

THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN
GERMANTOWN

SPECIAL DATES
OF
INTEREST:

•Sunday
September 1
Bread and Cup
4:00 PM

•Monday
September 2
Labor Day
Church Closed

•Sunday
September 8
Education Sunday
Church Barbeque

•Wednesday
September 11
Session
7:00 PM

•Friday
September 13
Leadership
Retreat
7:00 PM

•Saturday
September 14
Leadership
Retreat
9:00 AM

•Sunday
September 22
Peace Concert
3:00 PM

WINDOWS

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2013

From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

The 204th program year for The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is about to begin this fall. Before looking ahead, though, I want to tell you about our summer at the church. This was the fourth year of our seven week Children's Defense Fund Freedom School. Fifty five youngsters signed up to be scholars in this summer camp and were exposed to dozens of books, enjoyed swimming, music, field trips, made new friends and left with wonderful memories. A special thank you to all who helped make this year's Freedom School such a success!

This summer also provided opportunities for people to travel together whether to Rice's Auction, Ocean City, blueberry picking or for a camping weekend. Fellowship was enjoyed by all. On Sundays our summer choir joyously led the congregation in our music for worship and after worship we had an opportunity to learn what it means to be Presbyterian in a class led by Kevin Porter. Throughout the summer many members of the congregation participated in a church study led by the Rev. Paul Rhebergen. The results of that study will be shared with church

leaders this month. All in all it was another good and busy summer at FPCG.

Now we are poised to begin a new program year. Some favorites will be happening once again like some concerts, Christmas and Easter festivals, Sunday morning Bible class, all of our choirs will be returning (Chancel, Bell, Gospel, Children's and Oratorio), special worship services and more. Read throughout the pages of this September issue of WINDOWS and learn about some things being planned.

See you in Church!

Nancy

September Challenge Offering



Challenge Offerings

June
supporting
FPCG Deacons
raised \$1,061.00

July
supporting
John Gloucester House
raised \$537.00

Community Outreach September

Germantown Avenue
Crisis Ministry
\$2,750.00

Crossroads Women's
Center
\$1,250.00



Meserete Kristos College

Our Challenge Offering for September is the Meserete Kristos College in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is "an island of Christianity in a sea of Islam." After a Marxist regime took over in the early 1970's, the Meserete Kristos Church was driven underground and suffered great persecution. The church grew exponentially. In

1994, the Meserete Kristos Church founded the Meserete Kristos College. The vision for this College is to become a Christian university that offers a broad range of academic programs that will impact the various societies of Ethiopia and lead them towards a more honest, just, compassionate and prosperous fu-

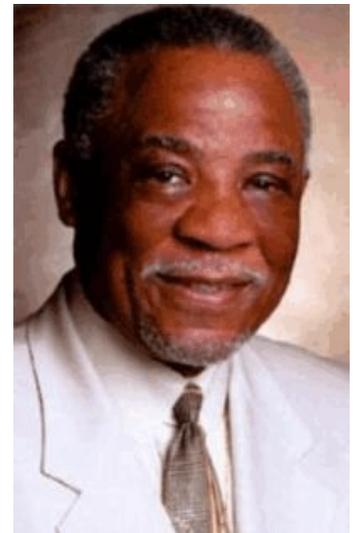
ture. Currently its programs include: two-year diploma in Bible and Christian Ministry; four-year BA degree in Bible and Christian Ministry, BA degree in Health Administration and a BA degree in Community Development. Please give generously to this wonderful college.

Wilson Goode to Preach September 15

The Reverend Dr. Wilson Goode is coming to preach at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown on Sunday, September 15. Dr. Goode was the first black mayor of Philadelphia and served in that capacity from 1984 to 1992. Currently he is director

and organizer of the nationally acclaimed Amachi Program, a national faith-based mentoring model for children of incarcerated parents.

Dr. Goode serves on the Board of Partners for Sacred Places with our own Jack Asher.



Leadership Retreat

The second Leadership Retreat with Reverend Paul Rhebergen, the consultant engaged by the Session to work with the leadership regarding some issues affecting the congregation, will be held on Friday, September 13 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and on Saturday, September 14 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. During the retreat Reverend Rhebergen will be leading discussions using information received from members of the congregation during his one-on-one meetings with individuals and during the six group gatherings. The leadership group will develop recommendations as First Church moves forward with its ministry and mission in Germantown.

