



# • Windows •

*The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
May 2019*



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Items for the June  
issue of Windows are  
due on

**May 15.** Send to  
*communications@fpcgermantown.org*

## From the Pastor

*by Rev. Rebecca Segers*

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! We shout these words on Easter Sunday morning, and feel the rush of joy for new life – Jesus' and our own in his name. Yet new life comes with a price, and a high one.

A recent issue of Christianity Today had a comic that I will share with you here:



One of the symbols of resurrection is the Butterfly. This is because it is an easily visible metaphor for change: an earthbound caterpillar – the scientific term is larva – becomes a beautiful winged creature we call a butterfly. We know this happens within the confines of a chrysalis or cocoon, but do you know exactly what happens within that protective casing? The caterpillar doesn't just grow wings.

No, the body of the caterpillar totally liquefies, literally releasing enzymes to digest itself into essentially a protein-rich caterpillar soup. Next rapid cell division takes what are around 50 cells and turns them into more than 50,000 by the end of the metamorphosis.

Transformation, true transformation, is hard work. Sometimes we don't want to go through the death necessary to experience new life. We want, like the comic suggests, to act like we're doing the work, while really staying exactly where we are. The thing to remember is that our God is not only with us, but knows exactly how we feel. Jesus, too, cried out for the cup to be taken from him, but ultimately in submitting to God's will, experienced resurrection and offers new life for us all.

As we continue to journey the resurrection road together, we will encounter challenges as individuals and as a community of faith. But if we are willing to submit to God's will through it all, I have no doubt that we will also learn to fly!

Rev. Rebecca Segers



## 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, visit our website**

**[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.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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## 3rd Sundays

### Intergenerational Interactive Bible Study

Our final 3rd Sunday event is on Sunday May 19th immediately following worship. This interactive intergenerational bible study will focus on Jesus inviting children to come to him. Join us as we share the word together. We are guaranteed to have a good time.



(A group of individuals engaged during Bible Study)

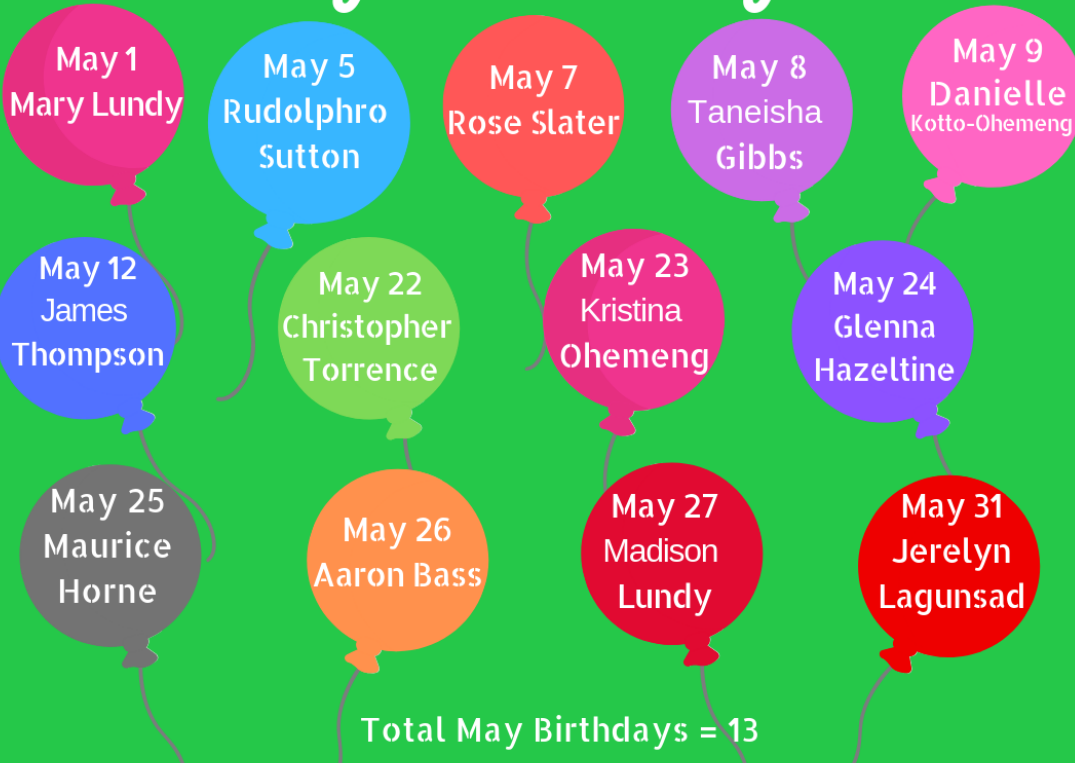
### Interactive Walk Through The Easter Story At Our Annual Easter Festival



Rev. Rebecca Segers taking the children through an interactive Easter story.

