



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown



The Pastoral Nominating Committee: Front Row: Contina Lundy, Arlene Grace, Charles Bethea, Glenna Hazeltine, Daniel Conner. Second Row: Rosy Walkenhorst, Jason Williams, Leah Hood and Sam Whyte

Update on the Pastoral Nominating Committee

Your Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is very actively at work in facilitating the process which ultimately will result in the recommendation to the congregation the next pastor to serve the church. Elected to lead the committee in their deliberations were Sam Whyte, chair; Contina Lundy, vice-chair; Rosemary Walkenhorst, secretary; Glenna Hazeltine, corresponding secretary; Leah Hood, Internet communicator. Other members of the PNC include Jason Williams, Daniel Conner, Charles Bethea and Arlene Grace.

Currently, the PNC has been discussing the required narrative questions for the Minister Information Form (MIF). Those questions are: 1) What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry? Additionally describe how this vision is lived out. 2) How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency? 3) How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals? 4) Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and/or organization. 5) What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

The committee has been advised by Ruth Santana-Grace, the Executive Presbyter and Dr. Randy Bremer, our interim pastor.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOV 13

The fall stewardship campaign, *Live Simply*, continues.

Take hold of the life that really is life

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 can take hold of the life that is really life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

For Jesus the simple life is centered in his command: "Seek you first the kingdom of God." Stewardship is for serving the kingdom of God: that is, the reign of God's righteousness, God's power of life over death in all its forms. The simplicity of Christian life depends completely on the love of God that makes possible the love of the neighbor, and the love of the neighbor that embodies the love of God. The freedom of the simple life is for the love of God and neighbor. 1

As you continue to pray throughout this time, think about how you can more faithfully seek God's kingdom as a follower of Jesus Christ. How is God calling you to do good, be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share.

Stewardship Sunday will be November 13. At this time pledge material will be mailed to the congregation for the next phase of the campaign – **your participation and commitment.**

From the writings of M. Douglas Meeks in Giving: Growing Faithful Stewards in Your Congregation.

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown



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.



Terry Boyer, Building Manager, and Harold Whaley, Sexton, pause from their myriad duties in maintaining the building facilities. The other sextons are Tanieya Matthews and Robert Patterson.

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.

Editor:

Sam Whyte

Contributors:

Randy Bremer, Leah Hood, Joe Leube,
Jim Thompson

Design and Layout:

Kristin Puls of Mountain Paper
www.mountainpaper.com

The Pastor's Paragraph



Randy Bremer,
Interim Pastor

The Mission Committee of the Session has named Stop Hunger Now as the challenge offering for November. The money we raise will support a meal packing event at our church on January 21, 2017. To host the event, we promise Stop Hunger Now that we will be able to pack a minimum of 10,000 meals at a cost of slightly less than \$3,000. Any money that we can raise above the minimum will enable us to pack more meals. Stop Hunger Now has provided almost 300 million meals to some of the hungriest children in the world. In my trips to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, I have witnessed children hungry enough to eat mud cookies, and I have sat with them while they enjoyed a lunch provided by Stop Hunger Now. It is simple fare of soy protein, rice, vitamins, and minerals. That lunch is a gift of life and health for the children who receive it. The meal packing event is a joyous time where people of all ages work together to take the bulk ingredients provided by Stop Hunger Now and put them in small packets containing ten meals each. I have participated in an event where 120 people packed 100,000 meals in about four hours. I hope that you will help us raise the money to feed hungry children and I hope that you will put the morning of January 21, 2017 on your calendar for the packing party.

*In Christ,
Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor*

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL DINNER

Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN, formerly NPIHN) cordially invites you to the 17th annual Empty Bowl Dinner, our largest fundraiser, which will take place this year at Lutheran Theological Seminary on Wednesday, Nov. 16th.

As PIHN's signature event and a favorite of the Chestnut Hill, Germantown and Mount Airy communities, the Empty Bowl Dinner combines the warmth of community and a hearty meal for the purpose of raising support of our mission.

PHIN is a shelter, supportive services, and housing program for Philadelphia working families experiencing homelessness.

