

THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN
GERMANTOWN

SPECIAL DATES
OF
INTEREST:

•Wednesday
March 5
Ash Wednesday
Worship
Communion
Rev. Kevin Porter
Preaching
7:00 PM

•Sunday
March 9
1st Sunday in Lent
Communion
Rev. Dr. Allison Seed
Preaching
10:00 AM

•Wednesday
March 12
Session
7:00 PM

•Sunday
March 16
Rev Jade King Bass
Preaching

•Sunday
March 23
Aaron Bass
Preaching

•Sunday
March 30
Christian Heyer-Rivera
Preaching

WINDOWS

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2014

From Pastor Kevin

Hello Friends!

My best friend is an artist and a gardener. He has an eye to see what I would otherwise miss in the midst of the late February landscape that surrounds us as I write this. Where I still see the same scene of brown and gray that we've all been looking at all winter, he sees nuances of ochre and traces of faint green in the trees that he swears weren't there a week ago.

Although I can't see it, I'll hold on tight to his observation and lift it up for all our spirits to take heart in the message behind his vision: Even in the midst of winter, spring is becoming!

And yet, regardless how much I may want winter to be over, I haven't done much to maximize my enjoyment of the spring I know to be just around the corner. Did I plant any bulbs last fall (or whenever you're sup-

posed to plant them)? No. Have I prepared my warm weather clothes? Prepared them? I haven't even found them!

I can understand procrastinating when it comes to preparing for something I would rather avoid, but why put off preparing for something I want so much I can almost taste it?

March 5 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, our time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. The preparation begins with an honest assessment of where we are—individually and as the people of God, and moves us to a deeper appreciation of the abundant life God has promised us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's an abundant life that we can enjoy sooner than we imagine, not just after our physical death.

But without eyes to

see it, without preparing for it, we can miss out on all it has to offer.

Just like the Prodigal Son had to acknowledge the mess he was in before making the decision to arise and go to his father (Luke 15:18); just like the wise virgins had to plan ahead to make sure their lamps would be lit when the bridegroom came for them (Matt. 25:1-13), we have some preparing to do!

My hope for you this Lent is that you will engage in all FPCG has to offer, even with the extra dimension of the collective soul-searching and preparation before us this year in our transition between pastors. And in so doing, I pray you and we would be blessed. Come, spring! Come, Easter! Come Holy Spirit!

See you in church.

Kevin

Challenge Offering-One Great Hour of Sharing

SHARING
BRINGS
JOY
TO
OTHERS,
TO GOD,
AND
TO US.



Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is an important way that we respond to the world's needs.

Over the past few years, your gifts have enabled the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*, *Presbyterian Disas-*

ter Assistance, and *Self-Development of People* share the joy experienced in Christ. Your gifts have helped rebuild a fishing community left in tatters in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, provided food and shelter to those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti, and fueled the ability to provide peace and hope to those touched by the recent shootings in Tucson, Arizona; Aurora, Colorado; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Many of us enjoy the abundance of God's blessings, but by living an open-

handed life and sharing these blessings with others, we can offer an outward sign of thanksgiving for the presence of Christ in our lives while bringing joy to God and to our sisters and brothers.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have given generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, making an impact both at home and abroad.

Jesus said, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." Share your blessings with a generous gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

Financial Reports

2014 Pledge Goal
\$350,000

Pledge to January 31
\$28,914

Expenses as of January 31
Budget
\$91,273
Actual
\$114,914

Community Outreach

January

Germantown
Avenue Crisis
Ministry
\$2,750

February

Northwest Philadelphia
Interfaith
Hospitality Network
\$2,500

March

Center in the Park
\$2,500
Urban Resource
Development Corp.
\$1,000

Challenge Offerings

December

Presbyterian Joy Offering
\$736.00

January

Friends of Vernon Park
\$572.00



March

14

21

28

April

4

11

Lenten Discussion Series

Good News for Now:

A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Five Fridays during Lent: March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11

1:00pm - 2:15pm

or

7:00pm - 8:15pm

(identical sessions)

Deacon Don Carlin, discussion leader

All who wish may receive copies of this 80-line Statement, with commentary, ahead of time to help prepare them for the discussions. See Don Carlin at church or call him at 215-247-4196.

