

**THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN
GERMANTOWN**

**DATES OF
INTEREST:**

• **Wednesday
April 2
Session
7:00 PM**

• **Sunday
April 6
Rev. Dale Williams,
preaching**

• **Sunday
April 13
Rev. Sarah Colwill,
preaching**

• **Thursday
April 17
Maundy Thursday
Worship
Communion
Drew Hood,
preaching
7:00 PM**

• **Friday
April 18
Good Friday
Worship
7:00 PM
Rev Kevin Porter,
preaching**

• **Saturday
April 19
Easter Festival
11:00 AM**

• **Sunday
April 20
Easter Sunday
Prelude
9:30 AM
Festive Worship
10:00 AM
Rev. James Poinsett
preaching**

WINDOWS

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

APRIL 2014

From Pastor Kevin

Last month, I was blessed with by a week-long experience called “Credo” sponsored by the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Credo is a Latin word most often translated as “I believe,” from which we get the English word “creed,” among others. At the conference I learned a more literal translation would be “that to which I give my heart.”

At Credo, I was reminded of the distinction between “urgency” and “importance.” Often, these two words are used interchangeably, but there’s a significant difference. Think about it. Urgent tasks are those that demand our immediate time and/or attention. Sometimes they are important, such as putting out fires (literally or figuratively speaking)! Sometimes they may be time-sensitive, such as filling out a March-Madness bracket before the first game, but amount to nothing more than distractions.

The intent of Credo was to set aside time for ministers to address those things that may be very important, but since they don’t carry a sense of urgency, often keep getting set aside—such as looking at our personal vocational, spiritual, emotional, and physical health and wholeness.

Lent is supposed to be the season during which each of us is intentional in doing the same kind of very important but not urgent work in our lives—especially regarding our faith journey. To what have we been “giving our heart”? How has our way of living been serving us—or more important, how has it helped or hindered us in serving God and others?

Hopefully, as we’ve been journeying inward to explore these questions, we’ll be able to come together through the services of Holy Week and find how our personal stories connect with the larger story of God’s redeeming work through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please make it a point to join us for as many of the services of Holy Week as you possibly can as together we commemorate:

- Palm Sunday (April 13 at 10:00 am) when it seemed the whole world recognized Christ as King, yet didn’t recognize the full extent of what that meant or tried to limit his role to what was comfortable or familiar.
- Maundy Thursday (April 17 with dinner at 6:00 pm and worship following at 7:00 pm) when we, like Jesus’ disciples, will share an intimate meal together followed by the Lord’s Supper, the sacrament that feeds and reminds us of God’s presence in the midst of all situations.
- Good Friday (April 18 at 7:00 pm) when we will have a service of healing and reconciliation, laying at the foot of the cross all those things that would block our blessings and separate us from the love of God.
- Easter Sunday (April 20 with special music at 9:30 and worship at 10:00) when we celebrate the resurrection power at work in our lives in joyful, often unexpected ways.

I don’t like to make promises too often, but I promise that if you give your heart to seeking God this Lent and Holy Week, you will be blessed.

See you in church!

Kevin



Be the Change

Raised over
\$2,800

February Challenge Offering

Supporting
"Keep A Child Alive"



Raised \$961

"The biggest challenge people living with HIV face is loneliness and the lack of people to confide in." These are the words of a young man named Abel who is a regular at the Alive Medical Services clinic for the last eight years. It's there that he receives his medication known as ARVs, counseling, and love from a place that he describes as a family to him. We met Abel in a video that we displayed during this year's Be the Change event. Be the Change 2014 was successful in every sense of the word. In 2013, Be the Changed raised over \$1600. This year, between the Challenge Offering and Be the Change itself, we were able to raise over \$2800 for Keep A Child Alive. KCA has been a supporter to the Alive Medical Service clinic in Kampala, Uganda, since 2004. Because of your

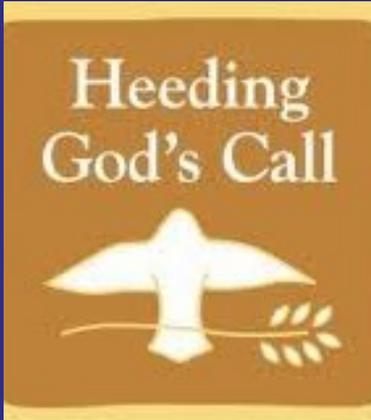
generous donations, Keep A Child Alive can provide a family with the food, medication and overall support it needs for an entire year. We are inspiring change. Today, Abel is currently a youth leader at the Alive Medical Service clinic where he mentors young people living with HIV/AIDS.

