

THE OAK LANE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Prepare ye the way of the Lord

THE AMBASSADOR
FALL 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Oak Lane Family,

November 2016

From the 65th chapter of Isaiah...



“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.... Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.”

When the prophet Isaiah penned these beautiful words, he was speaking at a time of great upheaval. Isaiah was speaking to the faithful remnant of followers who had returned to Jerusalem, after 40 years in exile, only to find their temple in ruins. These were the words spoken in the midst of fear and despair. They grieved a future that was not supposed to be.

Our nation is in the grips of a presidential transition that some welcome with excitement and others react in fear and trepidation. The future of our nation is uncertain. But as Isaiah so beautifully described, God’s future is not uncertain. God is already at work, redeeming what is and creating what will be. We already know how the story will turn out.

We in the church remember that God holds our future. God’s future is not hateful or dismissive or confused. God’s vision is creative, participatory, and filled with joy.

That is the future we claim and that is the future we build, with God’s help, here at Oak Lane Presbyterian Church.

Let us move into our future, with hope and with joy, keeping our eyes and hearts fixed on God's vision. Let us be faithful to the work before us, as we participate in God's story for all humanity.

In Christ,

Rev. 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.

DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacon's had our monthly meeting on November 6th 2016 our Deacon's Doing for December will be we are planning a Christmas party on the 18th of December for the residents at the Laurel home (Marwood) at 1pm we will serve cake and drinks and give out a gift to all the residents. Our next meeting is on December,4th after church.
Thanks Latricia

OAK LANE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA is hosting a Rain Check Workshop. Come to this workshop to learn how you can get a free rain barrel from Philadelphia Water! Reduced pricing for downspout planters, rain gardens, depaving, and permeable pavers will also be offered.

Philadelphia Water (PWD) believes that everyone can make a difference in transforming Philadelphia into a greener city with clean water.

PWD's Rain Check program gives Philadelphia residents an opportunity to reduce pollution that would otherwise end up in our creeks and rivers. Rain Check is managed by PHS, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, who will be hosting the workshop. The workshop presentation will be one hour with time afterwards for questions.

Meeting Date:

Monday, December 5, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Oak Lane Branch

6614 N. 12th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19126



This event is Rain or Shine!

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For more information and to pre-register, please visit

www.phillywatersheds.org/raincheck or call PHS Information Services: 215-988-1698.

OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Merci Beaucoup!

The 125th Anniversary Committee would like to extend a heart felt thank you to the congregation. You helped make our 125th celebration a tremendous success. We appreciate all of you who brought/made food, purchased Bibles or ads, made donations, lent us your strong muscles, served food, or attended the events. We couldn't have done it without you.

When we work together, the results are AMAZING!

Here are some of the many well wishes sent from friends and former members of Oak Lane Presbyterian Church in honor of our 125th Anniversary:

From Rev. Thomas James Thompson, son of Reverend David P. Thompson,

Congratulations to OLPC on your 125th Anniversary!
I will be thinking about you this weekend as you praise and thank God for your ministry now and the wonderful history of your presence and service in the Oak Lane Community for all these years. There are so many people who helped to create the marvellous legacy of work for Christ Jesus in that place, and, from that place, to so many locations around the world.
(OVER PLEASE)

Our congregation will be in prayer for you as we worship on Sunday.

My personal thanks to Oak Lane is for allowing me to conduct the summer youth outreach program we shared with the community during the summer of 1971. Then,

your support of me while I was under the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and attending Louisville Seminary was invaluable.

May God continue to bless and prosper your work for Him in Jesus' name.

T. J. Thompson
October 12, 2016

Henry

10/12/16 CHK # 5031
\$200.00 - church projects
(see over)



OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8501 Stenton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19150
Phone (215) 247-9487 - Fax (215) 247-5496
E-mail: oxpc19150@verizon.net

Reverend Ethelyn R. Taylor, Pastor

October 14, 2016

Reverend Judith Bracken
Session and Members of Oaklane Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

Congratulations on celebrating your 125th year in ministry at the Oaklane Presbyterian Church.

