



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Holy Week 2017 Schedule

APRIL 9 Palm Sunday
With confirmation. Pancake breakfast to follow worship.

APRIL 13 Maundy Thursday
PM service at Summit Presbyterian Church.

APRIL 14 Good Friday
12pm - 3pm service at Oxford Presbyterian Church
Reception with refreshments to follow.
FPCG CLOSED.

APRIL 15 Easter Festival
11am - 2:30pm

APRIL 16 Easter Sunday

APRIL 17 Easter Monday
FPCG CLOSED.



HOLY WEEK

THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



PALM SUNDAY IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Our April 9, Palm Sunday worship service will also be the time when those students who have completed our Confirmation class will read their statements of faith as they confirm their baptism and become recognized as "active members" within our congregation.

Please make sure you join us that Sunday as **Maya Clever, Zaria Cuffee, Jasmine Greene, Madison Lundy, and Aidan McCord-Amasis** publicly confess their faith in Jesus Christ, a faith that God began and strengthened in them through their baptism and nurtured through their family and this their congregation.

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH DURING APRIL



There is never a better time to invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to church than during Lent and Holy Week. The Gospel Choir will be singing on Sunday, April 2. Special worship services begin on April 9 with Palm Sunday and continue through with services on Good Friday, April 14 and Easter Sunday, April 16. For families with children and friends of all ages, our annual Easter Festival on Saturday, April 15 is a great opportunity to introduce others to our church. Jot a few names down now and please invite them to join you at FPCG for Lent and Holy Week this year. You (and they) will be glad you did!

EASTER MEMORIAL LILIES IN THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to give Easter lilies in memory or honor of families and/or friends (with names to be included in the worship bulletin), please send those names and your check (payable to FPCG) to the church office. Listings will be accepted until Sunday, April 9. As is our custom, the flowers will be delivered on Easter to the sick and shut-in of our congregation.



Alleluia! CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Birthdays



Wish these members a happy birthday next time you see them!

April

- 2 Todd Gasper
- 2 Chuck Reisse
- 4 Linda Farlow
- 4 Rudy Stroh
- 5 Pernell Jackson
- 9 Robert Seed
- 10 Dolores Shanks
- 11 Vera Harrison
- 13 Denise Cowie
- 16 Estalene Artis
- 20 Fay Tomlinson
- 25 Mandy Adams
- 28 Peggy Jane Garrett
- 30 Valient Solomon

The Pastor's Paragraphs



Randy Bremer,
Interim Pastor

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)

Dear Friends of FPC in Germantown:

I want to take this opportunity to share two convictions that are central to my faith, and that I believe are important for this congregation to remember as it moves into the future. The first comes from the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity in the *Book of Order*. It reads, "Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission in the world, for its sanctification, and for its service to God. Christ is present with the Church in both Spirit and Word. Christ alone rules, calls, teaches, and uses the Church as he wills." The Church should never evaluate its life and future by worldly measures of success. The Church is often at its best when it is the weakest in the eyes of the world. Our faith should fill us with a strong confidence that the Church's future is as certain as the promise of God.

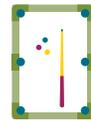
The second core conviction is the one that we celebrate this month, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Our faith is a resurrection faith. It believes that life is stronger than death, that love is more powerful and lasting than hate. It affirms "that tho the wrong seems oft so strong, God is ruler yet." Our hope is grounded in the certainty of the victory of God over the grave in Christ.

*Your fellow servant,
Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor*

The Basement Drop-in Center

Our outreach through the Friday afterschool (3:30-6:00) drop-in center continues to thrive. With no further interruptions from seasonal flooding, the attendance of our center (our gym, weight room, and youth lounge) continues to exceed twenty students a week.

A special thanks to Melvin Brown, our Basement Drop-in Center manager, and Timothy Robinson, a FPCG member and faithful volunteer to so many of our outreach ministries, "The Basement" being one of them! Consider volunteering yourself if you have the time, and pray for the continued success of our programs as we support students throughout this safe time of rest and recreation, birthed out of God's love in Christ.



We are looking to acquire a pool/billiard table with balls and cues!

If you are aware of someone who would like to donate or sell their own quality equipment, please see Christian Heyer-Rivera.



"Ice has gone from all the rivers,

Cypress trees begin to bloom;

Now the wood-dove coos his spring song,

Gone the days of dark and gloom."

- Harvey B. Gaul



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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Synod Of The Trinity

Being More Together, 300 and Counting 1717 – 2017

WHO OR WHAT IS THE SYNOD OF THE TRINITY?

