



# • Windows •

*The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown*



**Mud cakes in the sun in Haiti:** They are made from four ingredients—salt, margarine, dirt and water. One part salt to one part margarine mixed with 10 parts dirt and five parts water. Mixed by hand until firm, they are then shaped into a cake as in the photo. They are placed in a preheated oven at 180 degrees Celsius for 20 minutes until firm but not brittle. They are served at room temperature.

## Help Stop Hunger On January 21, 2017

From Philadelphia to Haiti, the air distance is 1,459 miles. From the comfort of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown to the poverty in Haiti, the distance is immeasurable. So many are homeless. Children are starving. Conditions are overly crowded. Water is in short supply. And sometimes the only food school children have to eat are mud cakes. On Saturday, January 21, however, this congregation will do its part in helping to alleviate some of the hunger by participating in a Stop Hunger Now event. Volunteers of all ages will meet to package 10, 152 meals in about two hours (that's what 40 to 50 helpers can do). The cost will be \$3000 which is being raised now.

The participants in the event will find bins filled with raw ingredients. Workers will scoop ingredients into meal bags, weigh and seal the bags, box and stack them ready to be taken away by representatives of the organization.

Stop Hunger Now meals are nutritiously sound. Every dehydrated rice/soy meal is fortified with 23 essential vitamins and nutrients. Research has shown that one in three people in developing countries is adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

Meal packaging events are the heart of the work of Stop Hunger Now. Let the few hours on January 21 show the heart of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, and before then, please contribute toward our goal of \$3000.

## STAFF APPRECIATION CHRISTMAS GIFT

Christmas is a time we can show our appreciation to our staff for all they do during the year as they serve our congregation and community. Most of us have experienced the “extra” each of these staff members put into their job. Staff Appreciation Christmas Gifts will be given to Kevin, Eileen, Tony, Christian, Heidi, Sara, Joan, Cindy, Terry, Whaley, Robert and Tanieya just prior to the holiday.

You can share in these appreciation gifts by mailing your contribution (checks made out to The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown) to:

**Personnel Committee**  
**The First Presbyterian Church in**  
**Germantown**  
**35 West Chelton Avenue**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19144**

You can also place a check in the mailbox by the church office. There will also be opportunities to make a contribution during the Sunday coffee hours on Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18.





The mission of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is to reflect the loving presence of Christ in Germantown as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully, and share life together in a diverse and generous community.



## A PIECE OF THE ROCK

Special thanks are extended to Pernell Jackson who recently gave a generous gift to the church's endowment in memory of his wife, Myrtle, who passed away on March 21, 2016.

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 Pastor's Paragraph



Randy Bremer,  
Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of FPC in Germantown,

The PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith says it very simply, "We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God." Herein lies the miracle of Christmas: the child of Bethlehem, whose birth we again prepare to celebrate, fully shares our humanity. Also, in a mystery that remains deeper than the deepest thoughts, that child was and is God in the flesh. The Word of God became human so that we would have a profoundly visible testimony of how much God loves us.

What should be our response to the Christmas miracle? Trust. Trust that the God of creation, whose wisdom ordered the vast heavens and the tiny atom, cares deeply and personally for you. Trust that in life and in death you belong to God and that nothing can separate you from God's love.

Sometimes when it seems that the world is going crazy, what is a person to do? Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7) But how do we know that God cares? Christmas is the celebration of God's care. May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your soul during this season.

In Christ,  
Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor

## UPDATE ON THE PNC

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), meeting weekly on Fridays for two hours, has completed the Ministry Information Form (MIF) and sent it to the Session for their consideration and approval. The next step is the forwarding of the document to the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry for their approval. The MIF is a "reflection of the congregational reality and hopes" in obtaining a permanent pastor.

The committee members are Jason Williams, Glenna Hazeltine, Charles Bethea, Arlene Grace, Daniel Conner, Contina Lundy, Leah Hood, Rosemary Walkenhorst and Sam Whyte.



