



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

August 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

### Letter from Our Pastors

#### *Remember Your Baptism and Be Glad*

This summer, Overbrook Presbyterians joyfully celebrated the baptism of Liam Oneil Johnson, son of Valdamar Oneil and Neisha Naomie Johnson and grandson of Lynda Johnson. We have at least two more baptisms planned for August, another one in September and more baptisms soon. Given all these baptisms, we have been thinking a lot about the sacrament lately. We meet with the parents of children prior to baptism to review the meaning of this joyous celebration. The following are some common questions:

1. **Why do it?** We baptize because Jesus himself was baptized and he commanded his followers to baptize. At the beginning of the baptism, we acknowledge this by quoting the words of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism serves as a visible sign of God's love and our being a part of the community of God's people who are the church. Baptism is about "dying and rising with Jesus Christ; pardon, cleansing, and renewal; the gift of the Holy Spirit; incorporation into the body of Christ; and a sign of the realm of God. The Reformed tradition understands Baptism to be a sign of God's covenant. The water of Baptism flows from the waters of creation, the flood, and the exodus. Baptism thus connects us with God's creative purpose, cleansing power, and redemptive promise from generation to generation. Like circumcision, a sign of God's gracious covenant with Israel, Baptism is a sign of God's gracious covenant with the church. In this new covenant of grace we are washed clean and are made holy and whole. Baptism also represents God's call to justice and righteousness, rolling down like a mighty stream, and the river of the water of life, flowing from God's throne" (*Book of Order*, W-3.0402).

2. **Why does our church baptize infants and adults while other churches only baptize adults?** In the 1980's, churches from many different traditions (Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox) came to a historic agreement in a document called "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry." Churches in the Baptist tradition, a minority view, emphasize the importance of the human response to God's grace. The Presbyterian teaching, along with most other churches, places the emphasis on God's love for us and our children. Because of the ecumenical discussions, our church and other non-Baptist churches recognize the baptisms of each other church as entrance into the universal Church. You are not baptized as a "Presbyterian," but as a Christian.

3. **What is the parents' role?** At baptism, parents reaffirm their own faith and promise to raise their children in the Christian faith. These promises are as important as wedding vows. The Session, which decides who may be baptized, expects at least one family member to be an active member of the church and to encourage children to be active in all aspects of church life: educational programs (Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, reading the Bible and talking about faith), worship (Sunday morning worship, saying grace before meals and bedtime prayers), fellowship (such as church picnics) and Christian service (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, helping other children, signing prayer cards, giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks). In these way parents keep their promises to raise their children in the faith.

For more about the congregation's role in Baptism, please see the Christian Ed page. We hope you will "remember your baptism and be glad." Be glad that God loves you and calls you his own.

Grace and Peace,  
Bruce and Carolyn Gillette

### Overbrook Church Staff

Revs. Bruce  
and Carolyn Gillette  
*Co-Pastors*

Rev. David K. McMillan  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Dennis Elwell  
*Minister of Music*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Earlene Ford  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*



# Christian Education

**What is the Congregation's Role in Baptism?** It is not easy being a parent at any time, nor is it easy to take seriously the promises made at baptism. We as a church promise to support parents in their challenging call. We do this by providing many opportunities to be involved in the community of faith. After a child has been baptized, we present the family with a children's Bible by Desmond Tutu in the worship service as a sign of our wanting to help in the child's spiritual development. The *Active Parenting* course that we plan to offer in the Fall is an excellent way for parents to learn from others about the most difficult job in the world. The congregation's promise is just as important as the parent's; we need to be continually looking for ways to be supportive of families through the generous giving of our time, talents and treasure. We baptize children in Sunday worship services because this serves as a reminder to us all that we are loved by God and are a part of the Church.

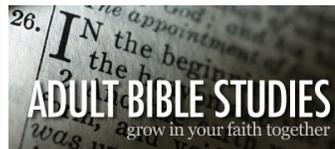


**Our Overbrook Youth Mission Trip is almost here!** Please pray for the youth who are going to serve with the Center for Student Missions in Philadelphia for a week, from August 6 - 12. Our August 6 worship service will include a dedication of the mission team, and in September, Overbrook youth will have an opportunity to share their mission experiences as part of Youth Sunday.

**Young Adult Group:** As the church makes Fall plans, we are interested in seeing if there is interest in a Young Adult Group.



Please contact Pastor Carolyn at 302-528-1797 if you are interested in such a group for fellowship, study and service.



