



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

July 2018

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. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

Worship in July:

Worship will go on every Sunday throughout the summer. Some things never change, and one is that the people of God gather to worship and pray and sing each week. Our church is in a difficult transition, so if you love the church and love the people here, show your support and love by being here as often as you can. If you are away, visit a different church, and let us know what you find there.

During July we will have distinguished guest preachers, each of whom will have gifts for us. Below is the list of scheduled guest preachers:

- July 1-The Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, former Vice Moderator of the PCUSA
- July 8-The Rev. Dr. Shane Berg, Executive Vice President Princeton Theological Seminary;
- July 15-The Rev. Dr. Beth Hessell, Executive Director, Presbyterian Historical Society;
- July 22-The Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia
- July 29-The Rev. Raymond Bonwell, member of Committee of Ministry.

We do not know who will be in our pulpit after that, but we have faith that the Word will be preached each week. Our tradition of excellent music will continue with Dr. Christopher Gage and our soloists during the summer.

If you are interested in joining the Westminster Handbell Choir or the Overbrook Choir in the fall, please talk to Chris over the summer. There is a commitment of time, but the pleasure of singing or ringing as part of a larger group is quite fulfilling. If you are not sure of your ability, now is the time to begin to prepare. You do not need to carry a tune to ring bells! These skills can be taught and learned.

You may contact Rachel Carnahan, chair of Worship and Music committee at carnahanrachel@gmail.com



A Note from Bruce and Carolyn Gillette

Thank You: We are grateful for conversations with many of you during the past few weeks, and for your gifts, your cards, your letters and your prayers. Thank you to those who organized and participated in the wonderful reception on our last Sunday as co-pastors here. We appreciated the delicious food, the beautiful cake, and the times of conversation with many who wished us well.

Thank you to all who have been partners in ministry with us in the time we were here. We enjoyed working with you, celebrating and encouraging the good things you are already doing, and working with the visionaries and the dreamers in the church—the leaders who are thinking about what the church might become. We rejoice in the eleven baptisms and twenty-two people who joined Overbrook Presbyterian Church during our time of serving with you.

As you know, we are finishing our service at the church at the end of June. After that time, we will no longer be able to provide pastoral leadership or pastoral care such as pastoral visits, weddings, funerals, etc. We hope friendships with you will continue.

Our personal email address is bcgillette@comcast.net and our home mailing address for now is 6952 Sherwood Road, Philadelphia, PA 19151. While we will not be your pastors, we will continue to pray for you, and we will pray for Overbrook Church. We will rejoice in

hearing news of births, graduations and weddings, and we will offer our personal prayers for you in times of illness and sorrow. We thank you for the blessing you have been in our lives. May God bless you and Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

Grace and Peace, Bruce & Carolyn Gillette

PS: Here is a favorite prayer from the *Presbyterian Daily Prayer* that is a good one for Overbrook Presbyterian Church and for us during these times of transition:

*Eternal God,
you call us to ventures
of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Note from Session:

A REMINDER ABOUT FUNDRAISING:

There are a lot of worthy causes out there. However, Session needs to exercise control over fundraising solicitations for external organizations made on church property or targeted to the Overbrook community, because of both the nature of the organization in question and the timing of the appeal. This is to remind everyone that all fundraising appeals for outside organizations require Session approval in advance. This includes posters or similar items displayed on church property, appeals during worship, display and/or sale of items during coffee hour or elsewhere on church property, and use of the church listserve, facebook page, or web site. If you want to make such an appeal, please contact the chair of the appropriate Session committee or direct it to me. -Sara Davis, Clerk of Session

Mission and Outreach



Remember the ice cream social? Mmmmm. There was lots of ice cream left over. What to do with it? Serve it, of course, as a tasty dessert to top off the delicious meal served to the clients of the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County on May 31! The clients loved it, along with a Pasta Tuna Vegetable Salad, rolls and butter, fresh orange slices, and brownies. Thanks to the cooks: Laurie Geers, Virginia Russell, Carol Tulba, the Youth Group, and Alyce Marsh. Thanks to the servers: Janet Bowker, Bruce Gillette, Nancy Gilhool, Kim Parris, and Christine Red.

