



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

February 2018

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



Come join us on February 4th, at 9:15 am during Adult Forum for a talk with Warren B. Cooper, *Spirituals, Jazz and Protest Pizzazz* “A Celebration of Heritage and Fruit of the Negro Spiritual in Light of History Past, History Present and History Future.” and stay for our 10:30 am worship service and hear the sounds of Warren Cooper during worship. His presentation and worship participation is made possible by a gift given in memory of Barbara Owens by her family. Warren is a Performing Artist, a Composer, a Producer, a Broadcaster, an Educator, a Music Minister and Inter-Faith Missionary. He is a native of Philadelphia, PA, USA who has been a professional musician since the age of 9. He was raised and nurtured in Berean Presbyterian Church as the oldest son of its pastor – singing in, playing for and later directing three of the church’s five choirs. Having studied at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and with many of the Masters of Classical, Sacred & Jazz Composition and Performance, Warren has emerged as a trend-setting pioneer within the genres of Jazz Worship and Sacred Jazz Music; and as an acclaimed vocal stylist in all genres. Warren performs nationally in the Sacred and Secular Jazz idioms and serves as an itinerate Worship Musician for a number of worshipping communities. He is the featured vocalist and music director for a number of ensembles (including The Warren Cooper Sacred Jazz Ensemble, The Faith Fusion Contusion, and Anointed Praise) and has been a featured performer at the Philadelphia Kimmel Center, the Washington National Cathedral and the Chautauqua Institution as well as jazz Festivals, churches and arenas around the world. Warren serves as a *Vocal Instructor* for the Kimmel Center Jazz Education Program, and as the *Curator of Jazz Worship Ministry* for Old Pine Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. He is also the founding host and producer of the Gospel Music Radio Program *Ovations* celebrating its 24th year of broadcast on the Temple Public Radio Network. Warren is also the Executive Producer for *Music Media Ministry* – a Philadelphia, PA based Media Broadcast Production Company that specializes in Progressive Peacemaking Production, Modular Media Messaging and Medicinal Sacred Jazz, and is pioneering new pathways into, Worship Community Health, Outreach Ministry Growth. From a Healing Ministry perspective, Warren has conducted numerous *Healing Sound Circle* sessions and *Music Experience* seminars, in venues ranging from the religious to the academic. His use of musical sound in the process of healing is captured in his 2007 release **HEALING THROUGH WORSHIP IN PRAISE** with Anointed Praise – which is a Worship Focused Meditation Soundtrack that is designed to align the listener’s state-of-mind into a Focused Spiritual Presence that enables the revealing...of Spiritual Healing.

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



African American History Month at OPC – Upcoming Sunday Adult Forum Schedule at 9:00 a.m.

February 11. Martin Luther King, Jr., Presbyterians and the 2018 Poor People’s Campaign. We will listen to Dr. King’s address to the Presbyterian Church General Assembly, share memories of his work and discuss the new Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival led by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II.

February 18. Racial Justice - Past, Present and Future Work: A Conversation with Dr. James Foster Reese. Dr. Reese has been a guest preacher at OPC and served in ministries in the United States and Kenya. He was the first director of the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s Racial Ethnic Ministry Unit in Louisville. In July 2017, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus honored him with their Drum Major for Justice Award, recognizing him for his commitment to the biblical principles of justice.

February 25. History of Self-Development of People: In response to the Civil Rights Movement and calls for reparations, the Presbyterians created Self-Development of People (SDOP) for the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and justice. Part of our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering goes to support SDOP so OPC has supported this program for decades.

From Our Pastors: While We Were Yet Sinners

Walter Brueggemann, a wonderful teacher of the Bible, tells the story about a lady who sat down in a tea shop to enjoy a cup of tea, the newspaper, and a small package of cookies she had brought with her. The shop was very crowded and a gentleman had sat down at her table because there was no place else to sit. Uncomfortable with the situation, she buried her face more into the newspaper and reached over to take a cookie. To her dismay, the man also took one. A few minutes later, the same thing happened. She was horrified. The ultimate affront happened a moment later when the man actually broke the final cookie in half and offered her half of her own cookie! Quite dismayed, the lady finished her tea, glowered at the man, and left the shop. As she reached into her purse for a tissue, she discovered the unopened pack of cookies she had brought with her. She had been eating from his identical package of cookies the whole time!

