



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

November 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



### **Launch of the 2018 Pledge Drive**

#### **Many Gifts, One Spirit**

Be a financial part of the many gifts that support the work of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. It is the gifts you give that make the Church at the Crossroads such a wonderful place to be, such wonderful community to be a part of.

All Overbrook members and friends should have received their pledge card for the 2018 stewardship drive. Gifts will be blessed on Stewardship Sunday, November 5th. You can bring your pledge card to worship on November 5th or mail them any time. Please remember this Sunday, November 5th, is the ending of Daylight savings time, so be sure to turn your clocks back one hour this coming Saturday, November 4th.

Also in keeping with tradition, Stewardship Sunday is also Pie Day at coffee hour. “Pies and Pledges” is this Sunday’s coffee hour. Please let Kate Shackelford know if you can bring a pie. If you can’t bring a pie, be sure to stop by at taste some pie. All are welcome.



Please consider pledging so that church leaders know what they will have to work with in 2018. -Will Schick, Stewardship Committee

#### **Overbrook Church Staff**

Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette  
Co-Pastors

Rev. David K. McMillan  
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage  
Director of Music

Lisa Faso  
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek  
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins  
Church Custodian



**Who are Your Saints? All Saints’ Sunday is, this Sunday, November 5th:** The Presbyterian understanding of “saint” is the biblical one: A saint is any person who tries to faithfully follow our Lord. Each of us has had our lives touched by others who showed us God’s love and helped us to be Christians. We will be having a special prayer of thanksgiving for these saints in our lives on All Saints’ Sunday; we will also give thanks for the Overbrook Church saints who have died this past year. Please email [pastors@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:pastors@overbrookpresb.org) or call at 302-528-1796 if you would like us to include the names of your saints in the prayer this Sunday.

*God of all times and places, we praise you for all your servants who, having been faithful to you on earth, now live with you in heaven. Keep us in fellowship with them, until we meet with all your children in the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*  
(Presbyterian Book of Common Worship)



## ***From Our Pastors: One Verse for All***

Years ago, we came across a little book titled *This Service of Love* by Mark Landfried. His reflections on the Apostle Paul's letters to the Corinthians have helped us personally. We hope the following insights will be helpful to you. Sometimes a lot of truth can be packed into just a few words. This is the case for a verse that many of us may see every week, printed on our offering envelopes: "*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come*" (*1 Corinthians 16:2*).

This is a wonderful verse for each of us to consider, during this stewardship season. Many times people say that what a person gives to the church is between that person and God. We Presbyterians believe that God speaks to us through the scriptures. So, we invite you to take a look at what this rich verse has to say about our giving here at Overbrook Church.

"On the first day of every week..." Paul wrote to the Corinthian church that the offering was to be taken "every Sunday," when they gathered to celebrate the Lord's resurrection. When we see the offering as **an act of worship**, it helps us put everything in proper perspective. The offering isn't an interruption in the worship service; it isn't one of the things to get out of the way so we can get to the real business of worship. When we give, we worship God with thankful hearts. When we give, we respond in joy, to the great gift of love that God has given us in Jesus Christ. Giving is a joyful, thankful part of our worship, so we sing *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* when we give our offering.

Paul said to the Corinthians, "Every Sunday, each of you must put aside some money." Our giving as Christians needs to be **systematic**. One writer put it this way: "You should be payday stewards, not Mayday stewards." Mayday stewards give only when the church approaches them with an urgent appeal or a financial crisis. This can create a survival mentality in the church; people do the bare minimum to get by. Payday Christians are those who plan their giving, who set aside some money, who make sure that the pledge to the church is the first bill that is paid. Financial advisors are always encouraging people to "save big" by saving a little bit, on a regular basis each month. The same is true for our giving. Many small, carefully planned gifts-- together with the careful gifts of others-- combine to help Overbrook Church do so many wonderful things in our community and world.

