



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

February 2019

### *Letter from the Pastor*

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. Raymond Bonwell  
*Bridge Pastor*

Rev. David K. McMillan  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Christopher Gage  
*Director of Music*

Sharon Parker  
*Director of Christian  
Education & Administration*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

#### Church Office Hours

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

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Friends,

While God does not change, I give great thanks that we continue to change!

Scripture reminds us that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8, NRSV). Our faithful response is to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds” (Romans 12:2b), taking comfort that Christ is making “all things new” (Revelation 21:5). Notice how Christ is not making new things, there is a transformation that all things are new.

Things continue to change at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. The shift to intentional education for all ages (3-103) was off to a magnificent start. There were 29 adults present in the Chapel on Sunday, January 6, as we began a look at the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

This shift allows the entire community to worship together, and to participate together after worship. This time after worship will be very important on February 24, when Session has called a congregational meeting to 1. Vote on the Pastoral Candidate, and 2. Receive the Annual Reports.

As you heard from the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) at worship on Sunday, January 27, the PNC has identified a candidate they will nominate. The candidate will preach on Sunday, February 24, with the congregational meeting immediately to follow to vote. It is my understanding the new pastor will begin well in time for Easter (April 20), and will start in late March or very early April.

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6. There will be opportunities for food, fellowship, and faith formation on Wednesday evenings in March; please save the dates on your calendars, now.

February, while the shortest month, presents many opportunities. The Wednesday Adult Bible Study will meet with a topic to be determined on January 30. The Sunday morning Adult Christian Education will begin on Feb. 3 with the Rev. Laura Colee, pastor, Broad Street Ministry (BSM), talking about how a Biblical understanding of hospitality informs BSM. For the balance of February the focus of Adult Christian Education will be on the Lord’s Prayer.

It continues to be a joy and delight to continue to change with Overbrook.

Keep the Faith,  
Raymond

## Martin Luther King Day of Service

MLK Day 2019: Boundless energy...abundant gratitude!

What in the world can happen when you put 204 area residents in one place for two and one half hours? The possibilities are endless! As a registered Greater Philadelphia MLK Day of Service site Overbrook opened the doors and servant leadership poured in. From the opening dedication of the Peace Pole, to the closing dedication of the Memorial to the Lost, attendees had the opportunity to gather in the Sanctuary for prayer and celebration. Our faith community extended a wide welcome to diverse groups of participants from Friends Central, Parkway School, the Women's Tennis Team from St. Joseph's University, and a corporate community from a New Jersey firm.

The morning was filled with great expectations and even greater achievements. God's work was in our hands. Two hundred and four people in the same place at the same time, were able to produce...achieve...transform the following:

### Support for Aid for Friends

79 Breakfast bags

90 Servings of cornbread

90 Containers of chicken noodle soup

### Support for the homeless

(Life Center of Eastern Delaware County)

130 Sandwiches

### Support for displaced women and children

(Women Against Abuse)

25 personal care kits

25 children arts and crafts kits

### Support for Heeding God's Call:

T-shirt Memorial to the Lives Lost

295 lawn stakes were assembled for the display

295 T-shirts were labelled and hung

### Support for the ELECT Teen Parent Services:

School District of Philadelphia

21 Baby blankets

21 Baby care kits

### Appreciation for First Responders and Deployed

Military Personnel

57 Gratitude Cards

### Care for the Elderly

50 care cards for shut-ins

75 Seasonal placemats for Simpson House

### Care for the Community

In-gathering of over 100 pounds of food for community distribution

Casserole meals for 25

### Care for Overbrook

Pew, pulpit and lectern polishing

Restoration of the Service Room

Scraping and painting of the Youth Room

Basement organization

Organ preservation

### Community Conversation in the spirit of Dr. King

May God bless all who came to serve, all who came to lead, and all who came to learn on January 21. The prayers of gratitude are abundant!

