



# • Windows •

*The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
October 2018*

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Items for the October issue of Windows are due on **October 17**. Send to [fpcgwindows@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgwindows@gmail.com).

## **From the Pastor**

*by Rev. Rebecca Segers*



“Fear Not.”

“Do not be afraid.”

“Be anxious for nothing.”

The charge to let go of anxiety and fear occurs over 300 times in the Bible, more often than any other sentiment. I think there is a reason for that.

We human beings are set up for fear. From the time of our creation, our survival instinct, lodged in our reptilian complex—the oldest part of our brain, controlling our vital functions, such as breathing, heart rate, and body temperature—calls us to fight or flee in times of stress or anxiety. Our brains are pre-programmed to act and react, in case of threat. Yet God tells us in our Holy Word to do the opposite. The question is: How?

Diana Butler Bass, author of “Grateful” and keynote speaker at the Kaleidoscope conference I recently attended, told us that science proclaims practicing gratitude stymies the reptilian brain responses. That one cannot be grateful and afraid at the same time. That when we intentionally sit in gratitude, think of the things that we are grateful for, act on those feelings of gratitude, our brain is not capable of being fearful.

We have so much to be grateful for. The love of God in Jesus Christ, the community of faith to which we belong that actively strives to practice that love and share it with others, our family and friends, and so much more. I intend to more actively practice gratitude in the days, weeks, and months ahead, and charge you to do the same. In so doing, I believe we can more faithfully and fully become the people God imagines us to be.

May it be so!



## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sundays at 10 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.**

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

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## THIRD SUNDAY A HIT!!



Participants turn their concerns into fruit, sharing burden and blessings with Jesus through the story of Zacchaeus in art.

There's a fresh spirit blowing through Coffee Hour on the Third Sunday of every month: an opportunity to engage in intergenerational interactive Bible Study. We will be meeting every third Sunday from 11:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. following worship, listening to a Bible story and then having the opportunity to talk with each other, hopefully including people we don't know as well, and then end with an activity that relates to the learning.

Our first outing told the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector in song, in sharing, and then in art, as we wrote the hurts we hide on flowers that then were gathered into fruit hung on decorative branches to represent how we are seen as beautiful in God's eyes, no matter

what challenges we bear.

Next month's topic is Abram and Sarai going on a journey. We'll be invited to share stories of the journeys we've taken, willingly or not, as well as engage in the Church



People of all ages talk about hopes and fears based on Luke 19.

Continued on page 3

## October Birthdays!

Gayl Henze	October 01
Grace Moragne	October 02
Jamal Smith	October 02
William Young	October 03
Sara Greene	October 05
Danielle Howard	October 08
Kai Jeanine Burton	October 09
Duane Horne	October 09
Faith Lewis	October 09
Charlene Hardy	October 10
Timothy Robinson	October 14
Anna Reimann	October 16
Ernest Freeman	October 17
Peter Erskine	October 18
Dhyan Cassie	October 21
Marc DiNardo	October 25

## Third Sunday—cont. from page 2

World Service mission activity of preparing hygiene kits to send to people who are struggling as a result of natural disaster, sending them on a journey that needs support. We hope you will join us on Sunday, October 21 after worship, to study Genesis 12:1-5, and then respond with gratitude and generosity in making these kits together. We will be receiving items to place in them until that date including:

- Hand towels measuring 15-16" x 28-32" (no fingertip, bath, dish or micro-fiber towels)
- Washcloths
- Wide-tooth comb
- Fingernail or toenail clippers
- Bath-sized bar soap
- Toothbrush
- Standard sized BandAids



We place our fruit on the branches.

We will also need gallon-sized plastic baggies to place the items in. If you would like to help, please bring your items to the church office up until October's Third Sunday!