What inspires change? That was the theme for Be the Change this year. Change doesn't happen on its own. It needs a catalyst. During the event, each performer and MC gave his/her opinion on what inspires change. Love inspires change. Community inspires change. Faith inspires change. Hope inspires change. The evening of February 22 had all of that and more. A community came together filled with love and hope to be part of change. The event was filled with performances of positive energy and a spirit that screamed "we can be the change we

want to see." I stood up at the front and reminded everyone that "our donated dollars buy compassion, it buys support, eventually it'll buy the cure and ultimately, the money that we raise will buy life!" This event would not have happened if not for my MCs Kevin Porter, Erika Littles, Alexis Thomas, LaShan Rose and Kristina Ohemeng. To my performers, Khalil Overton, Nic Hanson, Issa Dale, Bishop Ernest McNear and the True Gospel Tabernacle Choir and Bethlehem, thank you so much for lending your talents to this event. Also, a special thanks to David Daugherty, Contina Lundy, Susan Mills-Farrington, Valerie Scott, Mary Lundy, Gloria Bethea, Illya Pasture (J.R.), the Hoods and Greens and everyone who worked behind the scenes to help create such a memorable night.

—Chris Scott Jr.





Challenge Offering: Heeding God's Call

Our Challenge Offering for April is Heeding God's Call, a faith-based movement to prevent gun violence. Through its local chapter, Neighborhood Partners to End Gun Violence (NPEG), Heeding God's Call sponsored the peace witness in front of gun shops in which FPCG participated. More recently, Bryan Miller, Heeding's Executive Director, convened a panel about gun violence and its prevention, the focus of a plenary session Saturday, March 22 at the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days' conference in Washington, DC. The session was attended by nearly one thousand activists, who reacted to Heeding's message with enthusiasm and commitment.

The organization's annual Good Friday service bearing witness to gun violence in Philadelphia and mourning the dead will be in West Philadelphia this year at Sister Muhammad Park on Friday, April 18 at 4 PM. For more information, visit their website <http://heedinggodscall.org/>.

Financial Report

2014 Pledge Goal
\$350,000

Pledge to February 28
\$47,567

Expenses as of February 28
Budget
\$169,666

Actual
\$148,102

April
Community Outreach

GACM Avenue
Crisis Ministry
\$2,750.00

Whosoever Gospel Mission
\$2,500.00

Remember Carl Dambman?

Missionary Carl Dambman, whose parents were members of First Church and who himself has spoken to the congregation, completed his fifth Winter Olympics as an official volunteer during the month of February. As a chaplain with Athletes In Action (AIA), his ministry primarily focused on the Olympic Family. He was among AIA's USA and Russian workers of nine staff, five volunteers, and nine sport partners who represented five countries. Carl was the only Christian chaplain who was not Russian.

The group had breakfast and Bible study (the Gospel of John) together with the discussions being in Russian, English and sometimes Nepalese. Among their duties were hosting the internationals, meeting people at the Sochi airport and helping with translation.

Carl has served in five Winter Olympics: Nagano 1998, Salt Lake City 2002, Torino 2006, Vancouver 2010, Sochi 2014. He is well-acquainted with many of the delegation leaders, officials and some of the coaches from the USA, Canada, Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

For some years, AIA was part of the mission budget of First Church, and a Challenge Offering was taken at one time. Missionary Dambman returns to the area now and then to visit his mother who is a resident of the Broomall Presbyterian Home.

2013 Financial Report

In 2013, our church again faced many of the same budget challenges that confronted churches and other charitable organizations, families, governments and private enterprise. Compounding that situation was the fact that our adjusted budgeted income (after reflecting the results of the stewardship campaign and changes in other income sources), dropped significantly from 2012. This resulted in the 2013 adjusted budget having a shortfall of \$40,678. Expenses in most areas were maintained at or below budget levels except for Property and Administration. The net result was that we had some savings, as the end of the year result was \$2,039 less shortfall than budgeted; however, the magnitude of the year end deficit is certainly a concern.

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual	Difference
Income	\$820,004	\$791,139	(\$28,865)
Expenses	\$862,721	\$831,818	(\$30,903)
Net	(\$42,717)	\$(40,678)	

Several highlights for 2013 include:

- Outreach & Mission giving was 10.9% of the actual income.
- Income: The Pledge income received slightly exceeded the amount pledged! The loose plate and special offerings were higher than 2012. We drew less Investment Gains from the endowment to compensate for the added amounts drawn at the end of 2012. Over the two year period of 2012-2013 we only drew the budgeted amount for this category.
- Expenses: Property expenses were \$29,500 over budget (nearly 25%) due to heating system malfunctions that necessitated using only higher priced oil rather than natural gas as the fuel for heating. Also added costs were incurred in getting the use of gas restored by the end of 2013. Administration expenses were \$10,200 over budget (slightly over 16%) with about 60% of this overage in office equipment costs. Salaries and Related Expenses were \$48,100 UNDER budget (9+ %) primarily in the support staff areas of housekeeping and administration.