How much should I give? Many people continue to wonder about this question. Paul does not give an exact amount or percentage that applies to everyone. Certainly he supported tithing, giving ten percent of one's income, for those who were able to do it. But Paul seemed to emphasize that we should **give in proportion** to what we have earned. What has God given you? Let your giving reflect your thankfulness. In giving proportionally, it is tempting to look around and wish we had more-- more time, more talent, more money. "If only I had more... (time, talent, money)... I'd certainly be more able to give. I'd certainly be more willing to give." Raymond Balcomb told the story of a waitress in a Washington, D.C. restaurant during World War II when sugar was one of the rationed commodities. A customer who had already received his share called loudly for more sugar in his coffee. Her answer to him was straightforward and simple. "Stir what you've got." As Christians, we need to stir what we've got. Whatever God has given us, we need to find ways to use a proportion to do God's work--funding missions and programs here in West Philadelphia and beyond.

Finally, Paul tells us in this verse, our giving should be **planned in advance**. He advises the Corinthians to take up the offering "and save it up, so there will be no need to collect money when I come." Paul saw a difference between an offering and a collection. When we take a collection, we pass the hat and receive gifts from what people happen to have with them at the moment. It's a very casual, unplanned thing-- like passing the hat to buy equipment for the office softball team. When we receive an offering, we're doing something that people have begun planning for, months ahead of time. We plan for our stewardship decisions when we surf for items on Amazon or go to department stores, or car dealers, or plan our vacations. We make stewardship decisions when we make our personal or family budgets. How does God call each one of us to give? Paul says we're to give as part of our worship, systematically, proportionately, and with careful planning. We have found these to be helpful guidelines for our family and hope they will be for you.

Thank you for being a blessing to Overbrook Church as together we seek to make a difference in God's world.

Grace and Peace,  
*Bruce & Carolyn*

# Christian Education

## Youth Groups in November:



**November 5th: Middle School Youth Group:** Bring your own bag supper. Extra food will be available for those who forget or don't have

time to pack something. Topic: "Haven't Got a Prayer?" We'll learn about ways of praying—ancient and new— and we'll make a prayer mural for the youth room wall. Join us for supper, discussion, mural-making and games.

**November 12th:** No youth group

**November 19th: High School Youth Group:** Bring your own bag supper. Extra food will be available for those who forget or don't have time to pack something. Topic: Ten Ways to Pray. We'll continue the Youth Room mural, and enjoy supper, discussion and activities.

**November 26: Happy Thanksgiving!** No youth groups this evening; join us in December.

Overbrook Church is blessed with a wonderful group of Sunday School teachers who lovingly give their time to help our church's children learn about God's love. Currently, there is a need for a few more Sunday School helpers—volunteers with child clearances who could be a "second adult" in the classroom once a month. No lesson planning or teaching is required. You simply need to have your clearances, love children, and want to provide back-up support and an additional set of hands in the classroom. Interested in helping? Interested in getting your clearances so you can help with the children?



Please contact Pastor Carolyn at 302-528-1797 or email at [carolyn@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:carolyn@overbrookpresb.org). Thank you!

## The RPM (retired persons' ministry) Cafe Friday, November 10, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM.



The RPM Cafe will be open for business on November 10...and our business is fellowship and good humor. Join us in the Chapel from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM and BYO your favorite sandwich. The Cafe will be serving homemade soups, desserts, and beverages at no charge. Following lunch we'll be challenged to a fast paced round of "Photo Album Frenzy," as we try to match childhood photos with our RPM attendees. Bring your friends... *and your favorite vintage photo.*

Want to serve on the RPM event planning committee? Your ideas and interests are needed...and welcomed. Plan to stay for a few minutes following our Cafe on November 10th.

OLD PINE STREET CHURCH 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

# Speaker Series



## Faith & War: American Presbyterians and the War for Independence

**November 5, 2017, 1:00pm**

Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church  
412 Pine Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106

Free to the public  
Light refreshments  
will be provided

**OPC Talks...And Walks Sunday November 5th, 1:00 p.m.** This event is offered at no charge. Carpooling can be arranged. Contact Sharon Parker at [spar-ker614@gmail.com](mailto:spar-ker614@gmail.com) for more information.



