

**THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN  
GERMANTOWN**

**SPECIAL DATES  
OF  
INTEREST:**

- **Sunday  
November 2  
Daylight Saving  
Time Ends**
- **Tuesday  
November 4  
Election Day**
- **Wednesday  
November 5  
Session  
7:00 PM**
- **Tuesday  
November 11  
Messiah  
Chorus Rehearsals  
Begin  
7:00 PM**
- **Sunday  
November 16  
Stewardship  
Brunch  
11:15 AM**
- **Sunday  
November 30  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent  
Worship with  
Communion  
10:00 AM**

# WINDOWS

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 9

NOVEMBER 2014

## From the Pastor

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
(Romans 15:13)**

Dear Friends of FPC in Germantown;

“Abounding in Hope” is the theme your Stewardship Committee has chosen for this fall’s stewardship season, an emphasis that will be continued through the coming year. Paul’s prayer for the church, expressed in Romans 15:13, provides the Biblical background. The author of Hebrews said this hope is a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. The times we are living in require such an anchor.

There are legitimate reasons for concern about the future of FPCG. The community has a number of empty buildings that once housed thriving churches. The projection of membership and attendance trends lead to sobering conclusions. This congregation worships in a beautiful but aging building with substantial maintenance needs. How can there be any hope for the future?

Hope is embodied in God’s

nature and character. The God whom we worship is the God of hope, the God who makes all things new. We pray to the God who fulfilled the promise that we would not be left desolate, but we would be filled with power for effective ministry through the Holy Spirit. Believing in those promises brings both joy and peace, and abounding hope.

The Session and the staff are engaged in a discussion of N. T. Wright’s book, *Surprised by Hope*.

In it, Wright says: “The point of the resurrection, as Paul has been arguing throughout the letter, is that *the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die*. God will raise it to new life. What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it. ...What you *do* in the present – by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice,

writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself – *will last into God’s future*. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, ...they are part of what we may call *building for God’s kingdom*.”

The fruit of our labors for God’s kingdom will last forever; what we do matters for eternity. The generosity and labor of those who have gone before us was not in vain. Nor is our generosity and labor empty of lasting importance. Paul concluded his great resurrection chapter with these words, “Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

Your fellow servant,



Randy Bremer  
Interim Pastor

## Financial Report

### 2014 Pledge Goal

\$350,000

### Pledge to

September 30

\$249,161

### Expenses as of

September 30

Budget

\$591,854

### Actual

\$502,134

## Community Outreach

### November

Germantown Avenue

Crisis Ministry

\$2,750.00

IHN

\$2,500.00

## Challenge Offering

### September

supporting

Presbyterian Peacemaking

raised

\$382.00

# Hope Abounds at this Presbyterian Church

Try a little listening experiment. The odds are very much in favor that you will hear the word "hope" at least one time today. A friend or acquaintance will utter it or someone on radio or television will say "hope." If you weren't being asked in this little test to listen for the word, you yourself probably would use it--and may anyway. In a ranking of the list of 1000 most often used words, "hope" ranks 595th. (Yes, there are people who make such lists.) In the King James Version of the Bible, the word can be found in 133 passages, 44 in the Old Testament and 89 in the New Testament.

One of those NT passages is Romans 15:13: "And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace by your faith

in him, until by the power of the Holy Spirit, you overflow with hope." From that blessing has been chosen the theme of "Abounding in Hope" for the 2015 stewardship campaign, a theme which will be carried through the next year.

Soon you will be receiving information about how your church *hopes--* and prays--that you will actively participate in the financial planning for the year. What you give of your blessings will help us plan realistically and effectively how well we can move forward in strengthening the Kingdom of God in this time, 2014 and 2015, and at this place, The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

For those who have some reservations about a monetary commitment

to the church, please know that a pledge, once made, can be changed at any time. We move, we change jobs or are laid off, we have unexpected and sometimes crushing obligations, we get sick. All of that changes the bounds of our ordered lives, and our hopes and expectations are altered. But just as we look ahead and plan in our personal lives, so, too, does the church. We ask you to join us in the plans for your--our--church by pledging your support.

