



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

June 2017

Letter from the Pastors

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

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



When we recently bought postcard stamps for sending out invitations for our installation service, we noticed that the stamps had beautiful pictures of seashells on them. There was a wonderful connection there. Since the time of the early church, the seashell has been a symbol of baptism. At an installation service, as a church and its pastors celebrate a call to serve together, it is appropriate for all of us to remember our baptism, when we were first called by God to a life of love and service.

At Pentecost, June 4 this year, the church celebrates the Holy Spirit working among us— bringing the church into being, giving us courage and gifts to serve God in the world, giving us truth to speak and love to share. We associate many of the same words with Pentecost that we do with baptism: Holy Spirit, calling, vocation, service, gifts, and— most of all— love.

If you go to the shore this summer, see if you can find a special seashell in the sand to bring home. Or find a postcard of a seashell, or a small picture of one, and use it as a bookmark where you will see it often. Use it to remember your baptism. Use it to remember the beginning of your journey of faith. Then ponder how your journey of faith has brought you into the church. How has God given you the gift of the Holy Spirit? What gifts has God given you for serving others and making a difference in the world?



As we are reminded in the second chapter of Acts, God brings together young and old, as well as people from many cultures and backgrounds, to be the church and to share Christ's love. Join us on Pentecost as we celebrate God's Spirit moving in the church today.

Grace and Peace
Bruce and Carolyn Gillette

Sundays in June

June 4, 2017
Communion
Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Sharon Parker



June 11, 2017
Trinity Sunday
Matt. 28:16-20

Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Amanda Duckworth



June 18, 2017
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Matt. 9:35

Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Jonathon Kopcsik



June 25, 2017
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Matt. 10:24-39

Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Calvin Marshall

Church Office Hours

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

Worship & Music



On Sunday, June 11, 2017, at 3:00 p.m., six organ students of Minister of Music, Dennis Elwell, will present an organ recital on the Clarence H. Geist Moller Memorial Organ, in the Overbrook Church Sanctuary. Playing the music of *Johann Sebastian Bach, César Franck, Walter Pelz, Calvin Taylor, Adolphus Hailstork, William Walton, and Paul Ayres*, will be James Pavlock, Alan Shiffert, Ethel Geist, Karen Whitney, Bernard Kane, and Aaron Patterson. The varied program features works from the 18th to the 21st century, even including a spirited piece based on a *Beatles* tune from the 1960's. The recital is open to all without any admission fee. You are cordially invited to hear these talented musicians as they put the organ through its paces. Following the recital, there will be a reception in the Chapel for all to meet and greet the performers. Soli Deo Gloria!

The Music Director Search - Update



The Music Director Search Committee (MDSC) has been hard at work. And we are so glad to have heard from so many of you! Altogether 68 people responded to the brief congregational survey, demonstrating the centrality of music to the worship experience at Overbrook. The responses were resoundingly appreciative of the superlative music program here. There was also a clear desire among many respondents for something additional. Survey responses included “contemporary, gospel, variety, Youth Choir, inclusiveness, and use of more instrumentalists and talent from the congregation”. As far as what kind of Music Director respondents wanted, “one with broad knowledge and experience plus creativity and willingness to work with diverse styles of music” was a major theme. As was “another Dennis”. Thank you for taking the time to participate in the process.

MDSC has received 24 applications as of May 7th, and we have narrowed that group to 11, with a handful of well-qualified, interesting front-runners. Interviews will be underway by the time you receive this newsletter.

Congregational Life



For the Session and Members of OPC:

Many thanks to all of you for the past 18 months, for the caring during radiation, for sitting through sermons, meetings and whatever else, for all of your support. I've enjoyed every minute of it. And thanks for the final event. Blessings to you all. And be assured that the two restaurant cards will be used for “date nights”. Fondly - Drew

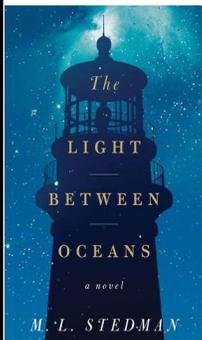
In honor of our outgoing Christian Education Director, Sharon Parker:

Thank you to OPC for raising \$1,067 in honor of Sharon Parker's service as Christian Education Director. One way the donation will be spent is to add WiFi and a screen to the Youth Room which can also be used as a meeting room for other groups. We'll keep you posted as to what other items on Sharon's wish list we'll purchase for our Christian Education Program. Thank you to the many hands which contributed to the special coffee hour in Sharon's honor.

-Raelyn Harman

Urban/Suburban Book Club

June's Selection: *The Light Between Oceans*
by M.L. Stedman



This month's book club will be held at Overbrook Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, June 20th at 7:00 pm.