Some areas for concern during 2014:

- Although we hope to eliminate the over budget areas spent in 2013, the under budget in Salaries may not be there.
- We have had some help in offsetting some of the added expenses by one-time gifts. These one-time gifts may or may not exist in the future.
- We need to improve our emphasis on planned giving and other estate planning items that will enable our endowment to keep pace with our needs. Do you have the church as the beneficiary in your estate documents?

The Session has many challenges all occurring at once: the roll out of the “Lead the Way Beyond” effort, the transition in the ministry and many other challenges. But developing a plan to operate with a balanced budget is paramount to providing the resources to enable our mission to continue.

Our stewardship campaign for 2013 has been promising, but there are still some faithful members who have not yet pledged. Remember that you can indicate your support by continuing to contribute even if your personal status prevents a pledge commitment at this time. Please give this your prayerful consideration to help ensure that we can carry out our mission both this year and for many years to come.

Disciples Basketball



Coach Melvin Brown

By the time you read this, the Disciples will have completed another successful basketball season. Hopefully, we will be celebrating the ministry's first championship. If not, we are still able to celebrate the success of the overall program. Our ultimate goal is to build meaningful and healthy relationships with young people, and basketball has been our vehicle. This season was a little different. If I had to tell you the highlight of the season, it was during a practice session. We meet every Sunday from 1PM - 3PM. On

this particular Sunday, I was more relaxed than usual. I was sitting on a folding chair as opposed to standing up and barking orders at exhausted players.

"...and by not communicating on defense, we are allowing the other team to score. It's the little things we do that causes us to stab ourselves in the foot." This statement was made by Coach Melvin Brown as he was addressing the team during one of our offensive sessions. To me, the statement had a familiar tone. It hit me when I realized I was saying the exact same thing to Mel when he was a Disciple nearly seven years ago. I had to laugh a little bit because here is this guy who was a child of the program and now he is coaching, echoing several of the teaching points I tried to teach his teammates years ago. Not only has Mel signed on as a coach, but you'll see him in church as a leader in the Drop-in Center or as a servant leader for Freedom School along with

attending college for his bachelor's degree.

On the other side of the court was Mike Jones, son of Eileen Jones, instructing players on how to properly move their feet to be effective on defense. Mike, who is a child of the church, said to me "I didn't even know y'all had a team. I would've been coaching sooner." Now Mike is a favorite with the players, and two of his daughters are regulars at our practices. Both Mike and Mel have provided another element to this ministry that I didn't know was missing. Both are knowledgeable about the game of basketball and, more important, agree that winning basketball games come second in this program. They provide a different energy that allows us to be that much more competitive as a team. Personally, the way I gauge how successful we've been this past season is not whether we're holding up a championship trophy (though that would be really nice!) but remembering how the pro-

gram continues to grow. I know when and if I decide to stop coaching, we've laid a solid foundation in this Disciples Basketball Ministry that'll allow others to step in and be just as successful as I've been as a coach. Coach Mike, Coach Mel, thank you for your time and commitment. This has been an incredible season!

See you in the gym.

—Chris Scott Jr.



Melvin Brown and
Chris Scott

*The First Presbyterian Church
In Germantown*

*35 West Chelton Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19144*

Invites You to Join Us for Our

Easter Festival

for All Ages



Saturday, April 19, 2014

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Featuring

Arts & crafts, egg dyeing, sidewalk chalking, etc.

Food, Easter Egg Hunt and

Program with Easter songs & message

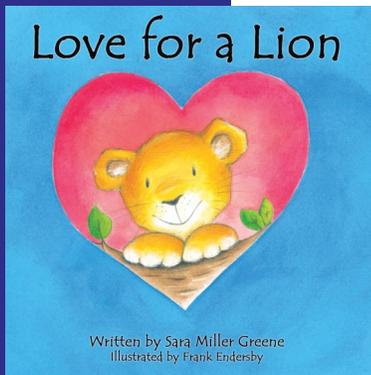
Free will offering

For more information call 215-843-8811

Web Site: www.fpcgermantown.org



Love for a Lion by Sara Greene



Valentine's Day may be over, but there is still love in the air! Love for a Lion, that is! Please join us in celebrating the release of Sara Greene's first children's book entitled *Love for a Lion*. The book is especially for children who have been adopted or who are in foster care. Children don't always find a home with families that look like them. This book is written to help young children understand more about adoption and the differences that can exist in all families. Sara says "I must thank God for the vision and the favor he granted me to bring this story from words and sketches to a full color story. This book is dedicated to my family (Nafzigers and Millers) who lovingly accepted me into their family as a baby. It is dedicated to all of my friends who have supported me over the years and helped me find my way."

