

# the Messenger

## *Encountering Other Faiths...and Our Own!*

**I**n the month of February we're going to have two wonderful opportunities at First Church to stretch our minds. In addition to our usual educational programming this month, there will be two special programs that are sure to be both highly instructive and extremely informative.

First, our annual **Winter Seminar** on "constitutional thinking" will take place on three Wednesday nights (February 1, 8, & 15) from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, with a fourth "wrap-up" session on a Saturday later in the month (date to be determined). Led as always by our own Dr. Will Harris, a long-time professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania and former Director of the Center for the Constitution at Montpelier, we will explore what it means to think "constitutionally" here in the birthplace of the U. S. Constitution. Our topic this year will be "Jesus: Teacher, Not King" and will delve into the paradox of the traditional image of Jesus as a king despite the problematic scriptural evidence for that ascription. Should the very people (us!) famous for rebelling against a king then use that very image to think of Jesus? Join us on Wednesday evenings in the MacColl Room. You'll be glad you did.

In the past we have from time to time explored other faith traditions. Several years ago, we had a fascinating encounter with Islam and met not only a local imam but many members of his congregation. More recently, we turned our focus to the Baha'i faith, and were extremely fortunate to learn of that tradition with a prominent member of the local Baha'i community. On Sundays, February 19 and 26, we have invited leaders of the local **Mormon** community to meet with us to discuss their traditions and beliefs, and answer any questions that those of us who recently toured the new Mormon temple here may have. We are privileged to welcome Elder Milan and Leslie Kunz who will lead the presentation. Milan is the highest ranking church leader in this region and a retired senior vice president at GlaxoSmithKline. Leslie is a retired teacher and very active in the Mormon congregation in Downingtown. Also joining us will be my good friend and fellow Interfaith Center board member Corinne Dougherty, who is the former regional director for public affairs for the Mormon Church in this area and who will be accompanied by her son Sean, a high school sophomore. We'll meet in the MacColl Room on the two Sunday mornings at 9:45 A.M. Please join us. Again, you'll be very glad you did.

—Jesse Garner



The **FIRST**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
in PHILADELPHIA

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### LECTIONARY

#### FEBRUARY 5

Isaiah 58:1–12

Psalms 112:1–10

1 Corinthians 2:1–12

Matthew 5:13–20

#### FEBRUARY 12

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

Psalms 119:1–8

1 Corinthians 3:1–9

Matthew 5:21–37

#### FEBRUARY 19

Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18

Psalms 119:33–40

1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23

Matthew 5:38–48

#### FEBRUARY 26

Exodus 24:12–18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16–21

Matthew 17:1–9

## Annual Meeting Postponed

The Annual Meeting of the congregation, normally held in February, will take place this year in mid-March. The meeting has been postponed to allow for the completion of our Mission Study and its approval by the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery, which is required in order for the congregation to elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting. The exact date of the meeting (likely either March 12 or 19) will be announced in mid-February.

### 2017 WINTER CONSTITUTION SEMINAR

## *Jesus: Teacher, Not King*

with Dr. Will Harris

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 1, 8, & 15

## February 2017 at a Glance

### Wednesday, February 1

- 6:30 pm Constitution Seminar (MacColl Room)  
7:30 pm Young Adult Group

### Thursday, February 2

- 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting  
6:45 pm Deacons Meeting

### Saturday, February 4

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's)  
3:00 pm First Church Families @ Please Touch Museum

### Sunday, February 5

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Christian Education  
    ▸ Adults (MacColl Room)  
    ▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

### Monday, February 6

- 10:00 am Reading Buddies  
11:00 am Congregational Care Team  
6:30 pm Nominating Committee

### Tuesday, February 7

- 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study  
7:00 pm Finance Committee  
7:30 pm Sidewalk Task Force

### Wednesday, February 8

- 10:00 am Planned Giving Team  
6:30 pm Constitution Seminar (MacColl Room)  
7:30 pm Young Adult Group

### Thursday, February 9

- 6:30 pm Session

### Saturday, February 11

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's)

### Sunday, February 12

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Christian Education  
    ▸ Adults (MacColl Room)  
    ▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
9:45 am Spiritual Direction Group (Whitefield Room)  
9:50 am *Make a Joyful Noise* (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
12:15 pm Young Adult Brunch