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.*

## Great Ends Of The Church

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind

The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God

The maintenance of divine worship

The preservation of the truth

The promotion of social righteousness

The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

--Book of Order (2017-19), F-1.0304

# Managing Stormwater Responsibly



As everyone knows, we have had plenty of rain this year, some of it very intense. Stormwater creates serious problems for our church (which is built over a creek) and with Philadelphia's stormwater system, which is old and overloaded. Did you know that roughly 60% of our water bill is not for the water we use, but instead is a stormwater management charge--over \$6,000 a year? And this charge is likely to increase. This is a major issue for many properties in our area.

To respond to this challenge, the Property Committee and church friends have worked with an engineering firm to develop a proposal for a project to manage our stormwater. This proposal was recently accepted by the Philadelphia Water Department, which will provide a grant to pay for the cost of the project (approximately \$240,000). This is a very exciting award which will have long term benefits for both FPCG and our city. We are currently in the initial stages of the project, and expect the work to be performed in summer 2019. There will be some construction in the parking lots, and we will work with the contractors to minimize disruptions. More details on this plan will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please see Marc DiNardo.

## Travel with FPCG!

It is wonderful to be part of a community that longs to spend time with each other outside our church walls as well as within them. There are two trips in planning stages and you're invited to participate. There is more information on both coming, but here are a couple of teasers:

### ALASKAN CRUISE OPPORTUNITY

Experience the incredible majesty of Alaska with the beautiful Carnival Legend as your floating resort. Glide by Majestic glaciers, deep green forests, snow-capped mountains, sea and wildlife, and more.

8 days / 7 nights- August 20 -27, 2019.

Cruise Includes:

Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan in Alaska and Victoria in British Columbia and much, much more. Quad occupancy starts as low as \$1,499. See Gloria Bethea to get additional information about this affordable trip.

### MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS...THE BIRTH OF VALOUR...THE COUNTRY OF WORTH

So sang Robert Burns about his native Scotland, and so too sing we all.

Scotland is the home of John Knox who studied with John Calvin in Geneva and so brought us our denomination. The Presbyterian Church is the national Church of Scotland (though not government spon-

sored) and, to take us back to our beginnings, FPCG has begun the planning process for a congregational trip to Scotland, birth of valour and birth of the Presbyterian Church.

Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Isle of Skye, Inverness, the Orkneys, Arthur's Seat, Glen Coe; Loch Lomond, Loch Ness and its monster; Stirling Castle and Iona Abbey, resting place for Scotland's ancient kings, including Macbeth; William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora Macdonald, Margaret Tudor and Mary Queen of Scots; Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle, J.M. Barrie; Andrew Carnegie, John Witherspoon, John Paul Jones and Alexander Graham Bell; Sean Connery, Susan Boyle and Annie Lennox. And let's not forget the Harry Potter Train.

Lots to dream about.

We're thinking about 2020 and about ways to make such a trip affordable for everyone. If you'd like to be part of the dream team, please contact Glenna Hazeltine: [glennahaz@gmail.com](mailto:glennahaz@gmail.com)

# Transformed by Gratitude

This year, the theme of our stewardship campaign will draw from Romans 12:1-2. During a five-week sermon series we will explore how, in response to God's love, we gratefully enter into a process of becoming more like Jesus. This transformation happens to us as individuals, as a church family, and as good neighbors here in Germantown.

Paul in his letter to the Roman church exhorts us to not "be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God."

We believe the most generous (and sustainable) giving comes from a deep place—the space in our hearts where our deepest values and beliefs live. During October and November, we will shift our focus from budgets and financial pledges and instead look to those transforming values that change us from the inside out.

These values shape "**who**" we are as a church. Once we are rooted there, "**what**" we do (financial pledges, time committed, talents shared) feels very different.

So, let us together, commit to living in Gratitude over these next 2 months. Let's invite the Spirit to renew our minds and hearts, as we discern God's will for us as a community.

And together, we will gather on November 18<sup>th</sup> for our commitment Sunday to celebrate the transformational work we have done as the family of God!

