



# • Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
March 2019

## In this Issue

Minister’s Message....	1
5th @ 5:00 Sundays...2	
March Birthdays.....	3
A Church Thank You....	3
Stewardship/Gratitude Spotlight.....	4
Church Financials.....	4
Rev. Porter Honored...4	
Profile from the Pews.5	
Longstreth History.....	5
Youth News.....	6,7
Freedom School.....	8
Crisis Ministry News...9	
From the Choir Loft.....	10,11
Pancake Supper.....	12

## From the Pastor

by Rev. Rebecca Segers



Ash Wednesday is on March 6, 2019. It is the date we will officially begin our Lenten journey—our walk in the wilderness with Jesus. The wilderness that ultimately leads to death on a cross. That sounds pretty awful to me. Even though I know about the resurrection. When one is experiencing wilderness, fearful that it might lead to death on a cross, metaphorically if not literally, it can *feel* pretty awful, too.

I think part of the wilderness experience is that feeling of powerlessness. That whatever is going on—with work, with family, with life—is out of our control, and therefore, we fear, going to turn out badly. We can be tempted to act—or to avoid acting—in ways that are not helpful.

In Luke 4:5-6, Jesus is in the wilderness being tempted by the devil, who offers him power over all the kingdoms of the world: “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; ... (i)f you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” How tempting that would be, especially when one is feeling vulnerable and powerless, to be offered such control.

Jesus, however, isn’t fooled. He responds, “It is written, Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.” Jesus recognizes that power in itself isn’t positive or negative, it’s in the wielding of it. The devil offers a negative power; real power comes from God alone. In the latter half of Jesus’ statement, he gets to the heart of the matter. It is in our service to God that we properly support and honor true power.

This is more than a simple “lean on the Lord” when you’re feeling powerless and vulnerable. This is a credible call to action to serve others on behalf of the Lord, in God’s name and to God’s glory, when you’re feeling that way.

After Jesus is tempted and the devil leaves him until “an opportune time” comes about, he goes to his hometown to worship. There he announces he is the fulfilment of the Isaiah passage proclaiming good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, sight to the blind, release to the prisoners, and the year of jubilee. As we walk through our individual wilderness times, whether they are happening in consonance with Lent or not, may we grasp true power, that is the power of working together in unity and commitment toward the ends that Jesus defines through scripture so that we are theologically grounded in divine power through faithful action.

- Rev. Rebecca Segers

Items for the April issue of Windows are due on  
March 15. Send to  
[fpcgwindows@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgwindows@gmail.com).



## 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.com](mailto: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 call the church office at 215-843-8811 or email: [fpcgwindows@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgwindows@gmail.com).

### Contributors:

Christian Heyer-Rivera  
Eileen Jones  
Contina Lundy  
Kristina Ohemeng  
Rev. Rebecca Segers  
Carolyn Tarver  
Jim Thompson  
F.Anthony Thurman

## 5th @ 5:00 Celebration Sundays Another FPCG Worship Option

First Pres is about to add something new in worship experience! In addition to the regular service of worship at 10:00 a.m., an additional alternative worship service with contemporary music, creative aspects, and culinary delights will occur at 5:00 p.m. They are slated for fifth Sundays, March 31, June 30, September 29, and December 29, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the West Transept, followed by a family-style fellowship meal at approximately 6:00 p.m. An outgrowth of the Praise & Evangelism Team's work, it is hoped that this service will be inviting to families and others who have difficulty in getting to a 10:00 a.m. service; however, all are welcome to attend, in addition to attending the morning service or not.

At our initial design meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2019, we had a dozen people with ideas galore come together, and we decided that our thematic focus will be ***Christ in the City***, and a goal of acknowledging what it is to do ministry in Germantown and greater Philadelphia an undergirding principle during worship. We discussed a broad usage of drama, dance, music, video, arts, and more.

Creative teams have been put together to design each service in a creative way, while still generally adhering to a reformed order of worship. We'll be using the new Presbyterian Glory to God Hymnal, singing songs we already know, but also adding new ones that are being sung throughout the denomination to our repertoire. While we have several guitarists who have offered their gifts, we also welcome any other musicians, and hope to possibly put together a praise band or something equally joyous. Finally, we imagine these services to have an interactive element in which those sitting in the pews may also be invited to participate in new and exciting ways as well.

If you would like to be a part of one of the creative worship design teams, please speak with Rev. Rebecca. If you would like to sing or play music or dance liturgically or be active in designing a particular element of worship, or be a part of our outreach team that will be inviting those who may not regularly make it to worship, let her know that too.

