



# • Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

## Minister's Message

By Rev. Rebecca Segers



This is our *Windows*' double issue. The one that is meant to send us off for the summer with blessings and hope. To propel us with joy in the possibilities: for Freedom School, for family vacations, for block parties (notwithstanding their attendant traffic woes), for sun and possibly even trips near sand and sea. Yet I find myself struggling to write a message of happiness and hope in these trying times.

Last week, I went to the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast (NHPB) with a couple of folks from FPCG. It was a time of prayer and thanksgiving for good missional work being done around the country, but the stain of immigrant children ripped from their parents' arms, separated from family members and thrust into detainment camps as near as New Jersey, was on everyone's lips. It is a tragedy that has left me feeling both helpless and heartsick.

A few days before that, I was chatting with a couple of other people from First Pres; we were discussing the NHPB and my expectations and concerns as I knew that we would be listening to speeches from the Speaker of the House and the Vice President of the United States. One of them began talking about her belief that with God all things are possible, referencing Matthew 19:26, and the hope that the transformative power of the Lord might lead the administration in a different direction. I said that I have been resting in the prophets lately, remembering the powerful words of Jeremiah having a vision of plans for a future with hope, even while the people were in Babylonian exile. The third person confessed a sensibility more like Jonah's at the end of the biblical story – the part where, after he has undergone all his trials, followed God's call to go and preach to the people of Ninevah and they have repented, Jonah is still angry at their transgressions and longs for God to rain down vengeance upon them. This individual stated that even if the administration took a turn for the better, the power of anger at damage already done was so strong that it was hard to imagine feeling joy at more just behavior.

Frederick Buechner writes in *Wishful Thinking*, "Of the seven deadly sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor the to the last toothsome morsel both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back – in many ways it is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you."

While I agree with Buechner's sentiments, I also understand and can even long to remain in the anger. It feels so much better than helplessness. However, I am aware of the fact that the aforementioned conversation with parishioners was centered in scripture. It is amazing to me that I am leading a congregation that truly strives to be God's people and faithfully finds itself through God's word. *This* is a message of happiness and hope to me.

So while we go into these summer months with all the joys and challenges it will bring, I am ultimately grateful above all to be a part of the mission and ministry of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. Grateful to be continuing to get to know you, pray for and with you, and above all, love you, as we strive together to be the people God imagines us to be.



## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m.**

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.**

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To learn more, please email  
[fpcg.germantown@gmail.org](mailto:fpcg.germantown@gmail.org)  
or call the church office at  
215-843-8811.

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**Windows** is a publication of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. For questions regarding the information published here or to submit content, please call the church office at 215-843-8811 or email: [fpcgwindows@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgwindows@gmail.com).

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## FINANCIAL INFO TO DATE

### CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

**\$132,900**



### EXPENSES

**\$349,268**

After five months into 2018, pledges are in line for five months. Your financial commitment is essential to our financial success. To date you have been very diligent in keeping up your pledge which is very much appreciated.

Expenses continue to run ahead of what we might expect for five months. Property expenses in particular are ahead of budget, due to the heating season but also continual maintenance on our older building. Music expenses are also ahead of budget due to the addition of our children's choir and bell choir programs. However, as we move into warmer months some of our utilities should decrease. Also, we will not have children's choir and bell choir expenses during the summer. We have continued to have major maintenance expenses, which are necessary in order to keep our building in safe and good working order.

During the summer months, please try and keep up your pledge; even when some of us are away the church continues to operate.

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## Final 2017 Financial Report

Preliminary 2017 financial results were published in the February *Windows*. Preliminary results are based on year end accounting data prior to review by an outside financial consultant. The 2017 review has been completed and the results are slightly different from the preliminary report.

