



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

November 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*

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*

“Do not bring us to hard testing...”

So goes a part of the Lord’s Prayer as it is found in the *Good News for Modern Man* translation of the Bible. Usually we say “lead us not into temptation”, but by any reckoning, temptation IS hard testing.

A couple of years ago, I spent the week in Raleigh, N.C., reading and grading the four Ordination Exams which every Presbyterian candidate for the ministry is expected to take (and pass!). The exams are fair, but they are not easy. Some candidates clearly exhibit a theological and Biblical dexterity which will stand them and the Church in good stead over the course of their ministry. Other test takers are perhaps less gifted, but are still able. Others yet make one scratch one’s head and wonder where they have been during their seminary career. But in every case, it is fair to say that they have been through a hard testing.

This may be a different kind of testing than the Lord’s Prayer has in mind, yet testing it is. It is a test to be able to articulate what the Bible says to the Church and to the world. It is a test to be able to speak what one believes in a way that is clear and lucid and open. It is actually a chance to testify about the Good News by answering not only lofty questions about principle, but also to apply those principles in real life situations to the way life is to be lived and ordered in the Kingdom of God.

When one thinks about it, those tests are not so extraordinary. For the Christian, that is the way life is. We are constantly tested on how by word and deed we express the way of our Lord in how we live. We are tested on being able to talk about our faith. We are challenged to apply that talk to the actions of our hands and the direction of our feet. We are ambassadors of Christ who often have the opportunity to tell others the Good News.

This too is hard testing. And we take that test every day.

Just as those seminarians must be prepared in order to pass the Ordination Exams, we need to be prepared to pass the tests of witness in our life. We need to be able to talk about what we believe with both conviction and humility. We must be able to say the simple things which display the Word of our Lord. When a child asks or a neighbor inquires what it means to be a Christian, we need to be able to say it, clearly and simply. And we need to be able to live it.

When we are tested in this way, we need to be prepared to pass the test. Are you?

Drew

## Sundays in November

November 6, 2016

Communion

25th Sunday After Pentecost

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Emily Amerman



November 13, 2016

Pledge Dedication Sunday

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Robert Harden, Jr



November 20, 2016

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Stephanie Kindt



November 27, 2016

1st Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Dr. Mann

Lay Leader: Eileen Wiggins

# Congregational Life

## November Coffee Hour Hosts



November 6

Joan, Vimila, Raelyn & Alyssa

November 13     November 20

TBA                      Fiorillo Family

November 27

TBA



## Stay Connected



Join the OPC ListServe! The OPC ListServe is an email mailing list where you can get timely announcements about events at church. This is an internal list just for Overbrook Presbyterian, so you won't be getting junk, just church business. If you'd like to join, go to <http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/overbrookpresb> and sign up. Below is what you will see when you go to the website. Or if you like just email [office@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:office@overbrookpresb.org) and we'd be happy to put you on the list .

## Thanks for a Job Tastefully Done

Thank you everyone for another wonderful and successful Taste of Overbrook 2016!

Thank you to the committee members who organized the event –Janet Bowker, Keedra Carroll, Jason Sheau, Karen Wong, Sue & Will Schick, Davorka Sabljak, and especially Carol Rozmiarek who recruited the cooks and put it all together. Thanks to Leonard Robbins for helping with the set up and clean up.

Thanks to the German Society's PhillyKinder for donating wonderful German desserts.

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and attended. Thank you to folks who donated auction items and who bought auction items.

Thank you chefs for the home-cooked that was so plentiful and so delicious. What a wonderful thing it is to break bread together at The Crossroads. In addition to the grand time spent together, the event raised over \$4,200 for the Church.

## A Note of Appreciation

Dear Overbrook Family,

The past few months have given each of us many opportunities for prayer. As you have offered prayers of healing for me, I have offered prayers of gratitude for your presence in my life. Your cards, food treats, visits, and calls have lifted my spirits, and given me countless reasons to celebrate each day. God's grace and your generosity have blessed our entire family....including Gracie The Dog. My progress is steady and I'm hopeful that by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have already greeted each other in worship...and I will celebrate that day! Blessings to you, Sharon Parker

# Community

## Urban/Suburban Book Club



Meeting: Tuesday, November 16, 2016 - 7-9 p.m.

Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church

November's Selection: *The Underground Girls of Kabul* by Jenny Nordberg

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.

# Music

THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MESSIAH SING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 3:00 PM

As I write this annual reminder on October 18, Halloween is yet 13 days away, the leaves have not changed much color or dropped, and the temperature today and tomorrow is perhaps to be in the 80's! Advent seems a long way off.

