



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

January 2017

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*

Margene Biedermann

*Junior Choir Director*

Lisa Faso

*Office Manager*

Earlene Ford

*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins

*Church Custodian*



### Church Office Hours

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

## *Letter from the Pastor*

### TIME ON OUR HANDS

*“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

Revelation 22: 12-13

Jesus speaks these words to the Apostle John whilst John is deep in the vision that is the book of Revelation. Revelation is all about Time - our time, God’s time, Kingdom-to-Come time, dream time, now time, future time, past time. It is about the grand arc of time from the Alpha, the Beginning, to the Omega, the End of Time.

From our limited vantage point in time, one can hardly imagine the breadth and sweep of the whole of time, from the so-called Big Bang of God to the final glory-filled culmination that is eternity. We do well to grasp the moments of time we have near at hand. Time: God’s great and yet confounding gift.

It is January. We are in the midst of 31 days that initiate the new year. It is not the whole arc of time that we have near at hand. We have but one new, fresh year before us. Twelve months, not eternity. Just twelve months. What to do with the time that we have been given?

What dreams have we, as individuals or as members of OPC? At the beginning of this period of time are we, like John, being invited into a period of visioning the future? Can we imagine what God is calling us to do? Or perhaps is the unanswered question Does God have plans to use us at all?

Can we, like John, be open to our own Revelation, because God *does* have something in mind for each and every one of us for this year. We are not here by accident. We are not here by mistake. God does not make junk. We are here with purpose, God’s own purpose. We are part of the story of God in this world, in our time. What are *you* called to do? What role have you to speak in God’s great story?

In this new year, dream a little dream with God. Be open to flashes of insight, to burning bushes, and the arc of celestial time of which your life is a part. Trust that God needs you to fulfill your purpose this year, the purpose for which you were made, the purpose for which you have been given gifts.

Fulfillment in life is in chasing the vision that God sends you for the time at hand. Be open. Expect the vision of God’s purposes for your life. It is time.

Have a happy and blessed New Year.



# 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 January

January 1, 2017

Communion

1st Sunday after Christmas

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Mary Scott



January 8, 2017

Baptism of the Lord

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Amerie Scherlueble



January 15, 2017

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Patricia Ogundele



January 22, 2017

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Ron Homer



January 29, 2017

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: TBA

LENT BEGINS with an Ash Wednesday Service at OPC on Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. This is just a foretaste of the Lenten observances leading up to Easter on Sunday, April 16th. Details will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter

Worship and Music Committee deals with these two topics-obviously-and provides oversight, suggestions and organization for what you experience every Sunday, and on special occasions. How does Communion get organized? How are Lay Leaders chosen? How are Ushers selected? Who sees that the correct color of fabric is hanging on the pulpit? Who sets up the candles for Christmas Eve?

We also work with Dennis Elwell and the pastor in planning services and concerts, welcome new singers and ringers to our choirs. If you would like to participate in any of these activities, please consider joining us. The current meeting time is the First Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM at church. If people want to join and cannot come at that time, we are open to changing the meeting time. Please speak to Rachel Carnahan (chair) or email [carnahanrachel@gmail.com](mailto:carnahanrachel@gmail.com).

# Congregational Life



## January Coffee Hour Hosts

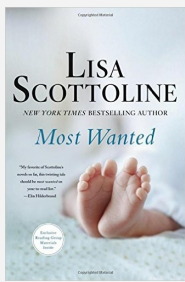
January 1  
Sharon Parker

January 8-29  
TBA

We are in need of members to sign up for Coffee Hour. If you would like to host an upcoming coffee hour, please sign up now on the sign-up board in the Wistar-Morris Room. Contact Amarilis Stricker at 484-343-0679 with questions.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR DOROTHY BURTON

Will be held on Saturday, February 4, at 11:00. Visiting time with the family will be held from 9:30 that morning until 10:45. Following the service there will be a light repast at the church for friends and family. Memorial gifts in Dorothy's name may be made to the Overbrook Presbyterian Church.



