



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

October 2018

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

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

Church Office Hours

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

It is a joy to see the Spirit moving at Overbrook.

First, I would like to thank you all for the warmest of welcomes. It is indeed an unexpected pleasure to be with you for this next season. It has been my experience that serving successfully in a part-time capacity requires local leadership and ongoing communication: Overbrook has demonstrated both. Your staff (Sharon, Chris, Lisa, Carol and Leonard) are truly committed. The deacons have been helpful in prioritizing visitations. And the leadership from session and the committees is impressive.

October offers the ongoing, the unique, and the extraordinary.

From an ongoing perspective, the Adult Forum at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays is off to a strong start. The topics change each week; stay tuned to the bulletin for updates. The Adult Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays is exploring the Old Testament, with the expectation we will conclude by reading through one of the prophets (most likely one of the twelve Minor Prophets). All are welcome at any time. And Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. continues, following the Revised Common Lectionary. While the texts for the week ahead are published in each bulletin, a wonderful resource I use is online at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>. Sharon, Chris and I, with the Worship and Music Committee, will soon begin planning for Advent and Christmas – stay tuned!

From a unique perspective, I hope you have Sunday, October 7 and Saturday, October 20 marked on your calendars. Sunday, October 7 at 2:00 p.m. features the Blessing of the Animals. And Saturday, October 20 is the Taste of Overbrook!

Finally, from an extraordinary perspective, the Presbytery of Philadelphia is sponsoring a “Fall Fest” on Saturday, October 13. Hosted by the Carmel Presbyterian Church from 9:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., it features a keynote speaker and eight different workshops. More information is at <https://presbyphl.org/events/fall-fest/>.

You can consistently reach your pastor at pastor@overbrookpresb.org (and please be prepared to see my response at raymond@overbrookpresb.org).

Yours in Christ’s Service,
Raymond



Worship and Music

We welcome our Bridge Pastor, Rev. Raymond Bonwell, who is providing Bible Study weekly at 10:00 on Wednesday mornings. We are studying the Old Testament in overview at first, then to go deeper into one of the prophets later in the year. He is also presiding over Sunday morning services and pastoral care on Sunday afternoon.

We welcome the Overbrook Choir back for another season, with our new alto soloist, Molly McDonald. You may notice that we have changed our seating arrangement. Music Director Dr. Chris Gage is trying a new way to see if we can hear each other better and improve our sound. Deb Rottinger has also fearlessly joined our Alto section. You can fearlessly join the choir too--just speak to Chris!

Unfortunately, the Bell Choir is not active at this point. Many people have decided to no longer participate, and there are not enough ringers to make even a basic bell choir. If you want a Bell Choir, volunteers must be found! Chris plans to start with easy music to enable beginners to ring. The pleasure of hearing a Bell Choir piece come together is amazing! You do not necessarily have to read music to do this! You circle your notes and ring when they come up. You DO have to be able to count. Again, please speak to Chris if you are interested.

Worship and Music Chair: Rachel Carnahan. Scrivener: Eileen Wiggins. Lay leaders: Alyce Marsh. Communion and Acolytes: Nickie Stokes. Ushers: Dick Williamson. Other valued members: Beulah Wilson, Sharon Parker, Jane Krumrine, Trudy Sheau. Please contact Rachel Carnahan with any concerns.

There are many important worship dates ahead this fall, which will be appropriately celebrated:

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---|
| ◆ October 7 | World Communion Sunday | ◆ October 7 | Blessing of the Animals 2 pm |
| ◆ October 28 | Heritage Sunday | ◆ November 4 | All Saints' Sunday |
| No Thanksgiving service this year | | ◆ November 30 | Christ the King Sunday |
| ◆ December 2 | Advent begins | ◆ December 16 | Greening of the Church |
| | Messiah sing 3 PM | ◆ December 24 | Christmas Eve services at 5 pm for families |
| | | | Lessons and Carols at 9pm |