Invitations have been sent to the congregation's leadership, and all are urged to be present for this important event.



Bread and Cup

Bread and Cup returns Sunday, September 1, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm with ethnomusicologist Felix Wilkins as the headliner. Mr. Wilkins has launched almost every season of Bread and Cup bringing us music and stories from around the world with his flute. Bread and Cup is family-friendly and communi-

ty focused, so please invite your friends and neighbors to our monthly celebration of the diversity that makes northwest Philadelphia such a special place to live.



Martin Luther King High School Prayer Vigil, September 9



STUDENT MURAL AT MARTIN LUTHER KING
HIGH SCHOOL

For years, an annual rite of autumn has been the Germantown Clergy Initiative's (GCI) first day of school prayer vigil on the lawn of Germantown High School (GHS). Although Germantown High

has closed, GCI's prayer vigil has followed most of GHS's students to their new school, Martin Luther King High School.

Efforts over the summer to insure a smooth transition of Germantown students

to King have received attention from sources ranging from the New York Times to National Public Radio. FPCG members can show their support of the students by joining other Christians from congregations ranging from Green Street Friends to Enon Tabernacle Church on the lawn of King High School, 6100 Stenton Avenue, on Monday, September 9 at 7:00 AM. For more information, contact Jack Beville at 267-385-5550.

People are Singing and Bells are Ringing

Consider joining one of our choirs this fall and become part of our musical family.

Chancel Choir leads the music at Sunday morning worship services. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 8:45AM and most Sundays after worship from 11:30AM to 12:30PM. The Chancel Choir will resume Sunday, September 1, with the warm-up rehearsal beginning at 8:45 AM.

Gospel Choir is directed by Andrea Overton and will be accompanied by David Daugherty. This choir sings once a month for worship and rehearses Sundays from 12:30PM until 1:30PM in the choir loft and also Thursday evenings from 6PM until 7:30PM in the choir loft.

Children's Choir rehearses each Sunday morning after the worship service at 11:10AM and sings

once a month on Celebration Sunday. This year this choir will also perform a children's musical at the Christmas Festival, Sunday, December 14.

Voices-in-Bronze is an adult handbell group. No prior ringing experience is necessary, but rudimentary knowledge of music notation would be helpful. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:45PM till 8:45PM Rehearsals for the Fall season

will begin Thursday, September 26.

Germantown Oratorio Choir: rehearses Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00 PM and will begin rehearsals for the Messiah Tuesday, November 12.

For more information about any of the choirs, contact David Daugherty at 215-843-8811, extension 21.



Giving Thanks for our Funeral Hospitality Team

Serving as Parish Visitor and working closely with the Board of Deacons, I get to see the very best of FPCG.

I spend time each week with church members who for various reasons cannot come to church but who love and support their church with their prayers and offerings. I see many acts of kindness that take place quietly behind the scenes that can brighten another's day or lighten their burdens.

One of the groups I am most

proud of is our Funeral Hospitality Team. This group comes together when there is a death in our church family supporting the grieving family with their presence at the funeral or memorial service as well as ushering when needed and helping visitors find their way in and out of our building. But this team is at their very best when there is a repast or reception following the service. Then they help set up, serve and clean up as well as provide needed support when a Catering Service is involved.

These folks don't hesitate to run to the store at the last minute to buy anything from paper goods to beverages to food. They are efficient and thoughtful, making family members and visitors feel welcome and cared for.

The Funeral Hospitality Team is a blessing, and I am very grateful for each one.

If you would like to learn more or serve on this team, please let me know.

—Heidi Mercado-Littles

PYT- 2013!



WITNESSES TO THE GOODNESS OF OUR GOD 2013 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM

More than fifty-two-thousand teenagers from across the country and beyond descended on Purdue University in Indiana for the 2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. The theme for the Triennium was "I AM" from when God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. Moses asked God what he should say when the Israelites ask God's name. "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.'" (Exodus 3:14)

The event ran from July 16 through July 20. Five young people from FPCG attended the Triennium -- Lunden Lewis, Matthew Reisse, Kristina

Ohemeng and Annie and Marie Claire Kamsi. On Sunday, August 11, Lunden, Matthew and Kristina gave their Triennium testimonies during the worship service.

