



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

The Pastor's Paragraphs



Randy Bremer,
Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of FPCG;

This is an exciting time at FPCG. Dr. Tony Thurman has brought new life to our music program and our worship resulting of an increase in attendance of about 10% over the same Sundays last year. The Bell Choir is rehearsing again and will add their talents to the already rich variety of music available on Sunday morning led by Evelyn Santiago, a section leader of our chancel choir. Evelyn is also a long-time member of Opera Philadelphia and a music educator. This fall she will begin working with our church's young people to teach voice and strengthen our youth choirs.

Another exciting thing is that the youth lounge in the basement of the church is undergoing a long-needed renovation. This space that has many uses in our ministry to our congregation and community will become even more useful as we seek to serve Christ at the crossroads of Germantown.

Thank you for being a part of this dynamic and faithful congregation.

In Christ,
Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor

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.

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH PICNIC/BARBECUE TO BE SHARED BY MEMBERS & FRIENDS

The annual First Presbyterian Church in Germantown barbecue will take place, rain or shine, after worship on Sunday, September 24.

The annual First Presbyterian Church in Germantown picnic/barbecue sponsored by the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee (CDFC) will take place, rain or shine, after worship on Sunday, September 24. Members and friends of First Church are invited to contribute a side dish, salad or another choice, fruit, and/or dessert item, ready for serving for this event. The Christian Education Committee will again provide the fun activities. Please see Delores Solomon, Chair of CDFC, or any member of the committee to volunteer. Especially needed are volunteers to grill hot dogs (beef) and burgers (beef, turkey and vegan).

As Christian Heyer-Rivera noted in a sermon last year entitled "Living It Out: The Humility and Generosity of Our God," referring to Jesus's parable about hunger in Luke 14: "We are known by those with whom we share meals." With whom will you share the picnic?



Fellowship in Vernon Park.

PLEASE NOTE! The date of the picnic has changed from Sept. 10 to Sept. 24.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sundays 10am-11am

Everyone is invited to worship, study, and enjoy friendships at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. There are service, outreach, and fellowship opportunities in abundance. In addition to weekly and monthly scheduled services and activities, visit our Special Events web pages for more information about other ways to participate.

To learn more about our worship services, please e-mail **FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com** or call the church office at **215-843-8811**.

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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FREEDOM SCHOOL—SUMMER 2017

Greetings to the members of the Church and the community that support the Freedom School Initiative here at First Church. Freedom School has successfully come to end, once again and what a summer it was! Fifty-seven scholars were able to grow and enjoy the opportunity to get excited about reading. Our trips also helped to enhance the experience. This year we traveled to the movies, a Hansel And Gretel production at Gratz College, skating at Rolling Thunder, Legoland, and a big trip to New York City to see the Intrepid and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. The students in Level 3, the oldest of our bunch of lively young people, were able to tour LaSalle University where they explored the campus and post high school options. Something special—we attended the Mann Center's series on celebrating diverse cultures through dance. We saw a group called Step Afrika. The performance brought together the traditions of African American Fraternities and Sororities with the rich culture of dance from South Africa. Program Director Contina Lundy and her amazing staff of nine college-aged Servant Leaders has once again shaped this summer into one that kids will joyfully remember. Once again thanks to the church and the support that you gave this summer and for many summers to come. In the words of Freedom School: "Good job, good job." Thank you all and God Bless.

Andre Brown

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
9 am - 11 pm

Your \$5 shopping pass buys a full day of discounts (25%), refreshments, and entertainment.

Register to win prizes.

All shopping pass proceeds benefit participating local non-profit agencies and organizations.

2017 Youth Service Learning Trip



In August seven members of our youth group along with Christian participated in a 2017 Service-Learning Trip in Starks, Maine. They stayed in rustic cabins at the Camp at the Eastward, a Presbyterian summer camp. They partnered with our friends from Forest Grove Presbyterian Church. The group worked with the East Parish Housing Ministry of Western Central Maine on a housing projects doing construction work on the homes of elderly and low-income home owners.