(more photos on page 7)

# May Birthday's



## COMMITTED TO CHANGE BENEFIT GALA Saturday, June 8, 2019

7:00PM—11:00PM

Join us for our annual fundraiser as we raise money and celebrate the work of Keep A Child Alive. KCA provides lifesaving resources to children and families impacted by AIDS/HIV.

Tickets for our gala start as low as \$30. Visit our website to purchase or for more info [www.bethechangephilly.info](http://www.bethechangephilly.info)

#committedtotheend

### Trolley Car Café

3269 S Ferry Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19129

Creative black-tie affair featuring music, performances, food, drinks, raffles and more



#changeagent

IGNORANCE =  
FEAR  
SILENCE =  
DEATH

Proceeds benefiting

**KCA.**  
KEEP A CHILD ALIVE

## Profiles from the Pews ~ Wesley Reisse



Just as a lighthouse serves to light the path of stranded ships to safety and security so does our own Wesley Reisse who symbolizes the lighthouse of FPCG. Standing strong and tall emanating his inner Christ light beckoning lost souls on life's turbulent seas to hope and Grace of God. Sharing his life's testimonies as an investment towards a God filled future for all.

Wesley Reisse is a native of Philadelphia. He was born in Germantown Hospital, educated in the Philadelphia public school district, graduated HS from Germantown High, graduated from Drexel University with a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1961. Furthering his education Wes Reisse also received a master's degree in Engineering also from Drexel University in 1965. Wes's mother, Mary Alice, taught physics at Temple University where she taught Bill Cosby as a student.

He is very proud to be a member of FPCG and has been attending since the age of 5 and affectionately refers to the church as "his home". He has served with the Usher's Association, Chairman of the fourth Sunday group and ordained and installed as a Deacon.

Wes has been married to his beautiful wife Ann for 51 years and have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Ann is a very dedicated steward of the church. Ann has worked diligently year-round planting, weeding, and maintaining the garden. Her efforts are appreciated by all FPCG and the community.

Wes and Ann are avid travelers and have traveled locally to favorites like Ocean City and Sea Isle, NJ. They have toured and cruised with Dr.

Charles Stanley's In Touch Ministries, and Templeton Tours on their first "Journey of Paul" tour. They have also visited Alaska and Hawaii, and have traveled around the Pacific Northwest.

Wes' employment career started doing logic design of digital computers working for fortune 500 companies such as Philco, Burroughs & Univac which became Unisys. Corp. He later switched to being a computer programmer, working at a series of local firms.

Wes retired in the early 2000's. After retiring Wes began volunteering at the Germantown Crisis Ministry. His duties consisted primarily as an intake counselor to the clients at the food pantry. As the intake counselor Wes was the first face that greeted the clients upon entry. His calm inner Christ light would emanate and quietly command peace, calmness and respect for all the clients which allowed them to feel at ease, comforted, and hopeful about their situations.

Wes' hobby is photography. I've been privileged to observe his beautiful work while volunteering with him at the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry (GACM).

Wes states that he would love to see FPCG continue to grow and development with the changing times without losing its integrity and maintain its strong Christian principles.

Thank you, Wesley Reisse, for all your services and efforts to our church and community

***By Carolyn Tarver***

## YOUTH NEWS

### Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)

#### Update:

Registration is still open for Triennium, and we have 8 young people headed to Indiana for Triennium. Zaria Cuffee, Tiffany Daniels, Trinity Daniels, Jasmine Greene, Emanuel Heyer-Rivera, Abrianna Kendrick, Danielle Ohemeng, and Joshua Overton 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<sup>th</sup>.

