

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

January 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

9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

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Letter from the Pastor

*“And a time for every purpose
under heaven...”*

I do not know how old I was when I saw my first Walt Disney nature movie in school, but I was not very old. I remember the scene about the “Industrious Ant”. We were shown an immense nest of ants, millions of them, scurrying around with a single minded purpose. The hill was bursting with energy, and it seemed in perpetual motion. All of the ants raced around as if they were terrified of running out of time to complete all they had to do.

Later in the same film, we were shown the same kind of frenetic activity in a comb of honey bees.

And at yet another time, Disney’s *Alice in Wonderland* introduced me to the White Rabbit, who ran breathlessly ahead of poor Alice, brandishing a pocket watch and shouting, “I’m late! I’m late! For a very important date!” Alice never could keep up with him, struggle as she might.

Is it any wonder that my generation grew up in high gear, replacing the relatively placid home life in which we grew up with one run by multiple calendars and digital clocks? Adults, all the children in any given home, and all of their friends, both young and adult, share a common disease: we never have enough time. We are scheduled from the moment we rise to the time we retire.

We do not have time for ourselves. We do not have time for our spouses. We do not have time for our children. Or our parents. We do not have time for pleasure, for play, for work, or for our homes. No longer does the average American worker take two consecutive

weeks off for vacation; there is not time. Trying to find a date to go out to dinner with friends is sadly futile; everyone is booked. Trying to find time for the now-quaint family dinner is nearly impossible.

We, like the White Rabbit, run about crying out, “I’m late! I’m late”. It is a breathless existence. It is not healthy, for either our bodies or our spirits. And it is destructive to all of our relationships.

Perhaps most odious and most tragic of all, our lives no longer have time for God, either. My folks read the Bible. So did my grandparents. It was a regular feature of their daily life.

They went to church, too. Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evenings... at the very least Church was three times a week.

And they prayed. Fairly frequently every day.

Does anyone *not* recognize this as a lifestyle that exists only in the faint memory of the increasingly old?

We have no time for anything. *The tyranny of the urgent thrusts forward lives once ordered by the important.*

But I have good news for the weary. The ancient poetry of the book of Ecclesiastes still tells the Truth. There is time for our lives. All that we have to do is take it back.

Every one of us has 24 hours in every day. This year, 2016, we even get an extra day (Yes, Virginia, it is Leap Year!) to live. What we need to do with this time is to remember what is important, and not yield to what is merely urgent.

The reality of life is that we have lost

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Worship & Music

Sundays in January

January 3, 2016

The Second Sunday in Christmastide

Communion

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Will Schick

Acolyte: Maya Mendoza

Communion Servers: Will Schick, Ken Carroll,
Elizabeth Mendoza, Jason Sheau, Dick
Williamson, Judy Williamson, Nicole Stokes-
Robinson, Rev. Drew Mann

Flowers given by: Laurie Geers

January 10, 2016

Baptism of the Lord

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Becky Lazo

Acolyte: Tarah Paul

Flowers given by: Olga Hoggard

January 17, 2016

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Raelyn Harman

Acolyte: Justin Gosfield

Flowers given by: TBA

January 24, 2016

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Keedra Carroll

Acolyte: Audrey Sigler

Flowers given by: TBA

January 31, 2016

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Ron Homer

Acolyte: Pearl Stricker

Flowers given by: TBA

MUSIC NOTES FROM THE CHORAL ROOM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR TO PRESENT A FESTIVAL AT OVERBROOK CHURCH IN FEBRUARY

On February 21, at 3:00 pm, 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 two years ago, and under their respective directors, the choirs will celebrate the life of Helen Kemp, one of the giants of the children's choir venue who passed away recently, and feature a newly commissioned piece for the occasion by American composer, Wayne Wold. The festival is free, with a Free-Will Offering received. Plan to mark your new 2016 calendars to hear and enjoy this wonderful afternoon of music, and to celebrate the young singers of the three churches.

PERFORMING ARTS FUND

Overbrook Church is privileged to present concerts and recitals during the course of each season, such as the recent 21st Annual *Messiah Sing*, on November 29th. These musical opportunities are made possible through gifts to the Performing Arts Fund and the West/Lampe Endowment Fund. Though offerings are usually also received at each event, often they do not cover the expenses. If you would like to financially support all the wonderful musical events, your generous gifts are welcomed at any time of the year. They can be forwarded to the church marked specifically for the "Performing Arts Fund." Please speak with the Minister of Music if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous spirit.