## A Legacy of Generosity

*Thank  
you*

Did you know that the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown ranks among the most financially generous of all churches...in the entire PC(USA) denomination!? Proportionally, our giving patterns defy what is "normal" for a church of our size, location, and age.

Church family: we are a generous church! Our beautiful building and healthy endowment speak to the over 200-year legacy of the incredible generosity of First Pres. And today YOU, our faithful members, continue that legacy through your generous giving.

Thank you.

Your gifts of time, talent and financial gifts are investments in the life and ministry of this congregation. It allows us to reflect the love of Christ to our neighbors here in Germantown.

Thank you.

You are directly impacting *hundreds* of youth, adults, and families each week. Your generosity helps us staff our front office, hear beautiful music in our hallways, fix broken pipes, love children in the youth lounge and gym, and meet the tangible needs of neighbors in crisis.

Thank you.

# Painting Anasco (excerpt)

By Sara Greene—delivered on Sunday, September 23, 2018

When I was in junior high, I loved getting up on Saturday mornings to watch the Magic of Oil Painting with Bill Alexander on PBS. I watched in amazement each week as he took a canvas covered in Magic White and transformed it into a new creation. He mixed colors with brushes and soon the canvas was covered with clouds, flowing water, rugged mountains and my favorite, happy little trees. It didn't take long before I asked my mom for my own painting supplies so I could follow along with my instructor. Of course, my mom obliged and soon I had an easel, canvases, oil paints, brushes and my very own palette where I too would mix my colors for my own masterpieces.

I never knew what “we” would paint the next week, but he knew. I simply had to follow as he guided me through every step of our creation. Mr. Alexander would often start by painting the sky followed by some water, like an ocean, lake or stream. Next, he would cut in some mountains with a special palette knife. Then he would begin to work on the trees by first by cutting in the strong tree trunks. Finally, he would use a brush I had never seen before, a fan brush, to punch in the leaves of the trees. At first glance, you might not think much of this brush. Its very shape was so different from the others in my collection. Its bristles spread out making them appear so delicate and frail. It would be very easy to underestimate the power of this brush on any canvas. And yet this fan brush was powerful and added so much beauty to the canvas in the form tree leaves, wispy clouds, snow covered mountains and light shining on any aspect of the painting.

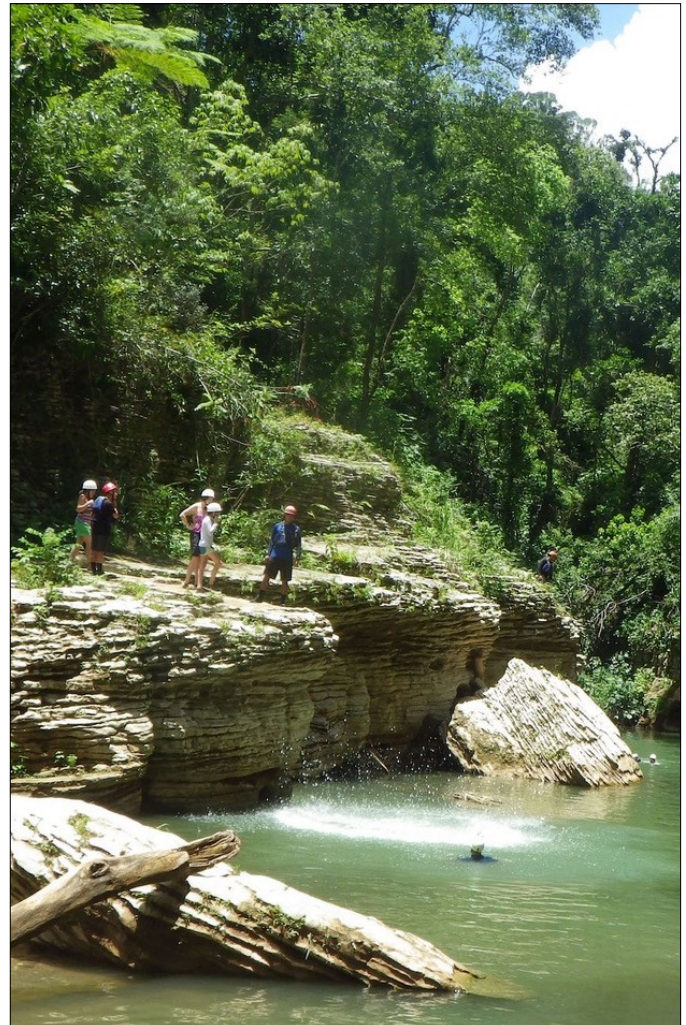
I thought about this creative time in my life as I reflected on our trip to Puerto Rico. In the beginning, the idea of a work trip to Puerto Rico was a blank canvas. Sheila and Christian connected with The First Presbyterian Church in Anasco and presented the idea of a work trip there to help with disaster relief. They had no idea exactly what the team would do or even who would make up the team. All they knew was the burden that God placed on their hearts to serve His people who had been ignored, forgotten, or were literally unknown to so many. But God, the Master Painter, knew every aspect of the masterpiece He



