



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

October 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



October 1st is World Communion Sunday, a wonderful day when Christians all around the world from many different Christian traditions share in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In this month's pastors' column (see page 2), we want to share some brief reflections about this sacrament by answering questions that we are often asked about it. Please be sure to join us for worship this Sunday, October 1st at 10:30 a.m. for World Communion Sunday and listen to OPC church members read John 3:16 in many different language from around the world.



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



Taste of Overbrook 2017-Saturday, October 21st Same Great Food, New Auction Format



Tickets for Taste of Overbrook are on sale now. Celebrate our many cultural heritages with home cooked food from around the world. Buy your tickets at coffee hour after a Sunday service or at the door. The event is Saturday, October 21. Tickets are \$25/person or \$75/family.

The fundraiser will be different this year. Instead of a silent auction, we will have a Heavenly Treasures Shop. Members will donate gently used household items or services that attendees will be able to buy at a fixed price. Any items may be brought to church on Sunday or to the church office during office hours. Please let Nancy Gilhool know if you have a good or service to donate.

Proceeds from our fundraiser this year will go toward church door repairs. Buy an item, fix a door. And enjoy a fun evening with great food and friendly friends!



Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music at OPC, is proud to announce an upcoming hymn festival, "Now Thank We All Our God", celebrating the 500th year of the Protestant Reformation. This event will take place on **Sunday, October 29, at 4:00 p.m.** and will feature selections from the Overbrook Quartet and Choir, as well as congregational hymns and organ pieces. Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be collected to benefit the food ministry of Calvin Presbyterian Church. Please mark your calendars for this momentous occasion!



Note from Our Pastors: *God's Joyful Feast for You and the World*

If you were asked, "What is the most meaningful part of a Sunday worship service?" what would you say? There are so many things to choose from—piano or organ music, prayers (calls to worship, confessions of sin, and prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, and petition), hymns, the time with children, choir anthems, scripture readings, the sermon, the affirmation of faith, the offering, the Lord's Supper, a baptism, and even the times of silence. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) does national surveys of members and recently asked this same question. The most common answer among Presbyterians was that the most meaningful part of the worship service is the Lord's Supper.

What does it mean to say that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament? Our *Westminster Confession of Faith* in the 17th century defined sacraments as "holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ and his benefits, and to confirm our interest in him." A more recent Presbyterian statement affirms the sacraments to be material "channels through which God's grace is understood and powerfully experienced" (*A Declaration of Faith*). These statements both emphasize that the Lord's Supper is a gift from God by which we experience God's love in a special way. God uses ordinary things, the bread and cup, and makes them extraordinary signs of grace for our benefit.

Is the Lord's Supper supposed to be a somber or joyful celebration? There is a somber element to the sacrament when we remember that it was given to the disciples at the Last Supper before Jesus' death. Still, we are called not to remain Maundy Thursday or Good Friday Christians, but to celebrate the joyous news of Easter. Remember the Words of Invitation that we use, "this is the joyful feast of the people of God... According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, He took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him." When a couple gives rings to one another as signs of love in a wedding, they do so joyfully. When we receive the sacrament of God's love, we should also do so joyfully. "The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the reconciliation of people with God and with one another, in which they joyfully eat and drink together at the table of their Savior" (*Presbyterian Confession of 1967*).

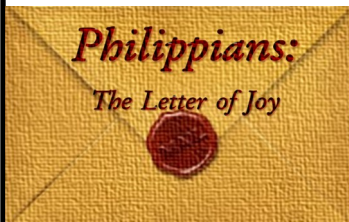
How do we differ in our beliefs about the sacrament with other Christians? Today the differences are not that great. In 1982, a convergence of views between all major denominations (including Presbyterian and other Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians) resulted in a historic document called [Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry](#). This is an exciting time for Christians; the document shows what we have in common today rather than what divided us in the past.

How is Jesus present in the sacrament? *Presbyterians Today* magazine had an article that explained it this way: "In Holy Communion we receive the presence of Christ to strengthen our faith and life. How does that happen? The Roman Catholic view is that the substance of the bread and wine is transformed to become the substance of the body and blood of Christ. (Transform the substance: trans-substantiation.) Presbyterians argue that Christ is genuinely present in these elements, but it is a spiritual presence, rather than a physical presence. That is, it is not a question of molecules of bread becoming molecules of human flesh. Instead, it is Christ coming to dwell within us, as he promised to do."

Come and join us on Sunday, October 1st, as we once again share in this joyful feast. Please let us know if you or someone you know needs us to bring communion to them because they are unable to attend our worship service. Join us later in October for the New Members' Lunch when we will discuss worship and the sacraments together.