For those who have been pledging and continue to do so, abundant thanks. You have made it possible, year after year, to keep us overflowing with hope.

### DEADLINE

For the

DECEMBER

Issue of

WINDOWS

Friday, November 14

## Thank You

Dear Friends in Christ. We want to extend our sincere appreciation for all of the prayers, notes, and concern

we received during Linda's illness and death. We can never thank the church and the

members enough for the support we received.

Sincerely,  
The Leube Family.

# The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

## Financial Mission for 2013

This is the fourth article detailing First Church's financial commitment to Outreach and Mission.

In prior articles we discussed 2013 Challenge Offerings, 2013 Mission and Outreach budget, and 2013 Mission Budget. All of these programs are included in our annual budget, and are supported by your tithes, offerings, and our endowment. But in addition there are designated funds created by former members which

support many other causes.

Some of these designated funds directly support church programs: McLean Organ Fund, flower fund, various funds supporting Christian Education.

Other designated funds specifically support mission, such as: Laird Princeton Theology Seminary scholarships, McNeil Opportunity Fund, various funds supporting the Germantown

Avenue Crisis Ministry, college scholarships.

As these four articles illustrate, your church provides funding for a wide range of outreach and mission programs. These funds come from you and former members who gave our endowment. There has been a guiding principle that we should spend 10% of our budget on mission. In other words *tithe*. In fact we spend much more than that when we consider the

11.8% of our budget that supports Mission and Outreach, Challenge Offerings, and the Mission Budget plus designated endowment funds and the cost of the use of our building.



# 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 will have them every

month. Dinners for Eight are held at someone's home on a Saturday. 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, [smfarrington77@gmail.com](mailto:smfarrington77@gmail.com) or call 215-882-2792.

*The November date for Dinners for Eight is Saturday, November 22*

# Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry

In a few short weeks, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us. While it may seem during the holiday season that time flies, in actuality, October through December can be some of the most challenging months for social service providers assisting vulnerable families. For GACM the days seem to drag as daily countless people come to our door seeking emergency assistance in preparation for a long, cold winter. No longer can an outdoor grill or cold shower substitute for functioning utilities. During the fall, utility companies aggressive-

ly seek to turn off services before December 1<sup>st</sup> when a moratorium is in place preventing termination for most low income consumers. Whether one has fallen behind due to an unexpected household income change or a broken payment agreement, the pressure to retain heat and electricity is increased at this time of year leading more people to our door.

Additionally, families, particularly those with children, seek help for Thanksgiving and Christmas. As we do each year, GACM anticipates providing several hundred holiday baskets and toys to

those requesting our help. Join us by giving generously to our food cupboard and holiday drives. Your donations to the cupboard can be accepted at any time, but plan to participate during our monthly Celebration Sunday collection, when our church family brings gifts of food and coins to the front of the church. The gifts are dedicated during the offering and then used by GACM and other initiatives to fight hunger in our local community and beyond. Celebration Sunday takes place the last Sunday in each month.

## GACM Holiday Basket Collection

**Thanksgiving & Christmas** baskets will be given to families who have requested help and documented their family size and financial need. We expect requests to exceed those of last year. All donations are appreciated!

Checks should be made payable to "GACM."

### CELEBRATION SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 30

#### Holiday Basket Contents

<b>Meat:</b>	turkey, turkey breast, roasting chicken
<b>Starch:</b>	rice, mashed potatoes, yams, macaroni and cheese, corn, stuffing
<b>Veggie:</b>	green beans, green peas
<b>Bread:</b>	roll/corn bread mix
<b>Dessert:</b>	cake mix, icing, cookie mix, jello, pie crust, pie filling
<b>Other:</b>	gravy, cranberry sauce, seasonings, sugar, flour, juice, iced tea, canned milk



Contact GACM to host your own community, school, book club and/or work place collection to benefit this vital ministry at 215-843-2340

## Christian Education Opportunity Dinner November 8, 2014

Find a ministry that is right for your gifts and fits your schedule so that you might experience the joy and excitement of blessing others as you grow in your trust and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ! All persons interested in understanding and considering the various opportunities within the ministry of Christian Education at FPCG are invited to come and dine on November 8th at the Hood's home on West Duval Street. We will enjoy a meal together as we outline and discuss the different ministry openings, their responsibilities, and the impact that each of these opportunities has in changing lives and strengthening faith within our community. More details will be available in our weekly worship bulletins of Sunday, or call Christian Heyer-Rivera at 267-972-5662.