Fundraising has already begun within our own congregation. This is an important part of the planning and lead up to Triennium. This opportunity comes at a cost. The participant cost for the event is \$555. FPCG is committed to seeing any of our members and active youth group participants be able to attend. We have broken down the cost of the event into three payments of \$185 each. The first portion is paid by the participant and their family. After having received the first portion, our congregation's Christian Education committee has budgeted to pay the second payment of \$185 for each participant. The final \$185 per participant is fundraised by the group. Individual FPCG members have come forward on their own to give partial scholarships to participants headed to this event and we thank God for their help, but there is still a balance to be raised. Again, 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 April 28<sup>th</sup>, the final Presbytery of Philadelphia pre-event for registered and prospective participants was held at Carmel Presbyterian Church. As of this publication the event had not taken place, but each of the pre-events gave young people and their families some elements of the Triennium experience and allowed them to get to know other participants who would be attending this summer.

Please be on the look out for the annual Mother's Day Flower and Bake Sale in coffee hour the next few Sundays. This year's proceeds will go toward helping to lower the cost for each Triennium participant.

It should be noted as well that the youth of Triennium are hosting an odd jobs fundraiser throughout the month of May. If you have some general light to medium work you'd like done around the house (leaves raked, prep work for your garden, room walls painted, basement to be reorganized, spring cleaning, etc) our youth might be able to help you for an agreed upon donation prior to the work. Rev. Rebecca will be having Triennium participants under the supervision and leadership of Christian Heyer-Rivera help her put up a privacy fence in the month of May to help raise funds.

Get creative and contact Christian at 267-972-5662 if you have a task you'd like done that doesn't require too much expertise and is safe for 9-12th graders to perform that you're willing to use as a fundraiser, knowing that your contribution will provide an exciting, life supporting and unforgettable experience for our young people to learn and grow in the faith God has given them!

#### *Looking Great With Face Paint At Our Annual Easter Festival*



(continued on page 6)

## Disciples Basketball Update:



The Disciples Basketball Ministry's season has officially ended. As mentioned in our April Windows, our congregation put two teams of young people 14 years old and younger in the Christian Youth Basketball League, under the direction of our two coaches, Melvin Brown and Christian Heyer-Rivera. We are excited to report that the Disciples A team, which includes three of our church members (Emanuel Heyer-Rivera, Joshua Overton, and Amir Staten) not only finished with a perfect regular season record of 8-0, but were able to win this year's league championship game as well.

Our players demonstrated such poise, character and determination in overcoming what was some rather unsportsmanlike conduct by the opposing teams fans. Our boys handled the pressure and attitudes with grace beyond their years. Our parents and fans demonstrated a tremendous amount of restraint and composure as well under the same adverse conditions. Our congregation can and should be incredibly proud of the ways both our players and fans conducted themselves. Congratulations to all our Disciples teammates for an incredible season of faith filled fun, learning and growth both on the court and off.

As always, 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! The Basketball season may have ended, but the relationships of support that are formed and encouraged during the season carry on throughout the whole year, and hopefully for a lifetime as well!

## Youth News (cont. from page 6)

### More Easter Festival Photos



## May - Good News Youth Corner



Continuing our Windows section 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 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 267-972-5662. When you see the following persons, give them a big congrats for the following:



Maddox Wilkins Robinson was baptized into Christ during our April 28<sup>th</sup> worship service. What a joy to have Maddox and his mother Fatima Sultan Robinson and her husband Maurice in our community of faith. Both of them have smiles and warm spirits that can light up any room! We are so excited to commit to joining Fatima and her husband in raising Maddox up in faith in Christ and encouraging him to grow, know, and love our God who first loved him! We thank God for you Maddox!



The Williams girls have good news to report. Siena Williams was selected to play in a traveling soccer team called the Blue Lightning. Way to go Siena! Sol Williams has recently



made a move away from gymnastics to the circus arts instead in order to further cultivate her athletic and creative skills! Rosemary and Jason are happy to report that Sol is loving her time flying through the air with the greatest of ease!

Madison Lundy, who joined First Church two years ago has found a way to serve her church by joining the adults who count the Offering and other money the fourth Sunday of the month. Madison has been counting since December. Thank you Madison for adding your heart and hands to this important ministry! As a final note, she will be 15 years old on May 27<sup>th</sup> so wish her a Happy Birthday the next time you see her!