Recently the group above, in a kind of mini-ministry, took a covered dish dinner to the home of long-time member Jessie Coleman pictured in the center of the group. But holding her arm is another Jesse Coleman (his middle name) Padgett. The others in the photo from left to right include Charles Bethea, Lois Nafziger-Bethea, Sam Whyte, Susan Mills Farrington and Gloria Bethea. Jessie's daughter Jennifer was also in attendance.

### 'SOLO DIOS BASTA'

At each PNC meeting, time is spent in prayer and meditation. Each member of the committee takes part in leading these spiritual moments. Taking his turn at the Nov. 4 meeting, Jason Williams, who teaches Spanish at Plymouth-Whitemarsh, based his meditation on a prayer he shared in Spanish:

*Nada te turbe,  
Todo se pasa,  
Dios no se muda,  
La Paciencia  
Todo la alcanza,  
Quien a Dios tiene  
Nada le falta.  
Solo Dios basta.*

An English translation:

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passed away,  
God never changes,  
Patience obtains all things,  
Whoever has God lacks nothing.  
God alone suffices.

## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 2016

**FPCG bylaws Section 7.4. Reports.** The President and/or Treasurer of the Trustees shall present a report of activities and finances of the Congregation/Corporation at meetings of the Congregation/Corporation.

To comply with our church bylaws today we will "formally" present to the congregation the financial report for the Corporation of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown for 2015.

The 2015 financial review for the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown has been completed by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, CPA with no findings or deficiencies noted.

## 2017 BUDGET

The 2017 Budget before you today is a balanced budget approved by your Session.

When the 2016 budget was presented to you last year, it was presented to you as a work in progress. That budget had a shortfall of \$28,243. Early in 2016 the budget was adjusted; this shortfall was primarily eliminated when our former Music/Communications Director resigned.

The 2017 expected budgeted income is primarily balanced due to the following:

- Increase in expected pledge of \$10,000
- Unused carry over of \$11,000 from the 2016 budget
- Decrease in Endowment income of \$5,421 for 2017

The 2017 expected budgeted expenses changed as follows:

- Most Committees kept their budgets the same as 2016
- Although \$15,000 was used to offset Music and Property expenses in 2016, those funds are not available in 2017. In 2016 these were McLean Organ funds that can be used for Sanctuary & Music expenses if there are no organ upkeep needs. Since we have major organ repairs to be done in 2017, those funds will be used for the organ as called for by Mrs. McLean's will.
- During 2016 our Building Superintendent resigned. Instead of replacing him, we added one part-time sexton and increased the hours for our lead sexton (Terry Boyer) who now acts as Building Manager. We also are using volunteers from our congregation. This produced savings in salaries.

We did not hire an office administrator. Instead we are using volunteers to cover office functions including acting as the church office receptionist. With these volunteers we are meeting the needs of the Church and saving in salaries.

Session Committees have been diligent in carefully monitoring their respective committee expenses.

We still need your support to meet our pledge goal for 2016. We are on track to meet our goal by year end.

We also need your prayers and financial support to meet our 2017 pledge goal for 2017 of \$360,000.

## PLEDGES

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

**Pledges as of Oct 31**

\$ 306,063



## EXPENSES

**Expenses as of Oct 31**

**Budget** \$ 605,238

**Actual** \$ 614,139



We praise God for our congregation's continuing generosity and all of you who have kept your pledges up to date!



## A MEDITATION FOR ADVENT

Unplug!  
Turn off the noise.

Listen!  
I am standing at the door,  
knocking.  
If you hear my voice  
and open the door,  
I will come into you  
and eat with you,  
and you with me.

(Rev 3:20)

A crying baby,  
a frightened refugee,  
an innocent one, murdered.

He now sits at table with  
me,

Sharing our food,  
Sharing our stories,  
Sharing our dreams

Even as I struggle hard  
to pray,

“not my will, but Thine  
be done”

(Luke 22:42)

in our divided nation  
and in our hurting world.

“Come quickly, Lord Jesus.”  
(Rev 22:20)

and grant me to humbly  
serve beside you  
with love, and unafraid.

Amen.

