



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

February 2017

### *Letter from the Pastor*

#### On Fish Tanks

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*

Lisa Faso

*Office Manager*

Earlene Ford

*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins

*Church Custodian*



If you had come into my office in the 25 years preceding my retirement, you would have seen a fish tank in the corner of the room. Fish tanks have always had a soothing effect on me for some reason. But it also had a practical function in my office. I found that if someone wanted to stop by to talk and if they had children with them, that the fish tank would have a salubrious effect on the behavior of those children. Most of the time the fish tank gave us time to talk because the children were drawn to the color and motion and novelty of the tank and its occupants.

It had the same effect on me. I often would take a break, grab a cup of coffee, and pull my chair over to the tank and just watch, clearing my mind and allowing myself to be drawn into the watery world that I had created.

I was the reason that tank existed. I maintained it. I fed the fish, changed the water, made sure that the water was oxygenated, kept it at the appropriate temperature, made sure that the chemistry of the water was balanced, and I cleaned it when needed. It was my little world.

Without me, the fish would have suffered and died.

They did not have ultimate control over their lives, really. If I tired of them, they were done. If I did not feed them, they starved. If I did not change the water, they would sicken. If I was negligent, they would suffer. And eventually would have died. They chose the direction of their movements, but they owed their lives to me.

Now, they could have wreaked havoc in that fish tank if they had wanted. The sharks could have eaten the neons or wagtails. The larger fish could have harassed the small ones. So, no matter how well I had cared for the tank, if my creation had opted for bedlam it would have happened. I could have *made* it so that bedlam would never have happened, but I liked the diversity and balance that I had struck in that little world. It was *my* world; it was entirely dependent on me. But its inhabitants had the freedom to either enjoy or destroy their little world, depending upon their inclination.

Sounds familiar, does it not! We live in God's world, and have all we need. We are dependent upon God. We can enjoy or destroy, depending upon our moods or passions at the moment.

If we opt for the balance God intended, by God's help, there is enough for all, and a blessed life for all. God's balance is good. What we do with it is everything.



Drew

#### Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

# Worship & Music

## Music Series 2016-2017

Sunday, April 2, 2017-4:00p.m.

Ardmore Presbyterian Church  
5 Montgomery Avenue, Ardmore  
Maurice Duruflé: Requiem, Opus 9  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Solemn Vespers

The Overbrook Choir

The Ardmore Presbyterian Church Choir

The St. Paul's Lutheran Church Choir

With Orchestra and Organ

Sunday, April 30, 2017-3:00 p.m.

Organist, Aaron Patterson in Recital  
The Clarence H. Geist Memorial Moller Organ  
Overbrook Presbyterian Church

## Sundays in February

February 5, 2017

Communion

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Deb Rottinger



February 12, 2017

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Dick Williamson

February 19, 2017

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Sarah Stephens

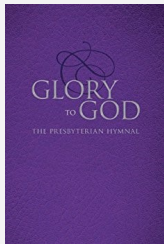


February 26, 2017

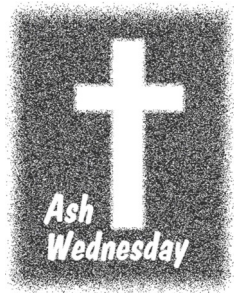
Transfiguration of the Lord

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Elizabeth Cosgriff



The Case of the Missing Hymnals. Our supply of hymnals has begun to dwindle. Some may have inadvertently found their way to OPC cars and homes. If a wayward hymnal is discovered, please help it find its way back to Overbrook.



All are invited to gather for Ash Wednesday worship on March 1, at 7:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. We will begin the season of Lent with a service of reflection and the imposition of ashes. While children are always welcome in worship, nursery staff will be available for pre-schoolers.

