



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

June 2016

### *Letter from the Pastor*

“The Garden of Weeden”

“...and God saw that it was good.”

I have come late in my life to gardening. I am not good at it, and there is more craft than art to what I do. But it is satisfying to me when I note that the survival rate for plants committed to my care has risen dramatically over the last few years.

For anyone who gardens, saying that most gardening is done upon one’s knees is a truism. It is so obvious that it hardly bears repeating, because it is upon one’s knees that one pulls weeds.

Weeding is defined as pulling from the garden those plants which the gardener did not purchase for there, nor plant there, nor want there. Weeds are intractable, relentless, ever-present, inexhaustible, and plentiful. They draw nutrients from the garden soil meant for the plants purchased and planted by the gardener. They sap the soil of water needed for the purchased plant. They crowd out and can actually kill the plants purchased and placed in the garden by the gardener.

Weeds go about their business without remorse, and that business seems to be the destruction of the garden so carefully, lovingly, and purposely laid out by the gardener. At the very least, the garden is bereft of the beauty and order intended by the gardener. At the very worst, weeds will take over a garden and destroy it.

Since becoming a gardener, I think I understand just a little about how God feels when God looks at the Garden planted with such graceful care during the Creation. God’s Garden of Eden has certainly become overrun with weeds. We live today not in the Garden planned, purchased at such great price, and planted by our God. Instead, now we live in what can be called the Garden of Weeden.

It is our task to be part of the plan of the garden, to bear fruit and to grow within the Design of Creation. Woe to those of us who are accounted weeds by the Master Gardener. For the Master Gardener is very, very good at weeding.

-Drew

### Sundays in June

June 5, 2016

Communion

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Aimerie Scherluebbe

Acolyte: Ben Scherluebbe

Scripture readings:

Psalm 1; Luke 6: 39-49

New Member Reception



June 12, 2016

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Pat Ogundele

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 5: 1-8; Luke 7: 36-50



June 19, 2016

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Calvin Marshall

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 43; Luke 8: 26-39



June 26, 2016

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Margene Biedermann

Scripture Readings:

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15; Luke 9: 57-62

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

#### 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*

Roseann Christian

*Office Manager*

Earlene Ford

*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins

*Building Manager*

#### Church Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

# Congregational Life



## The Pastoral Nominating Committee...

Continues its work with the search for our new Pastor. The PNC will keep the congregation informed of their progress. Please keep the PNC in your prayers as they pursue this most important endeavor.

## June Coffee Hour Hosts

June 5 - TBA

June 12

Deacon's Picnic

June 19

Christian Ed. Committee

June 26 - TBA



## NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Reception of New Members: Sunday, June 5 (Communion)

**Reception** - For those prospective members who choose to unite officially with the Overbrook congregation, there will be a meeting in Dr. Mann's office with members of Session at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 5. The Session will formally receive new members at that time, and then the congregation will welcome and celebrate our new members during our monthly Communion Service.

Please contact Dr. Mann if you are interested; [drew@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:drew@overbrookpresb.org), or by calling the office at 215-877-2744 x11.



## Oral History Project Update

A group of dedicated volunteers continues to interview members (current and former) to record their experience has been at OPC. The goal is to capture a snapshot of OPC in this era and how it has changed. We are interested in those who have been involved with OPC for both short and long periods of time. Interviews generally take no more than one hour and are a great opportunity to get to know people better. If you are interested in joining us to conduct interviews, we would be happy to add to our ranks. We help in every way we can with guidelines and "tech support". We'd like to add the transcripts of the interviews to the information the church is gathering for its self-study in preparation for calling a new pastor. If you are interested in sharing your OPC story, please let me know. I can be contacted via email at [raelynkay@aol.com](mailto:raelynkay@aol.com) or by phone at 610-331-8972.

-Blessings, Raelyn

## Financial Report

March 2016	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 59,284.67	\$ 46,446.61	\$ 171,689.06	\$ 139,339.83
Total Expenses	\$ 43,543.74	\$ 46,008.37	\$ 115,714.03	\$ 138,025.11
Net	\$ 15,740.93	\$ 438.24	\$ 55,975.03	\$ 1,314.72

# Community



A hearty **THANK YOU** to Susy Brandt, Lainie Blodgett, Charlotte Carpenter, Edelene Carroll, Bob and Sue DeCray, Nancy Gilhool, Jane Krumrine, Carol Rozmiarek, Jane Rozmiarek, Nickie Stokes, and Wendy Wall for making this NCT concession run of Brighton Beach a successful venture again. Note: That is six shows where the average coverage numbered 2-3 persons per show...monumental indeed!

On behalf of Janet and Jeff Bowker and myself, please accept our warmest appreciation to all the above in staffing the NCT concession this round.

We hope to have a greater input from many of our congregants and friends who are seasoned concessionaires (you can become one too!) to keep this concession project a beneficial one in supplementing the church budget; as well as embracing the NCT theatre group that is embedded here at OPC.

