

THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN
GERMANTOWN

SPECIAL DATES
OF INTEREST:

•Sunday,

May 4

Worship

10:00 AM

Kevin L. Porter
preaching

•Wednesday

May 7

Session

7:00 PM

Sunday

May 11

Mothers' Day

Worship

Rev. Jade King Bass
Preaching

•Sunday

May 18

Worship

10:00 AM

Congregational
Meeting
11:10 AM

WINDOWS

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2014

From Pastor Kevin

Hello Friends,

Those of you who stayed after worship on Sunday, April 27, heard a presentation on renovations soon to take place at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown (FPCG). When the work is done, the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry (GACM) will move from the basement under the main office suite to a new home in the Westside Room.

It's possible to have been a member of FPCG without ever having set foot in the Westside Room. When the Westside Presbyterian Church merged with FPCG in 1972, the decision to name a room after the closing congregation was an example of, in the words of our website, "a cooperative spirit on the part of both congregations (that) produced a strong, cohesive church." (<http://www.fpcgermantown.org/about/history/our-story/>.)

Just think: Were it not for the grace and faithfulness of the Westside Church members to commit their time and talents to the ministry of FPCG--and the spirit of cooperation and hospitality on the part of FPCG when these brothers and sisters in Christ were seeking a new church home--FPCG might not be the vibrant witness for Christ we know today.

Of course, the same could be said of everyone who has chosen to serve Christ through the mission and ministry of FPCG throughout its 204 years. From the congregation's birth at the hands of some families from the Market Square Church who wanted services in English to the day when FPCG's own life cycle has come to an end, may we see our individual and communal stories as part of the larger story of God's resurrection power alive in our midst.

The Westside Room's impending new life as the center of one of FPCG's most vital ministries is one example of God's continual renewing of who we are and how we bear witness. Our congregational meeting on May 18 when we will elect new elders and deacons is another manifestation. I pray that our participation in these events will encourage us to trust in God's faithfulness to see us through any uncertainties still before us—from the search for an interim pastor and permanent pastor beyond that to the challenges life brings in each of our journeys.

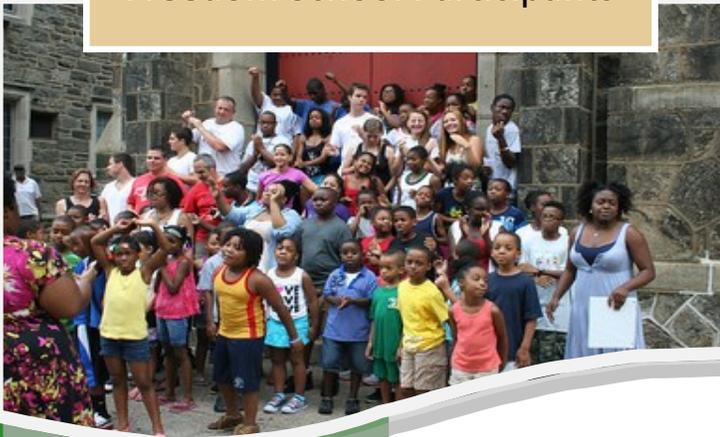
This "Westside Story" should remind us that, through it all, the love we show one another is what best proclaims, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

See you in church!

Kevin

Challenge Offering Freedom School

Freedom School Participants



**Freedom
School 2014
June 23
through
August 8**

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 23 through August 8. 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 plus \$400 for admission. 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.

Interim Pastor Search

The Interim Pastor Search Committee continues to be hard at work identifying the best possible candidate to serve as our Interim Pastor. This position is crucial for our church as the individual selected will be with us for at least one year and possibly longer. To date, the Committee has received close to fifty Pastor Nominating Forms (PIF) from all over the country, and the Committee, chaired by Ted Walkenhorst, is in the process of carefully reviewing each applicant's submission. The Committee is hopeful we will find just the right individual for First Church. Interviews will be conducted in the near future, and in the meantime we will keep you abreast of the Committee's progress. We know your prayers are with us as we pursue this very important under taking.