Have you ever wondered how those Children Worship Bags were completed? Well, it was Margaret Young. Margaret has faithfully maintained the children's worship bags for four years. Her service to our children's ministry has been a blessing, and we are most grateful for her time. But the time has come that Margaret would like to "pass the baton" (...or bag), and is hoping that another fine volunteer will come forward. The task takes approximately 15-20 minutes a week. Please contact Lisa Faso in the OPC office if you are able to support this special ministry.

# Fellowship

## November Men's Group Events



The men's group will hold its regular November meeting this **Saturday, November 4th** at the church at 8 a.m. for an hour of coffee, bagels, and the group will be discussing the “Me Too” Campaign. We will show a podcast of “*Ted Talks*” featuring Jackson Katz, anti-sexism educator, who speaks on domestic violence and sexual abuse and how these behaviors are tied to definitions of manhood.

The men are also invited to meet at Will & Sue Schick's' house to watch the Eagles demolish the Cowboys in the nationally broadcast **Sunday night football game November 19th** at 8:00, 8:30 kickoff. Keep an ear out for details.



If you have a child or have ever been to Philadelphia's Please Touch Museum you would want every child to have the same experience. You can make that happen by attending the next Women's Dining Circle event on Friday, November 10th when we sponsor the Please Touch Museum's Access Admission program. The dinner is at the home of Victoria Wilson in Overbrook Farms and an evite invitation will follow shortly with more information. Save the date -- November 10th.

On Friday, September 29th Sue and Will Schick opened their home to the WDC and to Paws and Affection, an organization the provides service dogs to schools. After hearing about and meeting one of the service dogs, we enjoyed fellowship around a delicious meal provided by the committee.

In our 8th year, the Women's Dining Circle meets about 5 times a year to enjoy each other's company and to support causes focused on women and children. Attendees are asked to make a contribution in an amount that they might spend on a dinner out. These funds are then matched by the Mission and Outreach budget. In early October we sent a check to Paws and Affection for \$1820, \$910 from contributions and \$910 from M&O. Many thanks to all.



## Many Thanks for making Taste of Overbrook such a Success!

Thank you everyone for making this year's Taste of Overbrook such a success!

Thank you cooks. Thank you who donated heavenly treasures. Thank buyers of tickets and buyers of heavenly treasures. Thank you PhillyKinder for the wonderful German desserts. Thank you Leonard for setting it all up. Thank you those who decorated and who cleaned up. Thank you Carol for coordinating the cooks and Nancy for coordinating the Heavenly Treasures Shop (and for coming up with the idea). Thank you the rest of the committee--Karen, Keedra, Davorka, Elizabeth, Jason, Janet, and Gillettes. You *all* are wonderful!

What a great event. Let's do again next year!

# Table Graces

As the Holidays are fast approaching, there will be a lot of family gatherings and we thought it would be nice to share some table graces that are offered daily at the dinner tables of our OPC Members and Friends:

☞ Heavenly Father, We are grateful for these and all of the blessings and may we be ever mindful of the needs of others. For Christ Sake, Amen

☞ Bless us, O Lord  
And these thy gifts  
Which we are about to receive from thy bounty  
Through Christ our Lord, Amen

☞ Thank you God for this food;  
For rest and home and all things good;  
For rain and wind and sun above;  
But most of all, for those we love!

☞ Father, bless the food we take  
And bless us all, for Jesus' sake. Amen

☞ I Jesu namn till bords vi gå,  
välsigna Gud den mat vi få.

Translation:  
In Jesus' name to the table we go  
God bless the food we receive.

☞ May the Lord bless us and make us truly thankful for this food which we are about to receive. Make us ever mindful of the needs of others. We humbly beg in Christ's name. Amen.

☞ We thank you, Lord, for what we are about to receive in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

☞ "The Superman Grace" (sung to the Superman theme song with arms help up, flying):  
Thank you, Lord, for giving us food!  
Thank you, Lord, for giving us food!  
For health and STRE-ngth,  
And daily BREA-d!  
Thank you, Lord, for giving us food.  
Amen.

☞ (The first verse of a hymn)  
Let us, with a gladsome mind,  
praise the Lord, for He is kind:  
for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

☞ Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and our lives to your service.

