



Lamplighter

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Our Leadership Team

- Pastor**
the Rev. D. Kerry Slinkard
- Seminary Intern**
Rev. Tyrone Carter
- Clerk of Session**
Jane Trimble
- Deacons Moderator**
Robert Hudler
- Director of Music**
Peter Slauch
- Organist**
Julie Allport
- Parish Nurse**
June Hoffman
- Preschool Director**
Nicole Hartman
- Secretaries**
Eryn Tierney
Joyce Ray
- Sexton**
Clyde Prigg
- Treasurer**
Beth Keefer

“A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.”

Matthew 21:8

Palm Sunday—April 5th

8:15 and 11:00 am

He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Mark 14:24-25

Maundy Thursday— April 9th

7 pm

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of Skull. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in between.

John 19:16-18

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Mark 16:19

Good Friday Service— April 10th

Second Presbyterian Church

7 pm

Easter Sunday, April 12th

7 am Sunrise Service

7:30-10:30 am Breakfast

8:15 am Early Service

1100 am Worship Service

Table of Contents:

Easter Celebration	1
Pastor's Corner	2
April Birthdays	2
Alternative Gifts International	3
Art Series	4
One Great Hour of Sharing	5
April Calender	6
Chess Club	7
Play Softball	7
Book Discussion Group	7
Stress and the Economy	8
Earth Day Craft	9
Youth News	10
The Widow's Mite	10
Annual Spring Sale at Ware	10
PW Spring Gathering	11
Chancel Flower Ordering	11

Our Vision

Oxford Presbyterian Church is a family of Christians dedicated to sharing the unconditional love of Jesus Christ with the local and world communities



I am sitting in my office looking out at a crystal clear spring sky through the bare limbs of the giant maple tree. The day is crisp, but the promise of spring warming is in the air. Right now that maple tree looks pretty sad, but I know in just a few days, the buds will begin to show green once more.

Such is the cycle of life. We live by the cycles of the year, just as it has always been since our ancient predecessors first noticed that the world around us repeats itself with a predictable, yearly regularity. Each of us marks our own high points throughout this cycle: birthdays, anniversaries, New Year, vernal equinox, last day of school....

The church has a similar yearly cycle and we recognize high points in the year as well: Christmas, Easter, Pentecost.... Christmas is the birthday of our Lord, and Pentecost is the birthday of the Church – both times of hope and promise; times for celebration. In between is a season of tragedy and triumph as we relive the darkest and the brightest days of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection. It seems somehow wrong to dwell on tragic thoughts in church so we want to concentrate on the little girls’ pretty dresses and the Easter Bunny.

But, according to one of the theories regarding the Crucifixion, “there was Hell to pay” before we could enjoy the pretty-ness of Easter and God’s gracious gift of salvation. Jesus took upon him all of our sins and carried them to the cross so that we could be declared righteous before God. Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, our lives are more than the sum of our cycles – the sum of our years. God created us and in Christ has given us a direction. Our lives are proceeding forward to a “telos” – Greek for an end or purpose. That purpose is full communion with God for all eternity. I hope that your Lenten journey has been a time of spiritual renewal and growth this year. Like the new buds on the maple tree, may you blossom with the sunrise on Easter morning.

See you in church,

PEACE,

Pastor Kerry



April Birthdays

04/02	Sharon Andrews	004/12	William Stullken	04/23	Katie McFadien
	Mary Boohar	04/13	Benjamin Ribaldo	04/26	Cindy Folker
04/03	Jan Townsend		Donna Purcell		Mary Hindman
	Jerome Whitton	4/15	Melissa Weaver		Mary Alice Hoffman
	Jenna Hammond	04/17	Dorothy Rhodes	04/27	Lisa Gates
04/04	John Lilley	04/18	Ryan Tackett	04/28	Craig Kretzing
04/06	Ed Jefferis		Eileen Loeliger	04/29	Kathryn Elters
04/07	Velva Waldrop		Brooke Cave	04/29	Bob Ross
04/08	Bonnie MacKrell	04/21	Jessica Hammond	04/30	James Nelles
	Chris Stabler	04/22	Shirley Barker		Carol Groff
04/11	Karen Henry		Karen Williams		
			Thomas Cave		





800-842-2243
www.alternativegifts.org

Alternative Gifts International

The Global Mission of AGI is to send authentic, life-giving gifts to a needy world—gifts that build a partnership with people in crisis and that protect and preserve the earth's endangered environment—to nourish and sustain a more equitable and peaceful global community.