The book is now for sale at www.buybooksontheweb.com.

You can search for it by title

Delores Solomon Receives GED

Proudly watched by her son Raymond, grandson Valient, two great-grandsons, and First Church members Rossie and Gene Gardenhire, Eileen Jones, Madeline Valentine, and Gloria Bethea, Delores Solomon received her GED in a ceremony at Temple University on Friday, February 21. The pride grew even more when Dolores was chosen to deliver the student remarks during the commencement.

Delores has been a very active member of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown for many years. Currently she is serving as a Deacon and as an usher. She drives the church van on Sunday mornings going to Rydal Park to provide transportation for residents, and she has often delivered flowers to members of the congregation. Through her initiative two years ago, Delores was responsible for bringing the Philadelphia Superintendent of Schools to speak at the church. From 2008-2012, she was President of the Philadelphia Home and School Council; when she retired, she said, "I feel happy that I have served and given wings to others so that they can fly."

The February graduation ceremony for WELL, Workforce Education and Lifelong Learning, was presented by the Center for Social Policy and Community Development, Temple University's College of Health Professions and Social Work.

The WELL Program is "committed to addressing and challenging the current adult education crisis by preparing motivated adults and youth to enhance their academic skills in order to obtain postsecondary education, enter the workforce, pursue their personal goals and become viable individuals, workers, citizens and family members." Delores plans to obtain that postsecondary education.

Property Committee Update

To assure that the FPCG is compliant with regulations required by the American with Disabilities Act, the church will relocate the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry from the basement office to the Westside Room. This move will provide our more than 1800 GACM clients each year a safer access to services that will be reached by the door off from the East Side parking lot. The new entrance to the Westside area will have a ramp allowing our members on Sunday mornings who use wheelchairs and walkers to have direct entrance into the Church Sanctuary.

Publication Deadlines

The deadline for announcements in the weekly worship bulletin is noon on Wednesdays. The deadline for articles and information for First Church's news letter WINDOWS is the 14th of every month. Please email your information to David Daugherty at FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com.

Profile: Gloria Bethea

“Service” is an unlikely middle name, but it could easily be one given to Gloria Bethea who, as she herself says, “My life has been in service to others as long as I can remember.” If nothing else would underscore that, the more than 50 certificates Gloria has received over her lifetime for volunteerism and community service surely would.

Certainly her family background helped. Born in Philadelphia, she was one of nine children, five of whom are still living. Perhaps it was the education she obtained in the schools of the Quaker City, including West Philadelphia High School and, for one year, having been granted special permission to attend, Germantown High. No doubt her dual degree in Program Development/Counseling from Antioch University advanced her understanding of helping others. More than anything, though, her personal philosophy of “life is about doing things for others and for God” has motivated her and inspired so many others.

Her paid jobs also have been in the service arena: as a drug counselor for the then Philadelphia Board of Education; as Director of Development for Cedars Nursing Home; Program Director for the city-wide Intergenerational Program; a counselor at the YWCA’s Southwest Belmont School District

Nor did Gloria stay clear of the world of politics. She was very active in the Northwest Action Coalition, one of the strongest groups in Philadelphia, where she worked with, by name familiarly, Bill Gray, Bill Green, Ed Rendell, Dwight Evans, John White and Wilson Goode. She was a surrogate for politicians who could not attend a community meeting, and she was the advance person who went to sites ahead of candidates to check surroundings making sure everything was in readiness. One candidate for whom Gloria “advanced” in 1984 was Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman nominated for national office, the vice-presidency, by a major party.

One area of special concern that Gloria has always embraced is that of delinquent girls. Some thirty years ago, the City of Philadelphia had no official programs for girls. It was then that Ms. Bethea helped organize “Girls Incorporated,” (“Girls Inc.”),

a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire all girls to be “strong, smart, and bold.” It was through Gloria’s leadership that brought the Girls’ Clubs of America to Philadelphia.

The interest in young girls took on international meaning when Gloria escorted young people, including Eileen Jones’s daughter, to Egypt and Africa, with school supplies. The West Africa nation of Gambia has granted Gloria Bethea Honorary Citizenship for her work in that country.

And what about her church? As a long-time member of the Bright Hope Baptist church, she found her way to The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown by way of an invitation from a friend. Of course, it didn’t take long for her to become fully immersed in service here: deacon, elder, usher, member of various committees. chair for six years of the Evangelism Committee, singer in the Gospel Choir. Additionally, Gloria was the originator of and the impetus for “Celebrating Germantown.” She shares the church with her brother Charles and her niece Tracy Santiago. Occasionally she brings to church one of her five great-grandchildren, her granddaughter or her son.

In the Presbytery of Philadelphia, she has served on the committee for the Self-Development of People and on the nominating committee.

