



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

September 2018

### A Warm Welcome

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  
*Acting Director of Christian Education*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*



Molly McDonald will be joining the Overbrook Quartet starting in September. Molly is a Senior Music Education Major at Rowan University where she sings in the Rowan Concert Choir, Rowan Opera Company, and Rowan Vocals A Cappella. She studies classical music with Marian Stieber and hopes to either pursue a career as a high school choral director or go on to attain a masters degree in vocal performance. Molly is the music director for West Deptford Little

Theatre, choreographer for Clayton High School Musicals, and teaches private voice lessons.

#### Getting to know the Rev. Raymond Bonwell



Raymond Bonwell's new position as the bridge pastor for Overbrook allows him to combine two of his greatest loves: faith and finance.

Raymond will continue to serve full-time at the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church while he ministers part-time to the Overbrook congregation. This is a time management challenge that is very familiar to

Raymond: He just a week ago completed eight months of service as the part-time interim pastor at Broad Street Ministries.

Raymond is not a stranger to Overbrook. He has been working closely with church leaders since last January, when he was invited by the pastors to lead a retreat for deacons and elders. He returned again a month later to continue work with Session. In the spring he was appointed our liaison to the Committee on Ministry.

If you were at worship for either of the two Sundays in July that Raymond preached, you know already he is a man of great faith, humor, energy and education.

Raymond developed a love of finances early, becoming captivated by the capital markets in eighth grade. He interned summers at a brokerage firm and graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in economics. He worked for 12 years in financial services.

Raymond was also intrigued by theology, and took a two and half year lay program to satisfy his curiosity while still working in finance. He went on to be a guest preacher in 70 different churches over 18 months.

Raymond attended Princeton Theological Seminary, and upon graduation was appointed director of programs for continuing education. He also began as a guest speaker on the intersection of faith and finances. While on staff at Princeton, for three years he also pastored a small congregation part-time.

Raymond's love of explaining things and making an impact, as well as his connection to faith and finances, led to his work at the Board of Pensions, where he was an education specialist, director of training, both departmentally and organizationally, before his current role as corporate secretary.

When Raymond is not working, he enjoys reading and running, though not simultaneously. He grew up sailing on the Jersey shore and was co-captain of the University of Michigan Sailing Team. Raymond is also the father of three children and a lover of pop culture, especially movies. He is not too proud to admit he's had a subscription to "Entertainment Weekly" for more than 20 years.

Please help Raymond get to know you and Overbrook better by making some time to make an introduction, if you've not had the chance yet.

## Christian Education

Welcome back to Sharon Parker as Acting Director of Christian Education. Sharon is already on the job. She has taken responsibility for guiding the Christian Education program for children and youth, for overseeing the compliance of our child protection clearances, and for the myriad of tasks that constitute head of staff. No end date has been established for Sharon's service. We expect that she will continue to serve Overbrook at least until we have a new Designated Pastor in place at which time we will revisit the scope of her work with us.

### Homecoming Sunday Ministry Fair: September 9

On Sunday, September 9, we will welcome Rev. Raymond Bonwell as our Bridge Pastor. Following worship, will also welcome him to join us in Fellowship Hall for our Homecoming Sunday Ministry Fair! In place of a traditional Coffee Hour, all will have the opportunity to enjoy food and fellowship, while learning about the lay ministries of OPC. Each Committee and program initiative will have a display table featuring opportunities for personal ministry...and food. Committee members will be there to greet you and share the vision and on-going work of their ministry. Most especially, all will be invited to explore new avenues of service, ministry, and involvement at OPC. Please join us on this special Sunday!

### It's Back-to-Sunday School Time!

Happy New Year! Sunday School begins on September 16, with exciting and engaging programs for children and youth from Pre-K through Grade 12! A new curriculum will be place for young learners, and a new class has been formed for students in Grades 7 and 8. Grade level groupings for the 2018-2019 school year will be: Pre-K/K; Grades 1/2; Grades 3/4; Grades 5/6; Grades 7/8; High School (Grades 9-12).

