

**THE OAK LANE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**THE AMBASSADOR  
OCTOBER 2015**



# MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

October 9, 2015

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

Today is my anniversary here at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church. I have been among you as your pastor for one month. As I spend time learning names, faces, stories, histories, and particularities of this good and faithful congregation, I have sensed the Spirit moving in our midst.

In this past year without pastoral leadership, many have generously given time, energy, and tenacious commitment to keeping Oak Lane's witness updated and vibrant. I am thrilled to join in and learn how I can serve and support ongoing programs. I am eager to initiate conversations as we look together to the future with refreshed vision and renewed perspective.

Please know that I am in the church office on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Friday mornings 10:00 a.m. to noon. I can be reached by calling or emailing the church office, or by calling (610 747-0366) or emailing ([revjudithbrackett@gmail.com](mailto:revjudithbrackett@gmail.com)) me directly.

The One who calls us into community is also the One who sustains and strengthens us. Praise be to God for all that was, and is, and will be!

In Christ,  
Rev. Judith Brackett

# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

## Pope as Role Model?

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It seems just like yesterday when the Pope was visiting Philadelphia to great acclaim. One of the most remarkable things about his visit was his giving spirit. Even during his last day here when he was visibly very tired, he was still giving blessings to others by kissing babies, hugging the physically challenged, giving hope to prisoners and offering encouragement through beaming smiles and gracious waves. This is all the more remarkable when you think about why he was able to maintain such a giving spirit; after all, materially, he seems to have little to be grateful for. He doesn't live in a spacious mansion. He doesn't eat at fancy restaurants. He probably has never been to Disney World, something that we seem to take for granted as our birth right.

This giving spirit has been demonstrated by many here at Oak Lane during the last year as they have given much of their time, talent and funds to sustain the witness of Oak Lane. For this, we are eternally grateful. The Pope's example should also offer us, who are so much more economically well off, guidance as we ponder how many of God's blessings we choose to return to God's service through Oak Lane Presbyterian Church. You are invited to a Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, November 8, following worship. At that time there will be a program, and Estimate of Giving cards will be given out. If you are unable to attend, you can contact any member of the Stewardship Ministry: Bernice Mims, Sonia Woods, Jackie Williams or Gerry Shambaugh, and they will see that you get one. You are asked to complete the estimates and return them to church where they will be dedicated during worship on November 15.

As you begin to pray and think about how much you estimate that you will return during 2016, please remember the words of St. Paul, “ You should each give, not with regret or out of a sense of duty, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. “ Corinthians 9:7–8. Please give generously. See you on November 8.

Yours in Christ,

The Stewardship Ministry

## **OLPC ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**YOU'RE INVITED** to Adult Bible Study, which meets every Sunday at 9:45 AM at the church. This fall we are studying Acts when the Church was going from a local, small movement to a worldwide faith community. It was a period of great joy, learning and salvation. Come catch the Spirit. There's no cost except an hour of television.

*Gerry Shambaugh*

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF OAK LANE NEWS**



**Our meeting this month:**

**Saturday October 24, 2015**

**12:00 Noon**

# CHURCH & COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS

**Hospitality Network** – Our guests are staying with us this month and we welcome them. The Church and Community Committee would like to thank all those who volunteered to provide meals, groceries, overnight supervision, monitoring, etc. Without you, this program would not be possible. The OLPC spirit is evident on your warm and smiling faces. There are still opportunities for you to be a dinner host to our guests during this month. Please see Jayminn DeShields or Cathy Smith to let them know how you will help in this congregational effort.

**Yoga Classes** are held every Saturday at 11:00 AM with Terrine Datts. Classes are \$5.00 a week. Come out and enjoy while getting in shape. We would love to have you!

**Line Dance Parties** are every 4th Saturday of each month. Admission is \$5.00. Join us in this fundraiser for our church. Join us and learn the latest line dances. This is a great place to practice for your special events. If you don't dance, come out and order one of our delicious Chicken Sandwiches (\$7) or Chicken Wings (\$1.50 each) made by our chef, Leisha Perry.

**OLASP**- Our after-school program now has thirteen children! We are building a wonderful Educational program with tutoring in Math, Reading, Science, & Writing. If you have any spare time, special gifts and talents, think about volunteering a few hours a week. This is a wonderful way to give back to the community and our church.