“Service,” of course is not Gloria’s middle name, but when one takes into consideration the Latin “gloria” and the Hebrew “Bethea”—handmaiden of the Lord”—she is more than aptly named. —Sam Whyte

Memory Book Gift

The Session is currently collecting stories and photos of your favorite moments with Reverend Nancy to be included in a memory book to be given to her. You may email your photo and memory to Contina Lundy at continalee@gmail.com or see Contina during Coffee Hour during the month of April.

Youth Group Schedule for April

April 4 -Elementary Youth (K-5th grade)
April 11- Middle School Youth (6th-8th grade)
April 25 - High School Youth

Reading Buddies



Can you name our volunteer Reading Buddies?

Wind, snow, sleet, and frigid temperatures did not deter their mission. Each Tuesday afternoon these volunteers met with the second grade students from Greene Street Friends School to read, talk, offer encouragement and share what they have learned about life. YOU are invited to visit us! We meet every Tuesday at Interfaith House (across from the church) at 1:30 p.m. for one hour. Come meet the volunteers, the children and the teachers. It will make you day!

Reading Buddies is an inter-generational mentoring program that brings senior volunteers and city children together. For more information contact Lois Van Eerden at 215-368-1153 or loisvane@aol.com.



All students elementary through high school who are interested in raising money for the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry and/or walking on April 12 in the annual Walk + Run Against Hunger, please see Christian Heyer-Rivera for more details. If you need a ride to and from the walk, please make mention so that you can be put on the list. As is the case in other years, students and seniors will have first priority for seating in the church's minibus to this event.

First Tuesday Young Adult and Family Meal

For a little over a year, Ms. Lois Nafzinger has hosted a meal on the first Tuesday of every month beginning around 5:30 PM and lasting to about 8:00 PM for young adults and families within our congregation. While communication about this event has been primarily through text messages and emails, there are a number of families and young adults who still may not have heard about this wonderful time of fellowship, food, faith, and fun. A meal is provided with plenty of time to talk with other adults, parents, and, of course, kids. We spend a little time in worship and then have a fun faith reflection to encourage us. Ms. Lois has been challenging the group to memorize the books of the Bible through fun games. If you've not heard of this opportunity and would like to experience it, please see Ms. Lois Nafzinger or Christian Heyer-Rivera, and mark your calendars for the first Tuesday in April, the 3.

A Special "Thank You" or Two

The Christian Education Committee extends a special thank you to Ms. Dani Howard for inviting young people to participate in baking goods for the Congregational Fellowship Committee fundraiser in March. Ms. Dani and Ms. Lois VanEerden transformed our church's kitchen into a bakery and our children into master bakers. Thank you to Dick Liberty for his generous donation of materials for the endeavor. Thank you to all the parents who brought their children out to lend their hearts and hands (clean ones to be sure) to the work. Finally, thank you to all the children who joined in the work. We know those who participated had a wonderful time and were able to be a part something fun and significant in the life of our congregation. We thank God for all of you.

Our Search for an Interim Minister

Presbyterians do things “decently and in order,” including the way we search for an interim minister. First a job description for the interim minister was prepared by the Personnel Committee, approved by Session and submitted to the Presbytery’s Commission on Congregations and Leadership (CCL) for approval. Then at the February meeting of the Session, a member of that same commission conducted an exit interview. The elders were asked to respond to a number of questions designed to help the committee assist us in finding just the right person to lead us and ready us for the next chapter of our life together.

Next the Personnel Committee began to meet. Their first decision was to be open to candidates already in the Presbytery but also to do a national search. For a national search, the committee needed to complete a Ministry Information Form (MIF). Then the MIF had to be approved by the CCL. Remarkably, the Personnel Committee was able to complete the form in time to submit it to the CLC for their March meeting. The person who was supposed to bring it before the committee thought there was another step to take before it could come before the CLC. There was not! So Bill Young, from halfway around the world, emailed the right people on CLC (which he chairs) and a special meeting was called. As of this writing, we have just received notice that we may post the FPCG MIF on the PC (USA) opportunity list.

Already some Personal Information Forms (PIF) from ministers in this Presbytery have been submitted. Soon others should appear from around the country. The committee will evaluate each PIF according to the criteria on the MIF and job description. Interviews will be scheduled. Finally, trusting in God’s Spirit, the Personnel Committee will present to the Session the person sent to us by God’s Spirit. The interim minister position is not a “called position,” meaning that the person does not candidate before the congregation. Rather this person will be approved by Session and presented to the Commission on Preparation and Credentials (CPC) for Presbytery approval. The committee asks that you pray for God to send us a person equipped to help us toward the reconciliation for which we long and into the future God has already prepared for us.

— Reverend Cynthia A. Jarvis

A Prayer for First Church Germantown

During this time of transition to a new pastor it is helpful to recall other times when our church was in a similar state. This prayer should give us strength and hope by reminding us that we have been able to make this transition before and continued to carry out our mission.