We, here at Oxford Presbyterian Church, rejoice and celebrate with you your ministry of dedication and commitment in His name. The Lord has certainly blessed you as a congregation in leading you this far.

We pray for the Lord's continued blessings on many more years in His service as you and the Oaklane Congregation continue to be a beacon of light in your community and its surroundings.

May the grace of God's love continue to be with you as you move ahead into new areas of ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Ethelyn R. Taylor
Ethelyn R. Taylor, Pastor
Elder Lloyd Higgins, Clerk of Session

Rev. Richard and Jean Ann Buller

5837 West Meadow Lake Road
New Hope, MN 55428
763-533-0253

September 13, 2016

To our beloved Oak Lane Congregation,

We are overjoyed to receive your announcement and invitation to the 125th anniversary of OLPC. Thinking back to the 100th celebration while we were with you, our son Peter was 2 years old and Martin not even born. It seems like yesterday.

The weekend of October 14th for us is filled with a wedding, concert our Fall Festival, and yes, Stewardship Sunday. We send our prayers and congratulations for your renewed commitment to the future of this wonderful church family. We regret we can't be there.

Please accept our gift to commemorate this special time. New Bibles are a wonderful idea!

We love receiving the newsletter, the Facebook posts, and the many connections that still come our way. Oak Lane will always be our first church home in ministry and you taught us what a loving congregation can be.

Love to all and enjoy every moment of the weekend and the time ahead.

In love and gratitude,

Richard and Jean Ann Buller

DO YOU BELIEVE

In God
In Jesus?
Believe in Love
In Peace?
Well
So do I!
Peace, Love
How about
Respect?
If you do
Why the violence?
Let's
Come together
To know
Each other.
We are a;;
Children of God
Whoever we are
Where ever we be.
Let us show
Our Love
Our Respect
And find Peace.
Now is the time!
All our lives
Matter.

-Submitted by Anna Strahan



**JOIN IN OUR OAK LANE HOLIDAY TRADITION
AT THE 7th ANNUAL**

 **BLOOD DRIVE** **AND**  **COAT/SHOE DRIVE**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7, 2016

3 – 8 pm

**OAK LANE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11TH ST. & OAK LANE**

**YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A BLOOD DONOR TO BRING
COATS, HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES, AND MITTENS
TO HELP NEEDY FAMILIES IN NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA
AND SHOES FOR THE IDAAY PROJECT.**

**FEEL DOUBLY GOOD BY GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE AND THE GIFT
OF WARMTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO GIVE
BLOOD,
CONTACT PEGGY WESTON AT 215-224-4547**

**SPONSORED BY THE OAK LANE COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION,
EVENTS COMMITTEE**



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthdays

Douglas Cook	11/3	Zachary Hampton	11/23
Ronald Washington	11/3	Sonia Woods	11/24
Marcus Millwood	11/5	Gary Strahan	11/27
Eun-Young Ahn	11/7	Barbara Bono	11/28
Veronica Gant	11/8	Marion Price	11/30
Latricia Bunch	11/9		
James Cephas	11/16		
Diamond Trower	11/16		
Melissa Smith	11/18		

Anniversaries

Angela & Calvin Millwood 11/23

Birthdays

Bernice Mims	12/01	Roland Chandler	12/23
Kelly Bouknight	12/03	Joan Clerk-Manson	12/24
Joel Bright Freeman	12/09	Grace Bradley	12/25
Frank Strahan	12/10	Skye Ancrum	12/26
Jacqueline Powell	12/10		
Meredith King	12/13		
Refentse Nhlapo	12/13	Denise & Joseph Tucker	12/20
Candice Ancrum	12/14	Eddie Mae & Walter Jackson	12/21
Joshua Thomas	12/15	John & Marilyn Gathers	12/27
Mason Lambert	12/16		
Richard McIntyre	12/17		
Alexis Barron	12/18		

Anniversaries

 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 December 2016 Ambassador is
Monday November 21, 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 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- 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.

Telephone: 215-424-4446

E-mail: Olpc@verizon.net • Web Address: oaklanepresbyterian.org