wanted to create. He knew that the backdrop was His beloved Puerto Rico and more specifically His children both young and old in the town of Anasco.

Some may have thought that this masterpiece in the works just needed rugged mountains, like seasoned professional contractors, and solid tree trunks such as strong, experienced adults, to complete the task. However, God knew exactly the individuals who would answer the call for this first trip and to the surprise of many, the majority of our group was comprised of families with elementary school aged children.

Each person brought their talent and most importantly their willing spirit to help in any way possible. We put aside our preconceived ideas of what we should do and allowed ourselves to be directed to the work that needed to be done. So God, in all His Glory, looked at His



Preparing to cliff jump in Puerto Rico.

cont. on page 7

palette of servants and began mixing. First, He mixed Marc, Andrea, Siena, and Emery produced the Dream Team, then He mixed me, Jason, Danielle, and Manni creating the Yellow Brick Road, and so on and so forth until all of the work groups were formed. The youth of our church worked so hard – taping, scraping, and painting all week long and as you have already heard, the trip touched and transformed their lives. God used His fan brush and dipped into the color of each child's life (Elisa, Sol, Emery, Siena, Manni, Josh, Matthew, Danielle and Jasmine) and added such beauty to the masterpiece He was creating. Their work alongside the adults on their teams made such a difference and it would not have been the same without them. In the end, it seemed very fitting that many of the projects that we worked on at the church are now spaces where food and household items are being distributed and services are provided much like our Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry.

The last moment of the trip that I want to share happened on the Saturday before we left. It was our fun day that capped off a week of hard work. We went cave tubing and truly witnessed the beauty of God's creation. At the end of the day, we had an opportunity to jump off a cliff into the water. Some will say it was only about 10 feet high but it looked closer to 20 to me!

People started making their way up a treacherous path to the cliff. One by one they jumped: Sheila, Christian, Josh, Manni, Jasmine, Sol, Marc, and Andrea. Even Rosemary, who was first a "No," jumped in support of Siena, who was standing atop the cliff looking quite tentative. Now I was the only adult who hadn't jumped and Siena still on the top of the cliff. You must know that earlier that day, Siena had literally been my buddy, holding my hand as we hiked down what seemed to be a mile trail to where the cave tubing would start. She was there for me, she supported me, she made sure I didn't fall and I appreciated her willingness to go at my pace and ensure my safe arrival to the bottom of our path. I tried to encourage Siena from where I was standing on the shore but it was clear that I was going to have make my way up the treacherous side of the cliff (this time without Siena's assistance) to meet her literally and figuratively where she was.

