

THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN  
GERMANTOWN



SPECIAL DATES  
OF INTEREST:

- **Wednesday**  
April 1  
Session  
7:00 PM
- **Maundy Thursday**  
April 2  
Worship  
with  
Communion  
7:00 PM
- **Good Friday**  
April 3  
Worship at  
Oxford Presbyterian  
Church  
12:00 PM  
to  
3:00 PM
- **Easter Festival**  
April 4  
11:00 AM  
Till  
2:00 PM
- **Easter Sunday**  
April 5  
Festive Prelude  
9:30 AM  
Festive Worship  
10:00 AM

# WINDOWS

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2015

## From the Pastor

Jesus said to Peter the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?”

And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17)

In *Surprised by Hope*, N.T. Wright borrows from the great philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein who said, “It is love that believes the resurrection.”

Earlier in the chapter he had discussed the kind of knowing pursued by the historian or the scientist, and he warned against treating the resurrection as something that lives “in a private sphere, shutting itself off from history lest history make unwelcome inroads.” In Wright’s words: “*Resurrection* in the first century meant someone physically, thoroughly dead becoming physically, thoroughly alive again, not simply surviving or entering a ‘purely spiritual’ world, whatever that might be. *Resurrection* therefore necessarily impinges on the public world.” Elaborating on this theme, Wright later said, “Faith in Jesus risen from the dead *transcends but includes* what we call history and what we call science. Faith of this sort is not blind belief, which rejects all history and science. Nor is it simply-which would be much safer!-a belief that inhabits a totally different sphere, discontinuous from either, in a separate watertight compartment.”

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead “is the defining event of the *new* creation, the world that is being born with Jesus.” Therefore it is more than a bit of trivia that we can either accept or reject, but something which, if true, requires a new paradigm to shape our reality. It requires a whole-person commitment that is embodied in the highest meaning of our word love. “Love is the deepest mode of knowing because it is love that, while completely engaging with reality other than itself, affirms and celebrates that other-than-self reality.”

His three-fold denial of Christ on the night of Jesus’ trial shook Peter to his core. All his words of loyalty and courage had been exposed as a sham.

Continued on page 2

# Financial Report

**2014 Pledge Goal**  
\$350,000

**Pledge to February 28, 2015**  
\$67,415.00

**Expenses as of February 28, 2015**  
**Budget**  
\$146,140

**Actual**  
\$133,835

**Challenge Offering**  
*February*  
*Be The Change*  
raised \$697.00

*Be The Change*  
**Fundraiser**  
\$552.00

## Publication Deadlines

**Sunday Worship Bulletin**  
**12:00 PM Noon**  
**Every Wednesday**

**May Edition of WINDOWS**  
**Tuesday, April 14**

# From the Pastor

continued from page 1

His recent failure must have weighed heavily on his heart as he met the resurrected Jesus on the lakeshore, but instead of rebuke and rejection, Jesus simply asked, "Do you love me?" Three times the question, and three times a reaffirmation of Peter's call, "Feed my sheep." Much later in his life, when reflecting on the meaning of Christ's resurrection, Peter expressed it this way:

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)**

I pray that your reflections and worship this Easter will lead to deepened love and a living hope.

Your fellow servant,



Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor

# April Challenge Offering Friends of Vernon Park



The Friends of Vernon Park is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the restoration and upkeep of Vernon Park. In recent years their partnership with the Department of Recreation and Philadelphia Green has completely transformed the park from an eyesore to a beautiful oasis that borders our church. The park is now used by the community and by our own Freedom School.

Help keep Vernon Park beautiful with a generous donation to the April Challenge Offering. Checks should be made payable to First Church and marked Friends of Vernon Park.

## Reading Buddies: 58 Germantown Volunteers

For many years, one of the recipients of the Outreach and Mission Committee's grants has been the Reading Buddies Program. First Church's Lois VanEerden, the Coordinator and Assistant to the Director, has been associated with the "Buddies" since 2000. Her report to the committee for the year 2014-2015 included the year's statistics as well as a list of people from the church and community who have been volunteers.

Currently, approximately 240 children are being served by the program. There are 11 classes representing seven schools which meet at 10 different sites. The number of children in each class ranges from 18 to 31. Twenty-four children from the Emlen Elementary School meet at Germantown Homes with 12 volunteers. Interfaith House in Germantown is the location for two programs, both from the Greene Street Friends School and both with 18 children and 15 volunteers.