Dr. Aaron E. Gast was our Senior Minister from 1967 through April, 1981. He wrote this prayer as he left our church to become President of the Presbyterian Foundation. Dr. Gast participated in our 200th Anniversary Celebration and at that time he used this prayer again.

A Prayer For First Church Germantown

by Reverend Dr. Aaron E. Gast

Almighty God our Father, we pray that this church may always be an appropriate place for Thy presence. At its doors, may there be a welcome for all people. In its Church School, may little children be taught about the kindness of the Good Shepherd. Here may young men and women come to be prepared for the struggle of life.

In this church, may both young and old face aright the problems of our day. Here may the strong become aware of their need of Thy power, the weak obtain courage, and the poor and lonely find friends and help. Here may doubts be dispelled, as mists before the rising sun. Here may those troubled by temptation find deliverance, may wanderers from God find joy in returning, and may those living in the grip of sin escape from its power.

In this sanctuary may souls be baptized into holy faith. May the sacrament of bread and cup give mystic communion with Christ and fellowship in His suffering. Here may the gospel ministry be magnified and young people be inspired to enter this sacred work.

Continued on page 11

A Prayer For First Church Germantown

Continued from page 10

From this pulpit may there be preached words of comfort, challenge, instruction and divine truth. Here may the law of love be set forth as the law of life.

Grant that Thy people may abide here in harmony and explore together the joys of the life of the spirit. May their faith be expressed in good works and generous stewardship and may their sacrificial giving send the gospel to the ends of the earth.

So may this church, through its many-sided ministry, be a means of grace and blessing to those within it and those around it. And when any go anywhere else, may its influence for love and truth and righteousness be shed abroad, to the Glory of God.

All this we ask in the name of Christ, that His Kingdom may come and the will of God be done, here and everywhere.
Amen.

—Submitted by Jim Thompson

What Will Be The Role Of Our Interim Pastor?

The Session appointed the Nominating Committee to search for an Interim Pastor for First Church. Several people, including the writer, asked what an Interim Pastor does. A search of the Presbyterian Church (USA) website at oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministers/ministers/interim-pastors gives the following information (some of which has been paraphrased or contextualized to reflect our Presbytery's policies):

Like all pastors, Interim Pastors offer to the congregations they serve:

- * Worship leadership and preaching.
- * Pastoral care.
- * Work with the Session to provide for the life and ministry of the congregation.
- * Administrative work including supervision of other staff persons.
- * Staff support for programs and committees of the congregation.

In addition, an Interim Pastor leads a congregation during the transition time after an installed pastor has departed, helping the congregation prepare to welcome the leadership of a new installed pastor. Interim Pastors understand the dynamics of a congregation in transition, including feelings of grief, loss, and, sometimes, relief or anger.

Interim pastors will help the Session provide for continuity of essential programs and may assist the Session in assessing needs for changes in programs and ministries of the congregation.

Some interim pastors have special skills and experience that can help a congregation recover from a time of conflict.

In the Presbytery of Philadelphia, an interim pastor is not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, or co-pastor, or associate pastor of the congregation. With the possible exception of a few very specific tasks requiring the approval of the Session and the Presbytery's Commission on Congregations and Leadership (CCL), the interim pastor may not be involved in the work and discernment of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

A good interim pastor will "hit the ground running," beginning his/her time with the congregation with intensity and energy, and will leave with intentionality, engaging in a "good goodbye" with the congregation and its staff. A good interim pastor is fully present with the congregation from the beginning, and really leaves when she/he leaves.



April Birthdays

2	Todd Gasper	11	Vera Harrison
	Chuck Reisse	13	Denise Cowie
4	Linda Farlow	16	Estalene Artis
	Rudy Stroh	20	Fay Tomlinson
5	Pernell Jackson	25	Mandy Adams
9	Robert Seed	28	Peggy Jane Garrett
10	Ruth Mower	30	Valient Solomon
	Dolores Shanks		

FPCG Host to Service-Learning Trips



Philadelphia
Urban Ministry
Institute

Annually, around the time of Spring Break for high school and college students, our congregation has played host to students from various academic institutions looking to serve and learn from our fine city. Last month was no exception as fourteen students from a variety of majors and one faculty advisor, all from The University of Maryland, made The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown their home away from home for the week of March 16 through the 23. The group arrived after our worship service on Sunday and were given a tour of the building along with an orientation of who we are as a congregation, and the uniqueness of our Northwest community. The group then spent the work week volunteering at Overbrook High School in West Philadelphia. This ministry of hosting continues to be a vital way that we help young people of a variety of ages learn and experience the joys and struggles, strengths and vulnerabilities common to life in urban centers.