Synods have often been referred to as “middle governing bodies” as they are positioned between the General Assembly and the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The General Assembly (GA) is the council of the whole church and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 1

There are sixteen synods throughout the United States. The Philadelphia Presbytery belongs to the Synod of the Trinity, located at 3040 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, about 5 miles from Harrisburg. In fact, the first “Synod” was created right here in Philadelphia in 1717. And yes, this year our Synod is also celebrating their 300th anniversary!

The Synod of the Trinity serves sixteen presbyteries which include 1,136 churches and about 178,025 Presbyterians. Fourteen of the sixteen presbyteries are located in Pennsylvania, one in the northern panhandle of West Virginia and one in a sliver of Eastern Ohio in the Upper Ohio Valley.

Our Synod is divided into four geographic regions similar to the regions of the Pennsylvania Presbytery Women’s Association. Those regions are: Eastern, Central, Northwest, and Southwest. The Philadelphia Presbytery is a part of the Eastern region along with the Presbyteries of Donegal, Lackawanna, and Lehigh.

Each presbytery elects two commissioners as part of the Synod Assembly. To ensure racial ethnic equality the Presbyteries of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh may send three. Currently newly elected Jade Bass and Madeline Valentine, completing her first term, are two of the three from our presbytery. The commissioners are representatives charged to provide information, interest, and concerns from their presbytery to the Synod of the Trinity and from the Synod to their presbytery. The Synod Moderator and Vice Moderator head the Synod Assembly.

The Synod Assembly of commissioners meets annually each fall in State College on the campus of Penn State University.

The Governing Commission made up of the Synod Moderator, Vice Moderator, eight elected commissioners, four ex-officio Synod staff members and two advisory Executive Presbyters act on behalf of the Synod Assembly. This commission oversees the governance work of the Synod including the evaluation and implementation of set established ends (purposes, goals).

The Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland is the current Transitional Executive. Her staff includes: the Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Communications Coordinator and two all-important Administrative Assistants and Bookkeeper.

THE WORK OF THE SYNOD OF THE TRINITY

The Synod of the Trinity is a nurturing source of support and resources for its presbyteries in their support of vital, mission-oriented congregations.

They work hand-in-hand with the ministry and mission of their presbyteries as they seek to become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness.

The Synod supports presbytery leadership by offering training, networking, and continuing education opportunities.

They participate in objectives relating to the larger mission strategies of the General Assembly.

The Synod, its presbyteries and churches are committed to being involved in conversations that bring to light civil and social issues that plague our world today.

SYNOD FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each year the Synod of the Trinity awards hundreds of thousands of dollars to presbyteries and churches. Monies are generally distributed in the following ways:

Peacemaking Grants, Mission Travel Grants, Innovation Grants, Network Grants, Study Grants, Brotherhood Insurance Partnership, Self-Development of People, Small Church Leadership Development.

Monies are given to support presbyteries and congregations which have relationships and partnerships at the core of the gospel all over the world.

Six colleges and universities in the Synod of the Trinity region with Presbyterian affiliations receive financial support.

Several other colleges and universities within Synod bounds receive funds to support Campus Ministries that help with salaries of college chaplains and help to cover program costs.

Eleven camp and conference centers within the Synod region with direct partnerships with specific presbyteries receive regular financial support from Synod grants.

Hopefully, you have found this an informative look into the brief background and present goings on of the Synod as a whole and especially our Synod, the Synod of the Trinity. Please look forward to future updates concerning our Synod. In the meantime, seek out Jade and Madeline for other questions and concerns you may have and keep up-to-date with the latest about your Synod. Their contact information (along with that of the Philadelphia Presbytery) to the left.

SYNOD OF THE TRINITY

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PROPERTY UPDATES

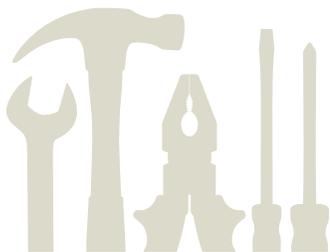
Our physical plant is an impressive structure. It provides a wonderful facility for worship, education, community involvement and local mission. But as many large facilities, it requires continued care and feeding. It is not enough to just keep the doors open and the systems operational; we need to ensure that continued maintenance and care are done to keep from having major disasters and more expensive repairs. This also permits these tasks to be done on a planned basis rather than on an emergency/unscheduled basis.

Did you know that in 2016 our PECO costs for electricity were almost \$25,000? This would have been higher as PECO changed their rate structure for medium size commercial customers which is the category for our church. Fortunately, in April, 2016, we located and selected a third-party generation supplier that contributed a significant savings for the remainder of the year. We were able in Q1 2017 to change to another supplier with a 3-year fixed contract at 3% less than the prior supplier. This is just an example of how we must be alert and diligent in controlling our costs. So, when you leave a space, please make sure you turn off the lights, fans, space heaters and other energy consumers.

