



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## News from the Crossroads

May 2016

### Letter from the Pastor

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

Custodian

#### Church Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

“Something Old, Something New”

I had just returned from the bookstore at Virginia Seminary. If ever something was invented to tax my will power, a bookstore qualifies. I love bookstores. I could go broke in bookstores; I could get lost in bookstores. I have gotten lost in bookstores.

I ordered a few books. I could not help it. I hesitate to tell you the titles, though, for fear that you will think me daft. Although, if you cannot trust the brothers and sisters of faith with my little oddities, who can you trust, right?!!!

Here goes. I ordered a copy of *The New Testament and Psalms; an Inclusive Version*. I also ordered the two volume set of Schneemelcher’s definitive *New Testament Apocrypha*. (Honest, there is a guy with the name of Schneemelcher!) I also bought a copy of the Jewish Publication Society’s *Hebrew-English Tanakh*. (In case you were wondering, “Tanakh” is what our Jewish brothers and sisters call their Bible; you would likely call it the Old Testament).

In any event, this translation of the Hebrew scriptures is lovely, blue leather, gilt edges, and gold lettering, printed on exquisite paper. It is a beautiful book on the outside. What is truly interesting is the inside. It is a new translation of the Hebrew scriptures for Jews.

Reading the forward of the book is fascinating. In it, they describe the challenge of translating ancient, previously translated, and familiar texts into Modern English idiom. In essence, they confront the problem of taking something old and familiar and rendering it into the fresh, yet elegant language of something new. They talk about how difficult it is to hear the

old, old story, often told in words whose meaning are fading, in new cadences and images. They talk about trying to do a new thing with something that is so traditionally known. They talk about the struggle of being new and fresh without losing faithfulness to the heart of scripture. They talk about respecting traditional understandings without shutting out God’s opportunity to speak fresh wisdom to a modern world.

It is the same old story. Always, always the struggle is to cherish the traditional while adapting to new times and needs. Simply put, we worship a God of history Who relates to us *in modern terms*. God is not done speaking to us, not finished with calling us to do new and wondrous things in God’s name. God speaks *contemporary* English. Yet, to lose the traditional means to lose those roots which allow us to remember that the God of history is reliable.

How do we preserve what is precious and traditional to us at OPC while allowing God to continue to lead us into the present and into the future? We need to know the vocabulary of what God has done in the past; we need to be ready to learn to sing a new song, and to speak the different language of the present time. It requires us to listen intently, to worship deeply, to respect voices who use differing idioms, and to lift up what we hold dear. It requires also that we let go of that which is no more than the Pharisaism of the present age.

The life of our church is a fluid thing. We have much to remember, and much yet to say and to do. In Jesus’ name,

-Drew

### Sundays in May

May 8, 2016

Seventh Sunday in Easter  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann  
Lay Leader: Jonathan Kopsic  
Acolyte: Tarah Paul

May 15, 2016

Pentecost Sunday  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann  
Lay Leaders: Confirmands  
Acolyte: Dan Biedermann

May 22, 2016

Trinity Sunday  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann  
Lay Leader: Eileen Wiggins  
Acolyte: Justin Robertson

May 29, 2016

2nd Sunday After Pentecost  
Preaching: Rev. Drew Mann  
Lay Leader: Jill Van Rawley  
Acolyte: Maya Subramanian

# Congregational Life



## The Pastoral Nominating Committee Is Beginning Its Work...

On Saturday morning, May 7, the PNC will begin its work by taking part in a training session conducted by the Philadelphia Presbytery with the goal of introducing the PNC to the process to be followed in the search for the new OPC minister. The Presbytery support team will provide resources to help the PNC discover candidates for our pastoral vacancy.

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION & RECEPTION IS APPROACHING

Orientation: Sunday, May 22 at Noon following worship.

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

**Orientation** - After worship on May 22, staff and various lay leaders will gather in the Chapel to meet and greet prospective members. There will be a brief orientation as to how Overbrook operates and where it believes itself to be going. There will be time for a Q&A from prospective members.

**Reception** - For those prospective members who choose to unite officially with the Overbrook congregation, there will be time to meet in Dr. Mann's office on Sunday, June 5 at 9:15 a.m. before worship. The Session will formally receive new members, and during worship that morning we will publically celebrate our new members in our monthly communion service.