Following is a list of First Church volunteers for the past 14 years, including some of whom have died. An asterisk identifies current volunteers. *First Church:* Rossie Gardenhire\*, Gloria Patterson\*, Elaine Pennell\*, Faith Wolford\*, Marlene Young\*, Bill Oldach, Nancy Smith, Jean Swenson, Ernestine Trimble, Elizabeth Cameron, Dorothy Johnson, Geraldine Marrow, Norma Mercer, Angela Archer, Warren Leibowitz, Shelly Waters, Winnie Fahs, Polly Montaigne, Irene Overton, Jessie Coleman, and Gilda Anusky.

*Community Friends:* Barbara Auerbach, Helena Collins, Bill Fletcher, Doris Steinberg, Ellen Bateman\*, Sherrill Kay\*, Rosemond Kay\*, Caryle Hawkins\*, Juanita Small\*, Barbara Swesey\*, and Sadie Taylor\*.

*Interfaith Volunteers:* Gwen Jackson\*, Howard Mallard\*, Darlene Cooper\*, Karen Scott, Jim Davenport, Dorothy Mosley, Ernest Flippen, Martha Jones, Joannie Studivant, Connie Waters, Beatrice Wright, Arnetta Russell, Nannie Robinson, Gladys Mayo, Catherine Upshaw, Rosalie Howard, Bessie Hopewell, Christine Geyer, Maizie McDaniels, Gladys Garner, Evelyn Broadus, Alice Reinhart, Marian Pender, Daisy Royster, Mary Burger, and Elizabeth Wilburn.

## 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. 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 April date for Dinners for Eight is Saturday, April 25, 2015.

## Remembering Anne Williams

With the passing of Anne Williams on February 28, The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown lost one of its most treasured members. And while, true to her character, Anne had requested in her will that no funeral or service be held, the staff and members of the congregation felt acutely that a "remembrance" during worship would not be in violation of the lady's last wishes. It was fitting then that the two persons who had been close to her especially during the last two years of Anne's life should remember her for all of us on Sunday, March 15.

Deacon Don Carlin reviewed some of the chronology of the life of Anne Williams. Born in Oklahoma in 1923 just 60 miles and two years from where and when Tulsa's black community had been burned to the ground, Anne knew poverty and discrimination, but she persevered so much so that during World War II she served in the Women's Army Corps and at one time was stationed in Paris. Later she had a long-time position with the Veterans' Administration. Converted to Presbyterianism from Methodism sometime in her thirties, she was able to enjoy six decades in the denomination and 37 years as a member of this congregation. She delivered Meals on Wheels, was a faithful friend of the Women's Group of the church and served on the Administration and Finance Committee.

Don described Anne as being insatiably curious, honest, witty, and one who definitely had opinions expressed candidly; she especially could not stand hypocrisy in any form. The insight into Anne continued when Parish Visitor Heidi Mercado-Littles spoke next. "Warm and fuzzy she was not," said Heidi. Miss Williams was brutally honest, witty, thoughtful and generous. She went to every funeral and memorial service at the church and in other neighborhoods as an expression of her Christian witness for her church family. As an active member of the Women of the Church, she wanted to make certain that meetings were held in the daytime and kept short. Once, Heidi said, Anne told her that it was a good thing she lived on the fifteenth floor of her apartment building (Hathaway House at Chelton and Wissahickon) since that was the closest she would ever get to heaven.

During coffee hour that morning, others remembered Anne Williams. Bert Aiken recalled that Anne always had a good story, often funny, to tell either about her life or someone else's. Perhaps that is why Anne sat in the back of the church so that she could observe everyone. Anne's honesty and sense of humor were remarked upon by Gloria Patterson who said additionally that Anne was always on the lookout for Gloria's pound cake which she loved. Joe Leube and Jim Thompson who served on the Administration and Finance Committee with Anne laughed at how she was always the one to say, "Meeting adjourned," a meeting that usually was never short enough in duration for her. One church member remembers the woman's acerbic wit. Once when remarking upon the well-known tight-fistedness of a certain individual, Anne said, "If air cost a penny a year, that woman would suffocate to death."

As Don Carlin noted in his closing remembrance, Anne is now bearing witness to the resurrection. Her church today is bearing witness to her memory and will not, as Anne requested, forget her and her gifts to us.

Anne's ashes will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

## *Newest Member Diane Filter Welcomed*

When Diane Filter joined the church on Sunday, March 8, she had only to move down a few steps from the choir loft where she has sung for three years to be received into the congregation. In a sense, it was music that brought her to the FPCG originally; she was David Daugherty's neighbor in their Germantown apartment building, and when she heard from him about the "Messiah" presentations, she began eight years ago adding her voice to the soprano section of the Germantown Oratorio Choir.