# Congregational Life

## Coffee Hour

February 5  
Bowker Family



February 12  
Phil Sheau



February 19  
TBA



February 26  
Sabrina Johnson

When no one person or family signs up to be the coordinator/host of coffee hour we will post an online sign-up page for people to commit to accomplishing discrete tasks such as bringing 3 doz. bites of something to eat, clean-up, set-up, greeting at the Wister Morris entryway, etc. When one or two people sign up in the binder in the Wister Morris room to host coffee hour, the expectation is that it be a group effort not the responsibility of one or two individuals. Children love to help out so recruit yours or someone else's. This is a perfect opportunity to get to know people, so if you are an old timer to OPC please invite more recent members and visitors to join you in hosting and if you are relatively new to OPC do not hesitate to invite some of whom have been around a while longer. All hosts are much appreciated and remember to keep it simple. Please contact Amarilis Stricker (484-270-8351) or Raelyn Harman (610-331-8972) if you have any questions.

### Urban/Suburban Book Club

**Meeting:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Overbrook Presbyterian Church

**February's Selection:** *When Breath Becomes Air*  
by Paul Kalanithi

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. The Book Club does not meet in July or August.



Thank you to each and everyone of you that helped to make our that helped to make our Christmas Eve meal at Overbrook so enjoyable. No task was left undone, from grocery shopping, to decorating, to baking lasagnas at home, to cookie donations and last but not least cleaning up. All your efforts were greatly appreciated. -Judy Williamson

### OPC Book Club

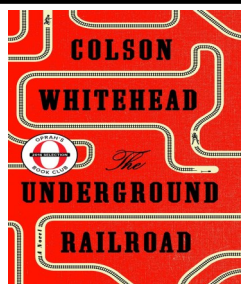
**Meeting:** Thursday, February 16th.

**Time:** 7: 30 p.m.

**Location:** Elizabeth Cosgriff's House

**February's Selection:**

*The Underground Railroad*  
by Colson Whitehead



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 12, 2017.**

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

## Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee, at the direction of Session, is creating a new program called Sustaining Overbrook's Future. This will be an ongoing effort to educate the congregation and to encourage members and friends to include the church in their estate plans. Including OPC in your will is a loving way to create a legacy and also a way of sustaining the work that we do building God's Kingdom here at The Crossroads.

So keep an eye out for more details and be thinking about whether this is something you would consider.

--Your Stewardship Committee

# Christian Education

## February's Adult Forum

### *Yes, We Can: Stories of Greatness*

Throughout Black History Month, Adult Forum will focus on the achievements of African Americans who have made indelible impacts on American and global culture through the arts, science, religion, technology, and governance. Please join us as we learn the stories and hear the voices of those called to greatness.

Adult Forum meets in the Chapel each Sunday morning from 9:15 to 10:15. Please join us for hot coffee, a warm welcome, and an engaging discussion.



### OPC Youth Ice Skating: Sunday, February 12

Let's go ice skating! Wear your ice skating clothes to church on February 12. Following worship, we'll be having lunch in Fellowship Hall, and then taking the train to Center City for an afternoon of outdoor skating at Rothman Rink (Dilworth Plaza). We'll return to Overbrook Train Station for parent pick-up at 4:18 PM. The Christian Education Committee is helping to defray the expense of the afternoon, by providing lunch and transportation. Participant cost is \$10.00, which includes lunch, round-trip train transportation, skate rental and ice time. Friends are welcome. *Permission slip and payment deadline is February 8. Please contact Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)) by February 8th to reserve your spot*

## MLK Day: God's Work...Our Hands

Overbrook's MLK Morning of Service brought together approximately 100 volunteers from our congregation and the broader community. From 9:00-11:30 AM, participants of all ages worked together to create the Tee-Shirt Memorial to those whose lives were lost to gun violence, assemble 50 comfort kits for displaced children and adults, fill 25 craft kits for children in need, cook 50 servings of soup and cornbread and fill 50 Breakfast Bags for Aid For Friends, sew 24 children's dresses for global missions, create "Thank You" cards for US Troops, design "Thinking of You" cards for members of OPC, build radiator covers for OPC Sunday School rooms, and refresh and restore the Sanctuary woodwork.

On January 15, many hands made positive contributions to the lives of others. Deepest appreciation is extended to all who were able to serve and support on MLK Day.

