

THE OAK LANE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE AMBASSADOR
SEPTEMBER 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

September 2016

Dear Oak Lane Family,



One Sunday morning in early July, I arrived at the church, unlocked the office, and saw the window open to the early morning breeze. Looking down, I saw computer parts scattered on the floor. As the temperature was already in the high 80's with high humidity, I assumed a smash-and-grab thief broke in only for the window air conditioner. After taking stock, though, we discovered that the office computer was missing.

Many, many questions surfaced in the following weeks. We asked ourselves questions about our existing alarm system, where sensors are placed, how to improve computer file security, and building safety and access. These questions led to more questions....cost efficient contracts for phone, wifi, alarm system, and while we are at it, perhaps the manse too...

With particular gratitude to members of the Property Committee, we end the summer with more thorough, cost efficient, and updated office and building systems.

This summer of questions was met as an opportunity to question, share, seek, and act. Nearly two months later, I remarked to Session that although we would never have wished for this break-in to occur, all it uncovered and opened to us has been most fruitful.

This September marks one year of my pastoral ministry with you. For me, the past year has been a time of fruitful questions and enlightening conversations. - Why do we do that? What purpose does that serve? How might we modify this to refresh its impact?

I am grateful for your patience in considering the questions, and inspired by the thoughtful conversations we have had and will continue to have.

As we prepare to celebrate our 125th year of ministry at OLPC, let us welcome the Spirit in our midst, who sometimes comes among us like a thief in the night, prompting us to a thoughtful re-ordering, re-orienting, and refreshing our ministry here at OLPC.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Judith

Rev. Judith Brackett can be reached by calling or emailing the church office, or by calling (610 747-0366) or emailing (revjudithbrackett@gmail.com).

WELCOME CHRISTEN BLORE, SEMINARY INTERN

CHRISTEN, A CURRENT STUDENT AT Palmer Theological Seminary, will begin her internship at OLPC beginning in September.

I have believed the stories of the Bible for as long as I can remember. I grew up Catholic attending church and Catholic school. However, I did not fully understand what it meant to be a Christian until I was a married adult worshipping at a Presbyterian church. I have been actively engaged in ministry leadership for the past 15 years at churches both large and affluent and small and struggling. The majority of my ministries have been focused on education and on spiritual transformation of both youth and adults. Through this work, I experienced a call from God to enter into a new way of life—devoting my heart, my mind, and my soul to preparing for professional ministry. I resigned from my almost 20 year nursing career and fully threw my lot in with God. I am in my third year of seminary education and am engaged in the inquiry process of



ordination through the Presbytery of Philadelphia. I am seeking a community to share my gifts with while being nourished by the gifts of that community. I am a wife, a mother to 3 young daughters, and a Christian called to share the Good News. God has called me to birth hope amidst a chaotic world of intolerance, of suffering, and of fear in which we live. I would be humbled to spend the next leg of my journey seeking, discerning, and growing alongside the faithful family of Oak Lane Presbyterian Church.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

*The following are events scheduled to occur this month:

September 6th	Worship & Music Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM
September 10th	Deacons/Session Retreat –8:45 AM
September 18th	Session Monthly Meeting – After Worship

WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 125TH YEAR IN MINISTRY!

In joyous celebration, please join us the weekend of October 14-16, 2016.

- **Friday, October 14th**
*6:00 PM Reception and concert featuring **The Jasz Lab***
- **Saturday, October 15th**
1:00 PM Open House featuring a display of historical church memorabilia, lively conversation and reminiscences of this church community, sharing of visionary hopes and dreams of our continued ministry, and plenty of time for joyous fellowship.
- **Sunday, October 16th**
*Worship at 11:00 AM *Luncheon to follow in the Social Hall. All are invited.*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF OAK LANE

**Join us for our next meeting on
September 17
@ 10:00 AM**

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

- On Sunday, **September 11th**, Sunday schedule resumes with Worship at 11 o'clock in the sanctuary.
- Choir Rehearsal at 9:45 AM.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA EVENTS

- The meeting to hear about GA resolutions will be on September 14th at Valley Forge Presbyterian Church, 7:00 PM.
- Oxford Presbyterian Church will hold a *Service of Light in the Darkness* on September 20th at 7:00 PM
- **The Northwest Regional Leadership Team Event** will be held at Flourtown Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 24th @ 9:00A.M. Our focus will be on Race, Bias and Privilege.

MEMBERS NEWS

MR. RICHARD WAYNES

Our OLPC family extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Richard Waynes. Richard left us suddenly and went home to be with Our Lord on July 2016.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM



For one wonderful week in late July, nearly 5000 PCUSA youth from around the country gathered at Purdue University in Lafayette Indiana. The full days of friendship, faith, and festivities were experienced by three youth from OLPC. Daraja DeShields, Elisha Bunch, and Seth Bunch shared their reflections with the congregation about their time at Triennium just hours after arriving home by overnight bus from Indiana. As they were richly blessed by the experience, we were also blessed to hear their testimony.

From Elisha Bunch

“PYT was very empowering, it showed us how to better connect with God. As well as ways to better connect with our fellow Christians. I made many new friends, and learned a lot. It was a great experience that I am honored to have been able to attend. Thank you.”

From Seth Bunch

“PYT was an eye opening experience for me. Not only did it give me the opportunity to worship with people from all over the world, it gave me the opportunity to meet people I still talk to today! It was by far one of the most fun experiences of my life. While doing the activities you can have fun and worship at the same time. I’m so thankful for the people that made it possible because I’m pretty sure everyone from OLPC and the other Philadelphia churches had a blast there. I’m lucky enough to be able to go another year and enjoy PYT 2019. I can’t wait.”