Mission & Outreach

Women's Dining Circle

Save the date! **January 29th** is the first Women's Dining Circle event in 2016. Stephanie Kindt has graciously agreed to host and we will be supporting *Feed My Starving Children*, a group near and dear to the heart of Becky Lazo and her parents. FMSC is a Minnesota-based Christian non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to getting nutrition to starving and malnourished children all over the world. Stay tuned for further details.

—Janet Bowker

THANK YOU!

Because of the generous giving of the Overbrook family to the Adopt-a-Family program, three deserving families will have a plentiful supply of gifts under their trees. PathwaysPA provided us with wish lists from 5 adults, 2 babies, 4 children, and 4 teenagers, and we provided these friends with 21 18-gallon bags of clothing, toys, books, and home goods. Sincere thanks to you all.

—Nancy Gilhool

Matthew 25:35 Project Meal

*"for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
(Matthew 25:35)*

Every Thursday, 10:00 am at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 60th and Master Streets, in Philadelphia. To help prepare the meal, come at 10:30 AM with your cooking skills. We can always use servers from 11:15 AM to 1:00 PM. To learn more, contact Elizabeth Cosgriff at elizabethcosgriff@gmail.com.

Soup Makers Needed



Overbrook is making soup again for Broad Street Ministry's Overnight Cafe. The cafe serves Philadelphia's most vulnerable homeless, those who do not do well in more traditional shelters. Seventy-five on a regular night to 100 on a "code blue" night guests are served during the months of January, February and March.

Soup makers are needed on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of January-March**. We meet immediately after church to make the soup. This is a great family activity and takes about an hour of your time.

Signup after church with Deb Rottinger. Email for more info, rottinger@woodlynde.org

DAYS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - 2016

The Mission & Outreach Committee has declared 2016 as a **Year for Christian Service** for our broader congregation. This M & O initiative encourages you, OPC congregants, to identify a service project or a needy entity you would wish to help with Committee support; or join up to participate in an existing service project. See Kiosk in Wistar Morris Room for January service projects that include:

- Helping the Matthew 25:35 Project's serving a meal at Calvin Presbyterian Church, each Thursday of the month; Contact Elizabeth Cosgriff or Larry McGhee.
- Preparing Soup for Broad Street Ministry's Winter Meals for Homeless People – OPC Kitchen, after Sunday Service, 2nd and 4th Sundays. Contact Deb Rottinger.
- Attending Women's Dining Circle at the Home of Stephanie Kindt, Friday, January 29th; Contact Janet Bowker.
- Contributing to Food Cupboard for hungry families at OPC Hunger Store; Wistar Morris Room; 3rd Sunday after the Service. Contact Mike Rottinger.

Congregational Life

Conversations at the Crossroads: Be on the Lookout for Upcoming Meeting Dates!

The facilitators of our mission study team are scheduling small group meetings in January & February. Most 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 two or three 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. 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. Please contact Kate Shackelford at 610-405-4600 or keshack@aol.com if you would be willing to host a meeting.

We would also love to find someone who likes compiling statistics about our city and neighborhoods, and about our church, to help us develop a demographic analysis of the region from which the church draws its members and which the church serves. If you would be interested in this task, or if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact any of the facilitators of this process: Kate Shackelford (keshack@aol.com), Edelene 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).

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 sudden loss

The Mason family – following the death of Lori Mason’s brother

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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1	Kodzo Gasonu	1/26	Kempley Bryant
1/2	Janet Lovely	1/27	Jim Frick
	Raelyn Subramanian		Mike Rottinger
			Paula Straka
1/4	Jasmine Frisby	1/28	Zubin Fiorillo
	Nicole Stokes-Robinson		
1/7	Brad Biedermann	1/30	Steven Gilhool
1/8	Elise Von Andreae		Phyllis Jackson
1/9	Elienne Paul		Susan Norris
1/15	James Piatt	1/31	Cheryl Davis
1/16	Lucy Mason		Suchita Fiorillo
1/17	Tara Von Andreae		Julia Straka
1/20	Jane Coffey		
	Herb Williamson		

Congregational Life

JANUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Jan. 3 Sharon Parker
 Jan. 10: The Kothari Family
 Jan. 17: Sign up now!
 Jan. 24: Sign up now!
 Jan. 31: Sign up now!

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



Urban/Suburban Book Club

Meeting: Tuesday Jan. 19, 2016, 7:00 PM
Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church



Our book for January 2016 is: *Deep Down Dark*, by Hector Tober

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

Overbrook Book Club

Here is the upcoming schedule:

Wednesday, January 13 at 7:30 PM

Book: *Sweetness in the Belly*
 by Camilla Gibb

Host: Elizabeth Mendoza,
 14 Bennington Road,
 Havertown.
 RSVP if you are coming to
 610-446-2455

Thursday, February 11 at 7:30 PM

Book: *The Invention of Wings*
 by Sue Monk Kidd
 Host: TBD

Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30 PM

Book: *Jamrach's Menagerie*
 by Carol Birch
 Host: TBD

Thank you...thank you!