*Sharon Parker*



## Christian Education

### Phebruary's Phinest Youth Events!

OPC Youth offers opportunities for fellowship, service, shared learning, worship, mission, and adventures for all. Friends are welcome!

#### Saturday February 2, 5:30-8:30 PM

**Hootenanny for Hunger:** All OPC Youth, family, and friends are invited to this special "dinner dance"...featuring a country meal (fried chicken/chili) and square dancing. \$15 per person; \$40 per family.

#### Sunday, February 3

**February Alarm Clock Giveaway:** It's about time to wake up for Sunday School! To help OPC Youth (grades 6-12) adjust to the new Sunday School start time, we're giving away alarm clocks designed especially for you! The only catch is that you'll need to come to Sunday School at 9:15 AM on February 3 to claim one! (Just like class...they're worth waking up for!)



**Souper Bowl of Caring:** We'll join youth from across country in collecting funds to fight hunger on Super Bowl Sunday. OPC Youth will lead the collection during Coffee Hour on February 3. All proceeds will go to *Feed My Starving Children*.

#### Saturday, February 16, 1:30-3:30 PM

**OPC Junior Youth Skating:** All OPC children and friends, ages 4-grade 5, are invited to come ice-skating at The Skatium in Havertown. Friends are welcome...as are parents. Bundle up and join the fun! The cost is \$5.00, which includes skate rental and refreshments. We'll meet at the Skatium. Carpools are encouraged. If a ride is needed, please contact Sharon. Volunteer drivers (with Child Protection Clearances) will be deeply appreciated.

#### Sunday, February 17, 1:45-6:00 PM

**Philly Phieldtrip-Ice Skating at Penn Center Rink:** We're travelling by train! (2:06 PM departure from Overbrook Station; 5:55 PM return to Overbrook Station). Meet at the train station at 1:45 PM. \$10 includes transportation, skating and refreshments. (RSVP to Sharon Parker at sparker614@gmail.com) For youth in grades 6-12. Friends are welcome!

#### Sunday, February 24, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

**Creating Art!** Let's channel our inner Andy Warhol or Picasso and create something wonderful for the Youth Room. We'll be working under the guidance of a special artist. Dinner will be provided; friends are welcome....as are parents/volunteers.

### Christian Education Summer Date-Savers

- July 7-13: Youth Mission Trip, Blue Knob, PA
- July 17-21: PC-USA Youth Triennium, Purdue University
- July 28-August 1: Vacation Bible School, "Bible Super Heroes", 5:00-7:00 PM



*Deepest appreciation to all OPC Youth who participated in MLK Day of Service activities whether at OPC, in your neighborhoods, or in your schools. Your heart and hands did God's work...and your service brought comfort and joy to many. Bless you!*

*- Sharon Parker*

February at OPC will have a special focus on students, both young and older. February 17th is recognized as Universal Day of Prayer for Students. While we hope that all will observe this day of prayer, special events are also planned throughout the month. Students will be receiving age-appropriate Bibles and Bible story books. Our OPC Youth will also be receiving Sunday School alarm clocks to help them adjust to the new Sunday School start time!

A reminder to all children and youth families: Sunday School has a new start time! Come join the warm welcome in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 AM each Sunday. Following our opening greeting, teachers lead students to class at 9:30 AM. Classes will be in session until 10:15 AM.

An invitation to all adult learners: Adult Christian education is a great way to start the day! Come join the growing group in the Chapel each Sunday morning at 9:15 AM. The welcome is warm and the coffee is hot! Childcare is provided in the Nursery.

## From the Director of Music

### “What’s with the Extra Hymns?”

Over the past few months, you may have noticed that, from time to time, there are hymns in the bulletin that do not appear in the hymnal. The three most recent examples have been these:

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness”

“Gabriel’s Message”

“O God of every nation”

So why have these extra hymns been chosen when we have a perfectly good hymnal in the pew rack? Each of these hymns represents a different answer to that question; let’s explore the rationale:

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness”: Here is an example of a wonderful hymn that exists primarily in another tradition—the Church of England (with a few exceptions in American hymnals). First, this hymn clearly references the gifts of the Magi with the phrases “gold of obedience” and “incense of lowliness.” Second, it discusses our appearing before God in God’s house; this idea finds a close parallel in the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. In some churches, the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, also called Candlemas, is celebrated this year on February 2.