-Trudy Sheau



## Urban/Suburban Book Club

**Meeting:** Tuesday, June 21, 2016 - 12 Noon at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

**June Selection:** *Such Good Girls: The Journey of the Holocaust's Hidden Child* by R. D. Rosen

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.

# Christian Education



## Overbrook Green



The Seeds have been planted; the fruits of those labors are growing.

Inspired by Jim Stephens' OPC Talk on Environmental Change, and encouraged through May's Adult Forum discussions, an opportunity for congregational discussion and action has been launched. **Overbrook Green** is that opportunity. The goals of this emerging Initiative are to promote good stewardship of the environment, to honor God's gifts by making informed lifestyle decisions, and to engage others in treasuring and protecting our natural resources. Monthly, **Overbrook Green** articles in the newsletter and postings on the website will offer program information and articles of interest on environmental preservation. All are welcomed and encouraged to contribute leadership, ideas, and expertise.

Please contact Jim Stephens ([james.stephens@comcast.net](mailto:james.stephens@comcast.net)) or Sharon Parker ([Sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:Sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) for more information.

# Christian Education

## Gratitude.....

A heartfelt thank you to all of the wonderful teachers and helpers who served throughout the 2015-2016 Sunday School year: Carol Rozmiarek, Becky Lazo, Kadie Whalen, Sabrina Johnson, Nicole Stokes Robinson, Judy Williamson, Cheryl Davis, Nickie Stokes, Jason Duckworth, Jason Sheau, Jill Van Rawley, Elizabeth Mendoza, Lainie Blodgett, Jean Baker, Margaret Young, Raelyn Harmon, Brian Taussig -Lux, and Artia Benjamin (snack coordinator). A special thank you goes to Leonard Robbins, whose commitment to our program and children is truly a blessing!



## Summer Adventures in Christian Education

While the final day for Sunday School is June 12, Christian Education programs at OPC will be very active during the summer months. Whether through youth mission activities, church sleepovers, or Vacation Bible School, opportunities for learning, serving, sharing, and having great fun will continue. "Special Events Sundays" will be held on June 26, July 24, and August 21. Following Time With Children, students in Pre-K through Grade 5 will meet in Fellowship Hall for Bible stories, crafts, and music.

Vacation Bible School will be held August 7-11, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This year's theme, *All Creatures of Our God and King*, will feature faith-based, science explorations for children Pre-K through Grade 5.

## OPC Youth Join Presbytery Delegation

Youth from across the nation will be gathering At Purdue University from July 19 - 23 for the PC (USA) Youth Triennium. Held every three years, the Triennium is designed to foster cross cultural communication, enhance faith formation, promote leadership skills, and encourage discussion of critical issues in the faith community. In preparation for the event, each Presbytery is forming a delegation of high school youth. Among those joining the Philadelphia team will be Maya Subramanian and Sarah Stephens. Best wishes to Maya and Sarah as they embark on this exciting trip.

## Broad Street "Missioners"...ready to serve!

A sturdy team of OPC Youth will be staying at Broad Street Ministry from July 31- August 4.

Serving at one, or more, of six urban ministry sites will be: Annabelle Van Rawley, Geneva Van Rawley, Justin Robertson, Zach Wong, Joanna Scherluebbe, Pearl Stricker, Maya Stricker, Sarah Stephens, Maya Subramanian, Brett Kaercher, Emma Biedermann and Austin Kaercher. Cheers to our Mission Team!

# Christian Education

Congratulations  
Confirmation Class of 2016!



**Bible Study**  
Wednesday Mornings 10:30  
McMillian 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 at 10:30 in the Chapel.

## OPC's Opportunity for Adults

**"Iced Tea and Talk"**

Although Adult Forum is taking a summer break, "Iced Tea and Talk" will be in session each Sunday in June, July and August. Join us for lively discussion each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15.

Adult Forum will return in September.

# Music



**Organ Students of  
Dennis Elwell  
To Present Recital**



On Sunday, June 12, at 3:00 p.m., six organ students studying with Minister of Music, Dennis Elwell, will present an Organ Recital on the Clarence H. Geist Memorial Moller Organ in the Sanctuary.

The recital gives the organists ranging in age from 16 (Aaron Patterson, a recent 1st Prize recipient in the West Chester Organ Competition) to, well, a little older, an opportunity to share and perform some repertoire that cannot easily be presented in worship services because of length, to some pieces which are appropriate for sacred worship.

Performing will be Ethel Geist, Bernard Kane, Aaron Patterson, Jim Pavlock, Alan Shiffert, and Karen Whitney. Works to be heard include those by composers, Louis Vierne, Charles-Marie Widor, W.A. Mozart, J.S. Bach, and Dietrich Buxtehude.

This is also a time for fellowship for the organists who don't often have an opportunity to see each other, as well as for those in attendance. All family, Overbrook members, and friends are invited and welcome to enjoy this free hour-long musical event. There is no admission or offering received.