Once I arrived at the top of the cliff, I talked to her. And do you know what happened next? I said, "If you jump, then I will jump." I

said to myself, *Self, did you really say that?* Yup. *Did she hear it?* Yup. Did I mean it? At the moment, absolutely Yes! But five minutes later after Siena had successfully jumped off the cliff and I was literally the last man standing, not so much. Then a flood of thoughts came into my head. I heard my daughter say, "What would Malik (my boyfriend) say?" I knew what he would say, "You got this." A few moments went by, tears began to well up in my eyes – because I'm me and it's what I do – and I heard God say, "I got you." Not "you got this," but ***I got you.*** After a few of these false starts, I started to lose my footing, I jumped and landed safely in the refreshing water below. Indeed, ***God had me.***

Church, you may be standing on the edge of a cliff today or you may be looking at a blank canvas wondering what direction your life is going in next. But just like the mural down here at Cheltenham and Wayne that depicts different scenes from different times in the life of Germantown, God is working on the next part of the mural of your life. So just remember, He's got you. And maybe, just maybe, if you let Him, He will use his fan brush and paint some new happy little trees into your life too.

**INCIGNITO**  
BY MICHAEL FOSBERG

RACE? STEREOTYPE?  
DIVERSITY?

1  
MAN  
15  
CHARACTERS

**Incognito - the Play**

**Sunday, Oct 21, 2018 at 3:00pm**

*Incognito* is a one-man, autobiographical play in which over the course of 50 minutes Michael Fosberg portrays over a dozen characters as he recounts the true tale of the search for his biological father. Raised in a working-class White family in a Chicago suburb by his biological Armenian-American mother and an adoptive Swedish stepfather, Fosberg began the search for his long-lost biological father at the age of 34 to discover he was not only alive but African-American. *Incognito* is a riveting story that speaks to identity, family, the complexity of the racial divide, and the struggle to find a home in two cultures.

**Where:** The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
35 W. Cheltenham Ave - Phila, PA 19144

**Price:** \$10/adult - \$5/child (Tix can be purchased at the door)  
Children 12 and under are free

For more info visit [www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)



## October Challenge Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is received during the Season of Peace, which officially ends on World Communion Sunday, October 7, 2018. However, donations can be made year-round and we at FPCG recognize and collect gifts for the offering throughout the month of October.

### HOW IS MY GIFT USED?

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Your local or mid-council portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering could be contributed toward to the Freedom Rising fund for African American males.


## Gun Violence Prevention

The Mission and Outreach Committee is renewing its commitment to Gun Violence Prevention, and will be talking more about it at their meeting on Sunday, October 28, immediately following worship. Among topics of consideration are joining the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's call to a lifting up this important issue in worship on Sunday, February 17—this is the Sunday following the anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, as well as the day to lift up Students on the Presbyterian Planning Calendar—as well as a rededication to the Heeding God's Call initiative, which the FPCG has been involved with in the past. We will also look at the Gun Violence Prevention Toolkit and other ways we might make a difference on this issue in the world and here in our own community.

Please join us if you are interested in working toward justice on this topic.



### Conversations about race



*The NW Region of the Presbytery's "Coming to the Table" group will continue its dialog about race with a 3 part session around filmmaker Ava DuVernay's 13th. Titled after the 13th amendment, which prohibited slavery, with the exception of slavery as punishment for a crime, the film explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States.*

Dates	Location
Sept 15 - Oct 20 - Nov. 17 9:30am - Coffee, Fellowship Registration, 10:00am - Program Begins	FPCG 35 West Cheltenham Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19144

ALL ARE WELCOME!

# GACM Celebrates 21 Years of Ministry!

The Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry came of age in 2018, and celebrated its 21st anniversary and National Good Neighbor Day, with a joyous Gala. The theme was 21 Years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and neighbors came together on Friday, September 28th to eat, drink, laugh, share stories, honor awardees, and commit to making the next 21 years even more vibrant and meaningful that the 21 just completed.

