a morning of joyful noise and great enthusiasm; it was a morning of boundless energy. Prayers of gratitude were lifted for those who came to serve...prayers for hope and healing go to those who will receive.

Congregational Life



Narberth Community Theatre's Performance of The Wedding Singer to Benefit Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Once a year, NCT designates a performance to solely benefit OPC. For the price of a theatre ticket, come and enjoy a dessert and a theatre performance with family and friends. Tickets will be on sale starting Feb. 21st at coffee hour.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 \$20 per ticket
6:30PM – Complimentary Dessert/Refreshments
7:30PM – Performance

Christian Education

(Almost) Valentine's Day Prayer Breakfast

It's Prayer Breakfast time! Bring your Valentine, your family and friends...come enjoy the fine breakfast buffet, fellowship and shared devotions in the Wistar Morris Room on **Saturday, February 13, from 9:30-11:00 am**. Guest chefs are warmly welcome. Please sign-up to attend...and/or cook...in the Wistar Morris Room following worship, or by emailing sharon@overbrookpresb.org. Prayer Breakfasts are a ministry of the Christian Education Committee; there is no charge for the meal. A free-will offering basket will be available for those wishing to make a contribution to the Youth Mission trip.

SUMMER DREAMIN': SUMMER EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

As OPC families begin to plan summer camp and vacations schedules, the Christian Education Committee hopes you will consider the following great opportunities for your children:

Vacation Bible School: "All Creatures of our God and King" **August 7-11**, 5:00-7:30 pm. Children, Pre-K through Grade 5 are invited to participate in this series of fun-filled, faith-based science adventures!

PC-USA Youth Triennium: July 19-23, Purdue University. We would love to have OPC high school youth join the Philadelphia Presbytery student delegation to our national youth conference. This is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to participate in a national church dialogue, grow in faith, and have a preview of college campus life.

Youth in Mission: Middle and High School students...pack your bags and let's head to Broad Street Ministry! We'll be participating in their Summer Youth Initiative from **July 31-August 4**.

Summer Camp? Think Kirkwood! Please check out this wonderful church-sponsored summer camp. A great adventure awaits. (kirkwoodcamp.org)

For more information, contact Sharon Parker (Sharon@overbrookpresb.org)



On Super Bowl Sunday, **February 7**, our OPC Youth will be participating in the nationwide "Souper Bowl of Caring" initiative. On Super Bowl Sunday, youth groups across the country will be gathering donations to support food banks and food ministries in their home area. All funds received will directly support the chosen ministry. Throughout this school year, our OPC Youth have cooked for Aid for Friends and for Calvin. This effort will support another food mission of OPC...Broad Street Ministry.

On Super Bowl Sunday, look for our OPC Youth table in the Wistar Morris Room. We'll have two soup pots out—one for the Carolina Panthers and one for the Denver Broncos. Use your donations to vote for your favorite team! In appreciation for your generosity, the first 80 contributors will receive a take-home cup of Official OPC Youth Soup to enjoy during the game. The offering is free-will; the soup is free. And good!

OPC Talks...and Walks: Black, Brown, and Beige: A tribute to the creative genius of Duke Ellington

On **Tuesday, February 23, 7:00-8:30 PM** in the Chapel, join us as we welcome Jeff Duperon, acclaimed WRTI jazz commentator and on-air host of *Jazz with Jeff Duperon*.

Following Mr. Duperon's presentation, a musical ensemble of OPC members, Lynn Pompa, Patrice Pompa, Iris Fairfax, and Elizabeth Mendoza, will perform Duke Ellington's *Black, Brown and Beige*. A café reception will precede the presentation. *OPC Talks...and Walks* is a ministry of the Christian Education Committee. This program is offered free of charge; friends are welcome.

February Calendar

Tues. 2/2 1:00 PMWorship & Music Committee
 7:00 PMFinance Committee
 Wed. 2/3 4:30 PMProperty Committee
 Tues. 2/9 7:00 PMSession
 Wed. 2/10..... 7:00 PMAsh Wednesday Worship
 Sat. 2/13..... 8:00 AM.....Prayer Breakfast
 Sun. 2/14..... 11:30 AM.....Annual Meeting
 12:00 PMDeacon’s Meeting
 Sun. 2/21..... 12:00 PMChristian Education Committee
 12:00 PMMission & Outreach Committee
 2:30 PMYouth Choir Concert
 Tues. 2/23 7:00 PMOPC Talks
 Wed. 2/24 6:30 PMSoup & Bread Supper/Compline
 Sun. 2/28..... 12:00 PMMission Study Meeting

February Weekly Events

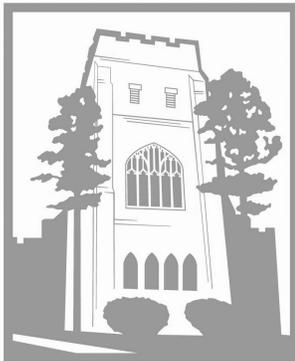
Sundays 9:15 AM Junior Choir
 9:15 AM Adult Forum
 10:30 AM Worship
 11:30 AM Coffee Hour

Wednesdays 10:00 AM Bible Study

Thursdays 10:30 AM Meal at Calvin
 6:30 PM Bell Choir
 8:00 PM Choir

Fridays 6:30 PM Family Sports & Game Night

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151
 215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org
 www.overbrookpresb.org

Lenten Worship at Overbrook

The coming Lenten season brings us diverse opportunities to gather in worship and prayerful fellowship. These opportunities include the formal services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Palm Sunday, as well as compline, which according to Christian tradition is the final worship of the day. Please keep this schedule of services in your hearts and in your homes.

February 10	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship (Imposition of Ashes)
February 24	6:30 pm	Soup and Bread Supper followed by Compline
March 2	6:30 pm	Soup & Bread Supper followed by Compline
March 16	6:30 pm	Soup & Bread Supper followed by Compline
March 19	9:30 am	The Journey of Christ: An Intergenerational Event
March 20	10:30 am	Palm Sunday Worship
March 24	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae & Communion
March 25	12:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
March 27	10:30 am	Easter – Resurrection Sunday Celebration

The Congregational Life Committee welcomes contributions of soup and bread for the Lenten suppers. If you are able to assist with either, please contact Raelyn at raelynkay@aol.com.