



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

The Pastor's Paragraphs



Randy Bremer,
Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of FPC in Germantown;

*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for His steadfast love endures for ever!*

November is a time for thanksgiving, a time for counting blessings and acknowledging God as the source of every good gift. Especially in times of trial and change the discipline of thanksgiving reminds us of God's faithfulness and calms our frayed nerves. As we progress on life's journey we have a longer memory to embrace, more encounters with the God who is there when most needed.

Donna and I are grateful for this congregation and the many friends we have grown to love at FPCG. God has enriched our lives by allowing us to be a part of your lives. Continue to serve the Lord with gladness. Continue to love God's children in Germantown.

In Christ,
Randy Bremer, Interim Pastor

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOV 12

Our fall stewardship campaign, **Gifts Given and Given Gladly**, continues.

During this time consider this passage:

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. *Timothy 6:18-19*

As you continue to pray throughout this time, think about how you can more faithfully seek God's kingdom as a follower of Jesus Christ. How is God calling you to do good, be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share.

Remember, as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting his 95 Theses that **the heart overflows with gladness.**

Stewardship Sunday will be on November 12th. There will be a congregational meeting after worship. Following this day pledge material will be mailed to the congregation for the next phase of the campaign - **your participation and commitment.** On Sunday, November 19th, please return your pledge commitment to be dedicated as part of the worship service.



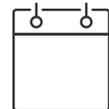
**Stewardship
Sunday**
November 12th

**Pledge
Commitment
Dedication**
November 19th

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.*



Sunday, Dec 3
4 pm

Messiah Concert & Annual Christmas Dinner

Germantown Oratorio Choir &
Orchestra

Free-will offering. Annual
Christmas Dinner after concert.
Tickets for dinner available soon.



Elementary School Youth Group

The Elementary School Youth Group met Friday night, October 20, 2017, and it was a blast! We shared a meal, talked about ways to care for people when they are sad, shared what we knew about Puerto Rico and the hurricane, and made cards to send to Puerto Rico. We even FaceTimed with Christian! Thanks to Jason Williams, Peter Ahn and Lisa and Matt Grewe for the help!

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 or email fpcgWindows@gmail.com.

Editor:

Deborah Thompson

Contributors:

Lois Nafziger-Bethea, Eileen Jones, Joe Leube, Heidi Mercado-Littles, Jim Thompson, F. Anthony Thurman

Design and Layout:

Kristin Puls of Mountain Paper www.mountainpaper.com



PIECES OF THE ROCK

Many memorials have been given for Jack Asher. These funds have been acknowledged and are gratefully added to the endowment in his honor and memory.

Jerry and Sally Beil
Chester and Joanne Asher III
Eleanor Brucker
Frank and Mary Loughran
Charles Kurz II
Ivy Hill Cemetery
A.R.& Associates
Myron J. Berman

Larry and Donna Kane
Earl and Pam Ball
Glenn and Barbara Becker
Wayne and Linda Swift
Bill and Bette Young
Haverford Trust Company
Thomas A Friend
Crescent Box Corporation



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)

The **GERMANTOWN ORATORIO CHOIR**, our community concert choir led by Tony Thurman.

Rehearsals: Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7:30-9 pm, beginning Oct. 31

Concerts: Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4pm; Brahms *Requiem*, on Sunday, March 18.

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.

For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

Heard Around the Office

Nothing is too small...

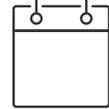
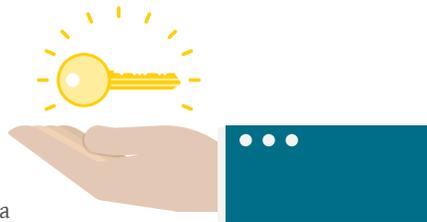
A few days ago, I was cleaning out the vault in the office. I found a key in a small envelope labeled "master key – use this one to make copies". Excitedly, I showed it to Terry Boyer, our Building Manager and said, "Give this one a try." The master key for the church caused constant problems.