### Monday, February 13

- 10:00 am Reading Buddies

### Tuesday, February 14

- 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 15

- 6:30 pm Constitution Seminar (MacColl Room)  
7:30 pm Young Adult Group

### Thursday, February 16

- 5:30 pm Membership & Evangelism Committee

### Saturday, February 18

- 8:30 am UCHC Casserole Blitz (kitchen)  
9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's)

### Sunday, February 19

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Christian Education  
    ▸ Adults: Lectionary Study - Penn Village Office; "The Mormons" - MacColl Room  
    ▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

### Monday, February 20

- 6:00 pm Worship Committee

### Tuesday, February 21

- 9:30 am WiseRetirees  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 22

- 7:30 pm Young Adult Group

### Saturday, February 25

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's)

### Sunday, February 26

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Christian Education  
    ▸ Adults: Lectionary Study - Penn Village Office; "The Mormons" - MacColl Room  
    ▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
9:45 am Spiritual Direction Group (Whitefield Room)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
3:00 pm Concerts@First - Kara Huber, Piano

### Monday, February 27

- 10:00 am Reading Buddies  
6:30 pm Missions Committee

### Tuesday, February 28

- 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Make a difference: Volunteer!

## MEMBER NEWS

### Births

We have a new member of the First Church Family! **CAMPBELL RILEY HAMPTON** was born December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to proud parents **KIMBERLY and DEVIN**.



### Deaths

**GLORIA LLOYD** was the wife of longtime member and Deacon **MARCELLUS A. LLOYD JR.** She was born in Bluefield, West Virginia, but moved to Philadelphia at the age of 14, and there she spend the rest of her life. She married Marcellus Lloyd on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1956, and they have two daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, who brought Gloria great joy. Gloria was a member of Redeemer Moravian Church, where she served as Head Sacristan, and took great joy in presenting babies for baptism, serving Love Feasts for anniversaries and Christmas Eve services. She is survived by her husband Marcellus, their daughters, grandchildren and great grandchild, as well as one sister and three brothers. Her memorial service was held on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at Redeemer Moravian Church.

## GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

First Church offers Group Spiritual Direction in Sunday morning sessions led by our parish associate Barbara Chaapel. Spiritual direction, an ancient practice of the church, is the process of Christians accompanying one another on our faith journeys. In the midst of our fast-paced world, we often find it difficult to be aware of God's presence and action in our daily lives and in everyday events, and to recognize where God might be leading us.

In group spiritual direction, Barbara provides ways to reflect on our lives, using prayer, scripture, readings from spiritual leaders, poetry, music, and silence. Gradually,

as we share and contemplate together, and deeply listen to one another, we begin to recognize God's voice and powerful presence in ourselves and in each other. We learn to notice the work of God's Spirit in our lives. We also receive the gift of knowing one another better, and of sharing our life of faith more personally.

Group spiritual direction is offered bi-weekly in the Whitefield Room on the lower level of the church. The dates through May are: February 12, 26; March 12, 26; April 9, 23; and May 7, 21. All are welcome. Contact Barbara at [barbara.chaapel@fpcphila.org](mailto:barbara.chaapel@fpcphila.org) for more information.

### *Get to Know Our Seminary Intern*

#### **CLARK ROYLE**

Hopefully you've already met our new Princeton Seminary intern, Mr. Clark Royle. Clark began his internship with us shortly before Christmas and will continue working here at First Church through July. A third year student at Princeton, Clark's home is Dallas, Texas, where he is a member of First Presbyterian Church. Prior to attending seminary, Clark worked as an attorney in Dallas for twelve years.

Here at First, Clark will be working with the programs and agencies we support through our Missions Committee to develop volunteer opportunities for our members, and then recruit volunteers for those opportunities. Among the agencies working in our community are MANNA, University City Hospitality Coalition, Urban Tree Coalition, Norris Square Project, Habitat, and The Arc. Our goal is to involve more of our members in these mission efforts both within the community and beyond.

In his spare time, Clark enjoys water and snow skiing, the performing arts (especially the ballet and chamber music), horse racing, historic preservation, and reading (especially history). If you haven't already met Clark, please introduce yourself and give him a chance to get to know you.

—Jesse Garner

## Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee has been working since September 2016 to fulfill its responsibility to present three recommended slates at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation:

1. The slate for the Class of 2020 officers for the Session, the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees
2. The slate for at-large members of the 2017 Congregational Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee also includes representatives of the three boards (Session, Deacons, Trustees) which

will nominate their representatives at the Annual Meeting.