### Actual Income

\$791,192

### Actual Expenses

\$779,143

### Net

\$12,051

Although our pledge income was lower than prior years, our total expenses also were below budget. This combination resulted in a net surplus of \$12,051. Thanks are due to the careful oversight of our various committees that resulted in most being under budget except for Property and Worship/Music. Our actual income used the budgeted carryover from 2017 of \$11,000; we also took \$5,246 more than the combined budgeted investment draw. The net surplus can be used in future years.

Property was over budget due to the constant emergency repairs that are necessary to keep our building safe, inviting and usable. Worship and Music was over budget due to the addition of the Children's Choir and the Handbell programs, both worthy additions to our worship experience.

Our 2016 Financial review revealed that we should alter the reporting method for income from restricted sources. Restricted means that the donor has restricted (earmarked) those funds to a specific use. We engaged a new financial consultant, recommended by the Philadelphia Presbytery Business Manager, to assist us in making these changes. The 2017 review has taken this into account using an interim methodology; beginning with 2018 our financial reports will have changes to their format to meet this need.

## Summer Birthdays!

Samuel Whyte, July 3  
 Marney Hague, July 6  
 Veda Gibbs, July 7  
 Delores Adams, July 8  
 Rossie Gardenhire, July 13  
 Charles Bethea, July 14  
 Emery Hood, July 15  
 Zaria Cuffee, July 18  
 Arlene Grace, July 18  
 Cynthia Thomas, July 18  
 Aidan McCord-Amasis, July 19  
 Peter Smith, July 19  
 Stephanie Garrett, July 23  
 Diane Filter, July 26  
 Gloria Bethea, July 28  
 Michael Brooks, July 29  
 Kenney Gibbs, July 29  
 L. Stuart Ditzen, July 30  
 Linda Swift, July 31



Leah Hood, Aug. 4  
 Richard Liberty, Aug. 8  
 Lois VanEerden, Aug. 8  
 Jameson McCord-Amasis, Aug. 11  
 Delores Solomon, Aug. 11  
 Siena Williams, Aug. 12  
 Joseph Leube, Aug. 14  
 Anthony Ohemeng, Aug. 15  
 DeShaye Carter, Aug. 17  
 Kathleen Adams, Aug. 18  
 Lois Nafziger-Bethea, Aug. 19  
 Johari Smith, Aug. 20  
 Helen Brown, Aug. 24  
 William Lewis, Aug. 29  
 Zach Hasse, Aug. 30  
 Khalil Overton, Aug. 31  
 Shawde Rolle, Aug. 31

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.*

## STEWARDSHIP



How does our church get the income to finance our ministry and mission?

What is required to financially support all the various activities?

Our operating budget ranges from \$750,000 to \$800,000 per year. That covers building/facility, program and personnel costs as well as mission support for outside causes, just to name a few. It does **not** include some of the programs that are housed at FPCG but operate separately, such as the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry.

The income to support these efforts comes from three sources:

1. Pledges, gifts and miscellaneous other income;
2. Endowment proceeds;
3. Additional investment gains

The first source is self-explanatory, the second refers to proceeds from our endowment that represent the concept of a *total return distribution* process and the last source is investment gain **above** the total return spending level.

Basically, sources 1 & 2 are what we should be using and, ideally, source 3 should not be used since we want the endowment to provide resources to the church in perpetuity.

To give you a perspective on how much each source provides:

<u>Source</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
1	48.8%	50.6%
2	26.3%	26.0%
3	24.8%	23.3%

The encouraging sign is that source 3 is reducing and source 1 is increasing.

To put this in basic terms, for every \$1 the church has as income, only 1/2 comes from pledges, gifts and other income; 1/4 comes from the wonderful saints who came before us and provided this legacy; and the last 1/4 constitutes a mortgage on the future.

**We need to improve our emphasis on planned giving and other estate planning items that will enable our endowment to keep pace with our needs.** Do you have our church as a beneficiary in your estate documents? In your retirement programs?