A native of Gilbertsville, in Montgomery County, where she attended high school, Diane is a graduate of Roberts Wesleyan College, in Rochester, New York, and holds a master's degree in nursing from Columbia University. Indeed, a string of initials--CRNP, MSN, MPH--follows her name on her business card; she is a Family Nurse Practitioner and Associate Medical Director for Quality Assurance at the Hunting Park office of the Esperanza Health Center.

Emerging from a Baptist and evangelical background, she later joined the Arch Street Presbyterian Church from which she transferred her membership here. Presbyterianism appeals to her for many reasons, chief of which among them is that she feels the Presbyterians treat women much better than some other denominations do. Diane also likes the proximity of First Germantown to her home in Mt. Airy; she no longer has to travel into town to be involved and active in a church.

Since one of her interests is urban ministry, Diane says, "I am most impressed with the diversity of this church and the contributions it makes to the community. Everything seems so natural. It doesn't feel forced." Very important to her is that "as Christians we live out our faith in practical ways." She sees First Church doing just that.

Outside of work and church, the young woman loves to spend time with friends and family, a family that spent a lot of time singing around the piano when Diane was growing up. She wishes she had more time to go to the beach and to cook (she didn't reveal her specialty), but on the very morning she joined the church, Diane Filter was the hostess for the coffee hour for which she provided the food. Welcome, Diane!

(Two other new members, Tim Robinson and Late-ta Darby, also were received on March 8 and will be introduced later in *WINDOWS*.)

## **Elder and Deacon Nominations**

The Nominating Committee has begun the process of selecting nominees for the offices of ruling elder and deacon. We will also select nominees from the congregation for next year's committee. According to the Book of Order when elections are held, active members of the congregation will have the opportunity to offer nominations from the floor of the congregational meeting. In order to facilitate the selection process, the Nominating Committee offers active members of the congregation the opportunity to give names of nominees to Faith Wolford either by phone (215-848-5771) or email ([dewfew3@verizon.net](mailto:dewfew3@verizon.net)). Nominations must be provided no later than Tuesday, May 5. Please talk with candidates prior to nominating them to be certain they are willing to serve. Descriptions of the responsibilities of these offices can be provided by contacting Faith. An additional opportunity for active members to put forth nominees will be given at the congregational meeting held on May 17 immediately following the Worship Service.

# The Presbyterian Church's Response To Selma

Fifty years ago this March, Americans witnessed a rapid and tumultuous turning point in the Civil Rights movement. After the “Bloody Sunday” attacks on African-American marchers in Selma, religious leaders from across the country called on their followers to support the non-violent protests for equal voting rights in the South. Presbyterians joined many others in heeding that call.

The UPCUSA’s Commission on Religion and Race urged Presbyterians “to stand with Negroes in Selma who are seeking their right to vote, free assembly, and of protest.” Head of the Board of National Missions Kenneth Neigh led a national staff contingent down from New York, and synod and presbytery staff and pastors from around the country also traveled to Selma. From San Francisco Theological Seminary, President Theodore Gill, faculty members, and over 50 seminary students boarded a bus for the long drive to Alabama. Many of the students helped set up tents and dig latrines, and they served as guards and lookouts during the five-day march.

On Sunday March 21, two weeks after Bloody Sunday, almost 8,000 people, black and white, set out from Selma, led by King and other religious leaders. As the procession approached Montgomery on Thursday, the number of marchers swelled to nearly 25,000. From the steps of the capitol, King spoke about the hard-won victory: “Selma, Alabama, became a shining moment in the conscience of man. If the worst in American life lurked in its dark street, the best of American instincts arose passionately from across the nation to overcome it.”

In its April 15 issue, *Presbyterian Life* posed the question, “After Montgomery, what?” Noting that violence and reprisals had already occurred, the editors nevertheless concluded that real change was possible. “[E]qual rights everywhere for everyone seem now graspable, and a great many people have recently not only jumped off the fence—they have jumped *over* the fence. Their newness and vigor adds significantly to the numbers of the already committed.”

The Voting Rights Act became law on August 6, 1965, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting throughout the nation. Enforcement of the law came slowly to Alabama and other parts of the South, but continued activism and a gradual acquiescence to federal mandates led to a huge increase in the number of blacks registered to vote by the early 1970s. In the end, the words and presence of religious leaders and many faithful Americans helped right an injustice and bring the nation closer to true democracy. See more at: <http://www.history.pcusa.org/blog/2015/02/selma-montgomery-marches#sthash.xOITsTyR.dpuf>.