Other early 2017 projects:

- **Repair roofing over choir room** (-\$10,000)
- **Repair roofing over chancel organ blower chamber** (-\$7,000)
- **Replace water holding tank for heating system** (\$10,300)
- **Remove asbestos and repair steam pipe in former GACM office area** (-\$2,500)

The Property Committee



Christian Education Outreach Extends Far

Lingelbach Basketball Program

Once again FPCG was invited to join the Lingelbach basketball program as coaches for the boys' basketball team at the school. Christian Heyer-Rivera and Melvin Brown spent the months of December through the first week of February practicing twice a week and coaching one to two games a week within the school's program. While both coaches from FPCG are passionate about helping the boys learn the game of basketball, the real value of the time on the court with the boys is the relationships they develop and the ongoing support that arises from those relationships. We would like to thank Ms. Emilia Rastrick, the Physical Education teacher and Athletic Director, and Mr. Tom Lynsky, the Library and Technology teacher at Lingelbach, for their support throughout the season. Special thanks to FPCers Melvin Brown, who has been longtime friend and ministry partner with our congregation and an incredible young man with such a heart for God's work, and Leah Jones Hood, whose ongoing supportive relationship with the school makes coaching each year possible. When you see Melvin and Leah, thank them and praise God for them. Also, pray for our congregation's ongoing relationship with Lingelbach School as we seek to love and support our community, friends, and neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ through this important connection.

Disciples Basketball Program

The First Presbyterian's Disciples Basketball Program was up and running again through the first week of March. Under the cooperative leadership of Melvin Brown and Christian Heyer-Rivera, our church entered two Disciples teams in the Christian Youth Basketball's Winter League run by St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Germantown's Recreational Ministry. The opportunity to participate in the league has allowed for our congregation to build and deepen relationships with 14 boys and their families in our community. It's with gratitude that we can report that both our A and B teams were able to compete against each other in the championship game for the league, so FPCG teams went home with first and second place. Members of our congregation have always supported our teams by attending games, and we want to again thank everyone who was able to come and attend. We also want to thank Frank Lundy Jr., for his expressed interest in joining our coaching staff as we move forward. If you too would like to help make this ministry possible by volunteering as a coach or to help with other aspects of the ministry, please call, text, or speak to Christian Heyer-Rivera.



SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Just as college basketball teams traveled around the nation throughout the month of March to participate in the nation's collegiate basketball tournament, March Madness!, students from University of Maryland and University of Missouri traveled to Philadelphia in March to participate in service and learning in our city. FPCG played host to both groups as they worked throughout our city with various non-profits. This ministry of hospitality is just one way our congregation continues to support learning about and participation in urban ministry. We know and believe that our nation's cities are invaluable and should be appreciated for the rich variety of cultures that they possess, along with the economic and social capital that exists within them. Too often cities are painted with the broad brushstrokes of "dirty," "dangerous," and "hectic," but programs that we partner with continue to teach students both the value and beauty of our urban centers and their neighborhoods, while thoughtfully addressing the needs that exist within our city as well.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Middle/High School Youth Group

On March 24, the FPCG Middle/High School Youth Group extended an invitation to Forest Grove Presbyterian Church and Oaklane Presbyterian Church's Youth Group. The gathering of our congregation's youth groups on a quarterly basis has been an ongoing phenomenon since a few of our students traveled together to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium in the summer of 2016. Many of you will remember that out of these joint youth group times, Forest Grove decided to join us in our Stop Hunger Now event in January. Around 20 members of their congregation (adult and students) traveled to Germantown to help us prepare over 20,000 meals worldwide through the SHN organization. Oaklane extended an invitation to our youth to join them in a fall pie baking time at their church as well. In the coming months, Forest Grove will be hosting our youth group and they have invited us to join them on a Service-Learning trip this August to Maine.

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

For the last month and a half, middle and high school youth group members of FPCG have been meeting at the church on some Fridays to work on Passion Week banners under the direction of Dick Liberty, Leah Hood and Sheila Heyer-Rivera. These beautiful banners will be on display during the week leading up to Easter as visual aids to help move and prepare our hearts to hear anew the agony and redemption of our Easter story. May God's Spirit enliven these banners that our hearts and minds might be drawn further into the unconditional and selfless love of our God in Jesus Christ.