"A Brief Statement of Faith," now in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Confessions, was completed in 1990 after six years of committee work during a season of change in our denomination. The Statement "attempts to proclaim what we believe, and define who we are as contemporary Christians." For Don, the discussion leader, "this statement has had an unexpected positive impact on my personal life and church life during seasons of change. It may be my number one reason for being Presbyterian."

All are welcome. Come when you can. Bring a friend. Make a friend.

Bake Sale

March 16th

This year's Annual Bread, Soup, and Bake Sale will take place following worship on Sunday, March 16th. We welcome and appreciate any food items contributed for this sale. Just bring your labeled pot of soup, bread or baked goods before worship that Sunday, and the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee will prepare them for selling. Proceeds from this activity will go to the Events budget of the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee.



March 5, 2014

Worship Service

with

Communion

7:00 PM

The Reverend Dr. Nancy Muth

Retirement in the News



When the Rev. Dr. Nancy E. Muth came to The First Presbyterian Church of Germantown (FPCG) to minister in 1999, she had worked in religious service for about two decades. But it wasn't until she arrived on Cheltenham Avenue that she understood how "churches can make a real difference." On Jan. 8, Muth announced her retirement to FPCG's congregation after 14 years of service. The senior minister said her decision resulted from much thought and prayer and follows a year of physical setbacks. Yet, it still came as a surprise to the congregation.

What she meant

Over the course of Muth's tenure, the church had strengthened its ties with the community through crisis and youth ministries. Longtime member Bill Young said that as soon as Muth arrived, she recognized that the church needed to be "one of the driving forces" in helping Germantown make positive transformations. One of her first projects as an assistant pastor in 1999 was to help Northwest Philadelphia's ecumenical community find a way to meet a growing number of emergency aid requests. This effort led to the **Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry**, an organization that connects individuals and families to food, funds and needed social services. In 2008, Dr. Muth co-founded **Germantown Community Connections** to facilitate civic dialogue among various groups.

Advocacy and community service

Muth's involvement in community service leadership has also included advocating for children. For seven weeks every summer, FPGC has offered a reasonably priced day-camp for children. Along with FPGC's Director of Urban Ministries Eileen Jones, Muth learned how to make the camp a "Freedom School" by participating in a reading enrichment initiative through the Children's Defense Fund. Throughout her work, Muth has consistently found encouragement through a Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:7: "But seek the welfare of the city ... and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Urban ministry, said Muth, is something she "wanted all of us together at the church to learn." Now, FPGC offers a week-long Philadelphia Urban Ministry Institute to help others understand what they have learned: That urban service requires a commitment to a community. "If First Presbyterian were not in Germantown, the people would miss it," said Muth. "If churches weren't in communities, communities would miss them."

Bittersweet transition

In retirement, she will not only need to forego attending FPCG, but also her involvement in its community service groups. "Once you leave a Presbyterian church, you leave," Muth said. "You aren't able to have your hand in anything." Asked where she will go, or what she will do, Muth said she neither knows nor needs to: "It's in God's hands."

—By Carrie Hagen

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Happy Birthday

Deadline For the April Edition Of **WINDOWS**

Friday, March 14 Send your articles to

FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com

THANK YOU

For all the get-well cards and prayers during my recent illness.

David Daugherty

March

- 2 Irene Overton
3 Jack Asher
Duane Horne
4 Francina Carroll
7 Wes Reisse
Rosy Walkenhorst
9 Robert Archer
14 Ted Walkenhorst
17 Randy Clever
19 Emanuel Heyer-Rivera
20 Leslie Burton
Alexander Deas
21 Bert Aiken
23 Laura Ola
25 Joan Blake
26 Tyrone Burton



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Begins

Sunday, March 9th

Turn your clocks ahead and spring forward.