☞ For rest and food, and loving care, and all that makes the world so fair, Father we thank thee, Amen.

☞ Hold hands— and take a moment of silence

☞ (From the Girl Scouts)  
The Johnny Appleseed Grace:  
O, The Lord is good to me  
And so I thank the Lord  
For giving me  
The things I need,  
The sun and the rain and the appleseed,  
The Lord is good to me. Amen.

☞ (Sung to the tune of Frère Jacques)  
God our Father, God our Father,  
Once again, once again,  
For this food we thank you,  
For this food we thank you,  
Amen. Amen.

☞ God, we thank you for this food,  
For rest and home and all things good—  
And bless the poor! Amen.

☞ Bless us, O Lord  
And these thy gifts  
Which we are about to receive from thy bounty  
Through Christ our Lord, Amen



# Community/Outreach



Narberth Community Theatre's musical production of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" opens on Friday, November 3rd, at Overbrook Presbyterian Church located at 6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151. Director Barbara Sherman, choreographer Tami Elizabeth Cohen, and music director and conductor Raquel Garcia, lead the production team. The show runs November 3rd through November 18th, with Friday and Saturday performances beginning at 8pm and Sunday performances beginning at 3pm. Ticket prices range from \$16.00-\$19.00 and can be purchased via the website at [narberthcommunitytheatre.org](http://narberthcommunitytheatre.org).

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood" by Rupert Holmes, is a hilarious, interactive whodunit mystery musical that allows the audience to enter the action and become the ultimate detectives. The show is based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel of the same name. In small town of Cloisterham, England, the young and charming Edwin Drood has been mysteriously murdered. But by whom? Dickens passed away before he was able to reveal the culprit. Rupert Holmes' award-winning musical solves this predicament by asking the audience to choose which character is the killer by putting it to a vote. This charming and inventive musical is sure to intrigue and entertain any musical or mystery lover.

## CALVIN'S CHICKEN & WAFFLE BRUNCH

Saturday - November 18, 2017

11:00am - 3:00pm

Calvin Presbyterian Church -  
1401 N. 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Elder Joyce Ricks 215/473-1398 for Tickets

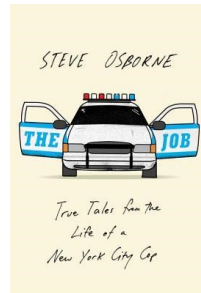


Enjoy chicken and waffles that will have you coming back for more.



Come out and support one of OPC's youth, Kayla Davis on November 11th from 12:30-3:30 pm. Kayla will be hosting a car wash to help her earn her Gold Award for Girl Scouts.

## Urban/Suburban Book Club



Will meet on Tuesday, November 21st at 12:00pm, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. *November's selection is: The Job: True Tales from the life of New York City Cop* by Steve Osborne. January 2018 selection will be *Waiting by Ha Jinn*. 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.



A few good BOARD MEMBERS. Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten (OPK) is looking for an enthusiastic member of Overbrook Presbyterian Church to serve on the school board.

If you would like to serve the school community, now in its 52nd year of operation, please send a resume and letter of interest to [opkboard@gmail.com](mailto:opkboard@gmail.com). Meetings are held monthly. Backgrounds in finance and law are especially helpful.

The Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority wishes to thank OPC for their continued support of our shredding event on October 14th. They would like to also thank the community for supporting the event and donating 209 canned goods and food items. All the food was donated to Calvin Presbyterian Church.

## The Farmers Market is still open through November 18th!!

Every Saturday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the church parking lot The Market was established in 2008, and 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. **Payment accepted:** Cash, ACCESS cards, Philly Food Bucks and WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers

# Deacons



11/02-Simon Trindade	11/18-Sarah Stephens
11/04-Lynn Pompa	11/19-Becky Frick
Valerie Swartz	Jennifer Wark
11/05-Gopal Subramanian	11/24-Judith Swartz
11/06-Martha Phan	George Schick
11/09-Enrique Molina	Kai Davis
11/10-Chris Ziemba	11/25-Susan Bevan Baggott
11/11-Laurie Geers	11/26-Jason Sheau
11/14-Joyce Bridges	11/30-Cindy Gray
11/17-Emma Biedermann	

