

THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN  
GERMANTOWN

# WINDOWS

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 5

MAY 2013

SPECIAL DATES  
OF  
INTEREST:

•Wednesday

May 1

Session  
7:00 PM

•Saturday

May 4

Mt. Airy Day  
10:00 AM

•Sunday

May 5

Bread and Cup  
4:00 PM

•Sunday

May 12

Mother's Day  
Worship Celebrating  
The Gifts of Women  
10:00 AM

•Sunday

May 19

Pentecost  
Communion  
Worship  
10:00 AM

Congregational  
Meeting  
11:00 AM

Wear something red to  
celebrate Pentecost

Concert

Keystone State  
Boychoir

3:00 PM & 6:00 PM

## From The Pastor

*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*  
Isaiah 43:19

Dear Friends,

I believe that God is wanting to do a new thing with The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. Of late we have been in a bit of a wilderness, and God wants to give us a way and to lead us out of this wilderness experience. In order to help us "perceive" that way, your Session unanimously voted to hire Reverend Paul Rhebergen as a consultant to work not just with church leadership but with the congregation as well. Reverend Rhebergen comes with wonderful qualifications for this type of ministry. He is a Presbyterian minister whose ministry is one of serving as congregational interims when churches are in transition between ministers. Also, Reverend Rhebergen teaches urban ministry

throughout our denomination.

The work that he will be doing with us is different from that of Reverend Wimberly a little over a year ago. The focus then was primarily on finances and developing a strategic plan that would help us determine how we can effectively and faithfully do ministry with limited resources (both finances and people). If you would like a copy of that report, please let me know. Reverend Wimberly worked with the Session on a very limited basis.

In contrast, Reverend Rhebergen will be spending much more time at First Church including meeting with officers, individually with some church members and leading focus group like discussions with groups of church

members and friends. These will be happening in May and the beginning of June. Look for dates and times to be announced so that you can attend one of these gatherings. Your participation is of great importance.

Reverend Rhebergen will help us remember our past but will also work with us to understand that *is* the past and we are a different church in a different context than we were. He will challenge us to take a realistic look at ourselves. Who are we now? We will want to discern where God is calling us and what God wants us to do and be.

In answering those questions, church leadership will need to make some decisions about how we will follow God's call.

Continued on page 2

# From The Pastor

(continued)



How can we be a faithful Church of Jesus Christ in this time and place with the resources that we have been given?

This can be an exciting experience for us as a congrega-

tion. It can and will be a challenging time as well. It will most probably require change but may it be change that will strengthen the ministry of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

In Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount he records Jesus saying, "Strive for

*his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."* (Luke 12:31, 32)

Pray for First Church and our new project!

See you in church!

*Nancy*

**Presbyterian  
Youth  
Triennium  
July 16-20**

## Mother's Day Flower and Baked Goods Sale for Triennium

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a four-day three-night gathering of Presbyterian youth that occurs every three years on the campus of Purdue University, is occurring this July.

Our congregation will be sending three youth to the conference this summer along with two adult leaders. The youth attending are Kristina Ohemeng (confirmand), Matthew Reisse (confirmand), and Lunden Lewis (a friend

of our congregation who will be attending his second Triennium through our church) along with Christian Heyer-Rivera and Michael Jones as adult leaders. In an effort to help reduce the cost of the gathering for all those attending, our Triennium participants will be holding a flower and baked goods sale during the two weeks leading up to Mother's Day. Please look for our table in Longstreth during our coffee hour

Please look for our table in Longstreth during that time and buy something sweet smelling or tasting for the important women in your life.



## Financial Reports

FPCG Finances through  
March 2013

Inc \$194,479.00

Exp \$259,268.00

Net -\$64,789.00

### March

#### Challenge Offering

supporting

One Great Hour of Sharing  
raised \$1,166.00

### May Community Outreach

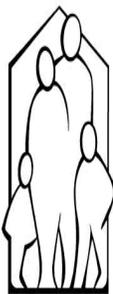
My Place

\$1,000.00

Presby's Inspired Life

Interfaith House

\$2,500.00

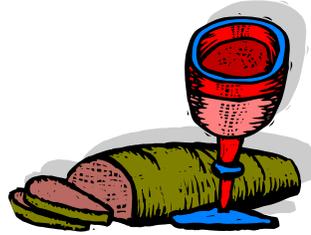


Interfaith  
Hospitality  
Network

IHN

A Community Response for Homeless Families

## Bread and Cup — A Mother's Perspective



Sunday, May 5 at 4:00PM, the Bread and Cup Coffeehouse celebrates Mother's Day a week early with its program "A Mother's Perspective," high