-Don Carlin



## Marc Dinardo Works on Weather Satellite

First Presbyterian’s Marc DiNardo, spacecraft and mechanical engineer, has been instrumental to the team that developed the GOES-R weather satellite which was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral at 5:42 pm on Saturday, November 19. GOES-R stands for Geostationary Operation Environmental-R-Series. Its mission is “to improve detection of environmental phenomena in order to minimize the effects these phenomena would have otherwise,” in other words, the GOES-R data will be used for critical weather forecasting and warning applications.

Marc, who united with the church in 1987, very often uses his engineering expertise in solving earthly problems here, particularly electrical ones.



For additional information on satellite program on which Marc has been working for many years, go to:

[www.spaceflightnow.com](http://www.spaceflightnow.com)

or

[www.nasa.gov/nasatv](http://www.nasa.gov/nasatv)

## MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, December 4

4:00pm

The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, will present a concert of excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*, an oratorio in three parts. Soloists will include our immensely talented and highly accomplished choral section leaders Evelyn Santiago, soprano; Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano; Stuart Jasper, tenor; and Robert Phillips, baritone. The concert is open to the public. A free-will offering is requested. Christmas dinner follows: Children under five years old, free; youth ages 5-11, \$6; adults, \$13.

Call the church office for dinner tickets,  
**215-843-8811.**

For more information, please visit the church website  
[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org).

Sunday, December 18

Morning Service

TFPCG Chancel Choir will be joined by Pianists Gayle Martin and Ted Barr in presenting four-hand piano accompaniments of Christmas carols arranged by Howard Helvey. Ted Barr, husband of Music Director Tony Thurman and organist at The First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield, is no stranger to our congregation—he was last heard at our piano dedication service. Internationally recognized concert pianist and Steinway Artist Gayle Martin will be traveling from Houston for this special appearance. Plans are underway to bring Gayle back to Germantown in the spring to perform the inaugural recital on the Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano. Then she will be joined by Ted Barr in a performance of Schubert’s hauntingly beautiful masterpiece, the Fantasy in F Minor for piano, four hands.

Restoration and mechanical repairs to the McClean Memorial Pipe Organ are underway with more work scheduled to commence early in 2017 in anticipation of our church organ’s Centennial Anniversary in 2019.

For information or to support this significant work, contact the music director: [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com).

## RECENT PROPERTY PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

In the summer issue, there was an update that explained how projects would be handled. This would be a hybrid approach with Terry Boyer returning as a part time employee with a major role in coordinating many major projects. He is being helped by several members with experience with the church plant and led by Lois Nafziger-Bethea.

Since that time many projects have been identified and most are completed. Some highlights are:



Repairs to four roof areas where leaks had caused interior damages. The affected areas were in the hallway near the kitchen, the hallway near the large bulletin board and Jennings Room doorway, and the choir room. The roofing work was done by an outside contractor and the interior repainting was done by our staff.



A major project was replacing the pump system used to transfer water collected underneath the basement into the city waste water system. For those who do not know, there is an underground stream beneath the church. Water that flows under the foundation is collected into a sump to prevent flooding of the basement. This collected water needs to be transferred out to the city system and that is done by these pumps. The original pumps were from the 1930s; over time various parts had been replaced. The whole system was redone with submersible pumps/motors and new controllers that will ensure we have reliable operation.



In the kitchen, a new floor beneath the sink was installed, a new booster hot water heater installed and a new faucet including a spray wand for the sink.



Our gas heating system was upgraded to ensure reliable operation this winter. Last year it started to be intermittent forcing us to use the higher cost oil heater.



The East transept stained glass window surrounding surface had water damage created by deteriorating pointing in the exterior wall. Several years ago, the exterior wall was repointed. Since this resolved the leaks, the interior walls were repainted by an outside painting contractor. It was then noticed that the exterior trim needed painting and this was done.



Many other exterior windows in the East end of the building were refinished to prevent damage in the future. Look at the exterior trim and the Crisis Ministry doors when you come in from the parking lot.



The East transept entry way was also repainted on the inside. The Bride’s Door, which is on the east side of the narthex, was repaired and repainted.



