



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Member Garth Herrick's Portrait of Mayor John Street is Now in City Hall



Garth Herrick with Former Mayor John Street in the former's studio. Photo by Tom MacDonald, WHY?, used with his permission.

In mid-June, you may have seen in the newspapers or on television the coverage of the unveiling of the portrait of former Philadelphia Mayor John Street, a work to be hung in City Hall. What you may not know is that the painting was done by a long-time member of our congregation, the noted artist Garth Herrick.

The finished portrait, one of two, was completed in Garth's Germantown studio three years ago, but tension between Street and his successor Michael Nutter delayed the city's acceptance of the painting. Street refused to have his likeness hung while Nutter was in office. The canvas measures 50" x 38" and shows the subject in front of the Richard Allen Housing Development.

Garth is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts where, among other awards, he received the William Emlen Cresson Memorial Traveling Scholarship when enabled him to study in Europe.

Among the subjects of his paintings are more than half a dozen notable Federal judges, presidents of colleges and universities, and two of First Church's own Dr. Earl Ball, now headmaster emeritus of Penn Charter. In addition to Herrick portraits hanging in City Hall, others are in the Pennsylvania State Capitol and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

In addition to painting people, Garth is a sculptor who was involved in the early years of the "Il Cavallo" project, "Da Vinci's Horse," a massive (eventually 24 feet high based on Herrick's eight-foot floor model) monument to a Duke of Milan; it was originally commissioned in 1482, after which Leonardo Da Vinci labored for 17 years on the model but never finishing it.

Garth has told an amusing anecdote about having shown former mayor and governor Edward Rendell the politician's portrait. Rendell thought his hair too thin, so Garth added 1/8th of an inch; then the subject said his hair was too puffy, so the artist scraped off 1/18th of the hair. "Looks like a comb-over," said Rendell, after which Garth blended the hair a bit to the governor's final approval.

Garth Herrick has been a member of First Church since 1971.

LIFE LINE SCREENING ON AUGUST 14

Life Line Screening is an organization which aids people in discovering health problems about which they may not be aware. A community-based provider of preventive health screening in the country, it travels the United States and sponsors sites at which local residents can be examined by board-certified physicians and technicians. Information is available on the literature table about how to sign up for a screening. You may also call the church office if you have questions.

"Life Line Screening is coming to FPC in Germantown on Monday, August 14. I would like to share a personal story of how this organization helped my family. My mother and father went to Life Line Screening about 15 years ago. During the test they discovered that my father had a bulge in his aorta that could lead to an aneurysm if not treated. This was followed by surgical treatment that repaired the aorta. Often there are no symptoms of this problem until it is too late. My family is grateful to Life Line Screening for this warning and believe that it may have contributed another decade to Dad's life."

-Rev. Randy

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.



A PIECE OF THE ROCK

Special thanks are extended to Mark T. DiNardo and Elizabeth T. Drum who recently gave a generous gift to the church's endowment in memory of their friend William H. Oldach, Jr., who passed away April 26, 2017.

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 Paragraphs



Randy Bremer,
Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of FPC in Germantown;

I would like to use this opportunity to share some early thoughts about the time that Donna and I have about our tenure at FPCG. When it became apparent that the PNC would probably not have a candidate ready to present to the congregation by September, I began conversations with leadership at the Presbytery and with the Personnel Committee of FPCG to determine what is in our mutual best interest. Although there are still details to work through, it appears that we will be extending our time together beyond the original termination date of August 31, 2017. The Personnel Committee has recommended that our contract be extended to the end of the calendar year, and then we can determine beyond that on a month to month basis. We have greatly enjoyed our time at FPCG and when the time does come to say our goodbyes we will take many fond memories with us. Until then it will be a pleasure to continue to serve as your Interim Pastor.

In Christ,

Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor

WE ARE IN STITCHES

DO YOU SEW? We are forming a sewing mission group. All are welcome. Be a founding member. Help choose the name of the group: "Germantown in Stitches" or "Stitches in the Hood."