Meanwhile, save those 5th Sunday dates and get ready to make a joyful noise to the Lord together!

## March Birthdays!



Irene Overton	March 2
Duane Horne	March 3
Francina Carroll	March 4
C. Wesley Reisse	March 7
Rosemary Walkenhorst	March 7
Sally McCord-Amasis	March 10
Ted Walkenhorst	March 14
Randolph Clever	March 17
Emanuel Heyer-Rivera	March 19
Leslie Burton	March 20
Alexander Deas	March 20
Bert Aiken	March 21
Zara Gibbs	March 21
Mark McCord-Amasis ...	March 21
Tyrone Burton	March 26
Soren Hood	March 27

## A Church Family Thank You!

Greetings from Dakar!

It's already February--although with the consistent 70 degree weather it doesn't feel like a typical February for me--and for many the season of making resolutions and giving has passed. I like to think that any time is as good as any to express gratitude. In this case, I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the members of the First Presbyterian Church. This community has always pushed me to do my best and supported me in all things. I hope 2019 brings each and every one of you the peace, health, and joy that you deserve. God has really blessed me by placing you all in my lives and I'm endlessly thankful for the encouragement, college check-ins, and advice I have received. I miss you all and I hope you are managing to stay warm! May God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Kristina Ohemeng



Kristina with the beautiful city of Dakar in the background.



# Transformed by Gratitude

An update to the results presented last month indicate we have received pledge commitments and contributor indications reflecting almost **99% of our goal** but we are still short by about \$3,800.

2019 looks like a wonderful year with many exciting programs and events to further our mission and ministry at the Crossroads in Germantown. But that also means that it will be challenging to provide adequate financial resources for all these efforts. For that reason, we hope that those who may have been waiting in the wings will step forward to help meet this need.

The stewardship campaign for our 2019 ministry has been very fruitful and **we thank you for being such a vital part of the FPCG community.** We look forward to your enthusiastic participation this year.



## Rev. Kevin Porter Given Award By NBPC

The Rev. Kevin Porter was honored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus at the Annual African American Presbyterian Heritage Celebration on Sunday, February 10th at the Oxford Presbyterian Church. They acknowledged his instrumental work in supporting the efforts to equip and empower officers and leaders of racial ethnic congregations in the local and larger church councils of the PC(USA), serving as an advocate, an administrative advisor, and an ambassador for social justice.

We at First Church are proud to call him a brother and servant in Christ. Congratulations, RevKev!

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

It was reported last month that the preliminary results for 2018 were income over expenses of \$2,680. This surplus along with some of the surplus from 2017 will be used as income for 2019.

The Administration & Finance Committee has prepared a revised 2019 budget which reflects necessary changes since the preliminary version was approved last November. This revised budget, reflecting changes to the total income and expenses, will be presented to Session in March.

At this point it is too early to assess our initial 2019 results to date but by the next *Windows* issue we should have enough information for the first two months to provide results.

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

## Our Transforming Values

As a community of faith,  
we pledge to be:

- Transformed by Gratitude
- A Possibilities People
- Aware of Abundance
- Honest & Open
- Co-operative & Collaborative

## Profiles from the Pews—Debra Gary



As anyone who encounters Debra Gary knows, the only thing bigger and warmer than her beautiful smile is her beautiful heart.

Debra is a native of Philadelphia. She was educated in the Philadelphia Public School System and graduated from Kensington High School. She is retired from the State of Pennsylvania, where she worked as a Culinary Specialist at the State Office Building in Spring Garden for many years. In her Germantown community, she has proudly served as the Secretary of the Queen Lane Tenant Council for over 10 years. Debra has also volunteered at various Food Cupboards in the Germantown area prior to her becoming a member of FPCG.

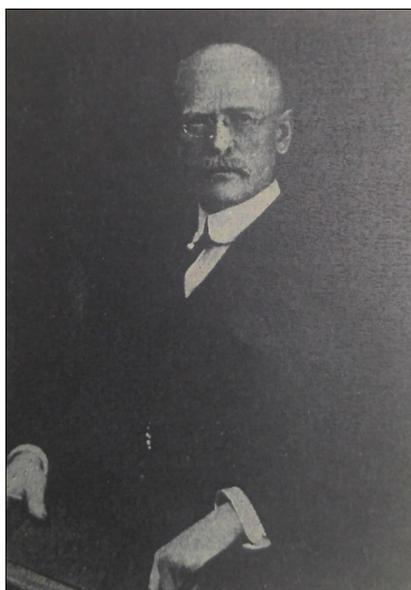
Debra is a mother to one daughter and a loving grandmother to two beautiful granddaughters. She became a member of FPCG while Rev. Muth was the minister. Her initial attraction to First Pres was the warmth and acceptance of the members towards her, which made her feel like family immediately.

