

# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

March 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

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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## *Letter from the Pastor*

### *God's Wings*

I wish I could take credit for this story, but I cannot. It was sent to me by a dear friend. I do not know where she found it, but it is so good I want to share this with you as a Lenten and Easter meditation.

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes in its own death, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. The bird was close on the ground, and its wings were spread wide in an unusual pose.

Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, the ranger gently nudged the bird over with a stick. As he moved the remains of the charred bird, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother,

keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the fatal toxic smoke she would be breathing would rise away from her chicks.

She could have abandoned her babies and flown to safety, but she had refused to do so. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

Psalm 91:4 says, "God will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." Being loved this much should make a difference in our lives. Remember the One who loves you, and then live differently because of it.

Have a blessed Lent and Easter; rise up from the ashes into a new life in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord, who was willing to die that you might live.

—Drew

## Lenten Worship at Overbrook

The coming Lenten season brings us diverse opportunities to gather in worship and prayerful fellowship. These opportunities include the formal services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Palm Sunday, as well as compline, which according to Christian tradition is the final worship of the day. Please keep this schedule of services in your hearts and in your homes.

March 2	6:30 pm	Soup & Bread Supper followed by Compline
March 16	6:30 pm	Soup & Bread Supper followed by Compline
March 19	9:30 am	The Journey of Christ: An Intergenerational Event
March 20	10:30 am	Palm Sunday Worship
March 24	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae & Communion
March 25	12:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
March 27	10:30 am	Easter – Resurrection Sunday Celebration

# Worship & Music

## Sundays in March

March 6, 2016

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Communion

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Amos Paul

Acolyte: Lucy Duckworth

Communion Servers: Davorka Sabljak, Elienne Sainthilaire, Kevin Trindade, Artia Benjamin, Liz Shah, Edelenne Carroll

Flowers given by: Rachel Carnahan & Jeremy Blatchley

March 13, 2016

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Sarah Stephens

Acolyte: Joanna Scherluebbe

Flowers given by: Tom Williamson

March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Aimerie Scherluebbe

Acolyte: Johnny May

Flowers given by: Jim Stephens & Cindy Gray

Marcy 27, 2016

Easter Sunday

Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann

Lay Leader: Keedra Carroll

Acolyte: Ben Scherluebbe

Flowers given by: Bette Homer

Worship and Music Committee implores you to stop the loud conversations in the sanctuary prior to worship. There are plenty of rooms in which you can talk to others prior to the service. Enter the Sanctuary only when you are ready to be quiet and reverent. Sanctuary is a place one goes to be safe and sheltered from danger that implies quiet and stillness at least for part of the time, when we listen to the prelude and center ourselves in preparation to attend to the Word of the Lord.

## MUSIC NOTES FROM THE CHORAL ROOM

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIRS ON FEBRUARY 21ST

More than 200 people attended the Children and Youth Choirs Choral Festival in the Sanctuary at Overbrook Church on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The choirs from Ardmore Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, in Ardmore, and Overbrook Church, under their respective music directors, Margene Biedermann, Gary Garletts, and Andrew Heller, presented a program which celebrated the life of Helen Kemp, one of the giants of the children's choir venue who passed away in the fall of 2015; anthems of praise; global repertoire; and a world premiere commissioned for the occasion by American composer, Wayne Wold, entitled *Enviado*. Thanks to all the choir members, especially our own Junior and Youth Choirs Director, Margene Biedermann, and the clergy from the three churches who participated in a wonderful festival of choral music.

### PALM SUNDAY, 2016 AT OVERBROOK

For many years both at Overbrook Church and liturgically throughout the Christian church, Palm Sunday was a time to just specifically celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Curiously, the Sunday preceding Palm Sunday was often denoted as Passion Sunday. In recent years, a liturgical approach for Palm Sunday has evolved with the observation of usual Palm Sunday celebrations, combined with a progression to the passion story and beginning of Holy Week. Dr. Mann has proposed that the sermon on Palm Sunday be musical in content, and to that end, The Overbrook Choir and Overbrook Quartet soloists, accompanied by a string quartet and two oboes, are going to present portions of George Frideric Handel's, *Messiah*, which musically set the passion story in Part II. The choruses and arias will be blended with appropriate scripture texts, many which are part of the original libretto of *Messiah*, selected from the scriptures by Charles Jennens. Palm Sunday in 2016 will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>, as spring and Holy Week begin. Plan to make this unique worship service an important part of your spiritual journey to the cross.