Heartfelt appreciation goes to Jill Van Rawley and all who assisted in this year's *Hanging of the Greens*. Approximately 40 members and friends participated in one or more of the afternoon and evening events on December 13. From "greening" to singing, the Advent spirit was strong. Sixty holiday gift bags were prepared for residents of Simpson House, the site of this year's caroling. Blessings to all!

On December 15 your church staff went out and celebrated Christmas together with a lovely lunch filled with laughter, good talk, good food, and just plain good fun. All six of us were at the table at Tango restaurant, as this picture proves. Well, it almost proves it. Earlene, our sixth staff member, is the person behind the camera. We had a great time together. And all six of us want you to know how blessed we feel being the staff at Overbrook. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

—Drew



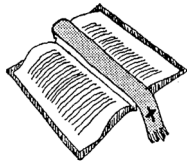
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2015	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$44,011.18	\$43,720.77	\$486,187.82	\$437,207.70
Total Expenses	\$40,984.12	\$43,532.60	\$404,286.98	\$435,326.00
Net	\$3,027.06	\$188.17	\$81,900.84	\$1,881.70

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.

Martin Luther King Morning of Service January 18, 2015

In honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Christian Education Committee invites the members and friends of Overbrook to participate in a morning of service activities. From **9:00-11:30 am on January 18**, "service stations" will be set up throughout the building, each one designated for the completion of a unique project.

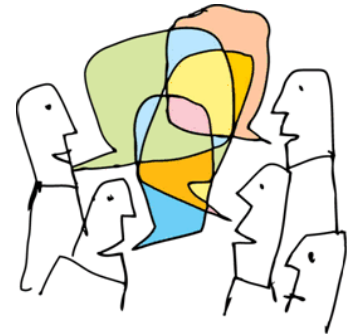
Projects have been developed to engage participants of all ages. Come join us in the kitchen for meal-making...prepare comfort blankets in Fellowship Hall for hospitalized children...fill breakfast bags in the Chapel for Aid for Friends...create activity kits in the Wistar Morris Room for children at CHOP. As participant registration increases, so will the number of "service stations." Please sign-up in the Wistar Morris Room following worship, or email Sharon Parker at



sharon@overbrookpresb.org.

ADULT FORUM

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



Overbrook is a richly diverse congregation...and we celebrate that diversity. While we worship as Presbyterians each Sunday morning, many of us were baptized and confirmed in other faith traditions. Whether born and raised Presbyterian, or newly introduced to Presbyterian practice and polity, we all are welcome to join Dr. Mann for a "Presbyterian Primer." Throughout January, Dr. Mann will lead Adult Forum, refreshing our memories, enriching our theological understanding, and helping us to discover the unique blessings of our denomination. Come join us in the Chapel each Sunday morning in January from 9:15-10:15 am. Let's start the new year with coffee and Calvin!

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perspective on what is important. We forget that our families are important. We forget that our physical and spiritual health is important. We forget that Mystery and Wonder and Awe are important. We forget that friends and their lives are important. We forget that God's Word to us is important to hear. We forget that we actually *need* prayer. We forget that there are still wonderful things to learn. We forget that Jesus has called us to fill our life with meaning and not with activity and appointments. Remember that it was Jesus who said, "I come so that you might have life, and have it abundantly."

"Busy-ness" is not "abundance".

Believe it or not, that for which we sacrifice the important things of life is not all that important. In fact, even our jobs are not important enough reasons to destroy either our families or ourselves.

Let me suggest that the single most important thing to which we can attend new year is to re-examine what is important in life. God, people, family, neighborhood, relationships, play, sanity, prayer, country, higher values, Sabbath. And then **MAKE TIME** for those things which are important, and sacrifice whenever possible that which is merely yelling loudly in our ears for attention.

It is a new year. How shall we spend the time it gives us? What life shall we fashion?

—Drew

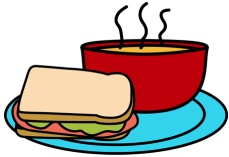
Christian Education

RPM Café (Retired Persons Ministry)

If the sounds of the Dorsey Brothers, Pat Boone, Elvis, or Bobby Vinton bring back memories, please join a group of fellow OPC retirees at the opening of the RPM (Retired Persons Ministry) Café.



BYO sandwich...we'll have the soup and beverages ready. Following lunch, there will be brief devotions and a lively round of discussions. Come to the grand opening...Friday, January 29, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Chapel.