### FROM MAURICE HORNE:

My Dear Family at FPCG,

My brother and I want to send our appreciation, thanks, and love each and everyone of you. The love, support and encouragement that you, our church family, give us is unmatched, and is pure reassurance that there is a God and he loves us. Every perfect gift is from God! I also want to thank each and everyone one of you for keeping my brother and me in your thoughts and prayers. We are grateful and very appreciative of your support. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers. We love you, and we thank you.

*Love,*

**Maurice Horne**

## Rachel Circle

### 2017 Annual Report

#### Meetings

- 3rd Monday of each month  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Jennings Room
- Moderator: Dhyan Cassie

#### Purpose and Responsibilities

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

- Nurture our faith through prayer and bible study
- Support the mission of the church worldwide
- Work for justice and peace
- Build an inclusion, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom
- Welcome all women of the church to join us for fellowship, Bible study and witness

#### Members

All the women of  
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

#### Overview/Accomplishments

In 2017, we financially supported Presbyterian Women Church Wide, the Synod, the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering and Birthday Offering. We made substantial financial contributions to Freedom School and Stop Hunger Now. Our Circle hosted coffee hour the fifth Sunday of the months having five Sundays. Our project of collecting eyeglasses for countries in need has resulted in over 50 pairs of eyeglasses donated.

#### Attendees:

Dhyan Cassie, Moderator; Rossie Gardenhire, Vice Moderator; Madeline Valentine, Secretary; Rosy Walkenhorst, Interim Secretary; Mary Lundy, Treasurer; Marlene Young, Bible Study Leader; Barbara Harris, Debra Gary, Elaine Pennel, Carolyn Tarver, Lois Nafziger Bethea

#### Looking Ahead

The Rachel Circle has asked that the **July Challenge support the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering**, which supports a multitude of domestic and international projects, continues to financially support Freedom School, works with Rev. Segers to bring God's word to the community and beyond and participates in the larger church through Philadelphia Presbyterian Women and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

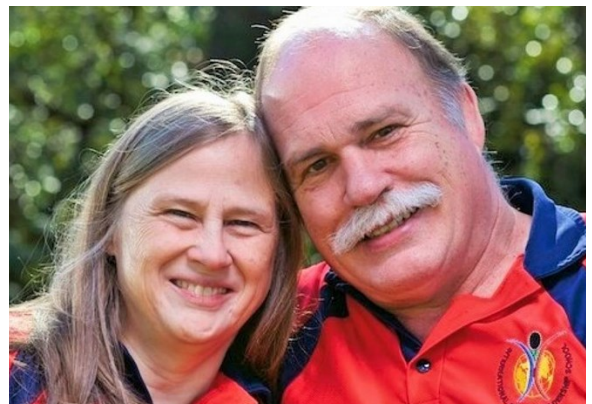
## August Challenge Offering: Athletes in Action (AIA)

As a ministry of **Cru** (the new name for *Campus Crusades for Christ*), AIA's goal is to reach the sportspeople for Christ and train them to share their faith with others. Christ told his followers to go out into the world with Good News.

Carl and Noreen Dambman have devoted more than 40 years in many countries to AIA, and they have a special connection to First Church. Carl's parents were longtime members and we have supported Carl and Noreen's ministry for many years.

Carl recently provided an update of his and Doreen's activities, explaining that they will be in South Africa serving as "shepherds" at the *International Sports Leadership School* this summer, training approximately 20 students from 18 different countries as servant leaders. The Dambmans were in Moscow in May to celebrate AIA's 25th Annual Sports Ministry Leaders Conference, and Carl was in Kiev, Ukraine in June training at the Sports Chaplaincy School. Carl states, "We are very grateful for the prayers and financial support we receive from First Church."

The Dambmans' continue to need our prayers, resources and financial support for their continued work with AIA. **Please help to ensure that their important work can continue by contributing generously to the August Challenge Offering.**





## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director

### AGO National Convention in Kansas City

In July, I will join more than 1,300 organists and choral conductors at the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City. The American Guild of Organists is the largest organization in the world supporting organists and choral conductors and promoting what Mozart, himself, called the *King of Instruments*.