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. The Book Club does not meet in July or August

OPC Book Club

June's Selection: *Signs Preceding the End of the World*
by Yuri Herrera



All are welcome to the Overbrook Book Club meeting on Thursday, May 20th at 7:30 pm, location to be determined.

Yuri Herrera explores the crossings and translations people make in their minds and language as they move from one country to another, especially when there's no going back. Traversing this lonely territory is Makina, a young woman who knows only too well how to survive in a violent, macho world. Leaving behind her life in Mexico to search for her brother, she is smuggled into the USA carrying a pair of secret messages – one from her mother and one from the Mexican underworld.

Congregational Life



Dear Overbrook Family,

Your abundant kindness is such a blessing! Throughout my time at Overbrook, you have held me in prayer, and through your gifts of time, talents and personal resources, you have demonstrated unwavering support for our children and youth.

On May 7, you gave me a gift of great joy...one that I will always treasure. The kind comments during worship, the extraordinary Coffee Hour buffet (tea sandwiches and petit fours!), and the lovely album created wonderful memories for me and my family. I have also been informed that contributions were received for a "youth ministry vision fund." Those very generous gifts will allow the Youth Room to have internet connectivity, video capabilities, and increased egress...enhancements that will greatly expand the educational value of that space.

My heart is filled with gratitude!

Love and blessings to all, Sharon Parker

BELOVED COFFEE HOUR



During the summer months we still carry on the OPC tradition of Coffee Hour but we change to Ice Tea/Lemonade Hour during the warmer weather. Currently, there are no volunteers for the month of June. When no one person or family signs up to be the coordinator/host of coffee hour we will post an online sign-up page for people to commit to accomplishing discrete tasks such as bringing 3 dozen bites of something to eat, clean-up, set-up, greeting at the Wister Morris entryway, etc. When one or two people sign up in the binder in the Wister Morris room to host coffee hour, the expectation is that it be a group effort not the responsibility of one or two individuals. Children love to help out so recruit yours or someone else's. All hosts are much appreciated and remember to keep it simple. Please contact Amarilis Stricker (484-270-8351) or Raelyn Harman (610-331-8972) if you have any questions.

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 the 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.

Christian Education

Summer Opportunities for Christian Education by Pastor Carolyn Gillette

The last day for our Church School classes was on May 28. Opportunities for learning about God's love continue throughout the summer.

-**Vacation Bible School** will be Sunday, July 30 to Thursday, August 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This year VBS has a mission theme: "Clean Water for All God's Children!" Daily Bible stories— all based on a water theme— will include the creation story, Jesus' baptism, Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well, and more. Children will learn that water is a good gift from God, that we are called to be good stewards of water, and that water is a gift to be shared. Registration forms are available in the church office. Thank you!

-**OPC Youth Mission Trip** will be a local one this year, as thirteen of our youth and their adult leaders serve for a week in Philadelphia from August 6 - 12 with The Center for Student Missions (CSM). Participants will serve in various mission projects throughout the city. Please put these dates on your calendar to pray for the OPC youth during the week they will be serving.

-**"Church to Go" Family Activity Boxes:** This year, beginning in mid-June, "Church to Go" activity boxes will be available for families to pick up before they head out of town, or to enjoy as stay-at-home summer activities. Each box will contain music, puzzles, activities and more, to remind children and families that God is with us wherever we go and whatever we do throughout the summer.

-Remember to take advantage of the new **Christian Education Family Resource Center** on the second floor of Fellowship Hall, directly across the hallway from the Bell Choir Room. There are games, puzzles, family videos, children's books, and Bibles for all ages, along with a sign-out sheet so you can take these materials home for your family to enjoy together.

-**Summer Programs for Adults on Sundays, Wednesdays & More:** Adult Forum on Sunday mornings and the Wednesday Morning Bible study will continue into the summer. If you enjoy these programs during the year, we hope you will continue to enjoy them in the summer. Maybe the summer months offer a change in schedule that would allow you to attend one of these educational opportunities for the first time. Also in the coming months, look for information about a weekday evening Bible study for adults. Please contact one of the pastors for more information about adult education events.

-**Summer Reading & Personal Study:** Our pastors are happy to recommend wonderful reading for your personal growth this summer on a wide variety of topics. They enjoy hearing about good books from others as well.



Christian Education

Thank You to Our Sunday School Volunteers:



Thank you to all of the wonderful teachers and helpers who volunteered with OPC's Sunday School classes and program during the 2016 - 2017 year: Carol Rozmiarek, Kadie Whalen, Sabrina Johnson, Becky Lazo, Cheryl Davis, Judy Williamson, Nickie Stokes, Jason Duckworth, Raelyn Harman, Jill Van Rawley, Brian Taussig-Lux, Jason Sheau, Artia Benjamin, Nicole Stokes Robinson, Trudy and Phil Sheau, Margaret Young, and Sharon Parker. Thank you also to Leonard Robbins making sure our classrooms and facilities provide a wonderful place for children, youth and adults to learn and grow in faith.