## Urban/Suburban Book Club

Meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

January's Selection: *Most Wanted* by Lisa Scottoline

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.

# Finance

OCTOBER 2016	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 26,532.08	\$ 46,446.61	\$ 410,702.71	\$ 464,466.10
Total Expenses	\$ 38,541.00	\$ 46,008.37	\$ 388,799.27	\$ 460,083.70
Net	\$ (12,008.92)	\$ 438.24	\$ 21,903.44	\$ 4,382.40

# Christian Education



Sunday, February 5

Cheer on your favorite Super Bowl contender...and help our OPC Youth fight hunger in the Greater Philadelphia area. 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) of the pots, you will be supporting a nationwide youth initiative to combat hunger. The first 50 "visitors" to the "Souper Bowl" table will receive a special soup tasting. In addition to generating funds for this worthy cause, it will be fun to see if OPC donations can predict the outcome of the game!



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 from 9:30-11:00 AM on Saturday, February 11, for fellowship, a fine meal, and shared devotion. Circle the date...invite a friend...and plan to attend this special event. If you have a special breakfast casserole or pastry that you would like to share, or if you are able to assist with serving and set-up, please contact Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)) All contributions of time and talent will be warmly welcomed

# Christian Education

## Gratitude for Advent Gifts...

Overbrook was filled with excitement and activity throughout Advent! Many sturdy hands and generous hearts helped to make gifts of fellowship, education, worship, congregational life, and community outreach possible. Abundant gratitude is extended to the following program leaders who facilitated so many of the blessings Advent:

Fair Trade Market: Janet Bowker, "Adopt a Family" Initiative: Nancy Gilhool; Hanging of the Green: Jill Van Rawley; Christmas Eve Family Service Pageant: LaToya Richie and Nickie Stokes; College Students' Homecoming Luncheon: Artia Benjamin and Nicole Stokes-Robinson; Gingerbread House Decorating: Artia Benjamin; Caroling: Margene Biedermann; Christmas Eve Dinner: Judy Williamson.

These leaders were assisted by over 40 supporting "angels", who assembled costumes, made soup, purchased and wrapped packages, set-up displays, cut greens, decorated the Sanctuary, and worked quietly behind the scenes to create joy and delight. Blessings to all who worked tirelessly...and to all who participated joyfully.

## Martin Luther King Day of Service: January 16, 2017



All are invited to participate in a morning of service activities in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 16, from 9:00-11:30 PM, Fellowship Hall, the Wistar Morris Room, the Chapel and the Kitchen will be filled with opportunities for our OPC hands to do God's work. Participants will meet in the Wistar Morris Room at 9:00 AM for a litany in remembrance of Dr. King. At 9:15 AM, we will proceed to our "service stations." There will be activities appropriate for all ages and skill levels. Activities include: Cooking soup and cornbread for Aid for Friends, making lap robes for shut-ins, assembling comfort kits for families in shelters, packing breakfast bags for Aid for Friends; sewing garments for children (Dress a Girl Around the World); beautifying and restoring our church building and property. To assure that we have supplies and work activities for all, please sign up in advance in the Wistar Morris Room.

## FORUM in January

Welcoming in a New Year, 2017.

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** – The New Year begins on a Sunday – FORUM will continue with informal conversations- reflections of the year past and hope for the year to come.

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** – Re-showing the film "Out of Cordoba" by Jacob Bender. Movie starts at 9AM in the McMillan Chapel. For first time viewers, important to gain insight as to why Muslims, Jews and Christian can live in peace. For repeat viewers, this is a wonderful opportunity to more fully absorb this message of the possibility for Peace among believers of various forms of religion in our world

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**, Mr. Jacob Bender will be here in person to speak about his experiences and research, and why he produced "Out of Cordoba". Don't miss this opportunity to personally dialogue with the producer of this film.