The AGO National Convention offers a more comprehensive selection of educational workshops, concerts of organ and choral music, and opportunities for professional and social networking than any other single event for church musicians. It is the world's largest trade show for organ and choral music publishers, organ builders and manufacturers, touring and artist management companies, college and university organ degree programs, choir robes, bells and chimes!

This professional gathering serves two purposes for me. As director of development and communications, my full-time executive-level position in the national office, I support the convention through fundraising, public relations, and by organizing donor receptions and other VIP events. I also attend the convention as a professional musician in order to take advantage of continuing education opportunities. It is a time for reconnecting with colleagues from all parts of the country, for learning new things, and making new connections. Since I began attending these conventions in 1986, I have only missed one and always look forward to going. This year's convention schedule allows me to attend without missing a Sunday at First Church.



### SUMMER MUSIC

We give thanks for the men who offered their voices and talents on Father's Day. The men's choir, which spanned the full width of our choir loft, sang *My Jesus, I Love Thee*, an arrangement by Jesse Padgett, and a setting of the moving spiritual, *Steal Away to Jesus*. There are opportunities for vocal soloists and ensembles as well as instrumentalists from the congregation to offer their gifts in worship this summer. To participate, please call the church office or email [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com). The church choirs will be back in September.

### ORGAN REPAIRS

The organ pipes that were removed from the East Chancel organ chamber after a roof leak are being repaired, revoiced, and prepared for their return to us this summer. I spent a day at Emery Bros. in Allentown in June to inspect the work being carried out. Although we are running behind the original timeline for this work to be completed, it is being done with great skill and care—and all by hand.

### Reading Buddies Ends After 50 Years

**Reading Buddies**, the intergenerational tutoring program in which First Church has participated for many years, officially came to an end during the month of June concluding 50 years of existence. On Saturday, June 9, a luncheon was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia in honor of Patricia P. Quigg, the founder of Reading Buddies. Sharing the head table with Pat was Lois VanEerden who has been the assistant director for 20 years and who was honored for her years of commitment. Sam Whyte, who headed the evening section of Reading Buddies in its beginning years and who is secretary/treasurer of the board, was one of the speakers.

**Reading Buddies** started as Monday School in the fellowship hall of First Philadelphia and over the years expanded to 25 sites with 200 volunteers and many more children. Just as important as the tutoring were the friendships that grew between the children and the retirees. A conservative estimate is that a minimum of 20,000 Philadelphia school children have been served by Reading Buddies. As one of the teachers from a participating school has said, "*What we are really providing is hope for the future . . . When you see the children working one on one with a volunteer who really cares, you see them opening up to new ideas, individuals and experiences. You see growth, love and hope.*"

**Over the years**, many FPCG members have served as tutors, and the Mission and Outreach Committee has been a generous supporter. Reading Buddies was once cited by HUD as the finest tutoring program of its kind in the nation; in 2007, Pat Quigg was selected by AARP as the Volunteer of the Year in Pennsylvania.



# Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we find ourselves with limited resources. None-the-less, last month we fulfilled 579 social service requests, connected clients to \$26,791 to resolve utility crises, and distributed literally *tons* of food. If you find yourself in need, know that GACM may be able to help.

## The more you know . . .

- If you are between the ages of 18 and 64 and permanently disabled, or over the age of 65, and meet the income guidelines, you may be eligible for a Pennsylvania property tax or rent rebate. Information and assistance completing the form are available in the Ministry office.
- GACM has received a donation of size S/M Depends undergarments. Other sizes and brands may also be available. See Eileen Jones or contact the Ministry at 215-843-2340.