**The Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study Group** meets from 10:30 a.m. till noon every Wednesday. The group, which is continuing through the summer, looks at the lectionary (assigned) Bible readings for the following Sunday; it's a great way to begin preparing for Sunday worship in the middle of the week. On August Wednesdays, we will be looking at the following, upcoming biblical texts: August 2 - Matthew 14:13-21; August 9 - Matthew 14:22-33; August 16 - Matthew 15:10-28; August 23 - Matthew 16:13-20; August 30 - Matthew 16:21-28.

**Adult Forum on Sunday Mornings** is also continuing into the summer months for adults who would like to continue to grow in their faith through study and conversation. Adult forum is an engaging discussion on issues of faith and life, with hot coffee promised for all. Join us!



**Confirmation Class:** Do you have a seventh or eighth grader? It's time to sign up for Confirmation Class. This class, which will begin in September, is for students who are interested in learning more about the Christian faith and what it means to be a church member. This year-long class will include opportunities for learning, worship, service and fun. Please contact Pastor Carolyn if you are interested or if you would like more information.



**Sunday School:** Sunday School for children and youth from preschool through high school will start again on Sunday, September 10. If you have a child or grandchild who is interested in joining a Sunday School class for the first time, or if you are an adult interested in teaching Sunday School, please let Pastor Carolyn know so she can answer your questions about Sunday School. Thank you!



**Active Parenting** is a six-week parenting course that will be offered in the Fall at Overbrook Church. Parenting is the most important, and most challenging, job in the world. This series uses short videos of realistic family situations, as well as lively class discussions and a parent's handbook, to cover such practical topics as developing more effective communication skills, helping your child develop good self-esteem and courage, helping your child learn to make good choices, and more. Please contact Pastors Bruce and Carolyn if you are interested in participating. Class time to be determined based on participants' schedules. Child care will be provided.

# Mission & Outreach

## A Weekend with the Dawsons



Everyone who was at church on July 15th, Saturday evening or July 16th, Sunday morning learned *something* – maybe it was what a taste of Thai or Cambodian food is like – delicious! Or that you really prefer fried chicken and mac and cheese after all, there was something for one and all as we shared dinner with The Rev. Barry Dawson and his wife, Shelly, missionaries for the PCUSA in Southeast Asia. Their presentation about the work they do in nine different countries was informative and inspiring. We hear all the time about third world poverty, but it becomes real when you see photographs taken by people who go to the villages not only to spread the message of Christianity, but to

improve the quality of life for the impoverished and persecuted.

Sunday morning the Dawsons met with Adult Forum for a question and answer session and then led worship with a Time for Children and Barry's truly uplifting sermon.

If you want to learn more about Barry and Shelly and the work they are called to do, go to [pcusa.org/barry-and-shelly-dawson](http://pcusa.org/barry-and-shelly-dawson)

-Barry and Shelly Dawson Mission Connection

## The Book Bag Project

Thanks for a wonderful response to the book bag project. Two bags are complete, 15 are partially filled, and 13 have been taken home to be filled. What we still need are supplies to complete the partially filled bags. Nancy Gilhool is the contact person, [Gilhoolfam@verizon.net](mailto:Gilhoolfam@verizon.net). Contact Nancy for more information on what is still needed. To those who took book bags home to fill, please have them back to church by August 9th.

Your response to the book bag project was AMAZING! We surpassed the goal of 30 book bags. God has blessed us with the joy of giving. Thank you



On August 29th, our church will again serve a nutritious meal to about 150 people at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. If you have always wanted to be part of this event, this is your last chance before Halloween. Nancy Gilhool is the contact person at [Gilhoolfam@verizon.net](mailto:Gilhoolfam@verizon.net).

# Mission & Outreach

## Mission

The Mission & Outreach team has been putting in extra efforts this summer and we don't plan to slow down now!



Please mark your calendar for Adult Forum, Sunday, September 24 at 9:15. Cathy Davis from Hosts for Hospitals will share information about the program and how you can get involved. I hope you will join us.

## Outreach

The backpacks are filling up! Nancy Gilhool is collecting funds and school supplies to support the Village, so the children living there can go back to school ready to learn. We will continue the collection through August 13. A table will be set up at coffee hour to pick up a list of school supplies needed or to make donations.

The Hunger Store is always looking for donations of food or money. See Mike Rottinger to make a donation to support our neighbors in need. 100% of your donation goes to purchase food to feed those in neighborhood around the Calvin Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia.