And then I look at the calendar and note that there are only 40 days before we join together again for the Annual George Frideric Handel's *Messiah Sing* on Sunday, November 27, at 3:00 p.m., this year for the 22<sup>nd</sup> time.

You remember the drill, the assembled congregation sings the choruses in Parts I and III, and The Overbrook Quartet members, Iris Fairfax, Lois Randel, Toffer Mihalka, and for the first time this year our new baritone, Matthew Lulofs, sing the beautiful recitatives and arias. Once again, Paul Fleckenstein, serves as the orchestra on the Clarence H. Geist Memorial Moller Organ, while I keep us together with a cue here and there.

It is always wonderful to welcome and see so many of the same faces who come year after year to begin their traditions of the Advent/Christmas seasons. And, even with a filled sanctuary, there is always room for new faces, too, perhaps yours? Bring your own score, any edition, or purchase one at the door. Come to sing, listen, or simply to enjoy and be inspired by this unique experience. And heck, it's free. We simply receive an offering to bear the expenses. See you on Sunday, November 27, at 3:00 p.m.

Dennis Elwell, Minister of Music



# Christian Education



Thanks to all the women who attended the Women's Retreat on October 15, 2016 at the IHM Conference Center in Bryn Mawr, PA. A special thanks to Rev. LoisAnn Furgess-Oler, the retreat leader. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the financial contribution from generous private donors and the Christian Education committee that defrayed some of the cost of the retreat for the participants. It was such a blessing.

Artia Benjamin

## Annual College Student Luncheon—December 18, 2016

We are having the annual College Student Luncheon on December 18th in the Chapel at noon. This year we are inviting high school seniors to come eat and fellowship with the college students.

Please contact Artia Benjamin for more information. RSVP at [newlife5125@gmail.com](mailto:newlife5125@gmail.com) or text at 215-266-8758 by December 12th.





# Christian Education

The Youth Sunday School class is discussing current events and what the stories in the Bible tell us about issues such as race, poverty, crime, punishment, justice, immigration and many other topics that are in today's headlines. A service project is included in our study and the youth decided to collect books and/or funds for postage costs for an organization called Books Through Bars ([BooksThroughBars.org](http://BooksThroughBars.org)) which fills requests for books from inmates. The most requested titles are: paperback dictionaries, thesauri and books on how to draw. The Youth will be collecting these particular books and financial contributions from the congregation, friends, family and local stores through Sunday, Nov. 20th. In the weeks to come, we will have books on hand for people to "buy" and donate on site during coffee hour (much like the dry goods Mike Rottinger "sells" for a local food pantry once/month). Check out [BooksThroughBars.org](http://BooksThroughBars.org) to see the organization's wish list on Amazon and to learn more about the work it does. If you have any questions please contact Raelyn Harman, [raelynkay@aol.com](mailto:raelynkay@aol.com) or one of OPC's middle and/or high school students. Thank you!



FORUM series this month of November is on **Climate Change**. This is a continuum of James Stephan's concerns and interest on how we do impact the earth in systems and habits of our daily lives.

## November 6:

We will have the poster that was developed from that meeting present for people to look at. We can at this time add to or modify this list if people would like.

The November meetings on Climate Change at Overbrook will be an opportunity for a group of people to begin considering and moving into a process of action on items that were proposed during a similar meeting in May.

This conversation is to be a beginning of a long-term effort, not just a dip into something interesting or worrisome. Jim views a deeply disturbing problem that is difficult to have a serious and a constructive conversation about without initiating the following: **First**, a process of getting to know each other, our fears, our attempts to deal with this problem on our own or in other groups, and the special skills we can bring to bear on the issues. **Secondly**: to review the 10 topics presented from our May meeting, and to have a discussion to prioritize these projects for group action with consideration of the resources needed and available for the next 2 meetings.

## November 13 and 20:

We will identify several projects and consider how to proceed with specific actions. Hopefully resources have been identified from the previous week that can be brought to bear.

Coffee is on – a warm welcome for all to join in this important discussion.



# Mission & Outreach

Share your Blessings this Thanksgiving. Mission and Outreach wants you to volunteer in the spirit of Thanksgiving as we serve our hungry local community.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 26th! We will be serving a hearty, nutritious meal at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County at 6310 Market Street Upper Darby, PA, 19082.

Contact Nancy Gilhool, gilhoolfam@verizon.net, if you are interested in shopping for the ingredients, preparing the meal, or baking desserts.