While many elements of our curriculum will be new, we will maintain our familiar schedule. Following *Time with Children*, young learners in Pre-K through Grade 2 will be greeted by their teachers and escorted to their classrooms on the second floor of Fellowship Hall. They will remain in class until parent pick-up following worship. After the sermon, children and youth in grades 3-12, will meet their teachers in the hall outside of the Chapel. Classes will be in session until noon. Parent pick-up for children in grades 3 and 4 will be at noon in their classroom on the second floor of Fellowship Hall. Students in Grade 5-12 will be independently dismissed to Fellowship Hall following class.

A teacher "meet and greet" will take place during the Homecoming Sunday Ministry Fair. Our Teaching Team will look forward to greeting you and your children at the "Christian Education Station." Happy New Year to all!

### Adult Forum is Back in Session!

Following a summer of informal "coffee and conversation," Adult Forum is back in session! Pastor Raymond Bonwell will be leading Forum, and looks forward to greeting us at 9:15 each Sunday morning in the Chapel. The welcome will be warm...the coffee will be hot...and the discussion will be memorable!

### Welcome to Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Raymond Bonwell will be teaching Adult Bible Study in the Chapel, each Wednesday morning from 10:30-noon. A warm welcome is extended to all...whether a newcomer to Bible study, or a returning veteran participant. You may bring your own Bible or use one of the study Bibles available in the Chapel. Come join us!

### OPC Youth Kick-off...September 30!

It's time for OPC Youth, grades 6-12, to meet, eat, have fun...and plan a year of adventure and service. We'll meet in the Chapel from 4:30-6:30 PM on September 30. This will be a year of "choose your own adventure; discover your personal mission." Dinner will be the official "OPC Youth pasta/salad/pizza buffet," served with a wide variety of exciting program opportunities for all age groups! Guests are always welcome! RSVP Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)) by September 27. Looking forward to seeing you on September 30!

## Mission and Outreach

We are looking forward to the fall! The Women's Dining Circle is ready to raise some money for a good cause while sharing fellowship and good food. (See article below from Janet Bowker for more details.)

It is time to get back to school and thanks to your generosity and Nancy Gilhool's determination, 30 students at the Village will go back prepared and in style. (See article below from Nancy Gilhool for more details.)

The Life Center guests were served a delicious meal on July 31. Nancy Gilhool organized the chefs and Janet Bowker organized the servers. Thank you to all who participated in feeding those in need. (See article below from Nancy Gilhool for more details.)

Join us at the Homecoming Ministry Fair, September 9 to find out what we do throughout the year. We meet the fourth Sunday of the month in the chapel. Our next meeting is Sunday, September 23 at 12:00.

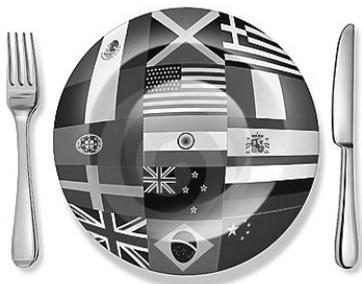
Hats off to Overbrook! Thanks to your generous donations of school supplies and money, thirty full bookbags were delivered to the Village to help their school-aged clients start school well-prepared. This project represents your investment of an estimated \$1200 in the future.

Well, it happened again. A wonderful crew of cooks and servers gathered together on Tuesday, July 31, and cooked and served a delicious meal to the clients of the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. The menu: sandwiches, salad, sweet corn muffins, goldfish crackers, and assorted fruits. It is always especially heartening to hear people say things like, "That salad is g-oo-oo-d!" or "Thank the cooks for me." or "Bless you for doing this." Our cooks: Mary Scott; Laurie Geers; Deb Rottinger; Carol Tulba; Nancy Gilhool; Kate Nelson; Jill, Geneva and Anabelle Van Rawley. Our servers: Nancy Gilhool, Kim Parris, Christine Red, Jill Van Rawley, and Shirley and Liam Clifford. Next opportunity: October 30. Contact persons: cooking - Nancy Gilhool; serving - Janet Bowker

