



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 Arthur
- Director of Music**
Peter Slauch
- Organist**
Julie Allport
- Faith Community Nurse**
June Hoffman
- Director of Christian Education**
Stephanie Templin Ashford
- Preschool Director**
Nicole Hartman
- Secretary**
Eryn Gallagher
- Secretary**
Lorraine Holton
- Sexton**
Clyde Prigg
- Treasurer**
Beth Keefer

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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.



**Many
Voices
One
Thanks-
giving**

Annual Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 7:00p

— *choirs, prayer and praise* —

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

203 Church Road

Oxford, PA

Sponsored by Oxford Area Ministerium

Hanging of the Greens!

November 21 (Monday) starting at 6:00p there will be a covered-dish supper followed by the decorating of OPC for Advent and Christmas. Please contact the church office to volunteer to help plan the festivities and decorate our church. Preschool families will arrive at 5:00 to decorate their hallway for the holidays, then everyone will enjoy dinner and sing Christmas songs together.

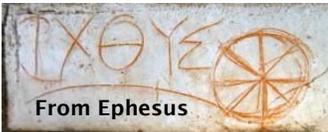


All are welcome!

Pastor's Corner

When *The Da Vinci Code* burst on the scene in 2003, Dan Brown introduced us to a new type of character.

Professor Robert Langdon was a “symbolologist” – someone who has made a career of studying symbols and their meaning. The profession really doesn’t exist and the title appears to have been coined by Brown. A more etymologically correct term would be “symbolologist,” but that would be too hard to say.



From Ephesus

Regardless, symbols have been an important feature of the church from our earliest days. Remember that the quickly drawn symbol of the fish was a cryptic indication that the household or individual was a Christian. The Greek word ΙΧΘΥΣ (*ichthus* – fish) was an acronym for *Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior*.

According to dream analyst Carl Jung, symbols differ from signs in that *signs* point to things that are known or knowable while *symbols* point to the unknowable. That makes religious symbols so meaningful for our journeys of faith. They allow us to connect to the transcendent beauty of God’s grace and love. The “liturgical colors”:

White (celebration)
for Christmastide and Eastertide,
Epiphany, Christ the King, Trinity,
Baptism of the Lord Sundays,

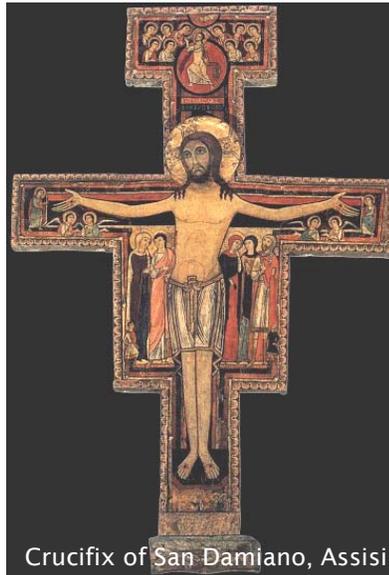
Purple (repentance or preparation)
for Advent and Lent,

Red (fire of the Holy Spirit)
for Pentecost, and

Green (growing in faith)
for “Ordinary Time,”

provide visible symbols of the cycle of life in the church. The sacraments themselves, the water of Baptism and the bread and juice of Communion are called “visible signs of an invisible grace” – symbols.

One of the most dominant symbols in the church since the middle ages is the cross, representing Jesus’ crucifixion. The cross is an incredibly rich symbol of the foundations of



Crucifix of San Damiano, Assisi

the church in Christ’s sacrifice, and in the foundations of the Reformation in the dispute over Communion. For Roman Catholics, every time the Eucharist is celebrated, Christ is crucified once more so that recent sins can be included in his atonement. The elements truly become the body and blood of Christ.

Because of this understanding, Catholics,

Lutherans, and Orthodox Christians have a “crucifix” depicting Christ still on the cross. The presence of this image can be very evocative. St. Francis said that the Jesus on the crucifix shown above spoke to him as he prayed before it. John Calvin asserted that Christ was crucified only once and that one sacrifice is sufficient for all sins past, present and future. Christ’s Spirit is present in the sacrament, but not his physical body. So our cross is empty because we emphasize a risen Christ rather than a sacrificing Christ, but we lose the inspiring presence of Christ in the process. So you see the variety of ways that symbols “speak” to us.