Finance

MARCH 2017	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Total Revenue	\$ 34,917.24	\$ 47,995.29	\$ 167,948.81	\$ 143,985.57
Total Expenses	\$ 57,627.69	\$ 47,939.81	\$ 148,160.85	\$ 143,819.43
Net	\$ (22,710.45)	\$ 55.48	\$ 19,787.96	\$ 166.44

Stewardship



Every year, we as members of this church, are asked to make a pledge to the church in writing. Those pledges keep the church's mission and vision going. One thing we don't often talk or think about is legacy giving, in other words, naming the church in our will or trust. Wouldn't it be wonderful to sustain this church after your time here has ended, to know that you are helping to ensure your dreams for the future of Overbrook Presbyterian Church are realized? Your gifts have the potential for huge impact on the future ministry of our church.

Wouldn't it be great that whenever our church experienced significant capital needs like a diminishing endowment, handicap accessibility concerns, energy efficiency improvements, leaky windows, roof repairs, asbestos removal, (I could go all day!), there would not be a need for capital campaign fundraising because of endowed funds? You can help make that happen, not only with what you give today but also with what you give via will or trust. Setting up your bequest is simple. Name Overbrook Presbyterian Church for a gift in your will. Whether it's a percentage of your estate, a specific item or a certain amount cash or property, you choose how to continue giving to your church. Just this last Friday, Overbrook received a very generous bequest from the late Binnie Savage. Another generous gift was also made by the late Ellen Sloan. Eleanor Ridell, who was only with us for a few years, also remembered Overbrook in her will.

Please do as Paul and I plan on doing with our will. Ensure your legacy to this wonderful church. If you don't have a will, make one. If your will currently leaves out your Overbrook Church bequest, update it to financially remember your church. Our wills include material things, living expenses and of course our loved ones, but shouldn't our wills also include our Christian faith? Big or small, our church bequests will all come together to further the mission of this place we all love, our Overbrook Church, for generations to come. If you have any questions or need more information on how to include Overbrook in your will, please contact Will Schick, Kate Shackelford or Pastors Bruce and Carolyn. -Amarilis and Paul Stricker

Mission & Outreach

Overflowing Generosity" One Great Hour of Sharing 2017

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to support One Great Hour of Sharing. This year's collection, called Overflowing Generosity, focused on the need for safe drinking water as near as Flint, Michigan and as far away as Ghana, Africa. Overbrook's total donation of \$3,737.00 will be combined with donations from churches all over



Save the Date for a Mid-Summer Event

Overbrook Church and the Mission & Outreach Committee are excited to be hosting the Reverend Barry Dawson and his wife, Shelly, Presbyterian missionaries in Southeast Asia. They will be with us the weekend of July 15 - 16. A variety of events will be planned so that we can meet them and learn about their work.



Mission & Outreach



Your generosity and support of the Mission & Outreach projects is inspiring. Through your support, we are able to feed children around the globe who most desperately need nutrition, we supply water to communities that don't have safe drinking water, and we provide meals in our local community. This summer we will collect school supplies for "the Village" (formerly the Presbyterian Children's Village), so they can feel confident that they have the tools they need to learn and are ready for the first day of school and the Women's Dining Circle will meet to raise funds for the youth mission trip. On May 30, Nancy Gilhool organized a team to cook dinner and serve 200 people at the Life Center. We are blessed to be able to serve and we can't do any of it without your support. We are grateful to all of you, who help us to make an impact on the lives of those in need. If you are interested in getting involved with Mission & Outreach, please join us at our next

meeting on Sunday, June 25 at 12:00 in the Chapel, or contact Aimerie Scherluebbe to be added to the email distribution list of committee members



The final show for this season with NCT's "Don't Dress for Dinner" has dropped its curtains. It is with great appreciation to the following concessionaires who helped us to finish out this run. KUDOS to Jane and

Carol Rozmiarek, Edelene Carroll, Nancy Gilhool, Lainie Blodgett, Charlotte Carpenter, Nickie Stokes, Artia Benjamin, Ginny Leagans, Aimerie Scherluebbe, Lois and Bill Randel, and Jill VanRawley and her daughters, Annabelle and Geneva, and Janet and Jeff Bowker. *With Thanks Judy Sheau*

The Women's Dining Circle will meet Friday, June 16, 2017 at 6:30pm to support our summer youth mission trip. Come join us for sit-down dinner and hear about the how our youth will help out those in need in Philadelphia. Raelyn Harman has kindly offered to share her home for this event. Watch your email for an Evite with the details. If you are not receiving Evites for the Women's Dining Circle, contact the office to be added to the list or to get the details.