Please contact Dr. Mann if you are interested; email: [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

February 2016	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 42,536.27	\$ 46,446.61	\$ 112,404.39	\$ 92,893.22
Total Expenses	\$ 42,187.84	\$ 46,008.37	\$ 72,170.29	\$ 92,016.74
Net	\$ 348.43	\$ 438.24	\$ 40,234.10	\$ 876.40

# Congregational Life

## Urban/Suburban Book Club



Meeting: Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church

### May's Selection:

A Man Called Ove: A Novel

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

## April Coffee Hour Hosts

May 8

The Men of Overbrook

May 22

Friends of our Confirmands

May 22 and May 29

TBA



## Exploring True Grit

OPC member, and noted University of Pennsylvania professor of psychology, Angela Duckworth, will be speaking at an upcoming Author Event at the Free Library of Philadelphia on Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 PM. The topic of Angela's presentation will be *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, which is also the title of her recently released book. This program is offered at no charge...all are welcome.



Neil Simon's comedy, Brighton Beach, is ready to roll this month. What a wonderful opportunity to enjoy live theatre at a reasonable price at such an accessible location in OPC's Fellowship hall, and to enjoy such dedication and skill of passionate thespians and stage productions.

This play will run May 6th-8th and May 13th-15th. Come and invite your friends for a wonderful evening of live theatre.

# Christian Education



## Summer Dreamin': Summer Events for Children and Youth



As OPC families begin to plan summer camp and vacation 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, 5-7:30 p.m. 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 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)

For more information, contact Sharon Parker (Sharon@overbrookpresb.org)

# Christian Education

## OPC's Opportunity for Adults

### May's Adult Forum

#### Stewardship of the Earth: A Discussion on Environmental Change

Adult forum meets each Sunday morning in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Come learn with us...The welcome is warm...the coffee hot!



### Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings 11:00-12:30

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 from 11:00—12:30 in the Chapel.

### A New Bible Study

Due to congregant request, an “evening edition” of Adult Bible Study is now being offered. Sessions will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Please join Dr. Mann from 8:00 to 9:00 in the Williamson Room.

### Confirmation Class Witnesses History...Again!

On April 24, our Confirmation Class, accompanied by OPC Youth members and adult leaders, worshiped at historic St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. It was Youth Sunday at St. Thomas, and a warm welcome awaited the OPC guests, who were seated in the first three pews of the church. During worship, students learned about the rich history of St. Thomas church, founded by Bishop Absalom Jones, the first Episcopal priest of African decent ordained in the United States. They also witnessed history in the making, as Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed the congregation.

For many of these students, this was the second time in seven months that they have been at the center of a news-making event...both times within the church community. Whether by witnessing the Sunday morning landing of Pope Francis' helicopter on the fields at St. Charles Seminary, or by hearing Hillary Clinton's Sunday morning greeting at St. Thomas, lasting memories were made.



### OPC Youth Weekend Retreat

May 27 - 28

All OPC Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to camp out and cook out at the church from 6:00 PM May 27 to 6:00 PM May 28. Great adventures are planned, as we explore all areas of our historic church, engage in a great mission project, cook our own meals...and have fun. If you haven't already made your reservation, please do so by contacting Sharon Parker (Sharon@overbrookpresb.org).

### Pan - Asian Heritage Festival, May 7

All OPC youth and friends are invited to hop on the train and head to the Pan-Asian Heritage Festival at Washington Square Park. We'll be leaving the Overbrook Station on the 10:55 a.m. train to Philadelphia and returning to the Overbrook Station at 4:18 p.m. Information flyers are available in the Wistar Morris Room and at the entrance greeting tables.



# Christian Education

## Confirmation Class of 2016...

During worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, eleven confirmands will be received into membership at Overbrook:

Saronn Cummings	Siarra Cummings	Amanda Duckworth	Lucy Duckworth
William Kothari	Robert May	Justin Robertson	Joanna Scherluebbe
Audrey Sigler	Geneva Van Rawley	Zachary Wong	



These students have had a busy year...

In accordance with the Sunday School schedule, Confirmation Class met three Sundays a month from September through May. On the first Sundays of February, March, and April, Confirmands attended extended Sunday afternoon sessions. During those two-hour sessions, students met with the Pastor, interacted with members of the Mentoring Team, and participated in a Mission Study meeting. On April 24, the Confirmation Class attended the Youth Sunday worship service at our neighboring congregation, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. During that service, students had the opportunity to hear a message from Hillary Clinton. Throughout the year, student participation was strong, with many having perfect attendance.

As a part of the Confirmation process, each student will be engaged in worship leadership on May 15. Whether serving as greeters, ushers, or speakers, their gifts will be abundantly shared with the congregation. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers as they continue on their spiritual journey.



*St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. April 24, 2016*

*Photo courtesy of [www.pennlive.com](http://www.pennlive.com)*



## 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 Wistar Morris Room and sign out a DVD or game...be sure to grab a bag of complimentary microwave popcorn!!