## The (Almost) Valentine's Day Prayer Breakfast: Saturday, February 11

It's almost Prayer Breakfast time! All are invited to gather in the Wistar Morris Room on Saturday, February 11, from 9:30-11:00 AM for fellowship, a fine breakfast buffet, and shared devotion. This special event is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, and devoted Prayer Breakfast attendee, Dorothy Burton. Dorothy inspired the concept of Prayer Breakfasts at OPC, assisted with the preparation of the meals, and regularly invited her friends to join in this fellowship. In that spirit, all are encouraged to circle the date...invite friends...and to look forward to a wonderful OPC morning.

Our (Almost) Valentine's Day buffet, served from 9:30-10:30 AM will include Jane Krumrine's now famous scrambled eggs, the traditional pork product medley, sausage gravy and biscuits (always Dorothy's special request), breakfast casseroles, fresh fruits and pastries. At 10:30 AM, we'll share devotions and offer personal prayers for peace, hope, healing, and prayers of gratitude for all the saints who have touched our lives...especially Dorothy Burton.

If you have a special breakfast casserole or pastry you would like to share, or are able to assist with set-up or serving, please contact Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)). All contributions are welcomed.

Prayer Breakfasts are a multi-generational ministry of the Christian Education Committee. All food is donated and there is no charge for the meal. For those who wish to make a contribution, a free-will offering basket will be available. All offering received on February 11, will benefit Feed my Starving Children. Please sign-up to attend through the OPC website or in the Wistar Morris Room following worship.



# Christian Education



Sunday, February 5

Cheer on your favorite Super Bowl contender...and help our OPC Youth fight hunger. Following worship on Sunday, February 5, our youth will be stationed in the Wistar Morris Room with two soup pots, each pot representing a 2017 Super Bowl contender. By making a donation in one or (both) pots, you will be supporting a nationwide youth initiative to combat local and global hunger relief. This year, all proceeds will benefit Feed My Starving Children. To highlight our "Souper Bowl of Caring" theme, Coffee Hour refreshments will feature special chili and soup tastings. We encourage all to stay following worship on February 5, and enjoy this special fellowship.

# Mission & Outreach



In case you missed it: Overbrook Presbyterian Church and Bonner & Prendie Catholic High School will be hosting the first FMSC MobilePack in Delaware County on April 22 at Bonner/Prendie in Drexel Hill. The enthusiasm is mounting as we prepare for this big event and we need your help! We need volunteers to help with promotions and fundraising, whether it is brainstorming lists of local businesses or offering to make calls or stuff envelopes—we have a job for you!. Of course, we also need to raise about \$16,000 and we need 500+ volunteers on the day of the event. Please consider how you can help and contact Becky Lazo or Janet Bowker. Thank you! . -Becky Lazo

## NCT NARBETH COMMUNITY THEATRE



### Once Upon a Mattress

*A Comedy Musical*

Running from March 3 – 18, 2017

We are gearing up for another concession run for NCT's next production, Once Upon A Mattress. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please contact Trudy Sheau, 215 878 4872.

To all my experienced concessionaires (and hopefully, many new concessionaires to come) I'm hoping to have your support/help once again in staffing the OPC's theater's concession.

Revenues from 'THEATRE REFRESHMENT STAND' during these shows are slotted to OPC's general budget.

## Dignity Housing to Receive Donation

from Women's Dining Circle

The Women's Dining Circle gathered at Liz Shah's home on Friday, January 20. Over 30 Overbrook women, plus our guests gathered to learn about Dignity Housing. The featured speaker was Executive Director, John Ungar, incidentally a longtime friend of Liz and Atul's, and Wilhelmina Terry, formerly a client of Dignity Housing. First John explained the nuts and bolts of Dignity Housing – homeless mothers and their children, referred by social services, can live at Dignity Housing while receiving training in the skills needed to live on their own. Wilhelmina then told her personal story and stressed that anyone can find themselves homeless. WDC is very pleased to be sending a check for \$1,360.00.



# Deacons



Congratulations! To Toffer and Julia Mihalka on the birth of their son Leo Anthony!

Welcome! New and returning deacons- Suchita Fiorillo, Artia Benjamin and Nickie Stokes.