To get involved, contact
Stephanie Garrett
215-842-0568
or **215-807-9016 (cell)**
or **stephaniegarett7@aol.com.**



FROM THE PRESBYTERY

The next State Meeting of the Presbytery will be **Saturday, July 29**. The time and location have not yet been stated.

The Presbytery is now accepting nominations for its delegates to the 223rd General Assembly, June 16-23, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri. **The deadline for nominations is Sept. 1.**

All singers and church choirs around the Presbytery are invited to join the Celebration Choir for the **300th Anniversary Worship Service on Oct. 7** at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2800 W. Cheltenham Avenue.

The dates for choir rehearsals are Saturday, September 16, from 9 am to 11 am at the Abington Presbyterian Church; Sunday, September 24, from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Abington Presbyterian Church; and the mandatory dress rehearsal on Friday, September 29, from 6:30 pm to 10 pm at the Enon Church.

For more information on these events, contact the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Kirkwood Camp and Maine Service Trip Fundraisers

A number of FPCG middle/high school members and youth group participants will be traveling for a week to Kirkwood in late July and Maine from August 12-20. Please pray for them and support their fundraising efforts throughout the month of July and early August. **We will be setting up a booth in coffee hour starting July 9 for sales and sponsorship.**

Give what you can that our children might experience these opportunities to grow in faith. We thank you in advance for your support.



Summer Basketball and BBQ



As is the tradition at FPCG in the summer, our young men will be traveling to a court near us and spending the afternoon playing basketball and BBQing together. See Christian Heyer-Rivera for exact dates or keep your eyes open in our worship bulletin announcements.

Summer Youth Groups and Open Gyms

Many of FPCG's programs for youth don't stop in the summer. Beyond Camp and Service Trips, youth groups and open gym times continue. Starting July 14, after Christian Heyer-Rivera's family vacation, FPCG will host our regular youth groups and open gym times.

Freedom School Bible Study Volunteers Wanted/Needed

Members interested in helping our Freedom School Bible studies run smoothly this summer are invited to contact Christian Heyer-Rivera. There are traditionally two weekday afternoons a week throughout July and the first week of August that we offer Bible studies. Kids learn the stories of our faith, memorize Scripture, apply God's teaching to their lives, and sing songs of praise all to help them know and grow in both the faith and knowledge of God in Christ. Join in small ways to support this exciting opportunity.



FINANCIAL INFO

PLEDGES TO DATE

\$ 149,600

EXPENSES

\$ 339,300

Through the first five months the pledges received are in proportion to our annual budgeted figures. Our expenses are also in proportion to our annual budget.

Since we are now in the summer, please keep up your financial support. Our expenses continue, even while some of us are on vacation.



Scholarship Applications

are available in the church office and on the literature table outside the sanctuary. The scholarship program is open to all members and friends of the church who are involved in FPCG programs and are enrolled in post-secondary education programs.

The application deadline is **July 15, 2017.**

Baptism

In baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples, sharing the good news of the gospel with all the world. We as Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us.

"... for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Galatians 3: 29

The baptism of **JAMESON TEFARI MCCORD-AMASIS** and **AMARA RYLIE MCCORD-AMASIS**, the children of Mark and Sally McCord-Amasis, on **Sunday, June 25, 2017.**

Birthdays



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

July

- 2 Sara Sekpe
- 3 Sam Whyte
- 6 Marney Hague
- 7 Veda Gibbs
- 8 Delores Adams
- 12 Sherry Archer
- 13 Rossie Gardenhire
- 14 Charles Bethea
- 15 Emery Hood
- 18 Arlene Grace
- 18 Cynthia Thomas
- 19 Peter Smith
- 21 Dorie Harper
- 28 Gloria Bethea
- 29 Michael Brooks
- 29 Kenny Gibbs
- 30 Stuart Ditzen
- 31 Michelle Lewis
- 31 Linda Swift

