



# • Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown



## LINDA LEUBE MEMORIAL CONCERT

At the Linda Leube Memorial Concert on the left, pianists Gayle Martin and Ted Barr, and on the right back row Joe Leube, daughter Beth Strock and her husband Jay Strock; in the front row Jack and Alex Strock, the children of the Strocks and the grandsons of Linda and Joe Leube.

## NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At the congregational meeting on May 21, the following persons were elected as church officers:

### SESSION:

Marc DiNardo  
Class of 2018

Completing Carolyn Ballard  
Freeman's unexpired term  
(1 year remaining)

Andrea Overton  
Randy Rosensteel  
Gloria Bethea  
Class of 2020

### DEACONS:

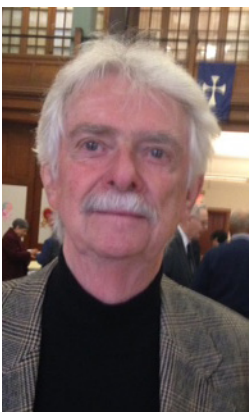
John Orandosh  
Carolyn Tarver  
Randy Clever  
Class of 2020

## INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH THIS SUMMER!



There is never a better time to invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to church than during the summer. **The Gospel Choir will be singing on Sunday, June 4**—always a good time to invite a friend. The high quality of the sermons and music continues during the summer months, and the more relaxed atmosphere makes your invitation easier. “Lemonade hour” is more relaxed as well. Think especially about friends and neighbors you know who have children. Our Sunday School program will be of great interest to them. Jot a few names down now and invite them to join you at FPCG for summer worship this year. You (and they) will be glad you did!

## Randy Rosensteel: 52 Years at the Church



Randy Rosensteel

When Randy Rosensteel takes his place on the Session as a member of the Class of 2020, he will bring to the table more than half a century of knowledge, experience and faith gleaned at the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. He will be returning to a board on which he first served some 40 years ago as an elder and Clerk of Session.

Born into a Presbyterian family of long-residence in Mt. Union, Pennsylvania, where he grew up with one sister and obtained a 12-year education, he graduated from the local high school. Another graduation followed four years later, this time from a Presbyterian-affiliated college, Maryville, near Knoxville, Tennessee. His B. A. major was in English Literature. At Drexel University, Randy attained yet another degree, a Master’s in Library Science, after which he was hired as a librarian at the Philadelphia Free Library’s Logan Square branch.

That employment, however, was interrupted with a call from Uncle Sam which resulted in two years’ service predominantly at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Randy was an M.O.S.—Military Occupation Specialist and spent much of his career in the Army Logistics Management School writing and editing case studies designed to train officers from the ranks of major and above. The Department of Defense instruction was based on the Harvard Business School model.

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## 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.*

## Birthdays



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

### June

- 3 Clotilde Sekpe
- 4 John Roberts
- 10 Gail Hill
- 14 Norma Kilson
- 19 Robert Swenson
- 20 Nancy Muth
- 22 Kit Clever
- 25 Dave Wolford
- 26 Bette Young
- 27 Jason Williams
- 30 Ian Burton

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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Randy Bremer,  
Interim Pastor

## The Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear Friend of FPC in Germantown:

This fall Protestant churches will be reminded of a momentous event. October 31, 2017, will mark the 500th anniversary of the day Martin Luther nailed 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. Historians mark this day as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, an event which may have done more to change Europe than any previous event since the time of Christ. Luther's intent was to begin an internal debate about the selling of indulgences, which were marketed to shorten the time that the deceased must spend in Purgatory. With the newly available printing press, this challenge to the authority of the Papacy soon became known throughout western Europe. Luther was a Bible scholar, and it was his study of the Book of Romans that changed his thinking and gave him the courage to stand against an authority that had dominated Europe for more than one thousand years.

On June 4, 2017, our adult education class will begin a chapter by chapter study of the Book of Romans. The same lesson will be repeated on Mondays at 4:30 pm, beginning on June 5. I encourage you to join us as we study Paul's letter to the Roman church. It will deepen your appreciation of the issues that prompted the Reformation, but even more important, it may enable you to join the company of those who have had their faith strengthened by this marvelous portion of God's Word.

*In Christ,*

*Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor*

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Sundays beginning June 4, 11:30 am

Mondays beginning June 5, 4:30 pm

*An in-depth, chapter by chapter study of The Book of Romans*

## Rosensteel *(continued from page 1)*

After his military stint, Randy returned to his librarian job in the fiction department, the first step in a 40-year career in the Logan Square facility which took him then to the Book Selection Unit and subsequently as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Library for 20 years. Eventually he concluded his library work in the Rare Book Department. His job gave him the opportunity to meet and work with a wide range of personalities, including the Librarian of Congress. He also attended the meeting in Moscow of the International Federation of Library Associations; other professional meetings took him to Liverpool, England, and Grenoble, France. Personally, he has visited many countries in the world, most recently Panama and the canal.