Thanks! To the deacons who have fulfilled their terms, John Baker, Vince Gilhool and Tyrone Frisby

Dorothy Burton's memorial service is February 4th at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Friends and relatives are invited to call from 9:30am-10:45am. Service will follow at 11:00am.

Long time member, Lavinia (Binnie) Savage passed away on January 24, 2017. Binnie was one of the first female trustees at OPC. The only committee that Binnie was not a member of was the Deacons, otherwise she served on every other committee at OPC. She also was instrumental in developing the Overbrook Pre-school.

Rachel and Lillian Carnahan thank everyone for their prayers and expressions of sympathy following the death of Charles Carnahan, our father and husband.

## Prayer List

Laura Toy  
Phyllis Watson  
Dorothy Burton's family  
Nancy Gilhool  
Lavinia (Binnie) Savage's family

*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.*



2/02-Nick Henry	2/16-Evelyn Gorman
2/03-Irene Akou	2/17-Jill Van Rawley
Dr. Robert Wilson	2/19-Danielle Long
Jessica Sheau	2/20-Aiyana Bailey Long
2/05-Beulah Wilson	2/21-Rachide Geraldo
2/06-Marissa Phan	2/22-Charles Brown
2/08-Arthur Piatt	2/23-Helena Bryant
2/10-Amos Paul	2/25-Margaret Young
2/14-Brett Kaercher	2/29-Katherine Ziemba
Ian McDaniel	
2/15-Estalene Ferrillo	
Philip Piatt	
Jim Vagnoni	

# Finance

## FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2016	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 72,359.21	\$ 46,446.61	\$ 483,061.92	\$ 510,912.71
Total Expenses	\$ 35,613.44	\$ 46,008.37	\$ 424,412.71	\$ 506,092.07
Net	\$ 36,745.77	\$ 438.24	\$ 58,649.21	\$ 4,820.64

# Community



## Narberth Community Theatre's **Benefit Performance for** *Overbrook Presbyterian Church*

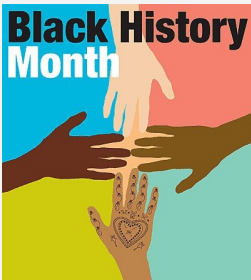
Sunday, March 19, 2017

1PM Showtime



ONCE UPON A MATTRESS – a musical comedy for the whole family's pleasure. You will enjoy a free light lunch before the performance and childcare for children 4 and under: free. Cost of tickets are \$20.00 each.

We once again, have an opportunity to accomplish two goals with one stroke – to enjoy a wonderful theatre experience besides raising funds towards OPC's operating budget.



## Black History Month Events in Philadelphia

There are many exciting Black History month events planned in the Philadelphia area throughout February, several of which are listed below. Members who would like to attend any of the following are encouraged to contact the church office; carpooling may be possible.

### Community College of Philadelphia, 17th and Spring Garden Street

February 4, 1:00-4:00 PM *Children's African American Book Fair*

### Independence National Park Visitors Center (Programs are free of charge)

February 4, 1:00-2:00 PM "Free Blacks in Philadelphia History: From Slave Ships to City Hall"

February 18, 1:00-1:45 PM Performance "Philadelphia's Forgotten Hero: Octavious V. Catto"

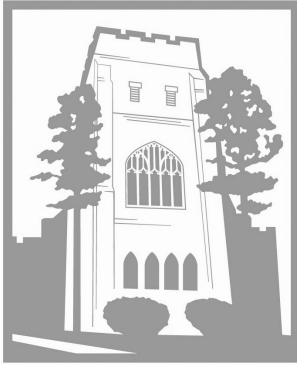
### Philadelphia Free Library: Wynnefield Branch (Program is free of charge.)

February 8, 6:00 PM Underground Railroad Museum at Historic Belmont Mansion presents *The Underground Railroad*.

### University of Pennsylvania Museum

February 25, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM African Cultures Day (Free with museum admission.)

## *News from the Crossroads*



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ [office@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:office@overbrookpresb.org)

[www.overbrookpresb.org](http://www.overbrookpresb.org)