## Prayer List

- ❖ Lynn Pompa continuing health issues.
- ❖ Keedra Carroll and Greg Goodwin on their recent engagement.
- ❖ Mike and Deb Rottinger on the recent death of his brother, John.
- ❖ Thom D'Antonio recovering from open heart surgery
- ❖ Sean Whalen and his family on recent death of his grandparents
- ❖ Mike Rottinger and his family on the recent death of his brother, John.
- ❖ Richard Owens and his family on the recent death of Barbara.
- ❖ Raelyn Harman and Gopal Subramanian on the recent death of Gopal's sister, Linda

*Please contact Pastors Bruce or Carolyn to add names or concerns to this list. Bruce and Carolyn can be reached by email, cell phone, or by leaving a message in the Church Office, or by speaking with one of them in person.*

**Pastoral Care & Feedback Welcome:** We are grateful to people who let us know about pastoral needs in our church and community. We welcome visiting people in their homes, at work, in the hospital and at the church. We welcome the opportunity to bring home communion to anyone who would like to receive the sacrament.

Please contact us by email or phone: [pastors@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:pastors@overbrookpresb.org), [bruce@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:bruce@overbrookpresb.org) or [carolyn@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:carolyn@overbrookpresb.org) or call us (Office: 215-877-2744 or Bruce's Cell: 302-528-1796 or Carolyn's Cell: 302-528-1797) if you, or someone you know, would like a visit from an Overbrook pastor. Your ideas, feedback and prayers help us all serve better together. See our contact information above so we can have a conversation with you soon. Thank you. Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette

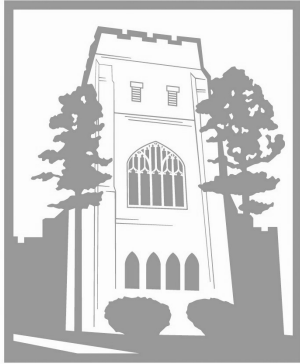
## Remember to Sign the Prayer Cards:



These cards are located on the raised table in the Wistar Morris Room. We ask all church members and friends to please sign these cards before or after worship each Sunday. "You were remembered this Sunday in the prayers of the people of the Overbrook Church in Philadelphia" is the message found on prayer cards. Please contact our pastors or church office if you would like us to send a prayer card to someone.

**Bonnie Miller** is looking for a few good people willing to occasionally drive her to visit her daughter in the West Chester area. This is a two to three hour commitment once a month, but with a large number of volunteers any one person does it once in a while as your schedule permits. Please contact Mike Rottinger if you think you can do this.

# News from the Crossroads



## Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

### Church Office Hours

Mon., Wed., & Fri.  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Tues., & Thurs.  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

## Coming Up

Mark your calendars for this year's Messiah Sing! We will continue this beloved tradition on **Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m.**, featuring the Overbrook Quartet and organist Paul Fleckenstein. Feel free to bring your own score, or you may purchase one at the concert. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the music ministry of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

In the meantime, the music program here is in full swing. The Westminster Handbell Choir will join forces with the organ for a rousing rendition of "All Creatures of Our God and King" on Christ the King Sunday, November 26. In addition, the Overbrook Youth Choir will sing in worship on November 5 and November 26.



**MESSIAH  
SING-ALONG**

## Worship

### *Worship* SCHEDULE

#### Sundays in November

#### November 5, 2017

**Communion**  
17th Sunday after Pentecost  
Matt. 5:1-12  
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette  
Lay Leader: Stephanie Kindt  
Coffee Hour: Pies & Pledges

#### November 12, 2017

23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
Matt. 25:1-13  
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette  
Lay Leader: Becky Lazo  
Coffee Hour: TBD

#### November 19, 2017

24th Sunday after Pentecost  
Matt. 25:14-30  
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette  
Lay Leader: Bob Harden, Jr.  
Coffee Hour: TBD

#### November 26, 2017

Christ the King  
Matt. 22:15-22  
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette  
Lay Leader: Elizabeth Cosgriff  
Coffee Hour: TBD