



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

May 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

Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette
Co-Pastors

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Dennis Elwell
Minister of Music

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 Pastors

Moving to a new home is both stressful and exciting. There is so much to be done. There are a lot of decisions to be made. What should we bring, and what should we leave behind?

Our three grown children all came home and carried off their childhood treasures to their own homes. We are finding that we need to re-evaluate what we have, what we need, and how our possessions will fit into a new space. What things are most important to us? What things can we do without?

There are times in our spiritual lives when we need to ask these same questions: What things are most important? There are plenty of things worth keeping, nurturing and treasuring — things to worship, family, friendships, early morning devotions over breakfast at the kitchen table, truth-telling, working for justice, listening to others and caring for those in need. What would you add to the list?

What things are best left behind? Letting go of possessions in order to live simply can be a spiritual discipline. Many people find that a spring (or anytime) housecleaning of habits and attitudes can be helpful, as they seek to grow in faithfulness.

On our spiritual journeys, the joy comes from having companions along the way. In the church, we find a wonderful sense of community — and the strength we need to change and grow.

In the physical process of moving to a new home, the joy comes from having companions as well. We are grateful for Overbrook Church's warm welcome — offers of help, kindnesses shown, expressions of hospitality, and promises to pray for us. Thank you for your friendship as we settle into a new home, community and church. We look forward to serving with you for years to come.

Grace and Peace,
Bruce and Carolyn Gillette

Sundays in May

May 7, 2017
Communion
4th Sunday in Easter
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Amos Paul

May 14, 2017
5th Sunday in Easter
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Jill VanRawley

May 21, 2017
6th Sunday in Easter
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Emily Amerman

May 28, 2017
7th Sunday in Easter
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Trudy Sheau

Worship & Music

You may have noticed something NEW on Easter morning, and during all of Eastertide. The first set of new paraments have arrived just in time for Easter. Eastertide traditionally lasts 50 days, until Pentecost Sunday, which is June 4, 2017. Paraments, as you may have figured out, are the cloths on the pulpit, lectern and table. Our great Leonard Robbins obtained a plexiglass sheet to cover the table to avoid soiling the table cloth, which had been a problem in the past. We hope you enjoy these beautiful additions to the sanctuary.

The Music Director Search - We Want to Hear from YOU

The Nominating Committee selected a Music Director Search Committee (MDSC) to seek a full-time Music Director to replace Dennis Elwell upon his retirement. Committee members represent the Personnel Committee, the Worship Committee, the Adult Choir, the Bell Choir, instrumentalists, youth, and the at-large congregation. They are: Emily Amerman, Rachel Carnahan, Sara Davis, Ted Dillon, Becky Lazo, Calvin Marshall, Johnny May, Elizabeth Mendoza (Chair) and Geneva Van Rawley. Already, a job description has been approved, and advertising has begun. With Dennis as our consultant, we aim to have the position filled by September 1st.

As part of our preparation for the search, the MDSC wants to hear your thoughts and feelings regarding the music program. There will be a brief survey in the church bulletin, but if you miss that opportunity you may send your input to Emily at eala@comcast.net, or give your comments to any committee member.

- How does music contribute to your experience of worship?
- What do you like about the music program at Overbrook?
- What do you feel is missing or might be added to the program?
- What kind of Music Director do you hope to see at OPC?

Thank you for your input

Finance

FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 2017	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 98,200.07	\$ 47,995.29	\$ 98,200.07	\$ 47,995.29
Total Expenses	\$ 42,549.27	\$ 47,939.81	\$ 42,549.27	\$ 47,939.81
Net	\$ 55,650.80	\$ 55.48	\$ 55,650.80	\$ 55.48

FINANCIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2017	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 34,831.50	\$ 47,995.29	\$ 133,031.57	\$ 95,990.58
Total Expenses	\$ 47,983.89	\$ 47,939.81	\$ 90,533.16	\$ 95,879.62
Net	\$ (13,152.39)	\$ 55.48	\$ 42,498.41	\$ 110.96

Congregational Life

Members include: Amarilis Stricker, Artia Benjamin, Aimerie Scherluebbe and a whole host of angels on stand-by
A BIG shout-out to all the staff, contributors and volunteers who made Pastor Drew's farewell luncheon a success – too many to name individually. OPC knows how to celebrate and acknowledge special occasions! We will have several in 2017 and I'm sure we will enjoy all of them.

On my estate and garage sale expeditions. I pick up items I know we need for the kitchen at OPC. It occurred to me that some members may be looking for a good home for items in perfectly good condition that they no longer use. If you have any of the following to donate, it is much appreciated: serving platters and bowls especially if made of thick plastic, melamine, metal, etc., although we would use other materials too. We could also use salt and pepper shakers, sturdy serving utensils, good knives, everyday flatware, rubber spatulas, thermal carafes, large beverage dispensers, water pitchers and coolers.

Sometimes folks have leftover unused paper party goods they don't have a use for such as disposable or plastic tablecloths, decorative paper plates and napkins. We will put them to good use for the many occasions (large and small) which we host. If you have any questions, please call me. OPC recycles, reuses and repurposes!

