



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown



Joseph Leube, donor of the Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano, pauses after hearing F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director, play the Yamaha piano.

A New Piano for the Sanctuary

The Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano is the generous gift of Joseph J. Leube Jr. This fine, handmade piano by Yamaha was used exclusively for recitals on many of New York City's concert stages before it came to First Church. Joe accompanied Director of Music F. Anthony Thurman and Ted Barr to New York to select the piano from the inventory of Faust Harrison Pianos. The Yamaha CIIIF5 nine-foot concert grand piano was delivered to Germantown on Thursday, Sept. 8, and will be used regularly in worship and in concert.

Linda Leube, who passed away on Sept. 2, 2014, loved music and her many years working in the John F. Gummere Library at The William Penn Charter School. She was a long time member of First Church and loving mother of Elizabeth L. Strock (Jay) and Christopher J. Leube (Meghan); and grandmother to Jack Strock, Alex Strock, Austin Leube, and Desmond Leube.

The Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano will be dedicated during worship on **Sunday, October 23**. An inaugural piano recital will be planned in the spring.

Handel's Messiah Returns to Germantown

The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra, under the direction of F. Anthony Thurman, will present excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*, an oratorio in three parts, on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. The Oratorio Choir welcomes singers in all sections (high school - adult) for this community-wide holiday concert. There is no audition required, but the ability to read music, the talent to sing in tune and in time, and the commitment to be faithful to the rehearsal schedule are expected. The concert will be funded through gifts to the Music Opportunity Fund and a free-will offering collected at the concert.

For information, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or call the church office at 215-843-8811.

Oratorio Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesdays 7:30pm-9pm
(Nov. 2, 9, 16, & 23)

Oratorio Choir & Orchestra Rehearsals

Wednesday, Nov. 30
7:30pm-9pm
(Soloists at 6:30pm)

Saturday, Dec. 3
10am-12:30pm
(Dress Rehearsal)

EMPOWERING OUR OLDER ADULTS



How can our church meet the needs of our older adult members?

How can our older adult members meet the needs of our congregation?

Did you know that nearly 55% of our membership is over the age of 65, according to the annual statistical report submitted by our Session earlier this year?

A half day event will be sponsored by the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network of the Philadelphia Presbytery on **Saturday, October 22** at the Wayne Presbyterian Church. Four workshops will be available which will be valuable for both older and younger members of our congregation. Learn how to empower older adults in a care center or their homes and how to empower older adults to be involved and to volunteer. Also, hear how to organize an older adult ministry for our congregation and how to prepare yourself and your loved ones for the later years.

Brochures regarding the event may be found on the literature table or contact **Rev. Jerry Foote** at (215) 476-5368 for additional information.

HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR INSTRUMENT?

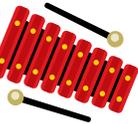
Did you know that Commonwealth Youthchoirs, the parent organization of Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir, has a program called Find Your Instrument! that, since 2008, has been providing a choral music experience to students in underserved schools in the Germantown area?



Find Your Instrument! works with more than 300 children in Grades 2-5 in three schools: Mastery Charter John Wister Elementary School, Joseph Pennell School and the Anna L. Lingelbach Elementary School, and plans are underway to expand to two more schools this season. In total, more than 650 children currently take part in Commonwealth Youthchoirs programs.

Students at these schools who demonstrate a love of singing are encouraged to pursue it further by joining Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir. Seven FYI! alumni have done so to date and their lives have been transformed by the power of making music together - here at home and around the world.

Find out more about FYI! or the Commonwealth Youthchoirs, or if you know a young singer who would be interested in joining the Keystone State Boychoir or the Pennsylvania Girlchoir, please contact:



Emily Harmor
Development Director
215-403-7030
development@cychoirs.org

Or visit the Commonwealth Youthchoirs office on the second floor of FPCG during business hours.

