



# Lamplighter

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

## Our Leadership Team

- Pastor**  
the Rev. D. Kerry Slinkard
- Clerk of Session**  
Jane Trimble
- Deacons Moderator**  
Andrew Ralston
- Director of Music**  
Peter Slauch
- Organist**  
Julie Allport
- Parish Nurse**  
June Hoffman
- Director of Christian Education**  
Stephanie Templin Ashford
- Preschool Director**  
Nicole Hartman
- Secretary**  
Eryn Gallagher
- Sexton**  
Clyde Prigg
- Treasurer**  
Beth Keefer

*"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments."*

*-Psalm 119:73*

has asked that checks be made payable to OPC with the account number DR000064 on your check's memo line.



### Volunteering:

Our own Scott Stevenson (above right) was part of the health care team from Christiana Care who traveled to Haiti to aid in the relief effort. For those who are interested in volunteering and would like to be notified of ways they can help, please visit the PDA website and view the various resources they have listed there.

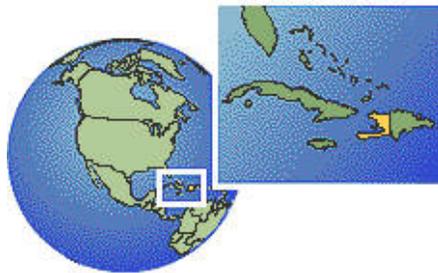
To learn more about what you've read here as well as view other resources and recommendations, please visit: [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda).

Our church has participated by giving \$1,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund.



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The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program recommends the following options for those who would like to send help to Haiti:

**Donating Material Resources:**  
The PDA recommends that donations for material resources be made by creating Heart Hygiene Kits and Baby Kits (lists of what goes in their kits is available on the website) but to avoid collecting other materials to send. Other materials can be difficult to store and ship.

**Financial Gifts:**  
According to the PDA, the most pressing need is for financial donations. Donegal Presbytery

# Help for Haiti

### 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

For my Pastor's Corner this month, I'd like to point out that February is Black History Month. This designation is a little passé because we shouldn't think that February is the only time to consider the part that African-Americans have played in our lives. Nevertheless, I thought it might be interesting to consider some Black History questions (*answers found on page 11*):

1. Who was the first African-American to appear on a U.S. postage stamp?  
a) Paul Robeson      b) Frederick Douglass      c) Booker T. Washington
  
2. Hiram Revels, the first African-American US senator, took his oath of office on which date?  
a) May 6, 1935      b) February 25, 1870      c) January 11, 1910
  
3. US representative Barbara Jordan earned which distinction in 1976?  
a) She became the first African-American keynote speaker at a national political convention.  
b) She headed the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
c) She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
  
4. Who founded Tuskegee Institute, one of the leading African-American universities in America, in 1881?  
a) Booker T. Washington      b) George Washington Carver      c) Frederick Douglass
  
5. Mary McLeod Bethune, a founder of Bethune-Cookman College and the National Council of Negro Women, also served in which capacity?  
a) She organized the racial integration of the national Red Cross.  
b) She was a special advisor on minority affairs to President Franklin Roosevelt.  
c) She wrote an influential biography of Frederick Douglass.
  
6. African-American political scientist Ralph Bunche won the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for which achievement?  
a) He mediated the Arab-Israeli truce in 1948.  
b) He worked to integrate the US armed forces during World War II.  
c) He organized relief efforts to help victims of famine in Eastern Africa.
  
7. Marian Wright Edelman, a successful lawyer and activist, established which organization in 1973?  
a) Children's Defense Fund      b) Operation PUSH      c) Habitat for Humanity
  
8. Author, educator, and civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois published which collection of essays and sketches in 1903?  
a) Native Son      b) Notes of a Native Son      c) The Souls of Black Folk
  
9. In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote his famous "*Letter from a Birmingham Jail.*" What was the subject of this letter?  
a) The importance of integrating schools      b) Non-violent civil disobedience  
c) Equality by "any means necessary."