3. The slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee

The members of the 2016 Nominating Committee are Jim Wilson and Suellen Smith, co-chairs and Session representatives, Deacon representative Dave Huting, Trustee representative Rebekah Horowitz, and at-large members Joan Mount, Diane Rogers, Michael Smith, Jim Schreyer, Stella Tsai, and Jesse Garner, ex officio.

—Suellen Smith



## SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS: The Arc of Philadelphia

Founded in 1948, The Arc of Philadelphia, through its volunteer board, staff and membership, has led the way in protecting the rights of and promoting opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. The Arc of Philadelphia is affiliated with The Arc of Pennsylvania and The Arc of the United States and is a member of the SpArc Philadelphia family of organizations. Our mission is to advocate with and for all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, to promote active citizenship, self-determination, and full inclusion.

We are grateful for the contribution of The First Presbyterian Church to lifting up youth with disabilities and helping establish employment programs within our community. This year, The Arc of Philadelphia has been blessed by an expanding circle of support from employers, government agencies, and families throughout the Philadelphia region.



*William DelToro Vargas receiving the Eleanor Elkin award at the annual membership event.*

The work of William DelToro Vargas and Michael Anderson, which has been funded in part by The First Presbyterian Church, established a new template for leadership within the disability community. William has become a statewide leader and was honored with the Eleanor Elkin Award for his work on legislation that provides funding for youth employment, while still in high school. Originally from Puerto Rico and raised in Kensington, William himself has Autism and has overcome great adversity. In his role as Youth Leadership Abilities Coordinator he develops internship and leadership opportunities, educates legislators, families, youth and the community on the importance of employment and leadership, as well as coordinating the annual Youth Leadership Abilities Forum.

Michael, who has Cerebral Palsy, recently received the PAR 2016 "We Are Worth It" Southeast Region Self-Advocate

Employee of the Year Award for his work as a legislative advocate. As the Arc of Philadelphia's legislative advocate, Michael is vital in the fight to protect the rights of children and adults with disabilities. His dedication to the legislative



*Michael Anderson celebrating the passage of "Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities" legislation with Senator Baker.*

advocacy program allows The Arc to better inform self advocates, families and our community of upcoming local, state or national legislation changes that will directly impact individuals with disabilities.

We have been able to provide training and technical

assistance to over fifty high schools in Philadelphia and hundreds more across the state on how to access employment supports for youth with disabilities, impacting hundreds of Philadelphia youth. Through work with governmental organizations, youth organizations, families, self advocates and employers we have been able to build on this success to develop even more youth leadership and employment opportunities for the coming year.



*Meeting with the Philadelphia DNC Committee staff with The Arc staff and board William DelToro Vargas, Michael Anderson, Tanya Regli and Shawn Aleong. The relationships built here have opened doors to leadership in city government to promote additional leadership and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Philadelphia this coming year.*

Nonetheless, our work still continues, and we must redouble our efforts as we enter a new year of uncertainty in public policy.

High rates of poverty continue to pervade within developmental disability community, primarily because of a

lack of access to competitive employment opportunities. The root cause of this persistent unemployment arises from a lack of inclusion and discrimination starting from early ages. In Philadelphia, children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities are usually placed in segregated setting based on their diagnosis, making it difficult for them to get the level of education and training needed to be included in the community and employment once they are adults. The estimated unemployment rate in the I/DD community is 85% and many of those that are employed are underemployed.

The systemic lack of leadership creates gaps in service throughout all areas of the community. Most adults also have little to no access to quality health care in great part



*Michael Anderson discussing the inclusion of volunteers with developmental disabilities at the DNC with Governor Rendell, chair of the Philadelphia DNC Host committee.*

because of a lack of training for health care workers. Government services are harder to access, and crucial resources like transportation continue to face cutbacks, disproportionately affecting people who rely on it.

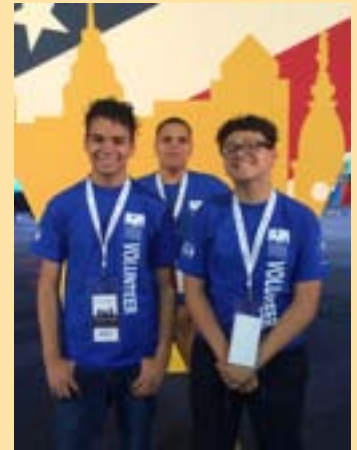
We have much to do. With your continued help, we will transform Philadelphia and make it into an inclusive city that sees the abilities in all its citizens. We serve thousands of Philadelphia's children, youth, families, educators and employers every year through advocacy and training. We invite you to join us in this work and help to create an inclusive community for all our citizens.