Our next meal is Tuesday, July 31. Please let Nancy Gilhool know if you'd like to help. Thanks.

Mission and Outreach (Cont'd)

Our church is in need of some prayers, as we move through this transition. We ask that you pray for the health of our church and all of its members. The Presbytery will need our support and prayers, as we are guided through this process. Session is in need of your prayers as they consider the options for the future, and please pray for the Gillettes, as they search for their next call.

Our friends at the Village have asked us to support them with backpacks filled with school supplies. This allows the children to arrive at school ready to learn. We will have several ways for you to help. You can shop for a child, collect supplies, or donate money. We will have lists of the items needed. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. Read below on an article from Nancy Gilhool on our bookbag collection.

School has just ended, and it's time to think about September. Why? Because filled bookbags are needed for clients of the Village to use when school begins again. As we have done in previous years, we ask your generosity in donating school supplies to fill at least 30 bookbags for the children receiving services at the Village. Beginning on Sunday, July 1, at the Mission Table in coffee hour there will be lists of items that are needed. Don't want to shop? Then buy from our supplies or give a donation to cover costs. (Hint: if you want to shop, you may want to wait for the super sales at Staples, Target, etc.) All filled bookbags are due at the Village by August 13. Remember, school is much more fun when you have the supplies you need. Please direct questions to Nancy Gilhool, gilhoolfam@verizon.net.

We will also be collecting items for Comfort Cases. Many foster children move from place to place with their belongings in a trash bag. We want to give the children a dignified way to carry their things and provide the children with some toiletries, a blanket, a book and a stuffed animal to call their own. We have 40 duffel bags that we will fill and donate. The already strained foster care system is overflowing with immigrant children who have arrived with nothing. Let's give them some comfort until they can be reunited with their parents.

The Women's Dining Circle raised funds for our youth to go on a mission to West Virginia in August. There is a need for additional funds to support the chaperones, travel expenses, and the overall cost of the mission work. Watch for upcoming fundraising activities for the Youth Mission trip. Read below on an article from Janet Bowker on WDC.

Women's Dining Circle Sponsors Youth Mission Trip

What do the women of Overbrook do best? Get together, have conversation, enjoy a delicious dinner and raise money for good causes. In other words, they attend a Women's Dining Circle event. On Friday, June 8, thirty-one (31!) friends gathered at the home of Janet and Jeff Bowker to hear from the OPC youth about their upcoming Mission trip to West Virginia. Many thanks to Karen Wong and Gretchen Bogart for outlining the trip and to Emma Biedermann, Aria Fiorillo and Annabelle Van Rawley for sharing their experiences and expectations for past and future trips. A total of \$875 was raised, which will be matched by funds from the Mission and Outreach committee, making a total of \$1750 to help defray some of the costs for the youth and their leaders. The Women's Dining Circle committee, Jane and Carol Rozmiarek, Karen Wong, Rachel Carnahan, Liz Shah, Aimerie Scherluebbe and Janet Bowker, thank you for your ongoing support. We will be back in the fall with more opportunities for fun and fund-raising.

Congregational Life

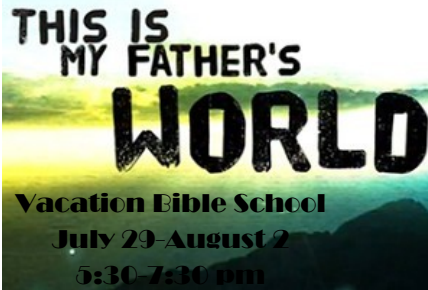
Great Job OPC family! Approximately 116 photo sessions were confirmed and an estimated 20+ photos of households were submitted by people who could not make an appointment. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to include their photo in our directory. All names and contact information of members and friends of OPC will be included in the photo directory whether or not a picture was taken or submitted. Thank you to all of the volunteer hosts, church staff and CLC members who helped get the job done. A special shout out to Nancy Elmore, a member who recently joined us and did an amazing job of reaching out to everyone possible, coaxing appointments from many of us and conscientiously verified that we had your most up to date information. We will be putting the finishing touches on the information over the next few of weeks, then it goes to print. We estimate it will be ready at the latest at the end of the summer. Everyone will enjoy being able to put names to faces and vice versa.

