



# • Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

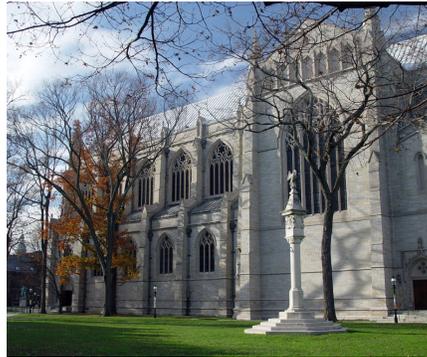
## Spring Travels With FPCG



### TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

Saturday, April 8

Admission: **FREE of charge**  
Transportation to Washington, D.C.: **\$45 per person**  
Bus leaves at **7pm sharp**



### APRIL TRIP TO PRINCETON

Saturday, April 22

Transportation: **\$28 per person**  
Trip duration: **9am - 5pm**



### Tickets & Info for Both Trips

Contact Gloria Bethea at 215.473.1672

**RESERVE  
YOUR SPACE  
SOON!**



## PICTURE DIRECTORY UNDERWAY

Did you receive a FPCG membership directory in the mail recently? That was meant as an important first step in producing a new PICTURE DIRECTORY. Also, we are interested in getting any correction to your information.

As noted in the recent Sunday bulletins we are working on a picture directory. Photographers are available during coffee hours to take your picture. Those who are unable to use that approach can send your pictures (preferably in jpg format) to [fpcg.germantown@gmail.com](mailto:fpcg.germantown@gmail.com). Family pictures are welcome.

Please be sure to either get your picture taken or submit one. The purpose is for us to get better acquainted and help us all to put names and faces together. Please participate.



### PREFER TO SUBMIT YOUR OWN PHOTO?

Submit in .JPG format to [fpcg.germantown@gmail.com](mailto:fpcg.germantown@gmail.com)



Gayle Martin and Ted Barr

## SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14, MOTHER'S DAY

**Inaugural Recital**  
**4 p.m.**  
**The Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano**

We are delighted to announce that internationally recognized concert pianist and Steinway Artist Gayle Martin will return to First Church to perform the inaugural recital on the Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano. Gayle is a Juilliard graduate and was a finalist in the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow. She will be joined by Ted Barr for a portion of the recital program that will include Franz Schubert's beloved Fantasy in F Minor (for four hands). Ted, husband of music director Tony Thurman, is organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield and a graduate of Westminster Choir College.

# Birthdays



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

## March

- Irene Overton 2
- Jack Asher 3
- Duane Horne 3
- Francina Carroll 4
- Wes Reisse 7
- Rosy Walkenhorst 7
- Robert Archer 9
- Ted Walkenhorst 14
- Randy Clever 14
- Emanuel Heyer-Rivera 19
- Leslie Burton 20
- Alexander Deas 20
- Bert Aiken 21
- Laura Ola 23
- Joan Blake 25
- Tyrone Burton 26

## LENTEN LOVE

Were the whole realm of nature mine,

That were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life,  
my all.

- Isaac Watts

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

**For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope.**

**For who hopes for what is seen?**

**But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

*(Romans 8:24-25)*

As I write this, an extended spell of warm February weather continues. I remember that last year's warm March coaxed flowers into a premature bud so that they were harmed by an April frost. I hope that the plants will not let their eagerness for spring speed the annual cycle to the point that the glory of the spring flowers will be diminished. Patience, nature, patience. Spring will come in its time. Every year we live through a repeating cycle of nature

that profoundly shapes the rhythms of our existence. Winter's sleep gives way to the beautiful verdant green and the vibrant colors of a renewed earth. Nature resonates with the central Christian story which celebrates in the resurrection of Jesus Christ the belief that love will conquer hate and that life is stronger than death.

We are a resurrection people and that means we have a sure and certain hope. We believe that the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the water covers the sea, that God's kingdom of peace, love, and justice will make right all the wrongs of this broken world. Sometimes we get caught up in early signs and then are disappointed by setbacks. Our hope is sure, our future certain. The King James translates the word "patience" as long suffering. It has the sense of endurance, of a settled faithfulness that keeps on in worship and service. Wait with patience.