During the event, Eileen Jones, the Executive Director of GACM and Director of Urban Ministry at FPCG, presented the Founders Award to The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, the Community Partner Award to Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, the Good Neighbor Community Service Award to Timothy Robinson, and the THRIVE Achievement Award to Janet Patterson.

Additionally, there was a live auction, performances by the Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir, and a glorious meal prepared by Chef Mary and served by the First Pres Youth Group to over 150 volunteers, sponsors, and supporters.



Executive Director Eileen Jones with a celebratory orchid.



The Youth Group helped provide both service and smiles.



Frank Lundy and Charles Bethea were gracious greeters.



The Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir shared music and inspiration.

# Upcoming First Pres Activities

## Women's Retreat Update

The Women's Retreat Planning Group is getting closer all the time to having real details. It looks like Cranaleith Retreat Center will be the site and the date will be in March or April. It is likely that we will take the church bus to support those who are concerned about driving, and are also working on childcare for the day. The Christian Ed Committee will help to allay the costs, which we are hoping to keep at around \$20-25 per person. If you are interested in participating—and even bringing a friend, please let us know on the sign-up sheet in Longstreth Auditorium. We hope to have more information on the date and theme and be ready to receive commitments by next month's Windows, so Stay Tuned!

Additionally, Rev. Rebecca is looking at the possibility of getting together for gatherings in the evening once a month or every other month, so let her know if you're interested in exploring that opportunity.

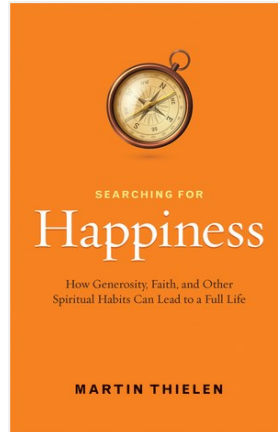


## Men's Breakfast

Save the date for the next Men's Breakfast:  
Saturday, November 3, 2018

Enjoy a delicious meal, great conversation,  
and a program by speaker Drew Hood.

## Searching for Happiness, Part 5



The book series study continues on Sunday, October 7th immediately following worship and on Tuesday evening, October 9th at 5:00 p.m., in the Finney Room with Rev. Rebecca Segers.

This month's topic is Chapter 5: "Contented People Practice Forgiveness." Join us to talk about forgiveness, and how we practice it, perhaps with a little side discussion of the way we Presbyterians talk about forgiveness distinctively in the Lord's Prayer. Who knows, you might end up a little more forgiving—and content—in the process!

## Animate Is Here Again!

Bob Seed will be leading another Animate series every second Sunday and following Monday beginning on Sunday, October 14th after worship and then again on Monday, October 15th at 5:00 p.m. *Animate Journals* are in the church office and cost \$13 each. Please pick one up and join Bob for this meaningful and engaging series.

## Profile from the Pews: Chris Scott

**Hi, Chris! Give us a little personal background: family, favorite sport, that sort of thing. Share something people might not know about you that you think is interesting or unique.**

I was born and raised in South Philly with both my parents, two brothers and two sisters. My mom is from South Philly and my dad is from Germantown. I always joke with my parents I spent my childhood in my mom's neighborhood and now I have to spend some time in Germantown for my dad. Growing up, my family was backwards in regards to stereotypical norms. I really feel like I got my emotions and sensitive side from my dad. On the flip side, my passion for sports and everything Philadelphia comes from my mom. I can admit now that I was a Cowboys fan growing up but, in my defense, I think I was just attracted to the "star." Today, I am an avid Eagles fan and have had conversations with my mom about how painful it was to buy me Cowboys merchandise as a kid. An interesting thing is I love to play football but I love to coach basketball. For me, football is instinctual but I understand basketball on an intellectual level.