The Pastor's Paragraphs



Randy Bremer,
Interim Pastor

Vital Signs

FPC in Germantown is alive. The signs are all around. Ministry is happening. This morning a large AA meeting took place in Longstreth Auditorium, as it does each weekday. AA has long been known as a healing community where people who have found sobriety serve those who are searching for it. During this month they have moved out of their usual location in the Primary Room because we are hosting IHN. I have been deeply impressed with the faithful ministry carried on by many of our members who make this possible. The love of Christ made incarnational in countless acts of service. Jesus said that as we serve our neighborhood we are serving Christ.

Our worship has found a new found joy and depth of feeling as our music director, Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, makes our beautiful organ sing. Martin Luther wrote, "Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." An objective measure of this renewed passion for worship is found in the fact that this summer worship attendance has averaged more than 12% higher than last year. If you haven't been back for a while, check us out again. You may be pleasantly surprised when the Lord stirs your soul.

*In Christ,
Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor*

Funeral Hospitality



Heidi Mercado-Littles

One of the roles I fill as Parish Visitor is ministering to Church members in the later stages of their lives and ministering to their families at this time and especially when a member of our church family has passed away. For this purpose, I rely upon any enlisted volunteers that I can call up when the need arises. This Funeral Hospitality Team comes together anytime there is a Funeral or Memorial Service at the Church which is followed by a Reception or Repast. Depending on the needs of the family or the caterer engaged by the family, the team helps set up, serve and clean up. But they do so much more than that. They help caterers find their way in the kitchen. They run out for ice, cookies, paper goods, flowers for centerpieces, etc., if necessary. They serve as ushers and help visitors find their way around the Church.

Every member of the team is flexible and willing to step in where their help is needed. And they do all of this with patience, grace and love. Their reward is knowing they are helping family members at a most difficult time, when they have lost a loved one: parent, spouse, sibling, child or friend. Their reward comes in the many expressions of gratitude they receive from those family members.

The members of the Funeral Hospitality Team are Don Carlin, Ruth Cato, Susan Mills Farrington, Eugene and Rossie Gardenhire, Marney Hague, Gloria Patterson, Madeline Valentine, and Dave Wolford. Robert Archer was a faithful member until the Archers moved away. Many other church members have supported this team on occasion. In addition, we can always rely on the invaluable help from our Sextons.

Whether you are a member of the Funeral Hospitality Team or have served on one or more occasions, I thank you for being part of this very important ministry.

Heidi Mercado-Littles

YOUR PNC HAS BEGUN WORK

In the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) call process, the congregation gives authority to search for a pastor to a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC.) Once the PNC is elected, the other members of the congregation and the session have no role in determining who will be the next pastor until the PNC is ready to present their nominee to the congregation for a vote. The nine FPCG members elected to the PNC have had two meetings, both of them informational given by members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

The presbytery has a responsibility to work with the PNC, to advise them, and to evaluate the nominee they select to present to the congregation. They are authorized by our Book of Order to be partners with you in your discernment process.



Persons elected to the PNC are church members of integrity who are:

- ✓ Knowledgeable about the church and community, Presbyterian theology and government.
- ✓ Able to make a significant commitment of their time, energy, and very best wisdom.
- ✓ Willing to accept this as a task of spiritual discernment, not being easily influenced by personal desires or congregational politics, but rather listening for the voice of God.
- ✓ Able to honor confidentiality.

Some guidelines suggested to the PNC:

Spiritual Focus

Calling a pastor requires wisdom and spiritual guidance. Plan for a regular time for prayer and reflection as part of your meetings, deciding on how this time will be structured and who will lead it. This is more than opening and closing your meetings with prayer. Bible study and prayer are important tools as you seek to discern God's call. Don't skimp on this important time for listening to God.

A Sense of Consensus and Unity

It is important for there to be an evolving sense of consensus and unity within your PNC. As you pray and work together, you should become increasingly clear about the work you will be asking your new pastor to do and the type of person you will be seeking to fulfill that ministry. Be clear about your process for decision making. Know the steps you will be going through. Set agreed-upon timelines knowing that adjustments may have to be made since our timelines are not necessarily God's timelines.