Sometimes it is easier for us to see other people as sinners than it is to imagine that we may be the ones who are doing wrong. For Christians, Lent-- which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14 (Valentine's Day!)— is a time to acknowledge that sin is a part of our lives, too—not just other people's lives. God invites us to turn away from the things that separate us from God and neighbor, and to turn to a deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ. What are the ways we can bring ourselves closer to God and to others?

Part of the reason we may be reluctant to see our own sin is that we understand sin in such limited terms. Shirley Guthrie offers a helpful perspective in his classic *Christian Doctrine*:

“Sin is taking the Lord's name in vain not only by cursing but also by making it trivial. It is using 'God' or 'the will of God' only to justify our own personal, social, or national prejudices and ambitions—or, on the other hand, claiming to be Christians whose lives belong to God, but saying that religion has nothing to do with practical matters....

“Sin is not just killing people; it is having contempt for any human being. It is not only murdering other people but simple letting them starve to death physically or emotionally because we decide that social welfare and foreign aid are 'money down a rat hole.'

“Sin is not just robbing banks. It is also stealing other people's money by false advertising. It is not just waylaying people and leaving them lying in a ditch; it is also 'passing by on the other side' when we see people in inner city ghettos helplessly at the mercy of unscrupulous landlords and indifferent politicians.

“Sin, to sum it all up, is disobedience to the law of God. But it is not just something those immoral, unbelieving outsiders do. It is something we do” (pp. 215-216).

The good news of our Christian faith is that, while sin is a serious problem, it is never as mighty and powerful as God's grace and forgiveness. The prayer of confession in our worship service is always followed by an assurance of pardon. We believe that “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Paul's Letter to the Romans, 5:8).

We invite you to use the upcoming Lenten season as a time to reflect on what needs to be changed in your own life... to mend relationships with God and others... to ask and offer forgiveness... and to remember that God's love is the greatest gift of all.

Grace and Peace,

Bruce & Carolyn Gillette
Fellow Sinners & Co-Pastors

Mission and Outreach

Mission in Myanmar

Dear Overbrook Friends,

Time is passing quickly...and yet, there is still much work to do. While I dearly miss my family, friends and the fellowship of Overbrook, I am discovering new opportunities for ministry and mission each day. I am trying to see Kalay through your eyes...and I know that together we could envision even greater paths of service! Throughout this journey, you have been with me in thought and prayer. Stories of the "Philadelphia Faithful" have been enthusiastically shared with, and enjoyed by, the Chin faith community.

In accepting the call to teach at Tahan Theological College, I encouraged the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar to keep me busy. Fortunately, the "blessing of busyness" has been received! In addition to teaching, I am enjoying meeting with church leaders, worshipping and speaking in area churches, and providing English language support for the TTC staff. This weekend, I'll be travelling from Kalay to visit several remote Chin mountain villages on the Indian border.

Although our cultures are quite unique, Chin Christians share our devotion to faith and to hospitality ministry. All whom I have met are warm, welcoming and generous to strangers...and they make sure I am well fed! Church suppers are common and, as at Overbrook, food appears to be an essential component of decision-making. Life at Overbrook has prepared me well for this journey.

In a matter of weeks, I will be returning home and on Tuesday, February 20th at 7:00pm in the Chapel I will share many faith stories about my trip. Please know that I deeply appreciate your continuing gifts of prayer and your generous support of this mission.

Blessings to all, Sharon Parker



These pictures capture a sentence-building activity ← during English class →



This photo includes three regional denominational leaders (Seminary Principal, the Director of Curriculum/ Professor of New Testament Studies, the Moderator of the Presbytery) and Sharon Parker →



Mission and Outreach (Cont'd)



Love. Grow. Serve.