August

- 4 Leah Hood
- 8 Dick Liberty
- 8 Lois VanEerden
- 11 Charon Chase
- 11 Delores Solomon
- 11 Siena Williams
- 14 Joseph Leube
- 17 DeShaye Carter
- 18 Kathleen Adams
- 20 Johari Smith Rollins
- 24 Helen Brown
- 26 Kristopher Payne
- 27 Aleisha Gibbs
- 29 William Lewis
- 29 Ann Stauffer
- 30 Zack Hasse
- 31 Viola Donaldson
- 31 Khalil Overton
- 31 Shawdee Rolle

Pastoral Nominating Committee

Can you believe it has been nearly a year since the PNC began the search to find our next pastor? We can sense God's presence in our midst and are excited to see who God is preparing for us.



After the resignation of two members and committee reorganization, the remaining seven members of the PNC engaged in prayerful reflection, important conversations, and an excellent retreat led by our Presbytery liaison. We are now back on track and working diligently to discern God's leading as we read Ministry Information Forms or MIFs (a Presbyterian resume of sorts) and then email, Skype, call, web-conference, and meet with potential candidates.

During these last few months, the PNC was keenly aware of your concerns regarding diverse representation and having all the needed voices at the table. We value diversity (in all its forms) at First Pres and are working hard to make sure everyone is heard. We are also committed to being faithful stewards of the process that you, the congregation, have called us to.

If you've not yet stopped by our Listening Table on Sunday morning, please do! We would love to hear from you during coffee hour. For the last three weeks, it has been a pleasure to listen to your insights, experiences, and dreams for First Pres. So far we have heard some great ideas and a wide diversity of thoughts and opinions about the future of First Pres. The PNC is reflecting on all this input and bringing your comments into our deliberations. We will also share your concerns with The Session.

We would ask you to continue to hold us in prayer as we look forward to what God will do this summer and will present another update to the congregation in September.

- Contina Lundy

Update on Space Planning



The Space Planning Committee has been working diligently since our first meeting in October 2015 to assess how we may better utilize our existing facility with the programs now and in the future. Early on it was determined that a "master plan" based on input from many would be the starting point. The master plan was completed April 12, 2016, and estimates were obtained. It was determined that a possible first phase would be to provide some safety and code modifications in several areas, relocate the CYC offices, enhance the GACM food storage capabilities and relocate the CE classrooms. Due to the expenses required, it was determined to ask CYC for a longer-term commitment, to share in the upfront costs for their unique needs and pay an increased rent.

The Commonwealth Youth Choirs decided not to take the new space we offered them. They will continue to occupy their current space. We are negotiating a lease with them for July 1, 2017, through August 30, 2019. Their preference is to continue looking for space where all of their choirs can be housed in one building

We are getting ideas and suggestions for remediating the issues in the youth lounge and the gym. This is our next big project and we are hoping to actually get some work done starting in mid-August. We are also working on some issues in the Crisis Ministry, particularly ventilation issues in the food pantry and space needs for food storage.

We will work with the Property Committee to develop final plans. We will work with the Administration and Finance Committee to fund these projects. We may request permission to apply for a loan similar to what we did for the Crisis Ministry renovations and permission to do some fund raising.

-Lois Nafziger Bethea

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director



Voices in Bronze

Our Voices in Bronze handbell choir, under the direction of Evelyn Santiago, is rehearsing at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Choir Room. Ten people attend the first rehearsal—there is still room for more participants, high school-adult. Good rhythm and the ability to read music are helpful skills to have, but beginners are welcome! The ensemble will play during worship later this summer.



Evelyn Santiago and members of Voices in Bronze.