Coordinate with Session

The PNC reports to the congregation. However, there will be times when your committee will need to consult with the session to ask for additional information, negotiate financial matters, and/or request the calling of a congregational meeting for the purpose of hearing your report and presenting your nominee. Identify those key times and identify who will be the liaison from the PNC to the session.



A Prayer for the Search for a Pastor

This prayer was created by the Regional Minister [of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)] for those searching for a pastor in West Virginia. It is influenced greatly by personal prayer and a prayer for such occasion that is found in the Book of Common Prayer.



Almighty and Gracious God, Giver of every good gift; look with favor upon your Church and upon those who are charged with discerning who it is, who is to be, the next minister for this congregation of your beloved and holy people.

Help us, dear God, so that we might find and be sent a loving and faithful pastor who will love and care for your flock and equip us for the ministries that you are calling us to do and to be about.

Be with our search committee, our congregation, our regional minister and all those who are watching and waiting for the one who is to come.

Keep us faithful to the process and keep us near to you in these days we humbly pray.

Bless us in this time of new life and grant us your presence, your peace and a deep and abiding trust in you, in your church, and in ourselves as this time of life unfolds.

In the name of Jesus Christ we offer this prayer. Amen



SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Joe Leube reported lease negotiations with Keystone are ongoing.
- Lois Nafziger and Maddy Valentine are in the process of updating the church operations manual.
- World Communion Sunday is Oct. 2.
- Nov. 13 is Stewardship Sunday. A Congregational Meeting will be held after the service.
- The Sunday bulletin will soon have a new, cost-saving tri-fold format.
- Sunday Bread & Cup starts again on Oct. 9.
- Four new and improved sump pumps have been installed in the basement.
- Randy reported the church is waiting for a proposal for a possible storm water abatement project. A grant from the city may cover the cost of the project.

Windows is a publication of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

For questions regarding the information published here or to submit content, please contact the church office.

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IN GERMANTOWN'S FINANCIAL MISSION FOR 2015

Each month we as a congregation support various programs which benefit outside organizations.

Windows shows the amount of funds that have been collected and distributed from monthly Challenge Offerings. Although this information is important, it only provides a snapshot of First Church's commitment to outreach and mission. To the right is a summary of the 2015 Challenge Offering income.

Challenge Offerings

Friends of Vernon Park	\$ 777
Lingelbach Elementary School	\$ 1,937
Keep a Child Alive	\$ 697
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 993
Healing the Children	\$ 2,062
Freedom School	\$ 3,005
Deacons	\$ 531
Campus Crusades for Christ	\$ 1,508
Presbyterian Nepal Earthquake Disaster	\$ 562
Presbyterian Peacemaking	\$ 433
Church World Service - Blankets	\$ 523
Presbyterian JOY Offering	\$ 1,397
Total	\$ 14,425

Each month the Outreach and Mission Committee designates a special organization or purpose for a special offering. You are asked to support this offering at your discretion. Funds collected through this offering are passed on to the organization or program based on the amount of money collected. These monies are outside the Church's budget, and are completely financed by the congregation's generosity.

Look for future *Windows* articles detailing other funds that carry out First Church's commitment to Mission to both our local community and the larger community.

PLEDGES

2016 Pledge Goal: **\$ 350,000**

	May 31	July 31	August 31
Actual	\$ 169,876	\$ 224,470	\$ 254,611

EXPENSES

	May 31	July 31	August 31
Budget	\$ 336,377	\$ 450,206	\$ 500,705
Actual	\$ 317,419	\$ 450,206	\$ 504,211



Coffee Hour Notes



Special thanks is always given to the members and friends of the congregation who prepare the food and coffee each week for Coffee Hour. Occasionally, though, an abundance of pastries and other goodies fill the serving tables. The snacks are provided courtesy of the local Acme Market, according to Tim Robinson who often helps serve and clean up. Everyone is invited to be the hosts at the Coffee Hours. Consider recognizing a special occasion as Don Carlin and Faith Lewis did on September 18 in Thanksgiving to God for their 25th Anniversary at FPCG.