Grace and Peace,
Bruce and Carolyn Gillette

Christian Education



The 2nd Annual OPC Women's Retreat will be on *October 14, 2017* at the IHM Conference Center in Bryn Mawr (same location as last year). This year's theme will be "Finding Joy" based on the Letter to the Philippians, and our leader will be Pastor Carolyn Gillette. The retreat will follow a similar structure as last year: we will begin at 8:00am with breakfast/coffee, we will have large and small group meetings, a time of solitude, lunch (provided), and a concluding service which will end at 4pm. The cost for the retreat is \$30 per person. Angel tickets are available; please contact Pastor Carolyn, Pastor Bruce, or Mike Rottinger for information.

CROP Walk: October 15th.

CROP Walk: Sunday afternoon, October 15th - 1:30 p.m. Registration; 2:00 p.m. Walk. We will carpool from the Overbrook Church parking lot at 12:45 p.m. Location of walk is the WAWA Nature Preserve in Media, PA. This walk is for **children, youth and adults**, and for individuals and families. Overbrook Presbyterians and friends will join members of Ardmore Presbyterian Church, Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church and the Japanese Christian Church to raise funds to help people who are hungry as well as those who have been affected by recent disasters including hurricanes, floods and earthquakes.

The Rev. Lisa Farrell of Penn Wynne has planned a simulation experience called "One Step Ahead of the Storm" CROP WALK 2017: "You survived the storm by the skin of your teeth, but you have no home to go back to. Hurricane after hurricane has whipped through. Your tight knit mobile home community is gone... You have to evacuate..." For a full description of this experience, see OPC's website: www.overbrookpresb.org. Sponsor sheets are available from Pastor Carolyn. Join us on October 15th for a different kind of CROP WALK.



OPC Talks...And Walks Sunday November 5th, 1:00 p.m.

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

This event is offered at no charge. Carpooling can be arranged. Contact Sharon Parker at sparker614@gmail.com for more information.



It'll soon be Prayer Breakfast Time! Please save the date, *October 28*, for the OPC Fall Prayer Breakfast. This special gathering will include fellowship for all ages and a fine breakfast buffet. As with all prayer breakfasts, the highlight of the morning will be our time of shared prayer. Due to the proximity to Halloween, we invite all ages to get into the spirit of the season...and yes, there will be a costume parade and treats for both the young and young in heart.

Guests are warmly welcomed! Pre-registration is encouraged...please sign-up in the Wistar Morris Room, or by emailing Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com) Prayer Breakfasts are a faith and fellowship ministry of OPC...there is no charge for this event. For those who wish to make a contribution, a free-will offering basket will be available.

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

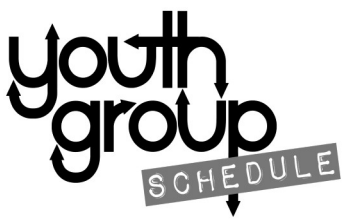


The RPM Cafe will be open for business on November 10...and our business is fellowship and good humor. Join us in the Chapel from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM and BYO your favorite sandwich. The Cafe will be serving homemade soups, desserts, and beverages at no charge. Following lunch we'll be challenged to a fast 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 10.

Christian Education

Join Us for Youth Groups in October:



October 1: High School Youth Group - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Bring something to share (potluck). Join us for food, faith, and recreation. Friends (including non-Presbyterian ones!) are always welcome.

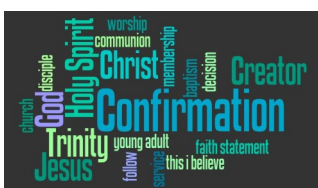
October 8: Middle School Youth Group - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Hoagies/subs provided. Christian Practices Discussion on "Stuff." We'll talk about "stuff" and our Christian faith. Supper and discussion, followed by games and recreation. Friends (including non-Presbyterian ones!) are always welcome.

October 15, Middle and High School Youth Groups Go on CROP Walk together. Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. at WAWA Nature Preserve. Carpooling from Overbrook Church at 12:45 p.m. See information elsewhere in newsletter. Pick up a sponsor sheet, get people to sponsor you for walking, and join us!

October 22: High School Youth Group - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Bring a bag supper if possible (if you can't bring one, please let me know and we'll have food). Christian Practices Discussion on Music: Bring your favorite song that lifts up a Christian value you live by. It doesn't have to be a "church" song. Supper and discussion, followed by games and recreation.

October 28 - Saturday - Hayride and bonfire with neighboring youth groups in the later afternoon/evening. More information to follow.

October 29 - Sunday - No Youth Groups because of Saturday evening activity.



Youth Are Still Welcome to Join the Confirmation Class: Confirmation Class is for youth in grades 7 and 8, as well as high school youth who have not already been confirmed. The class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m., before worship, from now through Pentecost. Students will be invited to profess their faith and be received as church members on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. Please contact Pastor Carolyn if your youth is interested in joining this class. Thank you.