The following dates are available to host "coffee hour", July 8, 15, 22, 29, a misnomer in the summer since we serve lemonade and iced tea. Please sign the board in the Wistar Morris Room. There are instructions available on the door of the kitchen and many helpers available to pitch in. Please contact Amarilis Stricker at 484-343-0679 if you have questions.

Some of the activities the CLC has in mind for the future are: bus trip to the African American History Museum in Washington, DC; movie nights at OPC, Retired Persons Café and Saturday morning prayer breakfasts. If you have any suggestions for events that foster fellowship and fun please let us know what you have in mind.

With care, Artia Benjamin (215-266-8758) and Raelyn Harman (610-331-8972), Co-Chairs

Christian Education



VBS...on the move!

Our 2018 Vacation Bible School has a new date: July 29-August 2.

Each evening, from 5:30-7:30 PM, OPC children and friends (pre-school through grade 5) will explore God's great creation and celebrate the theme "This is My Father's World." Bible stories will guide us as we explore the world that Jesus knew, and the world that we live in today. Each evening will be filled with exciting adventures in faith, and activities in environmental science, art, and music.

Meal time: Children are asked to bring a sandwich or simple meal; OPC will provide beverages, fresh fruit and healthy snacks for all. (In the event of a forgotten "meal bag," food will be provided.)

Vacation Bible School is a ministry of the Christian Education Committee...there is no charge to participate. Children are encouraged to practice sharing with others by bringing an offering. The offering will help provide water and seeds for drought prone areas of the world.

Registration forms are available in the church office, the Wistar Morris Room, and through the OPC website. Wish to volunteer...or have a question? Please contact Becky Lazo (rebeccalazo@hotmail.com) or Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com).

A warm welcome is extended to all children...Come explore God's wonderful world, July 29-August 2!



Seedlings for VBS Students!

As part of our Vacation Bible School program, *This is My Father's World*, the VBS team would like to give each child the opportunity to plant a young tree. We hope to gather at least 30 seedlings! Seedlings are now sprouting all around our community, popping up in the pachysandra and crouching next to the cherry tomatoes. Instead of removing them immediately, we invite you to nurture them until the week of July 23. At that time you may bring your seedlings to the church...or we can send a team of gentle "diggers" to your home. We are looking for seedlings of different varieties, and especially ones that can be

measured in inches, rather than in feet. Please contact Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute a seedling...or schedule a "digger"



Special Summer Sundays!

Although Sunday School is not in session during the summer months, *Special Summer Sundays* are! On **July 15** and **August 26**, unique Bible learning adventures are planned for children in Pre-K through Grade 5. Following *Time With Children*, teachers will welcome participants to Fellowship Hall and the Chapel for an hour of Bible exploration, music, and crafts. Come join the excitement!



Summer Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia: We have a full mission team of 16 youth and 5 adult chaperones/drivers for this summer's mission trip. Orientation/planning meetings for youth and adult participants will be on Sundays, July 1 and July 15 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. If you are going on this trip, please plan to attend both meetings. Please contact Margene Biedermann (215-668-5395) Margenebiedermann@gmail.com, Suchita Fiorillo (215-450-5356) and/or Tom Lank if you have any questions about the trip.

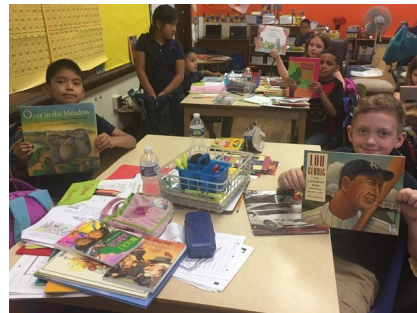


If I Had a Hammer... Here is a list of tools we are asked to bring with us on the Summer Youth Mission Trip. Please let us know if you can help us by lending or giving us some of these tools: Hammers (each person needs one), Tape measures (4), Utility knives, Pencil (each person), Squares (2), Chalk line, Nail apron (each person), 4' level, 2' level, Circular saw with blades, 50' Electrical cord, Drills, Masks (box), Goggles (5), Work gloves, Long pants (each person), 5-gallon water jugs, Coolers for lunch, IF POSSIBLE: Skilsaw, power drills.