Please come and visit us soon. First Church Elder Jim Wilson is on the Board of Directors at The Arc of Philadelphia. Speak with him at Fellowship on Sundays or via e-mail ([329wilson@comcast.net](mailto:329wilson@comcast.net)). Tanya Regli can be reached at [tregli@arcphiladelphia.org](mailto:tregli@arcphiladelphia.org) or 215-229-4550 extension 118. We look forward to connecting.

—Tanya Regli, Executive Director

## Volunteer Opportunities at The Arc of Philadelphia:

- **Youth Leadership Abilities Program** promotes and supports leadership skills and opportunities for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Philadelphia. Youth and mentors in programs across the city collaborate to plan and run the Youth Leadership Forum as well as develop other leadership opportunities.



*Some of the twenty youth with disabilities given volunteer opportunities at the DNC.*

- **HealthMeet™** provides screening for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families, and training to medical and nursing students, medical providers and the general public, and raises awareness of common health issues that impact this population. Volunteers can be trained to provide screenings and help with outreach to raise awareness of health issues.

- **Systems Advocacy and Governmental Affairs Committee** meets every other month to discuss and plan advocacy initiatives. Members meet with legislators, participate in coalition building and work to further systems change.

- **#DeclarationChampion** is a new initiative to advance and promote the Rights of People with Cognitive Disabilities to technology and Information Access in Philadelphia. Volunteers will help get signatures for the declaration of these rights and raise awareness in the Philadelphia community. For more information on the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities Declaration go to <http://www.colemaninstitute.org/declaration>

- **Membership development and event planning**—each year we work to build membership engagement in meeting our mission of inclusion for people of all abilities. Volunteers can help us with recruitment and also with planning the annual membership event in May.



*Tanya Regli, William DelToro Vargas and Senator Harkin at a celebration for the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA.*



# Music at First

## Songs Overseas



**W**e would like to thank everyone who has contributed to *Songs Overseas*, either through one-time donations, or by recurring donations via the weekly challenge we're running through Easter. With the amount raised so far, a few larger commitments, and projected income, we have crossed the \$30,000 mark! We are thrilled and encouraged by your love and support! However, we are still hopeful that we can reach our goal of \$50,000. With that in mind, we continue to ask for your support in any (or all) of the following ways: 1) make an additional donation; 2) contribute \$10, \$15, or \$20 per week through Easter Sunday using church's online giving page; 3) attend upcoming events (described below).

As we've stated from this past fall, all of the donations made at *Concerts@First* programs this year will go toward *Songs Overseas* fundraising. There are two of those concerts coming up: the wonderful young pianist, Kara Huber, on **February 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM**; and our own Frances Tate, flutist, on **March 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**. Enjoy world-class music while supporting our *Songs Overseas* efforts.

The Chancel Choir will offer its next service of Choral Evensong on

**April 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**. This service will be followed by a delicious spaghetti dinner, accompanied by an entertaining cabaret show. The cost for dinner is \$20 per person.

And finally, what *was* originally going to be our final Choral Evensong of the season, is *now* becoming a choir concert and gala black tie reception! On **June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**, the choir will sing a program filled with the music which we will be taking to England, including a large selection of fun spirituals which we'll be singing during a lunchtime concert at the cathedral. Afterward will follow a reception with champagne, hors d'oeuvres, live jazz sung by our own Calli Graver, and a silent auction!

If you would like to donate items for the silent auction, we would be most grateful! Anything from designer jewelry to orchestra tickets to private concerts to restaurant vouchers. If you have something in mind, please let me know!

We look forward to sharing more music, fellowship, fun, and food together. These are all fantastic events, and we hope that you will take advantage of as many of them as possible!

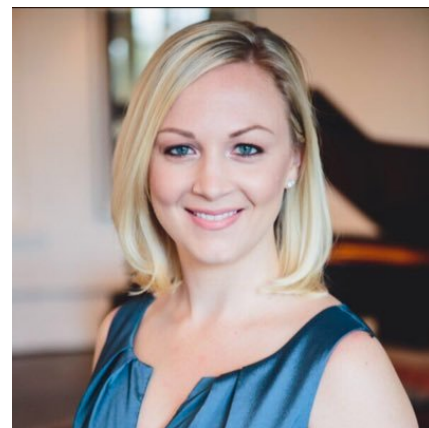
—Andrew Senn

**Concerts@First**

presents

**Kara Huber**

**Sunday, February 26, 3:00 PM**



Dynamic American pianist Kara Huber performs exciting works by American composers Joan Tower and David Rakowski, including his athletic Etudes "Fists of Fury" and "Absofunkinlutely." Lauded by the Washington Post for her "mature vision," Huber will conclude her program with Rachmaninoff's epic Preludes, Op. 3.