*In Christ,*  
Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor

## THE SEASONS OF LENT AND EASTER

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



**A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE** is available on the literature table. The daily devotionals for March 1 - April 17 have been written by Don Carlin, a deacon and a member of the Christian Education Committee.

**A LENTEN PRAYER GROUP**, sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, will meet during the first five Sundays of Lent (March 5-April 2) from 9:15-9:45 am in the Finney Room. Each session will include a brief reflection on a prayer scripture, followed by time to share and pray for concerns related to ourselves, our church, our community and our world. Each session will end with a sung prayer (prayer hymn). Don Carlin will facilitate the group, and all are welcome to attend.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Post-Easter Bible studies, sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, will focus on the theme of "Hospitality, Generosity and Inclusion." Identical studies will be offered on both Tuesday evenings (6:30 in the community) and on Thursday mornings (10:45 at the church) for six weeks. Look for more information soon.

### WILLING TO HOST?



Talk to Don Carlin and Bob Seed if you would be willing to host at least two sessions in your home.

# Did You Know . . . ?

Our church is the beneficiary of the income from several trusts. Years ago, these trusts were established by dedicated members who wished to ensure that certain interests were funded in perpetuity. There are two trusts in this category: the **Sarah McLean Trust** and the **Memorial Trust**. Wells Fargo is the custodian and trustee for both trusts, and the church is the beneficiary.

## Sarah McLean Trust

The income from Sarah McLean Trust was designated by her “to be used in maintaining in proper order and condition, the organ which my husband and I have caused to be installed in the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown as a memorial to my family.”

A secondary designation refers to “excess income” may be used in keeping the interior of the Church in good condition, so long as it remains as arranged by me.”

The income received by the church from the Sarah McLean Trust varies as the trustee must ensure that the funds can continue as designated by the donor. For 2015, the income was \$24,500; in 2016 the income was **\$38,000**. The income for both years was substantially higher than prior years. In both years \$15,000 each year went to maintaining the interior of the church; the balance was reserved for organ maintenance. Since major restoration work for the organ is planned for the next few years, the entire 2017 income, in accordance with the direction of Sarah McLean, will be used for that purpose.

## Memorial Trust

The Memorial Trust is an amalgamation of three separate trusts, The Laird Princeton Seminary Scholarship Trust, The McNeil Foundation Trust, and the Margaret Webb Kitchen Trust. In 2016 the total income distribution from this trust was \$26,000.

The income from the Laird portion goes directly to Princeton Theological Seminary where it is used to fund scholarships for seminary students. The seminary manages the selection and award process; our church can make suggestions to Princeton Seminary for possible recipients. In 2016 \$18,020 was provided to the seminary from this trust.

The income from the McNeil Foundation portion is directed through the church to the budget of the Mission & Outreach Committee. In 2016, **\$6,368** was provided for this purpose from this trust.

The income from the Margaret Webb Kitchen portion is used for the Local Mission of the church and is included in the miscellaneous income for the church. In 2016 \$1,612 was provided for this purpose by this trust.

This information is to help our members understand all the various areas where our mission is supported. These funds came from members who were concerned that our church would continue to be able to carry out our mission. *Join the saints before you and prayerfully consider making such a commitment.*



## Doing Lent

Why doing Lent is what we need—because it leads us to Christ.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

(Ephesians 2: 8,9)

What is “doing” Lent? Self-reflection. Fasting. Prayer. Sacrifice. Joe Iovino, an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church who works in communications for the church, suggests additional ways of “doing.”

1. Apologize to someone.
2. Perform those random acts of kindness.
3. Delve into a book of the Bible.
4. Serve people in need.
5. Visit the lonely.
6. Read John Wesley’s sermons about the Sermon on the Mount.
7. Tell others you love them.
8. Throw a party for everyone, a Kingdom Party.
9. Serve in worship.
10. Say “thank you.”