## More people could go hungry—please help:

Please call 202-224-3121 (you will be connected to your elected official) and tell Congress how important SNAP (formerly food stamps) is to you, your family and the community. With action, we can try to stop the government from passing laws that take people off of SNAP. More people cut off of SNAP means more people coming to food cupboards and pantries. ***It only takes two minutes—please call!***

## You're invited . . .

The Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry invites you to help celebrate its 21<sup>st</sup> year of helping neighbors in need in Northwest Philadelphia.

To ***celebrate*** the anniversary, GACM supporters and volunteers are teaming up to participate in a **21-day fundraising campaign from August 28 to September 18.**

The purpose of the campaign is to raise funds to support GACM's **emergency services**: food cupboard, housing assistance, and other basic needs.

The teams are planning fun-filled "Good Neighbor" activities or events that not only raise funds for the Ministry, but also contribute to **strengthening community bonds here in Germantown.**

Your **"Good Neighbor Event"** can be as big or small as you'd like, from a small party at your home to a barbecue **for** your entire block. You could organize a neighborhood game of basketball or a meet and greet at a local park. **Or, you can simply donate online at [www.crisisministry.org](http://www.crisisministry.org).**

***The options are endless!***

**Contact Hope Primas for more info: [hprimas@crisisministry.org](mailto:hprimas@crisisministry.org) or call 215-843-2340.**

## Celebrate with Us on Friday, September 28!

GACM has planned a very festive event that takes inspiration from National Good Neighbor Day, our volunteers, donors and clients.

**Join us and enjoy great food, an auction and some surprises!**

*Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.*



## Circles Do Not End

by Marlene Young

Cycles of life sometimes tend to confound us.  
Unwanted changes they develop around us

New introductions attempt to astound us.  
While memories of losses continue to hound us.

When we are confronted by good things that leave us,  
we feel deep inside the emotions that grieve us.

Our thoughts of security turn out to deceive us.  
We are left with the sadness from things that bereave us.

I think there is hope at the end of our present plight.  
For things are beginning while endings are in sight.

When one thing is lost for what's left we must then fight.  
When one thing goes wrong we must look for what's still right.

Take from adversity whatever you see wrong.  
Make it a tool that will help you remain strong  
Reshape the sadness to make it your happy song.  
We all must mourn but just don't let it last long  
Think of the fun and the good times we all shared.  
Think of the wisdom and friendship we found here.

The circle will go on as long as we still care.  
Complete and unending so let's hear the fanfare.

If you want to share an article, essay or poem—it could be something you've read or even written yourself—that you feel reflects the values of FPCG, we invite you to submit it to [fpcgwindows@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgwindows@gmail.com).



## A Glimpse into the Action at the 2018 General Assembly

by Elder Contina Lundy

I think I have caught the General Assembly bug!

I know. I know. You think I am crazy, but it is true.

I am a first-time Commissioner from FPCG and desperately wanted to be more involved in the national church. General Assembly, #GA223 has done that and more.

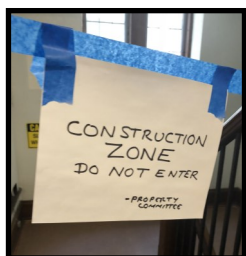
I had the pleasure to serve on The Way Forward Committee led by Rev. Cindy Jarvis. Our agenda was quite long and intensive. The reading of motions alone had me second guessing myself and why I desired to be more connected to the national church. But watching first hand and even lending my voice at times, I knew I was at the right place. It was amazing to watch as we worked together to do God's work. I was so honored that I had this opportunity and look forward to other opportunities such as this.

*Thank you, Philadelphia Presbytery!*



### Gospel Choir Luncheon

Old table in the Jennings Room  
beautifully refinished by  
multi-talented volunteer,  
William Wes.  
Thank you so much William!

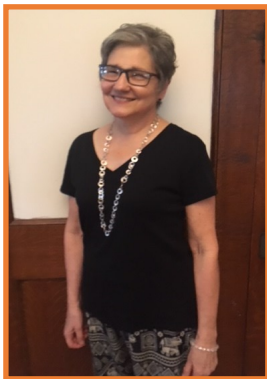


We are so grateful to the incredibly hard-working church members and volunteers who have been working to transform currently unusable areas of the church basement into inviting space that will enable us to add rental income to the church budget. We are in the process of speaking to possible tenants as this newsletter goes to press!