# Transformed by Gratitude

## Transformed by Gratitude: Quarter 1 Check in!

It's time for a Gratitude check! Remember the "transformational values" work we did in the fall? Remember our commitment to move closer to the church family Jesus is calling us to be?

If you are like most people, you've probably forgotten! Life is full and we, often by necessity, need to move on to the next thing. In case you need a quick refresher, here it is again:

We believe the most generous giving comes from the space in our hearts where our deepest values and beliefs live. And as we continue to exercise our gratitude muscles, our giving also gets stronger.

We see the ways you have given your time and talents generously in this first quarter of 2019. This is so much to be thankful for within the walls of our church and beyond; we certainly are a church family that is alive and thriving! If you haven't already, expect to be contacted by the committee or event that you indicated on your pledge card.

Another way we see the fruit of your generosity through our tithes and offerings. Our pledge commitments and anticipated contributions for 2019 should exceed our original expectations- thank you!!!! Together we anticipate \$365,000 in giving over the course of this year. Electronic giving is also up (you can find online giving information in the pew cards). We are grateful for your faithful and timely giving.

Keep up the good work church family! We invite you to join us in celebrating all that we did this quarter and we can't wait to see what we do together over the summer.

### Our Transformational Values

- Transformed by Gratitude
- Possibilities People
- Awareness of Abundance
- Honesty & Openness
- Cooperation & Collaboration

## **FPCG Hosts Presbytery of Philadelphia**

Please join us as FPCG hosts the Presbytery of Philadelphia for the May 21<sup>st</sup> stated meeting from 2:00 pm through dinner. The Presbytery consists of the minister members and elder commissioners of the over 120 congregations of our denomination in Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware and Montgomery counties. Four times a year, the Presbytery has scheduled meetings to worship, equip our congregational leaders, and have fellowship together.

The last time FPCG hosted a meeting of the Presbytery was March of 2010. Since then, the Presbytery has redesigned the way it conducts much of its business so that these gatherings have more time for attendees to share and celebrate their ministries and learn about other aspects of our connectional Church.

If you would like information about volunteering in some aspect of hosting this event, please contact Gloria Bethea. Any and all are welcome to come as visitors to join in the worship and see the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) beyond our congregation. A limited number of dinner tickets will be available at \$8.00 per person. For more information, go to <https://presbyphl.org/>.

# Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry News!



GACM has an education arm called THRIVE. Taking Hold, Reaching In, Vesting Everything! THRIVE programs help GACM fulfill the latter part of our mission Statement, "...to help them (clients) take the next step(s) toward self sufficiency". The THRIVE certificate program began in fall of 2017. It was designed to be a comprehensive, 20 hour self help experience. There are four modules: All About Me, Health and Wellness, Financial Literacy and Computer 101. 67 participants have enrolled in the program and 41 have graduated. Our fourth cohort graduation was held March 27. Graduation highlights included the keynote speaker, Kevin Porter and a personal testimony from graduate Desiree Reason.



(Photo of the March 27th graduates)



## Desiree Reason THRIVE Testimonial

Good afternoon and welcome to the **THRIVE** Graduation. I like to share special appreciation of the executive director, Eileen Jones, to the board of directors, Reaves West. Very special thanks to Marian

Bumbaca, program administrator. Marian worked closely with us, preparing meals. Sat with us during our computer course, reminding us of each class. Listening and helping us with needs.

Special thanks to the LaSalle nurses who checked our vitals and followed up with calls. The day they checked my blood pressure, my pressure was very high. A few days later I received a call from them asking if I had followed up regarding my high blood pressure. I also want to thank Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church for allowing us to attend computer class in their computer lab. And for sharing their instructors who were so nice, kind and patient with us. As a class we learned what we do today can improve all our tomorrows. Noel Thompson from the Ladipo Group taught us just that.

All of us are overcoming stressful situations and I am sure there is more stress to come. But because of you Noel, we now have the tools to overcome. We are now able to make clear, concise decisions, set goals and prioritize. We are not what happened to us. We are who we choose to become. Thank you for listening to us individually and helping us to put our lives in perspective.

To let you know your work was not in vain, LaSalle Nurses—I set a goal to stop smoking. It took me a while but today is my third day without a cigarette! Also thank you to Jeff Prodraga who taught us about finances. Because of his classes I was able to identify my income and increase my knowledge of my spending. I learned the importance of legal documents and preparing for the future. As a result, I purchased a small life insurance policy. I no longer have to worry about my family having to worry or ask for help when the time comes. My today is better because I have taken care of tomorrow.