## The Gift of Hands

*The following is an excerpt from Stephen and Diana Albrecht's vow renewal that they have so graciously agreed to share with the February Lamplighter for our hands and hearts theme.*

Diana, please face Stephen, and hold his hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, strong, yet tender and sincere with love, as he again promises to love you all the days of his life.

These are the hands that have worked along side yours, as together you built your home and family, as you laughed and cried, as you shared your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are the hands you placed with expectant joy against your stomach, until he too, felt his child stir within you.

These are the hands that look so large and strong, yet were so gentle as they held your babies for the first time.

These are the hands that worked long hours for you and your family.

These are the hands that have held you tight as you struggled through difficult times. These are the hands that com-

forted you when you were sick, or consoled you when you were grieving.

And these are the hands that will continue to love you passionately and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

Now, hold his left hand in yours and repeat after me

I Diana, give to you, Stephen, a new promise and yet not so new; a new wife, and yet not so new; a new affirmation of love from the heart that has loved you for over 7 years and will love you for as many more as God allots to it. This is the covenant I renew with you today.

Stephen please hold Diana's hands, palms up, where you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, small, yet strong and sincere with love, as she again pledges her love and commitment to you all the days of her life.

These are the hands that have worked along side yours, as together you built your home and family, as you laughed and cried, as you shared your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are the hands that held you in joy, excitement and hope, each time she told you that you were to have a child, that to-

gether you had created a new life. These are the hands that holds each child in tender love, soothing them through illness and hurt, supporting and encouraging them along the way, and knowing when it is time to let go.

These are the hands that have countless times wiped the tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that have comforted you in illness, and held you when fear or grief wracked your mind.

And these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

"Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

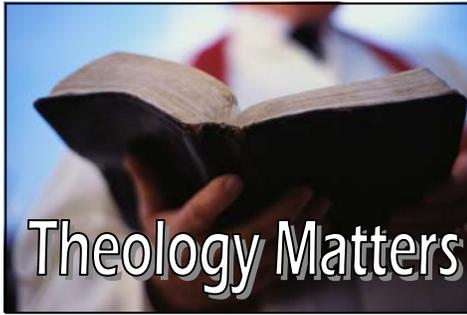
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our **hands** for us— yes, establish the work of our **hands**."

-Psalm 90:14-17





**Affirmation of Faith?!?!?!?**

Why do we recite those every week?  
Is this really what I believe??

Each Sunday in worship we take time after the sermon to join together in an "Affirmation of Faith." There is only one affirmation of faith which is required for all members of the PCUSA: "Jesus is Lord." However, in the PCUSA *Book of Order*, we find this:

*"The response to the proclamation of the Word is expressed in an affirmation of faith and commitment. A common affirmation may be offered by the congregation through singing a hymn or other appropriate musical response, or through saying or singing a creed of the church." (W-3.3501)*

We usually have both a hymn and a selection from scripture or one of the historic creeds of the church. Funk & Wagnalls defines a CREED as "a formal statement of religious beliefs or doctrine (sometimes also referred to as a confession of faith)." Let me clear up a term that comes in that definition.

"Doctrine" conjures up images of totalitarianism and oppression for some of us (and historical reality, even in the church, has sometimes borne out those images). Certainly, any group that would propagate doctrine among its members should provide for some measure of disagreement among those members. The content of belief is a very personal thing and no doctrinal statement is going to be 100% acceptable to every member. Nevertheless, it is often useful to provide a framework of faith around which each of us can build our personal belief. Each one of us has a responsibility to develop some form of personal faith in God that is consistent, regardless of circumstances. That is not always easy to do by ourselves. The church has found over the centuries that corporate statements can help in personal faith development. Carefully drawn by Christians in counsel with, or endorsed by, other Christians all listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their hearts, these statements provide touchstones for each of us. So doctrinal statements, without dictating our faith, can help at least to direct it. These statements have at times in the past been used as "litmus tests" for "true believers." They are not so used today, although ministers, elders and deacons must "sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith" (*Book of Order* G-14.0207c,

G-14.0405b3) before being ordained.

