

the Messenger

Getting Real

No one thinks of the Sunday we install new officers to our boards as a major event in the church calendar on the order of Christmas or Easter or even Pentecost, all of which mark events of enormous significance to the life not only of our church but of all Christendom. Yet in a very practical way, the installation of new officers is an event of tremendous importance to the life of this congregation and actually has—or should have—more impact on our church and its ministry than even our observance of Christmas and Easter.

Too often we look on the work of the boards of the church—the Session, Deacons and Trustees—as the mundane side of church work. In a sense, that’s true, but for that very reason, it’s also extremely important. You see, it is our boards that translate the high-flown

rhetoric of our worship and pronouncements (like sermons) into action. Action that can have a *real* effect on the life of this community of faith and the larger community of which we’re a part. Action that can make a *real* difference in this world.

All of which is why what happens on the first Sunday of May every year is very, very important, for that is when we install a new class of officers to our boards who will serve this congregation over the next several years. I ask you to remember them in your daily prayers during their time of service. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless them with gifts of discernment that the actions they are called upon to take may further the work of God’s kingdom in our midst. Ministers like me can preach all the sermons in the world, but it’s our elders, deacons and trustees who make them real. God bless them!

—Jesse Garner

Convening of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

The first meeting of the PNC was held over an enjoyable luncheon at the home of a committee member. During the lunch we talked of hopes and dreams, but mainly got to know each other better. By connecting as a small group, we should be able to fulfill our very important responsibilities much more effectively.

The tasks that lie ahead range from defining the position on what is known as a Ministry Information Form (MIF), developing interview questions, advertising the opening, and contacting centers of influence to get strong candidates, to eventually interviewing and selecting a new Head of Staff for the congregation to vote on at the end of this well-thought-out process.

There will be many surprises in our work and call, but with the Spirit leading us, we will be led to the very best person to fill our Head of Staff position.

The work of the PNC is confidential, so we will not be able to divulge a great deal along the way except perhaps where we are in the process. We must maintain confidentiality during the process because candidates may be currently serving in other positions.

—Dave Huting, Convener
Pastor Nominating Committee



The **FIRST**
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
in PHILADELPHIA

est. 1698

LECTIONARY

MAY 7

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:42–47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19–25

John 10:1–10

MAY 14

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55–60

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16

1 Peter 2:2–10

John 14:1–14

MAY 21

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 17:22–31

Psalm 66:8–20

1 Peter 3:13–22

John 14:15–21

MAY 28

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:6–14

Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35

1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11

John 17:1–11



May 2017 at a Glance

Monday, May 1

11:00 am Congregational Care Team

Tuesday, May 2

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 3

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Thursday, May 4

6:45 pm Deacons Meeting

Saturday, May 6

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

9:30 am Sojourner Truth Walk (Clark Park)

Sunday, May 7

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

9:45 am Christian Education

▸ Adults: Lectionary Study (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)

12:30 pm Young Adult "First Sunday" Brunch (Irish Pub)

1:00 pm Band of Boomers

Monday, May 8

10:00 am Reading Buddies

Tuesday, May 9

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 10

10:00 am Planned Giving Team

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Thursday, May 11

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Friday, May 12

6:30 pm Youth Retreat & Overnight

Saturday, May 13

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

9:30 am Volunteering: GLC/Bartram's Garden

Sunday, May 14

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

9:50 am *Make a Joyful Noise* (Old Buttonwood Hall)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Monday, May 15

10:00 am Reading Buddies

6:00 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, May 16

9:30 am WiseRetirees

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 17

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Thursday, May 18

5:30 pm Membership & Evangelism Committee

Saturday, May 20

8:30 am Volunteering: Habitat's WPRI

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

2:00 pm Ladies' Spring Afternoon Tea

Sunday, May 21

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

9:45 am Christian Education

▸ Adults: Lectionary Study (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)

Monday, May 22

10:00 am Reading Buddies

6:30 pm Missions Committee

Tuesday, May 23

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 24

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Saturday, May 27

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

Sunday, May 28

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

9:45 am Christian Education

▸ Adults: Lectionary Study (MacColl Room)

▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Tuesday, May 30

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 31

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Did You Know?? Three members of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia signed the Declaration of Independence.

Ladies' Spring Tea

Ladies of all ages—members and visitors alike—please join us on Saturday, May 20th at 2:00 PM for our fourth annual intergenerational Spring Tea in Old Buttonwood Hall.

Old Buttonwood Hall will be transformed into an elegant tea room. Several women will serve as hostesses by bringing their own lovely china to make each table and place setting beautiful and unique. The tea will be served with an array of tiny tea sandwiches, scones with preserves and an assortment of delicate pastries.

Our special guest speaker this year will be Mindy Campbell. We are thrilled to have her return to First Presbyterian to visit with us and share a message! Beautiful piano music will provide the background as we chat with old friends and build new friendships.