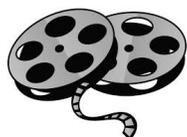
“Gabriel’s Message”: Some Sundays in the lectionary have very specific stories and themes that are reflected in hymns not found in *Glory to God*. “Gabriel’s Message” paints a vivid picture of the Annunciation—the moment when the archangel Gabriel informed Mary that she would become the mother of the Son of God. Paraphrased from a Basque folk carol, from the mountainous border between France and Spain, this hymn creates a sense of anticipation through its lilting rhythm and exciting text—perfect for Advent.

“O God of every nation”: When a new hymnal is compiled, it is inevitable that some hymns from the old book will not make the transition. Such was the case with “O God of every nation,” #289 in the former Presbyterian Hymnal. The text of this hymn connected very well with that Sunday’s reading from Isaiah (“the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations”), and the sturdy Welsh tune added gravity to the message.

Hopefully, this article has given you a better idea of why we sing certain hymns—and of the great deal of thought that goes into liturgical planning. We might not see these hymns all the time, but who knows? One of them might become a favorite of yours!

## Upcoming Music Events

**Sunday, April 7, 4:00 p.m.:** The Overbrook Choir will combine with the choirs of Ardmore Presbyterian Church and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ardmore, to present excerpts from Felix Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*. We have been blessed with fruitful collaborations among our three choirs, and we are happy to continue this tradition.



**Friday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.:** Join us for a unique experience at Overbrook! Concert organist David Baskeyfield will accompany a silent movie—while the film is projected to us, he will improvise a complete musical score. He has gained critical international acclaim for his organ playing, having recently won the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montréal, and his concert here is sure to be spectacular.

The music program here provides diverse, fulfilling programs year-round, and I am grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

-Chris Gage

## Mission and Outreach

We have started the year with a lot of excitement! We kicked off the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service** with a record turnout. We installed and dedicated a **Peace Pole** on the corner of Lancaster and City Ave. **Kayla Davis** created the **Peace Pole** as part of her Gold Award project for Girl Scouts. We are proud to display this beautiful symbol of peace, on our church grounds. Following the dedication, we gathered together to create cards, blankets, meals and care packages. We also performed some improvement projects around our church. When it was all over, we installed and dedicated a record number of t-shirts for the **Memorial to Lives Lost to Gun Violence**. We have a lot of work to do to bring peace to Philadelphia.

Thank you to everyone who participated in contributing to the **Comfort Cases**. We filled 40 cases with blankets, pajamas, toiletries, books, and more. There are a few more foster children, who can move from home to home with some dignity. The cases have been delivered to **theVillage** for the children they support.

February is going to start with some fun! Grab a partner and some friends and join us for the **Hootenanny for Hunger**. **Saturday, February 2** starting at 5:30 PM we will kick up our heels and enjoy some square dancing. There will be chili and chicken served and some silent auction items. Get your tickets at the door - \$15 per person or \$40 per family. Proceeds from this event will go to support our **Feed My Starving Children MobilePack**, which will be held **Saturday, April 27**. Mark your calendar.



# OPC HOOTENANNY FOR HUNGER

A FUNdraiser for Care at the Crossroads  
Feed My Starving Children MobilePack



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019**  
**5:30—8:30 PM**



Join us for some good old-fashioned fun...  
delicious homemade chili, fried chicken, cornbread, salads and desserts,  
square dancing, games, photo booth opportunities, and more!