# No More "Pecuniary Embarrassments?"

- "The need for revenue is desperate..."Loans and mortgages are constantly being sought."
- It was decided "to draft a respectful address and present it to the Presbytery stating its [the church's] peculiarly distressing situation, and praying for aid."
- "A communication from the congregation at Germantown was received stating their pecuniary embarrassments, and giving it as their opinion that if they do not obtain some assistance speedily their place of worship will be sold before the next stated meeting of the Presbytery...."

Such was the seemingly hopeless plight of the "Church of Germantown"—us—in the years 1814-1835. And, then, August 21, 1836, joy and peace: "Resolved, it be published from the pulpit this Church is free from all debt whatever." How that was accomplished might remain a sacred if not theological mystery were it not for "the power of the Holy Spirit."

*Now may the God of hope fill you will all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Contrast the year of 2014 at the church. The pledge goal for the period was a hoped-for \$350,000, and as of December 31, 2014, that hope was realized when \$378,390 had been given. With the goal having been met and with expenses less than budgeted, we were able to stand on solid ground as we welcomed an interim pastor and reaffirmed our mission and outreach commitments. In addition, the members and friends of the congregation pledged \$68,000 for the renovations to the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry.

With \$350,000 in pledges currently being sought for 2015 and with the assurance that God is indeed a God of hope and does fill us with joy and peace in believing, we have adopted the Biblical verse of Romans to give special significance and blessing to our stewardship. And while we await what the commitment will be of a few more faithful members so that the year's budget can be assured, we are grateful that the family of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown abounds not only in hope but also in giving.

—The Committee for Stewardship

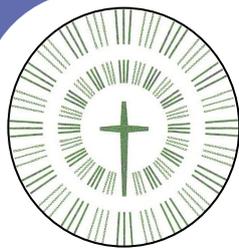
## Congregational Conversations

There will be monthly congregational conversations on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday morning of each month until June. These conversations are based on Paul Rhebergern's report. A copy will be available at each meeting. These conversations will be held within the Church on the following dates:

- 4/19 - The Endowment
- 5/16 - Community Outreach
- 6/20 - Our Building

The meeting will have a lite breakfast from 9:00--9:30 AM and then discussions will begin on the above selected topic. This is an opportunity to share your ideas. Action items will be selected from these discussions and referred to the relevant committee(s). It is our hope that that committee would then come up with a implementation plan within 30 days of their first meeting and seek approval from Session, if necessary, of any action item. Each one of these topics is important to the future viability of First Church. Therefore, if you are physically capable. your participation in this noble cause is greatly needed.

—Daniel Conner, Esq.



## PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA

March 19, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On March 17, 2015, Amendment 14F—expanding the definition of marriage—acquired the 86 necessary votes to become part of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). As shared with you several days ago, the new language affirms marriage as being between "two people, traditionally a man and a woman." This change in our constitution allows for, but does not mandate, the marriage of same-gender men and women, to be performed in our congregations.

As many of you know, the vote cast on the 17<sup>th</sup> gave life to the media through the New York Times, Facebook, Twitter and more. We have posted some of the pastoral letters sent by our denominational leaders on our website for your information. There are still about 50 presbyteries (out of 171) who have yet to vote on this and the other recommended amendments. The final number is expected to change significantly prior to June 2015.

This journey has not been unlike those Biblical moments when the winds blow, throwing believers off balance—for some causing great joy and awe, while for others, causing great distress. This being said, over the past year, we as a presbytery, have worked diligently on deepening relationships within the leadership of our congregations. As such, we are prayerfully hopeful that we will be able to move into the future together as a united body -bound together by our conviction in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Please be assured that we are fully committed to the unity of our body as a presbytery—and by unity we do not mean uniformity. We believe we need one another to express fully the possibilities for mission in this greater Philadelphia area. In an ever-growing secular world, we need one another—with all our differences—theological, cultural, racial, etc., to grow the church in the present and future. As articulated by this constitutional amendment, we are committed to respectfully honoring the theological identity of each of our congregations and their leadership.

We continue "to offer prayers of thanksgiving" for each of our congregations. We celebrate your faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are privileged to serve you.

Trusting always...

- that the God who led the people out of bondage from slavery to a place of freedom;
- that the God who has spoken through the prophets to reclaim our identity as a children of God;
- that the God whose cries from the cross gave voice to the light of the resurrection—will continue to lead his church by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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## PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA

Please know we are available to meet with you should you or your leadership desire. May God bless us all as we humbly live into this new season.

