



**The FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
in PHILADELPHIA

est. 1698

LECTIONARY

MARCH 1

ASH WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 58:1–12

Psalms 51:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

MARCH 5

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12–19

Matthew 4:1–11

MARCH 12

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 12:1–4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

John 3:1–17

MARCH 19

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 17:1–7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42

MARCH 26

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41

the Messenger

Lent

Because Easter does not come until mid-April this year, the season of Lent begins much later than usual. We are only now marking the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service on March 1. Why are ashes the symbol of Lent? For two reasons. One, they are a traditional symbol of our mortality, of the dust to which we shall all one day return. Two, they also point toward the end of our journey through Lent when we shall observe Palm Sunday, for it is last year's palms that have now been reduced to ashes. To dust shall you return.

There will be two special Lenten programs this year. First, there will be a special series in our Sunday morning adult education which we are calling "Perspectives on Spiritual Transitions." On the five Sundays during Lent, a series of speakers, both church members and guests, will reflect from a spiritual perspective on the transitions that take place over the course of all our lives as we age. Our own Rob Romano will begin the series on March 5 with a reflection on the transitions that he has experienced as a young adult. On March 12, the Rev. David Cassie will discuss the transitions of older age. On March 19, Mary Jo Coll, Nurse Educator for Crosslands

Hospice, will speak on the final stages of life as we face death. On March 26, Rev. Jesse Garner will talk about planning funerals and memorial services as closure for our lives. On the final Sunday, April 2, we will address the issues that have been raised over the course of the series. Join us in the MacColl Room at 9:45 AM each of these Sundays from March 5 to April 2.

On March 8, our Lenten Wednesdays program for this year will begin. As in the past, the evening will begin with a simple soup supper at 6:30 PM in Old Buttonwood Hall followed by a time of reflection at 7:15. The evening will come to a close with a brief service of evening prayers at 8:00 PM. Our reflections this year will be a series of devotions on aspects of a spiritual—or spirit-filled—life drawn from Jonathan Edwards' masterpiece, *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections*. In his book, Edwards attempted to describe a truly religious life and identified twelve distinct signs of such a life. We will focus on five of those signs, and discuss each one over the course of the five-week series. Join us for as many of these evenings as you can. On-street parking will be available.

—Jesse Garner



LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

A Spirit-filled Life

Our Lenten Wednesday programs will begin on March 8 with a simple supper in Old Buttonwood Hall at 6:30 P.M., followed by a period of study beginning at 7:15. The evening will conclude with a brief service of evening prayers at 8 P.M. On-street parking will be available (with placard).

March 2017 at a Glance

Wednesday, March 1

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, March 2

6:45 pm Deacons Meeting

Saturday, March 4

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

3:00 pm First Church Families @ Please Touch Museum

Sunday, March 5 - First Sunday in Lent

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

9:45 am Christian Education

▸ Adults: Lectionary Study - Penn Village Office;
"Spiritual Transitions" - MacColl Room

▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

12:15 pm Young Adult Brunch

Monday, March 6

10:00 am Reading Buddies

11:00 am Congregational Care Team

Tuesday, March 7

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 8

6:30 pm Lenten Wednesday

Thursday, March 9

6:30 pm Session

Saturday, March 11

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

Sunday, March 12 - Second Sunday in Lent

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

9:45 am Christian Education

▸ Adults: Lectionary Study - Penn Village Office;
"Spiritual Transitions" - 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 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Monday, March 13

10:00 am Reading Buddies

Tuesday, March 14

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 15

6:30 pm Lenten Wednesday

Thursday, March 16

5:30 pm Membership & Evangelism Committee

Saturday, March 18

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

Sunday, March 19 - Third Sunday in Lent

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

9:45 am Christian Education

▸ Adults: Lectionary Study - Penn Village Office;
"Spiritual Transitions" - MacColl Room

▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

2:00 pm Concerts@First - Frances Tate, Flute

Monday, March 20

10:00 am Reading Buddies

6:00 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, March 21

9:30 am WiseRetirees

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 22

11:00 am Planned Giving Team

7:00 pm Lenten Wednesday

Saturday, March 25

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

Sunday, March 26 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

9:45 am Christian Education

▸ Adults: Lectionary Study - Penn Village Office;
"Spiritual Transitions" - MacColl Room

▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)

9:45 am Spiritual Direction Group (Whitefield Room)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Bach Cantata

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Monday, March 27

10:00 am Reading Buddies

6:30 pm Missions Committee

Tuesday, March 28

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 29

6:30 pm Lenten Wednesday

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation of First Church will be held on **Sunday, March 12**, at 12:30 P.M. in Old Buttonwood Hall. This is

an extremely important meeting with major decisions to be made. In addition to receiving several reports, and electing both officers for the Session, Deacons, Trustees and members of the Church Nominating

Committee, we will also elect the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee that will search for the next pastor of this church. Please make every effort to attend. A light lunch will be served.