Fun for the whole family...and friends! All are welcome  
Individual ticket—\$15 Family ticket—\$40



If you have questions about the event or would like to help,  
please contact Becky Lazo at [rebeccalazo@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccalazo@hotmail.com) or 443-745-3178.

# TRANSITION CONSULTANT REPORT

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Howard E. Friend

It has been my privilege and honor to serve Overbrook Presbyterian Church as transition consultant for the last month. Today is my second meeting with the session and Raymond Bonwell, the Bridge Pastor. I have met with a team from the Presbytery, with Raymond, with twenty-five people from the congregation who signed up for in-person and/or telephone interviews, and representatives of the PNC. All in collaboration with a core team of Raelyn Harman, Karen Wong and Sharon Parker.

This total number represents a broad spectrum of the congregation: consistent with your diversity I have met long term members and newcomers; various racial and ethnic populations; different socio-economic levels; different ages. As well as a wide variety of thoughts, opinions and feelings; some definitive thoughts, some strongly spoken opinions and some deeply held feelings.

Perhaps just as important, a variety of relationships to the church were expressed: those whose loyalty to the church is firm and steady; those who express ambivalence and uncertainty about remaining in the church; to some who have left but want to return; some who guess they have left permanently. Yet perhaps paradoxically, virtually all express deep appreciation and love for Overbrook Church and its people.

My overall goal, besides seeking to be a good and empathetic listener, has been:

*To help prepare this congregation, its members and friends, to gather in faithfulness and solidarity as a new pastor arrives. Ready to form a robust partnership, committed to a clear vision and poised to journey together to fulfill it.*

## OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Wanting a single, comprehensive report, an abbreviated form of some data from the initial report after the December 9<sup>th</sup> session gathering is included, so the contributions of all venues are represented.

### DIVERSE, LOVING AND CARING . . . AND FAITH-BASED

With more than good reason, OPC affirms and celebrates its diversity, a rich and broad diversity that has sustained for decades. The depth and authenticity of affection and love for each other is articulated in some form by virtually everyone I have talked to. The quality of caring is demonstrated in narratives of support, acceptance, encouragement and caring always close at hand. And one can argue these are biblical manifestations, the embodiment of the Christian faith. Yet people seem hesitant to define the church in faith-based terms. Biblical metaphors for church – the Body of Christ, the Family of God, household of God, Ambassadors of Christ – seem muted, if articulated at all. *Perhaps in Bible study groups, or guided personal devotion, or from the pulpit a robust exploration of how the Bible invites us to define church might be timely.*

### RICH HISTORY, CHALLENGING PRESENT . . . AND A PEOPLE OF VISION

Overbrook Church has a rich history. The older among us remember with delight pastors, names unknown to a current majority. Their faces light up and they narrate times when the church boasted a huge membership, a flagship congregation in Philadelphia Presbytery. The more middle aged among us remember first Sundays when people of color joined the community, soon in greater numbers and even broader diversity. A younger segment remembers the joy in finding OPC, home at last. But more recent years, into the present, have brought challenges, perhaps diversity a mixed blessing. Diversity sometimes manifesting as division. Some would say a season of upset, chaos and turmoil. The biblical witness would suggest that renewal of vision was the antidote for such times. The disciples seemed a disparate

and even rowdy circle, but they took the church “to the ends of the earth.” Indeed without vision the people perish. Consider a half-day congregational retreat on discerning the vision of Overbrook Church. Read the Purpose Driven Church together. Share personal dreams for OPC’s future. “Do not remember the things of the past or what happened long ago. I am about to do a new thing.” Isaiah 43.18-19