Deacons



High School Graduates

- ♦ Sarah Stephens graduates from Haverford HS and will attend Penn State's Schreyer Honors College in State College. She also won the 1 mile run in her school last track meet of the season
- ♦ Maya Subramanian graduates from Haverford HS and will attend Arcadia University to study International Relations and public health.
- ♦ Rayna Mason graduates from The Shipley School and will attend Elon University in NC in the fall.
- ♦ Daniel McIhenney will graduate from Springfield High School

College Graduates

- ♦ Madeline Piatt Cosgriff graduates from Carleton College earning a B.A. in Mathematics/Statistics for the next year she will work as a clinical research assistant in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital
- ♦ Christine Stephens graduates cum laude from Penn State University earning a B.S in Environmental Resource Management this summer she has an internship program going to work for a NaturServe with the National Park Service.
- ♦ Sofia Seidel graduates from Sarah Lawrence College earning a B.A. She will resume working at the Meg Saligman Studio.
- ♦ Ben Kelner graduates from Furman University earning a MS in Psychology and plans to attend graduate school
- ♦ Jabar Wilson graduates from Sheffield University in Sheffield England, UK earning a BS in Chemistry and plans to attend graduate school at University of Pennsylvania
- ♦ Cat McManus graduated from University of Pennsylvania earning a BA in Education

Middle School

- ♦ Zack Wong, Justin Robertson, Ava Clifford, Audrey Sigler and Geneva Van Rawley graduates from Bala Cynwyd Middle School will be attending Lower Merion High School
- ♦ Lucy Duckworth is graduating from JR Masterman and will be attending high school at JR Masterman

If anyone else has a graduate in their family that is not mentioned here please contact Artia Benjamin at newlife5125@aol.com and we will be sure to recognize them in the July Newsletter.

Deacons



6/03-Jonathan Wiggins	6/18-Christopher Sheau
6/04-Deb Rottinger	Maya Phan
6/05-Shirly Alford	6/19- Nancy Walton
6/06-Sean Henry	Ben Nicholson
Rosa Jones	6/20- Elizabeth Molina
6/07-Karen Ivory	Maya Williamson
6/09-Julie Tulba	Paul Stricker
6/10-Mick Stanley	Miriam Harden
6/11-Will Vagnoni	Liz Shah
Kate Shackelford	6/22-Ernestine Harris
6/13-Ted Dillon	6/25-Mimi Winkler
Laurel Wilson	6/26-Ron Homer
Anna Taussig-Lux	Bette Homer
6/14-Sharon Parker	Estevan Molina
6/16-Steven Folwell	6/29-Jane Bevan
6/17-Matthew Horst	Kevin Trindade



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.



Pastoral Care: We are grateful to people who let us know about pastoral needs in our church and community. Please

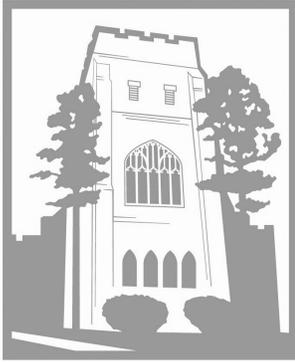
contact us by email or by phone: pastors@overbrookpresb.org, bruce@overbrookpresb.org or carolyn@overbrookpresb.org or call us (Office: 215-877-2744 or Bruce’s Cell: 302-528-1796 or Carolyn’s Cell: 302-528-1797) if you, or someone you know, would like a visit from an Overbrook pastor. We welcome visiting 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

Prayer List

- ◆The family of Jeff Roth on the passing of Jeff .
- ◆The Biedermann family on the death of Margene’s mom.
- ◆Sabrina Johnson on the death of her aunt and grandfather.
- ◆Mike and Deb Rottinger on the wedding of their daughter, Jessica.
- ◆Lynn Pompa on his recent diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease
- ◆Denise, the daughter-in-law of Calvin Marshall, on her recent diagnosis of breast cancer
- ◆Jane Bevan –health problems
- ◆Phil Amerman, Emily Amerman’s brother, and Emily and her two siblings; Phil is on hospice.
- ◆Pastor Carolyn’s mother, Jane Winfrey , is out of ICU and may soon move to rehab.
- ◆Aimerie Scherluebbe and her recent diagnosis of Hashimoto’s thyroiditis
- ◆Elizabeth Molina and her mom Phyllis Watson
- ◆The Ziemba family on the birth of their son, Lucas Owen

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.

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

Church and Community

Church Picnic



Congregational Picnic-
Sunday, June 11th- following
worship. There will be food,
fellowship, music and games.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, along with Larry Farmbry will be sponsoring a “Shredding Event” in the OPC parking lot on Saturday, June 10, from 10:00 a.m. til noon.



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