Since joining, Debra has shared her Community Activist and Culinary Arts skills with various committees at FPCG. She serves on the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee (CDFC), where she can be found most Sundays during after service Fellowship Coffee Hour. Debra also serves

on the Mission and Outreach Committee, Rachel's Circle, and volunteers many hours weekly at the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, where she serves at the Food Cupboard and other Crisis Ministry projects.

Debra feels like she shares and gives the world the best part of herself when she volunteers. She is looking forward to many more years of volunteering and growing with FPCG. We at the FPCG and in the Germantown community are blessed to share her sweet giving spirit.

- Carolyn Tarver



### The Longstreth Auditorium & Stained Glass Window History

From the Dedication service for the William L. Longstreth Memorial Window on Sunday, December 9, 1923: "On the evening of Sunday, December 8th, 1918, while returning with his pastor from a religious service, William Morris Longstreth, long a Ruling Elder of this Church, was instantly called to his heavenly home, without pain or struggle, entering at once into the joy of the Lord.

Born in 1853, he was sixty-five years of age at the time of his death. Coming as he did from a family long distinguished among the Society of Friends, his earlier life was spent as a member of that denomination.

On June 15th, 1890, he united with this Church, and at once entered zealously into its various activities. On July 1st, 1894, he was ordained to the Eldership. No one has served this congregation more acceptably in that office. In 1895 he was appointed Superintendent of the Intermediate Department of the Sunday School; and in 1909 he became Superintendent of the entire School, a position which he occupied at the time of his death. All his work was as quietly and unobtrusively, as it was effectively, done.

Elder Longstreth seemed always as one who strove to realize the ideal character of a man diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

## Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)

### Update:



As of the middle of February, we have 9 young people planning to head to Indiana for Triennium with others seriously considering attending with us this summer. Emanuel Heyer-Rivera, Joshua

Overton, Amir Staten, Angel Staten, Zaria Cuffee, Madison Lundy, Danielle Ohemeng, Jasmine Greene, Trinity Daniels, and Tiffany Daniels will be traveling with dozens of other students from the Philadelphia Presbytery and thousands of other youth nationwide to worship, study, pray and have fun together July 16-20, 2019.

The efforts to financially get students to Triennium are well underway. The Presbytery of Philadelphia sponsored a silent auction to provide aid to students and over \$3200 was made at that event with additional loose donations adding another \$2500. Thank you to all the staff and congregation members of FPCG who responded by offering items up for the auction. Our church's contributions to the auction totaled over \$225 dollars in items donated and sold, and over \$500 dollars in items purchased. Praise God for the generous nature of our church staff, elders and members!

Fundraising has also already begun within our own congregation. Individual members have come forward on their own to help sponsor five youth to go to this event before a single child was even registered. Praise God. You who have chosen to sponsor know who you are and we thank God for your unsolicited aid in getting our young people to Triennium.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Fat Tuesday Lenten Pancake Supper at the church from 5:00-7:00pm.



Tickets will be \$5 for persons 6 years and older, and 5 years old and under eat free. Look for tickets to be sold in upcoming coffee hours or call Christian Heyer-Rivera at 267-972-5662 to get tickets.

More fundraising efforts are coming soon, like our annual Mother's Day flower and bake sale so please be on the look out and keep giving as unto the Lord, knowing that your contribution will provide an exciting, faith-supporting and unforgettable experience for our young people, to learn and grow in the faith God has given them!

### Disciples Basketball Update:

Our congregation has again put two teams of young people 14 years old and younger in the Christian Youth Basketball League.



With two coaches, Melvin Brown and Christian Heyer-Rivera, and 16 players running around our gymnasium, the practices have been full of energy. Both teams are progressing well in learning the game, each other, and the life lessons that come from a program such as ours. Our record as of mid-February is Disciples A team 4-0, and Disciples B team 2-2. Each team will play at least four more regular season games and then enter into the playoffs in March.