Glenna Hazeltine, A Presbyterian's Presbyterian



You can't get more Presbyterian than Glenna Hazeltine unless you are a clergy person. Her grandfather was a Sunday School superintendent and founded a men's Bible class still in existence at the First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster. Her father was an elder, an uncle a trustee, another uncle an elder, and her sister a deacon. Add another Presbyterian twist when you discover that the Rev. Dr. Henry B. Strock, the grandfather of Joe Leube's son-in-law, married Glenna's parents and baptized her and her brother.

Growing up in Lancaster with that brother and sister, she graduated from the Lancaster County Day School after which she completed the first step of her higher education at Smith College majoring in English Language and Literature. Her studies in the literature of England which is full of Bible-related stories and symbolism are,

as Glenna says, "the way to understand God." She already had a good grounding in the Bible since in Sunday School early on she had memorized a great number of Bible verses for which she received many certificates.

After Smith, Glenna taught for 12 years—at the Frankford Friends School, Philadelphia; the North Shore Country School, Winnetka, Illinois; and the St. John's School, Houston, Texas, earning along the way a master's degree in English at Northwestern University (1975). Her education was not complete, however, for she began studying law at Temple University where she was awarded the J. D. degree in 1983. Thus, her career as an attorney was launched. She attended Temple because "it was the only university which provided classes enabling me as a single mother to work so that my two sons could obtain a quality Quaker education." And indeed they did. James (Jim) Hazeltine-Shedd (b. 1968) and Robert-John (R. J.) Hazeltine-Shedd (b. 1971) are both graduates of Vassar College; today Jim is a diplomat in the U. S. Foreign Service while R. J. is a lawyer in Houston focusing on the rights of children. Glenna's two grandchildren are Oliver and Clara.

Ms. Hazeltine's legal career began as a real estate lawyer with the Philadelphia firm of Duane Morris. That was followed by 15 years as an assistant general counsel and administrator for the School District of Philadelphia. Currently Glenna is with a private law firm in Bethlehem where she represents public school entities and deals with issues of intellectual disabilities. She is an authority on the Individual Disabilities Act 504, the civil rights statute guaranteeing definite rights, "disability justice," to children in their pursuit of an education.

Undergirding Glenna's abiding interest in civil rights, justice and education is her Presbyterianism. When 25 years ago, a good friend, retired Presbyterian pastor Charles Hall said, "Let me introduce you to my church," the resident of now East Falls embraced the offer and came to First Germantown. On her first visit, Glenna met Jack Asher who was ushering and welcomed her as only Jack can do.

Ms. Hazeltine has served as usher, an ordained elder, chair of the Worship and Music Committee and of the Peace and Justice Committee. She has just been elected to serve on the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). About FPCG, she says, "This is my family, my community, my faith and fellowship." Glenna loves that the church is "uniquely integrated," so much so that she refers to the congregation as "being the color of God's eyes."

Outside of the law office and the church, Glenna is a rower, a member of the Philadelphia Girls Rowing Club; she admits that several times in the past she has come to morning worship with a raincoat over her rowing garments. She is a board member of the William Appling Singers and Orchestra in New York and supplements her musical interests with opera attendance and listening. But she reserves her best time in being Nani to her grandchildren Clara, "she who must be obeyed" and Oliver, "a thoughtful dynamo of energy."



Scholarship Awards

In time for the 2016-17 school year, the church has authorized scholarships for the following members and friends of the church:

FPCG Members

1. Valient Solomon
2. Kristina Ohemeng
3. Taneisha Gibbs
4. Lechelle Garnett
5. DeShaye Carter

FPCG Friends

6. Melvin Brown
Former YG member, presently a Freedom School SLI, Drop-in center worker, YG leader, and open gym participant.
7. Corey Edwards Fuller
Former YG and presently a regular open gym participant.
8. Sara Carter-Blanford
Gospel Choir Director
9. Kiara Greene
Former Freedom school participant, presently a volunteer Freedom School junior SLI.
10. Christian Brown
Former member, presently family member of current FPCG members.