## Let's Make Casseroles!

The Missions committee is organizing our quarterly casserole blitz to make 30-40 casseroles to feed those in need through the University City Hospitality Coalition. This will translate into 300-400 servings of a hot meal for the hungry and homeless in our city. Volunteers are needed between 8:30 and 10:30 AM on Saturday, February 18 in the church kitchen (ring the buzzer and enter through the 21<sup>st</sup> St. door). We have a lot of fun, enjoying coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship—and leave knowing we've accomplished something good for our community. If you're interested in helping, please contact Beverly Cowart at [missions@fpcphila.org](mailto:missions@fpcphila.org) or 215-382-415.

## Young Adult News

### YOUNG ADULTS @ FIRST CHURCH

Greetings from the young adults! I am Eleanor, I've been attending First for about two years now. I'm a research assistant working on my PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Drexel. One of the main things that attracted me to First was the Young Adults group. We meet weekly on Wednesday nights and have several additional gatherings each month. My favorite thing about Young Adults is not the free brunches, or the fun outings, or even the nostalgia of watching Charlie Brown holiday specials. It's the sense of community. I grew up in a small town in Xenia, Ohio and one of the most drastic changes to living in Philadelphia was the lack of that feeling of belonging. Young Adults at First offers that. Young Adults also provides much needed balance to my life, by way of bible study, movie night discussions, service activities and socials. It helps me keep my life rooted in faith.

Want to get involved with Young Adults? Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 or on the first Sunday of each month for brunch following church. For more information, contact [youngadults@fpcphila.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcphila.org). We'd love to get to know you.

—Eleanor Young

### WE'RE CLIPPING COUPONS!

The Young Adults are starting a new Project! We are clipping coupons to mail to organizations that send them to military bases around the world. Coupons can be used for up to six months past the expiration date at the stores on base, and they help tremendously. We need YOUR help! If you get the Sunday paper and do not use the coupons please bring them with you to church and drop them off in the labeled basket in the office! Thanks for your help!

—Annie LeCluyse ([youngadults@fpcphila.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcphila.org))



### YOUNG ADULT FIRST SUNDAY BRUNCH

On the first Sunday of every month, the Young Adults gather for fellowship over brunch immediately following the 11:00 AM worship service. However, in February, we'll meet on the second Sunday (February 12) instead! We meet in Old Buttonwood Hall during fellowship hour and head over to the Irish Pub (2007 Walnut Street). It's a great way to get to know other young adults or to catch up! If you're visiting or new to the church, please join us!

## YOUNG ADULT SUPER BOWL PARTY!

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm

The Young Adults are having a Potluck Super Bowl Party at Seth Gee's place!

[youngadults@fpcphila.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcphila.org) by Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, if you plan to come and what you plan to bring.



RSVP to

## FIRST CHURCH FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

First Church Families with Young Children had a huge turnout for our December trip to Franklin Square for the Electrical Spectacle Holiday Light Spectacular! In spite of the cold and a few transportation snafus, we had more than 17 parents and kids come to see the lights and join in the merriment (and eventually duck into the tent for some fresh doughnuts!)

*Make a Joyful Noise* continues to be a big hit for both kids and parents! Every second Sunday we come together to sing songs and learn about God together through music. Our next *Make a Joyful Noise* will be on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:50 AM. Come and join in the fun!

### Please Touch Museum Trip

On Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, we're going to the Please Touch Museum! Since the Museum is designed to go at your own pace, we'll meet at the Carousel for some socializing and then spend time exploring the park at our own paces. See everyone there! For information contact Drew Harrison ([drew@fpcphila.org](mailto:drew@fpcphila.org)).