This year parking has been approved by the city! Therefore, we can park for free with your First Presbyterian placard. Childcare will also be provided.

As our church family has grown, there may be many of you women that are new members or visitors and have never attended this tea. What a perfect time to get acquainted and connect with other women in the church. Come take a brief time out of a busy Saturday to enjoy a beautiful event. Please bring a guest—or consider offering a ride to someone who might not have transportation. The event will conclude by 4:00 PM.

Kindly R.S.V.P to Sue in the church office (office@fpcphila.org) or call 215-567-0532. It is helpful for the planners to set plenty of tables. Also, if you have dietary restrictions, make a note in your R.S.V.P. Contact Fran Bjorneby Kraemer (215-356-8865) for more information, or to volunteer to help with food preparation or as a hostess.

—Fran Bjorneby Kraemer



Musicopia™
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Serving the greater Philadelphia region since 1974

2017 MSO Fundraising Dinner

Monday, May 8, 2017

Paradiso Restaurant

1627 E Passyunk Avenue, Philadelphia PA

To reserve your place, visit musicopia.net/donate-2/.

Tickets: \$125 per person
(includes salad, pasta course, choice of two entrees, dessert, and wine)

Please select "2017 MSO Dinner" under Gift Designation on the donation form.

Musicopia String Orchestra Spring Concert

Saturday, June 10, 2017

4:00–5:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

1837 N Broad Street, Philadelphia PA

Penn's Village Event Featured Overview of Services for Older Adults

On April 27, the First Presbyterian Church and Penn's Village co-hosted a clergy breakfast for local church clergy featuring Lydia Hernandez-Velez who heads the Mayor's Commission on Aging. The program gave an overview of services for older adults in Philadelphia, and stressed the importance of living in one's own home and neighborhood as long as possible. Currently 60% of the 279,000 people in Philadelphia over the age of 60 live in and own their own homes.

The Major's Commission on Aging is located on the 4th floor of 100 S. Broad Street where they provide advice on services available to older adults, such as APPRISE (assistance signing up for Medicare), a food resource guide written in eight languages, and the Senior Community Service Employment Initiative which provides job development, training, and job placement. Their website is

www.phila.gov/aging and they can be contacted at 215-686-8450. They also coordinate with other agencies providing services to seniors such as Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA), senior law agencies, and CARRIE.

Philadelphia is in process of applying for the Age-Friendly Cities designation from the World Health Organization. Government funding and lottery revenue is directed to the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging which provides many services details of which can be found at www.pca cares.org. Further information about Penn's Village programs and services is at www.pennsvillage.org.

Penn's Village is very grateful to Jesse Garner for hosting the breakfast at First Presbyterian Church as another step in our partnership.

—Kristin Davidson for Penn's Village

Music at First

Songs Overseas



Black Tie
optional

YOU'RE INVITED

to the Chancel Choir's Year-end

Concert & Reception

Sunday, June 11th @ 4:00 P.M.

The choir will showcase much of the music they will be taking to England, including a selection of exciting spirituals.

Following the concert there will be a formal champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception, which will include live jazz and a silent auction. All proceeds from the concert and auction will benefit *Songs Overseas*, the choir's trip to Truro Cathedral to serve as Choir in Residence later this summer.

As this is our last fundraiser, as well as the end of the choir season, we hope you will join us for a time of fellowship and celebration of the magnificent music at First Church, and to wish the choir well on their trip.

Concert tickets are \$20 at the door. RSVP for the reception to Sue Riemann in the church office (office@fpcphila.org or 215.567.0532).

Silent Auction Items Needed!

On June 11th at 4:00 PM, the Chancel Choir will give an end-of-year concert featuring much of the music they will take to Truro Cathedral this summer. We hope that ALL of you will be able to join us!

To date, we have raised around \$40,000 of our \$50,000 goal. This is enough to make the trip happen as planned. However, we would like to see this campaign through to its goal, in the event any unplanned costs come up in England. It is important to note that any excess funds at the end of the tour will go back into the pot, to support future musical events at First Church. So no giving will be in vain, and we can't raise too much!

What we really need help with is providing items for the silent auction. In previous years for the Harvest Festival, there were some wonderful and diverse items offered by members of the congregation, and it is my hope that similar generosity might be shown for this event. We so far have some jewelry, a golf outing, concert tickets, vintage wine, artwork, a private concert, and a crawl through the organ chamber.

What can you add to that list? Please contact Andrew Senn (andrew.senn@fpcphila.org) with any items or ideas. Don't forget to RSVP to Sue Riemann in the office to let us know you'll be attending the reception: office@fpcphila.org or 215.567.0532.