Each spring, scholarship applications are available for members and friends of the church involved in PFCG programs and are enrolled in post-secondary education programs. For more information, call the church office.

Lectionary Readings for October

Our faith as Presbyterians is rooted in Holy Scripture. Lectionary readings are used as the foundation of our worship and preaching. For those who want to read, reflect upon and study the weekly lessons, here are the readings. Note that changes can and may be made.

October 2

First Reading Lamentations 1:1–6
Psalm Lamentations 3:19–26 or Psalm 137
Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:1–14 2
Gospel Luke 17:5–10

October 9

First Reading Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7
Psalm Psalm 66:1–12
Second Reading 2 Timothy 2:8–15:2
Gospel Luke 17:11–19

October 16

First Reading Jeremiah 31:27–34
Psalm Psalm 119:97–104
Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1–7
Gospel Luke 16:1–13

October 23

First Reading Joel 2:23–32
Psalm Psalm 65
Second Reading 2 Tim. 4:6–8, 16–18
Gospel Luke 18:9–14

October 30

First Reading Habakkuk 1:1–4, 2:1–4
Psalm Psalm 119:137–144
Second Reading 2 Thess. 1:1–4, 11–12
Gospel Luke 19:1–10

Frank Lundy: The \$18,000 Man

If you ask Frank Lundy how much money he has collected for 20 years for AIDS research, he won't pause for more than a second until he answers, "Over eighteen thousand dollars." That is \$18,000! One year during that time he was recognized as having been the top fund raiser of the year. He is at it again: raising money for the 30th AIDS Walk/Philly 5K Run to be held on Sunday, October 16, starting at the Philadelphia Art Museum and proceeding down the Martin Luther King Drive. The run will begin at 7:30 am and the walk at 9:00 am. First Church members have participated in the fund-raising and in the actual walk/run and are doing so once again. It's not too late to participate. To contribute or for more information, see Frank Lundy.



30th AIDS Walk/Philly 5K Run

Sunday, October 16
7:30am (run)
9am (walk)

To contribute or for more information, see Frank Lundy.

The goal of the event is to increase awareness, fight stigma and raise funds to support the most vulnerable people living with the HIV disease in the Greater Philadelphia Region. Over sixteen million dollars have been raised in the past 30 years.

NOT PARIS, BUT A TRIP TO PRINCETON IN THE SPRING



Princeton University Chapel

Responding to folks who remember church trips of the past, the duo who a few years ago involved FPCG in "Celebrating Germantown" is planning a day trip by bus to Princeton, New Jersey, on **Saturday, April 22, 2017**. Princeton is a very walkable town, and there is a free loop bus for getting around. We would have a tour of the University Chapel and campus, and a free visit to the Princeton Museum. Recalling the inestimable influence of Princeton Theological Seminary on this church, we think a visit there is vital. The Princeton cemetery holds John Witherspoon, Aaron Burr, Jonathan Edwards and Grover Cleveland, among others. On the way to Princeton, we will hear about the town and its rich Presbyterian history. The cost of the trip will be \$30.00. Watch for more details later, but put April 22, 2017, on your calendar now.

Sermons on CDs

A small group of church members is responsible for producing and distributing the CDs of the weekly sermons given by Rev. Bremer. Organized by Gloria Bethea, the committee is made up of Jim Thompson, Marc Dinardo, and Joe Leube with additional assistance from Don Carlin.



If you would like to receive the CDs, place your name on the sign-up sheet on the literature table or contact **Gloria at (215) 473-1672 or gloriabethea36@yahoo.com** for more information.



VOICES IN BRONZE: HANDBELL CHOIR

Four more people are needed to re-start the choir. If you are interested and read music, please see Tony Thurman.