# Worship & Music

## PERFORMING ARTS FUND

Overbrook Church is privileged to present concerts and recitals during the course of each season, such as the recent children and youth choirs festival. 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.

## Changes Ahead

You will notice some changes coming up in April. The committee has decided and Session has approved a return to Communion served in the pews every other month. This will require more people to serve and more people to help with set up and clean up. Nickie Stokes is in charge of all of these things: please see her if you are willing to help. If you have any comment on this change, please see or contact Rachel Carnahan.

This year on Palm Sunday, we will not have the outdoor procession that has been done the past few years.

## Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate Easter flowers, there are sign-up sheets at Coffee Hour or contact the church office at 215-877-2744. or [office@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:office@overbrookpresb.org)



# Mission & Outreach

Thank you to everyone who donated formula, diapers, baby wipes and other items for babies of mothers with HIV at the Family Care Center at CHOP.

## Looking ahead:

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected in April.

## Shelter Meal

The menu: Presbyterian Pasta, salad, green beans, corn bread, fruit, cookies. Sound good? We hope the folks at the Life Center of Delaware County agree. Help cook and serve on **Tuesday, March 29**. Cooks meet here at 1:00 pm. Servers meet her at 6:00 pm. We always can use donations of cookies and brownies. If you can help, contact Nancy Gilhool at 610-896-8329 or [gilhoolfam@verizon.net](mailto:gilhoolfam@verizon.net).

## Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. This is done with the help of volunteers contributing their time to pack the meals and prepare them to be shipped where they're needed around the world. We need you! Volunteers age 5 to 105 are invited to sign up for a 2-hour shift to pack meals on **Saturday, April 9, 2016** at Haddonfield Middle School in Haddonfield, NJ. OPC would like to send at least 3 teams of 8 (or more if there's interest) and it would be great if each team member could try to raise \$20 to help cover the cost of the meals packed. if you can't attend and would like to make a contribution, that's OK, too! Stay tuned for more information and ideas about how to raise money! Contact Becky Lazo with questions:



# Congregational Life

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

A group of dedicated volunteers continues to interview members (current and former) and friends to record what their experience has been at OPC. The goal is to capture a snap shot of OPC in this era and how it has changed. We are interested in people who have been involved with OPC for 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 or by phone at 610-331-8972.

Blessings, Raelyn

## OPC Family Film Library

Want to plan a family film and game night? Looking for activities to share with your visiting grandchildren? Stop by the Family Video Library in the Wistar Morris Room and sign out a DVD or game...and grab a bag of complimentary microwave popcorn!



Everyone had a great time at February's Prayer Breakfast.

Thank you to Phil and Trudy Sheau and family for celebrating Chinese New Year with your OPC family and friends!



## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2015	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$52,594.60	\$43,721.53	\$585,851.40	\$524,650.00
Total Expenses	\$71,380.86	\$43,534.99	\$518,799.82	\$522,393.59
Net	\$(18,786.26)	\$186.54	\$67,051.58	\$2,256.00

# Congregational Life

## MARCH

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- Mar. 6 VanRawleys  
Mar. 13: Edelene Carroll, Alyce Marsh, Davorka Sabljak, Lois Ann Furgess, Keedra Carroll  
Mar. 20: *Sign Up Now!*  
Mar. 27: Brenda Gavin, Lainie Blodgett & Asa

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 March 15, 2016 - 7pm  
Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church

March selection: *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner

April selection: *Eternal Wonder* by Pearl S. Buck

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

March: meeting cancelled

Tuesday, April 19: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nahisi Coates