## OUR EXPECTATIONS . . . THE GIFTS OF OUR NEW PASTOR

It was articulated in different ways, identifying the “Overbrook Way.” Fascinating. An interim minister, tasked to coach a congregation into readiness to truly welcome a new pastor, once said: “The *name and person* of your new pastor is not yet known to you, but the *role expectations* are already here.” Consciously and unconsciously, a congregation develops a set of characteristics, a personal style, a skill set and a set of behaviors they expect of a new pastor. Tough enough when there is a consensus of expectations. Close to impossible when many different roles are expected! Your PNC has crafted a fine document delineating the kind of pastor you are seeking. They have made what seems as a good decision: to continue to convene after a new pastor is installed to have strategies of welcome, building that sense of partnership. The new pastor will fulfill some of those qualities and not others. Like all people, he/she will be a “mixed bag.” *Will you learn to love that new pastor “because” and “even though”? When you work together, form a firm partnership, all will grow.*

## HURT AND RESENTMENT, GOOD CHOICES AND NOT SO GOOD . . . AND FORGIVENESS

Under stress, amidst uncertainty even chaos, when both the leaders and the led are walking new and unfamiliar ground, when answers seem illusive, when “right” and “wrong” seem so obscure, we may not be at our best. Maybe far from it. We watch or overhear exchanges that seem out of character for both speaker and recipient. We cringe as we find ourselves speaking brusquely, disrespectfully, even cruelly. Or being the receiver of such. Are there secrets? Are there “in groups” – thus “out groups.” Some seem to know and others not. Accusation and resentment mount. People are hurt. Wounded is not too strong a word. Things can go from bad to worse. *The awesome antidote is forgiveness. Perhaps a Bible study exploring biblical teachings and stories that have forgiveness at their core – Joseph and his brothers, God’s forgiveness of David, the woman caught in adultery, the petition from the Lord’s Prayer. Or a Sunday service and sermon focusing on forgiveness. Imagine an extended time of silence and a guided meditation: inviting each one present to quietly acknowledge their need to be forgiven, to receive forgiveness from God, others and themselves. Then reflecting on their need to be forgiving. “As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103.12*

## LETTING IT GO . . . TURNING THE PAGE, TIME FOR A NEW CHAPTER

Varying words and phrases, some strongly stated, named the *surprise* a number of people felt when the letter arrived announcing the plan to dissolve the relationship between the church and its pastors. Some were upset by the decision, but even more so by how the decision was perceived to have been made. There are protocols that define what deliberations and actions a Session takes that can be publicly disclosed. Information and explanation are thus partial and incomplete. A covenant, crafted to protect the best interests of both the church and the pastors, was in place that limited disclosure. Speculation was inevitable. It became tempting to assign blame. Trust was tested. As axiom suggests that trust damages easily and (re)builds slowly. *Consider the following suggestion: Choose a date beyond which elders will not be available for conversation about these matters, but before which any elder is available. After that date, only conversation is welcomed and encouraged regarding looking forward toward claiming the future God has in mind for OPC. Ending a chapter in the OPC story and beginning a new one. Consider making that date a Sunday, the service to include some ritual of passage toward the future.*

# February 2019

## OPC Church Events

### Saturday, February 2

8:00 am-Men's Group  
5:30 pm-Hootenanny for Hunger

### Sunday, February 3

9:15 am-Arrival for Christian Education (Adults/Youth)  
10:30 am-Worship  
11:30 am-Coffee Hour/Souper Bowl of Caring  
12:00 pm-Communications Committee  
12:00 pm-New Member Committee

### Monday, February 4

5:15 pm-Junior Choir Rehearsal/Dinner

### Tuesday, February 5

1:00 pm-Worship Committee  
7:00 pm-Finance Committee

### Wednesday, February 6

No Bible Study

### Thursday, February 7

7:00 pm-Adult Choir Practice

### Sunday, February 10

9:15 am-Arrival for Christian Education (Adults/Youth)  
10:30 am-Worship  
11:30 am-Coffee Hour  
12:00 pm-Personnel Committee  
12:00 pm-Deacons

### Monday, February 11

5:15 pm Junior Choir Rehearsal/Dinner  
7:30 pm-OPC Book Club at Elizabeth Cosgriff's home