Congregational Assessment Results

First let me say thank you to you—the congregation—for an outstanding 109% response rate for our congregational assessment. The Mission Study Team asked you to participate in our Congregational Assessment—and you did! We received 191 responses; average weekly attendance is 170, thus 109%, an outstanding response, which speaks volumes about your interest in the future of our church.

As you know, the impetus for our congregational assessment was to prepare an accurate church profile and to gather your input on requirements for our next pastor. This data, along with other descriptive and “count” data form the basis of our Mission Study Report, which we submitted to and was approved by Session in February. Presently the report is in the hands of the Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry. Once they approve it, the church will be in a position to elect its Pastor Nominating Committee.

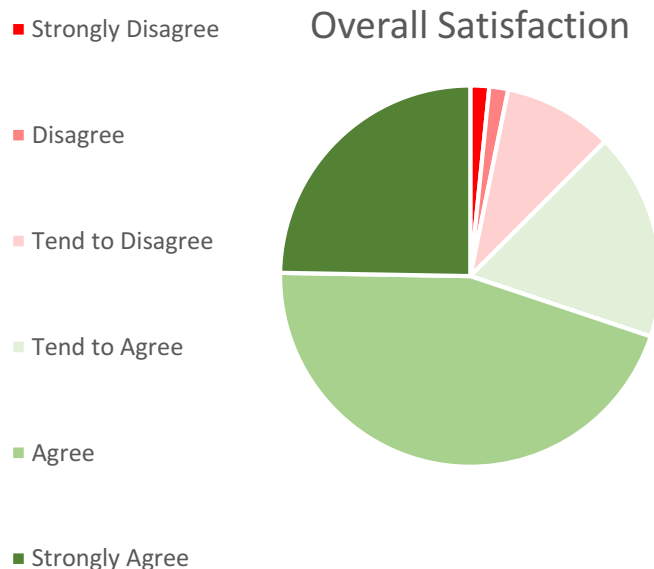
So, what does this report say? You are welcomed to review the 20-page report! Send your request to missionstudy@fpcphila.org. If you are unable to print a copy of the report, please call the church office to request a copy. We, your mission study team, are also developing a series of articles to be published in *The Messenger* which describe, primarily, the congregational assessment results portion of the report. This article is the first in the series. We also will present the results at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, March 12.

Satisfaction and Energy

So, on to the results. The congregational assessment (CAT) gauges church “health” by measuring satisfaction with how congregants perceive the overall operations, i.e., decision making, mission and outreach, and the sense of energy/excitement present in the church, i.e., satisfaction with worship services and music. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of respondents agreed, specifically, 70% agreed/strongly agreed and 17% tended to agree, that they “are satisfied with how things are in our church.”

Perceptions regarding the quality of worship and music, good indicators of the vibrancy and energy felt in a congregation, were remarkable: 89% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed with the statement “The music at our church is outstanding in quality and appropriate in style to our congregation,” and 78% agreed/strongly agreed that “The worship services at our church are exceptional in both

quality and spiritual content.” To frame this sense of vitality from a different perspective, slightly over 80% of the respondents fell into the strongly disagree/disagree/tend to disagree pool with the statement “It seems to me that we are just going through the motions of church activity. There isn’t much excitement about it among our members.”



Next Pastor’s Abilities and Skills

When asked to respond to the statement “In the future, I believe the church should continue in the same overall direction that it has taken in the recent past,” 90% agreed, and to the statement “I believe the next Pastor we call should have approximately the same skills and responsibilities as our current Pastor,” 64% were in agreement, with 27% tending to agree.

The Critical Abilities module asked respondents to rank seven abilities on a scale from least important to most important. Not unexpectedly, “Preaching—capacity to inspire and connect people to God’s word” was ranked most important by a large number of votes followed by Strategic Leadership and Pastoral Care in 2nd and 3rd order of priority.