The doors were difficult to unlock, the keys never seemed to consistently work properly. He tried it and reported "It works like butter! We can use this one to make some new copies. I have a good locksmith." The next day he reported that the key was lost. He knew he had it when he arrived at the church, it was in his pocket and now that he was ready to make copies, it was missing. He had no idea what could have happened to it. Being careless is not something anyone would say about Terry. It was a mystery. Terry retraced his steps, looked everywhere, no key.

That afternoon and evening the lost key kept coming to my mind and I found myself praying that Terry would find the key. The key seemed like such a good solution to a nagging problem. Each time it came to me, I prayed Terry would find it, even though I felt kind of silly praying about such a small thing. It was on my mind. The next morning I prayed one more time "I know it is a small thing, but a good master key would be so helpful to the sextons, please God help Terry find the key".

The next morning Terry met me at the door of the office and started in excitedly, "Remember the key? Well, I found it. But that is not the amazing thing." "Where was it?" "I was letting the electrician in the outside entrance to the youth lounge. A woman, from the street that I never met before came up to me, handed me a small crumpled envelope, said she found it the day before and asked if it was my key. I said it was and thanked her profusely for bringing it back to me." Then she said, "You can have your key back, but I also have a request of you. I want you to pray for me all day today." You know Terry. He said good naturedly, "I don't know if I can pray all day, but I will pray for half the day." And he did. We all did, Terry, Faith Lewis, the volunteer of the day and me. "Thank-you God for the key and for all of the burdens the woman was carrying, whatever her needs are today and every day, Lord hear our prayers."

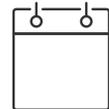
Lois Bethea
Office Volunteer



Sunday, Nov 12 after worship Congregational Meeting

To elect members of the congregation to Officer Nominating Committee and to hear the report of the Administration and Finance Committee.

Please plan to attend.



Sept 30 - Jan 21 A Grand Vision: Violet Oakley and the American Renaissance

Woodmere Art Museum

woodmereartmuseum.org
215-247-0476

Birthdays



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

November

- 3 Frank Lundy, Sr.
- 11 Elaine Gray
- 11 Madeline Valentine
- 16 Nancy Smith
- 17 Antonio Littles
- 20 Ruby Camarena
- 20 Heidi Mercado-Littles
- 20 Serafim Santos
- 26 Daniel Conner
- 27 Frank Lundy, II
- 29 Rhonda Highsmith
- 30 Pam Ball
- 30 Carolyn Tarver

FREE WORKSHOP



Sat, Nov 18
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Behavioral Health
Workshop
 FPCG Jennings Room

Members of the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health will conduct a day-long workshop on the skills needed to recognize and effectively respond to signs of depression and other behavioral health issues. Space is limited. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served.

Sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee and the Germantown Avenue Crises Ministry.

TO REGISTER:
 215-843-8811

Monte Carlo West! Off to the Races!



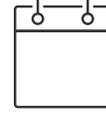
Nov 25 | 7:30-10:30 pm
Monte Carlo West
 Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum

We invite everyone to join us for our largest fundraiser of the year, Monte Carlo West! Off to the Races! The event will be on Saturday, November 25, 2017 from 7:30-10:30pm at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum. General Admission tickets are \$65 per person, \$125 for VIP and \$20 for Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir alumni.

Tickets & Info:

www.cychoirs.org/montecarlowest

Join Us at the FPCG Christmas Festival!



Dec 16 | 11 am-2 pm
Annual Christmas Festival

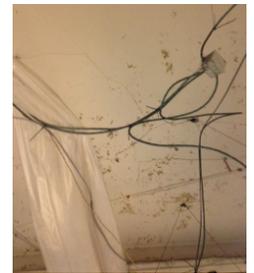
Crafts including annual favorite building gingerbread houses. Christmas carols, live animals with Nativity. Pictures with Santa. A light lunch will be served. All are members, neighbors and friends are invited.