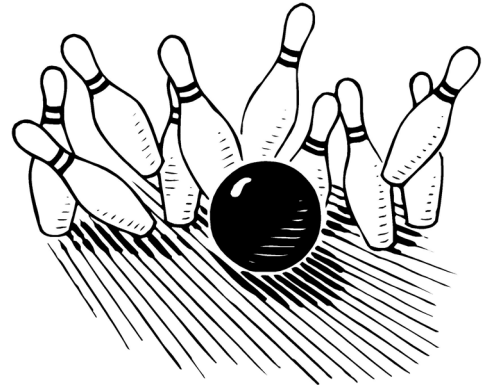
Sign-up in the Wistar Morris Room following worship or RSVP to sharon@overbrookpresb.org.

OPC YOUTH: LET'S ROLL IN THE NEW YEAR!

All OPC Youth and friends are invited to go bowling at Wynnewood Lanes, 2:30-4:30 pm on Sunday, January 10. The cost will be \$10.00, and will cover bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and beverages.

A trophy awaits the winning team, as well as the top scorer. All OPC Youth and friends, grades 6-12 are welcome.

Sign-up in the Wistar Morris Room, or in your Sunday School or Confirmation classroom.



Date Saver: February 13 Valentine's Day Prayer Breakfast

All are invited to enjoy a fine breakfast, fellowship and time of shared prayer. Please watch the kiosk in the Wistar Morris Room and the February newsletter for more information.

Stewardship

2016 Pledge Drive Deemed a Success

Thank you OPC members and friends for quite a fine pledge drive for the 2016 year. Here are a few details for those who are curious. The number of pledges increased from 99 to 107 (so far, there will probably be a few more trickle in, [hint, hint]). This includes 17 new pledges which are from people new to the church or who did not pledge for 2015.

Total pledges increased from about \$360,000 to roughly \$399,000. Take out the 2.5% leakage that finance committee plans on annually and the budget figure for pledged giving will increase from \$350,000 in 2015 to \$390,000 in 2016, a \$40,000 (11%) increase!

Of course, it goes without saying that we still are accepting pledges from anyone who is procrastinating. And, too, non-pledged gifts are always accepted as well.

Thanks, again, to all who pledged. Pledging makes the budget process so much easier for your finance committee and your Session. Not only that, but such wonderful commitment is a reflection of the love Overbrook's members & friends have for this special church and church community. Such generosity is truly a demonstration of our strength in this time of transition at the Crossroads.

—Will Schick
Stewardship Committee Chair

January Calendar

Sun. 1/3.....12:00 PMNew Member Committee
Tues. 1/5.....1:00 PMWorship & Music Committee
7:00 PMFinance Committee
Wed. 1/6.....4:30 PMProperty Committee
Sun. 1/10.....12:00 PMDeacon's Meeting
2:30 PMYouth Bowling
Tues. 1/12.....7:30 PMSession
Wed. 1/13.....7:30 PMOverbrook Book Club
Sun. 1/17.....12:00 PMChristian Education Committee
12:00 PMInterim Planning Committee
Mon. 1/18.....9:00 AMMorning of Service
Tues. 1/19.....7:00 PMUrban/Suburban Book Club
Sun. 1/24.....12:00 PMMission & Outreach Committee
Fri. 1/2911:30 AMRPM (Retired Persons Ministry) Café

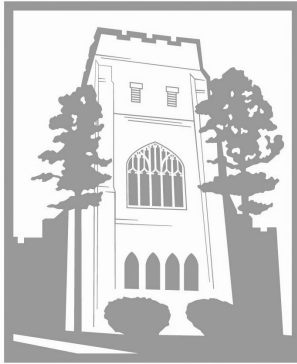
January Weekly Events

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

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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

A BRAND NEW LONG TIME EMPLOYEE

For about 15 years Overbrook Church has had a marvelous custodian, Leonard Robbins. The tables are set up for coffee hour because Leonard comes in before dawn on Sunday morning to make sure the church is ready for worship and fellowship. A mid-week meeting? Leonard has done the set-up. The clean floors and most of the freshly painted walls -- Leonard. The buckets under a leak in the sanctuary? Leonard to the rescue!

All of this time he has been working for a cleaning service that the church paid monthly. Property, Personnel and Finance Committees worked together to design a plan and a job description that is a win-win situation for Leonard and for the church. The church will save money by not having to pay the cleaning service and Leonard will get significantly more take home pay than he has been getting. And the best part of it is that Leonard is thrilled to be a real, and highly regarded, staff member. And we are lucky to have him.