Winner of the National Book award for Nonfiction, a powerful book on race relations in America

Meeting will take place at 7:30 pm at the home of Amy Behrman, 240 Beech Hill Rd., Wynnewood 19096



# Overbrook Preschool is Turning 50!

Fifty years ago, Overbrook Preschool opened its doors at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Fifty years! That's fifty years of hundreds of children participating in thousands of hours of joyful play-based learning. That's fifty years of many dedicated and skillful staff helping those children develop interpersonal skills and love for learning. That's fifty years of caring parents embracing and enriching the community that nurtured their children. Now it's time to celebrate!

On **April 9, 2016, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**, there will be an Open House for all present and past Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten families. This free event will have food, activities for the children, pictures galore, raffles, and opportunities to visit the classrooms, teachers and former directors. A mosaic mural currently in progress, created by the children with a professional artist, will be unveiled. Past and present OPK families and friends can have their names embossed on tiles in the mosaic for a \$50 donation per tile.

All past or present Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten families and friends are invited to attend. Invitations will be coming soon, **but people move and addresses change**. So please pass the word, and call the office (215-877-8945) to RSVP, give a correct address, buy a tile, share pictures, and congratulate this wonderful school on a half-century of laughter, love and learning.

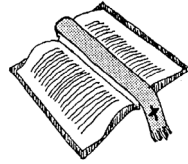




# Christian Education

## 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.

## A NEW BIBLE STUDY!

Due to congregant requests, an evening "edition" of Adult Bible Study will be offered. The initial sessions will be held on **Wednesday, March 2** and **Wednesday, March 16**. Please join Dr. Mann from **8:00 to 9:00 PM** in the Williamson Room.



## ADULT FORUM

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



The Adult Forum theme for March is *This is My Story; This is My Song: Overbrook Believes!* Please join us as we welcome newer members of our congregation as they share their faith journeys.

Trudy Sheau is the Adult Forum Convener for March. Adult Forum meets each Sunday morning in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15. The welcome is warm; the coffee is hot.

# 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 loss***

Leonard Robbins and his family on the loss of Leonard's son, James

### ***For those facing health challenges***

Ellen Burr and Joan Taubel

*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.*

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Radine Goodall	3/23	Austin Kaercher
3/5	Jane Krumrine		Nicolas Robinson
	Deja-Nicole Stokes	3/24	Bonnie Miller
3/6	Sophie Shah	3/28	Alec Jacobson
3/7	Abigail Swartz	3/30	Eileen Wiggins
	Jennifer Cleghorn		Camille Seidel
3/12	Matthew Gilhool		Audrey Sigler
3/14	Elizabeth Mendoza		Sue Schick
3/15	Stephanie Morris		
3/17	Andrew Wilson		
	Matthew Wilson		
3/21	Amanda Schwinn		
3/22	Laura Toy		

# Christian Education

## JOURNEYS WITH JESUS: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL EVENT

Join us on Palm Sunday Eve, **Saturday, March 19 from 9:30-11:00 am**, as we prepare for Holy Week. All are welcome to gather in the Wistar Morris Room at 9:30 for a light meal of foods from the Holy Land. Following the meal, costumed guides will lead us on an interactive Biblical tour of milestones in the life and ministry of Jesus. Come...let us make this journey together.

### **SUMMER DREAMIN': SUMMER EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

As OPC families begin to plan summer camp and vacations schedules, the Christian Education Committee hopes you will consider the following great opportunities for your children:

**Vacation Bible School:** "All Creatures of our God and King" **August 7-11**, 5:00-7:30 pm. Children, Pre-K through Grade 5 are invited to participate in this series of fun-filled, faith-based science adventures!

**PC-USA Youth Triennium:** July 19-23, Purdue University. We would love to have OPC high school youth join the Philadelphia Presbytery student delegation to our national youth conference. This is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to participate in a national church dialogue, grow in faith, and have a preview of college campus life.

