



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

September 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

Sharon Parker
Director of Christian Education

Margene Biedermann
Junior Choir Director

Roseann Christian
Office Manager

Earlene Ford
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Building Manager



Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Letter from the Pastor

“Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.”

That is what the prophet Joel said long, long ago.

I wonder what prompted him to say that. I wonder if he said it in a time when most folks would have doubted such a thing to be possible. I wonder if he said it in a time of great cynicism, when hopes and dreams were considered the playground of fools. I wonder if he said it in a time when people felt that God was far away. I wonder if he said it in a time when most folks were just so busy just staying alive that they did not have time to imagine doing such a thing.

I wonder if he said it in a time when the economy was tight and things seemed to be getting worse all of the time. I wonder if he said it in a time when life seemed dangerous and threatened. I wonder if he said it in a time when some of the leaders of the people seemed out towards the edge of lunacy. I wonder if he said it in a time of previously unimaginable violence. I wonder if he said it in a time when most folks thought that their children would not have it as good as they had had it. I wonder if he said it in a time of strife everywhere people turned. I wonder if he said it in a time where people had lost their jobs and their homes. I wonder if he said it in a time when people’s dreams seemed to be perishing right before their eyes.

I wonder if he said it in a time when people were just so tired or confused or afraid, they had given up dreaming.

I wonder if that is why he said it then.

I wonder if he would say it now.

I think he would.

Perhaps, just perhaps, it is time to dream again.

-Drew

Sundays in September

September 4, 2016
Communion

16th Sunday After Pentecost
Preaching: Dr. Mann
Lay Leader: Dick Williamson



September 11, 2016

17th Sunday After Pentecost
Preaching: Dr. Mann
Lay Leader: Davorka Sabljak



September 18, 2016

18th Sunday After Pentecost
Preaching: Dr. Mann
Lay Leader: Bob Harden, Jr.



September 25, 2016

19th Sunday After Pentecost
Preaching: Dr. Mann
Lay Leader: Susy Brandt

Congregational Life



The Pastoral Nominating Committee...

Continues its work with the search for our new Pastor. The PNC will keep the congregation informed of their progress. Please keep the PNC in your prayers as they pursue this most important endeavor.



September Coffee Hour Hosts

September 4

Jill VanRawley/ Gray Stephens Family

September 11

Cosgriff/Piatt Family

September 18 & 25

TBA



Attention Volunteers...

The church office is seeking volunteers to answer phones and doorbell two days a week from 9-11:30 on Wednesday and Friday mornings beginning the week of Sept. 19 and continuing through May, 2017. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and church service! The ideal situation would be to have a comprehensive schedule posted in the office for those particular days. If interested, please contact Roseann at the office: manager@overbrookpresb.org. Thank you!

Oral History Project Update

A group of dedicated volunteers continues to interview members (current and former) to record their experiences at OPC. The goal is to capture a snapshot of OPC in this era and see 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 has gathered 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 or by phone at 610-331-8972.

-Blessings, Raelyn



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!!

Community



Urban/Suburban Book Club

Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 7-9 p.m.

Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church

September's Selection: *Sundown Towns* by James W. Loewen

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.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
will be sponsoring a “Shredding Event” in the OPC parking lot on
October 8 from 10:00 a.m. til noon.

Music

Mark your calendar for:

Sunday, November 27, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.

The 22nd Annual Handel’s MESSIAH SING



The Overbrook Choirs 2016 Fall Schedule

Rehearsals begin in early September or the new season. If you or your child are interested in joining a choir, you are encouraged to attend a rehearsal (*schedule below*), and/or talk with the Minister of Music, Dennis Elwell, and the Junior Choir Director, Margene Biedermann, at coffee Hour or through the church office at 215-877-2744.

The Overbrook Choir

An adult and college age singing choir. Rehearses are held on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. in the Choral Room on the 1st floor beginning September 8th. The choir sings weekly in Sunday worship services, special seasonal events, and concert opportunities.

Dennis Elwell - Minister of Music, Director

The Overbrook Junior Choir

A singing choir for 1st through 6th grade. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Choral Room beginning September 11th. The choir sings approximately once a month in worship services and additional seasonal services. *Margene Biedermann, Director.*

The Overbrook Westminster Handbell Choir

A teen and adult ringing ensemble. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the Bell Room on the 2nd floor, beginning September 15th. Though not mandatory, a basic music reading ability is helpful. The choir rings approximately once a month in worship and at seasonal or special worship services. There are three positions to be filled for this new season.