At Purdue, the young people were separated into small groups with no two people from the same area in the same group.

Lunden spoke of setting himself the mission of getting to know his new roommates. Through discussions held each evening, Lunden realized there is more to life than just worrying about the small things. Living for Christ is

much more important.

Matthew spoke of the many people he met from all around the country. He was part of a group that focused on the I AM statement "I am the bread of life." (John 6:48) and prepared food packages for distribution among the needy. Matthew carried away the thought that there is enough food in the world to adequately feed every person if only it was evenly distributed.

Kristina felt her time at Triennium was fun and exciting at the same time. The "I AM" Kristina brought home is I AM because we are the power of

the resurrection. We have the power to spread the faith. God worked through those at the Triennium and will continue to do so during their everyday lives now that they are home.

Lunden, Matthew and Kristina along with Christian Heyer-Rivera greeted the congregation as it exited the sanctuary. Clearly the congregation is proud of the Triennium attendees. Even the choir changed its usual exit route to be sure to give each of these three hugs and words of encouragement. May the God of hope go with them every day!



PRESENTS

Keystone State Boychoir
Joseph Fitzmartin, Music Director
Steven M. Fisher, Director
and

Philadelphia Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra
Gary D. White, Music Director and Conductor

IN A JOINT CONCERT FOR PEACE

At
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
35 West Cheltenham Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Sunday, September 22, 2013

3:00 PM

No tickets required
A free will offering will be taken

No strangers to the First Presbyterian Church community, these two internationally acclaimed Philadelphia youth organizations will come together for the first time to celebrate the 2013 International Day of Peace through this special concert presented by Peace Day Philly.

Come hear the sounds of these talented young musicians as they entertain you with music filled with the hope and enthusiasm that only these special young performers can give!

Church Picnic/Barbeque

Church Picnic/Barbeque

Sunday, September 8



Immediately following Worship

Come out to our wonderful annual barbeque! Donations of salads, desserts or fruit would be appreciated. Any donated food items may be left at the kitchen window the morning of September 8. We know that with your help this event be a great success.

Thank you, The Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee.

Thank You!

The members of the Women's Association with to express their sincere thanks to the women of First Church who responded to our annual appeal for financial support of our Mission Outreach Commitments.

SEPTEMBER FLEA MARKET TRIP



By special request there will be another church van trip to

Rice's Outdoor Flea Market on Saturday, September 28.

At Rice's Market vendors come from all around to sell their new and used goods which may include: antiques and collectibles, jewelry, clothing, handbags, household goods,

plants, fresh fruits & vegetables, etc. The cost is \$10.

Please see a member of the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee to reserve your seat. This trip will be cancelled if it rains .

Church Directory

If you would like a copy of the current church directory, we can print one for you or send you a copy electronically. Some people have been asking for us to have a new church pictorial directory. The last one was done by the Hoods in our 200th church anniversary year (2009). If you are interested in helping to produce a pictorial directory, please speak with Nancy or David.

WANT PUBLICITY? GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT

A newspaper reporter I once knew was way past his deadline to finish an article for the next edition, pleading with his exasperated editor that he just had to rewrite the last segment so that it sounded more polished. The irate editor, one eye on the clock and the other glaring at the reporter, responded: "It won't matter how polished it sounds if you miss the edition and nobody gets to read it!"

That editor's comment holds true for publicity, too: It doesn't matter how good your event is if nobody knows it's happening. With summer now over, we are coming into a very busy time of year for The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. So this is

a plea from the Communications and Evangelism Committee at FPCG – if you want publicity for your event at First Church, PLEASE provide well in advance of the event accurate details such as date, time, what it's all about, and a contact phone number or email address that can be published.