Look for the second installment in our series in next month’s issue of *The Messenger* and be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on March 12.

—Paula Gross, for the Mission Study Team

Music at First

We are almost there! Thanks to the choir's hard work, and to your generosity and commitment, we have collected just over \$40,000, which is 80% of our goal of \$50,000! I have no doubt that we will be successful in finishing this campaign as we set out to, but we need your help to do so. There are three remaining events benefitting *Songs Overseas*: Frances Tate's flute recital on **March 19th**, Evensong with spaghetti supper on **April 30th**, and our end of season concert with black tie reception and silent auction on **June 11th**. In addition to attending and enjoying these events, contributions are, of course, welcome as well.

We are still in need of items for the silent auction. Several people have already indicated to me what they have to offer—works of art, jewelry, subscription tickets, golfing outings, etc. Do you have items or special talents which you'd be willing to auction off to help our choir on their way? Please let me know!

Deposits have been made for our accommodations at Truro High School (it's much nicer than it sounds), and for plane tickets. We have a fun group of 33 going, with 26 in the choir and 7 "cheerleaders." The excitement from everyone is palpable, and we are in for quite an adventure! But first, we need to push through and meet our goal—a finish line which I have every confidence of crossing!

—Andrew Senn



Concerts@First
presents
Frances Tate, Flute
Sunday, March 19
at 2:00 PM
works by
Handel, Bach, Corigliano &
Vaughan Williams

Concerts@First
presents
Cantata 126
"Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort"
offered during morning worship
March 26 at 11:00 AM
The Chancel Choir &
Orchestra of First Church

The Sanctuary During Lent

The season of Lent is a time of penance and reflection, a time when we look inward and prepare ourselves to accompany Jesus to the cross. The Worship Committee has prepared the sanctuary to help focus our Lenten journey. The purple cloth beneath the cross and on the pulpit and lectern signifies the color of mourning, and of royalty as we await a new kind of king. The grapevine wreath on the communion table suggests Jesus' crown of thorns. In each of the niches under the stained glass windows are bare branches, stones,

and purple cloth to convey the wilderness where John the Baptist and Jesus journeyed.

The candles on the Communion table and in the niches remind us that we never journey without the light of Christ. On each successive Sunday in Lent, a pair of candles in the niches, beginning in the rear of the church, will remain unlit as the sanctuary, and our journey, darkens toward the cross. We await the renewed light of Easter's dawn.

We invite worshipers to spend a moment in silent reflection at the niches or the table after worship.

—The Worship Committee

Young Adult News

Greetings from the Young Adults! My name is Seth and I've been attending First for about six months now. I graduated in May from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and have started working downtown doing international tax work. One thing that immediately stuck out to me about First was the thriving young adult community, and it is this same thing that has kept me coming back week after week. It was important to me to find a church that not only accepted and encouraged young adults to join, but that actually had a substantial number of young adults involved in the church's daily life.



The Young Adults at their "First Sunday" brunch. (The author, Seth, is waving.)

Over the last six months I've come to appreciate the active young adult community and the strong support from the church as a whole. It has been exciting to be a part of a church where people my age are encouraged to join, participate, and have a voice in the church. What has continued to impress me is the strong commitments First makes to its young adults and the sincere actions the church takes to further them.

—Seth Gee

In March the Young Adults will be taking a break from our normal Wednesday night gatherings and will be joining the church at the Lenten dinner and study. Weather-dependent we will begin going on hikes and enjoying the outdoors. Stay tuned as more activities are planned for this month. Want to get involved with Young Adults? Join us the first Sunday of each month for lunch following the 11:00 Worship Service—this month it's **March 5**. For more information, contact: youngadults@fpcphila.org or join our Facebook group. We'd love to get to know you!

Perspectives on Spiritual Transitions

Our adult education topic during Lent will be a follow-up to last year's study of the book *Being Mortal*. Having explored the physical reality of death and dying, this year we will look at the spiritual side of aging and growing older with a number of guest speakers. Join us in the MacColl Room at 9:45 A.M. on Sundays beginning March 5 and continuing through April 2.