The youth group traveled by our church's minibus. It was a long, long ride. In addition to hard work there was picnicking and swimming at Smalls Falls on Sunday. At the end of the week, the group went white water rafting on on the Kennebec River. This river has Class 2-4 rapids. Each raft had an extensively trained professional guide.

Please be sure to ask the young people about their trip for all of the fun details.



Zaria Cuffee



Jasmine Greene & Madison Lundy



Abrianna Kendrick



Josh Overton



Manny Heyer-Rivera & Taye McCord-Amasis

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director

There's Music In The Air

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord.
(Ephesians 5:19)

We are excited to announce expanded opportunities for youth and adults to participate in the music ministry of First Church. Joining me as leaders in this important ministry are **Sara Carter-Blandford**, director of our Gospel Choir; and **Evelyn Santiago**, director of the handbell and children's choirs.



The **GOSPEL CHOIR** will rehearse on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, beginning Aug. 31, and will sing during worship on the first Sunday of each month. *For more information or to participate, e-mail ladycarter78@hotmail.com.*

A new **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** will rehearse on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room, beginning Sept. 7. *For information or to participate, please e-mail escoqui@msn.com.*

VOICES IN BRONZE, our handbell choir, will rehearse on Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. in the Choir Room, beginning Sept. 7. *For information or to participate, please e-mail escoqui@msn.com.*

The **GERMANTOWN ORATORIO CHOIR**, our community concert choir, will rehearse on Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7:30-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 31. The first concert will be Handel's Messiah on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m. A second concert, the Brahms Requiem, is planned for Sunday, March 18, 2018. *For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.*

The **GOSPEL CHOIR** will rehearse on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, beginning Aug. 31, and will sing during worship on the first Sunday of each month. *For more information or to participate, e-mail ladycarter78@hotmail.com.*

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** will resume singing during Sunday services on Sept. 10. The choir meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. to warm up and rehearses following worship from 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room. The opening rehearsal of the season will be on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 1-3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.*

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, October 1, 4 p.m.
Jennings Room

A song recital to
inaugurate the Barbara
Russell Memorial Piano.

Evelyn Santiago, soprano
Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano
Ted W. Barr, piano



Tax-deductible contributions to support the First Church Concert Series are invited. Please make checks payable to FPCG and include "Music Opportunity Fund" in the memo line.



Youth Lounge Renovations

As we go to press, the work has begun! We are removing all the plaster and associated framing on the outside walls, cleaning the stone, pointing it, sealing and painting it with a moisture resistant paint in a neutral color; removing the present suspended ceiling, securing any cabling supported by the suspended ceiling and spray painting it dark brown; adding hanging light fixtures that use LED bulbs, replacing the counter top and upper cabinets and laying new floor tile, and of course a new sink and stove. This will give the room a young, contemporary look. The young people are excited and grateful that this is moving forward. We are able to start with some designated funds and funds from a generous donor and then will fundraise for the balance. We hope everyone will join in to support this project.

DEACONS' MEETING/ PICNIC IN VERNON PARK



The Deacons take their meeting outdoors.

The deacons of First Presbyterian met for business and comradery at a picnic in Vernon Park. They celebrated the service of Susan Mills Farrington and Linda Farlow who are exiting the Board and welcomed Carolyn Tarver and John Orandosh to the Board. Deacons Diane Filter and Don Carlin were unable to attend the celebration.

Birthdays



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

September

- 1 Erika Littles
- 1 Wayne Swift
- 2 D'Wayne Robinson
- 4 Sheila Heyer-Rivera
- 4 Roger Miller
- 6 Marlene Simmons
- 7 Ruth Cato
- 8 Robert Cato
- 9 Donald Carlin
- 9 Michelle E. Jones
- 9 Hortense Kennedy
- 10 Howard Tyrell
- 12 Frances Smith
- 13 Evelyn Hesse
- 14 Jade Bass
- 14 Ann Reisse
- 15 David Cassie
- 15 Rosemary Williams
- 17 Zady Hasse
- 18 Martin Lugunsad

“I Thought You Should Know”

I thought you should know how the future of the church is being cared for, molded, loved and guided as they prepare to one day take leadership roles in our church, community and world.