Generally our hosting has been limited to aiding college spring break programs, and running our own summer Philadelphia Urban Ministry Institute (PUMI) experience, in which we lead groups of about 15-20 in week long immersion trips that teach the value of contextual ministry. We have recently been invited by the Interfaith Center

Volunteer Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders Needed

We believe God is calling more of our congregation to step out in faith and make a huge difference in the lives of our children and youth through some small but meaningful efforts. If you are interested in seeing another generation of young people receive the nurture and care that is essential to build strong and active lives of faith (Who could answer "No" to that?); have a Sunday a month that you'd be willing to share in order to help teach the foundations of faith to young people; and/or have a Friday evening or two a month to spare to help make youth groups for young people possible, please see Christian Heyer-Rivera or any member of the Christian Education Committee about what role you can play in these vital and life-giving ministries.

14U Disciples' Basketball Winter Season



New to our church's outreach programs, the 14 and under Disciples Basketball team has been a dream for many of us involved in the Disciples program for a number of years. Building relationships with younger community youth and their families through coaching, teaching, and playing basketball finally became a reality in our church's ministry beginning last year in November. At this writing, in mid March, we have just qualified for the playoffs in one of the two leagues that we are a part of and have earned the right to compete in the championship game of the other league by winning our initial playoff games. By the time you read this article, we will have concluded both winter season leagues, which means that we need to spend some time reflecting on the season before it actually ends. Its with joy that I share with you what a success this new team has been from the very beginning.

To begin with, we were able to bring back Coach Val Crawford to our ministry for this team. Coach Val had been a player for the First Presbyterian Team known as the Rebels a number of years ago; he coached for the first time last summer for our church. Val accepted the invitation to help coach our new team and brings both a love and knowledge of the game and a living and active faith in Jesus Christ. He is an active member at Star of Hope Baptist Church and has the same heart and mind as our congregation for how this ministry can and does impact players and their families.

All the players on our new team were recruited from friends and members of the congregation, and the majority of them live in the northwest part of our city. We have a few 10 year olds with us, who are just beginning to learn and understand the game and a few more experienced 14 year olds who have truly taken our younger boys under their wings.

The winter season began with a few growing pains. Team chemistry was hard fought. Wins were not easy to come by as the players struggled to learn and properly execute a new offense, build trust with each other, and build trust in their coaches, which meant actually listening to our instruction. As coaches, we took time to study and learn the strengths and vulnerabilities of each of our player's skill set. We spent plenty of post game talks and practices working on understanding what went wrong in games, and of course what we did well that we could build on.

With much effort, something began to happen in the middle of our season in both leagues. Games against teams that were once lost by ten points began to turn into games that were decided in the last few seconds. On offense, our players began to trust each other, execute plays and pass the ball to those who were open. We began to work as one unit on defense and found that other teams were finding it nearly impossible to get open shots near the basket, let alone anywhere on the court.

The team's success on the court has been tremendous, but its the relationships that have been built that we celebrate the most. Our players have shown a tremendous respect for their opponents throughout the year, a growing respect for their coaches, and a real love for playing for their faithful fans. Yes, we have a fan base of a few church members, friends, and family that have made each game a celebration, regardless of whether we've won or lost.

Continued on page 16



In a departure from my beloved nonfiction, I thought I would recognize April as National Poetry Month. Poetry is a big tent genre that includes everyone from the anonymous to the named. Unfortunately, the beauty of poetry is often lost when it taught without recognizing its beauty or its complexity, i.e., our personal interpretations recognized along with those from well-known scholars. Enjoy the titles. Some are serious; others not so. Although titles are listed by grade levels, readers of all ages will enjoy them. So savor them, read them aloud or silently, but no essays, please! Titles with asterisks are individual poems in picture book format.

Happy Reading!
Deborah Thompson

Children's Book Spot

K-3

- Alarcón, Francisco X. *Animal Poems of the Iguazú*.
Illustrations by Maya Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press, 2008.
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Bronzeville Boys and Girls*.
Illustrated by Faith Ringgold. HarperCollins, 2007.
- Greenfield, Eloise. *Night on Neighborhood Street*.
Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Dial, 1991.
- Grimes, Nikki. *Is It Far to Zanzibar? Poems about Tanzania*.
Illustrated by Betsy Lewin. Lothrop, 2000.
- Janezko, Paul. *A Poke in the Eye: A Collection of Concrete Poems*.
Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Candlewick, 2001.
- O'Neill, Mary. *Hailstones and Halibut Bones*.
Illustrated by John Wallner. Doubleday, 1989.
- Park, Linda Sue. *Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo (Poems)*.
Pictures by Istvan Banyai. Clarion, 2007.
- Pomerantz, Charlotte. *If I Had a Paka: Poems in Eleven Languages*.
Illustrated by Nancy Tafuri. Greenwillow Books, 1982.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *Something BIG Has Been Here*.
Illustrated by James Stevenson. Greenwillow, 1990.
- Sidman, Joyce. *Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems*.
Illustrated by Beckie Prange. HMH, 2005.
- Singer, Marilyn. *Mirror/Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse*.
Illustrated by Josee Masee. Dutton, 2010.
- Wong, Janet S. *Knock on Wood: Poems about Superstitions*.
Illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Simon & Schuster, 2003.