AGI is a nonprofit, interfaith agency. AGI provides education for people of all ages about global needs and raises funds each year in its Alternative Gift Markets and from individual donors to respond to those needs. Designated grants are then sent to the established international projects of several reputable nonprofit agencies for relief and development.

Alternative Gift Markets for All Year Round

Looking for a new way to give gifts? There are many reasons that we give gifts throughout the year. We have birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and special events as ways to remember others. This is a way to honor special people in your life by giving a meaningful contribution that helps a good cause. You pick the cause. It may be giving that gift of medical supplies to Africa in honor of your brother, a physician, or helping to plant a forest in Haiti in honor of a newlywed couple. If you are frustrated about finding that perfect gift for someone who has everything, try this.

Look for the Bulletin Board for more information and handouts which explain the program and alternatives for Giving.

Looking for Members to help us Outreach to the Community

The Outreach Committee consist of three subcommittees. They are Social Justice and Peacemaking, Evangelism and Mission& Community Relations.

Social Justice and Peacemaking is responsible for work in the areas of racial and ethnic concerns, hunger, human rights, community, housing, ecological, disability, and women's concern.

Evangelism is about reaching out to the community to welcome and encourage others to begin and continue their faith journey with OPC. Kay Skinner, Chairperson

Mission & Community Relations oversees/supports our Church mission work in the community and world. The work of the committee is to communicate the work of the church and understand local needs while working in the community. Bob Brede, Chairperson

Committee Meetings are the second Sunday of each month at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Submitted by Beverly Hartgrove, Don Drennan, Outreach Committee Co-Chairpersons

“How wonderful it is that nobody has to wait a single moment before starting to improve the World.”

Dr. Ronald A. Matthews

Born in Philadelphia, Dr. Ron Matthews began piano lessons at the age of four. At the age of eight, he began trumpet study with the former first chair of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Ron began his organ studies at the age of twelve and took his first church organist position at the age of fourteen. Having received a Philadelphia Board of Education music scholarship, he did his undergraduate work in Church Music and Organ at Westminster Choir College where he graduated magna cum laude and received both the Senior Class Conducting Award and the Christian Leadership Award.



Ron received the Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Temple University. In 1981, Ron received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Combs College of Music in Composition with an emphasis in Orchestra Conducting. In 1980, Ron accepted the post of Organist- Music Director of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Willow Grove, PA, a position he left in 2005 to become the Pastor of Worship Arts at Church of the Saviour in Wayne, PA. Since 1992, Ron has been Professor of Music at Eastern University. He is the chair of the Fine and Performing Arts Division and the Chair of Music Department.

He has presented organ programs in Germany, Switzerland, France, and Italy. He performs regularly with his brother, Rev. Dr. Gary Matthews, in concerts and workshops throughout the United States and Canada. They have released seven recordings of historic and contemporary church music. Ron holds Choir Master and Colleague certifications with the American Guild of Organists and completed a four-year faculty development grant for jazz study. He is listed in numerous international and national civic and professional Who's Who publications including the *International Who's Who In Music* and *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Ron is happily married to his wife Pamela. They have two adult sons and reside in Hatboro, PA.



Organ Recital

Sunday, April 19th

3:00 pm

Featuring

Dr. Ronald A. Matthews

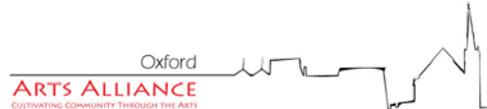
OPC will be working in conjunction with

The Oxford Arts Alliance

To bring you more special programs

The first one that will be held at the church

Is on May 8th, more info to follow.