I thought you should know that youth of various ages (Elementary and Middle/High School) meet nearly every Friday night at FPCG for dinner, community (which is a lot of fun) and a Christian message/lesson. The number of attendees ranges from 10 to about 25.

I thought you should know that there's a drop-in center in the gym and youth lounge every Friday before youth fellowship in which about 20 - 30 young people attend.

I thought you should know that there's a middle school basketball team at FPCG that won the championship and runner-up title.

I thought you should know that there is now a basketball team at Linglebach Elementary School where youth are developing athletic, interpersonal and team spirit skills.

I thought you should know that the lunchroom at Linglebach has a little more adult supervision and guidance, encouraging more appropriate behavior during this down time for students.

I thought you should know that our youth are being guided theologically and constantly reminded of God's unfailing love for them in the Confirmation class and throughout their experiences at church.

I thought you should know that the nursery is well staffed by caring individuals who are lovingly monitored and who look after our youngest.

I thought you should know that FPCG has an urban learning project which hosts visiting groups coming to Philadelphia for mission projects. They are greeted, made to feel welcome and informed about the community around them.

I thought you should know that Freedom School has a Bible study component for each group in which some children may be exposed to the love of Jesus for the first time.

I thought you should know that trips, such as camping, the beach, apple picking and Cherry Crest Farm, are planned for families, youth and friends throughout the year in order to spend relational building time together.

I thought you should know that our middle/high school youth have the opportunity to attend service-learning projects in an effort to build a sense of responsibility to others. This year they travel to Maine to help build houses. In the past, they have traveled to Mississippi to help rebuild after hurricane Katrina.

I thought you should know that it is Christian Heyer-Rivera who spends hours and hours preparing and implementing all of the above comprehensive programs geared to the Christian development of our youth.

Not only does he plan and implement all of these activities, he does it in a way that develops and builds relationships between him and the participants, and the youth with each other that is immeasurable. He holds the youth accountable to themselves and to each other while expressing genuine love and concern for each and every one of them through each personal relationship. He also has a group of volunteers who share in his passion to serve the youth of our community. Ask him...he'll tell you who they are.

Yes, there are a lot of great things happening without youth at FPCG thanks to Christian and his volunteers. But a basement full of kids is not what is most important. It is the environment centered in God's love for us that allows and encourages the ability to deepen relationships between people that are most meaningful.

So, the next time someone asks you, "What does Christian do around here, anyway?" you should be well equipped to answer.

I thought you should know!!!

Andrea M Overton

Presbytery of Philadelphia Celebrates 300 Years of Witness



Since we organized in 1717, the Presbytery of Philadelphia has extended into the Greater Philadelphia region, with nearly 130 churches and worshipping communities in Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, and Delaware Counties. Our collective presence nurtures and empowers nearly 30,000 members who are commissioned to go out into the world as disciples of Jesus Christ. As we lean into our next century of witness, we trust the faith we proclaim, the grace we share, and the hope we live into will be nourished by the same Spirit who birthed us 300 years ago.

We invite you to join us in the varied ways we will celebrate our tri-centennial and even spark new ministry efforts in light of the good news of Jesus Christ that is as urgent today as it was when we first organized.

We are collecting faithful reflections from leaders around the Presbytery and beyond as we draw nearer to our 300th Anniversary Celebration Service.

We hope you will join us!

**Saturday, October 7
10am**

**Enon Tabernacle
Baptist Church**

**2800 West Cheltenham Ave
Philadelphia, PA**

*Guest preachers Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes,
President of Princeton Theological
Seminary, and Rev. Denise Anderson, Co-
Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly*

*Collective youth and adult choirs led by
Dr. Donald Dumpson and other music
leaders from around our presbytery*

*Special guests and leaders from the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and our
local community*

*Celebration of saints, past and present,
whose faithfulness continue to shape the
spirit of our witness today and tomorrow*



FINANCIAL INFO

PLEDGES TO DATE

\$ 202,719

EXPENSES

\$ 467,364

Your financial commitment is very much appreciated and this is evident in our income and expenses through the end of July.