Upcoming Worship Schedule

October 7, 2018

World Communion

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Mark 10:2-16

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Will Schick

Coffee Hour: TBD

October 14, 2018

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Mark 10:17-31

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: LaToya Richie

Coffee Hour: The Whalen Family

October 21, 2018

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Mark 10:35-45

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Keedra Carroll

Coffee Hour: Taste of Overbrook Committee

October 28, 2018

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Mark 10:46-52

Preaching: The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Lay Leader: Jill VanRawley

Coffee Hour: Phil Sheau

Don't forget: October 7 at 2:00 pm is the **Blessing of the Animals**. Pastor Raymond Bonwell invites you to bring your pet, whether stuffed, or singing, splashing, purring or barking to this special service. The Blessing of the Animals, held on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Francis, will include a short service on the church lawn and a personal blessing for all pets. Come join us to offer thanksgiving for the creatures of God's kingdom. This event will be rain or shine.

October 28 is Heritage Sunday. We will be honoring members that have been a part of our Overbrook Family for 25 years or more. We will also be singing the Centennial Hymn.

Christian Education



October is "All Clear" Month!

Good news...Overbrook has over 90 children and youth on our rolls! At their Baptism, we promised to support their faith formation, guide them, and hold them in prayer. They deserve the finest programs and faith formation opportunities that we have to offer. In order to deliver these programs and opportunities, there is a need for additional adult helpers and leaders. Like us, our children and youth are Pennsylvanians. They are served by the Pennsylvania Child Protection Laws, and we, who care for them, are bound to adhere to those statutes.

Throughout October, the Christian Education Team will be encouraging members of Overbrook to apply for PA Child Protection Clearances. Under Pennsylvania law, all adults volunteering to work with children and youth as program assistants, drivers, or fellow committee or program members, are required to have the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Records Check and the Child Abuse History Clearance. Adults wishing to serve in key leadership roles such as Sunday School teacher, youth group leader, mission trip chaperone, or Confirmation mentor, will also need to obtain Mandatory Reporter Certification.

Since the inception of this law, the clearance processes have been streamlined to promote ease of application. Overbrook reimburses all costs associated with applying. Once received, clearances are placed in a secure file in the church office. Members already holding clearances as part of their job requirements, are encouraged to place a copy in the OPC files. Having clearances on file doesn't imply that one is obligated to serve or teach the children and youth of OPC...it simply means that we will have the joyful liberty to do so. To learn more about this process please visit the website (KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov), stop at the *All Clear* table during Coffee Hour, or contact Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com).



OPC Youth October Calendar

OPC Youth is for all Overbrook students and friends in grades 6-12! We're not a club...OPC Youth is a flexible program of events designed to promote mission and service to others, build faith, and guarantee good fellowship. (Yep...*guarantee!*) OPC Youth allows you to choose adventures and activities that fit your schedule, your interests, and your calling!

Learning: Sunday Classes from 11:15-Noon (second, third, fourth, and sometimes, fifth Sunday of each month.)

Middle School Youth: What's Cooking? Sunday, October 14, 12:15-1:30 PM All students in Grades 6-8 are invited to grab and apron and stir the pots! Come to the kitchen where we'll be making soup for Aid For Friends. While the pots are simmering, we'll also be sharing lunch together. Each participant will earn an official *OPC Mission Possible* chef's apron.

High School Youth: Triennium Preview! Sunday, October 14, 6:00-8:00 PM All high school students interested in learning about the 2019 PC-USA Triennium at Purdue University (July 16-20), are invited to the Triennium preview at Oxford Presbyterian Church. Transportation will be provided. *Let's go to Purdue!*

All Youth: Saturday, October 27 7:00-8:30 PM Hip-Hop Concert and Music Workshop at Gladwyne Presbyterian Church featuring Friends Central staff member, Dwight Dunston and his group City Love. The theme of their concert/workshop is Music and Justice; Faith and Action. Students from Beth Am Israel, Gladwyne Presbyterian, and Beth David synagogue will also be participating. There's no charge to attend...friends are welcome!