Parish Visitor

Parish visitor Heidi Mercado-Littles will be in Chile from January 28 through April 12.

For pastoral concerns please contact

The Reverend Kevin Porter at 215-518-1675

or contact your Deacon.

FPCG

In Transition

* The Reverend Cindy Jarvis has been appointed as moderator of the FPCG Session, Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

* The Session approved a job description for an Interim Pastor and expressed thanks for the service of Elder Bill Young as Clerk of Session, whose term ended February 12.

* The Reverend Kevin L. Porter has been appointed as FPCG Acting Head of Staff until an Interim Pastor arrives.

* Elder Madeline Valentine has been appointed as the Acting Clerk of Session effective February 13.

* We welcome Vincent James as a new Administrative Assistant and Ramon Garcia as a new Sexton on the FPCG staff.



Our Blue Planet

Over seventy percent of the earth's surface is covered by water—oceans, rivers, lakes, etc. This month's column focuses on water, the elixir of life, and bodies of water. Did you know that the water we drink and use today is the same water from which dinosaurs sipped and dipped (if they took baths) millions of years ago? You can find that and other cool water facts in *One Well*. All titles are for grades K-4.

Happy Reading!

Deborah Thompson

Children's Book Spot

- Asch, Frank. *Water*. Harcourt, 1995.
- Becker, Helaine. *The Big Green Book of the Big Blue Sea*. Illustrated by Willow Dawson. Kids Can Press, 2012.
- Cherry, Lynne. *A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History*. Harcourt, 1992.
- Cole, Joanna. *The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks*. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic, 1986.
- Frisch, Aaron. *Lakes*. Creative Editions, 2008.
- Gibbons, Gail. *Great St. Lawrence Seaway*. Morrow, 1992.
- Gibbons, Gail. *Marshes and Swamps*. Holiday House, 1998.
- Gilliland, Judith Heide. *River*. Illustrated by Joyce Powzyk. Clarion, 1993.
- Halpern, Shari. *My River*. Macmillan, 1992.
- Harrison, David L. *Oceans: The Vast Mysterious Deep*. Illustrated by Cheryl Nathan. Boyds Mills, 2003.
- Hollyer, Beatrice. *Our World of Water*. Henry Holt, 2009.
- Kerley, Barbara. *A Cool Drink of Water*. National Geographic, 2002.
- Lewin, Ted. *Sacred River: The Ganges of India*. Clarion, 1995.
- Lourie, Peter. *Rio Grande: From the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico*. Boyds Mills, 2000.
- Lyon, George Ella. *All of the Water in the World*. Illustrated by Katherine Tillotson. Atheneum, 2011.
- Miller, Debbie S. *River of Life*. Illustrated by Jon Van Zyle. Clarion, 2000.
- Morrison, Gordon. *Pond*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002.
- Sill, Cathryn. *About Habitats: Oceans*. Illustrated by John Sill. Peachtree Publishers, 2012.
- Simon, Seymour. *Oceans*. Morrow, 1990.
- Strauss, Rochelle. *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth*. Kids Can Press, 2007.
- Viera, Linda. *The Mighty Mississippi: The Life and Times of America's Greatest River*. Illustrated by Higgins Bond. Walker, 2005.
- Viera, Linda. *The Seven Seas: Exploring the World Ocean*. Illustrations by Higgins Bond. Walker, 2003.
- Waldman, Neil. *The Snowflake A Water Cycle Story*. Millbrook Press, 2003.
- Wick, Walter. *A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder*. Scholastic, 1997.