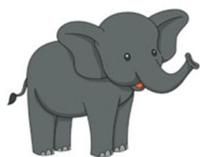
Dennis Elwell - Minister of Music, Director

Christian Education

Women’s Retreat: Saturday, October 15

The OPC Women’s Spiritual Retreat will be held on October 15, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat Center, in Bryn Mawr. Rev. LoisAnn Furgess-Oler will be our retreat leader. The cost for this special event is \$10.00 per person and will include a continental breakfast, as well as lunch. Reservations are required; please sign up in the Wistar Morris Room following worship. Thank you to our Retreat Committee: Becky Lazo, Artia Benjamin, Sabrina Johnson, and The Rev. LoisAnn Furgess-Oler.

Christian Education



Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS program served a total of 36 children! Going on a "Bible Safari" each evening, the children participated in faith-based science, dance and art activities. As they learned about animals that figured prominently in Bible stories, they also had the opportunity to meet a special service animal in person. A special "thank you" goes to Bette and Ron Homer for introducing Aaron to our children.

The congregation will have the opportunity to enjoy VBS, as well. Jason Sheau, our "Safari Cinema" guide made a video which will be shown in the Chapel following worship on Homecoming Sunday, September 11. Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of VBS.

Abundant praise and thanksgiving is offered to our Safari Guides: Becky Lazo, Nicole Stokes-Robinson, Maya Subramanian, Suchita Fiorillo, Danielle Long, Sabrina Johnson, Jill Van Rawley, Margaret Young, Nickie Stokes, Deja Stokes, Trudy Sheau, and LoisAnn Furgess-Oler. Blessings to all...

Sharon Parker



(The Almost) Halloween Family Prayer Breakfast

All ages are welcome to dress in child-friendly costumes and come to (The Almost) Halloween Prayer Breakfast...Saturday, October 29, 9:30-11:00 AM in the Wistar Morris Room. Following our (soon to be famous) Breakfast Buffet, we will have a Costume Parade for all ages. As the applause subsides, there will be a time of shared prayer and devotions.

Prayer Breakfasts are a ministry of the Christian Education Committee. All are welcome. While there is no charge for breakfast, a free-will offering will be received.



CROP Walk: Sunday afternoon, October 2 - 1:00 p.m.

This year's CROP Walk will offer a unique and enriching experience for all participants. Partnering with Ardmore Presbyterian Church, Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church, and the Japanese Christian Church, OPC participants will walk through the Wawa Preserve in Middletown. Rev. Lisa Farrell of Penn Wynne has designed a refugee simulation experience for all walkers. Funds raised through the walk, will support the refugee ministries of CROP. Let's circle the date, build a great OPC Team, begin to gather sponsors, and lace up our walking shoes!

Sign-ups will take place during Coffee Hour.



Christian Education

Christian Education September Date Savers...

September 11: Homecoming Sunday. Following worship, come and see Overbrook at its best! Coffee Hour will be held in Fellowship Hall, where all will be able to browse display tables highlighting upcoming special events, and featuring the work of our OPC committees. Special activity stations are planned for the children and youth. Homecoming Sunday is a time to explore the diverse ministries of our congregation, to meet our Sunday School teachers, to engage in dialogue with committee leaders and Elders...it's a perfect opportunity for volunteerism.

September 18: The Sunday School year begins...and there's a class for everyone! Classes for young learners, Pre-K through Grade 1, will begin immediately following Time with Children and be in session until the conclusion of the worship service. During the hymn following the sermon, students in grades 2-12 will leave the sanctuary and be greeted by their teachers. Sunday School classes for our intermediate and upper level students will conclude at noon.

Life-long learners are welcome to participate in Adult Forum, which meets each Sunday in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15. "The coffee is hot...the welcome's warm!"

Join the CE All-Star Volunteer Team!

Overbrook is blessed with a growing population of children and youth. In order to maintain and build our programs for children and youth, additional volunteer helpers, chaperones, teachers and drivers with clearances are sorely needed. Pennsylvania law requires all who teach, lead, supervise, and serve children and youth are to have child protection clearances. The process is simple, especially for those who have lived in PA for at least 10 years. Complete the clearances process by stopping at the ALL-CLEAR table in the Wistar Morris Room after worship. In order to facilitate this effort, computer stations will be available at OPC throughout August.

Clearances can be completed on-line by going to the following links: Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>); Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Check (<http://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>); Mandatory Reporter Certificate (*which is required for those who wish to teach Sunday School or serve as a mission trip leader/chaperone*); (<https://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu>).

We encourage those who already have clearances as a requirement of employment, or for other areas of volunteerism, to keep a copy on file with the church. All clearances are secured in the church safe. For assistance with this process please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) or Carol Rozmiarek (carol@makinmusic.com). Thank you for supporting the faith formation of our OPC children and youth!