Watch for an invitation for the Women's Dining Circle, which will be back in business in September. We will be hosting Paws and Affection, a group that trains service dogs for children with a variety of needs.

Through the generosity of Jason Duckworth and to honor his mother, the Sharon Parker Mission Scholarship is being established for those who are interested in mission work. Christian Education and Mission & Outreach will establish a committee to evaluate the applicants and award the scholarships. Watch for more on this in the coming weeks, as we work out the details.

A special thank you for the combined efforts of Mission & Outreach and Christian Education to host Barry and Shelly Dawson, two PC USA missionaries from Southeast Asia. It was an evening of fellowship and learning highlighted by a delicious multi-cultural meal. Jane Rozniarek was instrumental in pulling it all together. I especially thank her for coordinating with the Dawsons and creating a special weekend at Overbrook.

-Aimerie Scherluebbe

## What's up with that table of groceries at coffee hour?



For over 25 years, a Community Emergency Food Closet has resided at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 1.5 miles from Overbrook. Men and women from the immediate neighborhood who demonstrate need can receive food and other basic supplies. Mission and Outreach periodically does some food shopping and places the food on that table in coffee hour. You are invited to purchase a can of soup or bag of rice and leave it there for us to deliver to Calvin. The money raised goes to purchase next month's food.

This "hunger table" will often be expanded with other mission opportunities or information of upcoming events – inviting all you are able to get active and get involved .

Taste  
of  
Overbrook



Saturday, October 21st

6:00 pm

# Congregational Life

## BELOVED COFFEE HOUR



"Coffee" hour during the summer doesn't include coffee :-). Water, lemonade and iced tea are served with cookies and/or snacks of your choice. The key is to keep it simple. Lemonade and iced tea mixes are in the cabinet to the left of the refrigerator or often there is some already made in the kitchen refrigerator. If it is not marked for another group, please use it for coffee hour. Please ask a new friend or nearby "pew partner" to host one Sunday this summer with you. If you have any questions please contact Amarilis at 484-343-0679. Thank you.

The following Sundays need hosts to be sure the set-up, service and clean-up occur.:

- ◆August 6th
- ◆August 20th
- ◆August 27th



### *How to Help Our Church by Going on Vacation*

This summer many of our members will be taking well-deserved vacations. You can continue to be an active part of our church, even when you are out of town, by doing the following:

- ◆**When planning your trip, check with our pastors** about any wonderful Presbyterian mission programs and churches that might be worth visiting.
- ◆**Enrich Your Summer Reading** Check out our church library for some great summer reading that will feed your spirit while you are on vacation (and home). Our pastors are always happy to recommend good reading on a wide variety of topics (fiction, history, humor, spirituality, social concerns from a faith perspective and many other topics).
- ◆**Keep us in your prayers.** Our Session, Deacons, Pastors, and all church members benefit from your prayers on behalf of our shared ministry.
- ◆**Send us postcards.** We hope that a display in Wistar Morris will be filled with postcards from all over, sent by our members. We like to know what you are up to when you are away.
- ◆**Keep your pledges and contributions up to date.** Even while you are away, our church's work continues and needs your support. Please send your check to the church before you go on vacation. If you have a wonderful time and want to give thanks to God for it on your safe return, please consider giving an extra donation to church.
- ◆**Bulletins & More from Other Churches:** If you visit other churches, please bring back worship bulletins, newsletters, brochures and ideas from them – we like to learn what others are doing.

October 14th-Save the Date

IHM Conference Center-Bryn Mawr, PA

8:30am-4:00pm

Overbrook Presbyterian's Church

# WOMEN'S RETREAT 2017

Renew ☞ Restore ☞ Refresh

More information to follow in the September Newsletter



## We Want Your Input for Adult Learning Opportunities This Fall at Overbrook Church:

Pastors Bruce and Carolyn Gillette enjoy teaching. In addition to planning a variety of activities for children and youth, we also want to plan learning opportunities for adult church members and friends. We would appreciate your responses (*circle or check*) to the following options, as well as your own ideas about what you would like to see offered.

**Sunday Morning Forum:** We will continue to offer a variety of topics and speakers relating faith to life. Which of the following would be of interest to you?