The Church & Community Committee welcomes new members who enjoy planning and generating ideas that will benefit our church and our community. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium.

Submitted by the Committee,

*Jackie Williams*

*Cathy Smith*

*Jayminn DeShields*

*Allegra Mucha*

*Terrine Datts*

*Gerry Shambaugh*

*Wrenton Wright*

*Harriett Atkerson*

## **CRISIS AND COMFORT COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **Upcoming Seminars**

**Oct 11, 2015**

Medicare and Affordable Care Act

*\*Refreshments Served*

**Nov 1, 2015**

Fire Prevention, Safety, Stabilizing the Home

Presenter: Mr. Derrick J. V. Sawyer, E. S. O., Philadelphia Fire Commissioner

## **CHANCEL CHOIR**

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. We are always excited to welcome new members. Join us in singing God's praises! Please see our Director of Music, Julie Myers, for details and to answer any questions you might have.



# **A C R O S S   T H E**

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## **DEACONS DOINGS**

The Deacons Doings every month are:

- Distributing flowers every Sunday to members of our congregation.
- Extending messages of hope and comfort to our sick and shut-ins through visits, phone calls or cards.
- Sending cards to members on their birthdays.
- Visiting and serving communion to Marwood residents every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.
- Maintaining a fifteen-member care list that is updated monthly.

The Deacons did the following during September:

- The Deacons were busy calling and visiting sick and shut-in members, delivering flowers, and sending get well, birthday and anniversary cards.
- On several Sundays, connections were made to bring the worship service to shut-in members through the telephone ministry.

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## **NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

<b>DEACONS</b>	<b>OCTOBER 4, 2015</b>
<b>SESSION</b>	<b>OCTOBER 25, 2015</b>
<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>	<b>OCTOBER 6, 2015</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP &amp; FELLOWSHIP</b>	<b>OCTOBER 19, 2015</b>

# **B O A R D S**

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## **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session met on September 22, and the following are some highlights:

- Discussed Pastor Judith's priorities as she begins her ministry, including some of her ideas.
- Decided to hold a Special Offering on October 4 to benefit the families of victims of the Emmanuel AME shooting as suggested by Presbytery.
- Agreed to limit paid advertisements to the Ambassador and not in the weekly bulletins.
- Learned that the wall and the floor of the rear stairway to the Social Room have been repaired.
- Approved having a Stewardship Dinner on November 8 and dedicating the Estimates of Giving on November 15.
- Discussed the actions of the last Presbytery meeting, including the approval, after much discussion, of allowing Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church to leave Presbytery, along with their church building, in exchange for a payment of \$70,000.
- Decided to convene our next Session meeting on Sunday, October 25, returning to Sunday in order to allow some elders to attend who have some difficulty making it to weeknight meetings.

# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE NEWS

The Fundraising Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. If you are interested in joining this very important and very exciting committee, please join us on the first Tuesday of each month or see committee members Jackie Williams or Terrine Datts. The purpose of this committee is to raise funds for church expenses.

**Clara's Fish Fry:** Thanks to all of you, we raised \$1,479.81. We appreciate all of you coming out and supporting this event. The kitchen was bubbling with friendship, fellowship, and fun! Let's do it again next year.

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Rolling of The Scrolls-** A candlelight memorial service of music and scripture reading will be held on November 5, 2015 at 7 PM. Anyone who wishes to participate in its execution and planning should see a member of the committee. Refreshments will be served after the service.

**Christmas Bazaar** – This year's Christmas Bazaar will be held on December 5, 2015. Holiday fun and Vendors' spaces are available for \$35.00 per table. Plan to come out, volunteer, and join the fun - White Elephants table, Raffle, Bake Table, Santa, delicious foods and snacks. Don't miss it!

The Christian Education Committee invites you  
to come and have fun at our

# HARVEST PARTY



Join us for fun & games  
and lots and lots of  
Candy!



Saturday, October 31st  
6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Oak Lane Presbyterian Church  
6637 North 11th St.  
Philadelphia, PA  
215-424-4446

Hey Kids!  
Come to our party and  
show off your cool  
costumes!