### Tuesday, February 12

7:00 pm Session

### Wednesday, February 13

10:00 am -Bible Study

### Thursday, February 14

7:00 pm -Adult Choir Practice

### Saturday, February 16

9:30 am-Prayer Breakfast  
1:30 pm-OPC Junior Youth Ice Skating at Skatium

### Sunday, February 17

9:15 am-Arrival for Christian Education (Adults/Youth)  
10:30 am-Worship  
11:30 am-Coffee Hour  
12:00 pm-Christian Education Committee  
2:00 pm-OPC Youth Ice Skating at Rothman Rink

### Monday, February 18

5:15 pm-Junior Choir Rehearsal/Dinner

### Wednesday, February 20

10:00 am-Bible Study  
5:00 pm-Property Committee

### Thursday, February 21

7:00 pm-Adult Choir Practice

### Sunday, February 24

9:15 am-Arrival for Christian Education (Adults/Youth)  
10:30 am-Worship  
11:30 am-Annual Congregation Meeting followed by Coffee Hour

### Monday, February 25

1:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Group  
5:15 pm-Junior Choir Rehearsal/Dinner  
7:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Group

### Wednesday, February 27

10:00 am-Bible Study

### Thursday, February 28

7:00 pm-Adult Choir Practice

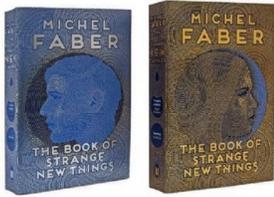
### Coming up in March:

- ❖ March 2-Men's Group at 8:00 am
- ❖ March 3-Youth Trip to St. Thomas African Episcopal Church at 9:30
- ❖ March 6-Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm
- ❖ March 15-RPM Café-11:30 am
- ❖ March 23-Women's Retreat at IHM Conference-8:30 am
- ❖ Every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm in March-Lenten Services with light supper and service.

### Community Support Group Meetings @ OPC

- ❖ Every Sunday beginning at 8:00 pm—AA (Wistar Morris Room) and Al-Anon (Chapel)
- ❖ Every Monday beginning at 8:00 pm—Overeaters Anonymous (Chapel)
- ❖ Every Wednesday beginning at 8:00 pm—AA (Wistar Morris Room)

## Congregational Life/Fellowship



The next meeting of the OPC book club will be **Monday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 PM** at the home of Elizabeth Cosgriff, 251 Linden Lane, Merion Station. We will discuss *The Book of Strange New Things*, by Michel Faber. All are welcome!

Please RSVP to: [elizabethcosgriff@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethcosgriff@gmail.com), or at 610-747-0602.



### Coffee Hour for February

We are in need of Coffee Hour Hosts for the *Month of February*. This is an highly valued ministry and can be easily accomplished with a group of two or more. If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour instructions are available on the OPC web site and in the church kitchen (on the microwave). For more information please contact Raelyn Harman at 610-331-8972 or Artia Benjamin. Thank you.

It's Time for the February Prayer Breakfast: Saturday, February 16, 9:30-11:00 AM



Come join the fellowship, enjoy the buffet, and share a time of prayer. The great chefs of OPC will be whipping up treats for all breakfast connoisseurs of all ages! The “almost” endless buffet will include an assortment of quiches and breakfast casseroles, the locally sourced pork product medley, the (also) locally sourced pork alternatives, fruit salad, and an abundance of sweet and savory treats...*and yes, this may be the debut of the OPC Prayer Breakfast chocolate fountain!* We'll be enjoying fellowship and sharing breakfast from 9:30-10:15 AM and then lifting our prayer requests until 11:00 AM.

OPC Prayer Breakfasts are a ministry of the Congregational Life Committee...they are a gift freely given. For those wishing to make a free-will contribution, a basket will be available. Offering received will benefit the global hunger mission of Feed My Starving Children.

Responses are appreciated. Please sign up in the Wistar Morris Room following worship, or by contacting Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)).