Elementary Youth Group



Every quarter our Elementary School Youth Group children prepare about a dozen cookie plates to be shared with members who aren't able to join us for worship because of a variety of life circumstances.



If you know of an FPCG member or friend of the church who might appreciate a sweet treat to remind them of God's love and ours, please see Christian Heyer-Rivera or Heidi Littles to have them added to our list!



The PNC: A Progress Report

A sneak peek into the Jennings Room on most Sunday mornings between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm will reveal nine FPCGers—and their minds—diligently at work. It's our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) in action.

The committee has read, studied and evaluated almost 70 Personal Information Forms (PIFs) and determined that only a very few bear more scrutiny and discussion. Out of those deliberations, two candidates, a man and a woman, were invited for a half-hour introductory interview on Skype. Having "passed" that interview and after more discussion by the committee, those two individuals will be questioned further. Please keep in mind that the process and these interviews are in only the very earliest stages. Two additional candidates, a woman and a man, have been scheduled for Skype interviews early in April.

Reading the PIFs has been highly informative and revealing—about the individuals and even about the state of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each pastor applying for consideration in a church is asked for a "Statement of Faith" from which a great deal can be discovered—and uncovered—about the person.

The success of the committee and the search depends, of course, on many elements, but one thing is essential—the involvement in the process of all the members of the congregation and your support through prayer. Please continue to do so—"without ceasing."

To refresh your memory of the makeup of the PNC, the members are: Charles Bethea, Daniel Conner, Arlene Grace, Glenna Hazeltine, Leah Hood, Contina Lundy, Rosy Walkenhorst, Sam Whyte and Jason Williams.

THE LEGACY OF WINNIE S. FAHS



Two years ago this month on April 26, 2015, following the morning worship, a memorial service was held for one of FPCG's most devoted members, Winnie Fahs. Winnie, a longtime resident of Rydal Park, died on April 18 of that year at the age of 101. Last month, we were notified that Mrs. Fahs had left a third of her estate, a bountiful gift, to the church.

Winnie, born Winifred Sheesley, was married to Roy H. Fahs, Jr., and the couple lived for years on Wayne Avenue. She united with First Church in 1950, and at the time of her death had been a loyal member for 65 years. Until her health failed, she was in her second-from-the-front pew every Sunday.

Since God has given us everything we own, Winnie has beautifully exemplified the best of stewardship beliefs and practices: remembering her church in her will. If you would like to consider a similar act of faith, contact a member of the Finance Committee who will assist you in finding the different ways a legacy may be set up.

IN MEMORIAM

Flowers were given to the glory of God in loving memory:

March 12
Margaret E. Parker

March 19
Eleanor C. Parker

March 26
Ora M. Kaylor



Camping Experiences At Kirkwood



Summer Camp registration is open at Kirkwood! Here is what one Presbyterian parent says: "The difference I noticed in my two sons after going to Kirkwood was incredible!" The "Kirkwood effect" is real. One week at camp is likely to have an outsize impact on your child or teen's personal and spiritual growth over the summer. Plus they will make long-lasting friendships, and have a ton of fun--so what are you waiting for?

FISHING FESTIVAL AND CAMP FUN DAY AT KIRKWOOD Saturday May 6, 9am-2pm

Overnight accommodations offered May 5 for those with a long drive or who want to try out staying at camp. Fun offered for kids and families of all ages--including open zip on our zip line, games, scavenger hints and a lot more. Lunch offered.



For more info or to sign up:

KIRKWOODCAMP.ORG

**kirkwood@
kirkwoodcamp.org**

570-421-8625.

2017 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK



2 Corinthians 9.7

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Our 2017 budget, approved by Session and presented to the congregation at the November 2016 Congregational Meeting, is a **balanced** budget (income vs. expenses).

While keeping expenses close to 2016 we faced challenges in replacing certain designated income that is not available in 2017.

The solution to meeting that gap was resolved in two ways:

- a) Using some income, planned for in 2016 but not required, for 2017
- b) Increasing the pledge goal to \$360,000, an increase of \$10,000 (2.9%) over the goal in 2016.

Although many have responded to the stewardship campaign for the 2017 mission support for our church, we are still short of the goal. Please prayerfully consider your generous support to the needs of our church as we try to be faithful stewards in 2017. Pledge cards and envelopes are available. Please contact the church office or the volunteer office administrator.