The committee has a very limited budget for advertising, and relies primarily on free outlets such as newspapers, community web sites, online calendars, Facebook pages and the like to try to get the word out about some of the wonderful events at our church. But this takes time. Some of our community newspapers, for instance, are published twice a

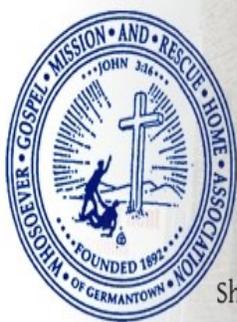
month, and some just once a month.

Our own WINDOWS comes out once a month. Online news web sites require considerable lead time for editors to decide how (or whether) they will cover an event.

Although committee members cannot make any guarantees about coverage, we will do our best to get the widest possible publicity for your event, if you will give us accurate information in a timely manner.

Thank you!

Denise Cowie, for the Communications & Evangelism Committee



Whosoever
Gospel
Mission

Sharing God's Love Since 1892



The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown for many decades has supported our neighbor, The Whosoever Gospel Mission whose purpose is to provide shelter, food, clothing, education, counseling, rehabilitation and other assistance to homeless and/or needy men, women and children in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area. The Mission is having their annual banquet at the Williamson Banquet Center in Horsham on Saturday, November 2, 2013, at 6:00PM. There are many churches represented and attendance exceeds 100. FPCG hasn't had a table for several years, so Wayne Swift would like to get a FPCG table together this year. Contact him at wayneswift2001@yahoo.com or call 610-279-6944 for a reservation and an enjoyable evening out.

Dinners For Eight

If you want to get to know other members of our congregation and share a good meal, this is just the opportunity for you. We are going to start Dinners for Eight again and have them the third weekend of every month. Dinners for Eight are held at someone's home on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday (Sunday could be brunch). Each person attending contributes to the meal, from the main course to a side dish, salad, dessert, bread or beverage. If you are interested in hosting a dinner at your home or would like to be a guest, please let Susan Mills Farrington know by email, smfarrington@verizon.net or call 215-882-2792. In September the dates are the weekend of September 20th through the 22nd. In October the dates will be the 18th through the 20th, and in November the dates will be the 15th through 17th.

October Yard Sale



A Yard Sale Team is being formulated. Those interested in being a part of the Team are asked to contact Madeline Valentine at 215-247-9612 or any member of the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee: Mandy Adams, Debra Gary, Dani Howard, Susan Mills Farrington, Mary Lundy, Rev. Kevin Porter, Bernice Roundtree, Cynthia Thomas, and Dave Wolford. **Please begin to save your past treasures to donate to this upcoming sale!** Sponsored by the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee.



September

1	<i>Erika Littles</i>	15	<i>Joyce Singer</i>
	<i>Wayne Swift</i>	16	<i>Rosemary Williams</i>
2	<i>D'Wayne Robinson</i>	18	<i>Polly Montaigne</i>
4	<i>Roger Miller</i>	19	<i>Martin Lagunsad</i>
6	<i>Marlene Simmons</i>	21	<i>Filomena Santos</i>
7	<i>Ruth Cato</i>	24	<i>Sol Williams</i>
8	<i>Robert Cato</i>	25	<i>Lisa Panetta</i>
9	<i>Don Carlin</i>		<i>Debra Gary</i>
10	<i>Howard Tyrrell</i>		<i>Brian Harris</i>
12	<i>Frances Smith</i>		<i>Melissa Miller</i>
14	<i>Jade Bass</i>	27	<i>Bernice Roundtree</i>
	<i>Ann Reisse</i>	29	<i>Lisa Martin</i>
			<i>Jayne Dambman</i>



The Versatile Alphabet Book

It's September and children are back in school. Kindergarten and first graders are learning their ABCs, but probably not from some of the titles listed in this month's column. The alphabet book has advanced beyond the *A is for apple, B is for ball* format. They range from puzzle riddles to narratives to the most popular format—the topical theme where every entry is related to the book's theme, e.g., ants, baseball or endangered species. This month's column focuses on the versatile alphabet book, titles that many would think are for K-1 but are fun reading for all ages. Consider the entry for X from *Antics!-xanthophile*. That's definitely not a first grade word!