The OPC Oral History Project started in 2014 is getting resuscitated now that I have more time. Status Report:

- ◆ Approximately 25 interviews have been conducted.
- ◆ We have a list of people yet to be interviewed and welcome interested interviewers. Guidance is available to complete this interesting, rewarding and even fun task.
- ◆ We found an online transcription service (\$1/minute) that will help us convert the recordings to documents that can be read. While it is expensive, the Congregational Life Committee is committed to completing this project and has set aside some of their 2019 budget to cover some of the cost.
- ◆ Completed transcriptions need some editing.
- ◆ We have software that can be used to complete transcriptions on a home computer if someone is interested and able to volunteer.
- ◆ The CLC is evaluating if it would save costs to hire a student to either transcribe the interviews or edit them once transcribed. If you know someone who would have an aptitude for this, please ask them to get in contact with me.



Thank you for your patience, the work is slow-going. I welcome suggestions regarding this project that will help us preserve some history of OPC.

Best Regards, Raelyn Harman ([raelynkay@aol.com](mailto:raelynkay@aol.com), 610-331-8972)



The Philadelphia Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and the Presbytery of Philadelphia invite you to come to their Annual African American Heritage Celebration on Sunday, February 10, 2019, *from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm* at Oxford Presbyterian Church.

**2019 Theme – Becoming New: A Caucus for Such a Time as This!**

*“Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”* Esther 4:14b (NKJV)

- **Guest Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency
- **Honorees:** Rev. Kevin Porter, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Executive Presbytery, Presbytery of Philadelphia.

As part of the celebration, there will be Liturgical Dancer, a Mass Choir, and refreshments following Worship Service.

**Please contact Oxford Presbyterian Church at 215.247.9487 for more information.**

The Philadelphia area offers a wealth of enriching programs in celebration of Black History Month. With them also comes the opportunity for shared learning and fellowship for members and friends of Overbrook. If you would like to help build an “OPC Field Trip” for a group of members and friends, please contact Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org).) We'll be happy to arrange carpools and facilitate group ticket purchase. The following events are offered for your information:

- **February 2, 1:00-4:00 PM:** The African American Children’s Book Fair. Community College of Philadelphia, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia.
- **February 10, 2:00-4:00 PM:** Black History Month Mural Tour. \$32 per person, \$30 for senior, \$28 for students
- **February 16, 5:00-8:00 PM:** Kulu Mele’s Dance and Drum Ensemble “Wemelere: Parade of the Orishas”. Taller Puertorriquenos, 2600 N. 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 91933. Admission Free.
- **February 16, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM:** Freedom’s Journal: The Art of Jerry Pickney. Woodmere Art Museum, 9201 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia. \$10; seniors: \$7; children/students with ID Free.
- **February 19, 5:00-8:00 PM:** History After Hours: Liberty for All? Museum of the American Revolution. Admission \$10 non-members, Free to museum members.
- **February 22, 6:00 PM:** Music at Woodmere: Friday Night Jazz. Stevie Wonder/Smokey Robinson Tribute: Songs in the Key of Life and Love. 9201 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia. \$22 non-members, \$12 members.

### **Military Chaplains Sunday, February 3**

The first Sunday in February is recognized as Military Chaplains Sunday. Initially observed in honor of the four military chaplains who lost their lives during World War II on the USAT Dorchester, Chaplains Sunday offers an opportunity for prayer and gratitude for all who once served, or are currently serving as US military chaplains.

A member of our extended Overbrook family is currently serving as a US Army chaplain. Captain Christopher Duckworth, brother of Jason Duckworth and son of Sharon Parker, is preparing for immediate deployment to Kuwait with his Indiana National Guard unit. During Chaplain Chris’ 13 month tour of duty, prayers are asked for his wife, Jessicah, and children, Talitha, Cana, and Naaman, as well for his home congregation, New Joy Lutheran Church in Carmel, Indiana. While in Kuwait, he will be distributing the gratitude cards, made at Overbrook on MLK Day, to troops deployed in the Middle East.