Weekly Bible Studies

Women's Bible study meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. at the church. A Community Bible study led by Delores Brisbon meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 A.M. at the Old City Presbyterian Apartments (25 N. 4th Street). Men's Bible study meets on Saturday mornings at 9:00 A.M. at the café at DiBruno's (1730 Chestnut Street). All are welcome to participate. For information contact Drew Harrison (drew.harrison@fpcphila.org).

Calling all Soup Makers!

We are looking for volunteers to make and serve soup during our Lenten Soup Supper series. We need enough soup for 30-35 people, with a vegetarian option for some. If you can prepare soup for one of these dates (March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5), please contact Ellen or Bruce Rapshter at eswilcox@aol.com.



Columbarium Project Update

We have encountered a delay of several months in the anticipated completion of the columbarium project. We are now anticipating that the installation of the columbarium in the space that currently serves as the library will commence in June and will be completed by mid-July of this year. The shop drawings were approved in mid-February by the architect and the contractor which was required before the fabrication of the columbarium niches could begin. That work is being performed in the shop of Eickhoff Columbaria Inc. in Crookston, Minnesota.

—William Lake Leonard

VOLUNTEER

As the seminary intern at First Church I am delighted to help facilitate volunteer opportunities. There are already many opportunities for members and visitors to get involved. The list on the back page of *The Messenger* provides a summary of numerous organizations where First Church already has a presence.

A new service opportunity is working at Bartram's Garden with young women associated with Camp Sojourner, Girls' Leadership Camp. Girls' Leadership Camp is a nonprofit leadership program for Philadelphia girls. Their program focuses on team-building, leadership development, creative arts, and appreciation of nature. They offer girls the chance to get out of the city for a one-week sleep-away camp experience, and then to get involved in year-round mentoring, service projects, creative arts, and leadership activities. This year's service project is in conjunction with Bartram's Garden and the Urban Nutrition Initiative to help build a new community garden and farm while learning about the environmental impact of growing our own food. Volunteer days at Bartram's Garden are on

Saturday, beginning at 9:30 A.M. with a brief orientation followed by a work-day in the garden with the young women in the program. A lunch follows with a brief educational seminar. Work-days are on Saturdays: March 11th, April 8th, and May 13th. Volunteering with Girls' Leadership Camp at Bartram's Garden is a wonderful opportunity to help develop a green-space in Philadelphia while mentoring to young women from Philadelphia.

Urban Tree Connection provides opportunities to work on community-based urban greening projects; tentative dates are set for mid-June and July. Other opportunities for service include, MANNA, The University City Hospitality Coalition, The Norris Square Project, Habitat for Humanity's West Philadelphia Repair Initiative, Reading Buddies, and The Arc. (Please check out last month's edition of *The Messenger* for more details.)

Getting involved in service projects is a great way to fellowship with the people with whom you worship, and to get involved in the community. If you have any questions about current opportunities, or if you have any suggestions for other opportunities for service in the community, please contact me at clark.royle@fpcphila.org.

—Clark Royle

Penn's Village March Programs

March 14 at 2:00 PM

The History of the World Through Objects, University of Pennsylvania Museum

Objects tell us how our ancestors lived, what they believed and valued. We are fortunate to have the University of Pennsylvania Museum in our hometown, where many objects that tell the history of civilization reside. Mark Curchack, Penn Museum docent, will take us on a tour of select objects that reflect the history of civilization. He will focus both on how each of the objects tells a story about the widespread connections among the people of the ancient world and how we come to understand what we know about it.

Please email info@pennsvillage.org or call 215-925-7333 to register. The Museum fee for the tour is \$17 per person (\$12 admission and \$5 for the tour). If you are over 65, admission is \$11 and your total is \$16. Penn Museum members pay only \$5 for the tour. Since we need to pay the Museum in advance, please send a check made out to Penn's Village to the address below or pay through PayPal or by credit card by March 5. We would appreciate a \$5 donation to Penn's Village for guests who are not members or volunteers, payable at the event.

We will meet in the Museum entrance lobby. The main entrance on South Street near 33rd Street across from Franklin Field is wheelchair accessible.

March 25, 9:30 AM to noon

Optimizing Movement At Any Age

Penn's Village joins with Excel Physical Therapy to present an interactive program. We will be learning what we can do to optimize mobility, gain greater strength and balance, and prevent life-changing falls. Speakers include: physical therapists from Excel and physicians from the University of Pennsylvania Spine Center. The presentations will be followed by individual 15 minute consultations with Excel physical therapists to discuss you movement and pain and what you can do about it. Continental breakfast begins at 9:30am and the program starts at 10:00am. Excel is located at 420 Bainbridge Street, one block south of South Street. Public transportation and street parking are available.