He has traveled in another way, in the plays in which he has acted and directed primarily for Stagecrafters in Chestnut Hill: to Ancient Egypt in "Caesar and Cleopatra," to Paris in "Sabrina," to Suffolk, England, in "Five Finger Exercise," and to a small American mid-western town in "All My Sons." For the theater, he has also been involved in scenic design.

A musician and a lover of music, Randy plays the piano and the organ, has been the president and member of the board of the Choral Arts Society, has sung in the tenor section of the chancel choir and in the Germantown Oratorio Choir. He is a season ticket holder of the Philadelphia Orchestra and other musical groups.

A life-long Presbyterian, Mr. Rosensteel found his way to First Church when he lived in Germantown more than 50 years ago. From his first visit, he felt at home and almost immediately understood the meaning of "a church family." From his home now in Cathedral Village in Roxborough, he still corresponds with and visits friends, those family members, too, he first met during his years at the church.



## The Education of a Parish Visitor

For nearly 17 years, Heidi Mercado-Littles has been the Parish Visitor for the church. Reflecting on that time, she feels she has learned so very much, has been a part of so many “amazing things.” A significant part of her labor—her ministry—has been with church members who have moved to a retirement community, to assisted living, or to a nursing home. Faced with moving out of the homes they have lived in, as in the case of Virginia Mechling who left the house on Germantown Avenue where she was born, a house her grandfather had built, older folks fare

Heidi Mercado-Littles

much better if they themselves willingly make the decision. Yet, sometimes they are forced to do so, when, for instance, a doctor or a family member advises such a move. Many times Heidi collects brochures about possible places and even goes with folks to look at new quarters. For most people downsizing is difficult, so Heidi has helped them choose what furniture and personal items with which they would be most comfortable. Of great importance is the keeping of family photos to make an adjustment much easier. Sometimes what is left behind has to be dealt with. Mrs. Mechling who had to leave her home couldn't go—wouldn't go—until places were found for her six cats. Heidi was able to do that for the member of FPCG who joined in 1962.

*"... sometimes people need to be pushed to do things, to befriend others, to talk, to eat together, to pray."*

Once someone has moved to a retirement or nursing home, loneliness is likely to settle over him or her. From interacting with FPCG members, Heidi has learned some ways to help alleviate that sense of isolation and aloneness. She has found that people who stay alone in a room in a nursing home usually feel even lonelier and more depressed, so they must be encouraged to socialize, to go to dining rooms, to see other people. If getting out is too difficult, a person can be encouraged to be engaged with what is going on in the world, to watch or listen to the news, to stay on top of life. Another of FPCG's members, one who united with the church in 1960, Anna Reimann, currently in Rydal Park's medical center, feels that too often the conversation is about illness, one's own or that of others. Heidi embraces the lady's advice: there's a world of topics to be discussed, so don't let ailments and failings be the main subjects of communication. Engage in old or new hobbies, for example, knitting or crocheting. Sally and Louise Brinkley, twin sisters, continued their absorption in genealogy almost until their deaths; their interest was stimulated by their family relationship to both Paul Robeson and Henry Tanner. Because boredom can often set in and contribute to the loneliness, Heidi quotes another of our long-time members, from 1971, Gloria Patterson, "If you are bored, you are choosing to be bored." Yet, both realize that sometimes people need to be pushed to do things, to befriend others, to talk, to eat together, to pray.

But when a form of dementia sets in, Alzheimer's being only one of them, other kinds of problems and adjustments are needed. As Heidi emphasizes, each kind of dementia is unique; one form may come on gradually and another very quickly. Whatever the kind, Heidi has found that correcting people or not answering their repetitive questions may be hurtful. Just answer questions again and again. In dealing with church members who are in various stages of dementia, Ms. Mercado-Littles suggests that the power of faith and prayer can be found in the individual as well as the caregiver and the Parish Visitor. Heidi recalls one member who was absolutely silent until Heidi began humming old hymns; the woman started singing. When led in "The Lord's Prayer," often patients speak the words. "In the midst of being lost, something resounds for these folks," says Heidi.

To Virginia, Anna, Gloria, the Brinkleys and the scores of others with whom over the years Heidi has come in contact as Parish Visitor and friend and for all she has learned about life and living, she is, as she notes, "grateful beyond words."

## FINANCIAL INFO

The Finance & Administration Committee met with the auditors on May 18 to review the draft of their report for 2016. Once the final report is issued, copies will be available to members. We do not expect any changes from the draft report to the final report.