We are off to a great start to 2018! January 2, we sent Sharon Parker off to Myanmar and are relieved to know that she was met at the airport and has settled in. Sharon is busy helping her students improve their spoken English and using humor to gauge their understanding of her. She is the first native English speaker these students have encountered. We are looking forward to Sharon's safe return in February and the stories of her adventures.

We celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service with a variety of service projects that were suitable for all ages and abilities. Dresses were made to give young African girls something to wear. Soup and breakfast bags were prepared to feed people through Aid for Friends who are shut-in. The "Memorial to the Lost" grows each year, due to the ever increasing gun related deaths in Philadelphia. We had Parkway Northwest High School students and Girl Scouts join the many OPC volunteers, to make all of it happen. Many thanks to all who participated and to Carolyn Gillette for organizing the event.

We kicked off our campaign for Feed My Starving Children. "We Care Wednesday" will be back again on February 21, 2018. Stop by the Panera Bread in Havertown for dinner and don't forget to tell them that you are there for the Care at the Crossroads fundraiser for Feed My Starving Children. A portion of these sales will be donated to FMSC. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 28 to join us for the Mobilepack.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be held from February 18 through March 4. There have been so many hurricanes, earthquakes, water scarcity, and displaced people. There seem to be more needs each year and very little relief. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you know that you have already given to a cause that is prepared to react when disaster strikes or famine hits. Please give generously.

The Women's Dining Circle will return in February. Please watch your email for an Evite. If you have not been receiving Evites to Women's Dining Circle events, please contact Carol Rozmiarek at carol@overbrookpresb.org. If you don't have an email address, contact the church office and we will make sure you get the details for the next Women's Dining Circle.

Memorial to the Lost Project



Martin Luther King Day of Service was a huge success on all fronts at Overbrook Church, but the most visible project is the "Memorial to the Lost" t-shirt display. It took a lot of willing and energetic volunteers from OPC, Parkway Northwest High School and Overbrook Farms to bring it all together and finish before noon. Organized by Jeff Bowker, Janet Bowker, Jane Rozmiarek and Carol Rozmiarek, fifty or more people got right to work lettering shirts inside and pounding re-bars into the hard ground and fixing the finished shirts on the PVC cross pieces.

There are 265 shirts surrounding the church on City and Lancaster Avenues. Each represents a person killed by an illegal gun in Philadelphia in 2017. The oldest victim is a 77 year old man and the youngest is a two year old boy. The first death occurred on January 1, 2017 and the last two on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2017.

As in previous years, we worked with Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence. Go to their website, <http://heedinggodscall.org/>, to see how you can get involved and make a difference.



We are gearing up for another concession run as the NCT first production of 2018 with the popular play, *SISTER ACT*. This play will run from *March 2-17, 2018*.

To all my experienced concessionaires (and hopefully, many new concessionaires to come) I'm hoping to have your support/help once again in staffing the OPC's theater's refreshment stand. There is a Signup Genius solicitation out on the listserv. Revenues from the THEATRE REFRESHMENT STAND during these shows are slotted for OPC's general budget. Contact Person: Trudy Sheau, 215 878 4872.

Christian Education



Thank You: Martin Luther King Day of Service

Thank you to all who participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service on Monday, January 15. About 150 volunteers from our church and community gathered in the morning to serve neighbors and to honor Dr. King. Many worked together to create the T-Shirt Memorial for “Heeding God’s Call” in remembrance of victims of gun violence in the city of Philadelphia. Others made 111 containers of soup, 301 breakfast bags and 66 health care bags for Aid for Friends, a group that serves homebound people in Philadelphia and surrounding counties. Children

made cards to go in the breakfast bags— a total of 301 handmade cards! Still other church members and friends sorted clothing donations for Broad Street Ministry, sewed dresses for girls in need for “Little Dresses for Africa,” and lovingly cared for our church building. Thank you to all who worked together to make this a wonderful day of service!

Mark Your Calendar: OPC Youth Mission Trip 2018 -



We have dates and a location for next summer’s youth mission trip! Trip Dates are **Saturday, August 4 - Saturday, August 11, 2018**. OPC youth and leaders will be working with West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps, Inc.