I have mentioned before that symbols have informed, engaged and inspired me in my own journey, and I hope they have similarly affected your journeys. I will be adding a “Symbology Corner” to future *Lamplighters* to describe a new symbol each month. I hope They will be as meaningful to you as they are to me.

See you in church!

PEACE,

Pastor Kerry

Dear Members and Friends of Oxford Presbyterian Church,

First of all, I would like to thank you for allowing me to work in and among you, to be part of your families, and to have an opportunity to be in amazing relationships with so many of you. I have been richly blessed by you.

In October we learned that Paul has been chosen to transition over the next few months to a new position within his company. We celebrate this accomplishment. However, this new position will require more travel and less flexibility. The hours that I have maintained at OPC have worked for our family solely because Paul has been able to offset the childcare needs that night and weekend work require. When we look at our already full schedule we know that we simply cannot do everything.

It is with great sadness that we have come to the realization that we will have to say goodbye to OPC.

I recently reread a host of pages that had turned down corners in the book *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott. I like to rewrite the passages that moved me and keep them together in case I need to reflect on them again. I found this section where Anne was teaching Sunday School in her church, and I thought about the work that I have attempted here:

We read scripture to the kids every week, even though they squirmed and yawned—we had concluded that people who make farting noises and weapons cut out of Doritos, should not determine what we did and didn't do in class. There's a lovely Hasidic story of a rabbi who always told people that if they studied the Torah, it would put Scripture on their hearts. One of them asked, "Why on our hearts and not in them?" The rabbi answered, "Only God can put scripture inside. But reading sacred text can put it on your hearts and then when your hearts break, the holy words will fall inside."

I hope that a few years of singing "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho" in Sunday School opening, a few Adventure Club memory verses, and a few confirmation—First Book, Last Book, Middle Book—quick quizzes will rest on the hearts of some of you until a moment finds you with your heart broken open, searching for God's answers.

There is also so much that has seeped into my heart from OPC, memories that will last a lifetime—tie dye, spray paint, masking tape, bumpy buses, white vans.... But more than anything the moments of life that you have allowed me to share with you—your joys and struggles, your laughter and tears. Any form of ministry is a privilege that is deeper than what the world offers, an invitation to the beautiful and raw life that we are called to live.

We will finish up at OPC at the end of November.

I trust you will greet what is next for OPC with excitement and joy. We are a people who believe in the cycle of life, death, and life after death. As this working relationship comes to an end, God will surely pour new life into each one of you.

*Blessings and peace to each of you,
Stephanie, Paul, Noah and Maeve*

Farewell Reception

November 27, Noon

Join us to say good-bye to Stephanie and her family.

Our Stewardship at Work

One in mission - A mandate to make a difference

by Linda Valentine, Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council



Linda Valentine

In an era of inequities and suffering, Christ compels us to be agents of change.

John Calvin referred to civil service as the most important calling for Christians—the faithful response to the person of God revealed in Christ. John Calvin’s Geneva was in many ways a social experiment aimed at reflecting the kingdom of God. It was one of the first European societies to provide a system of care for widows and orphans; it also pioneered the concept of public sanitation and offered educational opportunities to all citizens, a precursor of public education.

It is natural, then, that for nearly 500 years, those of us in the Reformed tradition have followed Calvin’s example of public witness, seeking God’s promises of justice and peace for our society, as well as our church.

Working for peace and advocating for justice are as critical today as at any other time in history.

The gaps between rich and poor are widening throughout the world.

Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children live in modern-day slavery—even here in the United States.

Millions still live without health care.

Violence, fueled by easy access to guns, shocks us when it grabs the headlines—but it happens too in poor neighborhoods and behind closed doors in stories we never hear.

Our nation of generations of immigrants is becoming more hostile to new immigrants.

We live in the richest country in the history of the world. Yet millions do not share justly in even a basic standard of living. Last year the Census Bureau reported that the percentage of Americans living in poverty in 2009 was the highest it had been in 15 years. Poverty experts and aid groups said the increase appeared to be continuing in 2010, according to a September

16 article in the New York Times. One in five American children lives in poverty, with more born into poverty every day.

The Presbyterian response

These are deeply troubling issues for people of faith. They compel us to act, knowing that the Lord requires us to do justice and to love kindness. In times like this, the ministry of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness is needed the most.

Located just steps from the Capitol in Washington, D.C., the Office of Public Witness exists to extend the evangelical mission of the church by witnessing to the sovereignty of God and the grace of Christ; to urge the nation to promote mercy, justice and peace; to speak truth in love to power among our national leaders; and to help Presbyterians respond to God’s call to witness to our faith in their congregations, communities, states, the nation and the world.

Isaiah 58 tells the story of a community in conflict. Fasting is ineffectual because its purpose is to cloak lives that are unjust and violent. Into this conflict the prophet speaks:

“Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

“The fast I choose,” the prophet writes, “is to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,... to share bread with the hungry, to bring the homeless poor into your house, to cover the naked....

“If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil; if you offer food to the hungry...you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

(Continued on page 5)

Healthy Living

Healthy Gums...

Allison Schmider RDH, Civilian Dental Hygienist APG Dental Clinic

Edited by Gale Sauer, RN FCN MSN

We have all heard from our oral health care providers that we need to brush and floss thoroughly every day. We leave our dental visits with freshly polished teeth, motivated to brush and floss daily only to fall back into old habits. Let's explore why it's important to follow our provider's advice.

Plaque, a sticky film of millions of excess bacteria, can cause gingivitis, cavities, periodontal disease, and bad breath. When plaque is not thoroughly removed, bacteria can use minerals (calcium) from your saliva to attach with a hardened shell on your teeth, forming tartar. Tartar must be professionally removed. It is porous like a sponge and harbors many bacteria. If you do not remove the bacteria daily and stay current with dental cleanings, you may notice that your gums get puffy, red, and bleed during brushing and flossing. This is called gingivitis. Gingivitis is a gum infection due to high levels of bacteria.

High levels of bacteria are a threat to your general health too. In response to infection, your immune system dilates your blood vessels and sends additional blood to your gums. In your blood are white blood cells (WBC), which produce an enzyme to destroy the bacteria. The byproduct of bacterial waste is an acid and the breakdown products of dead bacteria. Together the acid and enzyme can damage the bone that supports your teeth. This process of bone loss is called periodontal disease. There are several forms of periodontal disease ranging from slow, mildly destructive kinds to aggressive, severe types. Periodontal disease is the leading cause of adult tooth loss and is often preventable. Gingivitis always occurs prior to periodontal disease and is reversible, but the damage done by periodontal disease is not.

Many studies have also linked oral bacteria to heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, rheumatoid arthritis, preterm birth, and pancreatic cancer. People with diabetes have an increased risk of developing periodontal disease due to a reduced ability to heal. Having active periodontal disease also makes it more difficult for a diabetic to control their blood sugar.

Remember that healthy gums do not bleed. If you see pink in the sink following brushing, you might have gingivitis, which may have progressed to periodontal disease. Ask yourself if you are deficient in brushing and flossing, and think about how long ago you visited your dentist. Good dental habits are important in maintaining your oral and general health.

(Continued from page 4)

This ancient call is as compelling to us today as it was to the community to which it was written. Presbyterians have been inspired by the call to do justice and love mercy, to speak truth to power, to give voice to the voiceless and to advocate for peace for generations.

As well we should. We are people who have been blessed in so many ways, not the least of which is to be part of Christ's church, a community of faith called to glorify God in faith and in works, in word and in deed.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States, in 1966, published "The Theological Basis for Christian Social Action." It reminds us, "If the Great Commission is not simply an unfortunate necessity but a great privilege, then our responsibility to bear witness in word and action to this God in a social context is not a task we grudgingly and unwillingly must accept, but one we are privileged to accept, thankfully and joyfully."

Thankfully and joyfully, then, let us continue to speak up for peace and justice in our society and throughout our world.

Outreach

Missions We Support



Local

Neighborhood Services Center
Oxford Senior Center
Domestic Violence Center of
Chester County
Lighthouse Ministry
Meeting Ground
Miscellaneous Local Mission
Peacemaking Offering (25%)
Christmas Food Boxes

Beyond our Area

Onesimus Prison Ministry
Good News for India

Missions with the Larger Church

Per Capita (sent to Presbytery)
Basic Mission Support/to
Presbytery
Theological Education Fund/to
Presbytery
Meeting Ground
One Great Hour of Sharing
Pentecost Offering
Peacemaking Offering (75%)
Christmas Joy Offering

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES GIFT SHOP



Nationally recognized for commitment to social responsibility, Ten Thousand Villages creates opportunities for artisans around the globe to earn a fair wage. Artisans use this income to pay for food, education, healthcare and housing for themselves and their families. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit program of Mennonite Central Committee.

Our Vision

One day all artisans in the developing countries will earn a fair wage, be treated with dignity and respect and be able to live a life of quality.

Our Mission

Ten Thousand Villages' mission is to create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term fair trading relationships.

GIFT SHOP OPENS on Sundays, November 6 through December 18, and on Saturdays, November 12 and December 10th. We are located in Room 206, upstairs.

Other products available include Palestinian Oil, Threads of Hope, Heirloom Rice, and Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts, and cocoa.

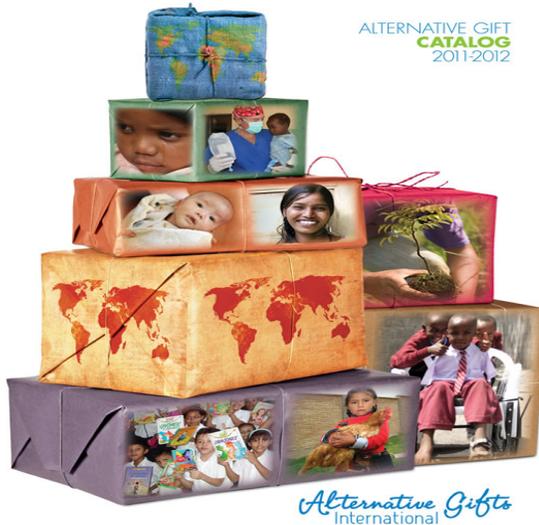
Ministry



**HONOR A FRIEND
OR LOVED ONE
WITH AN ALTERNA-
TIVE GIFT AND
CHANGE SOME-
ONE'S LIFE TODAY.**

Gifts Inspiring Change

ALTERNATIVE GIFT
CATALOG
2011-2012



*Alternative Gifts
International*

Mission Statement *Alternative Gifts International is a nonprofit organization which inspires support for humanitarian and environmental causes. We offer donors the option to designate charitable gifts through carefully selected agencies in the name of their relatives, friends and associates. Catalogs available in Gift Shop.*

“Least of These”

Please continue to support this mission. In the Church Narthex you will see a basket where canned goods, non-perishable items, cleaning and toiletry supplies may be donated. Neighborhood Services Center is meeting the growing needs of the community.

*****Current needs are for
spaghetti sauce, instant potatoes and
pancake mix*****

So far this year we have collected over 1,800 pounds, with the help of Vacation Bible School classes who collected over 300 pounds!!!

Jesus said, “Whenever you did this for one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it for me.”

**Collecting Children’s
Shoes for Neighbor-
hood Services Thrift
Shop**

Sizes 1 thru 9

New or Gently used

DROP BOX BY CHURCH OFFICE



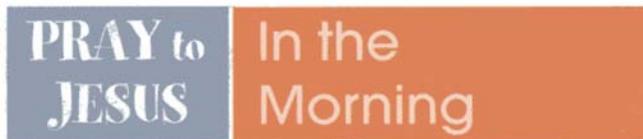
**November’s Community
Meal will be on the 27th
from 5:30 to 7:00p and
hosted by Dave and
Gale Sauer and the New
Member Class. Join us
for food and
fellowship!**



November Birthdays

1	Amelia Meyers	10	Mark Godfrey	17	Eleanor Ross
1	Richard Terry	10	Maria Lombardi	18	Galen Pugh
1	Clyde Williams	11	Geoffrey Henry	19	William Hoffman
1	Benjamin Gerich	11	Vaun Newill	21	Cowan Hahn
3	Kelly Tyson	11	Jeffrey Gehm	21	Brendan Wirfel
4	Lauren Hoberg	11	Graham Albrecht	22	Peter King
4	John Jennings	11	Hayley Allport	22	Ivana Wilson
4	Jennifer Quigley	12	Allan Andrews	23	Beth Keefer
5	Kathy Lilley	12	William Skinner	23	James McLeod
5	Bonnie Rhodes	12	Richard Winchester	25	Matthew Woolston, Sr.
5	Vernon Ringler	12	David Williams	27	Scott Kelly
5	Cathy Sherman-Turns	13	Isabelle Ringler-Friedrich	28	Matthew Woolston, Jr.
7	Colton Sherman-Turns	14	Eugene Allport	29	Marcella Workman
8	Stephanie Templin Ashford	14	Steven Carbonara	29	Jake Stevenson
8	Gabriella Lombardi	15	Charles Stoltzfus	30	Theodore Lorah
9	Samantha Gane	16	Gretchen Godfrey	30	William Ringler
9	Karen Olivieri	17	William Berg		

If yours or a loved one's birthday does not appear in our lists, please contact the office. We'd love to include you in our well wishes.



Dear Jesus,
It's time to rise!
It's time to shine!
It's time to leave your dreams behind.
It's time to stretch and start your legs.
It's time for toast.
It's time for eggs.
It's time for socks and underwear.
It's time to brush and comb your hair.
It's time to hurry up and get.
It's time to go, but don't forget...
It's time to ask you, Lord, to stay
Right by my side throughout my day, Amen.



Dear Jesus, why does every story
Have to have an end?
As soon as I finish one good book
I have to start again.
And every day has an ending, too.
And each night ends when the morning is
new.
And everything ends ... except for you!

Dear Jesus, I just want to say
Thanks for being my friend.
Forever and ever and ever and ever
And ever and ever. Amen.
The end.

Christian Education

Youth Group Ropes



Course at Black

Rock Retreat



Upcoming Event:

November 20 — Laserdome Trip

Presbyterian Women



*There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall
not be moved;
God will help it when the morning
dawns.*

—Psalm 46:4-5, NRSV

Presbyterian women from around the globe will gather in Orlando, Florida, July 18-22, 2012, to celebrate through the theme "River of Hope." Inspiring worship, Bible study, thought-provoking speakers and workshops on mission, leadership and spiritual growth will provide nurture and challenge for all who attend. This also will be a time for fun and renewal in The Sunshine State!

For more information, please visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

Mark your calendars!
PW Christmas Banquet
December 13

What's Happening?

Relay For Life of Oxford Kickoff Celebration!!

Come learn about Relay For Life and join in the fun!
November 10, 2011 - 6:30-8:00p at Margherita's Restaurant

For more information, please visit our Relay For Life website at www.relayforlife.org/paoxford

Second Presbyterian Kicks Off Capital Campaign

Saturday, November 5, 2011
2:00 pm

Mary Dod Brown Memorial Chapel
Lincoln University, Pa

Your tax deductible contribution will assist in the building of The Community Outreach Center at Second Presbyterian Church in Oxford.

Please come out and listen to some great music for a wonderful cause!!!

Oxford Arts Alliance at OPC

...And other Holiday events

- Nov. 13 3:00p Acapella Pops Concert
- Nov. 19 7:00p F.B.L.A. Talent Show Fundraiser for C.H.O.P.
- Dec. 4 3:00p Chesapeake Brass Concert
- Dec. 11 7:00p Greenwood Singers Concert

Support Our Youth Ministry!!

Get a Redner's Sav-A-Tape card today. Redner's donates 1% of each tape to OPC. Shop using gift cards (available in our office along with Acme, Giant, and Fergie's) and we get 5% more. It's that simple.

Lighthouse Youth Center Auction

Don't forget the 22nd Annual Benefit Auction which will be held November 12, 9:00a at the Oxford Presbyterian Church. You can still donate items by calling Buzz Tyson at 484-880-2018 or buzz@oxfordlighthouse.org. The preview dinner is the evening before from 4:30-7:30p. See Eryn in the office for tickets.

Nursery is now available during the 8:15a Worship Service every Sunday. Trish Barlow is our Nursery Attendant.



The Lamplighter

Volume 24, Issue 11

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 2011

Jackie Caleb
Warren Vosburg
Carol Carter
Jim McLeod
Wendell Higgins
Don Drennen

Class of 2012

Chris Arthur
Vivian Brown
Eryn Gallagher
Barb Hill
Nancy Andress
Bev Hartgrove

Class of 2013

Whitney Bradford
Kerry Gerich
Rich Lombardi
Andy Ralston
Mark Verbanas

Our Deacons

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

Class of 2011

Steve Hill
Jackie Montgomery
Cindy Hager
Herman Wharton

Class of 2012

Ann Terry
Victoria King
Jamie Workman
Gene Turns

Class of 2013

Andy Arthur
Lisa Slinkard
Neeley Spotts
Judy Walls



Return Service Requested

Oxford Presbyterian Church

6 Pine Street

Oxford, PA 19363