Through the first four months for 2017, our pledges received are just slightly below one third of the yearly total; our expenses are slightly higher than one third of the annual expense budget. Please help by keeping your pledge payments current especially as we approach the summer.

Remember our church expenses continue throughout the year.

### PLEDGES

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

#### Pledges as of April 30

\$ 112,550



### EXPENSES

2017 Budget:  
**\$ 795,502**

#### Expenses as of April 30

**Budget** \$ 262,949

**Actual** \$ 262,949



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director

Please let me offer my sincere and profound thanks to:

**Randy Bremer** for his love of music and his extraordinary support of our music program, for his sage advice, and for being not only a pastor to our community but also an inspiring teacher and friend.

**Christian and Sheila Heyer-Rivera** for their good shepherding of our children's choir. *Children's choir rehearses during the Sunday School hour and sings during worship on the last Sunday of the month, Celebration Sunday.*

**Sara Carter-Blanford and the members of the Gospel Choir.** *The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings September–June and sings during worship on the first Sunday of the month.*

**The Chancel Choir** and section leaders **Evelyn Santiago** and **Karen Wuest**, sopranos; **Margaret Mezzacappa**, mezzo soprano; **Stuart Jasper** and **Aaron Scarberry**, tenors; and **Jesse Padgett** and **Robert Phillips**, baritone and bass, for their excellent leadership in sharing sacred texts and song. *The Chancel Choir rehearses after worship on Sundays and sings September–June.* We wish God speed to Aaron Scarberry who has accepted a teaching job in China and will not be returning to us in the fall.

**Evelyn Santiago**, who will join me in renewing the Handbell Choir over the summer months. *A special meeting for all those interested in participating in the Handbell Choir will be held following worship on June 4.*

As the 2016–2017 choir season draws to a close, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome and generous support the members of First Church have given me during my first year as music director. I am proud of the music program we have worked to secure: our excellence in music in worship, the participation of nearly one hundred voices in our various choirs, repairs and restoration of the McLean Memorial Pipe Organ now underway, and the gifts of two fine pianos to our church by the families of Barbara Russell and Linda Leube.

### Opportunities

If you would like to express your faith through music, please consider joining one of our musical ensembles or let me know if you would like to offer a solo or small ensemble during the summer months. In addition to the opportunities listed to the left, **the Germantown Oratorio Choir will offer two concerts next year: Handel's *Messiah* in December and the Brahms *Requiem* in May. Rehearsals will begin in October.**

### Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano

I am delighted to report that approximately 150 listeners enjoyed the inauguration of the Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano in a very special Mother's Day concert on May 14. Concert pianist and Steinway Artist Gayle Martin performed works by Villa-Lobos, Schumann, and Beethoven's beloved Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, the "Moonlight Sonata." She was joined by Ted Barr to perform Schubert's Fantasy in F Minor (for four hands).

Gayle and Ted also offered two outstanding outreach concerts in conjunction with the inauguration, taking the blessing of music at First Church to the residents of Cathedral Village and Medford Leas in New Jersey where they shared their recital program with more than 150 additional listeners. Following the inaugural recital, we enjoyed a beautiful reception in the Jennings Room provided through the generosity of Joe Leube. We offer our thanks to Delores Solomon and her hospitality committee for organizing a beautiful display of finger sandwiches, punch, and sweets so all in attendance could enjoy a time of fellowship following the piano inauguration.

### Organ Day at the Kimmel Center

On Saturday, June 10, the 60 professional voices of the Opera Philadelphia Chorus (including our own Evelyn Santiago and Robert Phillips) will give a performance of opera excerpts as a part of Organ Day at the Kimmel Center. The celebration of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ begins at 11 a.m. The opera chorus is scheduled to perform at 1:15 pm. I am honored to be joining them at the organ. We would love to see our friends and loved ones from First Church in the audience! All events at the Kimmel Center Organ Day are free and open to the public.



### Upcoming Dates

**JUNE 4**

Handbell Choir Meeting

**MAY 10**

Organ Day at the  
Kimmel Center



### Recital Videos

Videos from the Linda Leube recital are posted on the church website, [fpcgermantown.org/community-life/videos](http://fpcgermantown.org/community-life/videos).

## WE ARE KEEPING CHILDREN ALIVE THROUGH *BE THE CHANGE*

A change agent is an individual who dedicates time to leading positive social change. Hope dealers operate with the audacious spirit that instills a sense of resilience in others. Passion Igniters run around sparking a fire within people to encourage change. Change Agent. Hope Dealer. Passion Igniter. These are terms that echoed throughout Longstreth Auditorium during Be the Change 2017. On Sunday, April 30, we celebrated our 5th year dedicated to raising money for the Keep A Child Alive (KCA) organization. This year's theme was celebratory. Not only were we celebrating the accomplishments of Be the Change and KCA but also the advancements of medication and treatment for AIDS/HIV.