The OPC Family and Teacher



The OPC Family and Teacher Resource Room is now Open! Come visit this hidden treasure trove...located on the second floor of Fellowship Hall just across from the Bell Choir Room. The room is filled with great books on parenting, youth leadership, Sunday School teaching ideas...as well as with games and family friendly DVDs and CDs. Bibles for all ages are available. While most of the materials in the Resource Room are accessible on a sign-out basis, there are also baskets of "take home, enjoy, and keep" books for young readers. This is the perfect spot for planning a family game night...or for stocking up for visiting grandchildren. Please come visit us! The Resource Room is open during the week and following worship on Sundays.

Christian Education

Sharon E. Parker Overseas Service Scholarship



Sharon Parker is a leader and educator who has inspired generations with her ceaseless commitment to Christian service and her sense of adventure. In her honor, the Sharon E. Parker Annual Overseas Service Scholarship was formed in 2017 to provide financial support to members of Overbrook Presbyterian Church to perform meaningful Christian service in communities abroad. Just as Sharon Parker herself served in Papua New Guinea in 2015 or as an earlier generation of Overbrook members served in Chang Rai, Thailand more than a century ago, we hope that today's Overbrook members will be moved by their Christian faith to serve those in need abroad. The Scholarship was approved by the Session of Overbrook Presbyterian Church on June 13, 2017.

The Scholarship will provide a single annual scholarship of \$2,500 to \$5,000 to an individual to provide seed money for a minimum one-month long Christian public service project in a needy part of the world. From disaster relief in Latin America, to serving refugees in Turkey, to teaching English in Africa, to sharing Christ's message in Polynesia, the Scholarship will support any worthy project. Any member or worshiper at OPC who shares Sharon's commitment to service and sense of adventure may apply. The applications will be evaluated based upon the clarity of the proposal (i.e., project objective, budget, feasibility), demonstrated support from a well-regarded institutional sponsor (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Partners in Health, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hope International) and the potential for lasting relationships and measurable impact. Though service projects can be for as little as one month, the committee will give weight to projects of longer duration. Applications should be submitted to the committee as a single pdf file to jason@arcadialand.com.

Our desire is for this scholarship to elevate Christian service abroad within the OPC community. We will require the scholars to return to Overbrook and make a presentation about their experiences with the aim of inspiring others to serve. Angela and Jason Duckworth have committed to provide a minimum of ten years of funding, so that the program has an initial foundation of support.

The Scholarship's funds will be held and controlled by Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Session will appoint a four-person committee (initially including Jason Duckworth, Jane Rozmiarek, Jason Sheau and one of our pastors) to oversee the establishment of the Scholarship and determine the initial scholar. Disbursements from the fund will be made to pay for particular project expenses (e.g., travel expenses, lodging, equipment, visa).

The annual application deadline is November 1st. The committee will aim to make a decision by December 1st. Scholars are expected to complete their project within one year of the award.

Overbrook Green is Back!



Overbrook Green is committee whose goals are to promote good stewardship of the environment, to honor Gods' gifts by making Informed lifestyle decisions, and to engage others in treasuring and protecting our natural resources. The committee will be showing "An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power" on Saturday October 28th at 7:00pm in the chapel. This movie was produced a decade after "An Inconvenient Truth". This sequel is a follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Vice President Al Gore continues his fight traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy. This movie follows him behind the scenes and shows that the dangers of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion. If you would like to know more about Overbrook Green please contact Jim Stephens at james.stephens@comcast.net or Pastor Bruce Gillette.

Worship/Music



The choir season is in full swing, but that doesn't mean that it's too late to join! Here is a brief reminder of the rehearsal schedule:

- Westminster Handbell Choir: Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.
- The Overbrook Choir: Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- Overbrook Children's Choir: Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Mission & Outreach



Update on Feed My Starving Children: Last month, you heard about what we accomplished as a result of the 2017 MobilePack. Thank you again for all of your generosity and prayer. This month, let's start talking about the 2018 MobilePack! The core team met on 9/21 to get the details sorted out with Bonner and now we're ready to dig in and start outreach, publicity, and fundraising-- and we need your help! Please consider joining a committee to help with a particular aspect of the next event, which will be on April 28, again at Bonner High School in Upper Darby. Stay tuned for details about an informational meeting and chance to sign up to help. Thank you!! Becky, Janet, Deb, and Jim

Community/Outreach



OPC Men's Group is Born

A dozen OPC members and friends met on Saturday, September 9 at the inaugural meeting of our men's group. We chatted and ate bagels for a half hour and then brainstormed ideas for future events. We also collected shoes and pants for the Broad Street Ministries. Going forward the group will meet on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. for an hour. In addition to fellowship over bagels and coffee, we will host speakers, discuss religious topics, and address whatever other needs that Overbrook men may have. The next meeting will thus be on October 7 at 8:00 a.m. Please stop by and bring a friend. Questions? Requests? Please contact Sean Whalen.