Ruling Elder Michael Henry  
Moderator

Teaching Elder Kevin Porter  
Stated Clerk

Teaching Elder William Teague  
Vice-Moderator

Teaching Elder Ruth Faith Santana-Grace  
Executive Presbyter

# Staying Connected

The second in the series of "Congregational Conversations," held on Saturday morning March 21, drew almost 40 participants to discuss communications in and at the church. Facilitators Drew Hood, Heidi Mercado-Littles, and Contina Lundy each presided over three areas of consideration: print, personal and digital. The primary goals for the discussion were (1) that folks feel heard in communicating about communications; (2) that we discover what is working well with our communications; and (3) that we find ways to equip all of us to communicate better. Guiding the thinking about the subject were the questions what do we want to communicate and what is the best way for FPCG to do that?

Drew emphasized that a church the size of ours can do only some things, so we need to determine what is best for us. The comments and questions which followed David Daugherty's speaking about our print and computer outlets revealed the following: as good things happen to members of the church, let the congregation know as quickly as possible; there is a tremendous need for an updated church directory; members who cannot get to church read *Windows* thoroughly; the deacons could take a stronger role in passing on up-to-date information; could volunteers from the congregation do data work on lists for the computer?

Heidi explained that the most important communication still remains that of face-to-face--with members on Sundays and at other times but also with the home-bound. She spoke of ways of "staying connected," including visiting which should "not be a chore but a joy," something deacons have discovered in taking flowers to members and visiting with them. In her calling on folks, our Parish Visitor always takes copies of the latest Sunday bulletin. Concerning the prayers for members during staff meetings, Heidi noted that ten folks from the congregation are prayed for weekly, those prayers being followed up with a personal note signed by the staff and mailed. Comments during the discussion of personal communications included the posting and printing of the lists of deacons and the members under the care of each; mixing age, class and gender groups during coffee hour; giving much more emphasis to the Dinners for Eight get-togethers; reviving the greeters cadre and the use of name tags; activating a phone tree, particularly for weather-related information.

A by-product of the face-to-face theme was that more detailed information needed to be provided to prospective deacons and elders; folks being asked to serve as officers for the church should know what they are agreeing for and that to know and understand such service is a calling from God. Active training classes could be open to all.

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# Staying Connected

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Contina Lundy (with the help of daughter Madison) introduced the topic of digital communications. She defined those communications as "anything on a screen" but specifically Facebook (First Pres. Germantown), Twitter (Twitter@FPCGermantown) and Instagram (@FPCGermantown). These, she said, are useful tools, "this amazing technology," for the church community but also for the wider constituency with whom we might want to share information. To demonstrate on-the-spot relevancy, she and Drew took photos of the group and showed how quickly they appeared on their digital phones. While the recent church survey revealed that the fewest number of people in the congregation use social media for communicating, nevertheless it is an absolute necessity for reaching younger generations and is vital for us to have an attractive, up-to-date website.

Some related comments throughout the morning about communications included:

we need to have much more lead time for letting people know about upcoming events and programs; two examples were advertising for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter as well as for the Rev. Dr. Bremer's series on the "Book of Revelations." There is a very active book club in the church, yet another way to get to know members of the church family better. More publicity could be given to sermons, for example, with CDs for sale, pod casts, and printed materials.

A full accounting of the meeting will be written and distributed to the congregation at a later date.



On Saturday April 11, 2015, our congregation will be participating in the Citywide **Walk against Hunger**, an effort to raise awareness to the issues of hunger that exist in our community and city and an opportunity to raise money for area food cupboards. Eighty per cent of all the money we raise as a church will go toward the food cupboard in our very own Germantown Crisis Ministry and the other twenty per cent will go toward citywide food cupboards and administrative costs for organizing the walk. This year the GACM has set a goal to raise \$2000 dollars.

There are two ways you can join us:

1. Sign up to walk with us and help us raise money by finding a few donors to sponsor your walk. Join us for a mile or two or for the entire three mile walk.
2. Become a donor and sponsor one of the many from our church who will be taking the walk themselves.

The Walk begins down at the steps of the Art Museum at 9:00 AM. We will meet at the Church that Saturday at 7:30 AM and travel down to the Museum. Transportation will be provided for those with none.

Throughout March in all our youth groups, FPCG youth have been challenged to collect funds, and any elementary through high school youth interested in raising money for the GACM and/or walking on April 11, please see Christian Heyer-Rivera for more details.

Look for a GACM Walk Against Hunger booth in our coffee hours after worship in Longstreth Auditorium on Sundays leading up to the walk. You can sign up to walk or sponsor a walker at the booth. As is the case in other years, students and seniors will have first priority for seating in the church's minibus to this event.