Financial Report

2014 Pledge Goal
\$350,000

Pledge to March 31
\$74,595

Expenses as of March 31
Budget
\$227,591
Actual
\$203,080

March Challenge Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing

Raised
\$1,652

May Community Outreach

My Place
\$1,000.00

Presby's Inspired Life
Interfaith House
\$2,500.00

*Thank -You from
Nancy Smith
To my friends at FPCG,
I very much appreciate
all the cards, notes,
phone calls, entertain-
ing visits and prayers
during my time of re-
cuperation after my
conflict with a car.
Thanks and hope you
are all doing well.*

Next Step From the Reconciliation Team

Following our meetings with Rev. Paul Rhebergen last summer, three teams were formed. One of these teams is the Reconciliation Team which has been meeting to explore ways to hear congregational concerns and explore solutions. A questionnaire was developed to gather additional details on the concerns within the congregation. That questionnaire was mailed to all members of FPCG at the end of April.

All voices need to be heard, so please complete the questionnaire and return it to the Reconciliation Committee by May 25, 2014. There are two ways to return the questionnaire -- either bring it to Sunday Morning Worship or you may mail it in the pre-addressed envelope included with the questionnaire.

Please complete the questionnaire thoughtfully, honestly and prayerfully. Your answers are very important to those who will compile the responses and then use them to help determine the next steps in moving toward reconciliation.

Two Poems by V. Marlene Young

What Happened to My Dream Deferred?

It slept
like last Spring's tulips.
It lay,
in dark cold places, shivering
with one eye opened
one hand closed
waiting to glimpse the run
grasp the rain.

It waited,
cried, feared, hoped,
fought to hold on
grew strong, took root,
blossomed.
No raisin in the sun
No festering sore.

My goals come closer still.
I walk the coals barefooted
slowly through the pain to joy.
Fulfillment's roots and branches
will replace
the lonely spot where once there lay
My Dream Deferred.

*Let Down Your Net**

I have tried so hard my Lord
I have struggled day and night
to make progress by your word
to move on by doing right.
I get tired and impatient
or discouraged with the first.
Just why is it that I fail You?
Father lead me to your light.

Yet I think I might be able
to pursue and reach a goal.
Have I not worked and been faithful
while my hopes and dreams grow cold?
Lord there surely must be something,
I believe it with my soul.
You say try again, of all things,
trying always was my role.

I have tried, but if you say so
I will try it all again.
I want things to be your way so
I may be blessed in the end.

*Based on a sermon by Dr. Robert Emberger. Luke, chapter 5: Jesus telling Peter to let down his net for fish after Peter had fished unsuccessfully all night.

Marlene Young has been an active member of the church since 2001; a published poet, she has entitled one of her collections *Don't Kill the Messenger*

Liz Drum: Medical Missionary to the World's Children

The distance between Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is 7,039 miles, but Liz Drum (Elizabeth T. Drum, M. D.) has made it 70,390 miles. That is because she has completed ten trips there in sharing her medical knowledge, expertise and Christian compassion as part of a team from Healing the Children.

Liz recently returned from Addis Ababa where she and 12 others--four ENT (ear, nose and throat) surgeons, four anesthesia providers, two audiologists, two nurses and the director of Healing the Children--comprised a pediatric medical team who cared for 45 children. During some of the surgeries, Liz was one of the anesthesiologists.



Additionally, the Healing the Children team provided 150 orthopedic outpatient evaluations and supplied 120 hearing aids for children, thus underscoring the organization's motto of "Changing the World...one Child at a Time." The group, founded in 1979, has 14 chapters covering 20 states and has assisted over 225,000 children in 95 countries during that time. Over \$600,000,000 has been raised and spent in giving medical care to children. Dr. Drum has been involved with the group for several years.

In Addis Ababa, Liz worked at a hospital supported by CURE, Int., which is a "network of charitable hospitals and surgical programs that delivers life-changing medical care and the good news of God's love to children and families with treatable conditions." The main headquarters for CURE is in Lemoyne, Pa., near Harrisburg, but the hospitals they sponsor are located all over the world.

At the hospital in Addis Ababa, ENT residents work with nurses to educate them to be able to provide some of the care in Ethiopia. During her ten trips to the country, Liz has observed the positive changes that have taken place in local health-care services. On this trip, one of the highlights was the saving of the life of a two-month old baby with a congenital deformity.