Our denomination officially recognizes eleven documents from various times and circumstances as the first part of our "Constitution." They are accepted as having value for informing church members about what we, as the corporate church, believe.

We normally recite the Apostles' Creed, except on Communion Sundays when the Nicene Creed is more appropriate. Occasionally (and I think I'll do it more often) we will use an excerpt from one of the other creeds in our Book of Confessions. It will be a way to familiarize everyone with the style and substance of these statements of faith from the church throughout the ages. Including these statements in the worship service helps connect us with brothers and sisters of faith across time and space. There may be elements in a given statement that sound strange, or even contrary to what you believe. If so, then you are free to not speak your affirmation. However, since the statement has been received by the church as informative, I encourage you to explore the meaning behind each part with which you differ.

Theology DOES matter,  
PEACE, Pastor Kerry

<b>Name of Creed</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Doctrinal Issue</b>
Nicene Creed ( <i>Communion</i> )	4 <sup>th</sup> C.	Middle East	The Person of Jesus Christ, The reality of the Holy Spirit
Apostles' Creed ( <i>Baptism</i> )	2 <sup>nd</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> C.	Italy, France	One God in Three Persons
Scots Confession	1560	Scotland	Election, the Church
Heidelberg Catechism	1563	Germany	Stewardship, The Lord's Supper
2 <sup>nd</sup> Helvetic Confession	1566	Switzerland	Covenant, Baptism
Westminster Confession, Shorter & Larger Catechisms	1647	England	Sovereignty of God, Authority of Scripture
Barmen Declaration	1934	Germany	Sin of Idolatry, Lordship of Christ
Confession of 1967	1967	USA	Reconciliation, Equality
Brief Statement of Faith	1991	PCUSA	Uniting PCUS and UPCUSA

*(note: a "catechism" is a question / answer teaching tool)*

*This table show the 11 documents officially adopted by our denomination as Part 1 of our Constitution.*



## February Birthdays

- 02/02 Kirsten McAllister
- 02/03 Janet Hudler
- 02/03 Bob Hudler
- 02/04 Elizabeth Abel
- 02/04 Kimberly Carter
- 02/05 Elizabeth Baity
- 02/06 Karen Hopkins
- 02/07 Doris Groseclose
- 02/07 Carolyn Clark
- 02/07 Cynthia Hager
- 02/07 David Arthur
- 02/08 Whitney Bradford
- 02/11 Jean McCauley
- 02/11 Terry Reisinger Jr.
- 02/12 Tabitha Colmary
- 02/13 Claire Herr
- 02/14 Edith Flessner
- 02/14 Brenda Sherman-Turns
- 02/15 James Sarver
- 02/15 Andrew Ralston
- 02/16 Rachel Sarver
- 02/19 Kaitlyn Somers
- 02/20 Dorothea Murray
- 02/21 Sharon Brooks
- 02/23 Jonathon Love
- 02/24 Donald MacMillan
- 02/25 Jennifer Ettinger
- 02/26 Mackenzie Staller
- 02/27 Judi Jefferis
- 02/28 Elsie Ringler

## Can Tabs for Kids

Submitted by D. MacMillan

Please remember to save all can tabs to be donated to Dupont Children's Hospital. You can drop your tabs off in the plastic container on the counter in the church office.



Ever wonder what they do with those can tabs? The tabs of food and drink cans are made of pure aluminum. They save the tabs instead of the whole can because it's more cost effective to sell the pure aluminum of the tabs than to have to remove the paint from the cans to try to use the whole can.

It really helps if you can remember to remove the tab of soda cans and other cans like soup and tuna cans to make great use of something you would have thrown away anyway.

Don't forget the recycling center outside of Oxford to get rid of the rest of the can that you're not donating to Dupont. You can recycle paper and plastics and donate clothes there as well.