The Presbytery of Philadelphia is hosting a special service



on ***Tuesday, September 20, 2016 beginning at 7:00 PM at Oxford Presbyterian Church.***

In deep awareness of the Violence, Fear-Mongering, Polarization, Racism, Terrorism prevalent in our culture, We invite you to join us for a time of reflection and prayer as we reclaim our call to be a people of the light in the darkness.

Seven voices will speak to Biblical texts on "light"

A time for prayer
A time for singing

In a "reverse-tenebrae", we will begin in darkness and depart after the blessing reclaiming the light of Christ that cannot be contained.

Hosted by the Presbytery of Philadelphia

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met twice this summer, one a regular meeting and the other a special meeting. There were several things accomplished. These included the following:

- Learned that the children who attended the Summer Camp had a very meaningful as well as enjoyable experience and that the parents were quite appreciative of it.
- Approved the terms of the contract for OLASP for the Academic Year
- Authorized the agreement with Ms. Sharon Wilson, Esquire, a lawyer who is an East Oak Lane resident to advise us about what uses of the Oak Lane House are permitted with our present zoning designation so that we will know if a variance is required if we decide to use it for certain purposes. Ms. Wilson has graciously agreed to do this initial research for free as long as it does not take more than 2.5 hours. If additional work is needed that requires payment, she will submit a proposal for consideration by Session.
- Approved a new security system although final details are still being studied and discussed.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING IMAGES RECENTLY?

All of us have an image of God that we carry with us, and the early believers in God were no different. I invite you to the Fall sessions of Bible Study during which we will be looking at the images that the prophet Isaiah experienced, the images of Jesus that the author of the book of Hebrews wrote about as well as those shared by John in Revelation. Perhaps our visions are too small. Come and discuss this in the Bible Study which occurs every Sunday beginning on September 11 at 10:00 AM in the Campbell Room. Please see Gerry Shambaugh for a booklet that we will be using. All seekers are welcome.



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthdays

Tiara Purnell	9/4
Marliese Johnson	9/6
Aubrey Jones	9/7
Diana Stokes	9/7
John Gathers	9/9
Lauren Haughton	9/11
KeyShawn Ancrum	9/13
Alecia Cook	9/14
Constance (Haynes) Hutter	9/17
Catherine Odom	9/17
Joseph Atkerson	9/18
Kyle Cephas	9/20

Linda Jefferson	9/21
Leisha Perry	9/23
Denise Tucker	9/27
Joseph Manson	9/28

Anniversaries

Roland & Priscilla Chandler	9/4
Alonzo & Marliese Johnson	9/6
Alexis & Martha Barron	9/10
Joseph & Harriett Atkerson	9/15
Bill & Gretchen Myers	9/16
Charles & Linda Jefferson	9/19
Terrine & Lee Datts	9/20

Birthdays

Teri Sweeney	10/2
Donna Wright	10/3
Stephanie Millwood	10/5
Jaret Lewis	10/5
Emma Smith	10/6
John Houston	10/11
Wrenton Wright	10/16
Glynis Merritt	10/17
Gertrude Simmons	10/22

Lynette Townsend	10/22
Catherine Smith	10/25
Kelvin Alston	10/28
Terrine Datts	10/28
Rick Morrow	10/29
Louise Atterbury	10/31

Anniversaries

Allen & Grace Bradley	10/28
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Please note that OLPC is equipped with a wheelchair ramp, chair lift, accessible restrooms and extra-wide doors.

OLPC PRAYER GROUP

The OLPC Prayer Group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to this time of fellowship, prayer, and song.

THE AMBASSADOR

Ambassador articles keep our church family informed about the ministries at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church. If you have news to share, please send it to the church office by the stated deadline. Please send your electronic contribution to our church Administrative Assistant, Valerie Berkley, via email at Olpc@verizon.net. Or, drop off your contribution to Valerie at the church office.

A REMINDER:

The deadline for the October 2016 Ambassador is Monday September 26, 2016.

Would you be interested in having your Ambassador delivered electronically via email rather than a paper copy? Electronic publishing saves our congregation money and will reach you more quickly! Contact the church office to sign up at Olpc@verizon.net. Thank you.



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

COVENANT OF PRAYER

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE FAMILIES IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- 1 Dawn & Larry Shellenberger & Family
- 2 Gertrude Simmons & Family
- 3 Catherine & William Smith & Family
- 4 Emma Smith & Family
- 5 Ola Smith & Family
- 6 Shirley Smith & Family
- 7 Stacey Smith & Family
- 8 Diana Stokes & Family
- 9 Franklin & Anna Strahan & Family
- 10 Etta Swift & Family
- 11 Aaron Thornton & Family
- 12 Gale Thornton & Family
- 13 Lynette Townsend & Family
- 14 Denise & Joseph Tucker & Family
- 15 Ronald Washington & Family
- 16 Aaron & Charrity Weston & Family
- 17 Thomas Whitehead & Family
- 18 Jacqueline Williams & Family
- 19 Sonia Woods & Family
- 20 Dameon & Melody Wright & Family
- 21 Wrenton & Donna Wright & Family
- 22 Kelvin Alston & Family
- 23 Kenneth Alston & Family
- 24 Candice Ancrum & Family
- 25 Mattie Anderson & Family
- 26 Thelma Applegate & Family
- 27 Joseph & Harriet Atkerson & Family
- 28 Louise Atterbury & Family
- 29 Miriam Baker & Family
- 30 Alexis & Martha Barron & Family
- 31 Barbara & Stephen Bono & Family

THE OAK LANE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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.

Rev. Judith Brackett, Pastor

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

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