With Best Regards, Raelyn, 610-331-8972, raelynkay@aol.com



Everyone is welcome to attend the installation of Bruce and Carolyn Gillette as co-pastors of Overbrook Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 28th at 4:00 pm. A light reception will follow.

Coffee Hour

May 7 Congregational Life

May 14 TBA

May 21 May Family

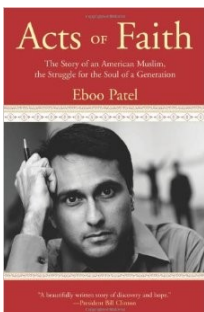
May 28 TBA



We are planning a special thank you and appreciation coffee hour on **Sunday, May 7**, for Sharon Parker who has been our Interim Director of Christian Education. It is time to nurture the many seeds she has planted among us. Of course, Sharon remains a member of OPC and without a doubt we will continue to see her spreading her good cheer and sharing her wisdom and her experience. Helping hands are warmly welcome, please contact Raelyn Harman (raelynkay@aol.com).

Urban/Suburban Book Club

May's Selection: *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel

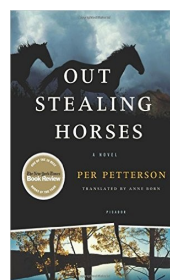


This month's book club will be held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 16 at noon.

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

May's Selection: *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson



All are welcome to the Overbrook Book Club meeting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 17 (date change) at the home of Elizabeth Cosgriff, 251 Linden Lane, Merion, PA.

What began as a joy ride by fifteen-year-old boys on "borrowed" horses ends with John falling into a strange trance of grief. Trond soon learns what befell John earlier that day—an incident that marks the

beginning of a series of vital losses for both boys. Set in the northernmost region of Norway, *Out Stealing Horses* begins with an ending. Sixty-seven year-old Trond has settled into a rustic cabin in an isolated area to live the rest of his life with a quiet deliberation. A meeting with his only neighbor, however, forces him to reflect on that fateful summer. Per Petterson offers a poignant and moving novel about the changing perspective on the world, from youthful innocence to the difficult acceptance of betrayal and abandonment.

Christian Education

Here Comes Vacation Bible School!



Calling all OPC kiddos in Pre-K through Grade 5...it's time to start planning for Vacation Bible School! Reserve July 31-August 3 for this summer's great adventure!

As we look ahead to VBS, we know that we will have wonderful children arriving. In order to make this a memorable experience, we're recruiting teen and adult helpers and teachers. Please consider sharing your enthusiasm, creativity, and faith stories with the children of OPC. Sign up in the church office, or by contacting Jason Sheau, Chair of the Christian Education Committee.



It's Prayer Breakfast Time!

Join us on May 6, from 9:30-11:00 AM, for the (almost) famous Spring Prayer Breakfast. Let's make it a community event...please invite your friends and neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather in the Wistar Morris Room for shared devotions, good-humored fellowship, and a fine breakfast. The Prayer Breakfast Chefs of OPC will be offering an array of homemade breakfast casseroles, the pork product medley, tur-key sausage, fruit bar, and an assortment of *fresh from the oven* baked goods.

The breakfast buffet will be open from 9:30-10:15 AM, and will be followed by a time of shared prayer for those in need of healing and comfort, for our nation, for our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world, for peace and justice, and for our new pastors.

OPC Prayer Breakfasts are a ministry of the Christian Education Committee. While the breakfast is offered at no charge, a free-will offering basket will be available. This offering will support the upcoming OPC Youth mission trip.

We look forward to welcoming you on May 6!

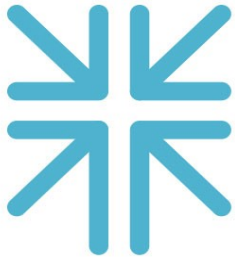
Welcome to the Christian Education Family Resource Center

A found space has been captured...and it's filled with treasures! Come visit the newly established CE Family Resource Center on the second floor of Fellowship Hall, directly across the hallway from the Bell Choir Room. The Resource Center is filled with a wide assortment of Bibles for all ages, inspirational literature, children's books, family-friendly videos, and an assortment of games and puzzles. All materials can be signed out and enjoyed at home. Considering planning a special family night activity or children's party?

Stop by the CE Family Resource Center and choose some great books, games, or videos! (Yes, there's also a supply of microwave popcorn...*grab a bag to go!*)



Mission & Outreach



SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Overflowing Generosity” - One Great Hour of Sharing 2017

Our One Great Hour of Sharing this year will be directed to providing clean drinking water for people in Flint, Michigan and in Ghana, Africa.

Think about how easy it is for us to get a drink of water. This life-sustaining clear liquid is so abundant in our lives that we actually take showers in it! Imagine having to walk miles to a well and then *carry* home all the water your family will have for a day.

Through our “overflowing generosity” we can make clean drinking water more accessible to a community by providing for a new well, or for new systems of collecting and distributing water.

Every drop of water, when joined with others, becomes a pool, a stream, a river, and ocean. In the same way, even the smallest drop of generosity can join with others to make a huge difference for those in need of life-giving water.