Contact Mackenzie Blake at mb@7ctrl.com, if you are interested in participating in the two hour meal service.

- Mackenzie Blake



Remember last spring, when we got all excited about Feed My Starving Children? Many of you gave generously! A bunch of people traveled to NJ to volunteer! Many wondered if Overbrook might host a MobilePack of our own? Good News! Recently, a subgroup from M&O connected with someone at Monsignor Bonner/Archbishop Pendergast High School, and it is all but certain that we will partner with them and they will be the host site for our MobilePack event. Please pray that the initial planning goes smoothly and we'll be sharing more with you just as soon as we can!

- Rebecca Lazo

## Disaster Relief Update

If you were one of the many of the Overbrook Church family who gave generously so that we could send \$3,250.00 to One Great Hour of Sharing last spring, you have already contributed to Hurricane Matthew relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

PDA immediately began working along side established partners to respond to this latest crisis. Immediate response will help provide essential food, water, and supplies for impacted communities and villages. As long-term recovery needs are determined, PDA will continue to support those in impacted areas to ensure a comprehensive recovery.

As more information becomes available on conditions in Haiti, Cuba, the Bahamas, and the United States, PDA will update this information and keep the church apprised on the emerging disaster response and community needs for recovery. Thank you for your generosity in prayer and in giving for those whose lives have been impacted by wind and water; as the Holy Spirit once brooded over the unformed waters of the earth and created order and life, so your prayerful gifts bring hope out of chaos.

To find out more or to give more, or to give for the first time, go to <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-matthew-response/>

- Mike Rottinger



# Community



**NCT (NARBETH COMMUNITY THEATRE) begins with  
the play *TOMMY***

*(a musical)*

**Running from November 4-19, 2016**

We are anticipating another wonderful season of shows presented by NCT. WE ARE ALSO ready to staff another season of successful concession runs during these performances. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please let Trudy Sheau, 215 878 4872 know. Remember, the concession time frame will still allow you to watch 95% of the play for free.

To all my experienced concessionaires (and hopefully, many new concessionaires to come) I'm welcoming your support/help in staffing OPC's theater's concession.

Revenues from 'THEATRE REFRESHMENTS STAND' during these shows are slotted to OPC's general budget.

# Deacons



## November Birthdays!!



- 11/2 Simon Trindade
- 11/4 Lynn Pompa  
Valerie Swartz
- 11/5 Gopal Subramanian
- 11/6 Martha Phan
- 11/9 Enrique Molina
- 11/10 Chris Ziemba
- 11/11 Laurie Geers
- 11/14 Joyce Bridges
- 11/17 Emma Biedermann
- 11/18 Sarah Stephens
- 11/19 Becky Frick
- 11/24 Judith Swartz
- 11/26 Jason Sheau
- 11/29 John Nathaniel

Carolyn Rodewald

Phyllis Watson

Frances Clark

Carrie Rider

Sharon Parker

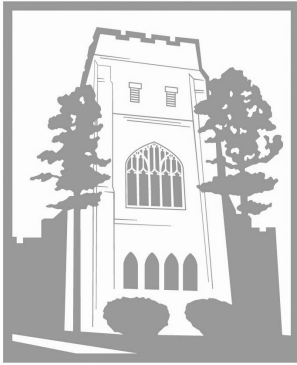
*Please contact one of our Deacons to add names or concerns to this list. We can be reached by email from the church website, by leaving a message in the Church Office, or by speaking with one of the Deacons in person.*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

| AUGUST 2016    | ACTUAL       | BUDGET       | YTD ACTUAL    | YTD BUDGET    |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Revenue  | \$ 35,411.22 | \$ 46,446.61 | \$ 353,818.63 | \$ 371,527.88 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 29,404.06 | \$ 46,008.37 | \$ 309,525.97 | \$ 368,066.96 |
| Net            | \$ 6,007.16  | \$ 438.24    | \$ 44,292.66  | \$ 3,505.92   |

## ***News from the Crossroads***



### **Overbrook Presbyterian Church**

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

## **Come to the Farmers Market!!**

**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:**

**Forest View Bakery** - 72 miles to market from Lancaster, PA  
*(Breads, sticky buns, moon pies, jams, jellies, relishes and more)*

**Walnut Springs Farm** - 112 miles to market from East Berlin, PA  
*(Early berries and asparagus, in season sweet corn, peaches and more)*

**Homestead Gardens** - 68 miles to market from Ephrata, PA  
*(Seasonal fresh vegetables)*



**Payment accepted:**

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