But Ethiopia is only half of Liz Drum's mission experience. Another ten trips have been spent in taking medical care to other countries, among them India, Honduras, Zambia, Uganda and Haiti to where she is returning again next month. Even if the travel means having to deal with airline strikes and flight delays and missing luggage, as all happened on her latest trip, Liz is steadfast in her commitment to the children of the world.

Liz has had a faculty appointment in anesthesiology at Temple University for 15 years, and two days a week she works in Abington in pediatric dental care for children with special needs. A member of First Church since 1984, she is married to Marc DiNardo, and they live in Wyncote. When Dr. Drum isn't involved with her world church thousands of miles away, she is one of the ushers in her home church, but in that greater church, however, she has changed the world *many* children at a time.

--Sam Whyte

Facility Superintendent - A New Position for FPCCG

There has been much conversation about how our church has changed – from one that had many members, many ministers, a large staff and was a “program” church to where today it has fewer members, less staff and is described as a “pastoral” church.

One thing that has not changed as our church has changed over the past 20 to 30 years is our building. The property is still the same, still used seven days a week and still needing lots of tender loving care. Also like many things that age it needs some rehabilitation at times.

In the 1970s and 80s we had a full time property manager, Al Jordan, in addition to several sextons. Their work was aided by a church business manager and other support staff to help the building manager direct the care of the building. In the 1990s, after Al retired, we were blessed when a long time member, Roy Hock, took on this responsibility and did a fantastic job. Roy stepped down from this role just as the major sanctuary renovation project was starting in 1997. At the completion of this project and other interior work, the church had Alan Ellison as the property manager. In the early 2000s Alan left and there was no full time staff member with that role. The Property Committee, with some dedicated volunteers, provided guidance and help to the sextons, but there was not any one dedicated to this important role and available at the church during many of the times when required.

When Terry Boyer, the lead sexton, announced his retirement plans for early 2013, the Property Committee recommended to Session that a full time building manager (superintendent) be hired, not to replace him, but to upgrade Terry's position. This person would be responsible for overseeing all property management functions including directing the sextons, working with suppliers and tradesmen and interfacing with the Property Committee and the church members and staff communicate positively with members of the Germantown community.

A new job description was written for the position of facility superintendent. The minimum qualifications for the position included but were not limited to: 1) prior experience as a building manager, 2) demonstrated experience in the areas of plant systems, maintenance and cleaning of building and grounds and staff supervision, 3) basic skills in carpentry, electric & plumbing, 4) experience with steam boiler heating systems, 5) the ability to work when weather and building emergencies require. Today's work environment also demands basic skills in technology requiring our facility superintendent to be able to communicate through email and text messaging.

The committee solicited resumes for the new position through newspaper ads and the internet. More than 50 resumes were received and reviewed before selecting 10 or 12 to preselect for the interview process. Four members of the property committee interviewed 6 candidates and then made recommendations to the personnel committee for final interviews and selection. From that process Jesse Jacobs was the best qualified candidate and he was offered the position as our new facility superintendent.

Jesse originally comes from New Jersey but now lives with his family in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia. Jesse graduated from Salem County Vocational Tech in Salem, NJ. He studied Business Management at Glassboro State College for two years. He has training in electrical, plumbing, carpentry and HVAC systems. Jesse has extensive experience in facility management, building cleaning and building maintenance. He has expressed a keen appreciation for the historic nature of our church facility and the significant presence that First Presbyterian Church in Germantown plays in the community.

—The Property Committee



Dinosaurs: Scaly, Feathered or Shocking Pink?

Ask any elementary school student about dinosaurs, and you may be subjected to a dissertation about the sizes, habitats, and other interesting facts about these extinct reptiles. This month's column is about dinosaur discoveries, old and new: how they became extinct, where they lived or what they looked like (some may have had bright shocking pink hides). The titles this month are for K-3, but as I always say—a good book is fun for anyone to read.