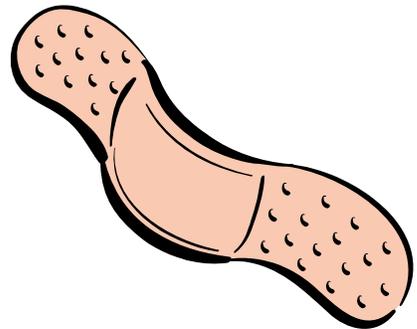
## Congrats to Kris

Kris Gerling was installed as Vice-Moderator of Donegal Presbytery at the January 19, 2010, Presbytery meeting held at the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church. Kris will serve for a year in that position, and in January 2011, she will become Moderator of Donegal Presbytery for the year.

Kris has served at the General Assembly level of our Presbyterian Church (USA) on General Assembly Council for a six year term and then served on that body for another three years while she was Moderator of the national Presbyterian Women. She has taken several mission trips abroad with Presbyterian Women, and presently serves as Moderator of Presbyterian Women in Donegal Presbytery.

We are fortunate to have her as a member of our congregation.

## Blood Drive



**The Blood Drive is March 15th at OPC from 1:30-7PM.**

# February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		WIC		CPR	CPR	NOMADS
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		WIC	Lenten Lunch, 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Communion		WIC	Lenten Lunch			



By June Hoffman

One of my most impressive experiences while visiting our Partner Church, Khulani Congregation in Mthatha, South Africa happened while presenting the gifts from OPC to them during a most joyous worship service.

The children of OPC had made a beautiful poster (see bottom of page 3) with a cut-out of a tree with branches and the "leaves" of the tree were actual traced - cut-out hands of various sizes of our children. I read one of the OPC's kids' letter (through an interpreter) and explained the tree-

poster being given to them.

I was standing in front of about 40 precious children and asked one little girl to come up and find a hand on the tree that fit hers. Very shyly, she came forward, put her palm on one of the hands, then another and then a third one. It was a match! The expression of surprise and wonder on her face as it just lit up and broke into a broad smile was an overwhelming sight that touched me deeply.

She had discovered that there is someone, in a land far away who was the same as her. Even though we are different, we are the same. When we give, when we reach out, we discover hands; loving, caring, helping hands... just like ours.

It is the love of Christ that unites us in His Body and makes us one. It is the Spirit of Christ that keeps us close, even across many oceans, seas, and lands.

## The Gifts of Women

Submitted by Jackie Slauch

From Presbyterian Women in our Congregation:

Presbyterian Women will celebrate the Gifts of Women on Sunday, March 7. This Sunday honors women who contribute their gifts to the church and community, and lifts up issues of women's rights.

International Women's Sunday is March 8. From Eve, the mother of all living, through the tears of Esther, through an angel to Mary, through Mary and Martha at their brother's death, through the women who came to the tomb, through Priscilla during the time of Pentecost, through women in the church today, God's word is kept alive.

From sermons preached to lessons taught, from emails sent to text messages received, from inscriptions on papyrus to internet blogs, the message is still being sent and received by women. We rejoice in and celebrate God's message to women, along with the way women continue to keep God's word alive.

We will be assisted in our celebration by Oxford's Girl Scouts.



## Thank You Clyde



Have you noticed how our sanctuary is always clean and orderly Sunday morning? How there are two hymnals and a Bible in all the hymnal racks? Maybe you have admired the view over downtown Oxford from our sanctuary's sparkling windows or been able to refresh in one of the several "ladies and gents." When any of the many outside groups who use our building are here after hours,

on weekends, for weddings and funerals, the church has to be opened and locked up late, tables and chairs have to be arranged and rearranged.

Light bulbs get changed and windows washed. Carpets get cleaned and floors are waxed.

In the summer, the grass is mowed around the church and on the Green; in winter, the parking lot and sidewalks are cleared of snow. Some of our community's young folks need to do community service, and guess who is there to help them get it done and keep them on the straight path for a few hours?

The man behind the scenes making sure Oxford Presbyterian Church is ready for everyone to enjoy and use is our sexton Clyde Prigg.

# Lenten Lunch

The Lenten season in the church calendar encompasses the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent has traditionally been a quiet time for reflection and devotions in preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter.