Penn's Village members and volunteers attend free of charge. We would appreciate a \$5 donation from guests, payable at the door. Please RSVP by emailing info@pennsvillage.org or by calling 215 925 7333.



www.PennsVillage.org

www.facebook.com/PennsVillage

201 South 21st Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

MEMBER NEWS

Births

RENEE LOUISA ADAMS was born to parents **TERRI and ANDY ADAMS** on February 15th, 2017. She weighed 7 lbs, 13 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Her big brother Josh is excited to have a baby in the family, and so are we! Congratulations!



New Members



JOSH BANKS grew up in Baltimore, MD and studied Physics at the University of Chicago and Vanderbilt before moving to Philadelphia, where he is studying for his masters in Biostatistics. Josh enjoys foreign languages, travelling, and exploring Philadelphia in his free time. He loves the Young Adults group, music, and rich history of First Church.



ELAINE ROTHBAUER was born and raised in Philadelphia, but has lived in Baltimore and Chicago among other places in her life. She works as an underwriter for defense contracts and is delighted to be back in Philadelphia. Elaine loves the community at First Church, and is excited to get involved serving others.



ELEANOR YOUNG grew up in Xenia, OH, studied at the University of Dayton, and is now working on her PhD in Biomedical Engineering, where she uses lasers for genome sequencing. "Unofficially," she says, "I'm a grad student who shoots lasers at DNA and then crunches numbers." She loves hiking, bike riding, and old science fiction novels. Eleanor was attracted to First Church because of the sense of community that she finds here.

First Church Families with Young Children

Wild and Woolly Adventures at the Please Touch Museum

We had a great turnout for our Please Touch Museum Adventure with First Church Parents with Young Children in February! Five families were there, though we didn't manage to spend much time with each other due to the explore-on-your-own nature of the Please Touch Museum. Still, we had a great time exploring, wandering

the many interactive exhibits, and occasionally enjoying each other's company. First Church Parents are looking forward to warmer weather coming soon so that we can go enjoy some outdoor activities and spring fun!

—Drew Harrison

Introducing our new sexton, **MICHAEL ELLIS**

For the past several months, you may have noticed a new face bustling around Old Buttonwood Hall, folding chairs, setting up tables and preparing for fellowship hour. His name is Michael Ellis, and he is our new sexton.

Michael grew up in West Philadelphia and attended the Charter High School for Architecture and Design, with the intention of studying art. Then at the Delaware College for Art and Design, he spent two years specializing in animation and illustration. All along he was interested in music and decided to leave the school and concentrate on his real love.

An accomplished electric rhythm guitar, bass player and song writer, Michael performs with a four-piece band called Growing Pains. The band specializes in post hard-core and metal-core original music and performs in Delaware County, Delaware and New Jersey. When asked if anyone from the congregation had ever come to hear him, he laughed and said probably not.



Never without a friendly smile, Michael commented that he really loves the people at First Church

because everyone

has been so nice and helpful. He jokingly said that the job has made him into an early bird.

Quite the philosopher, too, he finished our interview with his favorite quote: "When you're confronted with a real situation, go with how you feel because real problems can't be calculated."

—Linda Deis

The First Presbyterian Church

IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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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
April issue of The Messenger to
communications@fpcphila.org by
Monday, March 20th.

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).



Old Pine Street Church
Third Scots and Mariners Presbyterian

Old Pine Celebrates 250 Years!

Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church (412 Pine Street) would like you to celebrate our 250th Anniversary with us! The official anniversary is on June 3, 2018, and we have a year-long celebration, with a variety of activities to share with you.

The first event is a kick off to our Faith & Speaker Series, which is scheduled for **Sunday March 5, 2017 at 1:30 PM**. Our presenter is Dr. Nate Stucky, a professor at Princeton Theological Seminary and the director of the Farminary School, a unique approach to the combination of faith and sustainability. Registration is required and additional information is available on our website www.oldpine.org/anniversary/.

This is an exciting year in the life of our church, congregation and community. We invite you and your congregation to come and join us! Your prayers as we embark on this year's journey are welcomed.

—Alice Reyes, on behalf of the
Old Pine Street Church Anniversary Committee



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