Pray for relationships that a being formed among coaches, players, and parents, and the other teams within the league that God might help us to support and encourage each player, their family, and our community as a whole! If you're able, make plans to catch a game or two, or become a dedicated Disciples fan, the teams play on Monday nights at the Germantown Friends School Fieldhouse at either 6:30pm or 7:15pm. The schedule for upcoming games are posted in the weekly worship bulletin. Come support a wonderful ministry within our congregation and our community at large.

(continued on page 7)



## Good News Youth Corner

We will be starting a new section of Windows called the Good News Youth Corner. This section will be devoted to

lifting up some of the great things that our young people are experiencing and accomplishing. Any parent or member is welcome to share some good news, big or small, about any one of our young people who participate in our community and ministry. Email Christian Heyer-Rivera at [christianaheyer@yahoo.com](mailto:christianaheyer@yahoo.com), or text him at 2679725662. Meanwhile, when you see the following persons, give them a big congrats for the following:

Joshua Overton recently earned a perfect score on his science project, the only person in his class to do so! Congratulations, Joshua! Keep giving your best effort in your studies.

Jasmine Greene began Hill-Freedman World Academy's International Baccalaureate Program this past fall. It is a very challenging programs and Jasmine has been outstanding in her efforts toward her studies. Our prayers are with you, Jasmine.

Emanuel Heyer-Rivera recently finished his work with the program, A Better Chance, which works with academically talented students of color to provide them opportunities and guidance in applying to private schools. Emanuel applied to 9 different schools and has been accepted to five of those schools thus far. Keep up the good work, Manni!

Siena Williams auditioned and was chosen for a part in her school's play at Independence Charter School. She performed in the play at the end of February. Great job, Siena and congratulations!

Amir Staten, who plays basketball for both the church and his school team at Germantown Friends

## Youth Group updates:

Both elementary and middle/high school youth groups are learning about the gift of prayer. God has granted us a relationship with Christ, not based upon our faithfulness, but grounded in the mercy and faithfulness of Jesus. In this relationship, we are granted the grace of being able to talk and listen to God, but how often we neglect this gift. Our young people of learning how easy it can be to pray, the many different types of prayers we can offer, and expressing their prayers before God in creative ways. Join us in prayer, and lift up our young people as you do. Pray that God gives all of us, but particularly our young people eyes to see God at work around them and the hope that comes with it. Pray that they hear and accept God's unconditional love and grace for them in Jesus Christ, and pray that they embrace God's call to join the Holy Spirit and the Church in the work of reconciling the world to God in Jesus Christ.

---

School, recently won The Philadelphia School Basketball Tournament with his GFS teammates. Well done Amir, your leadership on the court among your teammates is a gift to each team you play on!

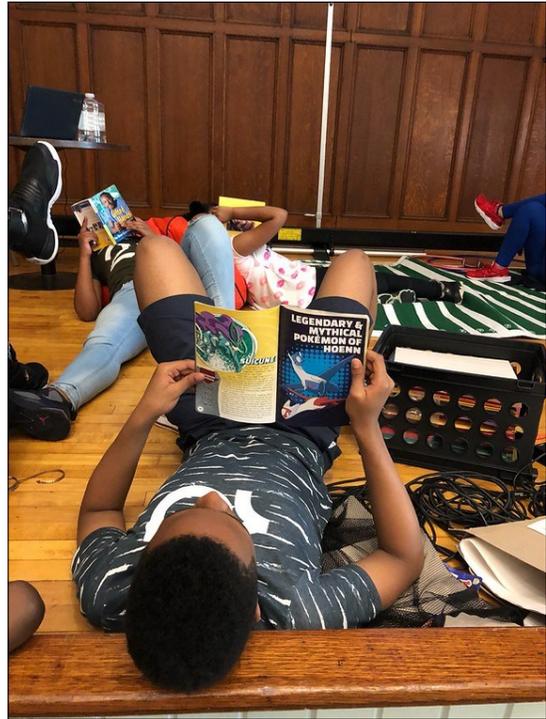
Adeline Hoekema did an excellent job helping to lead worship by reading Scripture for one of our recent worship services. Anyone who was present was blessed by her reading. Excellent job, Addy. Thank you for offering your life and skills for God's glory!

Emery Hood has been offered and recently accepted a spot at Masterman School, one of the top magnet schools in the Philadelphia School District. This is the school that our own Henry Hunsicker has attended for several years as well. Outstanding, Emery, our prayers are with you as you embark on this new opportunity; and keep up the good work, Henry!