**January 22 and 29<sup>th</sup>**, Woodruff Adams will facilitate two sessions on the topic of "Praying for Peace", an appropriate follow up on Mr. Bender's presentation of Peace among God's people. Mr. Adams' concept of Global Peace and Harmony certainly supports that need for God's people to listen and work for Peace among Men.

Coffee is always on – just need your presence to continue the conversations.



# Christian Education

## In Remembrance of Dorothy Burton

Overbrook was richly blessed by the life of Dorothy Burton. As we reflect on a life well-lived, we acknowledge and appreciate Dorothy's many contributions to our congregation and the broader Presbyterian community. At Overbrook, Dorothy put faith in action through her active committee life...Mission and Outreach, Finance, and as ordained Elder. She was a friend to all and a loyal supporter of the diverse ministries of OPC.



While Dorothy was an active servant, she also fully embraced the devotional life. She loved her Lord, and expressed that devotion through her faithful worship and participation as a life-long learner. Dorothy was an "every Sunday" participant in Adult Forum, even coming for conversation when the program was not formally in session. Each Wednesday found Dorothy in Adult Bible Study fully engaged in the daily text and discussion. She was a role model for our children and youth...with quiet dignity, setting the standard for participation in Christian Education programs. Dorothy not only attended each Prayer Breakfast, she could often be found in the kitchen preparing the strawberries and delighting in the convergence of fellowship, food, and prayer.

Dorothy, the life-long learner, taught us well.

With loving memories,

The Christian Education Committee

The Youth Sunday School Class book drive on behalf of Books Through Bars was a great success. The congregation generously helped us collect over 400 books. Books Through Bars appreciated that we collected the kind of books that are most often requested from people who are incarcerated. Thank you for helping us to live out the lessons we are studying in the Bible. The congregation of Overbrook Presbyterian Church sets a good example to the young members of our community and the young people are an inspiration to all who know them.

The Youth Sunday School class are planning other service projects to complete throughout the year. You'll be hearing more about them soon.

With much appreciation  
Raelyn Harman  
Youth Sunday School Teacher

Galatians 2:10 "Only,  
they asked us to  
remember the poor, the  
very thing I was eager to  
do."

# Mission & Outreach

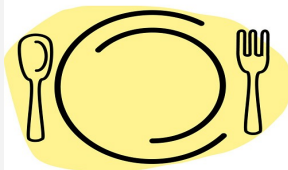


*Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)* is coming to Overbrook — for real! In case you are unfamiliar, FMSC is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Organizations support FMSC by hosting events where meals are packed. These events require a lot of volunteers, publicity, and of course, money. Overbrook Presbyterian Church and Monsignor Bonner/Archbishop Prendergast will be hosting the first FMSC MobilePack in Delaware County on April 22 at Bonner/Prendie in Drexel Hill. To kick-off this new initiative, Kirstie Sherman from FMSC headquarters will be joining us during worship on January 15 to thoroughly explain Feed My Starving Children to our congregation and then join us in fellowship after the service. She'll be available to answer questions and learn more about our goals for the event. Look forward to hearing more about FMSC in the new year and the many ways that you can get involved. -Becky Lazo



The 2016 Fair Trade Market was another rousing success. During the first weekend in December the Wistar Morris Room was filled with beautiful Fair Trade items from around the world and many shoppers and volunteers. We host a Market to bring attention to Fair Trade artisans who are paid a fair price for their work and consumers have access to gifts from around the world. Thank you to all who set up, shopped, cashiered, bagged, and cleaned up and to our vendors for their fabulous wares. We sold over \$4,000 during the two-day period. -Janet Bowker

## Women's Dining Circle-to sponsor Dignity Housing Friday, January 20th



Please come to our next Women's Dining Circle event on Friday, January 20 at the home of Liz Shah, 773 Beacom Lane in Merion Station (just down the street from OPC). We're looking forward to enjoying warm fellowship on a winter evening and hope you'll join us! An evite with details will be sent after the New Year.