## Friday Night Christmas Festival Rehearsals



On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-9:00 PM all participants and leaders of the annual Christmas play will be rehearsing songs and lines for our annual Christmas Festival on December 20<sup>th</sup>. A meal will be served to open each rehearsal as children of all ages, their parents, and leaders are invited to come to receive and practice various parts as we seek to offer a Christmas message to our broader Germantown community in the form of a drama at our annual festival of our Lord's birth among us. Call Christian Heyer-Rivera at 267-972-5662 for more information and to find out what role you can play in making this annual play a success! You don't have to perform, but we can always use help with everything from food prep and service, to costume, stage and prop design, and more.

## ADA Ramp & Entrance for Sunday Worship

The door to enter the church from the ADA Ramp from the East Parking lot is working only manually at this time because the installation of the automatic door opener is not complete. If you plan to use this entrance on Sundays one of our Sextons will be happy to assist you. We will keep you updated as to the completion of the operating system for the doors using the push button at the top of the ramp.

The Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry (GACM) is Open. Our clients are truly grateful for the change of location! Access to GACM for clients using the ADA Ramp Entrance will be assisted by GACM staff and volunteers.



**Philadelphia Interfaith  
Hospitality Network**

*An Affiliate of Family Promise*

presents

the 16<sup>th</sup> annual

# Empty Bowl Dinner

Wednesday November 19, 2014

4:00 PM – 8:30 PM

(3 Seatings)



Held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary | 7301 Germantown Avenue

## Empty Bowl Dinner Tickets

For the cost of admission, guests are treated to an all-you-can-eat meal of soups and desserts provided by local restaurants and cafes. At the end of the meal, guests leave with a hand-crafted bowl made by pottery artists and students, as a reminder that every night in Philadelphia hundreds of families go hungry.

**Ticket prices are as follows:**

**Adults: \$20**

**Children and Students: \$10**

**There are 3 Seatings:**

**4:00PM – 5:30PM**

**5:30PM – 7:00PM**

**7:00PM – 8:30PM**

**YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS AND MAKE DONATIONS  
THROUGH A SECURE TRANSACTION  
[HTTP://PHILASHELTER.ORG/](http://philashelter.org/)**

# Christmas Dinner Tickets

This year's Christmas dinner will be held Sunday, December 7th, following the *Messiah* Concert. Starting in November tickets may be purchased on Sundays during coffee hour or through the church office during the week.



## Menu:

Main Course: Sliced roast beef, or Sliced turkey (both with gravy)  
Sides: Stuffing, Rice, Vegetable Medley, Macaroni and Cheese, Cranberry Sauce, Garden Salad, Roll.  
Dessert: Fruit Crisp

### Ticket prices:

Adults (12 and up) \$12.00

Youth (5 - 11) \$6.00

Children Under 5 - Free



## Messiah Choir Rehearsals

Begin Tuesday, November 11, from 7:00 PM till 9:00 PM in the Choir Room. This year's rehearsal schedule is very compact with the following rehearsal dates: November 11, 18, 25 and December 2. The dress rehearsal with Philadelphia Sinfonia will be on Saturday, December 6, beginning at 9:30 AM. The concert followed by the annual Christmas Dinner will be on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 3:00 PM. Anyone interested in singing this wonderful, inspiring work should contact David Daugherty at 215-843-8811, extension 11 or by email [FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com](mailto:FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com).