More Info:

Christian Heyer-Rivera:
 215.843.8811 x 818

Youth Lounge Update



Caption goes here and here. Catem ulles doluptatia nihilq uiassit, cum ut doluptatet abo. Nequiut quos rerupta tempos es disciis eum qui officid usanditiis inctem simus

Work has been proceeding diligently since the beginning of August. We hit some “old building” roadblocks like an old plaster ceiling that partially collapsed, asbestos wrapped pipes to remediate and a wall we thought was stable that fell down. There were some bright spots too, a chance to use floor tiles offered by the general contractor from another large job that saved us a thousand dollars, a floor contractor that agreed to take up the old tile at no cost (because we are a church) and hard-working volunteers that pitched in and did the extras to make it a real quality job. As we go to press, we feel like we are on the last lap. If all goes according to plan, we may be able to dedicate the new space by Thanksgiving. We are anxious to give tours.

What about the fundraising? Many, many people and families stepped up and generously donated funds for the project. We met our initial goal of \$30,000. But if your gift is lost on your desk, there is still a chance to help out with the “old building” roadblocks we mentioned above. We are planning a full report and an acknowledgement of the donors in next month’s *Windows*. Our God is so good, and our church family is so amazing. Thanks to all.





GACM Thanksgiving Baskets

ALL THANKSGIVING BASKETS INCLUDE:

Meat, Vegetables, Yams, Stuffing, Starch, Dessert, Cranberry Sauce, Gravy, and Bread

Suggested Items

MEAT

turkey, turkey breast, roasting chicken

VEGETABLES

*green beans, peas, corn, collard or kale greens,
yams or sweet potatoes*

STARCH

mashed potatoes, rice, macaroni & cheese

CRANBERRY SAUCE

STUFFING

DESSERTS

cake mix & icing, cookie mix

Basket Distribution

Nov. 17 & Nov. 20

Donations

The GACM is requesting either financial or food item donations. The cost of each basket is approximately \$35.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help sort food items and pack and distribute baskets. Volunteers will need to dress comfortably and be prepared to work a minimum of two hours. Contact the GACM office to sign up and indicate your hours of availability.



FINANCIAL INFO

PLEDGES

Budgeted	To Date
\$ 360,000	\$ 255,125

EXPENSES

Budgeted	To Date
\$ 795,502	\$ 572,589

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

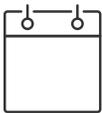
Through the first nine months, September 30, 2017, the pledges received are in proportion to our annual budgeted figures. Our expenses are also in proportion to our annual budget.

As we move to the end of the year, **your continued support is crucial** to our financial success. With our large older building maintenance continues to exceed our budgeted expectations. We will soon move into the heating season, and utilities can also be a challenge.

As you are also aware the renovations in the Youth Lounge are progressing. However, we continue to uncover issues that are more expensive to remedy, but necessary. This means we are very cautious as we get this work done and at the same time have the cash on hand to meet our obligations.

Many thanks to all of you who continue to support your church through your financial commitments.

MEAL PACKING WITH RISE AGAINST HUNGER



Jan 15, 2018 | 9 am

Day of Service

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum



MORE INFO:

Chris Scott

cscottjr@gmail.com

or

Gloria Bethea

[gloriabethea36](mailto:gloriabethea36@yahoo.com)

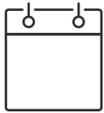
@yahoo.com

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on January 15, 2018, the members of First Presbyterian Church in Germantown will join others in a day of service by hosting our second meal packing event with Rise Against Hunger (formerly known as Stop Hunger Now). Last year, approximately one hundred volunteers filled a music and energy filled Longstreth Auditorium to pack meals to aid our global neighbors. We raised \$7200 which allowed us to help pack over 26,000 meals. Volunteers of all ages are asked to join us on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. to help move toward the goal of ending world hunger by 2030. A light meal will be served.

Items for next *Windows* due Nov. 20. Submit to fpcgWindows@gmail.com.



19TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL DINNER



Weds, Nov 15

Empty Bowl Dinner

United Lutheran Seminar
7301 Germantown Ave

*Benefits Philadelphia Interfaith
Hospitality Network*

SPECIAL DINNER HOST:

Mike McGrath of WHYY's You Bet
Your Garden

TIMES:

4-5:30 | 5:30-7:00 | 7:00-8:30

TICKETS:

Adults: \$25.00

Students & Children: \$10.00

Seating is limited.