Through the first seven months, July 31, 2017, the pledges received are in proportion to our annual budgeted figures. Our expenses are also in proportion to our annual budget.

As we near the end of summer please keep up your financial support. Our expenses continue, even while some of us are on vacation.

CHOIRS WELCOME PROSPECTIVE SINGERS FOR UPCOMING SEASON

Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir welcome new members for the 2017-2018 season! All interested singers are encouraged to join us for our September Open Houses. Keystone State Boychoir rehearses right here in FPCG and Pennsylvania Girlchoir rehearses at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill.

If you have a boy or girl who loves to sing, please sign them up for our fall open houses by sending an email to contact@cychoirs.org.

PENNSYLVANIA GIRLCHOIR BRING A FRIEND OPEN HOUSE

For Girls in Grades 3 through 8

Monday, September 18, 2017

4:15-5:30pm, Grades 3-5
6-8pm, Grades 5-7
6:30-8:30pm, Grades 7-9

Monday, September 25, 2017

4:15-5:30pm, Grades 3-5
6-8pm, Grades 5-7
6:30-8:30pm, Grades 7-9

KEYSTONE STATE BOYCHOIR BRING A FRIEND OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 21

6-7:15pm, Grades 3-4

Thursday, September 28

6-7:15pm, Grades 3-4

Saturday, September 23

9am-10:30am, Grades 5-8
12pm-2pm, Grades 9-12

CHILDREN'S BOOK SPOT

Mighty Champions of the Past

After a lengthy hiatus, the Book Spot is back. This month's column focuses on athletes of the past who excelled in their sports and/or performed outstanding athletic feats. Some of these athletes are well-known, others may be new to you. Most titles are for grades 2-4, but don't let that stop anyone from enjoying a well-written book, even if it is illustrated and written for children.

Adler, David A. *Satchel Paige: Don't Look Back*. Illustrated by Terry Widener. Harcourt, 2007.

Barretta, Gene. *Muhammed Ali: A Champion is Born*. Illustrated by Frank Morrison. HarperCollins, 2017.

Deans, Karen. *Playing to Win: The Story of Althea Gibson*. Illustrated by Elbrite Brown. Holiday House, 2007.

Hubbard, Crystal. *Game, Set, Match Champion Arthur Ashe*. Illustrated by Kevin Belford. Lee & Low, 2010.

Kootstra, Kara. *The Boy in Number Four*. With an afterword by Bobby Orr. Illustrated by Regan Thomson. Dial, 2014.

Krull, Kathleen. *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman*.

Illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt, 1996.

Macy, Sue. *Trudy's Big Swim: How Gertrude Ederle Swam the English Channel and Took the World by Storm*. Holiday House, 2017.

Malaspina, Ann. *Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper*. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Albert Whitman, 2012.

Rosenstock, Barb. *Fearless: The Story of Racing Legend Louise Smith*. Illustrated by Scott Dawson. Dutton, 2010.

Tavares, Matt. *Growing Up Pedro: How the Martinez Brothers Made It from the Dominican Republic All the Way to the Major Leagues*. Candlewick, 2015.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Racing Against the Odds: The Story of Wendell Scott, Stock Car Racing's African-American Champion*.

Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Amazon Children's Publishing, 2009.

Winter, Jonah. *Mickey Mantle: The Commerce Comet*. Illustrated by C. F. Payne. Schwartz & Wade, 2017.

Winter, Jonah. *Roberto Clemente: The Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates*. Illustrated by Raul Colon. Atheneum, 2005.

Winter, Jonah. *You Never Heard of Willie Mays?! Illustrated by Terry Widener. Schwartz & Wade, 2013.*

Winter, Jonah. *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! Illustrated by Andre Carrilho. Schwartz & Wade, 2009.*

Yoo, Paula. *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story*. Illustrations by Dom Lee. Lee & Low, 2005.



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