Urban/Suburban Book Club

Our sister church, *Arch Street Presbyterian Church* located at 1724 Arch Street is hosting *Thought Provoking Conversations on Art, Race and Society* on October 1st at 1:00pm. Speakers include: Maud Lyon, President and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (moderator), Dawn Frisby Byers, former Director of Communications for the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Michael Bolton, VP for Community Programs for Opera Philadelphia and Dr. J. Donald Dumpson, Arch Street Minister of the Arts. For more information contact Dr. J. Donald Dumpson at Donald@DiverseArtsSolutions.com.

Will meet on Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00pm, at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. *October's selection is:* Fall of Giants by Ken Follett 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.



Family Game Night is Back. It will begin in October. So, make plans to join us for some good old fashioned family fun. It begins at 6:30pm



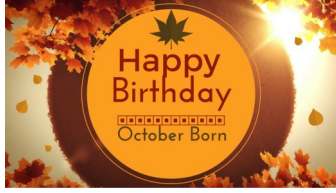
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will be sponsoring a "Shredding Event" In the OPC parking lot on **October 14th** from 10:00 a.m. til noon.

Don't forget your canned good for donation

The Farmers Market is still open through November!!

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



| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10/01-Elizabeth Bouzarth | 10/13-Saronn Cummings |
| Leonard Sloan | Siarra Cummings |
| 10/03-Hannah Lazo | Zachary Gavin |
| Diana Sigler | 10/16-Lisa Faso |
| 10/05-Rebecca Winkler | Jane Rozimarek |
| 10/07-Edwin Beausoleil | 10/17-Steve Kaercher |
| 10/08-Emily Amerman | 10/22-Cedric Wiggins |
| 10/09-Amanda Duckworth | 10/24-Michael Pompa |
| 10/11-Don Carver | 10/25-Amanda Gilhool |
| 10/12-Matthew Henry | 10/28-Barbara Owens |
| | Marita Patino-Treat |
| | 10/29-Henry Baker |

- ◆ Gloria Justin is now home
- ◆ Gwen Harden recovering from shingles
- ◆ Danielle Long on her new job
- ◆ Sean Whalen and family on the recent death of his grandparents.
- ◆ All the families effected by the recent hurricanes.

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

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.



Many Thanks to everyone at OPC for your prayers and thoughts.

-With Love and Peace, Gloria Justin



Thank you! Thanks to all the donors and volunteers who make this year's blood drive a big success. We had 32 pints of blood donated against a goal of 17 pints, almost doubling our goal. The Overbrook Community is great!

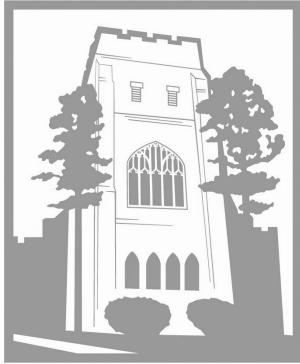
Warm Welcome and Congratulations to:

- ◆ Laura Adabia and Joel Pagbaya on joining our OPC Family and also to Laura who received the sacrament of Baptism.
- ◆ Norah Pagbaya, daughter of Laura and Joel, on her baptism.
- ◆ Yvens Gracia and Nancy Gracia on joining our OPC Family.
- ◆ Lucas Ziemba, son of Katie and Chris, on his baptism.

Pastoral CARE 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, bruce@overbrookpresb.org or 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

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

This Sunday, October 1: Blessings of Animals (All Pets Welcome!)

Join us this Sunday, October 1 at 5:00 p.m. at Overbrook Presbyterian Church for this 20-minute service. World Animal Day is celebrated each year on October 4. On this day, animal life in all its forms is celebrated, and special events are planned at locations all over the globe. October 4 was originally chosen for World Animal Day because it is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, a nature lover and patron saint of animals and the environment. You are invited to bring your favorite animal (dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, etc. or stuffed animals of all varieties) for a brief worship service on the grounds of Overbrook Church. Special music will be provided on a keyboard. Cat and dog treats will be provided.

Blessing of the Animals



Worship

Sundays in October

October 1, 2017

Communion
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Matt. 21:23-32
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Lynn Pompa
Coffee Hour: The Whalen Family

October 8, 2017

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Matt. 21:33-46
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Eileen Wiggins
Coffee Hour: Emily Amerman and Jim Vagnoni

October 15, 2017

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Matt. 22:1-14
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Amarilis Stricker
Coffee Hour: Taste of Overbrook Committee

October 22, 2017

20th Sunday after Pentecost
Matt. 22:15-22
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Keedra Carroll
Coffee Hour: Taste of Overbrook Committee

October 29, 2017

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Matt. 22:34-46
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Emily Amerman
Coffee Hour: The Stricker Family