- Church members who have been immigrants telling their stories
- Different ways to pray
- Health and wholeness
- Speakers from local missions supported by Overbrook Church
- Spirituality for Families
- Prison Nation
- Faithful Living in a Time of Violence and Terrorism
- The Bible and Racial Justice
- Grieving Well
- What difference does prayer make?
- Your suggested topics (please describe here):

We are also thinking of offering a Bible study for adults at the same time as the Sunday Forum. Possible topics:

- The Bible from Scratch (the New Testament for Beginners)
- The Book of Revelation
- Women in the New Testament
- The Parables of Jesus
- Disciple Bible Study - a year-long, in depth study

**Active Parenting for Parents of Children Ages 5 - 12** (as well as parents of younger and older children) is a very popular, video-based discussion series that is now in its fourth edition. This will be offered either on a weeknight or on a Saturday. Pastors Bruce and Carolyn Gillette wrote the church guide for this program. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in this six-week series, and if so, when you would like the class to be held.

**Weeknight Bible Study**, either on the coming Sunday's scripture readings, or on one of the topics mentioned above for the Sunday morning Bible study. Would you be interested in a weeknight Bible study, and if so, which nights are you available on topics?

**Wednesday lectionary study group** will continue weekly from 10:30 am to Noon

# Deacons



8/01-Maynard Robison	8/18-Pat Dillon
8/05-Rachel Carnahan	Amarilis Stricker
8/07-Claire Rodgers	8/21-Gabriella Miele
8/10-Nathan Lazo	Jeff Bowker
Will Schick, Jr.	Evan Wilson
8/11-Jessica Rottinger	8/22-Will Schick
8/12-Larry McGhee	8/23-Bette Ann Johnston
8/13-Sue DeCray	Katherine Bowker
8/14-Peter Vagnoni	Peter Seidel
Amanda Benjamin	Geoffrey Sheau
Suzy Brandt	8/26-Rayna Mason
8/15-John May	8/27-Edelene Carroll
8/16-Allison Homer	8/28-Jennifer Tuck
	Lori Mason

## 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.

## Prayer List

- ◆ The Sheau Family on the death of Trudy's mother.
- ◆ Charlotte Carpenter on the death of her friend, Kelly
- ◆ Amos and Eilenne Paul on the recent marriage of their daughter Maiki Paul
- ◆ Maiki Paul on her recent marriage to Travis West.

*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

**Pastoral Care:** We are grateful to people who let us know about pastoral needs in our church and community. Please contact us by email: [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. 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. Thank you.  
-Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette

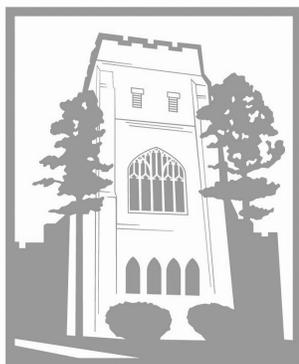
## Red Cross Blood Drive

### An early reminder!

Take good care of your blood - Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is this year's date for Overbrook's Red Cross Blood Drive! Signups will begin soon.



## News from the Crossroads



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151  
215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org  
www.overbrookpresb.org

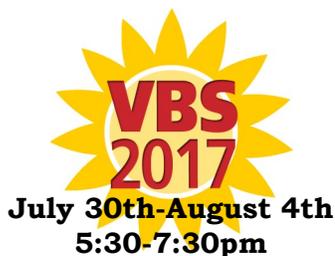
#### Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

## Coming Up

### Vacation Bible School is almost here!

“Clean Water for All God’s Children” is the VBS mission-related theme of VBS this year. Living Waters for the World, a PC(USA) mission program that provides clean water to people around the world, has developed this VBS program that includes water stories from the Bible, water songs, crafts, recreation, mission and science to celebrate water as a gift from God that we are called to enjoy, care for and share with others. Children from pre-school through fifth grade are invited to participate. Registration is free, and registration forms are available in the church office and on the church website at overbrookpresb.org



## Worship

### Sundays in August

<b>August 6, 2017</b> <b>Communion</b> 9th Sunday after Pentecost Matt. 14:13-21 Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette Lay Leader: Beulah Wilson Coffee Hour: TBD	<b>August 13, 2017</b> 10th Sunday after Pentecost Matt. 14:22-33 Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette Lay Leader: Ron Homer Coffee Hour: Ted/Pat Dillon & Choir Friends
<b>August 20, 2017</b> 11th Sunday after Pentecost Matt. 15:10-28 Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette Lay Leader: Becky Lazo Coffee Hour: TBD	<b>August 27, 2017</b> 12th Sunday after Pentecost Matt. 16:13-20 Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette Lay Leader: Dick Williamson Coffee Hour: TBD