WVMAW has a close relationship with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, particularly in times of disaster recovery. They work to repair houses and improve the lives of residents near the Greenbrier/White Sulphur Springs area in Southern West Virginia. This area had major flooding in the summer of 2016. About half the homes in the area were damaged or destroyed.



We will be staying in a church social hall. The church has wonderful outdoor space, a picnic shelter, an indoor recreation room, plenty of spread out space for cots/air mattresses, and a fully equipped kitchen.

We will be doing repairs or renovations on a home for a family in need. Work may involve installing flooring, putting up sheet rock, doing some painting, rebuilding a deck or constructing a ramp. Youth will be taught the skills they need to improve a family’s home. There will be time on Wednesday for a recreational activity in the area, and we will have opportunities to interact with members of our host church and community. Cost is TBD but will be in the general range of last year’s trip. Please contact Pastor Carolyn at 302-528-1797 for more information.



Join Youth from OPC and other churches for a Peacemaking Retreat at Kirkwood Camp, Feb. 23-25. This retreat, sponsored by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, is for 6th - 12th graders. Confirmation Class youth, as well as all 6th -12 grade students, are invited to attend. We’ll leave after school on Friday and return by early Sunday afternoon. Cost to youth: \$60 for the weekend. Scholarships available. What you get: Delicious meals in the Coop, important youth-led discussion times, worship, fun games, a surprise or two, and some free time on the camp’s beautiful 300-acre property. Pastor Carolyn will be leading the group of youth from OPC who will be attend this event, with other drivers/chaperones from OPC going as well.



Youth Group News: Join us for upcoming activities:

- ◆ **Sunday, February 4** - Souper Bowl Sunday - Youth volunteers are needed after worship to staff the “soup pots” for donations from the congregation to help hungry neighbors
- ◆ **Sunday, February 11** - Youth Group at Church - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. - bring something to share - followed by discussion and recreation.
- ◆ **Sunday, March 4** - Bowling at Wynnewood Lanes, early afternoon

Fellowship



The Mens' Group will meet again on Saturday, February 3rd, at the church at 8:00. We will chat over bagels and coffee for a half hour and then enjoy a more structured program (topic to-be-named-later) for an hour. Keep an ear out for the topic. All are welcome, bring a friend.

Urban/Suburban Book Club

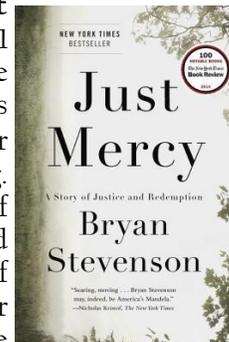
Next Meeting: Tuesday February 20, 2018, 12:00 pm
Location: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

February selection is: *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*
by Barbara Brown Taylor

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.

OPC Book Club

Great news the OPC is back! The first meeting will be Monday, Feb. 26th at 7:30 at Elizabeth Cosgriff's home, 251 Linden Lane, Merion Station. The book selection is Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. We will be open for book suggestions for next meeting. This club is open to everyone and if you plan on attending if you could please contact Elizabeth Cosgriff at elizabethcosgriff@gmail.com for refreshment purposes or for more information.



RPM Cafe: February 23, 11:30-1:00 PM, the Chapel

 It's time for the RPM (retired person's ministry) Cafe! All OPC members and friends of a "certain age" are invited to share lunch, fellowship, and good humor. Join us in the Chapel, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, on Friday, Feb. 23rd. Soup, beverage and dessert will be provided...BYO sandwich and lively spirit! The theme for the day will be "These are Puzzling Times." Be prepared to explore and enjoy problem solving. (Please sign-up through the church office.)



Interested in joining OPC?

If you are interested in joining OPC or simply want more information on what OPC is all about, please contact Pastor Bruce or Carolyn at (302) 528-1796 (Bruce) or Carolyn at (302) 528-1797 for the next New Members Lunch.