# Freedom School 2019

It may be snowing outside but inside, we've already begun plans for Freedom School 2019. In just three months, school will be out and First Church will provide 50+ elementary aged children stimulating activities to keep their minds and bodies engaged in summer learning and fun. The tentative operation dates are June 17 through August 2. As we plan for this year's program, your ideas for educational activities, field trips, crafts, etc. are welcome. Speak to Eileen Jones, Contina Lundy, or Christian Heyer-Rivera if you'd like to be part of an ad-hoc committee structuring the program or making calls to schedule activities.

This summer will mark our 9th year operating as a Freedom School. Check out an unsolicited letter from a 2018 Freedom School family.



1306-66th Ave.  
Phila., PA 19126  
August 9, 2018

Dear Paster Rebecca Seegers and Congregation,

I approached your Executive Director of Freedom School- Eileen Jones- and expressed my desire to have my granddaughter enrolled in a summer camp that must have three components: religion, structure, and self expression. God answered my prayers in Freedom School, and went above and beyond my expectations. Freedom School has given her three memorable and most enjoyable summers. The following are some of my many positive comments:

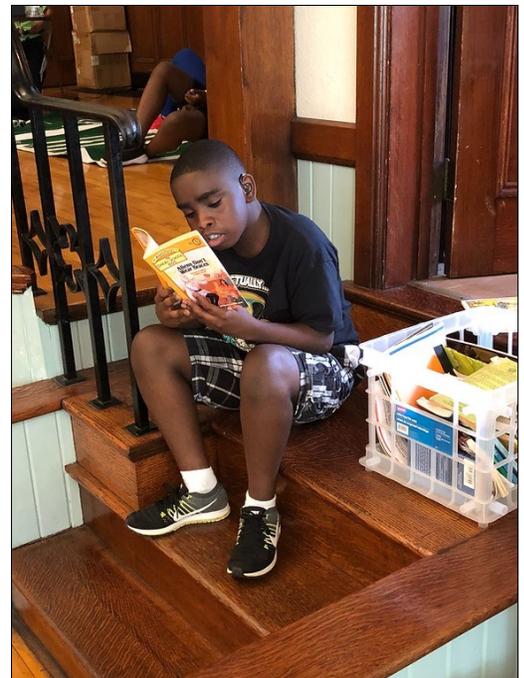
- Religious teachings and most importantly application of these teachings
- Social and emotional growth
- Confidence building
- Staff sensitive to needs of Scholars
- Adjustments made to meet these needs
- Wide range of positive experiences
- Weekly trips that are appropriate for age
- Staff pleasant and approachable
- Provides nutritious and delicious meals
- Provides educational enrichment to continue the scholars progress in school

Prayerfully, my granddaughter and all Scholars will continue to look forward to Freedom School next year, and years to come.

Thanks be to God, thanks to Freedom School, and many thanks to First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

Yours in Christ,

Shirley Smith and Morgan Ebo (Scholar)



(above): Reading is a FUN-damental part of the Freedom School experience!

# Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry News!

## LIHEAP

Time is running out to apply for heating assistance through LIHEAP. The program will close April 12<sup>th</sup>.



There is still time to apply for help to pay your primary or secondary heating costs. Grants range between \$200 & \$1000. Broken heater? Funds remain to repair or replace units. If you know someone who can benefit from this program, spread the word or see Eileen Jones. All Crisis Ministry inquiries are confidential.

## LIHEAP Income Limits

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$18,210
2	\$24,690
3	\$31,170
4	\$37,650

## Tax Services

Every Wednesday, except March 13, GACM prepares Income tax returns using The Benefit Bank, a web-based, completely safe and secure filing service. This expert tax system is designed to maximize your refund and tax credits. You can E-File your local and federal taxes for a speedy return of your refund. No appointment necessary. For more information, call the office, 215-843-2340.



(right): WPC youth clean containers and take a moment to share a smile with GACM Executive Director Eileen Jones.

## 2019 Walk Against Hunger

Presented By ACME!

Mark your calendar for this fun event that raises awareness and funds to combat hunger in our area.



**April 27, 2019 at Lincoln Financial Field, 9:30am**

More Information to follow!

## GACM welcomes 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from William Penn Charter!

*Jump Start's Reality Check* is an online resource that helps you to see if you can afford your dream life. The results indicate a ballpark relationship between your expenses and the income you will need to support your dream lifestyle. Using this tool, learning more about GACM and concluding with volunteer service including washing all the Cupboard storage containers and cleaning the refrigerators, comprised the first visit to GACM by 10 sixth graders from William Penn Charter School. Monthly through April, the students who are studying Food Insecurity, will return to GACM for additional 90 minutes sessions.