For more general information about the walk, please use the following web address: [www.hungercoalition.org/hungerwalk](http://www.hungercoalition.org/hungerwalk) and to sponsor the GACM through an online donation, please go to [action.hungercoalition.org/page/outreach/splash/walk2015\\_germantownavcrisis](http://action.hungercoalition.org/page/outreach/splash/walk2015_germantownavcrisis)

# KSB 2015 Founders Award

Keystone State Boychoir (KSB) will honor Dr. Revered Nancy Muth with its Founders Award on Thursday, April 9 at its annual Gala. This year's event will be the world premier of ***Mother B!***, a "new old-fashioned American musical," written by KSB Music Director Steven Fisher.

***Mother B!*** celebrates the remarkable story of Mary Ann Bickerdyke, aka "Mother B." Remembered as "the Florence Nightingale of the Civil War," Mother B's indefatigable service earned her the profound respect of President Lincoln and General Grant and the gratitude of the entire Union army. She witnessed over 19 battles and set up over 300 field hospitals with innovative approaches to hygiene and soldier care that helped bring medicine out of the dark ages. In doing so, she saved the lives of thousands of Americans.

"It made sense to honor Reverend Muth given the nature of this year's gala event," says KSB co-founder Joe Fitzmartin. "Like Mother B, Nancy is a formidable woman who has accomplished much in her time at FPCG. Keystone State Boychoir will always be appreciative of her and the FPCG's hospitality as a choir in residence. In honoring Nancy, we're really honoring the entire FPCG community for its support of our organization's programs."

"When KSB came to FPCG," co-founder Steven Fisher says, "it served 75 young singers. Today the organization serves over 600 young singers between the ages of 4 and 18 in four different programs: Keystone State Boychoir, Pennsylvania Girlchoir, Find Your Instrument! and Good Mornin' Music. The FPCG community may not be aware of how many young lives we enrich. Our Find Your Instrument! program brings the joy of singing to over 200 underserved children in Germantown public schools. So when FPCG supports KSB, it's supporting much, much more."

The Gala and Founders Award Ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 9 at Upper Darby Performing Arts Center (UDPAC) at 7:30 PM. The musical, which will be presented in concert version, will star Walnut Street Theatre favorite Denise Whelan, include a cast of 20 Philadelphia and New York professional actors, and feature 200 singers from the Pennsylvania Girlchoir and the Keystone State Boychoir. Reverend Muth will share the Award with Reverend Cindy Jarvis of Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill - home of the Pennsylvania Girlchoir. Past Founders Award recipients include Mayor Nutter, David Binswanger, Jack and Carol Asher, and opera superstars Fredericka Van Stade and Denise Graves.

KSB warmly invites the FPCG community to attend this event, not only to witness Reverend Muth being honored, but to be honored themselves as members of a community that helps bring the joy of singing to so many young people.



For tickets, visit [www.udpac.org](http://www.udpac.org).

# Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

## And First Church



The work of Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network is up close and personal: A mother of three whose husband died, leaving her unable to cover the rent on one income...A devoted working father of two children who tried to make the family unit work, but left with the kids to prevent them from a mother unable to overcome drug addiction... An aged out- of foster care mother who wandered the streets with her baby having no place to stay; a single mom who was doing OK until she lost her job and lost her apartment; a woman whose husband began drinking and beating her.

These are just a few stories from our neigh-

borhood. Homelessness happens to people who are trying their best, working hard and “playing by the rules” but find themselves in a perfect storm of unfortunate circumstances. These people are our neighbors and friends, fellow congregants and classmates. At a point when supportive community means the most is where PIHN makes the difference. This is the work of Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, NW, involving 1200 volunteers from 30 congregations and community institutions who work together to make a difference for at-risk neighbors.

PIHN’s work starts with the basics— food, clothing and shelter, and moves on from there to supportive services, financial, career, education and housing counseling, and from there to family and self-care, all with the support and encouragement of compassionate volunteers. The end goal is a family that can manage to live a secure and self- sufficient lifestyle, with children who know and trust that they have a secure place to call “home.”

The day center at 7047 Germantown Ave. is a space where all families, those who are without homes or those who are couch surfing and staying with others, can come for a place to be: to work on computers, to enjoy a quiet day and play, to eat a snack, to do homework or write a paper for school. It’s a place to regroup and move forward. Families without homes receive hospitality in area congregations, allowing them to remain in Northwest Philadelphia, the area in which they are familiar, have supports, and where their children attend and can remain in their schools. Homelessness is a wrenching experience, but losing one’s community and absolutely everything familiar puts salt on the wound, making moving forward much more difficult.