Blessings to Chaplain Chris and to all whom he serves.



## Congregational Life/Fellowship (Cont'd)

### OPC Women's Retreat

The 2019 Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 23, from 8:30-4:00 PM at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat Center in Bryn Mawr. This special opportunity for Lenten study, contemplation, and celebration of the Lord's Supper is extended to all women of Overbrook. Friends are welcome to participate. The cost of the retreat is \$40.00 which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and all retreat materials. Please save the date, and look for ticket sales to begin later this month.

## Worship

### Lenten Worship 2019

Overbrook will observe the beginning of the Lenten season on March 6, with the 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service. Reverend Raymond Bonwell will lead the worship which will include the imposition of ashes. Midweek Lenten worship and reflection opportunities will continue for five Wednesdays throughout Lent, beginning with a simple soup supper at 6:30 PM, and followed by table worship. Please reserve the following dates and times:

- March 6: Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10: 6:30 PM Lenten soup supper and table worship

## Deacons

### Happy February Birthdays

2/2 Sean Whalen 2/3 Rob Wilson Nick Henry 2/5 Beulah Wilson 2/6 Asa Hausmann Marissa Phan 2/8 Arthur Piatt 2/10 Amos Paul 2/14 Brett Kaercher 2/15 Estalene Ferrillo Philip Piatt Jim Vagnoni 	2/16 Evelyn Gorman 2/17 Jill Van Rawley 2/19 Danielle Long 2/20 Aiyana Long 2/21 Serge Geraldo 2/22 Charles Brown 2/23 Helena Bryant 2/25 Margaret Young Sam Wong 2/27 Sabrina Johnson Nyani O'Leary 2/28 Yannick Geraldo 2/29 Katie Ziemba Tom Lank
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### Prayer List

- ◆ Frank Fairfax, Iris' father, died this week.
- ◆ Pat Dillon is continuing her recovery after a successful hip-replacement surgery.
- ◆ Eric Long's father, Bill Long, had cancer recurrence.
- ◆ Judy Kelly Johnson, Danielle Long's mother, is having a partial hip replacement.
- ◆ Prayers of Thanksgiving for Becky Lazo's mother who is now completely recovered.
- ◆ Lynda Johnson is scheduled for ambulatory surgery to improve circulation in her veins.
- ◆ Gwen Harden continues to recover from gallstone surgery.
- ◆ Ernestine Harris, mother-in-law of Lynn Pompa, is recovering well from her cardiac procedures.
- ◆ Dick Williamson is undergoing medical testing.
- ◆ Terri Carter is doing well with her physical therapy after her hip replacement.
- ◆ Wayne Gage, Chris Gage's father, is recovering from a heart procedure.
- ◆ Ellen Burr is experiencing ongoing medical concerns.

*Please contact Mike Rottinger to add names or concerns to this list.  
Mike can be reached by email, [mike.rottinger@comcast.net](mailto:mike.rottinger@comcast.net).*



A heartfelt thank you from Ellen Burr for all the flowers, cards and phone calls over the past couple of months. It is greatly appreciated. -Ellen Burr

## *News from the Crossroads*



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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### Upcoming Worship Services

#### February 3, 2019

*Communion Sunday/4th Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lectionary: Psalm 24:1-8, Mark 2:13-17*

*Preaching: The Rev. Laura Colee*

*Lay Leader: Amos Paul*

#### February 10, 2019

*5th Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lectionary: Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11*

*Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell*

*Lay Leader: Becky Lazo*

#### February 17, 2019

*6th Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lectionary: To be Determined*

*Preaching: To be Determined*

*Lay Leader: Raelyn Harman*

#### February 24, 2019

*7th Sunday after Epiphany/Congregational Meeting*

*Lectionary: To be Determined*

*Preaching: Candidate for Pastor*

*Lay Leader: Greta Ham*

Datesaver: Ash Wednesday worship, March 6, 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary