



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

March 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

Sharon Parker
Director of Christian Education

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

Astonishing Forgiveness

If you read the story in John 8: 1-11, you will read the story of the woman taken in adultery. It is a familiar story, one often heard referenced. It is about a woman chased by the men in town through the streets of the town. She has been discovered to be an adulteress. The punishment for that was stoning. For what she did, death was the punishment; it was a capital offense.

The Scribes and the Pharisees brought her to Jesus and asked Jesus what should be done with her. It was a test to see if Jesus was faithful according to the law. It is then that Jesus makes His famous reply, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." Befuddled by Jesus' brilliant answer, the crowd disperses and returns home.

But that is not what is astonishing about that tale. What is astonishing is what happens after everyone goes away and leaves Jesus alone with the woman. His most astonishing words are not the ones quoted most frequently. What is astonishing is what he says to her next.

He says, "I do not condemn you." Truly astonishing.

There is no doubt about her guilt, but still He does not condemn her. She is forgiven for all that she has done. It is astonishing forgiveness. It is amazing grace.

It is astonishing because Jesus does not require anything of her before He forgives her. She never tells Him that she is sorry. She never promises not to do it again. Jesus never asks her to do these things before He forgives her. He steps between her and her death, and then forgives her with no admonishment or lecture, or even a requirement that she promise to reform her ways before forgiveness is given.

He just *forgives* her. Astonishing.

It is true that He then tells her not to do it again, but the deed is already done. The forgiveness is already given. No strings. No prior requirements. Just forgiveness, astonishing in its purity. Amazing in its grace.

Forgiveness is the glue of the Kingdom of God. It is the cement that holds it all together. Forgiveness allows us to look at ourselves in the mirror. Forgiveness makes it possible for us to repair broken relationships. Forgiveness teaches us mercy and compassion. Forgiveness is what is behind the words of the old hymn, "Just As I Am." Forgiveness is made believable by the Cross. Forgiveness is necessary for human life not be irrevocably shattered and atomized. Forgiveness is the bridge over which we walk to once again be united to God, ourselves, and each other.

What is astonishing about the forgiveness of God is that God forgives us *just as we are*. Astonishing.

During Lent this year, we will be talking a lot about the power and the nature of forgiveness in our lives, in our faith, and in our world. We will talk about one of the fundamental assumptions of our faith, and that is that there are no strings attached to the forgiveness of God. God forgives us, just as we are.

Astonishing.

-Drew



Worship & Music

Music Series, 2016-2017

On Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. the three adult singing choirs from Ardmore Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and Overbrook Presbyterian Church, will join together again to present a choral concert at Ardmore Presbyterian Church, 5 Montgomery Avenue in Ardmore. The three choirs began performing concerts together in the beginning of the 21st century, and have had a wonderful relationship musically and socially. With orchestra and organ, the choirs will present the *Solemne Vespers*, K.339, of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; and the *Requiem*, Opus 9, of Maurice Duruflé. St. Paul's Choirmaster, Andrew Heller will conduct the Mozart, and Overbrook Minister of Music, Dennis Ewell, will conduct the Duruflé, with Gary Garletts, Music Director of Ardmore Presbyterian Church, organist. Soloists from each of the three churches will also be featured.

Mozart composed the *Solemn Vespers* in 1780. It is a work in six short movements, each utilizing chorus and soloists, and having been composed to be performed at Vespers in the Salzburg Cathedral. The first four movements are taken from Psalm texts. The fifth movement, often sung alone in anthem context, is a lyric, often tranquil Psalm setting of Psalm 147. The sixth movement features the Magnificat text, often a liturgical component of a Vespers service. Maurice Duruflé composed the *Requiem*, 40 years ago in 1947. It consists of nine short movements, depicting the sections of a Requiem Mass, beginning with an Introit/Kyrie, and concluding with In Paradisum, which ends on an unresolved dominant sev-enth chord, signifying eternity.

Members, relatives, and friends of the three congregations are invited and welcomed to enjoy this free musical opportunity. A free-will offering with received to support the Music Programs of each church. Parking is available directly across the street from the church on Montgomery Avenue.

Sunday, April 30, 2017 – 3:00 p.m.
Organist, Aaron Patterson in Recital on
The Clarence H. Geist Memorial Moller Organ
In the Overbrook Church Sanctuary.

Sundays in March

March 5, 2017 Communion
1st Sunday in Lent Preaching: Dr. Mann
Lay Leader: Davorka Sabljak

March 12, 2017
2nd Sunday in Lent Preaching: Guest Clergy Lay
Leader: Eileen Wiggins

March 19, 2017
3rd Sunday in Lent Preaching: Dr. Mann
Lay Leader: Becky Lazo

March 26, 2017
4th Sunday in Lent Preaching: Dr. Mann
Lay Leader: Amaryllis Stricker

Lenten Worship Schedule

March 1, 7:00 PM: Ash Wednesday Worship

March 15, 6:30 PM: Simple Supper/Communion

March 29, 6:30 PM: Simple Supper/Communion

April 9, 10:30 AM: Palm Sunday Worship

April 13, 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae
Service/Communion

April 14, 12:00-1:00 PM: Good Friday Worship

April 16, 10:30 AM: Resurrection Day Worship
"HE IS RISEN!"