# Lead The Way Beyond

Last year Reverend Paul Rhebergen, our consultant, spent a few months with us. He spoke with some members and friends of First Church and held several open forums and workshops where all were invited to attend. He presented his findings during one final session, and The Lead the Way Beyond Team, the umbrella for the Covenant and Reconciliation Teams, was formed. The Covenant Team has provid-

ed us with Our Covenant. The Reconciliation Team is compiling data from a questionnaire they mailed out earlier this year. The Lead the Way Beyond (LTWB) Team has been on hiatus awaiting the arrival of the Interim Pastor. On Monday, September 29th, Carolyn Ballard Freeman, Contina Lundy, Lois Nafziger, Madeline Valentine, Daniel Conner and Drew Hood, members of the LTWB Team,

met with Reverend Bremer. Regular monthly congregational conversations around topics highlighted in Paul's report are planned. Because of the crowded church calendar at this time of the year, these gatherings are slated to begin January 2015, on Saturday mornings. The LTWB Team will continue to keep you updated and informed as we move forward.

# The Exploration And Sharing Of Faith Odysseys

**During the Season of Thanksgiving  
During the Season of Advent  
During the Season of reconciliation**

**Identical evening and afternoon sessions:**

Mondays 7:00 PM—8:15 PM † November 3,10,17; December 1, 8  
Fridays 1:00 PM—2:15 PM † November 7, 14, 21; December 5, 12

Each class will begin with a look at biblical faith odysseys, and explore how these journeys can inform and shape our own personal faith odysseys. We will remember and share our own stories.

In the stories (biblical and personal), we will:

- Find a multitude of reasons for thanksgiving.
- Uncover unique gifts that we can give and receive at Christmas-time and beyond.
- Better appreciate what God is doing in our own lives and in the lives of each other.

Deacon Don Carlin, M. Div., will lead these classes, and he invites your questions at the church or by calling 215-247-4196 or 215-847-7895.

# November Challenge Offering Church World Service



How many blankets do you have in your home? Do you have a favorite — the one you reach for when you have a cold or when the house is a little chilly? A blanket is a comfort to us but may mean survival to someone whose home is under water or has been destroyed by bombs. For more than sixty years, Church World Services has helped to make life a bit more bearable for victims of both natural and man made disasters. Your donation to the November Challenge Offering goes a long way because the blankets are purchased locally and in bulk. Count the blankets in your house and think of the people who have lost everything. Your gift will make a difference in our neighborhoods and around the world.

**BE**   
the  
Change

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday**  
**Feb 28th, 2015**  
**6:30pm-8:30pm**

keep a child  
alive



Revolutionary Germantown Festival—October 4, 2014



## Somber Centenaries

A centenary is a period of 100 years. This year marks three notable war-related centenaries—the start of World War I in 1914, the burning of the White House by British soldiers, and Francis Scott Key’s 1814 poem “The Defence of Fort M’Henry” which was written during a battle in the War of 1812. We now know that poem as the lyrics to our national anthem “The Star Spangled Banner.” There are several titles that will appeal to or are appropriate for younger readers, especially those about the Star Spangled Banner and the famous story of Dolley Madison’s rescue of a painting of George Washington as the White House burned. Asterisks mark titles for younger readers.

**Happy Reading!**  
Deborah Thompson

# Children’s Book Spot

## Nonfiction

- Bausum, Ann. *Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I’s Bravest Dog*. National Geographic, 2014.
- Bausum, Ann. *Unraveling Freedom: The Battle for Democracy on the Home Front during World War I*. National Geographic, 2010.
- Brown, Don. *Dolley Madison Saves George Washington*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.\*
- Cooper, Michael L. *Hell Fighters: African American Soldiers in World War I*. Lodestar, 1997.
- Freedman, Russell. *The War to End All Wars: World War I*. Clarion, 2010.
- Greenwood, Mark. *The Donkey of Gallipoli: A True Story of Courage in World War I*. Illustrated by Frané Lessac. Candlewick, 2008.\*
- Hoena, Blake. *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero*. Illustrated by Oliver Hurst. Picture Window Studio, 2014.\*
- Kroll, Steven. *By Dawn’s Early Light: The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner*. Illustrated by Dan Andreasen. Scholastic, 1994.\*
- Kulling, Monica. *Francis Scott Key’s Star-Spangled Banner*. Illustrated by Richard Wulz. Random House, 2012.\*
- Murphy, Jim. *Truce*. Scholastic, 2009.
- Spier, Peter. *The Star-Spangled Banner (Updated Edition)*. Doubleday, 2014.\*
- Sutcliffe, Jane. *The White House Is Burning: August 24, 1814*. Illustrated by Alexander Farquharson. Charlesbridge, 2014.