First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is a founding congregation of PIHN. In fact, FPCG’s own Eileen Jones was one of our founding organizers, and served as our first organizational President.

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# Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

## And First Church (Cont.)

Eileen and a small group of representatives from several other local congregations learned about the work of a small coalition of congregations in New Jersey called Interfaith Hospitality Network, invited their founder to meet with them, and modeled our program after their program. Today that little New Jersey program has grown into a national program called Family Promise. It has 191 affiliates that organize congregations in offering emergency hospitality to families, offering many innovative programs and services to each affiliate. PIHN has grown as well, expanding our services to Northeast, in addition to Northwest, Philadelphia and also broadened the scope of our work to serve alumni, who remain at risk, even when they achieve the goal of moving to housing.

People really do want to solve the problem of family homelessness, but it feels so overwhelming and complicated that it's hard to know what to do first. Breaking the problem and work down to one family at a time makes it easier to get a handle on things. That's what PIHN does, and so can you. Please join us in our work. Cook a meal, play a board game, overnight host, coach a family with their budget, tutor a child, tutor an adult, help a teen apply to college, support our office crew, do a random act of kindness driving a parent to a job interview. Share your strengths and abilities by helping a neighbor. It's simple and it's effective. It makes the difference!



Back to School

With thanks to the wonderful community of First Presbyterian Church in Germantown for nearly 24 years of hospitality and service, and to our caring community of congregations, organizations, and volunteers! A special shout out to: Jim Thompson (our shared board member), Eileen Jones, founding president, and church members Martha Drusedum and Susan Farrington, past coordinators.

Rachel Falkove, Executive Director and Rev. Amy Yoder McLaughlin, Board President



## Mt Airy Day



According to Romans 12:6, everyone has God given gifts. Are you using what God has given you to help build or add to His kingdom here at First Church? Yes. You! No, this isn't an April's Fool joke or prank. We need you, now more there ever! We may be small in numbers, but what we do have are people that are dedicated to God's work here at FPCG.

Perhaps you have the gift of gab, to strike up conversation with anyone about anything. That's the gift that the Communication and Evangelism Committee is looking for to help at Mt Airy Day, Saturday, May 2, 2015. We need folks to share the vision of FPCG with the greater community.

Mt Airy Day is a yearly event that happens each May in Cliveden Park and on Germantown Avenue. Community groups and others get together to celebrate Mt Airy. There are vendors, food trucks, performers, and activities for children. It is a First Church tradition to have a table at Mt Airy Day to share information with the community attending the festivities. You don't have to stay the whole day, just an hour or two. So, if this is something that interests you or you would like more information, please feel free to speak to any member serving on the Communication and Evangelism Committee or a member of Session.



## Earth Day is Forty-Five!

Earth Day turns forty-five on April 22. Although Earth Day calls our collective attention to protecting the environment, worldwide environmental activism is centuries old. To celebrate Earth Day's milestone, this month's column focuses on individuals past and present who have been vanguards—saving and protecting the earth's flora and fauna. (\*) Asterisks mark titles for older or advanced readers.

Happy Reading!  
Deborah Thompson

## Children's Book Spot

- Burleigh, Robert. *A Man Named Thoreau*.  
Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Atheneum, 1985.
- Ehrlich, Amy. *Rachel: The Story of Rachel Carson*.  
Paintings by Wendell Minor. Harcourt, 2003.
- Hopkins, H. Joseph. *The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever*.  
Illustrated by Jill McElmurry. Beach Lane, 2013.
- Lasky, Kathryn. *John Muir: America's First Environmentalist*.  
Illustrated by Stan Fellows, Candlewick, 2006.
- Lawlor, Laurie. *Rachel Carson and Her Book that Changed the World*.  
Illustrated by Laura Beingessner. Holiday House, 2012.
- Lourie, Peter. *The Manatee Scientists: Saving Vulnerable Species*.  
Houghton Mifflin, 2011.\*
- Markle, Sandra. *The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs: A Scientific Mystery*. Millbrook, 2012.
- Montgomery, Sy. *Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa's Fastest Cat*.  
Photographs by Nic Bishop. Houghton Mifflin, 2014.\*
- Montgomery, Sy. *The Tapir Scientist: Saving South America's Largest Mammal*.  
Photographs by Nic Bishop. Houghton Mifflin, 2013.\*
- Morgan, Jody. *Elephant Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife*. Firefly Books, 2004.
- Nivola, Claire A. *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earl*. FSG, 2012.
- Nivola, Claire A. *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*. FSG, 2008.
- Rosenstock, Barb. *The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir and Our National Parks*.  
Illustrated by Mordecai Gerstein. Dial, 2012.
- Roth, Susan L. & Cindy Trumbore. *Parrots over Puerto Rico*.  
Illustrated by Susan L. Roth. Lee & Low, 2013.
- Sheldon, David. *Into the Deep: The Life of Naturalist and Explorer William Beebe*. Charlesbridge, 2009.
- Swinburne, Stephen R. *Once a Wolf: How Wildlife Biologists Fought to Bring Back the Gray Wolf*.  
Photographs by Jim Brandenburg. Houghton Mifflin, 1999.\*
- Thomas, Peggy. *For the Birds: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson*.  
Illustrated by Laura Jacques. Boyds Mills, 2011.
- Winter, Jeanette. *The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps*.  
Schwartz & Wade, 2011.
- Yezerki, Thomas. *Meadowlands: A Wetlands Survival Story*.  
FSG, 2011.