4-8

- Engle, Margarita. *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*.
Henry Holt, 2008.
- Frost, Robert. *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*.
Illustrated by Susan Jeffers. Dutton, 2001.*
- Grady, Cynthia. *I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery*.
Illustrated by Michele Wood. Erdman Books for Young Readers, 2011.
- Higginson, William J. *Wind in the Long Grass: A Collection of Haiku*. Simon & Schuster, 1991.
- Hughes, Langston. *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*.
Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Random House, 2007.
- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*.
Illustrated by Christopher Bing. Handprint, 2001.*
- Noyes, Alfred. *The Highwayman*.
Illustrated by Charles Keeping. Oxford, 2013.*
- Nelson, Marilyn. *A Wreath for Emmett Till*.
Illustrated by Phillippe Lardy. HMH, 2005.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab. *This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World*. Four Winds Press, 1992.
- Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends, 30th Anniversary Edition*.
HarperCollins, 2004.

April 2014

1 Tuesday

9:30am Classic Towns

2 Wednesday

2:45pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
7:00pm Session

3 Thursday

6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25pm Gospel Choir
7:45pm Voices-in-Bronze

4 Friday

1:00pm Lenten Discussion Series
3:30pm Drop-in-Center
6:30pm Elementary School Youth Group
7:00pm Lenten Discussion Series

5 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
9:00am Open Gym
9:30am Congregational Development Committee

6 Sunday

**Lent V
IHN Moves In**

8:45am Chancel Choir
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:10am Children's Choir
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Bible Study
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:30pm Gospel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

7 Monday

6:00pm Basketball

8 Tuesday

9 Wednesday

2:45pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30pm Christian Education Committee
6:30pm GACM Board Meeting

10 Thursday

6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25pm Gospel Choir
7:45pm Voices-in-Bronze

11 Friday

8:00am Germantown Special Services District
1:00pm Lenten Discussion Series
3:30pm Drop-in-Center
6:30pm Middle School Youth Group
7:00pm Lenten Discussion Series

12 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
9:00am Open Gym

13 Sunday

8:45am Chancel Choir
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:10am Children's Choir
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Bible Study
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:30pm Gospel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

Lent VI-Palm Sunday

14 Monday

4:00pm Pennsylvania Girl Choir
6:00pm Basketball

15 Tuesday

16 Wednesday

2:45pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
7:00pm Property Committee

17 Thursday

6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Worship Service

Maundy Thursday

18 Friday

7:00pm Worship Service

Good Friday

19 Saturday

11:00am Easter Festival

20 Sunday

8:30am Chancel Choir
9:30am Festive Prelude
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour

Easter

21 Monday

**Easter Holiday
Church Closed**

22 Tuesday

23 Wednesday

2:45pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30pm Mission and Outreach Committee

24 Thursday

8:30am Early Morning Group (Brunch Preparation)
6:00pm Administration and Finance Committee
6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25pm Gospel Choir
7:45pm Voices-in-Bronze

25 Friday

9:00am Early Morning Group Brunch
3:30pm Drop-in-Center
6:30pm High School Youth Group

26 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
9:00am Open Gym
9:00am Readers' Choice

27 Sunday

IHN Moves Out

8:45am Chancel Choir
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:10am Children's Choir
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Bible Study
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:30am Gospel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

28 Monday

6:00pm Basketball

29 Tuesday

30 Wednesday

2:45pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir

14U Disciples Basketball Winter Season

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As coaches we've emphasized our concern for each person who plays for us, not because they can help us win, but because they are loved by Jesus Christ! We instill discipline that is necessary not only for team success, but also for success in their lives and relationships. We support families as they seek to teach their children the balance between work and play, implement boundaries in their child's life, and instill the love and support necessary for their children to thrive. The relationships that we have built with parents have strengthened our ministry and our community in so many ways.



Continue to pray for our players, for our coaches, both in our new younger team and those in our older Disciples squad. Pray that we might have the energy, imagination, creativity, and faith to love each child and family that God brings us. Ask the Lord to bring us the children and families that can and will benefit from this ministry, the volunteers necessary to see this ministry thrive and grow, and the love and faith in Jesus Christ that continue to make bouncing a rubber ball a means to building the Kingdom of God in and among us.

—Christian Heyer-Rivera

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



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