PLEDGES

2017 Pledge Goal: **\$360,000**

	Feb 28, 2017
Actual	\$ 63,361

EXPENSES

	Feb 28, 2017
Budget	\$ 130,254
Actual	\$ 130,254

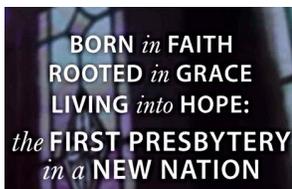


From Lisa Martin to Lois Nafziger-Bethea— and FPCG

"Thank you for remembering me in your project. I am stateside now, stationed in Norfolk, VA. I am married, bought 2 houses down here and plan on going to medical school when I get out of the Navy next summer. All of that considered, we will not be relocating anytime soon; however, at this time I would like to maintain my membership with FPCG. With FB, it is easy to follow events and other good things that the organization is spreading through the community. It is clear that things have changed drastically. Say hello for me!

I see (from FB) that you are recently married also! Congrats!! I never thought of myself as a family woman, but my spouse and dog are my world. I cannot imagine my life without them. It is super exciting to meet/talk to other recently married couples because of the way my own life has played out. Anyway, that's all I have for now.

Lisa Martin
2905 Berkley Ave.
Chesapeake, VA 23325



DID YOU KNOW

Our Presbytery 300th Anniversary Short-Film now has follow-up questions that can be used when you show to your congregation, Sunday School class, or youth ministry to spark present witness in light of our shared history. Contact the Presbytery of Philadelphia for more information.



BE THE CHANGE V
 Sunday, April 30, 2017 - 3:30pm-5:30pm

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
 35 W Chelton Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19144

Tix: \$20/adult \$10/child (5-12 years old)

Join us for the 5th Be the Change Charity Concert. It's an event featuring a variety of artists displaying their talents all in an effort to raise money for the Keep A Child Alive organization. KCA's mission is to provide dignified treatment, food and overall support to children and families impacted by AIDS/HIV in Africa and India. This event is for people of all ages. Come be educated, entertained and enlightened."

For more info, click to www.bethechange Philly.info.

STORIES OF HOSPITALITY, GENEROSITY AND INCLUSION

A Bible study led by Don Carlin and sponsored by the Christian Education Committee

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm
 April 18-May 23 (in the community*)

Thursdays, 10:45 am-noon
 April 20-May25 (FPCG Finney Room)

(The same material will be covered during the two weekly offerings.)

We will look at God's hospitality, generosity and inclusion (HGI) as seen in the Hebrew Scriptures and in Jesus Christ. Then we will share stories of human HGI as seen throughout the Bible and throughout our contemporary lives—both as individuals and as a congregation. We will explore both the giving of and the receiving of HGI and how these themes can deepen our relationships with God and with each other—even as our nation and world wrestle with those same themes and their implications.

*Addresses of church members hosting the Tuesday studies will be publicized in the FPCG bulletins. [Allison and Bob Seed will host two evenings and Maddie Valentine has offered to host one evening.] Watch the literature table for a fuller outline of the study.

Questions?
 Leave a voice mail for
Don Carlin
215-847-7895
or 215-247-4196.

MARCH SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2016 Statistical Report has been approved. Contact a Session member if you would like a copy.
- The Mission Fair will be held on April 23 in Longstreth after the service. Come and find out what the various church committees are up to.
- The Manual of Operations is being updated.
- The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to nominate three new Session members. If you would like to nominate someone, speak with Bob Seed.
- Freedom School is fast approaching. Eileen Jones presented a very positive overview of what they hope to accomplish this summer. Have you thought about volunteering?
- The pledges for 2017 are below what we received in 2016.
- Property Chair Carolyn Ballard Freeman reported recent necessary repairs: a boiler holding tank needed replacing, leaks in the roof (near the organ pipes), in a heating pipe and in the basement. The cost to repair? \$17,000.
- Carolyn thanks Marc Dinardo, Jim Thompson and Joe Leube (her "Angels") for the work they do around the building.
- Mission and Outreach Chair Gloria Bethea reported tickets are selling fast for the upcoming visit to the African American History Museum in DC on April 8. [The buses are full.]



PRINCETON IN THE SPRING. WHAT FUN!

Join with your fellow church members and friends on the bus trip to Princeton on **SATURDAY, APRIL 22**. Be on your own in a very walkable city, one of the most "Presbyterian" of American towns, or take a guided tour. Highlights of the trip may include Princeton University and its Tudor Gothic chapel which seats 2000. Princeton Theological Seminary where a majority of our pastors have studied. Princeton University Art Museum with over 92,000 works, including special exhibit of the Berlin collection of Athenian Vase Painting. Princeton Cemetery, "the Westminster Abbey of the U. S." (referring to burials). Shops and restaurants abound. The bus will leave from the church at 9:00 am and return by 5:00 pm. **Reservations at the cost of \$28 are available from Gloria Bethea.**



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.*



DELIVER TO:



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