-lighting some of the women whose writings and performances have been a backbone of this ministry throughout the years. Sharone Gaither, Ru-Nett Nia Ebo-Gray, and Victoria Huggins Peurifoy have all been headliners at Bread and Cup, but this will be the first time they've all presented a

program here together. Each has a deep well of experiences from which their poetry springs, providing living water for all. As always, you are invited to bring something for our refreshment table, a song or poem for open microphone, or a friend to Bread and Cup.

## Adult Bible Study

Scripture tells us, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." And just like

sharing a meal with others can make the meal more enjoyable, exploring God's Word with others can enrich your experience of

Bible study. Why not give it a try? Join in the adult discussion Bible study that meets in the Jennings Room Sundays at 11:30AM.

## IHN Fund Raiser — May 5

On Sunday, May 5, the Manayunk-Roxborough Art Center (MRAC) will host *Collaboration of Hope*, a visual art exhibit and humanities presentation to benefit the families of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Northwest/Northeast Philadelphia (NPIHN). The

opening reception for this exhibit will be from 12:00PM to 5:00PM at MRAC's gallery, located at 419 Green Lane (rear), Philadelphia, PA 19128. Performances of spoken word and song will take place from 3:00 to 5:00PM and will include works performed by MRAC

Humanities director Peter Krok, and Philadelphia poet-MRAC member Mike Cohen. The visual art exhibit will feature new works by members of the Manayunk-Roxborough Artists' Co-Op. The exhibit will run through May 26. For more information phone 215-482-3363.

## SUMMER CHOIR

Beginning Sunday, June 9, 2013, Summer Choir will begin. The music will be quite a bit easier for the Summer months. Come and join us when you can. Rehearsals begin at 8:45 AM each Sunday to prepare the music for that day.



For more information, contact David Daugherty at the church 215-843-8811, Ex. 21.

## PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT

at the



PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia Presbytery invites you to a night at the *Please Touch Museum* on Thursday, June 20, 6:00 – 9:00 PM.

Come see what is happening at the *Please Touch Museum* at its new location in

Fairmount Park.

This event is open to all ages. Take the kids or see for yourself how much fun they have been having without you!

Tickets are an unbelievable \$12.50 which includes free

parking, a \$5.00 food voucher and unlimited carousel rides.

For more information visit the Presbytery's website at [www.presbyterianPTMnight.eventbrite.com](http://www.presbyterianPTMnight.eventbrite.com) or see Dani Howard at coffee hour.

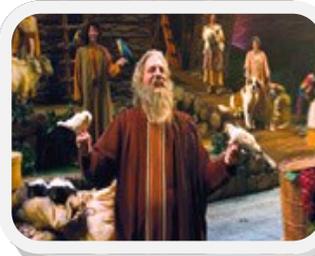
## An Afternoon at the Theater



Join the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee for a day in Lancaster, Saturday, October 12, for a performance of the musical *Noah* at the Sight & Sound Theatre. *Noah* begins

at 1:00PM and will be followed by dinner (family style or buffet) at a location to be announced later. Tickets are limited! Make your reservation now with a \$10.00 per ticket deposit. Ticket price

es: Adults - \$85.00, Teens - \$55.00, Children - \$40.00. Transportation will be provided. Ticket sales end Sunday, June 22. See Dani Howard at coffee hour or email her at [danihoward@verizon.net](mailto:danihoward@verizon.net) for more information.



# Challenge Offering Freedom School

Freedom School Participants

Summer 2012



**Freedom  
School 2013**

**June 24**

**through**

**August 9**

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom School® is a child-centered program that motivates children to excel, strengthens their feelings of self worth and lets them know that they are loved and valued by caring adults. A

focus on reading guides the activities along with the traditional experiences of summer camp. Bible study, swimming, crafts and trips!