## Fiction

- Angus, Sam. *Soldier Dog*. Square Fish, 2012.
- Hartnett, Sonya. *The Silver Donkey*. Illustrations by Don Powers. Candlewick, 2006.
- McCutcheon, John. *Christmas in the Trenches*. Illustrated by Henri Sorensen. Peachtree Publishers, 2006.\*
- Morpurgo, Michael. *War Horse*. Scholastic, 2007.
- Sedgewick, Marcus. *The Foreshadowing*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2006.

# November 2014

## 1 Saturday All Saints' Day

- 8:00 am Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:00 am Open Gym
- 9:30 am Congregational Development and Fellowship

## 2 Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends

- 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

## 3 Monday

- 7:00 pm Bible Study—Don Carlin

## 4 Tuesday Election Day

- 9:30 am Classic Towns

## 5 Wednesday

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

## 6 Thursday

- 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir

## 7 Friday

- 1:00 pm Bible Study—Don Carlin
- 3:30 pm Drop-in-Center
- 6:30 pm Elementary School Youth Group

## 8 Saturday

- 8:00 am Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:00 am Open Gym
- 5:30 pm CE Volunteer Opportunity Dinner (Hoods' home)

## 9 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

## 10 Monday

- 7:00 pm Bible Study—Don Carlin

## 11 Tuesday Veterans Day

- 6:00 pm Germantown Special Services
- 7:00 pm Messiah Chorus Rehearsal

## 12 Wednesday

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

## 13 Thursday

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

## 14 Friday

- 1:00 pm Bible Study—Don Carlin
- 3:30 pm Drop-in-Center

## 15 Saturday

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

## 16 Sunday Stewardship Sunday

- 8:45 am Chancel Choir
- 9:00 am Gospel Choir
- 10:00 am Worship Service
- 11:15 am Stewardship Brunch

## 17 Monday

- 7:00 pm Bible Study—Don Carlin

## 18 Tuesday

- 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee
- 7:00 pm Messiah Chorus Rehearsal

## 19 Wednesday

- 2:45 pm Staff Meeting
- 4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
- 7:00 pm Communication & Evangelism Committee
- 7:00 pm Property Committee

## 20 Thursday

- 6:00 pm Administration and Finance Committee
- 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
- 6:00 pm Gospel Choir
- 7:45 pm Voices in Bronze

## 21 Friday

- 1:00 pm Bible Study—Don Carlin
- 3:30 pm Drop-in-Center
- 6:30 pm Middle & High School Youth Group

## 22 Saturday

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

## 23 Sunday Christ the King

- 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
- 11:30 am Deacons' Meeting

## 24 Monday

## 25 Tuesday

- 4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
- 7:00 pm Messiah Chorus Rehearsal

## 26 Wednesday

- 2:45 pm Staff Meeting

## 27 Thursday Thanksgiving

Church Closed

## 28 Friday

## 29 Saturday

- 8:00 am Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:00 am Readers' Choice

## 30 Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 8:45 am Chancel Choir
- 10:00 am Worship Service with Communion
- 11:10 am Children's Choir
- 11:30 am Sunday School
- 11:30 am Adult Bible Study
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir



## November

3	<i>Frank Lundy</i>	26	<i>Daniel Conner</i>
7	<i>Antonio Littles</i>		<i>Gamal Helmy</i>
11	<i>Madeline Valentine</i>	27	<i>Frankie Lundy</i>
14	<i>Marjorie Bamont</i>	29	<i>Rhonda Highsmith</i>
16	<i>Nancy Smith</i>	30	<i>Pam Ball</i>
20	<i>Ruby Camarena</i>		
	<i>Heidi Littles</i>		
	<i>Serafim Santos</i>		



**Daylight Saving Time Ends**  
**Sunday, November 2, 2014**



**Turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night.**

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

35 West Chelton Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144

Phone: 215-843-8811

Fax: 888-333-5032

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

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