Mission Statement

The Arts Alliance of Oxford is a community-based non-profit organization providing leadership and advocacy for the arts and culture.

Objectives

- To build a membership for fellowship, networking and promotion of the arts and culture.
- To encourage and facilitate presentations of art exhibitions, lectures, book readings, films, dance, plays and other events to benefit the public and foster a sense of community.
- To foster programs which engage youth in the arts and culture.
- To raise funds through sales, membership dues, and grants that will support The Arts Alliance events and programs, as well as assist artists with honorariums and/or awards.
- To generate a comprehensive calendar of events.



PDA is thankful for the continued generosity of Presbyterians in the United States that enables us—together—to witness the healing love of Christ to disaster survivors around the world.

“Where is your Treasure?”

One Great Hour of Sharing Sharing Resources, Changing Lives



Dear Boys and Girls,

I'm writing this letter to tell you how the money you put in your fish banks at Easter time has helped children in a far-away country called Kenya.

Kenya is a country in Africa. That's very big place with many different countries, just like the United States is a country with many different states.

Last year in Kenya, there was a part of the country that didn't get enough rain. When that goes on for a long time, it causes what is called a drought. When a long dry spell causes a drought, food plants can't grow. They die without water. In Kenya, people eat lots of beans and corn, but last year's drought was so bad that there wasn't enough food for the people. The children began to cry because they were so hungry. Families didn't have enough drinking water. Can you imagine how sad and scared you'd be if you turned on the faucet and there wasn't any water? Even the animals were sad, because there was no water for them, either.

The Presbyterian Church in Kenya called our churches to see if we could help. So we took money from the fish banks the children all over the United States had sent us, and the churches in Kenya collected some money, and we put it all together to help. The church in Kenya bought beans and corn and rice so that the children and their families could eat. And they helped dig new wells so there would be enough drinking water.

When you put your nickels and dimes in the fish bank for one great hour of sharing offering, you are helping children all around the world. We know that God loves us, don't we? Well, we share that love with other children by helping them. Children all around the world are smiling because they know that you really care.

Thank You for giving, for helping suffering children around the world. Thank you for letting them know that God loves them and doesn't want them to be sad or hurt.

Sincerely, Susan

Susan Ryan is the former coordinator of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

April 7 2009

LAMPLIGHTER

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

Lenten Lunch
Karen Leak 7 am Bible Study

5:30 Calvinism Study

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

One Great Hour of Sharing
Session Meets 7 pm Lect. Bible Study
Chess Club Library 7—10 pm
Maudy Thursday 7 pm
Good Friday
Second Pres. 7 pm

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

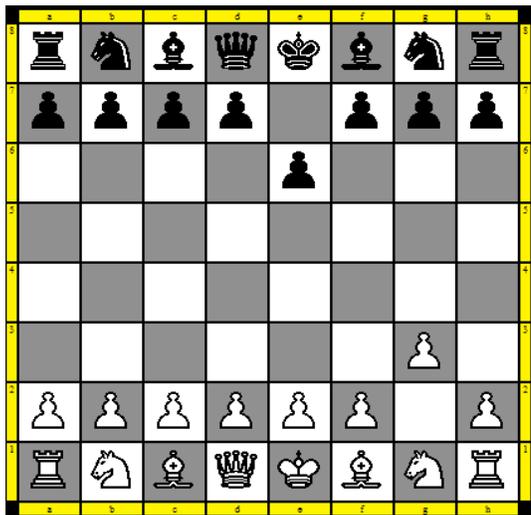
Easter Sunday Lect. Bible Study WIC
7 am Bible Study
Circle of Faith
1:30 pm

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

New Members Class Begins
3:00 pm Art Series Lect. Bible Study
Chess Club Library
7—10 pm
7 am Bible Study

26 27 28 29 30

Blood Pressures Lect. Bible Study Book Discussion
7 am Bible Study



Chess Club
 First and Third Monday
 From 7 pm til 10 pm
 Boards will be provided,
 Bring your brain full of Strategy!
 Contact Brett Spotts for more
 Information.

OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN

Do you like to Play Softball?



We would like to know how many folks would be interested in forming a softball team and playing in a church league. There are many jobs associated with the forming of a league. If you are interested in playing or helping in any way, please fill out the bottom of this sheet and put it in the box in the Narthex.

Thanks—Kay Skinner
 Evangelism Committee

Name:

Phone Number:

Interest: Team Member: Organizing:

My Child Would like to play Softball:

I would support my child as a team member:

My Childs Name is:

Forms may be returned to the church office or put in the box in the Narthex.

Tidewater Morning

William Styron

Meeting held Last Tuesday of the Month

In these stories—never before published in book form—William Styron focuses his unmatched talents on matters that have preoccupied him during much of his adult writing career. Although their immediate subjects are different—a young

Marine about to invade Japan in World War II remembers the role his father played in building one of the ships; a child recalls what happened when a former slave came home to die in the place where he was born; a boy describes the hot summer day on which his mother died, changing his life forever—the stories are told in the voice of the same narrator, who remembers vividly his youth in the tidewater town in Virginia.

A Tidewater Morning is written with the power and distinction of a writer who occupies a preeminent place in modern American literature.

More 60 years and more...

Congratulations on many

Wonderful Years

Mary Hindman	05-05-1939
Don Drennen	05-04-1941
Pauline MacKenzie	02-02-1947

Stress and the Economic Crisis

Submitted by Lynn McAllister, M.S.S.

While money is a relatively common cause of stress and family tension, the serious economic downturn we're currently facing has many people more stressed out than ever. According to recent studies, roughly 7 in 10 respondents are "very stressed" about money, and only 1 in 10 say they are *not* stressed about finances. Many are concerned about losing their homes, their jobs or their savings. Those are terrifying prospects that can seem all too real these days.

When we feel threatened, our body's stress response, often called the "fight or flight response", provokes sudden physical changes. The brain releases stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline, our heart rate quickens, and other changes occur that allow the body a quick burst of energy to run away fast or stay and "fight." With chronic stress, your body remains in this state for too long, which can be damaging to your health.

To stay mentally and physically healthy during this economic crisis, you will need to manage stress. Here are some ideas to do just that:

1. Limit your exposure to the news!

It's important to know what's going on in the world, but you don't need to be bombarded with it throughout the day. "Shocking" news seems to be the most newsworthy these days, and it *will* affect your mood and cause anxiety. Turn it off after the first half-hour.

2. Learn and practice effective relaxation strategies!

- **Breathing Exercises** Sit or stand in a relaxed position. Slowly inhale through your nose, counting to five in your head. Let the air out from your mouth, counting to eight in your head as it leaves your lungs. As you breathe in, let your abdomen expand outward, rather than raising your shoulders. Repeat this several times. That's it!
- **Progressive Muscle Relaxation** Starting with the muscles in your face, completely tense all muscles and hold the tension for several seconds (usually to the count of ten), completely relax for the same period of time, then repeat the process with the next set of muscles (the neck, the shoulders, and downward) until every area of the body has been relaxed. With practice, you can learn to completely relax within seconds

Journaling

It's not just for girls! Journaling about stressful thoughts and emotions can help get them out of your head so you don't end up ruminating on what stresses you. Be sure to end your journaling session with some brainstorming on solutions and recall past successes and blessings. This will give you a better sense of control over the situation.

Prayer

Prayer isn't a "relaxation strategy" per se, but it's powerful! If you don't know what to pray, start with the Lord's Prayer. The "Serenity Prayer" is another that can be very helpful. It goes like this: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change those things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference; living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as the pathway to peace."