Oxford Presbyterian Church will once again offer a weekly fellowship lunch of soup and sandwiches, with members of the community briefly sharing their journey of faith and what it means to walk with God.

Please join us for the first Lenten Lunch on Ash Wednesday, February 17th at Noon, when Stephanie Templin Ashford will be sharing her story of faith.

On Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, George Bontz from the Third Street Grill will speak to us, and on March 3rd, Pastor Mark Terry from Oxford United Methodist Church will join us. Pete Wolf from Second Presbyterian Church will speak on March 17th.

Please check back for speakers for Mar. 10 and 24.

The Presbyterian Women will be serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday from Feb. 17th through March 24th. The meal begins at 12 Noon with the speaker finishing around 12:45. A \$4 donation will be appreciated.



# Pony Express



## 2009 Pony Express Stewardship Campaign A Success!!

Thanks to an overwhelming response from the congregation to the Pony Express Campaign we were able to reach 99% of our 2009 pledge goal. Elders and Deacons served as Trail Bosses monitoring the flow of saddlebags on over 30 trails distributed to the congregation.

2009 Pledge Goal **\$ 309,700**

2009 Pledges **\$ 307,257**

**180** Pledges were received including **35** new pledges.

Median Pledge **\$ 1,707**

The Stewardship committee thanks the congregation and Elders and Deacons for participating in the campaign this year. By meeting our goals The Oxford Presbyterian Church will be able to continue to flourish and continue to grow its ministry's on the Local, National and International levels.

**PRAISE THE LORD!!**

**"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back."**

**-Maya Angelou**

# Adult/Infant CPR Class

February 11, 6:30 -8:30pm

February 12, 9:00-11:00am

12:00-2:00pm

The class is FREE. To register, contact June Hoffman.

Class will meet upstairs across from the Bridal Chapel in Room 6. A Red Cross certificate will be issued with training credit hours. Instructor is Red Cross certified.

Note: CPR techniques changed drastically several years ago. Red Cross recommends a yearly update.

ALL are welcome.

# Bus Trip

## Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip

Please join us on

Monday, March 1, 2010. The fee is \$45 per person (\$43 if paid before 2/15). We will be leaving OPC at 12:20PM and returning around 8PM.

There are 47 seats available first come first serve. Make sure your seat is reserved by registering at:

610-932-9640

Trip sponsored by The Memory Garden





*Kentucky church takes special offering on Valentine's Day*

**By Susan Lindsey**

#### **A PCUSA Press Release**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** — First, Rev. Tom Dillard, a Presbyterian minister and police chaplain for Jefferson-town, Ky., successfully persuaded the city council — which was considering making a donation to aid Haiti — to make the \$4,000 check out to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

A few days later, at his church's annual chili cook-off and pie auction, Dillard volunteered to take a chocolate cream pie in the face to raise funds for Haiti, resulting in another \$325 check.

Now Dillard's church, Hopewell Presbyterian in Louisville, Ky., is collecting a special love offering for Haiti on — what else? — Valentine's Day.

"I just figured, let's extend this a little further," said Dillard. "And this year, since Valentine's Day falls on Sunday, it seemed natural."

The Rev. Dillard and his congregation of about 170 members are

urging other churches to follow their lead. "We would like to challenge all churches to take a special offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on Valentine's Day, to show our love and support for the people of Haiti, and all those who are working so hard to help them now."

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is accepting donations [online](#); by phone at (800) 872-3283; and by mail: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