**When did you first come to FPCG?**

I started attending First Pres in the summer of 2005. I had a couple friends in the handbell choir and they invited me to youth group trips and Sunday School.

**What made you stay?**

There were a couple reasons I stayed at FPCG. The first reason was the genuine friendships I've formed with members of the congregation even after the youth hand bell choir disbanded. The second reason was I bought in to the church's commitment to be a church of the community.

**What's your favorite FPCG moment?**

One of the first sermons I heard Rev. Nancy preach, she referred to Jesus as a chicken. I remember being shocked and a little scared about lightning coming through the ceiling. But she went on to explain how chickens lay over their young when they are in the fields. They do this because the chicken's thick feathers make it virtually impossible for birds and other flying predators to fly down and pick up the baby chickens. Once she explained it, it was funny but I was a little worried there for a moment.

**Give a snapshot of some of your strengths and the**



**ways you've used them at FPCG.**

Two strengths that comes to mind are my creative thinking and planning skills. Over the years, I've been a part of so many incredible events at First Pres. It started with the Disciples Basketball team that I coached for 10 years and, now, going into our 3rd meal packing event with *Rise Against Hunger* during Dr. King weekend in January, and the Be the Change fund raiser benefitting Keep A Child Alive.

**Give some background on Keep a Child Alive.**

I've helped birth or nurture dozens of ideas at First Pres but my baby is the Be the Change fundraiser. I first heard about Keep A Child Alive in 2007 while attending an Alicia Keys concert. From there, I became a monthly donor but I wanted to do more. This feeling gave birth to the Be the Change fund raiser in 2013. Since then, we've have 6 successful events with so much love and support from FPCG. Over the last 6 years, we've raised over \$20,000 for an organization that is dedicated to providing life saving treatment, food, support and overall care to children and families impacted by AIDS/HIV in Africa and India. One the most moving statistics is in 2017, 167 HIV positive women gave birth at the Alive Medical Services center in Uganda. ZERO babies were born with HIV because their mothers were able to get the medication that was needed to combat the virus.

**What excites you most about FPCG today?**

I'm most excited about the air of new life that flows through our church. With the different events and mission trips aiding our local neighbors and our international ones, I feel like the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is getting back to the type of church God wants us to be: a loving, vibrant, inclusive and celebrating church.

## 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)

If you like to make music and can faithfully attend rehearsals, please consider participating in the music ministry of First Church by joining one of our musical ensembles. Joining me as leaders in this important ministry are Sara Carter-Blandford, director of our Gospel Choir; and Evelyn Santiago, director of the Children's and Handbell Choirs.

**Gospel Choir** (for adults), Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**Children's Choir** (for grades 2-8), Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**Voices in Bronze Handbell Choir** (high school through adults), Thursdays at 7:45 p.m.

**Chancel Choir** (high school through adults), Sundays at 9 and 11:30 a.m.

**Germantown Oratorio Choir** (adults), Tuesdays at 7 p.m. beginning Oct. 30.

### NOW IN PRINT

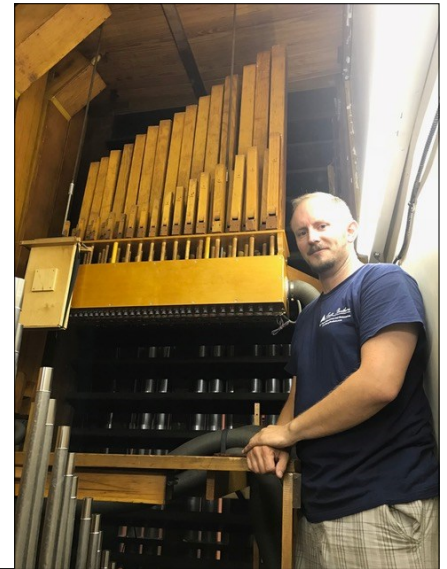
First Church Music Director's setting of *Away in a Manger* is now in print. The original hymn tune BREMER was composed for the beloved carol text as a farewell gift to Randy and Donna Bremer last year and was first sung by the members of First Church. It was selected for the *Empire State Hymnbook*, a collection of hymns by New York composers published by the Organ Historical Society (OHS). "Modern hymnals abound with hymns by contemporary New York musicians, but we hope with this hymnbook to have brought to light some worthy examples by famous organists of the past two hundred years as well as to have contributed some outstanding newly-composed additions to this ever-growing repertoire," declared hymnbook editor Rollin Smith. Thurman's hymn tune DAY OF DAYS, which originally appeared in *Soli Deo Gloria*, a collection of hymn texts by Kentucky poet Carolyn Lott Monohan (Louisville, 1992), was also selected for the new OHS publication.