*New Rainbow Fish Symbol!*





## Lois Nafziger Bethea—the Wow Factor

by Sam Whyte

When she first walked into First Church in 1984, Lois Nafziger was overcome by the beauty of the sanctuary and that's when the young mother of two girls in the Sunday School, uttered the first "wow." The second "wow" came when Lois heard the choir sing. She was hooked.

Lois Ann Nafziger was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia, the daughter of Melville, a Mennonite pastor, and Esther Nafziger. In 1949, when Lois was two years old, the family moved to Wilmington, Delaware where they started a Mennonite church. From the Mennonites Lois learned the values of simplicity and not following the ways of the world.

Lois attended the University of Delaware, majoring in elementary education. She credits her father, now in his nineties, with encouraging her to obtain an education during a time when a woman was expected to stay home and be a dutiful wife.

After college in 1971, Lois, along with her former husband, moved to Nazareth, Ethiopia to work as missionaries for the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. It was during their three years in Ethiopia that daughter Jen was born and daughter Sara was adopted. Lois shares that she, a child of the late Sixties, came home from Ethiopia a changed woman, having come to the realization that, for her, there was no connection between happiness and material wealth.

Back home, this time in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Lois accepted a teaching position at an elementary school and realized that, as much as she loves children, she wasn't equipped to handle "classrooms bunches of 30 children." She resigned and was later hired by the Institute for Paralegal Training, where she so impressed top management that they suggested she go to law school—at their expense. She attended Temple Law School at night for four years and graduated only to discover the Institute was on such shaky financial ground they were unable to give her the position she'd been promised.

For the next seven years, Lois practiced law at a firm where she became aware of the tremendous

need for Elder Law, but the firm wasn't interested, saying Elder Law was "law for poor people." Eventually Lois joined the firm of High Swartz in Norristown and became a pioneer in the field of Elder Law. Next, as she was retiring, Lois set up a non-profit pooled trust for people with special needs which now serves people in 47 states.

Lois is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of seven grandchildren. Daughter Sara Greene and Sara's children, Jasmine and Jason, are active members at FPCG. Daughter Jennifer Carson lives in Arizona with her husband Andrew and children Shelby, Aidan, Holden, Quincy and Memphis.

To say Lois is involved in the church is an understatement. Over the years she has served on many committees, including chairing the Administration and Finance Committee and serving as Clerk of Session. Her major focus the last several years has been as volunteer office manager, a job she finds fun by starting mornings having a cup of coffee with building manager, Terry Boyer. Recognizing "a crying need for help in the office," she recruited our amazing volunteers—Ruth Cato, Ernie Freeman, Faith Lewis, Mary Lundy and Carolyn Tarver—each of whom works every week on a regularly scheduled day.

One of Lois' major concerns is the amount of funding needed to maintain the building. "I agonize over the effort and money to keep this beautiful old building in shape. It is of such great importance to the community, an irreplaceable gem on this spot, an oasis for so many," Lois says.

One more "wow" needs to be added to the Lois Nafziger story. It is at the church that she met and married her husband, Charles Bethea. Even though Lois welcomed retirement to spend more time with her children and grandchildren, she says that Charles, a commercial realtor by trade, won't retire, as he proclaims, "until five years after death." Charles, a committed member of FPCG and a participant in the Gospel Choir, united with the congregation in 2003. Summing up her experience at FPCG, Lois says, "It has grabbed my soul!"