Today, although a cure has yet to be found, HIV is a treatable disease, one that you can live with. It's just a matter of access. Unfortunately, children in places like Soweto, South Africa, Prune, India, and Mombasa, Kenya don't have access to the medication known as ARV's that'll help combat the virus. In some cases, children are not getting the appropriate amount of nutrition needed to help with the medication. Keep A Child Alive not only offers ARV's but they supply food. KCA provides transportation to/from the clinics. AIDS/HIV impacts a person's entire life and so should the treatment and energy to contest it. With every performance and every visual at this year's charity concert, we educated as well as entertained. Every performance had a sense of hope. As a group, we raised our voices sharing a beautiful message of "you are loved and you are not forgotten!" In five years, we've raised over \$15,000 for Keep A Child Alive. We're giving change a chance. On behalf of KCA and the entire Be the Change team, thank you for every dollar that's been donated, every prayer that's been lifted and for all of the positive words and energy. Can't wait to see you next year!

- Chris Scott Jr

## PA Law: Background Checks Required

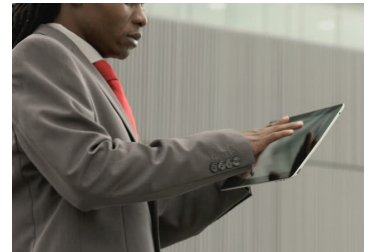
### FOR EVERYONE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Because some confusion has arisen about the necessity of needing background checks for all persons working with children in any capacity, following is the state law as provided by the Commonwealth. This has a bearing on those volunteers working with children as well as the working with the Reading Buddies program.

Effective Dec. 31, 2014, Pennsylvania amended the state's Child Protective Services Law and declared every "Emergency Medical Services provider certified by the Department of Health," all individuals who "accept responsibility for a child," and all others who may have "direct contact with children" to be mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse. 23 Pa.C.S. § 6311. Generally, speaking FIRE and EMS providers do not need clearances regardless of whether they are paid or volunteer. The amendments to the Child Protective Services Law require all prospective and current adults working in a paid or unpaid capacity "who have direct contact with children or who are responsible for the welfare of a child" (under 18 years of age) to obtain both criminal background check and child abuse clearances once every 5 years. 23 Pa.C.S. § 6344.4(1)(i). "Direct contact with Children" is defined in the Child Protective Services Law as "the care, supervision, guidance or control of children AND routine interaction with children". 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303. This is the standard that will apply to determining whether an adult volunteer must get the background checks.

These background checks are required for adults and are conducted to determine if a volunteer or employee has been convicted of any serious felonies or sex crimes, or has been identified as a perpetrator in a substantiated case of child abuse. 23 Pa.C.S. § 6344(c)(2). Also, any convictions of a drug offense within the past five years will also disqualify an individual from serving as a volunteer.

## PAR RECYCLEWORKS TO COLLECT OLD ELECTRONIC DEVICES



On Saturday, July 15, at First Church from 9 am to 1 pm, PAR Recycle Works, a social enterprise offering environmentally responsible recycling services while providing life-changing workforce training to formerly incarcerated individuals, will collect electronics.

The Session of FPCG has decided to support this vital ministry in our community. On July 15 we will host a collection event in our parking lot. Bring your outdated electronic devices to have them recycled.

We are assured that any data on old hard drives will be triple-destroyed by being magnetically degaussed; then the drive will be rendered inoperative by drilling a hole in it, and finally by shredding.

Plan to clean house of your e-waste (old computers, printers, keyboards, cell phones, etc.) and bring them to FPCG and help a great cause in the process.



### RecycleWorks Event

Saturday, July 15

9 am - 1 pm

FPCG parking lot



## A VIEW FROM PRESBYTERY MAY MEETING

Clerk of Session Maddy Valentine (right) at the May meeting of the Presbytery at the United Ghanaian Community Church in Wyncote. In the background in front of the movie screen is Bill Young.

## FREEDOM SCHOOL

June 26 - August 11

With a maximum of 50 children who will be broken up into small groups, we look forward to an awesome summer of reading, growing and fun. Here is where you come in! Every dollar you give to Freedom School could make the difference between a child attending the program or being at home, unsupervised, as a parent works. For example:

**\$610** sponsors a child for the entire seven-week program.

**\$300** offsets transportation costs for a local trip for all 50 students.

**\$50** covers the cost of afternoon snacks for two days.

**\$100** subsidizes a working family that enables a sibling to attend the program.

Every dollar given will be distributed as scholarship assistance to ensure no child is denied the opportunity to attend Freedom School because of the inability to pay. Please give generously by sending your donation to the church office. Thank you!



DELIVER TO:



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