November 2-4: Fall Retreat at Camp Kirkwood for Youth in Grades 6-9

Let's head to the foothills of the Poconos for a weekend of fellowship, fun, and faith with kids from throughout the Philadelphia and Lehigh Presbyteries! This will be the weekend of the "Great Pumpkin Zip-line Challenge"...and a weekend of great memories. The Kirkwood Fall Retreat begins on Friday, November 2 at 6:00 PM and concludes at 5:00 PM on Sunday, November 4. All-inclusive OPC cost is \$35.00 per student (regular cost: \$75.00). Reserve your space today by contacting Sharon Parker.

Junior Goblin" Bowling, October 28, 2:00-4:00 PM, Wynnewood Lanes All children in Pre-K through Grade 5 are invited for an afternoon of bowling, pizza, and prizes! Feel free to come in costume! Cost: \$5.00 per person. Parents and friends are welcome. RSVP: Sharon Parker by October 25.

Mission and Outreach



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

We were delighted to have the Reverend Lawrence Low and Richard Morrow join us for Adult Forum in September. It was because of your generous donations to **One Great Hour of Sharing** that we were recognized by the Presbytery for our 25% increase over last year.

We had a very informative discussion on One Great Hour of Sharing and in particular the Self Development of People. The interesting thing about this program is that it takes place right in our own community in the form of grants. One Great Hour of Sharing is eager to hand out more of these grants and they will help you with the application. The maximum amount for qualified applications is \$15,000.

For more information and the application go to pcusa.org/sdop.

Richard Morrow is our local contact for the Self Development of People. If you have more questions, you can contact him by email at rgm24633@verizon.net.

Your donations earlier this year, allowed the Disaster Relief Program of One Great Hour of Sharing, to get started right away to help the people who were impacted by Hurricane Florence. In these situations, time is of the essence and you made it possible to have relief efforts started right away to meet their most immediate needs. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously.

The Women's Dining Circle reconvened to support the Women's Law Project at Karen Wong's house. The women of the church gather to hear about this very interesting group devoted to advancing the rights of women and girls. We were able to raise funds to support the important work of this organization.

We have a lot coming up this year. If you would like to get or know more about what we do, come to our next meeting on **Sunday, November 4 at 12:00pm in the Chapel**. Grab some refreshments from coffee hour we will see you there.



Update & News about Feed My Starving Children: What were you doing on April 27 of this year? Was it packing meals? Weighing ingredients? Hauling boxes? Praying for the people who were at the MobilePack? Well, all your hard work paid off: over 300 children in South Sudan received 116,424 meals that we packed. Thank God! If that warms your heart and gets you excited, please note that we have a date set for 2019. The Care at the Crossroads MobilePack will be at Bonner & Prendie High School again on **April 28**. It's

not too early to mark your calendar and consider setting aside a jar to collect quarters until then. Remember 1 meal costs just 22 cents, so each quarter you set aside = life-saving nourishment for a child.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, support, and generosity. Stay tuned for more updates!

-The OPC Care at the Crossroads team



FEED THE HUNGRY

Shelter Meal

Don't let October end without considering helping with the shelter meal on Tuesday, October 30.

If you would like to help shop or cook, please contact Nancy Gilhool, If you can help serve, please contact Janet Bowker at jbowker@friendscentral.org.

Nancy Gilhool, gilhoolfam@verizon.net



NCT NARBETH COMMUNITY THEATRE
New season beginning this Nov. 2nd, Friday
Little Shop of Horrors!

a delectable sci-fi horror musical (1960's pop/rock score)

Running from November 2-11, 2018

We are gearing up for another concession run for the Narberth Community Theater play this November with a new play (or maybe not so familiar one) of Little Shop of Horrors, a musical.

There is a **Signup Genius** solicitation out on the listserv for staffing – and you can also contact me if you are interested in helping to work on this refreshment stand.

Revenues from 'THEATRE REFRESHMENT STAND' are slotted to support OPC's general budget.

Contact Person: Trudy Sheau, 215 878 4872

Property Committee



Your property committee has continued to cope with the problems of an old, but beautiful, building.

We have had another roof leak, due to all the heavy rain, but that was solved by cleaning out a gutter or two. Still to remedy the interior damage. The roof over the service room and stairwell was corrected by the roofer without further charge.

The men continue to contend with the problems of the City Ave. Door, which is still not available for use. It has become a much larger problem, but slowly it is being dealt with. We will keep you posted.