Wednesday, July 4  
Independence Day  
*Church Closed*

**Paper Shredding**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
*and*  
**Electronic Recycling**  
9 a.m. to early afternoon



**Saturday, July 14**  
**Church Parking Lot**

The Mission and Outreach Committee is sponsoring a paper shredding and electronic recycling event on Saturday, July 14. The following electronic items will be accepted:

- Computer towers.
- Laptop computers.
- Tablets.
- Servers.
- Flat screen monitors.
- Phone systems.
- Game consoles.
- Flat screen TVs.
- Stereos/Radios.
- Small appliances.
- Cell phones/calculators.

**The general cost is \$5.** However, because of environmental issues that call for safe disposal, additional fees from \$35 to \$85 are necessary for certain larger electronics: CRT monitors, conventional TVs, projection TVs. For a fee of \$15, air conditioners and dehumidifiers will be accepted.

**Church Committees are invited to sponsor a flea market table,** the proceeds of which will go to the committee.

*For more information, please see Gloria Bethea during Coffee Hour.*



**Congratulations to  
Peter Ahn  
on his  
Ordination!**

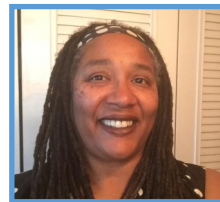
## A Warm Welcome to our New Members!

**Margaret Mukai** moved to Philadelphia from Oneonta, New York last winter and began attending First Church in February. Before long she joined both the Chancel and Gospel choirs.



**Her work has included** plant and pharmaceutical research, teaching and nursing.

**Margaret very much looks forward to volunteering at FPCG this summer!**



**Lydia Overton is the daughter** of Irene Overton and the late Rev Kermit Overton. She spent her early years in Cameroon and Nigeria while her parents were serving as Presbyterian missionaries. After

returning to the USA, Lydia lived in Mt Airy, attending the First African Presbyterian Church and later Mt Airy Presbyterian.

**Even before officially joining FPCG,** Lydia sang for many years in the Oratorio Choir, assisted in the hosting of PIHN families, read stories to the scholars at Freedom School and more.

**Lydia has worked** as a certified music therapist and licensed massage therapist. She holds a masters degree from LaSalle University in Marriage and Family Therapy and did some of her clinical counseling work right here at FPCG.

**Lydia recently returned to Philadelphia** from Maryland to be a caregiver for her mother. While helping her mother with some tech issues, Lydia realized how much she liked helping people use their computers. In addition to her other skills, she is now a Computer Service Technician, which means she is able to build and fix computers.

**And last but not least,** Lydia is an animal lover with "a very cute and spoiled dog, Max."

**It's Summer and Good Books Are Plentiful!**

Time for picnics, family reunions, vacations, summer camp, days at the shore or the ballpark and, of course, reading. I close out seven years of Book Spot columns with a list of a few good books guaranteed to keep everyone's brain cells sharp during summer vacation. Although I mark the titles for advanced or older readers with asterisks, I wish to emphasize **personal interest**, not "reading level" is the most important reason for choosing a book.

Happy Reading!

Deborah Thompson

Aston, Dianna Hutts. *A Beetle Is Shy*. Illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books, 2016.

Bolden, Tonya. *How to Build a Museum: Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture*. Viking, 2016. \*

Brown, Don. *Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History*. Roaring Brook, 2015.

Brown, Don. *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. \*

Chin, Jason. *Grand Canyon*. Roaring Brook, 2017.

Erskine, Kathryn. *Mama Africa! How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with Her Song*. FSG, 2017.

Coy, John. *Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game*. Carolrhoda, 2015.

Fleming, Candance. *Giant Squid*. Illustrated by Eric Rohmann. Roaring Brook, 2016.

Hill, Laban Carrick. *When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop*. Roaring Brook, 2013.

Maclear, Kyo. *Bloom: A Story of Fashion Designer Elsa Schiaparelli*. HarperCollins, 2018.

Paul, Miranda. *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of The Gambia*. Millbrook Press, 2015.

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Remember to keep the participants of the **Puerto Rico Mission Trip**, July 21-28, in your thoughts and prayers!  
(Please see June 2018 *Windows* for trip details.)



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