## 2017 CHALLENGE OFFERINGS

### MARCH

Keep A Child Alive

### MAY

Freedom School

### JULY

(Open)

### SEPTEMBER

Church World Service - Blankets

### NOVEMBER

Stop Hunger Now

### APRIL

One Great Hour  
of Sharing

### JUNE

Friends of  
Vernon Park

### AUGUST

Athletes  
in Action

### OCTOBER

Presbyterian Peace and  
Justice

### DECEMBER

Presbyterian  
Joy Offering

## THE PNC AT SIX MONTHS

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to meet weekly. The evaluation of Personal Information Forms continues based on the working criteria the committee has established for screening the some 60 candidates under consideration. Meanwhile, the broad search continues, and we are advertising as, for example, this accompanying ad which appears in Presbyterian Outlook. Recently Dhyana Cassie, one of our members who served on the PNC of a Presbyterian church in New Jersey, shared with the committee her experience and was most helpful in answering questions. Once again, we ask the prayers of the congregation.



### PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

First Presbyterian Church in  
Germantown,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[fpcgermantown.org](http://fpcgermantown.org)

FPC in Germantown is seeking a full-time pastor to lead an active, vibrant congregation of 225 in greater northwest Philadelphia. This 208-year-old church, welcoming, inclusive and passionately committed to diversity, desires a pastor who understands the needs and gifts of a multi-faceted congregation and community, one who responds with exceptional spiritual leadership: inspiring preaching through creative worship, nurturing personal relationships with the church family, and working hand-in-hand as we seek to respond to the astounding Word of the Living God. Applicants may submit PIFs through the PC(USA) CLC (MIF 10152.AE0) or by contacting the PNC at [pncfpcg@gmail.com](mailto:pncfpcg@gmail.com).

## A Call for Scripture Readers

“Rev Kev” has reminded us several times recently that Christianity is basically about relationships and that building relationships requires us to share ourselves. As we share ourselves with each other, we get to know each other better and, perhaps, to love and trust each other a little more, and so build up the body of Christ that is the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. One way to share ourselves with each other is to serve as a Scripture reader during Sunday worship.

Getting up and reading in front of the congregation allows people who don't know you to match your face to your name, which is a good first step in getting to know each other, especially for anyone new to our church. Being a Scripture reader also allows everyone to hear your voice, which is another step in getting to know each other because voices are as unique as fingerprints. And reading a Scripture lesson helps us to be more invested in and take ownership of the worship life of our church. The pastors shouldn't always be expected to do it alone!

A great goal for our church would be to have a different reader every Sunday throughout the year. And that should be achievable because the General Assembly's statistics for our church show we average about 125 people in worship on Sundays. There are only 52 weeks in a year (and we don't use a lay reader on the Sundays when we celebrate the Lord's Supper), so if everyone would take a turn, we'd have more than enough readers to see a different face and hear a different voice every week.

It's really not hard. All the materials are provided for you: the opening prayer, the Scripture reading for that day, and the closing. A copy of the materials is always on the lectern for you, in case you've forgotten yours. And it takes only about five minutes of your time. You don't need to worry about tripping over words or those difficult Old Testament names. You can put all your trust in God's promise in Phillipians 4: 13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

If you'd like to be a reader but haven't been asked recently, please contact Dick Liberty. And if you are asked to read, please say yes.



A GREAT GOAL  
FOR OUR  
CHURCH WOULD  
BE TO HAVE  
A DIFFERENT  
READER  
EVERY SUNDAY  
THROUGHOUT THE  
YEAR!

Interested in reading?

Contact Dick Liberty:  
123.456.7890

## TIFFANY WAS SON-IN-LAW OF PASTOR HERE

We take great pride in our Tiffany windows for their beauty, for their glorifying God and for their memorializing former ministers and members. But what most people don't know is that the designer and creator of those windows, Louis Comfort Tiffany, was the son-in-law of a former pastor here.

Caroline Dunleavy, working on a doctorate at LaSalle University, is doing research for her dissertation dealing with ecclesiastical stained glass. Because of the heritage of First Church's Tiffany windows, Ms. Dunleavy has looked into the records of the church. The Rev. James Hall Mason Knox, who was pastor here from 1853-1869, was the father of Louise Wakeman Knox (1851-1904). On November 9, 1886, she married Tiffany, the son of Charles Lewis Tiffany, the famed jeweler.

In 1904, the stained glass window, “Victory of Life,” was given in Dr. Knox's memory along with that of another pastor of FPCG, the Rev. William J. Chichester who served here from 1880-1885. The window is based on 2 Timothy 4:11—“I Have Fought the Good Fight.” Three years later, in 1907, the Charles Wolcott Henry “Ascension” window was installed and in 1920 “Sunset,” the Dennison Memorial Window.