A Garden day was rained out in early September. We hope to reschedule on the first Saturday of October, following the regular Men's Group meeting.

The Storm Water management project continues behind the scenes, with detailed plans being drawn up before construction of the rain garden begins along the City Ave. wall. The Parking will not be affected until January 2019.

Water use has varied quite widely over the past year, and we are in the process of investigating possible reasons for this.

The Leases for Narberth Community Theater and Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten, as well as the German Society and other long term renters are in place.

Please *HELP* your Property Committee! If you notice a leak in a toilet or sink, please let one of us know, or inform the Office. If you notice something broken or otherwise in need of attention, let us know that too! Feel free to email or call any of us with questions or comments.

Larry McGhee, Ted Dillon and Jeff Bowker are Co-chairs of the committee. *Rachel Carnahan* has primary responsibility for outdoor projects. *Phil Sheau* is expert in dealing with the City of Philadelphia. *Jason Sheau* is expert in the Lift and all things tech. *Bill Baker* works with Finance. *Susy Brandt* keeps us grounded in history.

Stewardship

Each fall, Overbrook Presbyterian Church asks us to prayerfully consider our financial contribution for the coming year. This is a deeply personal determination. It's also important for the life and planning of the church and its missions. The pledges made are used to build the coming year's budget, which guides many key decisions on our ministries, our personnel, our equipment, our building, our outreach and more.

Three coming Sundays will feature speakers briefly sharing their personal journey with Overbrook and why they provide financial support. This series will culminate in Pledge Sunday on Nov. 18, when the community is invited to have pledges dedicated and blessed.

Pledges from nearly 100 individuals and families have exceeded \$400,000 in some recent years, and we are aiming to return to and even surpass that total for 2019.

Please consider: What does Overbrook mean to you?

Your financial support of Overbrook is especially important in our time of transition, to ensure the Church at the Crossroads can continue to live its mission to love and serve God, each other and the world.



Congregational Life/Fellowship

Coffee Hour for October

We are still in need of hosts for the following Sundays: October 7 and November 4, 18 and 25.

If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour instructions for this easily accomplished, highly valued ministry 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.



Urban Suburban Book Club

October selection - Just Mercy - A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

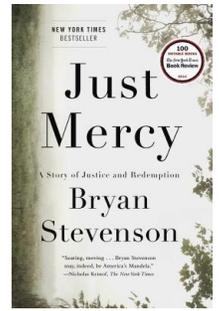
Meeting: Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 12 noon at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Bring your lunch.

November selection - The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 7pm at Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

We do not meet in December.

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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry-We are making an important change to the Overbrook prayer shawl ministry meeting times. Our ministry will meet the 4th Monday of every month, the times are as follows:

- Daytime group will meet on the 4th Monday at 1pm
- Evening group will meet on the 4th Monday at 7pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 29.

The prayer shawl ministry makes handmade shawls and lap throws to provide comforting gifts for those for whom we are praying. Anyone who has handwork skills such as knitting, crocheting, weaving or quilting OR anyone who wishes to learn a skill is invited to join the group. Simple lap looms will be available to anyone who would like to be a part of the group using a quick-to-learn skill. You do not need to attend meetings to contribute your work.

If you would like to know more or be added to our email list, please contact Mary Lou Ryce at marylou.ryce@gmail.com or 410-370-4211.

Communication

CATCH UP WITH SESSION



We continue our small-group sharing and learning opportunities with our second Coffee and Conversation with Overbrook Session. Next one will be held on Sunday, October 28 at 12:15 p.m. (after Coffee Hour and Sunday School).

Please join us in keeping the conversation going!



LIKE US ON

facebook

OPC has two different Facebook pages.

The "Overbrook Presbyterian Church Community" page is a **closed group** on Facebook. This is a private page and posts here will only be seen by members of the group--not by the public. This page is a closed group where we can share photos and prayer concerns in private and it will only be seen by OPC members and friends that have been approved by the page administrators and not by the public. Page administrators are OPC members.

The other page is simply "Overbrook Presbyterian Church". This is the Official and **public** church page that announces church events, activities, and services. This page is what potential visitors will see when they check us out on the internet. We encourage all OPC members and friends to "like" the public facing Overbrook page. Be sure you're looking at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church page for the one in Philadelphia, not the ones in Richmond, Gaffney, or Columbus.

Deacons

Happy October Birthdays

10/1	Elizabeth Bouzarth	10/19	Jackson Ziemba
	Leonard Sloan	10/23	Donya Coldwell
	Johanna Gosfield	10/24	Michael Pompa
10/3	Hannah Lazo		Beth Smith
	Diana Sigler	10/25	Amanda Gilhool
	Virginia Russell		Park Mayne
10/5	Rebecca Winkler	10/28	Marita Patino-Treat
10/7	Edwin Beausoleil	10/29	Henry Baker
10/8	Emily Amerman		
10/9	Amanda Duckworth		
10/11	Don Carver		
10/12	Matthew Henry		
10/13	Saronn Cummings		
	Siarra Cummings		
	Jack Marshall		
10/14	Frances Cuvilly		
10/16	Lisa Faso		
	Jane Rozmiarek		



Prayer List

- ◆Vimala Johnson on the death of her husband Ballikourava Johnson.
- ◆Wayne Gage, Chris Gage's father, undergoing testing for a heart condition.
- ◆Max Mason's mother, Betty Fletcher, is in hospice care.
- ◆Sabrina Johnson's uncle is recovering from surgery and was recently diagnosed with Parkinson disease.
- ◆Lynn Pompa recovering at home from back surgery.
- ◆Valerie Williams, Sabrina Johnson's aunt, is starting treatment for breast cancer.
- ◆Luis Wong and his caregivers for his many ongoing challenges.
- ◆John Nathaniel is at home recovering.
- ◆Ellen Burr has moved to the medical section at the Quadrangle; her new apartment number is 8350 and her updated phone number is 610-658-7570.

Please contact Mike Rottinger to add names or concerns to this list. Mike can be reached by email, mike.rottinger@comcast.net.

THANK YOU!



Thanks to all the donors and volunteers who made this year's blood drive a big success. We had 22 pints of blood donated! The Overbrook community is awesome. The Red Cross is already asking to come back next year.

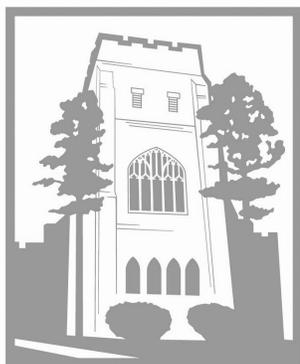
Nominating Committee

Your Nominating Committee happily reports that we have received many nominations for the various OPC leadership positions. Thank you all who nominated members or who self-nominated. (We don't know who the self-nominators are in case you anyone was wondering.)

The **deadline** for nominating Elders, Deacons, and 2019 Nominating Committee at-large members is **October 28**. Feel free to email Will Schick willsch84@yahoo.com with nominations until if email is your preferred method of communications

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our prayerful discernment.

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org



Taste of Overbrook 2018

Saturday, October 20th

6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar and grab your tickets for Taste of Overbrook - a celebration of this community's rich diversity, its unrivaled love of fellowship and food, and a unique opportunity to support the church and its missions.

The evening features home-cooked delicacies from around the globe that showcase our many cultural backgrounds. We'll also have a live and silent auction and items for raffle.

Event tickets on sale at Coffee Hour or you can buy them online: <http://www.overbrookpresb.org/ToO18.php>

Prices are \$75/family, \$30/person or \$10 for kids 12 and under.

There is a \$10 discount for chefs, so please sign up if you'd like to prepare a favorite dish.

If you cannot make it but wish to support the event, please consider buying an Angel ticket.

This year, we'll be giving a preview and opportunity for early bidding on some of our auction offerings on Sunday, Oct. 14. Hot items include a handmade Eagles quilt, a personal museum tour with lunch, live music, services, artwork, and much more. Please see Nancy Gilhool, Will Schick or Karen Wong if you'd like to donate an item or experience for auction.

Join us for Overbrook's most delicious and generous event of the year!