**Youth in Mission:** Middle and High School students...pack your bags and let's head to Broad Street Ministry! We'll be participating in their Summer Youth Initiative from **July 31-August 4**.

**Summer Camp?** Think Kirkwood! Please check out this wonderful church-sponsored summer camp. A great adventure awaits. ([kirkwoodcamp.org](http://kirkwoodcamp.org))

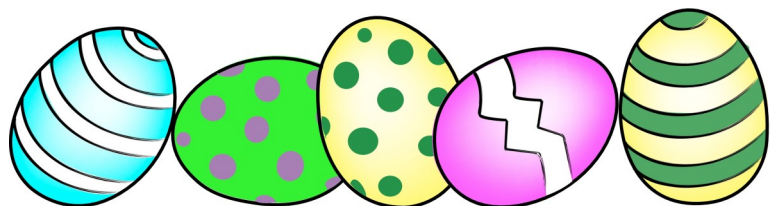
For more information, contact Sharon Parker ([Sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:Sharon@overbrookpresb.org))

### **R.P.M. (Retired Person's Ministry) Café...no foolin'!**

The R.P.M. Café will be serving good soup and great fellowship on **Friday, April 1**. Come join your fellow OPC retirees in the Chapel from 11:30-1:00 pm. In the spirit of April Fool's Day, several surprising soups and a particularly unusual dessert will be on the menu. BYO sandwich and sense of humor. Friends are welcome...sign up in the Wistar Morris Room or RSVP to [Sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:Sharon@overbrookpresb.org).

## **EGGS-CITING EASTER EGG HUNT!**

The Annual OPC Easter Egg Hunt will take place following worship on Sunday, March 27. Children, Nursery through Grade 3, will be hunting for eggs on the lawn, while our students in grades 4-6 will go on a special Easter egg scavenger hunt in Fellowship Hall. Although the high energy hunt will be over in a blink of an eye, staging it requires many good folks to hop into action. We need egg stuffers, hunt guides, and even referees...in the event that there are any "egg disputes." Please volunteer by signing up in the Wistar Morris room or by emailing [sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org).



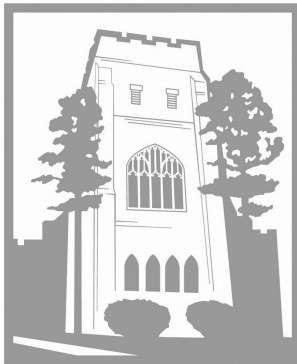
# March Calendar

Tues. 3/1 .....1:00 PM ..... Worship & Music Committee  
7:00 PM ..... Finance Committee  
Wed. 3/2 .....4:30 PM ..... Property Committee  
6:30 PM ..... Soup & Bread Supper/Compline  
8:00 PM ..... Evening Bible Study  
Tues. 3/8 .....7:00 PM ..... Session  
Wed. 3/9 .....6:30 PM ..... Benefit Performance of The Wedding Singer  
Sun. 3/13 .....12:00 PM ..... Deacon's Meeting  
Wed. 3/16 .....6:30 PM ..... Soup & Bread Supper/Compline  
8:00 PM ..... Evening Bible Study  
Sat. 3/19 .....9:30 AM ..... Journeys With Jesus: A Multi-generational Event  
Sun. 3/20 .....12:00 PM ..... Christian Education Committee  
12:00 PM ..... Mission & Outreach Committee  
Thurs. 3/24 .....7:00 PM ..... Maundy Thursday Tenebrae & Communion  
Fri. 3/25 .....12:00 PM ..... Good Friday Worship  
Sun. 3/27 .....10:30 AM ..... Easter—Resurrection Sunday Celebration

## Weekly Events in March

**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



## Narberth Community Theatre's Performance of **The Wedding Singer** to Benefit Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Once a year, NCT designates a performance to solely benefit OPC. For the price of a theatre ticket, come and enjoy a dessert and a theatre performance with family and friends.

Tickets will be on sale at Coffee Hour.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 \$20 per ticket  
6:30 PM – Complimentary Dessert/Refreshments  
7:30 PM – Performance