- Garden Well (\$50 a share or \$1500) – provides water for drinking, washing, bathing and irrigation
- Sand Dam (\$500) – provides safe drinking water for an entire community
- Rainwater Catchment system (\$75) – provides usable water for washing and irrigation
- Water filter (\$50) – Flint Michigan – provide families with safe drinking water and keep 300 bottles out of landfills
- Jerry cans (\$20) – 10 cans provide a families with an easier method of transporting water to their homes

Give with Overflowing Generosity on May 7th when the OGHS collection is taken.

NCT NARBETH COMMUNITY THEATRE

Don't Dress for Dinner

A Comedy

May 5-14, 2017

We are gearing up for another concession run for NCT's last production for this season, *Don't Dress for Dinner*. To all my experienced concessionaires (and hopefully, many new concessionaires to come) I'm hoping to have your support/help once again in staffing the OPC's theater's concession. Revenues from 'THEATRE REFRESHMENT STAND' during these shows are slotted for OPC's general budget. Contact Person: Trudy Sheau, 215-878-4872



Mission & Outreach



Friends, we did it! Did what, you might ask? With your time financial contributions, and prayer, a group of nearly 500 people gathered at Bonner & Prendie Catholic High School on April 22 and packed enough meals to feed TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN children for a year. Children who may have otherwise died. Isn't that amazing!? People came from all around the Delaware Valley, young and old—it was truly a team effort lead wholly by our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you all so very much for all of your support.

We couldn't have done it without you, and we are already planning next year's event!

With deep gratitude and continued excitement,
Becky Lazo, Janet Bowker, Jim Vagnoni, and Deb Rottinger

If you were unable to make it out here are some pictures that capture that day.



Stewardship

Sustaining OPC's Future

Did you know that you can give to OPC in a variety of ways, not just through Sunday morning plate offerings and annual pledges? A planned gift to the Overbrook endowment fund will help sustain for our future the ministries that have meant the most to you in your lifetime. You do not have to be wealthy to give and there are many ways to give. You may make gifts in memory or in honor of friends and family. With planned giving, you decide what to give and how to give it. Look for more information on this option for giving in the coming months. --Your Stewardship Committee

Deacons



Birthdays This Month

5/03-Gail Kaercher	5/20-Nancy Gilhool
5/04-Andrea McGhee	Becky Lazo
5/08-Dick Williamson	5/21-John Baker
5/11-Robert Harden, Sr. Bob Kothari	5/24-Ian Wilson Pearl Stricker
5/12-Jane Krumrine Caroline Skinner	5/26-Rachel Trindade Hannah Trindade
Christopher Von Andreae	5/27-Robert Harden, Jr.
5/13-Brad Biedermann	5/30-Keedra Carroll
5/18-Emily Partridge	5/31-Guy Stanley
5/19-Kendi Long	

Prayer List

- Becky Lazo's mother
- Wallace Wallace's family, following his passing on April, Sunday 16, 2017
- Lavinia (Binnie) Savage's family
- Elizabeth Molina and her mom Phyllis Watson

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.

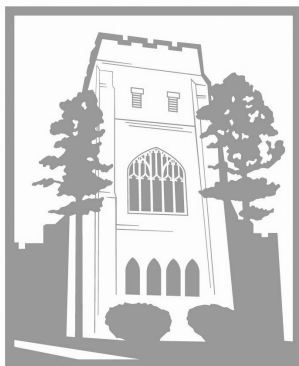


Binnie Savage's Memorial Service will be held on Friday, May 12th at 11:00 am. David McMillian and Bruce and Carolyn Gillette will be officiating. Reception will follow.



Congregational Picnic on Sunday, June 11 following worship. There will be food, fellowship, music and games.

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

Community

OVERBROOK FARMS HOUSE TOUR & TEA - MAY 7 *Tour Historic Homes Designed by Stellar Architects*



Philadelphia, PA, DATE — The Overbrook Farms Club invites you to attend its annual House Tour & Tea on Sunday, May 7, from 1 p.m. – 5p.m. Overbrook Farms is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was founded in 1892 as the first planned community along the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The grand homes of Overbrook Farms were designed by leading architects of the time for some of the city's most successful industrialists and politicians.

Tickets are available now at www.overbrookfarmsclub.org. Tickets purchased in advance are \$30 and are \$35 on the day of the tour. The tour ticket includes afternoon tea service. Participants can take a break from touring and enjoy tea at Ivy Hall, a splendid 1904 mansion designed by Charles Barton Keen that boasts an ornately appointed ballroom wing. Each year, there are first-time featured homes, and others which may highlight the décor of new homeowners. There is also a category showcasing the renovation “works in progress.” This year, the tour begins at what was the model home next to the Overbrook train station.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, along with Larry Farmbry will be sponsoring a “Shredding Event” in the OPC parking lot on Saturday, June 10, from 10:00 a.m. til noon.

Farmers Market Coming Soon!!

The Farmers Market will be back but a date has not been determined. Check back here next month for more information.



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