Since 1988, Dignity Housing has provided quality affordable housing and supportive services to thousands of people – primarily single African American women and their children. Dignity's mission is to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty that confronts low-income families and individuals by providing safe, affordable housing while also promoting self-sufficiency and creating opportunities.

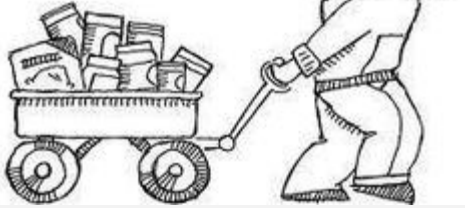
3 families (15 persons) + many very generous people = 26 trash compactor bags of gifts. The bags of gifts were delivered to Pathways PA, the social agency who sponsors the Adopt-a-Family program, on December 15, and will be forwarded to the families in need. We estimate that each bag contains about \$200 worth of gifts. So,  $\$200 \times 26 = \$5200$ . Many thanks. And again, many thanks.-Nancy Gilhool



# Mission & Outreach

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



For the past five years, Overbrook, Calvin, and Ardmore Presbyterian Churches have partnered in providing a nourishing "Heavenly Harvest" meal in a welcoming setting every Thursday at Calvin. Led by the considerable culinary gifts of "Chef James" and a dedicated group of volunteers, thousands of meals have been served to needy people from the West Philadelphia area. Friendships were forged as bodies were filled and as we learned to overcome various obstacles (the fire department only came twice!). Unfortunately, due to Presbytery's decision not to fund the Matthew 25:35 Project for another year, we served our last meal on December 15. (Calvin will continue to distribute food through its food pantry, and Overbrook will still contribute to that.) We want

to sincerely thank OPC and the Mission and Outreach Committee for its support for the Project through fundraisers and other donations, and the time and efforts of many volunteers. We would particularly like to thank Ken Carroll, who faithfully greeted our guests every week (and stayed for the washing-up afterward), Janet Bowker, who spearheaded several generous food drives for us at Friends' Central Lower School, and Nancy Gilhool, who provided food and supplies on many occasions. We also would like to recognize Louise Price from Calvin for her constant help, and Mary Van Leeuwen, John Abrams, and Katherine Matt from Ardmore, for all their efforts. We believe the Project did, in its small way, respond to Jesus' words, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat," and we couldn't have done it without all of you.

Thankfully,

Elizabeth Cosgriff

Larry McGhee

## Deacons



### January Birthdays!!



1/1	Martin Gasonu	1/20	Herb Williamson
1/2	Raelyn Harman	1/23	William Kothari
	Jan Lovely	1/26	Kempley Bryant
	Claire Partridge	1/27	Jim Frick
1/4	Nicole Stokes Robinson		Mike Rottinger
	Jasmine Frisby		Paula Straka
1/7	Brad Biedermann	1/28	Zubin Fiorillo
1/8	Elienne Paul	1/30	Susan Norris
	Elise Von Andreae		Steven Gilhool
1/10	Margene Biedermann		Phyllis Jackson
1/15	James Piatt	1/31	Cheryl Davis
1/16	Lucy Mason		Suchita Fiorillo
1/17	Kyle Lazorko		Julia Straka
	Tara Von Andrea		

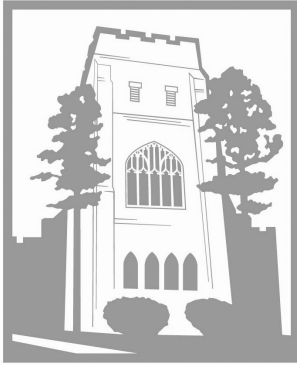
### Prayer List

Sharon Parker-continued recovery  
 Rachael and Lillian Carnahan on the death of father and husband, Charles Carnahan  
 Phyllis Watson  
 Dorothy Burton's family  
 Joan Taubel'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.*

Bonnie Miller is looking for a few good people willing to occasionally drive her to visit her daughter or drive her to/from church. Please contact Mike Rottinger if you think you can do this or want more details-mike.rottinger@comcast.net

## *News from the Crossroads*



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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