Community Corner

Dear Carolyn & Bruce,
I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyable holidays. Work has been all I could handle for the last couple of months and have not been able to sit down and write a note to thank you and Overbrook Church for the memorial service you had for my brother-in-law Jeff Roth. It really meant a lot to me and at least several of the people I spoke with to be able to remember Jeff in such a way. The service you put together and led was perfect. I also enjoyed being there and seeing many of your members that I have known from attending services there over the years while visiting Charlotte and Jeff. The "Taste of Overbrook" was special. I originally had thought of "borrowing" that idea for second Pres. in Richmond but neither we or any other church I know have the rich resources of so many people from so many cultures to draw on. It dawned on me that this was one of the reasons I so enjoyed visiting Overbrook.

I would like to make a small gift to Overbrook for both Jeff and Charlotte - possibly to begin a memorial garden, or whatever you deem a good use.

Best Wishes,
Diana Kern



Are you or someone you know in need of in-home care? Angie Goodall, member and deacon of OPC, is a Certified Nurse's Assistant and is willing to assist people in need with daily activities such as shopping, doctor's appointments, or help with making meals, bathing, etc. A CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) main role is to provide basic care to patients. Angie is a dedicated, compassionate, responsible individual who will give her upmost attention and detail to anyone in her care. If interested or know someone who may be, she can be contacted at 267-345-3979 or at angiegoodall.6632@gmail.com.

Deacons



Prayer List

2/2	Jessica Sheau	2/16	Evelyn Gorman
	Sean Whalen	2/17	Jill Van Rawley
2/3	Nick Henry	2/19	Danielle Long
	Rob Wilson	2/20	Aiyana Bailey Long
2/5	Beulah Wilson	2/21	Serge Geraldo
2/6	Marissa Phan		Charles Brown
	Asa Blodgett	2/23	Helena Bryant
2/8	Arthur Piatt	2/25	Margaret Young
2/10	Amos Paul	2/29	Katherine Ziemba
2/14	Brett Kaercher		
2/15	Estalene Ferrillo		
	Philip Piatt		
	Jim Vagnoni		

- ◆Gloria Justin is continuing to recover at her home
- ◆Andrea Gosfield is recovering from a car accident
- ◆Will Vagnoni is going through transitions
- ◆Ellen Burr has health concerns
- ◆Sharon Parker during her service in Myanmar
- ◆Lynda Johnson recovering from knee surgery
- ◆Ed Harvey undergoing medical tests
- ◆Thom D'Antonio recovering from a heart procedure
- ◆Charlotte Carpenter coping with rheumatoid arthritis
- ◆Nancy Gilhool recovering at home from outpatient foot surgery.



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 & 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

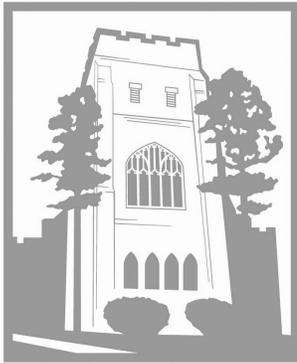
Remember to Sign the Prayer Cards:



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 or drive her to/from church. Please contact Mike Rottinger if you think you can do this or want more details – mike.rottinger@comcast.net. Thank you

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

Worship

Worship SCHEDULE

Sundays in February

February 4, 2018

Communion
5th Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:29-39
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Will Schick
Coffee Hour: Rachel, Evelyn,
Nkweni & Ameerah

February 11, 2018

Transfiguration of the Lord
Mark 9:2-9
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Susy Brandt
Coffee Hour: Artia Benjamin,
Nickie Stokes and LaToya Richie

February 18, 2018

1st Sunday in Lent
Mark 1:9-15
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Lynn Pompa
Coffee Hour: Phil Sheau

February 25, 2018

2nd Sunday in Lent
Mark 8:31-38
Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Ron Homer
Coffee Hour: Sabrina Johnson



Souper Bowl of Caring: Sunday Feb. 4

Super Bowl Sunday is also Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Help our Overbrook Presbyterian Church Youth fight hunger in the Greater Philadelphia area. Following worship on Sunday, February 4, our youth will be stationed in the Wistar Morris Room with two soup pots, each pot representing a 2017 Super Bowl contender. By making a donation in one (or both) of the pots, you will be supporting FMSC (Feed My Starving Children). As we donate funds to this worthy cause, let's see which team "wins" in receiving the most donations.