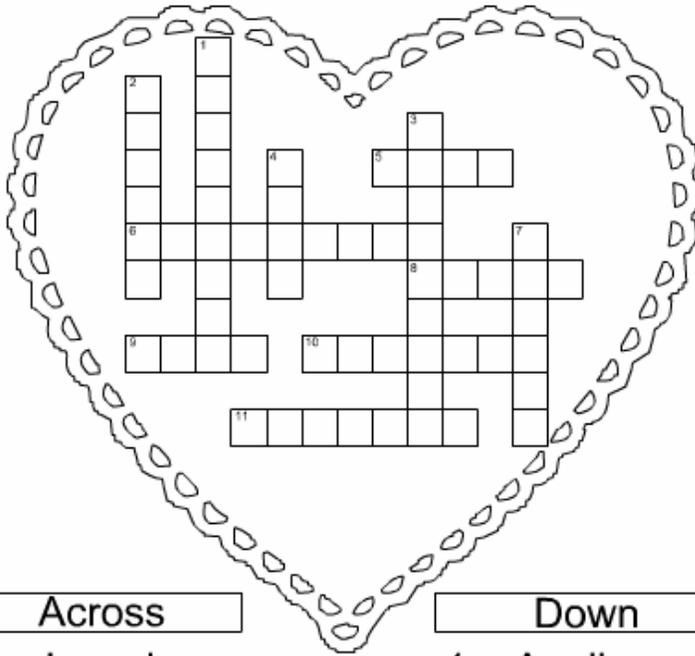
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is a ministry of the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#), which comprises 2.2 million members in more than 10,000 congregations, answering Christ's call to mission and ministry throughout the United States and the world.

**"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."**

**-Martin Luther King Jr.**

## Valentines in the Bible

Solve the puzzle by writing the "Valentine's" name for each person given in the clues.



### Across

5. Joseph
6. Zechariah
8. Abraham
9. Eve
10. Isaac
11. Samson

### Down

1. Aquila
2. Ahasuerus
3. David
4. Ruth
7. Jacob

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## Women's Health Fair

Attention local OPC entrepreneurs: Are you interested in getting some free publicity and helping out the Women's Health Fair?

We are in need of some door prizes for the Spring into Health Fair on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 10 - 3.

If you are willing to contribute a prize please contact Sue Lombardi or Kathy Lilley of the Women's Health Fair Committee.

## Annual Auction

### Save the Date!

Neighborhood Services Center  
Friday, April 23, 2010 at 6PM

DANSKO, INC Corporate Headquarters in West Grove.

Please plan to attend for an evening of great food and fun and a chance to get a firsthand look at Dansko's "Green" building.

At this time, donations of new items, antiques, art, services and gift certificates are being sought for the auction from businesses as well as individuals. There are also Sponsorship and Program Book advertising opportunities available.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation or need more information about sponsorships and advertising opportunities, please call the Neighbor-



## Black History Month Quiz Answers

1. c) in 1940
2. b) the unexpired term of Jefferson Davis!
3. a) Democratic Convention in NYC
4. a)
5. b) consultant to conference that led to formation of the U.N.
6. a) the first black to be awarded any Nobel prize.
7. a)
8. c)
9. b) King followed Gandhi's lead.
10. a)
11. c)
12. b) all three contributed to our Hymnal
13. c)
14. a) Best Supporting Actress in *Gone With The Wind*.
15. b) for a railroad oiling mechanism
16. a) in physics, 1876; Coffin in Zoology 1889; Brady in Chemistry 1916.



## The Lamplighter

6 Pine Street  
Oxford, PA 19363

### OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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E-mail: [opc@oxfordpresbyterian.org](mailto: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

<i>Class of 2010</i>	<i>Class of 2011</i>	<i>Class of 2012</i>
Richard Forcey	Jackie Caleb	Christine Arthur
Andrea Evans	Warren Vosburg	Vivian Brown
Beverly Hartgrove	Carol Carter	Fred Brubaker
Don MacMillan	Jim McLeod	Guy Hager
Susan Sizoo	Eileen Loeliger	Rebecca Kelso
Wendell Higgins	Don Drennen	Ashley Talley

### Our Deacons

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

<i>Class of 2010</i>	<i>Class of 2011</i>	<i>Class of 2012</i>
Andrew Ralston	Dennis Tierney	Ann Terry
Jessica Hammond	Jackie Montgomery	Victoria King
Patty McComsey	Cindy Hager	Jamie Workman
Mark Verbanas	Herman Wharton	Gene Turns



Return Service Requested

Oxford Presbyterian Church

6 Pine Street  
Oxford, PA 19363