**Please  
Touch  
Museum**  
MEMORIAL HALL

# The First Presbyterian Church

IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

201 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-567-0532 fax: 215-567-7697 • [fpcphila.org](http://fpcphila.org)

## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Jesse B. Garner**, *Minister*

**The Rev. Megan LeCluyse**, *Celebration Team Leader*

**The Rev. Drew Harrison**, *Membership and  
Congregational Care Director*

**Mr. Andrew Senn**, *Director of Music & Organist*

**Mrs. Patti Sassoli**, *Director of Communications*

**Ms. Annie LeCluyse**, *Young Adult Leader*

**Ms. Sue Riemann**, *Interim Church Administrator*

## PARISH ASSOCIATES:

**The Rev. Barbara A. Chaapel**, **The Rev. Kenneth  
Ross**, **The Rev. Herbert D. Valentine**

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### ELDERS

#### Class of 2017

Christina Carl, Jeff Halili, Larry Slagle,  
Suellen Smith, Jim Wilson

#### Class of 2018

Jen Johnson, Rebecca Melley,  
Allan Schimmel, George Schneider

#### Class of 2019

Beverly Cowart, Roselyn Hsueh,  
Philip McMunigal, Emily Roan, Patricia Sassoli

### DEACONS

#### Class of 2017

Robert Cole, Elena Colon,  
Marc Lloyd, Cynthia Olds-Greeley

#### Class of 2018

Fred Barfoot, Miles Davis, Frances Kraemer,  
Cathy Lever, Jean Witmer

#### Class of 2019

Linda Deis, Edna Dick, Dave Huting,  
Anita McLarin, Evelyn Schwartz

### TRUSTEES

#### Class of 2017

Rebekah Horowitz, Tom Lever, Robert Linck,  
Cade Massey, Jon Rogers

#### Class of 2018

Joann Bailey, Jeannie Boehner,  
Gary Christensen, Leila Vaughan

#### Class of 2019

Craig Boddorff, Andrea Bowman, Mike Carl,  
Jennifer Gay, Robert Romano

## THE MESSENGER

Patti Sassoli, *Executive Editor*

Owen Robbins, *Layout and Design*

Please submit all information for the  
March issue of *The Messenger* to  
[communications@fpcphila.org](mailto:communications@fpcphila.org) by  
**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.**

## Volunteer Opportunities

**MANNA**, an organization founded by First Church, needs volunteers to help prepare or deliver meals for people with HIV, diabetes, undergoing chemotherapy, or other conditions requiring quality nutrition. Contact Jen Stackhouse, Volunteer Manager at 215-496-2662 ext 138 or [volunteers@mannapa.org](mailto:volunteers@mannapa.org).

**READING BUDDIES** volunteers are needed to help children learn to read, and make a friend. Volunteers are needed at First Church and other locations throughout the city. Contact Pat Quigg at [readingbuddies@aol.com](mailto:readingbuddies@aol.com).

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S WEST

**PHILADELPHIA REPAIR INITIATIVE (WPRI)** is an urban ministry that assists homeowners in West Philadelphia with repairs to their homes. The organization needs volunteers. Work can involve painting, installing sheetrock, windows, flooring, carpentry, etc. Volunteers do not need any experience. If you have interest in being a volunteer, please contact the Missions Committee at [missions@fpcphila.org](mailto:missions@fpcphila.org).

**PENN'S VILLAGE**, an aging-in-place program for Central Philadelphia seniors, needs volunteers for driving, friendly visiting, light

household tasks, administrative and technical assistance, and committee work. Call 215-925-7333, email [info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org) or visit [www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org).

**URBAN TREE CONNECTION (UTC)** is a nonprofit organization that engages children and adults from some of Philadelphia's most disadvantaged neighborhoods in community-based, urban-greening projects. Visit [urbantreeconnection.org](http://urbantreeconnection.org) or contact Bruce Rapsher at [utc@fpcphila.com](mailto:utc@fpcphila.com).

### THE UNIVERSITY CITY HOSPITALITY COALITION (UCHC)

provides hot meals to anyone in need on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and, during the academic year, Sundays, at sites in the University City area. Volunteers to serve meals are needed during the summer and academic breaks, when students are not available. In addition, First Church sponsors quarterly casserole "blitzes," in which we prepare 30-40 casseroles to be served at UCHC meals. These typically occur on the first Saturday of February, May, August and November, but check the bulletin for announcements. Contact Beverly Cowart ([missions@fpcphila.com](mailto:missions@fpcphila.com)).



*Encountering Other Faiths: The Mormons*  
with leaders from the  
**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
Sundays at 9:45 AM  
February 19 & 26



Like us on our [fan page](#) or join our [fellowship group](#).