First Church Music Director F. Anthony Thurman joined the 60-voice professional chorus of Opera Philadelphia by accompanying a performance of opera excerpts as part of the seventh annual Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Day at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, on Saturday, June 10. Conducted by chorus master Elizabeth Braden, the opera company's program included excerpts from Handel, Higdon, Poulenc, Verdi, and Wagner. The six-hour Organ Day marathon also included solo performances by members of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Peter Conte and the Philadelphia Brass, a silent film, organ demonstrations and activities for children, and the premier performance of the Fred J. Cooper Organ Book—a collection of five new organ works commissioned by the Philadelphia AGO. All events were free and open to the public.

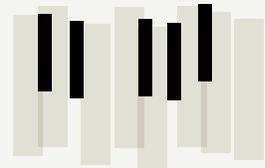
The Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ, Dobson organ Op. 76, is the largest mechanical-action concert hall organ in the United States!



F. Anthony Thurman at the Cooper Memorial Organ in the Kimmel Center. Photo by Joseph Routon.

Recital Videos

Videos from the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Day performance can be found online at www.YouTube.com/FAAnthonyThurman.



OCTOBER 1

Sunday Afternoon
4 pm
The Jennings Room

Save The Date

Inauguration of the Barbara Russell Memorial Piano
Song recital by Evelyn Santiago, soprano; Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano; Gerry Rice, viola; and Ted W. Barr, piano.



Summer
Worship

Music during summer worship will be provided by soloists from the choir and volunteers from the congregation. **To participate, please contact Tony Thurman or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.**

The Keystone State Boychoir is scheduled to sing in worship on Sunday, August 13.

Muralist Violet Oakley: Women of the Bible and Now

In her stalwart efforts to reorganize files, current and archival materials in and around the church office, Lois Nafziger-Betha has uncovered a trove of Violet Oakley memorabilia, including the typewritten remarks made by Miss Oakley at the March 29, 1948 unveiling and dedication of the murals, "The Great Women of the Bible," adorning the Jennings Room.

Miss Oakley, in working with the women of First Church, referred to "a marvelous experience of inspiration and of communion" with the committee, all of them including herself "as members of the household of God." About the mural "The Annunciation" hanging above the fireplace,

the artist said she felt that was "symbolic of the call which every woman of the world feels is to her alone and how eagerly she should obey that call for active service in the Church of Christ."

The women of First Church, 400 of them at the time, who belonged to the Pastoral Aid Society, the benefactors of the murals, showed that "active service," for in their 60-years of existence up to 1948, they had raised nearly \$500,000 (\$5,116,000 in 2017 dollars) for Christian work. The women of First Church continue their dedicated active Christian service today.

WINDOW TO MY SOUL

God has laid this scripture on my heart to share with you. It is a WINDOW to my soul.

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,”

Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, And pour out for you such blessing

That there will not be room enough to receive it. - Malachi 3:10

It is always my desire to bless others by sharing God’s word. God is speaking to me to share and plant seeds, water them and watch them grow.

- Rose Slater

Continuing Rose’s look inside our WINDOWS.....

- A member of AA brought donuts for the church staff to show appreciation and thanks to the church for sharing space with them for their programs. Every day 30-50 people meet together and share in this worthwhile program. Twice a week another roomful of people meet for NA (Narcotics Anonymous).
- A lady sitting in the waiting area of the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry suddenly burst into a grateful song singing “Take Me To The King.” Her rendition was so enthralling Crisis Ministry staff and volunteers stopped working to listen.

Take Me to the King

Take me to the king
I don’t have much to bring
My heart is torn in pieces
It’s my offering

Take me to the king
Truth is I’m tired
Options are few
I’m trying to pray
But where are you?

I’m all churched out
Hurt and abused
I can’t fake
What’s left to do?

Truth is I’m weak
No strength to fight
No tears to cry
Even if I tried
But still my soul
Refuses to die
One touch will change my life

Take me to the king
I don’t have much to bring
My heart’s torn into pieces
It’s my offering...



DELIVER TO:



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