### OUR MESSIAH IS COMING!

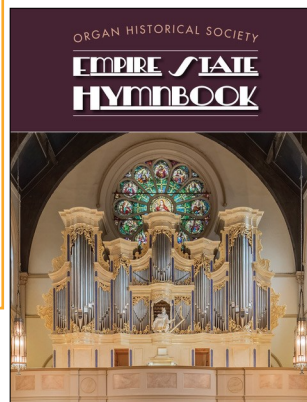
Save the date: Sunday, December 2, at 4 p.m. For more information or to participate, e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com). Tax-deductible contributions to support this Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra concert are invited. Please make checks payable to FPCG and include "Music Opportunity Fund" in the memo line.

### ORGAN REPAIRS

Under the supervision of Emery Bros. owner Adam Dieffenbach, more than 2,000 organ pipes from the East Chancel Great, Choir, and Swell divisions are singing again. One of the unusual features in our organ is a chest of pipes that hangs from the ceiling.



Adam Dieffenbach in the Chancel Swell (second floor) division.





## FPCG Scholarships

Thanks to the generous souls of our church who have gone before, our church was again able to award scholarships to our members and children of the church family. The following students were recipients of scholarships for the school term 2018-2019:

Kristina Ohemeng

Kiara Greene

Jason Greene

Camari Fitzgerald

DeShaye Carter

Kai Burton

Congratulations to our students! Well done.

### A Message from your Parish Visitor

I am, again, preparing for my annual trip to Chile. Yes, I was there earlier this year visiting my family and friends and recharging my batteries. I am going in November to attend my High School Reunion. I was fortunate to attend the same school for 13 years. When we graduated in 1968, of 32 students in my home room, 28 of us had started Kindergarten together. Over the years, life has scattered us across the Americas, Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. This year we are all going home to celebrate our 50th Reunion. Those lifelong relationships are important to us.

The relationships among members of First Church, whether lifelong or new, are important too. One of my favorite times each week is when we pray for each of you, ten at a time, during our weekly Staff Meeting. This time is especially meaningful when I can share your personal or family joys and concerns with my colleagues, my partners in ministry. In October I will be reaching out to you, as usual, by e-mail, text message and/or phone call, to ask for your prayer requests. I ask you, please, to respond in the way that is most convenient to you, so that, in my absence, this important ministry will not be interrupted. The beauty of prayer is that you can take it with you. Know that in my travels I pray for you always. God bless each and everyone of you.

HEIDI

## Financial Update

Congregational Giving to Date	\$218,998
Expenses to Date	514,064

After eight months into 2018, pledges are in line for eight 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. Our total income from all sources is also in line for eight months

Expenses are slightly ahead of budget, but not by much. Property expenses, in particular are ahead of budget, due to our utility bills but also continual maintenance on our older building.

Your diligence in keeping up your pledges during the summer months is much appreciated. Now that we are back to a fall schedule of programs our expenses will grow at a faster pace than during the summer.

## Wedding Congratulations

Duane Horne & Elyse Brown  
Tied the Knot on  
June 25, 2018

Many blessings & good wishes from your FPCG Family!



THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN

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[Www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)