For a major housecleaning task, a lift was obtained and all the fans in the ceiling of the Longstreth auditorium were cleaned and the light bulbs replaced.

Many of these projects were long overdue. It is hoped that our renewed proactive system will continue so that our facility, at the foundation of our mission and outreach in Germantown, continues to be useful.

-Jim Thompson

## STEWARDSHIP NOW—AND ALWAYS

The most important phase of the 2017 Stewardship campaign is now in process – your commitment!

On November 13th Randy’s sermon was titled Building for Eternity. That is very applicable to our church – those that came before us certainly had that belief as they generously provided funds that have helped us continue our vital mission in the Germantown community. It is now time for each of us to make a commitment to support our church and mission for the upcoming year.

Everyone should have received the appeal letter and commitment card by mail recently. Please remember what the letter closes with: **For the health of your soul and for the love of Jesus Christ, please prayerfully consider your generous response to the needs of our church as we try to be faithful stewards in planning our budget for 2017.** Cards may be returned by mail to the church office, placed in the Sunday offering plates or dropped into the mail slot by the church office.



## 'SONG IS HOME' CONCERT SERIES

Keystone State Boychoir (KSB) and Pennsylvania Girlchoir (PG) are performing in different kinds of homes this season with the launch of the organization’s “Song IS Home” Concert Series. The older KSB singers had the privilege to share songs with the 55 male residents of Whosoever Gospel Mission on October 19th. The youngest singers of KSB and PG sang a “Concert in Costume” for the residents of Germantown Home on October 27th. There will be additional concerts throughout the year in non-traditional “homes” around the city, including prisons, children’s group homes, and treatment centers where audiences may not otherwise get the opportunity to enjoy choral music. These experiences will give the children better awareness of the many different kinds of homes. Residents will not only have the opportunity to hear great music, but will have a chance to sing songs with the choirs that are traditionally meaningful in their homes.



If you’re interested in hearing KSB and PG during the upcoming holiday season, mark, your calendars:

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2016**  
**Pennsylvania Girlchoir Holiday Concerts**  
**The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill**  
**3:00pm & 6:00pm**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2016**  
**Keystone State Boychoir Holiday Concerts**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Germantown**  
**3:00pm & 6:00pm**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2016**  
**KSB & PG’s Joint Holiday Concert**  
**Girard College**  
**5:00pm**

# Birthdays



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

6 Susan Mills Farrington  
13 Ingrid Harris  
13 Tara Payne-Jones  
13 Flossie Smith  
14 Jasmine Greene

# December

14 Victoria Solomon  
16 Kadeem Carter  
17 Christopher Scott, Jr.  
18 Eugene Gardenhire  
21 Aquilah Ohemeng

23 Contina Lundy  
27 Betty King  
28 Joshua Overton  
28 Bernetta Washington

## The Lectionary for December

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 upon the weekly lesson, here are the readings. Note that changes can and may be made.

### Dec 4

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*First Reading* Isaiah 11:1-10

*Psalm* Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

*Second Reading* Romans 15:4-13

*Gospel* Matthew 3:1-12

### Dec 11

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*First Reading* Isaiah 35:1-10

*Psalm* Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55

*Second Reading* James 5:7-10

*Gospel* Matthew 11:2-11

### Dec 18

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*First Reading* Isaiah 7:10-16

*Psalm* Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

*Second Reading* Romans 1:1-7

*Gospel* Matthew 1:18-25

### Dec 24

#### NATIVITY OF THE LORD / CHRISTMAS EVE

*First Reading* Isaiah 9:2-7

*Psalm* Psalm 96

*Second Reading* Titus 2:11-14

*Gospel* Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

### Dec 25

#### NATIVITY OF THE LORD / CHRISTMAS DAY

##### Christmas Dawn

*First Reading* Isaiah 62:6-12

*Psalm* Psalm 97

*Second Reading* Titus 3:4-7

*Gospel* Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

##### Christmas Day

*First Reading* Isaiah 52:7-10

*Psalm* Psalm 98

*Second Reading* Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

*Gospel* John 1:1-14



DELIVER TO:



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