Community/Fellowship

Dear friends at Overbrook:

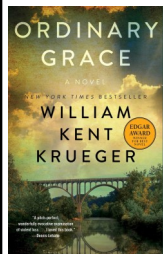
When my friend Emerson and I came up with our idea to collect books for a school in Philadelphia without a library, we never thought we would get enough to fill most of our moms' cars! Thanks to you and others in the community, we collected about 1,500 books for D. Newlin Fell Elementary School. By doing this project, I am able to earn the Bronze Award for Girl Scouts. Thank you for all your donations and support! -Hannah Lazo



Thank you from Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for another successful shredding event. The Sorority collected over 80 canned goods which were successfully donated to Calvin Presbyterian Church for their food pantry.



The OPC men's group will reconvene on Saturday, July 14 at 8 a.m. Join us for bagels and coffee. Topic to be determined. Feel free to bring a neighbor or friend.



Urban Suburban Book Club

Meeting: Tuesday September 18 2018, 7pm

Location: OPC in the Chapel

Book for September - *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

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.



Overeaters Anonymous is a fellowship of people recovering from compulsive overeating. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins. Meetings are weekly at OPC at 6376 City Avenue, Phila, from 8-9 PM every Monday. Visit brandywineintergroup.org or call 610-565-9695 for more information.

☞ Summer Brunch with Breakthrough: July 21, 10-11:30 AM

On Saturday, July 21, members of OPC and residents, church, and civic leaders of the greater West Philadelphia community are invited to a neighborhood brunch in honor of *Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia*. *Breakthrough* is a 10-year academic program that builds a path from middle school to college graduation for low income students from Philadelphia's public and charter schools. Breakthrough also inspires talented high school and college students to become educators and engaged citizens by giving them responsibility for teaching in their programs.

Please join us in the Wistar Morris Room of Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 10:00-11:30 AM, for a brunch buffet, community fellowship, and an opportunity to meet Breakthrough students and staff. The goals for the morning are to raise awareness of the opportunities that Breakthrough offers to the children of Philadelphia...and to offer an opportunity for community members to support this outstanding program. There is no charge to enjoy the brunch buffet. All who attend are simply asked to share the Breakthrough story. Those who are inspired to do so, will have the opportunity to make a free-will contribution to Breakthrough. Each contribution will be matched by private donors.

While the Summer Brunch with Breakthrough is not a formal ministry of Overbrook Presbyterian Church, all OPC friends and members are warmly invited to attend. In 2014, Breakthrough was featured at a Women's Dining Circle, and OPC members currently support the Breakthrough mission serving in the roles of teacher, learner, board leader, and donor.

Your presence and support could change a child's world. To assure that we have seats for all, please respond to Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com) by July 17.

Deacons

Happy July Birthdays

7/1	Bob Bevan	7/19	Dornell Guthrie
	Jean Baker		Nathalie May
7/2	Karen Epley	7/20	Pam Deas
	Sasha N'dow	7/21	Jerome Henry
7/3	Carole Miele		Calvin Marshall
7/4	Chuck Bryant		Adepeju Adebajo
	John Mason	7/23	Thomas Wilson
7/6	Cita Revell	7/25	Ginny Duerr
7/7	Tom Tulba	7/26	Carol Rozmiarek
	Madeline Cosgriff	7/27	Kim Parris
7/8	Phil Sheau	7/28	Louis DeVaughan
7/9	Peggy Boatwright	7/30	Patrice Pompa
7/10	Gloria Justin	7/31	Carol Tulba
	Theresa Carter		Buck Scott
7/12	Laura Coffey		Nickie Stokes
	Alexa Benjamin		
7/13	Leah Williamson Mayne		
	Charita Young		
7/14	Mary Scott		
7/17	Kristin Jackson		
7/18	Aria Fiorillo		



Prayer List

Please contact Mike Rottinger to add names or concerns to this list. Mike can be reached by email, mike.rottinger@comcast.net.