Happy Reading!
Deborah Thompson

Children's Book Spot

- Aliki. *Digging Up Dinosaurs* (Rev. Ed.). Harper Trophy Books, 1988.
- Aliki. *Dinosaurs Are Different*. Crowell, 1985.
- Aliki. *Dinosaur Bones*. Crowell, 1985.
- Arnold, Caroline. *Global Warming and the Dinosaurs*. Illustrated by Laurie Caple. Clarion, 2009.
- Barton, Byron. *Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs*. Crowell, 1989.
- Cole, Joanna. *The Magic School Bus in the Time of the Dinosaurs*. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic, 1994.
- Floca, Brian. *Dinosaurs at the Ends of the Earth: The Story of the Central Asiatic Expeditions*. DK Ink, 2000.
- French, Vivian. *T Rex*. Illustrated by Angela Barrett. Candlewick, 2004.
- Gibbons, Gail. *Dinosaurs!* Holiday House, 2008.
- Gibbons, Gail. *Dinosaur Discoveries*. Holiday House, 2005.
- Henderson, Douglas. *Asteroid Impact*. Dial, 2000.
- Hughes, Catherine D. *Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs*. Illustrated by Franco Tempesta. National Geographic, 2011.
- Judge, Lita. *Born to Be Giants: How Baby Dinosaurs Grew to Rule the World*. Macmillan, 2010.
- Lessem, Don. *The Ultimate Dinopedia: The Most Complete Dinosaur Reference Ever!* Illustrated by Franco Tempesta. National Geographic, 2010.
- McGowan, Chris. *Dinosaur Discovery: Everything You Need to Know to Be a Palentologist*. Illustrated by Erica Lyn Schmidt. Simon & Schuster, 2011.
- Ray, Deborah Kogan. *Dinosaur Mountain: Digging into the Jurassic Age*. FSG, 2010.
- Timmes, Catherine. *Scaly Spotted Feathered Frilled: How Do We Know What Dinosaurs Really Looked Like?* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013.
- Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. *Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers?* Illustrated by Lucia Washburn. HarperCollins, 2004.
- Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. *Dinosaurs Big and Small*.

May 2014

1 Thursday

6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25 pm Gospel Choir

2 Friday

3:30 pm Drop-in-Center
6:30 pm Elementary School Youth Group

3 Saturday

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

4 Sunday

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

5 Monday**6 Tuesday**

9:30 am Classic Towns
6:00 pm Basketball

7 Wednesday

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

8 Thursday

6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30 pm Reconciliation Committee
6:25 pm Gospel Choir

9 Friday

3:30 pm Drop-in-Center
6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group

10 Saturday

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

11 Sunday

8:45 am Chancel Choir
10:00 am Worship Service
Jade Bass preaching
11:10 am Children's Choir
11:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Adult Bible Study
11:30 am Chancel Choir
12:30 pm Gospel Choir
3:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir

Mother's Day**12 Monday****13 Tuesday**

3:30 pm Germantown Special Services District
6:00 pm Basketball

14 Wednesday

Deadline June issue of WINDOWS
2:45 pm Staff Meetings
6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting
7:00 pm GACM Board Meeting

15 Thursday

6:00 pm Administration & Finance Committee
6:25 pm Keystone State Boychoir
Gospel Choir

16 Friday

3:30 pm Drop-in-Center
6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group

17 Saturday

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

18 Sunday

8:45 am Chancel Choir
10:00 am Worship Service
11:10 am Congregational Meeting
11:10 am Children's Choir
11:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Adult Bible Study
11:30 am Chancel Choir
12:30 pm Gospel Choir
3:00 pm Sinfonia Concert

19 Monday**20 Tuesday**

6:00 pm Basketball

21 Wednesday

2:45 pm Staff Meetings
6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
7:00 pm Property

22 Thursday

6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25 pm Gospel Choir

23 Friday

3:30 pm Drop-in-Center

24 Saturday

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

25 Sunday

8:45 am Chancel Choir
9:05 am Gospel Choir
10:00 am Worship Service
11:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Adult Bible Study
11:30 am Deacons' Meeting

Celebration Sunday**26 Monday****Memorial Day**

Church Closed

27 Tuesday

6:00 pm Basketball

28 Wednesday

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

29 Thursday

4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir

30 Friday

12:00 pm Gaudenzia House Banquet
3:30 pm Drop-in-Center

31 Saturday

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

Happy Birthday May



1	<i>Mary Lundy</i>	15	<i>Douglas Payne</i>
2	<i>Norma Mercer</i>	24	<i>Glenna Hazeltine</i>
7	<i>Rose Slater</i>	25	<i>Maurice Horne</i>
8	<i>Taneisha Gibbs</i>	26	<i>Aaron Bass</i>
12	<i>James Thompson</i>	27	<i>Madison Lundy</i>

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



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