Looking Ahead to Stewardship Sunday: November 13

The schedule for the fall stewardship campaign has been established. The theme for this year's campaign is Live Simply. This theme is based on 1 Timothy 6:18-19: "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." Live Simply also focuses on Philippians 4:11: "Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have."

Highlights of the campaign will include informative items in the Sunday bulletins, announcements during Sunday worship, an extensive story in the November issue of *Windows*. These events all point to Stewardship Sunday on November 13. At this time pledge material will be mailed to the congregation for next phase of the program – your participation and commitment.

Stewardship. What do you think of when you see that word? Many of us think immediately of money. We recall that time in our congregation's life when we are asked to make a financial commitment for the coming year. At some level, however, we are aware that stewardship is more than money. Stewardship is how we live out our calling as followers of Christ. Stewardship is what we do after we say that we believe.



Sign Posts of a Financially Healthy Congregation

Financial health speaks to our whole attitude about money, including how our understanding of God's goodness influences all of our financial decisions. Here are six signposts that identify a financially healthy congregation:

1. Understands that all giving, of ourselves as well as our financial resources, is in response to God's goodness and generosity. God gives, then we respond, and we spend our lives learning and growing in our responses.
2. Discusses money in the context of worship instead of considering money a disreputable subject that should not be confused with the sacredness of worship. This distinction should not exist within Christ's church.
3. Understands that the offering is an integral part of corporate worship. Just as we bring our gifts of wine and bread to God's table, we present ourselves as an offering through our financial gifts.
4. Talks about money openly and candidly in all aspects of the church's life, realizing that how we use our money says a great deal about our values and priorities.
5. Engages in mission beyond its own doors and interprets this mission (both local and worldwide) through a planned year-round program. When people know how their money is used to do God's work, they are reinforced in their giving.
6. Plans long-range for its program objectives and financial needs. Budget development is a long-term process.

From A Stewardship Manual (PCUSA)



COLOR CONTRASTS

by V. Marlene Young

Every fall there seems to
be a quest
Nature's children trying
to best
Brilliant cool blue days or
maybe gray
Night takes back
dominion from the day
Crisp refreshing air helps
me to breathe
Then of course it also
makes me sneeze
Golden trees just
bragging, showing off
Shining over rustic reds,
competing
Wise consistent
evergreens keep score
Red/gold beauty, both
the same... or more?
With our children we will
take a walk
Gathering leaves to trace,
to learn by name
Picking up more brown
than red or gold
Have they ever noticed
they're outnumbered?
It would make no
difference were they told
Every year their autumn
games unfold.
*V. Marlene Young, a member
of the church since 2001, is a
published poet.*



PRAYERS FOR CHURCH UNITY

O God, you are the giver of life.

We pray for the church in the whole world.

Sanctify her life, renew her worship,
give power to her witnessing,
restore her unity.

Give strength to those who are
searching together

for that kind of obedience which
creates unity.

Heal the divisions separating your
children one from another,

so that they will make fast, with bonds
of peace,

the unity which the Spirit gives. Amen.

(BCW, p. 811, a prayer from Zaire)



Birthdays



Be sure to wish these congregation members a happy birthday next time you see them!

October

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Gayl Henze | 9 Kai Jeanine Burton | 16 Anna Reimann |
| 2 Grace Moragne | 9 Duane Horne | 17 Ernest Freeman |
| 2 Jamal Smith | 9 Faith Lewis | 18 Peter Erskine |
| 3 William Young | 10 Charlene Hardy | 22 Gloria Patterson |
| 6 Dorothy Jackson | 11 Brenda Meline | 25 Marc DiNardo |
| 7 Richard Mercer | 12 Carmen Bethea | 25 Montreall Hayward |
| 8 Dani Howard | 14 Timothy Robinson | |

Those Whom We Have Lost Awhile

2016 Deaths

Lorraine S. Bass

died August 24

age 99

mother of Aaron Bass

Viola Donaldson

died September 3

age 101

member since 2001



DELIVER TO:



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