Tickets & Info:

www.philashelter.org

(215) 247-4663 x142

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Thank you to all who donated snacks, provided meals or volunteered as hosts during our fall NPIHN session. Though the families have moved on to another congregation, we ask you to continue to pray for them. As you can imagine, managing children, work and the search for affordable permanent housing can be stressful. FPCG is pleased to not only house the families each fall and spring. Through the Mission and Outreach Committee, we provide financial support to the part organization.



Dear Friends from First Presbyterian Church in Germantown:

In reviewing our records, I realize that we never acknowledged your generous donation made to PIHN in June. Please know that while the note arrives late, our thanks are heartfelt just the same! We hope that you will share our thanks with the Missions Committee and with the church community.

The Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (NPIHN) extends our thanks to the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown for donating \$2,200, from your 2017 Social Mission's budget. The funds will be used for NPIHN's general operating budget for our shelter and supportive services programs for families.

Your donation keeps our programs preventing homelessness and sheltering displaced families going and growing for many families in need. PIHN has had a busy and productive year. We have sheltered and moved 23 families to stability, prevented homelessness for an additional 25 families, and mentored a growing cohort of 150 alumni families who utilize our supportive services on a regular basis. We are so proud of their accomplishments, completing college degrees, obtaining living-wage jobs, with some even moving on to home ownership.

With 10 year waiting lists for affordable housing, families continue to be the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. We are busy advocating for policy changes that would commit the City of Philadelphia to put resources into preventing homelessness. We know that our efforts are making a difference. While our program helping one family at a time is a small piece of what needs to get accomplished, we are making a huge difference for those who come our way.

Thank you also for opening your church home to our families! They always enjoy their stays with you and we are thrilled that some of our families liked it so much that they have made you their church community! May our communities of faith continue to work together to eliminate homelessness, living our lives with a sense of responsibility towards one another. Thank you again for all you do!

Sincerely,

Rachel Falkove
Executive Director

TRICK OR TREAT



A special thank you to the Hood family for hosting another wonderful Halloween Party this year. On October 31 from 5:30 PM to 8 PM, fifty (50) people joined in the Halloween fun including over 30 church and community children.



CHILDREN'S BOOK SPOT

Suffrage, or the Right to Vote

In crafting the Constitution, the Founding Fathers got many things right, but also several things wrong. A most glaring failure was the omission of the universal right to vote. At first, only wealthy white males could vote. (Wealth equaled, for example, acreage, heads of cattle or numbers of enslaved persons owned.) Corrections came in the form of two amendments, the 15th Amendment (a person cannot be denied the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude) and the 19th Amendment (a person cannot be denied the right to vote based on her sex). The 1965 Voting Rights Bill strengthened the 15th Amendment. This month's column focuses on books, fiction and nonfiction, about voting and people who fought for universal suffrage in the United States.

NONFICTION (grades 4+)

Bausum, Ann. *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote*. National Geographic, 2004.

Colman, Penny. *Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: A Friendship That Changed the World*. Henry Holt, 2011.

Freedman, Russell. *Because They Marched: The People's Campaign for Voting Rights that Changed America*. Holiday House, 2014.

Fritz, Jean. *You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?* Illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan. Putnam, 1995.

Partridge, Elizabeth. *Marching for Freedom: Walk Together Children and Don't You Grow Weary*. Viking, 2009.

FICTION (grades 2-3)

Christelow, Eileen. *Vote!* Clarion, 2003.

McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Ballot Box Battle*. Knopf, 1996.

Winter, Jonah. *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*. Illustrated. Shane W. Evans. Schwartz & Wade, 2015.



NONFICTION (Grades 2-3)

Malaspina, Ann. *Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President*. Illustrated by Steve James. Albert Whitman, 2012.

Robbins, Dean. *Miss Paul and the President: The Creative Campaign for Women's Right to Vote*. Illustrated by Nancy Zhang. Knopf, 2016.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote*. Illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon. Henry Holt, 2008.

White, Linda. *I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote*. Pictures by Nancy Carpenter. FSG, 2005.



DELIVER TO:



THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN GERMANTOWN



35 West Chelten Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144

phone
215.843.8811

fax
888.333.5032

info@fpcgermantown.org