For more information, please contact Miriam Baker or Bernice Mims  
*\*Please bring your candy donations for the Harvest Party to church no later than  
Saturday, October 24, 2015.*

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## Birthdays

Teri Sweeney	10/2	Lynette Townsend	10/22
Donna Wright	10/3	Catherine Smith	10/25
Stephanie Millwood	10/5	Kelvin Alston	10/28
Jaret Lewis	10/5	Terrine Datts	10/28
Emma Smith	10/6	Rick Morrow	10/29
John Houston	10/11	Louise Atterbury	10/31
Wrenton Wright	10/16		
Gertrude Simmons	10/22		

## Anniversaries

Allen & Grace Bradley 10/28



**OLPC is Accessible:** We serve the needs of people in wheelchairs by having a ramp, a chair lift, an accessible restroom and extra-wide doors.

**Childcare** is always available during Sunday worship services with Leisha Perry in the nursery.

## FLOWER DEDICATIONS NEEDED

If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor or in memory of your loved ones on Sunday, please contact Joan Clerk. There are presently many openings in October and November.



## OLPC PRAYER GROUP

The OLPC Prayer Group is still praying on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM. Come and bring your burden to the Lord and leave it there!



## **THE AMBASSADOR**

Ambassador articles keep our church family informed of the many activities going on at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church. We need your help! If you have news to share, please send it to the church office by the stated deadline so it can be published in The Ambassador. If possible, please send it to our church administrative assistant, Valerie Berkley, via email at [Olpc@verizon.net](mailto:Olpc@verizon.net). If not, please drop off a copy of your article or information to Valerie at the church office. Thanks so much!

### **A REMINDER:**

**The Deadline for the November 2015 Ambassador is  
Tuesday October 13, 2015.  
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!**

*Would you be interested in having your Ambassador delivered electronically via email rather than in hard copy? Consider it – it will save our congregation money and reach you more quickly! To get started, email Valerie Berkley at [Olpc@verizon.net](mailto:Olpc@verizon.net). Thank you.*

### **WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK**

To access the OLPC Facebook page, search "Oak Lane Presbyterian Church" in Facebook or use the link on the new OLPC website ([oaklanepresbyterian.org/](http://oaklanepresbyterian.org/)).

# COVENANT OF PRAYER

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE FAMILIES IN OCTOBER

- 1 ..... Aaron & Charrity Weston & Family
- 2 ..... Kelvin Alston & Family
- 3 ..... Kenneth Alston & Family
- 4 ..... Candice Ancrum & Family
- 5 ..... Mattie Anderson & Family
- 6 ..... Thelma Applegate & Family
- 7 ..... Joseph & Harriett Atkerson & Family
- 8 ..... Louise Atterbury & Family
- 9 ..... Miriam Baker & Family
- 10 ..... Alexis & Martha Barron & Family
- 11 ..... Barbara & Stephen Bono & Family
- 12 ..... Allen & Grace Bradley & Family
- 13 ..... Elisha Bunch & Family
- 14 ..... Harvey & Latricia Lewis-Bunch & Family
- 15 ..... Bernadette Bush & Family
- 16 ..... James Cephas & Family
- 17 ..... Mattie Chadwick & Family
- 18 ..... Roland & Priscilla Chandler & Family
- 19 ..... Joan Clerk & Family
- 20 ..... Diane Cook & Family
- 21 ..... Terrine & Lee Datts & Family
- 22 ..... Jayminn Sanford- & Gary DeShields & Family
- 23 ..... Daraja DeShields & Family
- 24 ..... Khalim Dickerson & Family
- 25 ..... Linda Ellerson & Richard Wayns & Family
- 26 ..... Caroline Freedman & Family
- 27 ..... Stafford & Nicole Freeman & Family
- 28 ..... Veronica Gant & Family
- 29 ..... John & Marilyn Gathers & Family
- 30 ..... Helen Guy & Family
- 31 ..... Stacey Smith & Omar Hales & Family



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6637 North Eleventh Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19126-3232

The Ambassador is a monthly newsletter for members and friends. You are invited to attend our Worship Service on Sunday at 11:00 AM. Sunday Church School for all ages begins at 9:45 AM.

The Rev. Judith Brackett, Pastor

Office hours are 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

- Telephone: 215-424-4446
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