Congregational Life

Coffee Hour

March 5 Cherriel Gentles/Lynda Johnson
March 12 Stricker Family
March 19 LaToya Richie
March 26 TBA

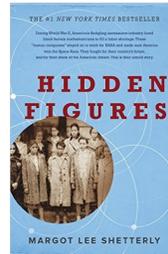


Urban/Suburban Book Club

Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

Location: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

March's Selection: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly



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.

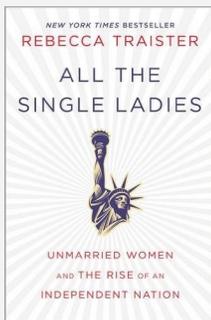
OPC Book Club

Meeting: Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Nancy Gilhool's House, 1408 Surrey Lane, Wynnewood, PA

March's Selection:

All the Single Ladies by Rebecca Traister



Traister explores the role of single women throughout modern history, some who worked as abolitionists, fought for voting rights, wrote literary classics, and kept the country running during wars. Unmarried women have been some of the most successful writers, activists and thinkers, and have also been ostracized, ridiculed and forced into unfulfilling unions. Traister is interested in the relatively new phenomenon of women having a choice whether to marry or not. "The revolution is in the lifting of the imperative that for centuries hustled nearly all (non-enslaved) women, regardless of their individual desires, ambitions, circumstances or the quality of available matches, down a single highway toward early heterosexual marriage and motherhood.

Just a friendly reminder - Daylight Saving Time begins on March 12, 2017.

Don't forget to change your clocks forward one hour on Saturday, March 11.



Christian Education

March's Adult Forum *What Did I Miss?*

Building on our theme for February, Adult Forum will continue the exploration of missing chapters of history, especially as they pertain to underrepresented peoples and social justice. Join us as we search for the truth of the past and the hope for the future.

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.

Coming Attraction:

OPC Junior Youth Bowling

April 2, 2:30-4:30 PM, Wynnewood Lanes

All OPC children in grades 1-5, and their parents, are invited to go bowling in April! Come and enjoy the fellowship, bowling, and pizza. \$5 per person. Sign-up in advance in the Wistar Morris Room following worship or by emailing sparker614@gmail.com.



OPC Mission Fair: God's Work Our Hands

There is much work to be done in God's kingdom...and we have the opportunity to do it! Come to the OPC Mission Fair on **March 13, 7:00 PM** in the Chapel, to explore a wide variety of domestic and global mission trips for individuals and families. This is the time of year when many are planning spring and summer adventures. Perhaps this will be the year to prayerfully consider a life-changing opportunity for yourself and for others. Please join me for an evening of information and discernment...and coffee and dessert. I look forward to sharing my experiences in mission and encouraging you in yours.

-Sharon Parker

OPC Youth Think Tank: Sunday March 26, noon to 3:00 PM

THINK TANK



All OPC Youth and friends are invited to take the plunge into the "think tank" on March 26. We'll be thinking, debating, and wrestling with current topics of national and global interest...and eating a really good lunch. Come and explore the topics: What's missing from my history book...and why? How many great figures have been hidden in history? What are the issues behind the Arab-Israeli conflict? What can we do to promote peace and justice?

During the afternoon, we'll be viewing film clips from "Out of Cordoba," "Standing on my Sisters' Shoulders," and "Children of the Camps: the Japanese Internment." Sign up with Sharon Parker or Jason Sheau.

R.P.M. (Retired Persons' Ministry) Café

Friday, March 31, 11:30-1:00 PM

On March 31, the RPM Café will be open for business...and the "business" is warm fellowship and hot soup! Come join your fellow OPC folks of "a certain age" for lunch and a lively discussion. Soup and beverage will be provided; BYO sandwich. The soups of the day will be: chicken corn noodle and tomato pasta vegetable; our discussion topic will be: "The impact of "exciting" times on personal health and spirit." Friends are welcome! Sign up in the Wistar Morris Room following worship.

Mission & Outreach



You are hearing the message about Feed My Starving Children and you are responding; thank you!! You are buying M&Ms (and returning the tubes filled with money) and beautiful, handmade bags by Nancy Gilhool and sending in donations . What else can you do? You can spread the word to friends, co-workers, neighbors, and more. Consider asking your employer to match a donation you make or allow you to place a donation jar in a central location. Do you know someone who owns a business who might like to sponsor our MobilePack? Or, maybe your child's school would consider a bake sale or collection jars in the

classroom or faculty room? We are happy to brainstorm ideas with you to spread the word and get more volunteers and donations. We could also arrange for someone to come speak to your group if that helps. Keep your eyes out for a link to sign up for a two hour slot on April 22nd to help pack meals. We will pack 108,864 meals for those with the greatest need. We need 544 volunteers to get this done. Just a reminder that all gifts can be made out to Feed My Starving Children and add Mobile Pack #1704-148MI to the memo line of your check.