—Andrew Senn

Travel Through Germany in the Footsteps of Martin Luther

First Church members and friends are invited to participate in a ten-day journey through the heart of Germany following in the footsteps of Martin Luther, who posted his 95 theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg 500 years ago, and with which he challenged the papal authority of Rome. This bold action set into motion a

schism in Christianity that would irreversibly change not only Germany, but the entire Western world.

If you are interested and wish to receive further details, please contact Hardy von Auenmueller at (215) 875-9911 or philadelphos@comcast.net

—Hardy von Auenmueller

MEMBER NEWS

Deaths

RICHARD WILLIAMSON died on March 11. Dick was born February 18, 1929 in Philadelphia, where he lived all his life. He and his late wife Faye had been members of First Church for many years. He loved reading, history, classic movies, and was a passionate Philadelphia Phillies fan. Dick told stories of his life as a salesman, growing up in North Philadelphia, and the life and love that he and Faye shared. He was a devoted Presbyterian and served First Church and others in many capacities and for many years. He is survived by nieces and nephews. His memorial service was held on Saturday, April 8th at First Church.

First Church Families with Young Children

First Church Families with Young Children had a great time this April at our Palm Sunday Parade in Rittenhouse Square and the spectacularly-organized Easter Egg Hunt. In addition, our Conversation on Christian Formation was incredibly helpful as we think about and plan offerings for children's spiritual formation over the next few years, and we're looking at putting together some great new resources in the next few months!

Looking to the future, the weather is finally nice enough



The annual Easter Egg Hunt was a big success.

to go outside and First Church Families with Young Children are ready for it! On Saturday, May 6th, we'll be joining the First Church team for the Sojourner Truth Walk, an annual event in support of one of our mission partners, [Camp Sojourner Girls' Leadership Camp](#) (GLC), which works in



—Drew Harrison

West Philadelphia teaching young women to be strong leaders of their communities. The next week, you can see Camp Sojourner in action by joining our youth to work in their community plot at Bartram's Garden. We're also in the planning stages for a summer picnic sometime in June!

YOUNG ADULT NEWS

The Young Adults had a great April including an afternoon of dyeing Easter Eggs. We have seen many new faces this winter and are very excited to expand the group. In May, we will gather together on Wednesday evenings to continue

exploring our Faith. Barbara Chaapel will be leading the Young Adults for one evening, we will continue exploring our faith through the *Animate* series and as well through Disney movies!

Along with our Wednesday night gatherings we have brunch on the first Sunday of the month (May 7th), and now that the weather is nicer we will soon return to our monthly hikes. Other volunteer and weekend activities will be coming but are still in the works. Our goal is to grow closer together as a young adult group, fostering friendships, building trust, and creating a community of support and love for one another. For more information, contact: youngadults@fpcphila.org.

Coupon Update!: The Young Adults have enjoyed receiving and cutting all the coupons that have been brought to the church office. We have sent in two large shipments and are in the process of getting a third ready to be sent. Thank you to all who have brought in coupons thus far!

—Annie LeCluyse



Members of the Young Adults group dyeing Easter Eggs (and working on some doughnuts!)

Spring Youth Retreat May 12th

Calling middle and high school youth! Join us for this year's spring youth retreat!

The overnight retreat will start at 6:30 PM on **Friday, May 12th**, and we'll finish up at noon on Saturday. The Friday night activities will take place at First Presbyterian Church at 201 South 21st Street, 19103; use the 21st Street entrance. On Saturday morning we will head over to Bartram's Garden (5400 Lindbergh Blvd, 19143) from 9-12 for some outdoor work including weeding, planting, and light maintenance.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Emily Roan at emilyroan24@gmail.com.

The First Presbyterian Church

IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

201 South 21st Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-567-0532 fax: 215-567-7697 • fpcphila.org

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Jesse B. Garner, *Minister*

The Rev. Megan LeClyuse, *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*

Mr. Clark Royle, *Seminary Intern*

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
May issue of The Messenger to
communications@fpcphila.org by
Monday, April 24th.

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.

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.

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.

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 or visit 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 or contact Bruce Rapsner at 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).

Upcoming Opportunities

The Missions Committee has organized a number of volunteer opportunities for congregants in May and early June. Please consider participating in one or more of these activities. Speak with our Seminary Intern Clark Royle or contact missions@fpcphila.org for further information or to sign up.

- **May 6:** Sojourner Truth Walk in University City. Join the FPCP Team or contribute to our support (<https://wizathon.com/sojourner-truth-walk/index.php>).
- **May 13:** Camp Sojourner/Bartram's Garden Project. Join our youth group working with girls in West Philadelphia to establish an urban garden.
- **May 20:** Join with Habitat for Humanity to repair homes in West Philadelphia.
- **June 3:** Come to the church to prepare casseroles for the University City Hospitality Coalition to feed the hungry and homeless.

—Beverly Cowart



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