Now that I am not smoking, my health will be better, and I have more money. The money I wasted on cigarettes can pay my monthly insurance premium.

***Today my, our mission in life is not to merely to survive but to use the tools Jeff, Noel and the other instructors gave us to live life to the fullest and THRIVE!!!***

(cont. on page 10)



In addition to the certificate program, GACM will host other informative workshops and events that don't require a 20 hour time investment. The next THRIVE event is Saturday, May 11 at 9AM. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and a good time to talk about depression. Flyer for the event is here.



## Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network

On any night of the year in Philadelphia, *an estimated 1,000 to 1,300 children and their families are homeless.* <http://philashelter.org/>

Since its inception in Philadelphia, First Church has opened its doors to house homeless families enrolled in Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, (IHN) With a focus on “Homelessness Prevention, Housing, Shelter, Services, and Advocacy” IHN provides comprehensive services to families doing the hard work of overcoming the diverse barriers that have led to their homelessness. Often the program is described as a shelter that is not like a shelter. This is because of congregations like FPCG and volunteers like you! Our building is a well-maintained safe space. Volunteers like you are people generous with smiles and a commitment to treat our guests as you would treat yourself.



On April 28<sup>th</sup> three families including 10 children, moved in to FPCG. Sunday School classrooms became their private rooms. The Primary Room, their gathering space for meals and other communal activities. During their first two weeks here, buddy congregations continue to supply needed volunteers and food. Beginning Sunday, May 12, FPCG takes over providing coverage for the remaining two weeks. Families will move on to the next host congregation Sunday, May 26.

(cont. on page 11)

**IHN Provides a easy opportunity for you to gives hands on service. Opportunities include:**

- **Dinner Provider:** Dinner provider/ host may cook in the church kitchen or use the facilities to warm food purchased or prepared elsewhere. 6PM
- **Evening Hosts:** Evening Host assists the dinner host with final meal prep, setting the table and greeting families as they arrive. 6PM
- **Overnight Hosts:** Overnight Hosts arrive by 8 pm and remain in the building overnight.
- **Food Donations:** Donations of food items to enable guests to prepare breakfast, lunch and snacks are needed. With so many children, lots of individually packed snacks will be helpful.



***You may sign up to volunteer during coffee hour or contact Eileen Jones 215-843-8811, or Delores Solomon, 215-539-0694, cell. Additional information is available on the church literature table.***

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## **What was the “Gang of Four” and where did it go?**



A few years ago our Building Manager was Jesse Jacobs. Many of you will remember him. He resigned his position at First Church to spend more time to develop his rental real estate business. I (Lois Bethea) was Chair of Administration and Finance at the time and hoped that we could find a way to manage our building without hiring a full-time replacement for Jesse. I was also in the process of retiring and planned to spend more time at the church as a volunteer. A few days after Jesse’s leaving was announced, four of us were in the church office: Pete Smith, Joe Leube, Jim Thompson and myself. The topic of Jesse’s replacement came up. We already knew that Terry Boyer was willing to work a few more hours but did not want to work full time. We also knew that a necessary part of Jesse’s job was keeping track of all of the projects, details and “things to do” for the building. The four of us were all retirees and had some extra time. I suggested that we take the responsibility for the “to do list” for the church and work with Terry to support his efforts so that the job could be done in less than full time. As a joke I suggested that we call ourselves “The Gang of Four”. Randy Bremer, Head of Staff at the time and Carolyn Ballard Freeman, Chair of Property at the time, agreed to suggest the plan to the Personnel Committee. Terry Boyer became our new Building Manager, part time. “The Gang of Four” was born as a sub-committee of the Property Committee.

The goal was for volunteers to share building responsibilities so that the church would not need another full-time person. That goal was achieved. People left the “Gang”, committee chairs changed, volunteers joined the “Gang” and we worked to support Terry in maintaining the building. At first we met every week, then twice a month and recently, once a month or less. Now that the building maintenance is on a more routine path, the gang is disbanding.