3. Eat regularly and well!

Many people overeat or choose unhealthy foods to deal with stress, but doing so just makes matters worse. If this is you, eat only when you're hungry, choose healthy snacks more often, and don't skip meals! Practice "H.A.L.T.!" Here's how it works. Before going for a snack, stop and ask yourself: **H)** Am I **hungry**? **A)** Am I **angry**? **L)** Am I **lonely**? **T)** Am I **tired**? Food isn't going to fix anything but the hunger! Find other solutions when you're not really hungry. *Hint: When you're hungry, anything will do. When you're not, only certain things will do (think chocolate, chips, ice cream, etc.)!*

4. Make healthy drinking choices by drinking plenty of water and avoiding alcohol!

Dehydration is sneaky, so be sure to drink plenty of water. That drug-out feeling isn't always from lack of sleep, too much activity or even a direct result of the stress we're taking about. Depleting the water in your body has a very negative effect on your ability to manage stress.

As for alcohol, as many as 18% of people polled in recent studies on stress say they drink alcohol to cope. A glass of wine with dinner is one thing, but drinking to manage stress is another. Alcohol is a depressant! In the end, you will only feel worse.

Continued on Next Page

5. Exercise!

I think we all get sick of hearing this one, but it *is* true that regular exercise makes us feel better all the way around. Turn up your radio and dance! I guarantee that it will make you feel better and won't feel like work (although it may embarrass your teenaged kids).

6. Beware of negative people!

Whenever possible, shorten the time you spend with people who have negative dispositions. At the very least, do not engage in economic/political arguments or solution-less self-pity parties with them. Spend more time around people who tend to be positive and calm; it's infectious!

Reach out to others.

As bad as you think you have it, it's guaranteed that there are others who have it much worse. Reaching out is a win-win situation ... you help them and feel better yourself.

Lock or tear up those credit cards!

Don't use credit cards until you've paid down some of your high-interest debt. The short-term power of a purchase can easily lead to long-term despair. If you have to use a credit card, buy only what you truly need ... and get honest about what that is.

Don't isolate yourself, and have some fun!

Get together with those you enjoy as often as possible. When money is tight, host movie nights instead of going to the theater or potluck dinners instead of doing it all yourself. Rather than hitting the mall with your girlfriends, have fun going Goodwill or yard sale shopping instead (Give me a call; I'll go with you!). Just put a limit on how much money you'll spend before going. Take someone special for a walk in Nottingham Park or get on the playground swings with your kids. There are MANY things you can do for fun that don't cost a thing!

10. Finally, realize that most things in life, including economics, are cyclical.

There are times when things go well, and there are times when they don't. In hard times it's very difficult to remember that the downturns rarely last. Remind yourself often that "this, too, shall pass" and that God has you in the palms of His hands.

Earth Day

April 22

Fossils



What you'll need:

- cup of used coffee grounds
- 1/2 cup of cold coffee
- 1 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of salt
- Wax paper
- Mixing bowl
- Some small objects to make impressions in the dough
- Empty can or a butter knife
- Toothpicks, optional
- String to hang your fossil, optional

How to make it:

1. Stir the together the coffee grounds, cold coffee, flour, and salt until well mixed.
2. Knead the dough together and then flatten it out onto the waxed paper.
3. Use the can to cut out circles of the dough or use the dull knife to cut slabs large enough to fit your "fossil" objects.
4. Press your objects firmly into the dough. When you take the object out, you have your "fossil". If you want to hang the fossil, poke holes into the edge to hold the string.

Let the fossil dry overnight and then hang it if you wish.



Youth News

Scheduled Meetings For Youth Group

April 5th
April 19th
April 26th

There will be no Youth Group on
April 12th, Enjoy your Easter Holiday.

Thanks so much to the Host of our Progressive Dinner.
Eryn Tierney, Bill and Kathy Stullken, Rich and Ann Terry



The Widow's Mite (Mark 12:42-43)

Shanti Solomen from India took her idea of the women of the world praying for peace and reconciliation, and with that prayer sharing the least coin of their nation to help others. For each prayer, a women would set aside a coin as a token of commitment. It became a universal movement in which women from all nations could participate, giving the least coin which even the poorest of them could afford. The money is held in trust by the World Council of Churches until the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin chooses the projects that will be supported.