**Adult Bible Study will resume on
Wednesday, September 7th at 10:30 a.m.
in the Sanctuary. Join Dr. Mann as he leads our
continuing study of Luke.**

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 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 Harman

Mission & Outreach

Summer Youth Mission Is A Success...

Ten Overbrook youth and three adult volunteers, Deb Rottinger, Herb Brabham and Bob Kaercher, spent July 31 to August 4 on a mission trip run by Broad Street Ministry's Youth Initiative. The Mission & Outreach Committee, in conjunction with the Women's Dining Circle, raised and donated \$2,160.00 which paid for the majority of the cost for each participant.

The quality of accommodations has greatly improved over the course of the last several years. The sleeping area is air conditioned (a definite plus, since we were having a heat wave at the time). Volunteers sleep on army style cots and take showers off-site at several partner locations including the 12th Street Gym. That sure beats showering in your bathing suit in the back alley of BSM as in previous years!

BSM works with many different partner organizations to give the kids, and the adults, a diverse view of the needs of our most vulnerable citizens as well as some of the programs trying to address these needs.

We worked at urban farms in West Philly addressing the food desert in parts of that community; Beacon, a church/community center in Kensington addressing the needs of young children and safe play spaces; New Jerusalem, a client-led drug rehab program in North Philly and Breaking Bread at BSM, just to name a few!

The program strives not only to create meaningful connective service opportunities for youth, but also to educate them on the issues of poverty, drugs, housing and homelessness and how their service connects and addresses each of these areas. I personally have a new appreciation for farmers! I also found out there is Section 8 housing near 12th and Walnut.

Our kids were amazing, I could not be more proud of the young people on the trip. ALWAYS willing to work hard, volunteer first and think thoughtfully about the experience.

-Yours in Christ, Deb Rottinger

Successful School Supply Collection...

Thanks to everyone who donated backpacks and school supplies for the students at the Village. A special "thank you" to Nancy Gilhool who graciously took charge of the project, and Janet Bowker and Pat Dillon who helped organize all of the items and stuff the book bags according to grade level. Enough notebooks, markers, crayons, binders, folders, etc. were donated to fill 26 packs - that equals a donation of over \$1700, not counting all of the volunteer hours. The first Mission & Outreach project of the year was a huge success!

Thank You!





"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

-Proverbs 22:9

It's time to start thinking about ways you can help with the Overbrook Feed My Starving Children event. Planning is underway; we'll need folks to reach out to local businesses, schools, and neighbors for contributions and volunteers. The site is not yet set (so there is not a firm date, though probably sometime in the Spring), but we can certainly start talking. Stay tuned for more information, and thanks in advance for your support. Thanks so much!

-Becky Lazo

Deacons



September Birthdays!!



| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9/1 Elizabeth Cosgriff | 9/20 Anita Belfie |
| Jonathan Kopcsik | 9/21 Amy DeCray Gattone |
| 9/2 Janet Bowker | 9/22 Andy Schick |
| Peggy Kaercher | 9/23 Lori Spadaro |
| Joe Piatt | Peter Tulba |
| 9/4 Trudy Sheau | Amy Wilson |
| 9/6 Alexis Goodall | 9/24 Makiyah Keys |
| 9/10 Alex Stanley | Lainie Blodgett |
| 9/11 Stephanie Kindt | 9/25 Don Carver |
| Davorka Sabljak | 9/26 Eusebio Molina |
| 9/12 Olga Hoggard | 9/27 Aqueelah Folwell |
| Peter Subramanian | 9/28 Gwen Harden |
| 9/13 Jeremy Blatchley | Harry Winkler |
| Eric Long | Bette Homer |
| Judy Williamson | 9/29 John Rodgers |
| 9/14 Dorothy Burton | 9/30 Bob DeCray |
| 9/15 Sofia Seidel | |
| 9/16 Lillian Baker | |
| Derek Sheau | |



Jane Bevan

Lynn Pompa

Theresa Carter

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.

Bonnie Miller - is looking for a few good people willing to occasionally drive her to visit her daughter. 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.

Mark Your Calendars...

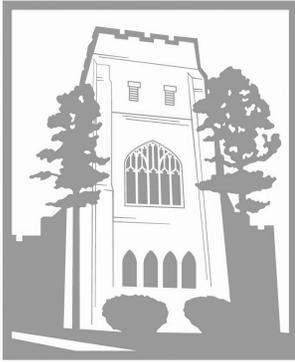
Friday, September 9, 2016

Red Cross Blood Drive at Overbrook Church

(More information to follow)



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