Meanwhile, the maintenance of the “to do” list for the Property Chair’s benefit needs to continue. The plan going forward is to have Terry Boyer touch base with Marc DiNardo, current Property Chair, before each property committee meeting. I will help Terry with the clerical part of keeping the list up to date. Any volunteers who have time and energy and a heart for property issues are encouraged to attend the Property Committee meeting the third Wednesday of each month.

## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director

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

On Friday, March 29, the William & Mary Women's Chorus from Williamsburg, Va., under the direction of Sarah Frook Gallo, presented a concert at First Church during their three-city concert tour. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of women attending William & Mary, the concert program was dedicated to female composers and included choral works spanning five centuries. The world premier performance of *Journey* by Ysaye M. Barnwell, a founding member of Sweet Honey in The Rock, was a highlight of the concert. The stirring text was inspired by the issues of border security and immigration facing our country today.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who made it possible for First Church to host this wonderful concert and the 45 talented women who performed:

- The Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee, including Ruth Ann Cato, Vera Harrison, Dick Liberty, Randy Rosensteel, Jason Williams (Praise and Evangelism Team representative), and Faith Wolford.
- Roy Hock, who sponsored a delicious catered dinner for the choir. The menu included assorted fruit, salmon and spinach dip, bruschetta, baked chicken, garlic steamed string beans, rice pilaf, meatless sausage and peppers over wheat pasta, ceasar salad with grilled chicken or shrimp, and assorted cakes and pies.
- Marnie Hague, who organized overnight stays for the young women, and all those who opened their homes, including Charles and Lois Bethea, Denise Cowie and Stuart Ditzen, Megan Donascimento, Ingrid Harris, Klaas and Krista Hoekema-Boerman, Linda Jaymes, Patty Legron, Joe Leube, Anne McKenna and David Kellett, the Minecci family, Andrea Overton, Bob and Allison Seed, and Ted and Rosy Walkenhorst.

(Continued on page 13)

- Brittany Jones, one of our newest church members and a William & Mary alumna, and Mary Lundy and her team of ushers who provided a warm welcome to the choir and concert attendees.
- Marc Dinardo, who provided technical and backstage support for the concert and photography



“Thank you so much for your warm welcome and generous support of our concert. The chorus and I were so excited to be singing in your beautiful space, and to meet and spend time with your congregation. Many thanks and warmest wishes.” —Sarah Frook Gallo and the William & Mary Women’s Chorus

Photos by Marc DiNardo

## Keystone State Boychoir

### Join us at our Spring Concerts

Keystone State Boychoir would love for you to join us for our annual spring concerts and grad concert. Tickets range from \$15-\$40 per person and will be available online at [www.cychoirs.org](http://www.cychoirs.org), or you can stop by the Commonwealth Youthchoirs offices in FPCG, Tuesday - Friday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm.

### Keystone State Boychoir Spring Concerts

Sunday, May 19 | 3:00pm and 6:00pm

### Keystone State Boychoir Grad Concert

Sunday, June 9 | 5:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
35 W Chelten Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144



## FPCG's Second Trip to Añasco, PR

July 13-21, 2019

For all who are interested in participating in our second work trip to Añasco, PR, here are a couple of general details about the trip:

**Cost:** Between \$600-\$1000 (includes airfare, transportation, room/board, and cultural experience.) We will leave an offering to the church in Añasco with the remaining money collected.

Añasco is a small town in the west coast of the island. This was one of the towns in the west coast that suffered a lot of loss. PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) has partnered with the First Presbyterian Church in Añasco to serve as a connection between churches in the USA. On this trip we will be working with a local organization assisting on their current project. .

**Kind of labor:** Mostly Manual (building, cleaning, painting, etc.)

**Weather:** High 80's-90's and very humid

Questions? Rev. Rebecca 215-843-8811 or Sheila 267-972-5459



### Tentative Itinerary

**Saturday 7/13**– Travel from Phila to San Juan, PR and then drive to Añasco from San Juan, PR.

**Sunday 7/14**– Worship with Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana de Añasco

**Monday 7/15 to Friday 7/19**– Work

*(Thursday night we will visit a artisan market that is good for local crafts and souvenirs)*

**Saturday 7/20**– Cultural trip. Cave tubing and a Taino Museum

**Sunday 7/21**– Travel back to San Juan, PR to Philadelphia



THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN

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35 West Chelten Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

215-843-8811

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