# The Barbara L. Russell Memorial Piano

First Church is the recipient of a generous gift from the estate of Barbara L. Russell who passed away last June. Her 1906 Heintzman & Co. Louis XV style grand piano was given to our church and placed in the Jennings Room where it can be used for small recitals and chamber music. Of special interest is the piano bench made in the shape of a sea shell, which is often used a symbol of baptism in the Christian faith. The ornate decorations and gold color of the piano case make it a marvelous compliment to the Violet Oakley murals.

Barbara Russell lived in Chestnut Hill and enjoyed a national reputation for needlepoint; she had a shop on Germantown Avenue for 35 years. She was also a freelance writer and prolific poet. Born in Woodbury, N.J., Mrs. Russell graduated from the Baldwin School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Vassar College. She studied 19th

century British art, literature and history at the University of London and participated in a graduate-level program on urban civil rights and social change at the University of Pennsylvania. Her interest in civil rights and social issues became a lifelong passion, expressed through numerous community organizations and political associations to which she belonged.

Heintzman & Co. was founded in 1866 by Theodore August Heintzman, a German immigrant who came to America the same year as Henry Engelhard Steinway. It is speculated that the two may have apprenticed in the same piano workshop before coming to America. Both Heintzman and Steinway flourished in the piano manufacturing business in North America. Heintzman became known as "the Steinway of Canada" and won numerous awards at the 1876

Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. The firm began exhibiting its instruments at the Canadian National Exhibition as early as 1879 when its annual production of pianos numbered around 1,000.

Mrs. Russell's piano is described as a "one-of-a-kind" instrument built for the 1906 Canadian National Exhibition. After the exhibition, it was presented to the Government House in Ontario, later purchased by her great grandfather, and passed down through the family. The piano was given a complete restoration in 1995 and was received by First Church in excellent condition.

We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary gift to First Church that was made possible by Mrs. Russell's children, Holley and David. We will organize a piano dedication later in the year when Mrs. Russell's family can be with us.

*F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director*



As I begin to settle into my second semester at Columbia University, I really want to take the time to thank all the members of FPCG for their love and support throughout the years. Ever since I was little, FPCG has been more than a house of worship, it's a home for me and the congregation is like family. I really appreciate everything the church has done to foster my spiritual and emotional growth, and I continue to use everything I've learned even while I'm away from home. Once again thank you and I can't wait to see everyone the next time I come home!

*Sincerely,  
Kristina Ohemeng*

## CELEBRATING THE PRESBYTERY'S 300 YEARS

The Devotional begins on March 1, 2017 - the beginning of the 2017 Lenten season. Over 250 Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Church Members, Inquirers, Candidates and Youth from across our Presbytery contributed to these reflections. Order your copies today and let's walk through the holy season together. Join us as companions on God's amazing journey of faith, grace and hope. Listen to the voices of our community as they escort us through the sacred season of Lent, Ordinary Time and the hope of Advent. May the faith that birthed us 300 years ago continue to claim our hearts. We invite you to take this transformational journey with us! May we use the courage and faithfulness of our ancestors to inspire a courage and faithfulness within us today. May we embark on this 300-day journey together, eager to reclaim our call to "return to God." In that return, may we be a faithful witness to the Gospel at this time and place—gathering as a people to hear the Word, taking that Word out into the world, and seeking to make right that which is broken in our midst.



The books are available at the Presbytery Offices or online at:  
[presbyphl.org/300th-devotional-book-orders](http://presbyphl.org/300th-devotional-book-orders)  
The cost is \$39.99.



## SYSTEMIC RACISM WORKSHOP

The Northwest Region of the Presbytery of Philadelphia invites you to join them at a special program entitled "Introduction to Systemic Racism Workshop" to be conducted by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training ([crossroadsantiracism.org](http://crossroadsantiracism.org)). "Racism dehumanizes us all. Dismantling racism heals us all."

Recognizing that racism goes beyond personal prejudice, Crossroads offers a distinctive Power Analysis of how racism functions in institutions, and offers tools to create anti-racist transformation.



### INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMIC RACISM WORKSHOP

**Saturday, March 11**

8:30 am to 5 pm

Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

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:



THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN



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