Please be in touch! ~Becky Lazo, Janet Bowker, & Jim Vagnoni

There is a lot going on in Mission and Outreach!



First, we would like to thank Jane Rozmiarek for a great job launching and overseeing a wide variety of projects, as the chairperson of M&O. This month she handed over the reins to Aimerie Scherluebbe. Jane will continue to work with Aimerie to make sure everything stays on track.

As we enter the Lenten season, we want to keep in mind all of those that are struggling. We want to help those in need and bring some level of support until they can support themselves.



Our next Mission & Outreach meeting will be held on Sunday, March 26. Please join us and share your ideas. We will meet in the Williamson Room during coffee hour. Grab something to eat and drink and come join us.

Deacons



Congratulations! To Jason Sheau and I-Mei Huang on their marriage on February 18, 2017.

“Many thanks for your thoughts and prayers during my hip replacement. They made my surgery and recovery a blessing.”-Nancy Gilhool

Prayer List

Jeff Bowker
 Deb Rottinger
 Becky Lazo
 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.



3/01-Dennis Elwell
 3/02-Radine Goodall
 Sibyl Sheau
 3/03-Angie Goodall
 Sandy Bevan Ritchey
 Geneva VanRawley
 3/05-Deja Nicole Stokes
 3/06-Colin Sheau
 3/07-Abigial Swartz
 3/11-Sara Davis
 3/12-Matt Gilhool
 3/14-Max Straka
 Elizabeth Mendoza

3/19-Jaclyn Pompa
 3/21-Anita Jones-Perry
 Amanda Schwinn
 3/22-Laura Toy
 3/23-Austin Kaercher
 3/24-Margaret Cosgriff
 3/26-Jeremy Sheau
 Hannah Trindade
 Rachel Trindade
 3/29-Phyllis Watson
 3/30-Camille Seidel
 Sue Schick
 Audrey Sigler
 Eileen Wiggins

Finance

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2016	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 66,069.18	\$ 46,447.29	\$ 548,868.24	\$ 557,360.00
Total Expenses	\$ 69,979.14	\$ 46,011.42	\$ 491,113.84	\$ 552,103.49
Net	\$ 3,909.96	\$ 435.87	\$ 57,754.40	\$ 5,256.51

Community

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

Sunday, March 19, 2017
1:00 PM 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 is free. Cost of tickets is \$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.

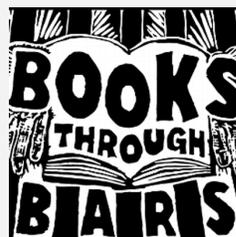


INQUIRER'S CLASS

Sunday, March 26 at Noon

If you have been visiting with us and are curious about what it might mean to unite with Overbrook Presbyterian Church as a member, then this class is for you. While it commits you to nothing, the class will open to you the "stuff" that makes OPC what it is. We will talk about the way we are organized and we will introduce you to key folks here at OPC, but we will also talk about the core values here at OPC. And we would love to hear your story about how you came to worship with us.

SO, mark your calendar for March 26 and make it a point to be with us that day. If you get a chance, let Dr. Mann know of your intent to be with us that day if for no other reason than because there is food involved (one of our core values!). His email is: drew@overbrookpresb.org



The organization would like to thank everyone at OPC for their generous contributions of books and funds that were sent to them.

Books Through Bars is based in Philadelphia PA, and is a volunteer run organization that

distributes free books and educational materials to incarcerated people in PA, NJ, NY, MD, DE, VA and WV. Each week, they receive hundreds of letters from prisoners requesting books. Each year the organization sends over 8,000 book packages to incarcerated individuals.

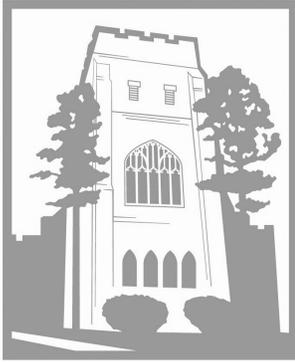
Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Anyone with a yen to pry in God's Word, please join us in the Chapel on Wednesday's morning from 10:30-12:00pm.

The topic is "Everything You Ever Wanted to Ask but Never Could". The study of Luke will be finishing up on March 1, topic shifts on March 8 to pretty much anything that you want to talk about. Biblical topics, theological concepts, the Reformed take on social issues... you name it, we have it, all set in the context of the Scripture from whence those concepts arise.

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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www.overbrookpresb.org