We are a growing cooperative effort of 56 churches (including First Presbyterian) and synagogues, 10 universities, two seminaries, and over 2,000 volunteers of diverse faith groups, working together to provide a safe, family-centered atmosphere for homeless families. In addition to providing temporary shelter, we offer long-term transitional and post-shelter supportive services, affordable housing opportunities in mixed-income neighborhoods, and educational opportunities for children and teens.



Interfaith Hospitality Network
of Northwest Philadelphia

Annual Empty Bowl Dinner Wednesday, November 16

Three Seatings:

4:00pm - 5:30pm | 5:30pm - 7:00pm | 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Please see Jim Thompson for further details and tickets.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IN GERMANTOWN'S FINANCIAL COMMUNITY GRANTS & MISSION FOR 2015

Each month *Windows* shows the amount of funds that have been provided to mission and various community organizations. Although this information is important, it only provides a snapshot of First Church's commitment to outreach and mission. Here is a summary of the Grants which were awarded in 2015.

Community Grants

GACM	\$ 11,000
Northwest Interfaith Hospitality Network	\$ 5,000
Center in the Park	\$ 5,000
Whosoever Gospel Mission	\$ 5,000
Presby's Inspired Life	\$ 2,000
Reading Buddies Inc.	\$ 2,200
Urban Resources Development Corporation	\$ 2,000
My Place	\$ 2,000
Total	\$ 34,200

Each year when the Church's budget is prepared one item labeled Mission is part of the budget passed by the Session and communicated to the congregation. This budgeted item differs from both Community Grants and the Mission and Outreach budgets in that the budgeted amounts are specifically designated. Although Community Grants and Mission and Outreach budgets are included in the Church's total budget, the recipients are not known until the committees determine who will be the recipients, which occur during the course of the year.

Mission

General Assembly	\$ 12,000
Synod	\$ 500
Philadelphia Presbytery	\$ 6,000
Freedom School	\$ 10,000
Community Outreach	\$ 181
Total	\$ 28,681

In addition to Community Grants and Mission designations we also distributed challenge offerings during the year. These are only some of many programs First Church supports.

»» **The sum of these programs was \$76,706.**

In addition the cost of the use of our building is not included in these figures. This would include utilities, staff salaries, and wear and tear on our facility. Some of the groups that use our building without paying rent are:

»» **Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry**
Alcoholics Anonymous
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Freedom School

In addition to these programs there are designated funds created by former members which support many other causes. Some of these designated funds directly support church programs. Some of these programs are:

»» **McLean Organ Fund**
Flower Fund
Various funds support Christian education

Other designated funds specifically support mission, such as:

»» **Laird Princeton Theology Seminary scholarships**
McNeil Opportunity Fund
various funds support the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry
College Scholarships

These funds come from you and former members who funded our endowment. There has been a guiding principle that we should spend 10% of our budget on mission. In another word, "tithe." In fact we spend much more than that when we consider the 9.8% of our budget that supports Mission and Outreach, Challenge Offerings, and the Mission Budget; plus designated endowment funds and the cost of the use of our building.



Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

by Martin Rinkart

Birthdays



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

November

3 Frank Lundy
7 Antonio Littles
9 Richard Jenkins
10 Donna Payne
11 Elaine Gray

11 Madeline Valentine
16 Nancy Smith
20 Ruby Camarena
20 Heidi Mercado-Littles
20 Serafim Santos

26 Daniel Conner
27 Frankie Lundy
29 Rhonda Highsmith
30 Pam Ball

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING: STOP HUNGER NOW

Stop Hunger Now is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

Based in Raleigh, N.C., they operate meal packaging programs at 20 cities in the U.S. and in South Africa, Malaysia, India, Italy, Peru and the Philippines.

They have engaged over 500,000 corporate, student, civic and faith-based volunteers in meal packaging. In just under two hours, a group of 40 to 50 volunteers can package 10,152 nutrient-rich meals for the undernourished globally. They also educate volunteers about hunger and inspire them to help end it.

The November Challenge Offering will go toward First Church's funding a meal packaging event in January. It is hoped \$3,000 can be raised.



DELIVER TO:



THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN GERMANTOWN



35 West Cheltenham Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144

phone
215.843.8811

fax
888.333.5032

info@fpcgermantown.org