- ◆ Marlin Newsome preparing for upcoming treatment for prostate cancer
- ◆ Sandy Niccoli, Jim Vagnoni sister, suffered a stroke and starting rehab.
- ◆ Maureen, a former co-worker of Janet Lovely, recent diagnosed with liver/lung cancer.
- ◆ Ian Jamal Richie, nephew of LaToya Richie, health issues
- ◆ Patricia Ogundele recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- ◆ Joyce Bridges is recovering from eye procedure.
- ◆ John Nathaniel is being released from rehab and will continue his recovery at home.
- ◆ DeDe Sherlock, Pat Dillon's sister, is continuing to have health issues.
- ◆ Ed Harvey is home recovering from surgery.
- ◆ Leo Miller, Vince Gilhool's nephew, is receiving cancer treatment.
- ◆ The Rev. David McMillian, OPC Pastor Emeritus, recovering from knee surgery
- ◆ Charlotte Carpenter is dealing with rheumatoid arthritis.
- ◆ Lynda Johnson is having health concerns.
- ◆ Ellen Burr has ongoing health issues.

Overbrook 2018 Graduates



Congratulations to the following people on a job well done

High School

- ☞ Annabelle Van Rawley graduated from Lower Merion High School will be attending Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- ☞ Daniel Fulmer grandson of Don and Winnie Carver graduated from The Hill School and will be attending Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

PhD

- ☞ Steven Gilhool received his PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Red Cross Blood Drive

An early reminder!



Eat iron-rich food until September 7th -this year's date for Overbrook's Red Cross Blood Drive! Signups will begin during the summer.




OPC would like to give a very Warm Welcome to our newest members who joined our OPC Family in June 2018:

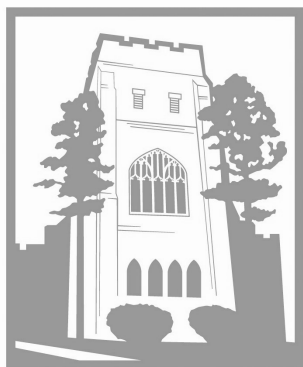
- ◆ Noble Brigham
- ◆ Herb and Gloria Brabham
- ◆ Laurence and Joan Beck

We are very happy to have everyone as part of our OPC Family!

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 AM Adult Forum 12pm-Deacons 5:30 PM Youth Mission Trip Meeting	2 8:00 pm-Overeaters Anonymous	3	4 	5	6	7 9:00 AM Farmers Market-Parking Lot 9:00 Women's
8 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Hour	9 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:00 pm-Overeaters Anonymous	10 1:00 PM Worship and Music 7:00 PM Session	11 10:30AM Bible Study	12	13	14 8:00 AM Men's Group 9:00 AM Farmers Market-Parking Lot
15 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM Worship/Special Summer Sunday for PreK-5 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 5:30 PM Youth Mission Trip Meeting	16 8:00 pm-Overeaters Anonymous	17	18 10:30AM Bible Study	19 6:30 pm-Congregational Life	20	21 9:00 AM Farmers Market-Parking Lot 10:00 AM Summer Brunch
22 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Hour	23 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:00 pm-Overeaters Anonymous	24	25 10:30AM Bible Study	26	27	28 9:00 AM Farmers Market-Parking Lot
29 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Hour	30 8:00 pm-Overeaters Anonymous	31 6:00 PM-Shelter Meal	Vacation Bible School –5:30-7:30 pm			

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org



This Month Only: “Pickup Choir” at Overbrook

Have you ever wanted to sing in the choir, but you can't make a commitment every Thursday night? Are you curious as to what singing with us might be like? Do you want to make a special musical contribution to worship on a summer Sunday? If you answered “yes” or “maybe” to any of these questions, you might enjoy a special opportunity this summer at Overbrook: an informal “pickup choir” that rehearses before the service and then sings in worship.

What will this choir entail? On Sunday, July 29, we will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will learn and rehearse a short anthem, as well as some simple service music, to sing during the worship service that day. No commitment, no midweek rehearsal—just a satisfying summer opportunity to sing together.

Who can participate? Anyone is welcome to sing with us. You do not have to be a current member of the Overbrook Choir, and there will be no pressure afterwards to join the choir for next season.

What if I don't read music? That is not a problem! The anthem will be something that can be sung well by people of various skill levels. If you have additional concerns about your singing, you can always meet with me sometime in the weeks leading up to July 29.

I hope that you can join us for this fun way to make music together. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me anytime at music@overbrookpresb.org.