# April 2015

<b>1 Wednesday</b>	3:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 7:00 pm Session	<b>11 Saturday</b>	8:00 am Walk Against Hunger 8:00 am Keystone State Boychoir 10:00 am Open Gym	<b>21 Tuesday</b>	Hosting IHN 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee
<b>2 Thursday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over 7:00 pm Worship—Communion	<b>12 Sunday</b>	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 1:00 pm IHN Moves in	<b>22 Wednesday</b>	Hosting IHN 3:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 6:30 pm Mission and Outreach Committee
<b>3 Friday</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> 12:00 pm Worship—Oxford Presbyterian Church 3:30 pm Drop-in-Center 3:30 pm CY Choirs Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>13 Monday</b>	Hosting IHN	<b>23 Thursday</b>	Hosting IHN 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 6:30 pm Gospel Choir 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over 7:45 pm Voices-in-Bronze
<b>4 Saturday</b>	11:00 am Easter Festival	<b>14 Tuesday</b>	Hosting IHN 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over	<b>24 Friday</b>	Hosting IHN 3:30 pm Drop-in-Center 3:30 pm CY Choirs Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30 pm High School Youth Group
<b>5 Sunday</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> 8:45 am Chancel Choir 9:10 am Gospel Choir 9:30 am Festive Prelude 10:00 am Festive Worship Service 11:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>15 Wednesday</b>	Hosting IHN 3:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 7:00 pm Property Committee	<b>25 Saturday</b>	Hosting IHN 8:00 am Keystone State Boychoir 9:00 am Readers' Choice 10:00 am Open Gym Dinners for Eight
<b>6 Monday</b>	<b>Easter Holiday Church Closed</b>	<b>16 Thursday</b>	Hosting IHN 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 6:00 pm Administration & Finance Committee 6:30 pm Gospel Choir 6:30 pm Basketball 18 & Older 7:45 pm Voices-in-Bronze	<b>26 Sunday</b>	Hosting IHN <b>Celebration Sunday</b> 8:45 am Chancel Choir 10:00 am Worship Service with Communion 11:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Chancel Choir
<b>7 Tuesday</b>	9:30 am Classic Towns 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over	<b>17 Friday</b>	Hosting IHN 3:30 pm Drop-in-Center 3:30 pm CY Choirs Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group	<b>27 Monday</b>	Hosting IHN
<b>8 Wednesday</b>	3:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 5:30 pm GACM Board Meeting 6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting	<b>18 Saturday</b>	Hosting IHN 8:00 am Keystone State Boychoir 9:00 am Congregational Conversations 10:00 am Open Gym	<b>28 Tuesday</b>	Hosting IHN 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over 6:30 pm Building Usage Meeting
<b>9 Thursday</b>	6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over 6:30 pm Gospel Choir 7:45 pm Voices in Bronze	<b>19 Sunday</b>	Hosting IHN 8:45 am Chancel Choir 10:00 am Worship Service with Communion 11:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Chancel Choir	<b>29 Wednesday</b>	Hosting IHN 3:00 pm Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir
<b>10 Friday</b>	3:30 pm Drop-in-Center 3:30 pm CY Choirs Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30 pm Elementary School Youth Group	<b>20 Monday</b>	Hosting IHN	<b>30 Thursday</b>	Hosting IHN 6:00 pm Keystone State Boychoir 6:30 pm Gospel Choir 6:30 pm Basketball—18 & Over 7:45 pm Voices-in-Bronze

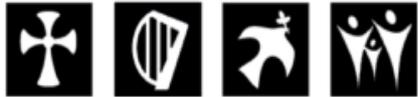
# Happy Birthday

## April



- |    |                 |    |                    |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------------|
| 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  |    |                    |

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



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