Our Leadership Team

Pastor
the Rev. D. Kerry Slinkard
Clerk of Session
Bonnie Rhodes
Deacons Moderator
Teresa Verkamp
Director of Music
Peter Slauch
Director of Children’s Choirs
Allison Perry
Organist
Julie Allport
Faith Community Nurse
June Hoffman
Director of Christian Education
Stephen Doutrich
Preschool Director
Nicole Hartman
Secretary
Eryn Gallagher
Secretary
Lorraine Holton
Sexton
Clyde Prigg
Treasurer
Beth Keefer

Table of Contents:
Lenten Events ............................. 1
Pastor’s Corner ........................... 2
Session Notes ............................ 2
Lenten Lunches ........................... 3
Atkinson Reading Group ............. 3
Discourse from the Director ....... 3
Outreach Ministry ................. 4
Thanks ..................................... 5
Nurturing Ministry ................. 6
Presbyterian Women ............... 6
Oxford Senior Center Events ....... 7
Calling all Knitters ...................... 7
Learning Ministry ..................... 8-9
February Birthdays ................. 10
Financial Review ....................... 10
February List of Events ............. 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.

Lent is a Time to Grow Closer to Jesus

Lenten Events

February 10 Wednesday at 12 NOON-Lenten Lunch
Speaker-Alec Millen
Ash Wednesday Service-6:30 P.M.

February 14 First Sunday in Lent

February 17 Wednesday at 12 noon-Lenten Lunch
Speaker-Robin Martin

February 20 Saturday-Pasta Bingo-5:30 P.M.

February 21 Second Sunday in Lent

February 24 Wednesday at 12 noon-Lenten Lunch
Speaker-Duncan Oleshak

February 28 Third Sunday in Lent

March 2 Wednesday at 12 noon-Lenten Lunch
Speaker-Scott Feather

March 6 Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 9 Wednesday at 12 noon-Lenten Lunch
Speaker-Sam Mylin

March 13 Fifth Sunday in Lent-Gifts of Women

March 16 Wednesday at 12 noon-Lenten Lunch
Speaker To Be Announced

March 20 Palm Sunday-Community Meal 5:30 P.M.

March 24 Maundy Thursday Communion Service- 7:00 P.M.

March 25 Good Friday Service 7:00 P.M. at Shiloh Presbyterian Church

March 27 Easter Sunday-Resurrection of the Lord
7 A.M. - Sunrise Service
7:30-10:30 A.M. -Easter Breakfast-OPC Fellowship Hall
8:15 A.M. -Early Worship
11:00 A.M. -Worship Service
Thanks,
Jonas?!?!?!

The complexity of the world around us is a continuing source of fascination for me. Nick, one of my campus ministry students at UD was a true genius. At his graduation I spoke to Nick’s faculty advisor, the chair of the geology department, who said that as he left his recruitment visit with Nick, then a high school senior, he thought, “Damn, this kid knows more than I do!” Nick studied meteorology and his final thesis project was modeling how the winter snow cover in Montana and the Dakotas affected temperatures in Mongolia (the “albedo effect”). His mathematical model had to include the reflected heat of the snow, the lower level wind patterns, the jet stream, the Gulf Stream, El Niño, the heat and wind effects of the New York skyline, and numerous other factors—all intertwined. Just think, God takes all those factors into account without blinking! (Wait, does God blink?)

As we continue to dig out from winter storm Jonas, it’s good to remember who is in charge and the power of this creation around us. When you have finished all the work of shoveling and blowing and sweeping, take a moment to thank God for this wondrous world we live in. We will never be able to comprehend all of its complexity, and yet God gave it to us to enjoy.

Thanks, Jonas, for helping us to praise God. And thank you, God, for giving us ibuprofen!

See you in church!

PEACE,
Pastor Kerry

SESSION NOTES
By Bonnie Rhodes, Clerk of Session

Hello and thanks be to God for each of you!

Just a quick review of our Offering Envelopes… The blue Per Capita envelopes ($32.27 for each member) go to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly for their use. By paying your share, that amount doesn’t have to come out of the overall Budget. The pink Building Fund envelopes go for Debt Reduction on a loan for repairs that we borrowed from ourselves years ago. You can also pay into the Building Fund for Maintenance/Repairs. The White envelopes are for your pledges/gifts. Many thanks for all!

Our Preschool is working on re-establishing a Board of Directors.

Annual Congregation and Corporation meeting will be held Sunday, February 7 after the 11 A.M. worship. Lunch will be provided. It will be over before Super Bowl starts!!

We still need a Youth Elder representative to serve on Session for one year. We also need a Deacon representative for three years for the Class of 2018. Please let Andrew Atkinson, Nominating Chair, know if you are interested. Thanks.

Ladies, you can still sign up in the Church Office for the Women’s Retreat for March 18-20 at Sandy Cove.

The Officers’ Retreat (all Elders and Deacons) will be held Saturday, February 13 (9-3). Session will meet after the Retreat.

Worship participants are always needed. Please see Ali Verbanas if you can serve.

Property let us know the leak in the Bell Tower is due to a faulty installation of their system by T-Mobile and they will repair it with no cost to OPC!
February is known as the love month because of Valentine’s Day. But how much do we know about the man for whom the day is named?

Valentine was a priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II. Under the rule of Claudius, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody wars. The emperor had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. On February 14, around the year 278 A.D., Valentine was executed.

Legend also has it that while in jail, Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer’s daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it “From Your Valentine.”

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. John 15:13. To think that Jesus laid down His life for each of us certainly shows the overwhelming love He has for us. I hope that His love will impact your life today and every day. YOU ARE LOVED!!

The Atkinson Book Group
On February 29, 2016 we will discuss The City of Light by Lauren Belfer. We meet at OPC at 7 P.M. in the Library/Conference Room.

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.

Presbyterian Women will be serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday from February 10th through March 16th. The meal begins at 12 NOON with the speaker finishing around 12:45. A $5 donation will be appreciated.

Please join us for the first Lenten Lunch on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, when Alec Millen will be our speaker.

Everyone is welcome, lunch is open to the community!!
The Oaks Ministry

This is a new ministry in Oxford whose vision is to provide housing and Christian-based support for women who would be actively working towards financial stability and other related activities. The house on Waterway Road is completed and a residential manager has been hired. This has been a three-year project led by a leadership team, and congregation of Media Mennonite Church. A budget for 2016 of $50,000 has been raised to support their efforts.

Applications for entrance into the housing program are available at www.oxfordoaksministry.com along with information about the ministry. They are still accepting donations from people, organizations, and churches in our area that feel called to help. If you would like to donate, please send to The Oaks Ministry, 290 Bethel Road, Oxford, PA 19363.

If you would like to support the ministry in other ways, consider food for the food pantry, paper products, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Pray for the Board members, for the women, and that God will be glorified through this ministry. Robin Martin, President of Oaks Ministry can be reached at 484-368-7268.

Robin Martin will be the Speaker at the February 17th Lenten Lunch!!

Community Meal

Consider signing up for hosting a meal. The months of February, and May through the end of the year are available. We ask that those who host keep cost down as much as possible and pay for the expense of the meal. Youth Group helps serve as well as many of the congregation who are willing to help. Teressa Verkamp is the Coordinator and will be glad to help plan meals. We have had a wonderful variety of organizations to share this opportunity to serve those in need. See Sign Up Sheet downstairs.

FEbruary’s Community Meal will be hosted by Oxford Borough Council on Sunday, February 28 from 5:30-7:00 P.M. It is FREE and OPEN to EVERYONE. Come and fellowship with your neighbors.
Thanks

Everyone who helped with the first annual Pork and Sauerkraut dinner on January 1st. It took a lot of people to put it all together—in the kitchen, in the dining room, or just buying a ticket! The proceeds helped purchase the new refrigerator when our 25-year-old unit quit working.

We're looking forward to next year. Same day, same place.

Can Tabs

Please bring your can tabs to the church office. They are being collected to donate to Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE.
GET READY FOR 2016 - THE DEACONS ARE BRAINSTORMING!

We held our first meeting of 2016 and are super excited over new ideas and events for this upcoming year. No need to worry though, we will still be cooking up a storm for many of the church events including the upcoming Congregational Meeting, the Youth Group’s Pasta Bingo, and of course, our famous Easter Breakfast on March 27th. We also look forward to bringing back some favorite fellowship events from 2015, including Family Water Games, the OPC Birthday Bash, and our Christmas Craft event.

In April, please plan to join us for a Dish-to-Pass Dinner and Historical Evening, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd. Do you think you know the history of Oxford, OPC, and the surrounding communities? Come join us as we all learn some fun facts and trivia. Do you have an interesting story or history to share? Please see a Deacon if you would like to participate in this event—we are on the hunt for those willing to help us learn more about our little town. Stay tuned for additional information as we get closer to what is guaranteed to be a great evening.

Presbyterian Women of OPC has agreed to support “The Oaks Ministry” by supplying welcome baskets for the women coming in the Oaks House. Each welcome basket will be accompanied by a prayer shawl. The first baskets and shawls have already been delivered. Robin Martin, President of “The Oaks Ministry” was extremely thankful. The first women to live in the Oaks House moved in on January 27th.

PW is also undertaking a mission project for the Village called “When The Bough Breaks.” A child removed from his/her home often arrives in foster care with no personal belongings. It is not possible to wait until funding begins to purchase items needed immediately. This need is especially acute for a baby who requires a safe place to sleep, a car seat, safety items for the new home, and start-up necessities like diapers and formula. The cost to support a baby or toddler entering care is about $300. This covers the cost of a portable crib, car seat, basic clothing, necessities (diapers, formula), and other immediate needs. The Village finds temporary homes for about 20 infants and toddlers each year. Welcome kits such as toddler friendly shampoo and soap, wipes, diapers, hand sanitizer, bibs and onesies along with a fun activity in a handy container such as a canvas tote or plastic shoe box can also be assembled.

PW will be collecting monetary donations for this project in the coming months. Please make any contribution checks to OPW. Eric Confers Martins, Chaplain at the Village will be at OPC to present the minute for mission on February 21. More information on the Village and this mission project is available on their web site at http://village1877.org/.
**Wreath Making Class**

**Design Your Own Spring Wreath**

Brad Buchanan, floral designer and owner of Buchanan’s Buds and Blossoms, will teach you how to create a colorful wreath designed to brighten any room or doorway.

This class is perfect for beginners and experts. You will leave this “make-it and take-it” workshop with a beautiful, one-of-a-kind wreath.

When: March 23, 2016 @ 7 P.M.

Where: Oxford Area Senior Center

Cost: $18.00 per person (Cash Only)

Space is limited. RSVP by March 16th by calling 610-932-5244 or Email oxsrctr@zoominternet.net

(Please bring your own glue gun and wire cutter, if available).

---

**Learn how to prevent memory loss...**

**Learn how to keep your brain sharp!**

Memory loss tends to increase with age but the reality is memory loss can strike early on causing fear and frustration. Neurologist Dr. Joseph S. Handler will explain the signs, symptoms and causes of memory loss. Dr. Handler will teach steps you can take now to reduce the risk of memory loss and techniques to sharpen your memory.

When: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.

Where: Oxford Area Senior Center (12 East Locust Street)

Cost: The class is FREE. Space is limited! RSVP by February 19th

Call the Oxford Area Senior Center 610-932-5244 or Email oxsrctr@zoominternet.net

---

**CALLING ALL KNITTERS!** Learn how to knit Prayer Squares. We seem to need more and more each Sunday. Join us on Tuesdays from 12 to 2. We are knitting in the Bride’s Parlor.
Hey, you’re coming to Pasta Bingo, right?

Saturday, February 20
Meal - 5:30 P.M.
Bingo - 6:30 P.M.

Must purchase meal to play Bingo!

LOTS and LOTS of great prizes!
Gift cards! Toys! Collectables!
Treasures!!

Pasta – piled high!
Your choice of toppings
Salad
Homemade desserts!

PAY AT THE DOOR

We are in need of female leaders for the mission trip to Seymour, TN.

Please see Steve if you are interested or need more information. The dates are June 26-July 2.
Save the dates!!

Sunday-Thursday - June 19-23

If you would like to help, please contact Steve D.
February Birthdays

2 Kirsten McAllister Norris  7 David Arthur  18 John Abel
2 Roy Caudill  8 Whitney Bradford  18 Patty Ewing
2 Carley Stoltzfus  10 Ethel Backenstose  19 Kaitlyn Somers
3 Janet Hudler  10 Karen Dickinson  20 Dorothea Murray
3 Bob Hudler  11 Jean McCauley  20 Lillie Spotts
3 Ryan Hudler  11 Sara Tierney  21 Cole Whiteman
3 Brooke Stoltzfus  11 Logan Quigley  23 Jonathon Love
4 Liz Abel  12 Gwendalyn Farmer  24 Don MacMillan
4 Kimberly Carter  14 Edie Flessner  24 Lily Stapleton
5 Beth Baity  14 Brenda Sherman-Turns  26 Mackenzie Staller
5 Reese Hudler  14 Heather Vacca  27 Judi Jefferis
6 Karen Hopkins  15 Jamie Sarver  27 Emma Gingerich
7 Doris Groseclose  16 Rachel Sarver  28 Elsie Ringler
7 Cindy Hager  16 Garrett Farmer

If your 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.

Oxford Presbyterian Church
December 2015 Financial Review – Congregational Giving

INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December</th>
<th>YTD Income</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members’ Giving</td>
<td>$29,667.00</td>
<td>$264,039.60</td>
<td>$249,243.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Offering</td>
<td>$4,557.00</td>
<td>$19,838.08</td>
<td>$22,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income*</td>
<td>$8,972.55</td>
<td>$188,936.69</td>
<td>$182,232.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$43,196.55</td>
<td>$472,814.37</td>
<td>$453,475.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MINISTRY EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>November</th>
<th>YTD Expense</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>$1,827.56</td>
<td>$5,670.99</td>
<td>$3,850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>$1,612.86</td>
<td>$14,478.38</td>
<td>$17,325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurturing</td>
<td>$215.00</td>
<td>$5,509.53</td>
<td>$7,430.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>$18,610.49</td>
<td>$51,335.70</td>
<td>$61,813.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving</td>
<td>$575.22</td>
<td>$1,716.27</td>
<td>$3,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
<td>$35,611.52</td>
<td>$420,361.59</td>
<td>$395,914.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$58,452.65</td>
<td>$499,072.46</td>
<td>$489,532.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NET INCOME (LOSS)  ($26,258.09)

*Other income is comprised of committee offerings, building use fees and non-living gifts.
Recurring Meetings/Events at Oxford Presbyterian Church (summer schedule may differ)

Sundays:  Worship every Sunday at 8:15 and 11:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary. Communion the first Sunday of every month. Coffee Fellowship follows each service in the Parlor.

Sunday School for All Ages every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
PW Coordinating Team Meeting—First Sunday of every month at 12:15 P.M. in the Chapel/Library.
Revolution Youth Group meets on Sunday at 6 P.M. – dates may change.

Mondays:  Junior Girl Scout Troop 4644 — 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.
Membership Development Committee Meeting – First Monday at 7 p.m. in the Library/Conference Room.

Tuesdays:  Living Healthy/Living Well—Every Tuesday at 4:15 P.M. in the Parlor.
Prayer Shawl Ministry Workshop—Every Tuesday from 12:00 P.M to 2:00 P.M. in the Bride’s Parlor.
Family Literacy Program—Every Tuesday from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor and Room 201.
Women, Infants and Children—The second, third and fourth Tuesdays of every month from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. (Room may vary throughout the year.)

Wednesdays:  Office Staff Meeting—Every Wednesday at 10:30 A.M. in the Pastor’s Study.
Bells of Praise Practice from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary (first practice to be announced).
Chancel Choir Practice at 7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary (beginning September 16).

Thursdays:  Family Literacy Program—Every Thursday from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor and Room 201.
Cub Scout Pack 213—Thursdays at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.
Bible Study with Steve Doutrich—every Thursday at 6:30 P.M. in the Bride’s Parlor.
Shalom Circle—First Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Jackie Slauch.

Fridays:  Family Literacy Program—Every other Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor and Room 201.
The Friendship Circle—Third Friday of every month at 2:00 P.M. at Ware Presbyterian Village.
NA Clean and Serene—Every Friday at 7:00 P.M. in the Sonshine Room.
Property Committee Meeting – Second Friday at 4:00 P.M. in the Library/Conference Room.

Special Events/Meetings in the Oxford Presbyterian Church

February 2016 Meetings and Events

2/7 - TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
12p Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Lunch Fellowship Hall
2/9 6:30p Wellness Council Library/Conference Room
6-9p Oxford Area Historical Association Fellowship Hall
7p Christian Education Meeting Pastor’s Study
2/10 12p Lenten Lunch – Speaker-Alec Millen Fellowship Hall
6:30p Ash Wednesday Service Sanctuary
2/13 9a-3p Officers Retreat and Session Meeting Parlor
2/14 - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
2/15 PRESIDENT’S DAY – OFFICE CLOSED
2/17 12p Lenten Lunch – Speaker-Robin Martin Fellowship Hall
2/20 5:30p Pasta Bingo Fellowship Hall
2/21 - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
2/24 12p Lenten Lunch—Speaker-Duncan Oleshak Fellowship Hall
2/28 - THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS AT BOTH SERVICES
5:30-7p Community Meal
The Lamplighter

Volume 29, Issue 2

6 Pine Street
Oxford, PA 19363

OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: 610-932-9640
Fax: 610-932-0863
E-mail: oxfordpresbyterian@gmail.com

Visit Us on Facebook

Our Web Page:
http://www.oxfordpresbyterian.org

Our Session
The Session meets the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Class of 2016
Andrew Atkinson
Janet Hudler
Dave Keefer
Ediene Ringler
Kay Skinner
Youth (vacant)

Class of 2017
Karen Olivier
Andy Orechovesky
Rob Shaffer
Ali Verbanas
Amanda Woolston

Class of 2018
Beth MacMillan
Walt Osborne
Missy Sarver
Emma Spotts
Ashley Whiteman

Our Deacons
The Deacons meet the third Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Class of 2016
Laura King
Teressa Verkamp
Debbie Waltman
Tom Zundel
Joanne Herr (Youth)

Class of 2017
Roy Caudill
Jenna Hammond
Bob Hudler
Lara Orechovesky

Class of 2018
Andy Arthur
Danielle Stapleton
Herman Wharton
(vacant)

OXFORD, PA 19363
6 Pine Street
Return Service Requested

OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAITHFUL PAST. COMMITTED FUTURE.