“The widow’s mite was very precious and very real to her but even more real was that it was a token or a concrete sign of her total faithfulness and devotion to God.”

“As a token of our commitment we are challenged to give a portion of our substance, of our time and energy, of our intellect and whatever special gifts God has given us.”

The quotes are from an address by Dr. Everett Mendoza at Silliman University, Philippines.

Fellowship of the Least Coin Celebrating 52 years



Auxiliary at Ware Presbyterian Village

Annual Spring Flower and Bake Sale

Friday, April 10th

9 am to 3 pm

Everyone is Invited!

The Thrift Shop and The Gift Box will also be open.



Presbyterian Women in Donegal Presbytery

Spring Gathering

May 2, 2009 (Saturday)

9:30 am

Wayside Presbyterian Church

Landisville, PA (Lancaster County)

A day of reflection, insight, worship

And fellowship



Immigration Issues:

How does it affect us/Why should we care?

Keystone Speaker will be Jeanne Clapp from Washington Presbytery.

Jeanne is an Administrative Assistant in the Washington Presbytery office. She was the Synod of the Trinity Representative on the P.W. sponsored U.S.A. Mission Experience Trip in April 2008 to El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico.

Jeanne was one of the 22 women from 11 Synods that traveled together to focus on immigration, issues of violence, poverty, racism, exploitation of women and children, and global economic policies. She will be sharing her experiences from that trip.

The La Mujer Obrera Centro Mayapan Project in El Paso, Texas is one of the two projects selected for the Birthday Offering this year and a project that the U.S.A. Mission Experience trip visited in Texas.

Additional Speaker will be the Rev. Gemechisa Guja, Pastor of the Oromoo Fellowship, currently meeting at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Lancaster. The Oromoo Fellowship is a congregation of Ethiopian Christians who came to the United States as refugees and have settled in Lancaster Area.

To Order Chancel Flowers.....



- ♦ Check the Flower Calendar in the Narthex for available dates.
- ♦ Write your name on the calendar next to the date you wish, and pick up one of the special marked envelopes from the basket next to the calendar.
- ♦ Please call Kerry Gerich, our chancel flower coordinator, at 610-998-9397 to order your flowers and let her know what to write in the bulletin.
- ♦ Drop the marked envelope with your payment in the collection plate or leave it with the church office

Dianne and Charlie Hammond want to thank every one in their church family for their kindness during Dianne's recent surgery and recovery. The prayers and support meant so much, and the meals provided were just wonderful!!

".....the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness...."

~Ephesians 5:22,23



The Lamplighter

6 Pine Street
Oxford, PA 19363

Oxford Presbyterian Church

Phone: 610-932-9640
Fax: 610-932-0863
E-mail: opc@oxfordpresbyterian.org

Our Web Page:

***[http://
www.oxfordpresbyterian.org](http://www.oxfordpresbyterian.org)***

Our Session

The Session meets the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm

Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011
Nancy Andress	Richard Forcey	Jackie Caleb
Peter King	Andrea Evans	Warren Vosburg
Vaun Newill	Beverly Hartgrove	Carol Carter
Bill Stullken	Don MacMillan	Jim McLeod
Eryn Tierney	Susan Sizoo	Eileen Loeliger
Jane Trimble	Wendell Higgins	Don Drennen

Our Deacons

The Deacons meet the third Sunday of the month after the 11:00 service

Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011
Dianne Hammond	Andrew Ralston	Dennis Tierney
Bob Hudler	Jessica Hammond	Jackie Montgomery
Jean McCauley	Patty McComsey	Cindy Hager
Raymond Vanover	Mark Verbanas	Herman Wharton

Oxford Presbyterian Church

6 Pine Street
Oxford, PA 19363

Return Service Requested

Place Postage Here