Happy Reading!
Deborah Thompson

Children's Book Spot



- Ajmera, Maya & Anna Rhesa Versola. *Children from Australia to Zimbabwe*. Charlesbridge, 2001.
- Aylesworth, Jim. *The Folks in the Valley, A Pennsylvania Dutch ABC*. Illustrated by Stefano Vitale. HarperCollins, 1992.
- Bajaj, Varsha. *T is for Taj Mahal: An India Alphabet*. Illustrated by Robert Crawford. Sleeping Bear Press, 2011.
- Bannatyne-Cugnet, Jo. *A Prairie Alphabet*. Illustrated by Yvette Moore. Tundra Books, 2001.
- Chester, Jonathan. *A Young Adventurer's Guide to Everest*. Tricycle Press, 2002.
- Chin-Lee, Cynthia. *Akira to Zoltan*. Illustrated by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy. Lee & Low, 2006.
- Elya, Susan Middleton & Merry Banks. *N is for Navidad*. Illustrated by Joe Cepeda. Chronicle Books, 2007.
- Golenbock, Peter. *The ABCs of Baseball*. Illustrated by Dan Andreason. Dial, 2012.
- Hepworth, Cathi. *Antics! An Alphabetical ANThology*. Putnam, 1992.
- Kratter, Paul. *The Living Rainforest: An Animal Alphabet*. Charlesbridge, 2004.
- Markle, Sandra & William. *Gone Forever: An Alphabet of Extinct Animals*. Illustrated by Felipe Davalos. Atheneum, 1998.
- Musgrove, Margaret. *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions*. Illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon. Dial, 1976.
- Scillian, Devin. *P is for Passport: A World Alphabet*. Illustrated by Melanie Rose. Sleeping Bear Press, 2004.
- Verstraete, Larry. *S is for Scientists: A Discovery Alphabet*. Illustrated by David Geister. Sleeping Bear Press, 2010.
- Woop Studios. *A Zeal of Zebras: An Alphabet of Collective Nouns*. Chronicle Books, 2011.

September 2013

1 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
 4:00 pm Bread and Cup

2 Monday

Labor Day
 Church Closed

3 Tuesday

9:30 am Classic Towns
 4:00 pm NA Meeting
 6:30 pm Bethana Meeting

4 Wednesday

5 Thursday

6 Friday

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

7 Saturday

8:15 am Keystone State Boychoir
 9:30 am Congregational Develop-
 ment and Fellowship
 10:00 am Open Gym

8 Sunday

Education Sunday
 8:45 am Chancel Choir
 9:40 am Power of Prayer-
 Westside Room
 10:00 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Picnic/Barbecue

9 Monday

10 Tuesday

3:30 pm Germantown Special
 Services District
 4:00 pm NA Meeting
 6:00 pm Line Dancing

11 Wednesday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
 6:30 pm Christian Education
 Committee
 6:30 pm GACM Board Meeting
 7:00 pm Session

12 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir
 7:45 pm Voices in Bronze

13 Friday

2:30 pm Drop-in-Center
 6:30 pm Middle School Youth
 Group
 7:00 pm Leadership Retreat

14 Saturday

8:15 am Keystone State Boychoir
 9:00 am Leadership Retreat
 10:00 am Open Gym

15 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 Chancel Choir
 12:30 pm Gospel Choir

16 Monday

6:30 pm PRISM

17 Tuesday

4:00 pm NA Meeting
 6:00 pm Line Dancing

18 Wednesday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
 7:00 pm Property Committee

19 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir
 6:00 pm Administration and
 Finance Committee
 7:45 pm Voices in Bronze

20 Friday

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

21 Saturday

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

22 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 Chancel Choir
 12:30 pm Gospel Choir

23 Monday

24 Tuesday

4:00 pm NA Meeting
 6:00 pm Line Dancing

25 Wednesday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
 6:30 pm Mission and Outreach
 Committee

26 Thursday

6:00 pm Gospel Choir
 7:00 pm Germantown Community
 Connection
 7:45 pm Voices in Bronze

27 Friday

2:30 pm Drop-in-Center

28 Saturday

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

29 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 Chancel Choir
 12:30 pm Gospel Choir

30 Monday

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

We're on the web
www.fpcgermantown.org