March 2014

1 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
9:30am Congregational Development Committee
10:00am Open Gym

2 Sunday

8:45am Chancel Choir
9:40am Power of Prayer—Westside Room
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:10am Children's Choir
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Ed
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:30pm Gospel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

3 Monday

6:00pm Basketball

4 Tuesday

9:30am Classic Towns
6:30pm Reconciliation Committee

5 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday
2:00pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
7:00pm Worship—Communion

6 Thursday

6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25pm Gospel Choir
7:45pm Voices-in-Bronze

7 Friday

3:30pm Drop-in-Center
6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30pm Elementary School Youth Group

8 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
10:00am Open Gym

9 Sunday

Lent I
Daylight Saving Time Begins
8:45am Chancel Choir
9:40am Power of Prayer—Westside Room
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:10am Children's Choir
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Ed
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:30pm Gospel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

10 Monday

6:00pm Basketball

11 Tuesday

3:30pm Germantown Special Services District

12 Wednesday

4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30pm GACM Board Meeting
7:00pm Session

13 Thursday

6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25pm Gospel Choir
7:45pm Voices-in-Bronze

14 Friday

Deadline-April WINDOWS
3:30pm Drop-in-Center
6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30pm Middle School Youth Group

15 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
10:00am Open Gym

16 Sunday

Lent II
8:45am Chancel Choir
9:40am Power of Prayer—Westside Room
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:00am Bread, Soup & Bake Sale
11:10am Children's Choir
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Ed
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:30pm Gospel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

17 Monday

6:00pm Basketball

18 Tuesday**19 Wednesday**

2:00pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30pm Christian Education Committee
7:00pm Property Committee

20 Thursday

6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25pm Gospel Choir
7:45pm Voices-in-Bronze

21 Friday

3:30pm Drop-in-Center
6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:30pm High School Youth Group

22 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
10:00am Open Gym

23 Sunday

Lent III
8:45am Chancel Choir
9:40am Power of Prayer—Westside Room
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:10am Children's Choir
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Ed
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:30pm Gospel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

24 Monday

6:00pm Basketball

25 Tuesday**26 Wednesday**

4:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:00pm Mission and Outreach Committee
7:00PM Communication and Evangelism Committee

27 Thursday

6:00pm Administration and Finance
6:00pm Keystone State Boychoir
6:25pm Gospel Choir
7:45pm Voices-in-Bronze

28 Friday

3:30pm Drop-in-Center

29 Saturday

8:15am Keystone State Boychoir
9:00am Readers' Choice
10:00am Open Gym

30 Sunday

Lent IV
8:45am Chancel Choir
9:05am Gospel Choir
9:40am Power of Prayer—Westside Room
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee Hour
11:30am Sunday School
11:30am Adult Ed
11:30am Chancel Choir
12:45pm Basketball

31 Monday

6:00pm Basketball

FPCG Committees

Ad Hoc Reconciliation:

Sherry Archer, leader
Jim Thompson
Don Carlin
Sara Greene
Gloria Bethea
Bob Seed
Faith Wolford

Administration and

Finance:

Jack Asher
Aaron Bass
Ernest Freeman
Marney Hague
Joe Leube
Lois Nafziger, chair
Pete Smith
Wayne Swift
Jim Thompson
Ted Walkenhorst

Christian Education:

Mandy Adams

Faith Lewis
Bob Seed
Bob Swenson
Faith Wolford, chair
Christian Heyer-Rivera, staff
Kevin L. Porter, staff

Communication and Evangelism:

Bob Archer
Gloria Bethea
Daniel Conner
Denise Cowie, chair
Larry Elliott
Marney Hague
Contina Lundy
Dave Wolford
Faith Wolford
Ted Walkenhorst
David Daugherty, staff

Congregational Develop- ment & Fellowship:

Mandy Adams

Debra Gary
Dani Howard
Mary Lundy
Susan Mills Farrington
Bernice Roundtree
Dave Wolford
Madeline Valentine, chair
Kevin L. Porter, staff

Mission and Outreach:

Sherry Archer, Chair
Gloria Bethea
Larry Elliott
Veda Gibbs
Sara Greene
Irene Overton
Jack Roberts
Rosy Walkenhorst
Eileen Jones, staff

Personnel:

Sherry Archer
Daniel Conner
Bill Young, chair
Ted Walkenhorst

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



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