We need your help to meet the \$75,000 budget to operate the program 7:30AM – 6PM, for seven weeks beginning June 24 through August 9. Parents pay an affordable \$45 per week (\$315 for seven weeks;) however, no child is turned away because of inability to pay the fee. Partner with us as we help keep our children safe this summer while strengthening their cognitive and life skills through

this engaging program.

The actual program cost per child is \$1500. Transportation cost for one local venue is \$300 or \$400 with admission to the venue. Daily snack cost, \$40. Your financial support will help in many ways whether you sponsor a child's weekly fees or pay for transportation for a trip or give what you can to help us meet our budget. Know that your investment will have an impact on the life of a child.

Look for information about hands-on volunteer opportunities in the near future.

## *Thank You—from the Littles*

We would like to thank our First Church Family for the many prayers, cards and expressions of support following the death of our Father and Grandfather, Mr. Leslie Littles.

Love and Blessings,  
Dieter, Heidi, Erika and Antonio Littles

## **New pictures on our church's website**

If you haven't visited the church's website lately, [www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org), and viewed the photo gallery, you're missing an opportunity to see some of what our congregants and ministries have been up to. Photos from our Disciples Basketball team, Sunday School, MLK work day, Palm Sunday and Easter Festival have been posted recently. Come, take a look and continue to check our albums; and as you do, please pray for all these important activities and the lives that are touched by God through them.

## Mother's Day Reflection

*Don Carlin*

Denise, a forty-five year-old mother, died in early March 2013, with her mother sitting vigil beside her. Denise had lived most of her adult life “on the streets,” as per her cousin who also sat vigil. Denise and her mother had spent most of the last couple decades estranged from each other. Denise’s mother admitted to me her own past criminal record. She expressed concern for Denise’s son who was recently released from prison and who had mixed feelings about trying to get to his mother’s bedside before she died. As far as I know, Denise did die without her son coming by to visit.

So, how will Denise’s son celebrate Mother’s Day this year? How will Denise’s mother celebrate? Mother’s Day is hard, I think, for people whose mothers are deceased; for people whose mothers are or were abusive or neglectful; for people

whose mothers are incarcerated or are living with chronic mental illness. Mother’s Day is likewise hard for mothers who have lost children to death or to prison or to the foster care system.

Jean and June are mothers who have end-stage dementia and who have lost their ability to communicate in words. They appear to have also lost their ability to recognize their own children. How will their children feel about Mother’s Day this year? Some mothers, on Mother’s Day and everyday, will be caring for their own children who are dying. Those dying children may be toddlers. Those dying children may be in their seventies. Other mothers will be devoted to their children of all ages with severe and/or chronic physical and mental disabilities. They are mothers whose work and worry never seem to

end. Will they be properly recognized and supported on Mother’s Day?

Of course, there are “mothers” out there who have no biological children or who have many “children” in addition to biological children. There are step-mothers and foster/adoptive mothers and block mothers and school moms and church mothers. I know a lady with no children of her own who has financially sponsored, at any one time, two dozen children living in impoverished countries around the world.

About twenty five years ago, in New York City, in a congregation eight percent single, I heard a minister preach a Mother’s Day sermon about four types of children: the child who is; the child who was; the child who never was; and the child yet to be. Someone could also preach about the four types of

mothers: the mother who is; the mother who was; the mother who never was; and the mother yet to be. When we contemplate these and all types of children and mothers, we will feel sadness, regret, yearnings, contentment, inspiration, and deep gratitude. Such contemplation will generate stories – some fresh, some long forgotten, some not yet lived.

On Mother’s Day, we can offer all of our emotions and all of our stories to God. We can entrust our children, our mothers and ourselves into God’s hands for God’s safekeeping.

We can thank God, our heavenly parent, for the families of many shapes that continue to shape our lives.





**Happy  
Birthday**

## May

- |    |                       |    |                         |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | <i>Mary Lundy</i>     | 24 | <i>Glenna Hazeltine</i> |
| 2  | <i>Norma Mercer</i>   | 25 | <i>Maurice Horne</i>    |
| 3  | <i>Grace Nehmer</i>   | 26 | <i>Aaron Bass</i>       |
| 8  | <i>Taneisha Gibbs</i> | 27 | <i>Madison Lundy</i>    |
| 12 | <i>James Thompson</i> | 28 | <i>Geraldine Marrow</i> |
| 15 | <i>Douglas Payne</i>  |    |                         |

### New Electrical Service Equipment



## Church Electric Service Update

Saturday, April 13 was an interesting day at our church. A normally busy Saturday was also to have been a work day sponsored by the Property Committee to carry out many lingering tasks. At approximately 3 AM, the church was notified by PECO that a failure had occurred in their system that also affected our church's service and several other locations in the area. Fortunately, PECO was able to restore the power by 1 AM on Sunday, and activities for Sunday were held as scheduled.

In order to repair their equipment failure, PECO needed access to our building to shut off the main power feed. Much to our relief, the new electrical equipment that was installed

in January allowed this to be done safely and with no problems. If this new equipment had not been in place, several possibilities may have existed – none that were good. One possibility is that the former main switch would turn the service off but never enable it again. Another possibility is that it would not interrupt the service, and then other methods would have to be taken (e.g. digging up the ground near the office sidewalk to get to the cable vault). Any of these possibilities would have resulted in a much longer outage, many days or weeks, and unplanned costs to the church.

Some may have wondered why we spent so long a period and incurred the expenses of

updating the electrical service equipment. But it was provident that this was done only months before the April 13 outage. To the left of this article is a picture of the equipment with the switch on the right side. It is not your normal light switch but rather a complex mechanical and electrical assembly that is used to switch 13,600 volts – about 60 times your household service!

So please remember that this outage was not due to any of the recent work done; and on the contrary the recent work enabled a timely recovery of our electric service. Thanks for your understanding and for those who helped to manage the situation.



## Butterflies

### A well-known jingle states:

“April showers bring May flowers.” Accompanying those flowers flitting to and fro are some of nature’s most beautiful creatures—butterflies.

This month’s column features butterfly (and caterpillar) books including Eric Carle’s classic about a hungry caterpillar.

Books listed are for grades K-4.

**Happy Reading!**  
**Deborah Thompson**

# Children’s Book Spot

Allen, Judy. *Are You a Butterfly?*

Illustrated by Tudor Humphries. Kingfisher, 2003.

Ashton, Diane. *A Butterfly Is Patient.*

Illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books, 2011.

Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar.* Philomel, 1969.

Collard, Sneed B. *Butterfly Count.*

Illustrated by Paul Kratter. Holiday House, 2002.

Ehlert, Lois. *Waiting for Wings.* Harcourt, 2001.

Engle, Margarita. *Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian.*

Illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt, 2010.

French, Vivian. *Caterpillar, Caterpillar.*

Illustrated by Charlotte Voake. Candlewick, 1993.

Gibbons, Gail. *Monarch Butterfly.* Holiday House, 1989.

Heligman, Deborah. *From Caterpillar to Butterfly.*

Illustrated by Bari Weissman. HarperCollins, 1996.

Kelly, Irene. *It’s a Butterfly’s Life.* Holiday House, 2007.

Lasky, Kathryn. *Monarchs.*

Photographs by Christopher G. Knight. Gulliver, 1993.

Lavies, Bianca. *Monarch Butterflies: Mysterious Travelers.*

Dutton, 1992.

Lerner, Carol. *Butterflies in the Garden.* HarperCollins, 2002.

Markle, Sandra. *Butterfly Tree.*

Illustrated by Leslie Wu. Peachtree Publishers, 2011.

Murawski, Darlyne. *Face to Face with Caterpillars.*

National Geographic Society, 2007.

Pasternak, Carol. *How to Raise Monarch Butterflies:*

*A Step-by-Step Guide for Kids.* Firefly Books, 2012.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *Fabulous Fluttering Tropical Butterflies.*

Illustrations by Kendahl Jan Jubb. Walker, 2003.

Pringle, Laurence. *An Extraordinary Life: The Story of a Monarch Butterfly.* Orchard, 1997.

Rockwell, Anne. *Becoming Butterflies.*

Illustrated by Megan Halsey. Walker, 2002.

Sandved, Kjell B. *The Butterfly Alphabet.* Scholastic, 1996.

Sidman, Joyce. *Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow.*

Illustrated by Beth Krommes. Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Simon, Seymour. *Butterflies.* Collins, 2011.

Singer, Marilyn. *Caterpillars.* Early Light Books, 2011.

Zemlicka, Shannon. *From Egg to Butterfly.* Lerner, 2002.

# May 2013

## 1 Wednesday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir  
6:30 pm Line Dancing  
7:00 pm Session

## 2 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir  
7:30 pm Voices-in-Bronze

## 3 Friday

2:30 pm Drop-in-Center  
6:30 pm Elementary School Youth Group

## 4 Saturday

8:15 am Keystone State Boychoir  
9:30 am Congregational Development & Fellowship  
10:00 am Open Gym  
10:00 am Mt. Airy Day

## 5 Sunday

8:45 am Chancel Choir  
9:40 am Power of Prayer-Westside Room  
10:00 am Worship Service  
11:10 am Children's Choir  
11:30 am Confirmation Class  
11:30 am Sunday School  
11:30 am Adult Bible Study  
11:30 am Gospel Choir  
11:30 am Chancel Choir  
4:00 pm Bread and Cup

## 6 Monday

## 7 Tuesday

9:30 am Classic Towns

## 8 Wednesday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir  
6:30 pm Line Dancing  
6:30 pm Christian Education Committee  
6:30 pm GACM Board Meeting

## 9 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir  
7:30 pm Voices-in-Bronze

## 10 Friday

2:30 pm Drop-in-Center  
6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group

## 11 Saturday

8:15 am Keystone State Boychoir  
10:00 am Open Gym

## 12 Sunday

8:45 am Chancel Choir  
9:40 am Power of Prayer-Westside Room  
10:00 am Worship Service  
11:10 am Children's Choir  
11:30 am Confirmation Class  
11:30 am Sunday School  
11:30 am Adult Bible Study

## 13 Monday

## 14 Tuesday

## 15 Wednesday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir  
6:00 pm Worship and Music Committee  
6:30 pm Line Dancing  
7:00 pm Property Committee

## 16 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir  
6:00 pm Administration and Finance  
7:30 pm Voices-in-Bronze  
2:30 pm Drop-in-Center  
6:30 pm High School Youth Group

## 17 Friday

## 18 Saturday

8:15 am Keystone State Boychoir  
10:00 am Open Gym

## 19 Sunday

8:45 am Chancel Choir  
9:40 am Power of Prayer-Westside Room  
10:00 am Worship Service Communion  
11:00 am Congregational Meeting  
11:10 am Children's Choir  
11:30 am Confirmation Class  
11:30 am Sunday School  
11:30 am Adult Bible Study  
11:30 am Gospel Choir  
11:30 am Chancel Choir  
3:00 pm Concert-KSB  
6:00 pm Concert-KSB

## 20 Monday

## 21 Tuesday

## 22 Wednesday

8:00 am KSBoychoir Festival  
6:00 pm Mission and Outreach Committee  
6:30 pm Line Dancing  
7:00 pm Communication Committee

## 23 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir  
7:00 pm Germantown Community Connection  
7:30 pm Voices-in-Bronze

## 24 Friday

2:30 pm Drop-in-Center

## 25 Saturday

8:15 am Keystone State Boychoir  
9:00 am Reader's Choice  
10:00 am Open Gym

## 26 Sunday

8:45 am Chancel Choir  
9:40 am Power of Prayer-Westside Room  
10:00a m Worship Service  
11:10 am Children's Choir  
11:30 am Confirmation Class  
11:30 am Sunday School  
11:30 am Adult Bible Study  
11:30 am Gospel Choir

## 27 Monday

**Memorial Day**  
Church Offices Closed

## 28 Tuesday

## 29 Wednesday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir  
6:30 pm Line Dancing

## 30 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir  
7:30 pm Voices-in-Bronze

## 31 Friday

12:00 pm Gaudenzia House Banquet  
2:30 pm Drop-in-Center

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

35 West Chelton Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144

Phone: 215-843-8811

Fax: 215-844-8144

E-mail: [FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com](mailto:FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com)

**We're on the web**  
[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)