# Mission & Outreach

## Women's Dining Circle

Before we take a hiatus for the summer, the Women's Dining Circle will host one more event on **Friday, June 17** at the home of Raelyn & Gopal Subramanian, 1413 Fairview Avenue, Havertown. The evening starts at 6:30 and proceeds benefit Overbrook Presbyterian Church Youth Group's summer mission activities. An evite will follow, but save the date!

The Women's Dining Circle is a component of the church's Mission & Outreach Committee. All funds donated by those who attend the dinner are matched by the Mission & Outreach Committee. We welcome your suggestion for a charity that would benefit from the money we raise and we would love to have YOU on our committee. Please contact Janet Bowker if you have a suggestion, want to join the committee, or are interested in learning more about the good work that these events facilitate.



*"Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands"*

Want to be a part of something big and incredibly impactful? Members of the Mission & Outreach Committee are in the early stages of staging a MobilePack for Feed My Starving Children ([www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)) in our area, and we need some help. If you are interested, or have questions/ideas, please contact Becky Lazo - [rebeccalazo@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccalazo@hotmail.com)).

## Coming up!!

### Congregational Picnic June 12!!

Food, drinks, snacks, desserts, live band, kids' entertainment and wonderful company!

Let's get together and have some family time!



### Community Shred Day

Saturday, June 11 - 10:00 a.m. to noon - at OPC's parking lot.

Bring your personal documents to be shredded - free of charge.

Sponsored by Omega Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and L.W. Farmbry & Assoc.

(No businesses please).



# Deacons



## Congratulations Graduates!!

**Sophie Shah** - is graduating from Lower Merion High School and will be attending University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

**Livia Davis McCabe** - is graduating from Lower Merion High School and will attending Ithaca College in the fall.

**Lois Babbitt** - graduated and earned her license from Cortiva Institute of Massage Therapy in King of Prussia.

**Brett Kaercher** - is graduating from Haverford High School. He will be attending Temple University.

**Amanda Benjamin** - earned her Masters in Social Work from University of Maryland in Baltimore, MD. Amanda is applying to be a Community School Coordinator in the Baltimore public school system.

**Alexa Benjamin** - earned her Masters in Education from Island University in Brooklyn, NY. Alexa is an elementary Special Education teacher in the Brooklyn public school system.

**Charlotte Carpenter** - graduates this summer, earning her Masters in Arts - Bilingual Learners from University College London's Institute of Education. She plans to continue her teaching career.

**Madison Harden** - is graduating from William Penn Charter School and will be attending Columbia University majoring in Economics.

**Rebecca Winkler** - is graduating from Wesleyan University.



## June Birthdays!!



6/3	Jonathan Wiggins	6/14	Sharon Parker
6/4	Deb Rottinger	6/18	Maya Phan
6/5	Shirley Alford		Christopher Sheau
6/6	Rosa Jones	6/19	Nancy Walton
	Sean Henry	6/20	Paul Stricker
6/7	Karen Ivory		Miriam Harden
6/9	Julie Tulba		Liz Shah
6/10	Mick Stanley		Elizabeth Molina
6/11	Kate Shackelford		Maya Williamson
	Will Vagnoni	6/22	Ernestine Harris
6/13	Laurel Wilson	6/25	Mimi Winkler
	Ted Dillon	6/27	Jared Lazorko
	Anna Taussig-Lux	6/29	Kevin Trindade

## Prayer List

Paige Family

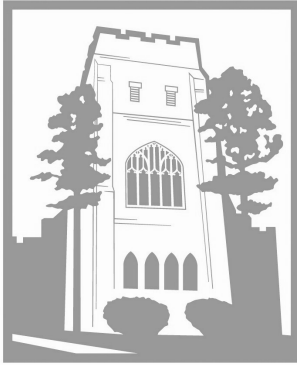
Friends of the Kupstas family who are dealing with childhood cancer.

Peggie Boatwright and family upon the death of her brother.

Harden Family upon the death of Gwen's sister Shirley.

*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.*

## *News from the Crossroads*



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

## Farmer's Market is Back for the Season!!!

Every Saturday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the church parking lot

**About the Market:** Established in 2008, this market is located at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church, and has a loyal following of residents in the neighborhood who make this market a regular part of their Saturday mornings.

### Look for:

Apple Tree Goat Dairy, 144 miles to market from Richfield, PA  
*Goat cheese, raw milk, goat yogurt, eggs and pork products*

Anchor Nursery, 67 miles to market from Galena, MD

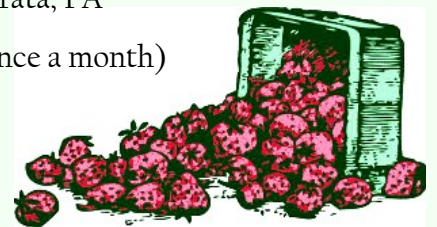
*Vegetables, flowers and potted plants*

Forest View Bakery, 72 miles to market from Lancaster, PA

Walnut Springs Farm, 112 miles to market from East Berlin, PA

Homestead Gardens, 68 miles to market from Ephrata, PA

Jennings 1785 Farm (once a month)



**Payment accepted:** Cash, ACCESS cards, Philly Food Bucks and WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers