

## God's Vision for the City

*Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness. (Zechariah 8:4-8)*

*Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

(Jeremiah 29:4-7)

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

What participants in the past have said about their week with us!

"I learned that many ongoing problems in our society could be alleviated by people paying a little more attention to their communities and seeking to help others."

"After this I trip I understand better the importance of empowering neighbors, not just doing thing for them."

"The hands on ministry experiences we had were priceless."

"I will definitely tell others to come here to Philly in this way...because its important to experience ministry in different areas in order to have a better idea of how to help people in your own community."

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## A Service-Learning Experience

in



at

**The First  
Presbyterian Church  
in Germantown  
Philadelphia, PA**

**Summer 2009**

*Urban ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) During the twenty-first century will call us to know and love our neighbor. It will realize that it takes a community infused by the Spirit not only to know and raise a child or an adult, but to raze and raise structures. It will recognize that the city and those who inhabit it are the dwelling place of God.*

From a report, "Urban Strategy to the Year 2005" adopted by the 207<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1995.

Phil Tom, Coordinator of the Urban Ministry Office of the PC(U.S.A.), has written: "When Presbyterians commit themselves to minister in the city, they proclaim that they seek not only to address the hurts of their brothers and sisters but also to address the powers that seek to keep God's people apart from right relationships with each other and with God."

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is offering a week long urban service-learning experience for senior highs and young adults (ages 15-22). The Germantown community is a wonderful and diverse urban neighborhood with a plethora of opportunities to offer its residents and visitors. The First Presbyterian Church is in the center of much of the activity and not only mirrors the diverse opportunities of the neighborhood, but is in a prime position to offer educational and hands-on mission opportunities. The church has a commitment to the city, and particularly to its northwest section of the Philadelphia. The congregation is enthusiastic in sharing with others the rewards of being involved in urban ministry and therefore welcomes

others to grow and partner with them in this ministry.

Participants in the weeklong urban service-learning experience will have the opportunity to learn from those who spend every day working to improve the living situations of city dwellers. Participants will have first hand experience in area ministries such as homeless shelters, home rehabilitations, summer day camps, food cupboards, ecological organizations and more.

### Schedule for the Week

Saturday

Arrive at FPCG, Begin with dinner  
Welcome & Introduction to Week

Sunday

Breakfast, Worship at FPCG,  
Explore Philadelphia,  
Dinner, Evening Program and Discussion  
Monday

Breakfast & Devotions,  
Understanding Germantown,  
Dinner, Evening Program and Discussion  
Tues-Thurs

Breakfast & Devotions,  
Daily Assignments,  
Site Visits (box lunch included)  
Dinner, Evening Program and Discussion  
Friday

Breakfast & Devotions  
Hershey Park Outing  
Afternoon Devotion  
Saturday

Breakfast & Devotions  
Closing Program  
Receive Box Lunch

### Requirements

- **Participants should be senior high age (entering 9th-12th grades) and college age (18-22).**
- **There should be one adult supervisor for every seven participants registered for the week.**
- **Organization should provide a vehicle if there are more than four participants.**
- **Participants will need to bring sleeping bag, towels, and toiletries. Air mattresses will be provided.**
- **The cost of the week long experience is \$275` a person which includes 7 nights lodging , 21 meals and a day at a local amusement park.**
- **25% deposit due at time of registration.**

### 2009 Available Weeks

- **Early registration dates** Groups that register before January 31st, 2009 can choose the dates they wish to come. (Must start on a Saturday and end on a Saturday)
- **June 13th - June 20th**
- **July 11th - July 18th**
- **July 25th -Aug 1st**
- **Aug 15th - Aug 22nd**

Arrangements can be made to stay an extra night if groups wish to explore Philadelphia area on Saturday afternoon.