The Women's Dining Circle committee is preparing for another year of fellowship, food and fund-raising, but, as we do, we would like to have your input. Is there a favorite charity of yours that we could support with a modest donation? Does the idea of working on a committee that meets mostly through email intrigue you? Are you anxious to exhibit your culinary skills and help prepare a portion of the meal? Are you willing to host one of our extraordinary meals? Would you just like to know more about the Women's Dining Circle? If any of these questions sparked an interest in you, please contact Janet Bowker at [jbowker@friendscentral.org](mailto:jbowker@friendscentral.org) or see her during coffee hour

Overbrook Gun Violence Awareness Postponed-Because of time constraints the events associated with Overbrook Gun Violence Awareness have been postponed until next spring. Look for notices after March 2019.

## Stewardship



### TASTE OF OVERBROOK

Mark your calendars for **Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.** for the Taste of Overbrook, a festival of foods celebrating our community's rich and diverse array of ethnic heritages.

We'll have incredible dishes from around the globe. The night also will feature auction and raffle items as part of the year's biggest fundraiser.

**Ticket sales begin Sept. 9** at the Homecoming Sunday Ministry Fair, where you can get a \$5 discount if you purchase your ticket that day.

Family of four or more: \$75

Individual: \$30

Children 12 and under: \$10

We welcome contributions to our auction. We are especially in need of "experiences" - such as a golf round, vacation rental etc. Please contact Will Schick or Karen Wong if you'd like to donate. Hope to see you all on Oct. 20.

## Property Committee

### City Ave Sanctuary Entrance

The City Ave outside door is still out of service. It's been several months now, and we apologize for the inconvenience that has caused. We were not pleased with the quality of the installation, completed in June and are working with the contractor to try and resolve several issues. To that end, we have contracted with a consultant to evaluate the install for safety and structural stability. We're hoping for an agreeable resolution and to have the door back in service soon. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience.

### Event Scheduling

Overbrook Presbyterian Church's building is a very busy place. In addition to our own committee meetings, rehearsals, weddings and concerts, we share our space with a number of community groups. This sharing adds to the vitality of our local community and also provides the church with valuable income. But, it can also make scheduling a bit of a challenge. If you would like to schedule an event, please contact Lisa Faso, Office Manager, or Jeff Bowker (215-837-2426) of the Property Committee, so we can work with you to place your event on our calendar.

### Storm water Project

After at least 5 years of work, the Church and its advocate and contractor, P.E.E.R. Environmental are about to move forward on a project to reduce the amount of storm water that flows from our property into the sewers of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is contracted with PEER to pay for the construction of a Rain Garden and an underground retention basin. Session and Presbytery administrators has approved that we go forward with this project.

There are two major reasons for undertaking this project. The first is that it will save the church money. We currently pay about \$850 PER MONTH to PWD for the amount of storm water that flows from our property. This bill is based on the area of pavement and the roof of the building, which do not absorb any rain water. (we hope!) After the project is done, at least half of that water will be retained on our property and will seep out slowly into the ground, therefore not overflowing the sewer system.

The second reason to do this is Environmental Stewardship. As people of God, we are responsible to protect and care for the earth that sustains us. When the Philadelphia combined sewer system overflows, it causes raw sewage to enter our creeks, streams, and rivers. We can do a small part to reduce this damage by completing this project.

You may see paint on the ground or one the downspouts, which marks where construction may be, or marks the existing wires, water lines, waste pipes, and gas lines that enter or exit our building.

The first part of construction will be the rain garden which will be on the City Ave. side of the building, between the copper beech tree and the sidewalk that goes closely around the building. This will probably start this fall.

The second part will be more disruptive: In January, the retention basin will be dug under the parking lot on the Lancaster Ave. side of the building. This whole thing should take no more than 4 weeks. The lot will be re-paved afterwards, and eventually the whole lot will get new stripes.

Fear not! Your Property Committee is already working on ways to deal with the lack of parking. If you have any great ideas, please let us know!

Please be patient as time goes on, and feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Rachel Carnahan [carnahanrachel@gmail.com](mailto:carnahanrachel@gmail.com) or by phone at 610-348-4659.

**Members of Property Committee:** Bill Baker, Jeff Bowker (co-chair), Susy Brandt, Rachel Carnahan, Kevin Davis, Ted Dillon (co-chair), Larry McGhee (co-chair), John Nathaniel, Jane Rozmiarek, Jason Sheau, Phil Sheau We welcome new members. Please join us. We meet monthly, 1st Wednesday, 5-7Pm

## Congregational Life

### R.P.M. Cafe...Friday, September 14!

The R.P.M. (Retired Person's Ministry) Cafe is open for business...and our business is good food, great fellowship, and shared learning! If you remember watching The Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, if you ever danced at a sock hop, or joined a campus protest...the R.P.M. Cafe is your kind of place! Join us for lunch in the Chapel on Friday, September 14, from 11:30-1:00 PM. Homemade soups (chicken corn noodle and tomato tortellini bisque), dessert, and beverages will be provided...BYO sandwich or salad. Following lunch we'll hear about the inspirational work of Parker J. Palmer, noted Quaker author, educator, and activist. *Door prize of the day:* A "choose-your-own-date" guided ramble through the Crum Creek Valley, with a stop at either Pendle Hill, a Quaker study and retreat center, or at the Community Art Center, both in Wallingford.

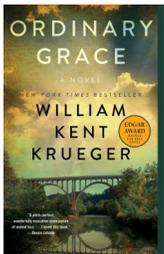
The R.P.M. Cafe is a ministry of the Congregational Life Committee...there is no charge to participate. Guests are always welcome to join us. RSVP to Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)) by September 12. Contributions of a dessert or beverages, are welcome. See you on September 14!

### Coffee Hour for September

Starting in September we go back to Coffee Hour. We are still in need of hosts for September 16, 23 and 30.

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 Amarilis Stricker at 484-343-0679 or Raelyn Harman at 610-331-8972. Thank you.

## Community



### Urban Suburban Book Club

*Meeting:* Tuesday September 18 2018, 7pm

*Location:* OPC in the Chapel

Book for September - *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

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.

## Communication Committee

Overbrook's Communications Committee is guided by a goal of providing as much transparency and real-time updates as possible to help all the congregation feel engaged and informed.

We hosted our first Coffee & Conversation meeting with Session before worship on Sunday, Aug. 12 and we had more than 40 people in attendance. We chatted right up until we had to break for worship, and certainly will be scheduling more such meetings to keep our conversations flowing.

We are working on a new form of electronic weekly newsletter to distribute by email and on Facebook. We've also asked \_ and Session agreed \_ that each committee send out updates within a day or two of their monthly meetings. Those summaries in future can also be printed in the monthly newsletter for those who do not communicate electronically.

Lisa Faso and Carol Rozmiarek have been wonderful partners. We are working with them for an electronic calendar and keeping our website updated. We're also working to help get more people signed up for REALM. Stay tuned for more!

Comm Comm is actively recruiting new members and welcomes your ideas! Please see any of us if you'd like to participate. Nancy Elmore, Jane Rozmiarek, Will Schick, Jane and Bob Bevan, Jeremy Blatchley and Karen Wong.

# Deacons

## Happy September Birthdays

9/1	Elizabeth Cosgriff	9/14	Evelyn Skipper
	Jonathan Kopcsik	9/15	Sofia Seidel
	Ben Scherluebbe	9/16	Lillian Baker
9/2	Janet Bowker	9/20	Anita Belfie
	Peggy Kaercher	9/23	Peter Tulba
	Joe Piatt		Amy Wilson
9/4	Trudy Sheau	9/24	Lainie Blodgett
9/6	Karen Wong	9/25	Don Carver
	Alexis Goodall		Everett Whalen
	Alexa Benjamin	9/27	Aqueelah Folwell
	Suzy Brandt	9/28	Gwen Harden
9/8	Greta Ham		Bette Homer
9/9	Zachary Jacobson	9/30	Justin Robertson
	Solomon Brown		
9/11	Davorka Sabljak		
	Kayla Davis		
9/12	Peter Subramanian		
9/13	Judy Williamson		
	Eric Long		
	Jeremy Blatchley		



## Prayer List

- ◆Dornell Guthrie and her family on the death of her sister, Greta Walker.
- ◆Lynn Pompa recovering from back surgery
- ◆Alan Sigler recovering from eye surgery.
- ◆Valerie Williams, Sabrina Johnson's aunt, receiving treatment for breast cancer.
- ◆Sandy Niccoli, Jim Vagnoni's sister, suffered a stroke and is in rehab.
- ◆Luis Wong and his caregivers for his many ongoing challenges.
- ◆John Nathaniel is at home recovering.
- ◆DeDe Sherlock, Pat Dillon's sister, is in hospice care.
- ◆Lynda Johnson is having health concerns.
- ◆Ellen Burr has ongoing health issues.

*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).*

## Red Cross Blood Drive



**American Red Cross**

Overbrook Presbyterian Church and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive.

Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today!

### Drive Details:

Site: Overbrook Presbyterian Church  
 Address: 6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
 Room Name: Fellowship Hall  
 Date: Friday Sept. 7, 2018  
 Time: 01:30 PM - 06:30 PM  
 Coordinator Name: Davorka Sabljak

Signups on Sundays during coffee hour or at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

You can also sign up in coffee hour.



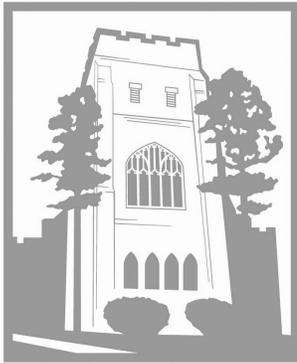
Thank you to my Overbrook Family for all the prayers and notes during my recovery. Special thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the prayer shawl. It was very comforting during my recovery-Marlin Newsome

*many thanks*

# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 9:00 am Farmers Market-Parking Lot
2 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour	3	4 1:00 pm Worship and Music Committee 7:00 pm Finance Committee	5 10:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Property Committee 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee-Karen	6	7 9:00 am –Red Cross Blood Drive-Fellowship Hall	8 9:00 am Farmers Market-Parking Lot
<b>9-Homecoming Sunday</b> 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Homecoming Ministry Fair 12:00 pm New	10 7:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Ministry	11 7:00 pm Session	12 10:30 am Bible Study	13	14 11:30 am RPM Café	15 9:00 am Farmers Market-Parking Lot
16 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm Christian Education Committee	17	18	19 10:30 am Bible Study	20	21	22 9:00 am Farmers Market-Parking Lot
23 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm Mission/ Outreach Committee	24 1:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Ministry	25	26 10:30 am Bible Study	27	28 6:30 pm Women's Dining Circle –Karen Wong's home	29 9:00 am Farmers Market-Parking Lot
30 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 4:30 pm OPC Youth Kick Off	Community Support Group Meetings @ OPC Every Sunday beginning at 8pm—AA-Wistar Morris Room and Al-Anon in Chapel Every Monday beginning at 8pm-Overeaters Anonymous in Chapel Every Wednesday beginning at 8pm-AA in Wistar Morris Room					

## *News from the Crossroads*



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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[www.overbrookpresb.org](http://www.overbrookpresb.org)

### Prayers of Gratitude

Deepest appreciation to all who generously supported this summer's Vacation Bible School and the Youth Mission Trip. Your gifts of time, talent, and personal contributions provided lasting memories and faith experiences for the children and youth of Overbrook. May God bless you for all that you have given to others.

The Christian Education Committee