# Mission & Outreach

## Women's Dining Circle

On Friday, April 22, The Women's Dining Circle met at the home of Elizabeth Cosgriff. Our speakers were Erin Graham and Joy Ahn, both nurses with Nurse-Family Partnership, an organization that supports first-time, low-income mothers from pregnancy through the child's second birthday. They provide home visits and focus on the child's development, nutrition and wellness, and teach mothers how to interact with their babies, read to them and stimulate development of speech and other skills. The program has been shown to save \$5 in health and social spending for every \$1 spent on the services rendered by the nurses. The 31 women in attendance contributed \$795.00, which was matched by Mission and Outreach for a total of \$1590.00! Further information is on the literature table outside the sanctuary



## Children's Fish Banks

On Sunday, May 1, a school of children's fish banks swam into the One Great Hour of Sharing net. The enthusiastic support and generosity of the children and youth of OPC and their families, raised \$254.45 for the OGHs Campaign. Deepest appreciation goes to all who contributed...and to those who counted over 60 lbs. of coins.



Coming Soon to the OPC Parking Lot....The Farmer's Market!

Each Saturday, late May through early November (weather permitting).



# Deacons

## May Birthdays

5/3 Gail Kaercher  
 5/4 Andrea McGhee  
 Patricia Ogundele  
 5/8 Dick Williamson  
 5/11 Robert Harden Sr.  
 Bob Kothari  
 5/12 Caroline Skinner  
 Jane Krumrine  
 Christoph von Andreae  
 5/13 Daniel Beidermann  
 5/18 Emily Partridge  
 5/19 Kendi Long  
 5/20 Nancy Gilhool  
 Rebecca Lazo  
 5/21 John Baker  
 5/24 Ian Wilson  
 Pearl Stricker  
 5/26 Rachel Trindade  
 Hannah Trindade  
 5/27 Robert Harden, Jr.  
 5/30 Keedra Carroll  
 5/31 Guy Stanley



## Prayer List

### **For our Confirmands:**

Saronn Cummings, Sierra Cummings, Amanda Duckworth, Lucy Duckworth, William Kothari, Robert May, Justin Robertson, , Audrey Sigler, Geneva Van Rawley, Zachary Wong, Joanna Scherluebbe

### *For our homebound members and friends:*

Mary VandenBerge, Binnie Savage, Bette Ann Johnson, and Judith Schwartz.

### *For those facing a loss:*

Peggy Boatwright upon the death of her brother.



*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.*

## **Meeting Space is Needed for OPC Programing...**

It is wonderful that our building is used by so many people in the community. It gives us the opportunity to let many people learn about what is going on in our church. The building use fees greatly help us meet our financial goals. However, sometimes we cannot convene meetings on our premises when needed due to lack of unoccupied space. Groups such as the confirmation class, Bible study, youth group, committee meetings, etc., occasionally need to find someplace other than OPC to get together.

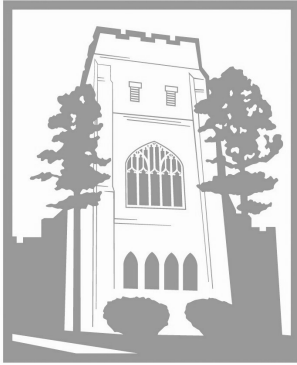
Can your nearby home or office accommodate small groups of people for relatively short meetings? If you are able and willing to share your space, please let Sharon Parker or the church office know. We will keep a "master list" of possible locations and call to schedule in advance, and at your convenience. NO other duties are required of the host. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and praise God for the overflow of people affiliated with OPC.

-Raelyn

## May Calendar

Tuesday, May 10	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study	Thursday, May 19	6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Session	Sunday, May 22	2:00 p.m.	Mission & Outreach
Thursday, May 11	6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir	Wednesday, May 25	11:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Sunday, May 15	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation	Friday, May 26	6:00 p.m.	Youth Overnight
	12:00 p.m.	Deacon's Meeting	Monday, May 30	<b>HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY</b>	
Wednesday, May 18	11:00 am	Bible Study			
	7:00 p.m.	Book Club			
	8:00 p.m.	Evening Bible Study			

## News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

[www.overbrookpresb.org](http://www.overbrookpresb.org)

Narberth

Community Theater Presents

NEIL SIMON'S  
**BRIGHTON  
BEACH**  
*Memoirs*

**May 2016**

Fri

Sat

Sun

6

7

8

8pm

8pm

3pm

13

14

15

8pm

8pm

3pm