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director

### Two Spring Choral Concerts Will Be Offered in Recognition of Women's History Month at First Church

#### Brahms Festival Concert

The Germantown Oratorio Choir, with concert pianist Gayle Martin and organist Ted Barr, will present a Brahms Festival Concert on Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. The program will feature the music of Brahms, Robert Schumann, and Clara Schumann in recognition of the bicentennial of Clara Schumann's birth. A free-will offering will be collected.



If you are unable to join us in person, please enjoy the concert via our Internet Livestream video:

[www.fpcgermantown.org/brahms-2019](http://www.fpcgermantown.org/brahms-2019)

The concert program will include Robert Schumann's rarely performed *Requiem*, his final work, which Clara Schumann edited for publication; *Sechs Lieder (Six Songs)* by Clara Schumann for solo voice as arranged for three-part women's chorus; Brahms's *Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)* and *Geistliches Lied (Sacred Song)*. In addition to the choral selections, Gayle Martin will perform Robert Schumann's *Widmung (Dedication)*, an art song solo transcribed for piano by Liszt.

There is much folklore surrounding the intertwined lives of the three famous nineteenth-century composers. Brahms, the youngest of the three, was not only a student of Robert Schumann but also a close family friend who lived in the Schumann home for a period of time. Robert's praise for his young student catapulted Brahms into a successful and respected musical career.

(Continued on page 11)

When Robert fell ill and subsequently died, Brahms stepped in to assist Clara with household affairs. Brahms, who never married, is reported by music historians to have fallen in love with Clara, but they remained only as friends until Clara's death. Whether Brahms was also in love with the Schumann's daughter, Julie, to whom he dedicated the *Alto Rhapsody*, remains open for speculation.

Clara, one of the finest concert pianists and composers of her day, was the first to perform the music of Brahms publicly. As the primary breadwinner in the family, she supported the household through her concert career and by editing her husband's works for publication. Although her compositional opportunities were limited while Robert's flourished, the similarities of musical style between her writing and his might make one wonder who composed what.

### **William & Mary Women's Chorus Concert**

On Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m., the William & Mary Women's Chorus will present a concert at First Church as part of their spring concert tour. We are delighted they wanted to bring their gifts to Germantown. A free-will offering will be collected.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of women attending William & Mary this year, the concert program is dedicated to female composers and will include choral works spanning five centuries, including a world premiere.

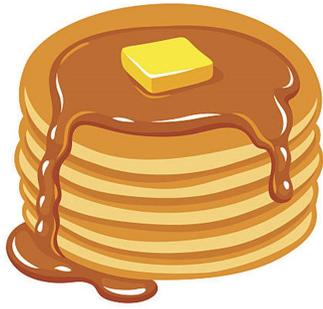
Founded in 1923, the chorus consists of approximately 60 undergraduate women, representing a wide variety of interests and majors. At home, they present a dozen concerts each year, including a candlelight concert at the historic Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg.

The conductor of the Women's Chorus is Sarah Froom Gallo. In addition to her work at William & Mary, Gallo holds teaching positions at Christopher Newport University, where she conducts the Men's Chorus, and at the University of Richmond, where she is on the voice faculty. She sings in the Virginia Chorale, a professional choir based in Norfolk, and conducts the Virginia Choral Society, an 80-member community chorus in Newport News. Gallo holds a graduate degree in conducting from the Eastman School of Music and a BA in music from William & Mary.



The College of William & Mary is a public research university in Williamsburg, Virginia. Founded in 1693 by letters issued by King William III and Queen Mary II, it is the second-oldest institution of higher education in the United States, after Harvard University.

Three U.S. Presidents received their education at William & Mary: Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and John Tyler. In addition, William & Mary educated many other key figures in the development of our nation, including sixteen members of the Continental Congress and four signers of the Declaration of Independence, earning the college the nickname "the Alma Mater of the Nation."



**Fat Tuesday  
Pancake Supper  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
from 5:00—7:00 p.m.**

**\$5.00 per person (aged 5 and under free)  
\$20.00 maximum per family**

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown,  
35 W. Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144  
in the Youth Lounge & the Primary Room

Price includes: Pancakes, Syrup, Sausage, OJ, Coffee, and Mardi Gras beads  
Come join the fun, food, and fellowship!

All proceeds support our young people going to the 2019 PC(USA) Youth Triennium



THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN

---

35 West Cheltenham Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

215-843-8811

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