



On the Subject of Lent

Friends, Lent is drawing nigh... and 'tis the season of introspection and preparation for Easter... and so as we prepare for this season of reflection on our lives, I'd like to prompt you toward a few things in particular for your Lenten planning.

The first is to note that we will offer two services on Ash Wednesday. While they won't be completely identical, the same homily will be offered at both. We will offer a somewhat abbreviated service at noon, and then a service with full choir at seven. Our hope by offering two services is that we might offer worship to the Center City working community who are perhaps only here during the day as well those who live in center-city and find an evening service easy to attend. We also hope that offering a noonday service will make it easier for those who find travel at nighttime to be a challenge. Whether you come at noon or at seven, it is our hope that you will find this service of reflection and self-examination to be meaningful in your Lenten discipline.

The second is to note that Barbara Chaapel will once again offer a Lenten series for us. You'll read more about it elsewhere in this *Messenger*, but I do so hope you'll make it a Lenten discipline to engage scripture more deeply—we have scheduled it during the Christian Education hour (9:45 AM) to make it easier for folks to attend. If you have ever thought about learning more about the Bible, but find it hard to commit to an ongoing class, consider taking up this instead of giving up chocolate.

Third, I'd like to highlight two things you'll notice about worship during Lent. First, we will follow the ancient liturgical practice of burying our alleluias for Lent. You will hear the Alleluias fade from our worship at the end of the 11 A.M. service this Sunday, and they won't return until Easter. This subtle but important distinction reminds us of the reality that we do not arrive at Easter except by the sorrow of Good Friday. And of course, on Easter Sunday we will burst forth in Alleluias in celebration of the resurrection. The second thing you may notice is that we will be using an older version of the Apostles' Creed during Lent. Our modern, ecumenical version is

certainly a fine translation, but I would observe that the line, "He descended to the dead" doesn't capture the fullness of the Passion of our Lord. So, in recognition of the suffering of Christ before the crucifixion, we will use the version of the creed that declares, "He descended into Hell." It is also a subtle distinction, but as Presbyterians, we believe that the suffering of Jesus Christ was not limited to his death, and so we acknowledge that suffering with this change in our credal statement.

Through the years I have observed in myself a migration from approaching Lent as that which must be gotten through to get to the joy of Easter to a richer understanding that it is a time to consider the fullness of my own humanity and how I might best serve Jesus Christ faithfully in my own life. I pray that it will be thus for all of us this Lent.

—Baron Mullis

Ash Wednesday

March 6

12:00 PM – Service of Noonday Prayer

7:00 PM – Choral Evensong

The imposition of ashes will be offered at both services.



On-street parking is available with placard.



LECTIONARY

MARCH 3
Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 34:29–35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2
Luke 9:28–43

MARCH 6
Ash Wednesday
Isaiah 58:1–12
Psalm 51:1–17
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

MARCH 10
First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1–11
Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16
Romans 10:8b–13
Luke 4:1–13

MARCH 17
Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17–4:1
Luke 13:31–35

MARCH 24
Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1–9
Psalm 63:1–8
1 Corinthians 10:1–13
Luke 13:1–9

MARCH 31
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9–12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16–21
Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

March 2019 at a Glance

Saturday, March 2

8:30 am Casserole Blitz

Sunday, March 3

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

9:45 am Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch

11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Monday, March 4

11:00 am Congregational Care Team

Tuesday, March 5

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 6

12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service of Noonday Prayer

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Choral Evensong

Thursday, March 7

6:45 pm Deacons

Saturday, March 9

9:00 am Men's Breakfast Group (Cafe @ DiBruno's)

Sunday, March 10

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

9:45 am Lectio Divina (MacColl Room)

Children's Sunday School (Old Buttonwood Hall)

11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Twenties & Thirties Brunch (Irish Pub)

Tuesday, March 12

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 am Worship Committee

1:00 pm Women of Wit & Wisdom (MacColl Room)

4:00 pm Labyrinth (4 - 7 pm) (Old Buttonwood Hall)

7:30 pm T&T Group

Thursday, March 14

5:30 pm Membership & Evangelism Committee

Saturday, March 16

10:00 am *Conversations Worth Having* with Bill Enright

Sunday, March 17

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

9:45 am Lectio Divina (MacColl Room)

Children's Sunday School (Cochran Room)

11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

The Reverend Dr. William Enright preaching

12:15 pm Sharing Stories with Bill Enright

Tuesday, March 19

9:30 am WiseRetirees

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 20

7:30 pm T&T Group

Thursday, March 21

6:30 pm Session

Sunday, March 24

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

9:45 am Lectio Divina (MacColl Room)

Children's Sunday School (Cochran Room)

11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Monday, March 25

6:30 pm Missions Committee

Tuesday, March 26

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 27

7:30 pm T&T Group

Sunday, March 31

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

9:45 am Lectio Divina (MacColl Room)

Children's Sunday School (Cochran Room)

11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Pancake Brunch

Sunday, March 3
9:45 am



Band of Boomers Spring Event Save the Date!

The next Band of Boomers event will be a trip to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ on Sunday, April 7 at 1 pm. More information will be announced. Contact Rick & Shellie Unger (boomers@fpcphila.org) to learn more.





In life, there are conversations worth having.

A conversation worth having isn't necessarily the first thing that we might want to talk about... indeed, some of the conversations we most need to have, about *racism* for instance, or *income inequality*, or even our response to *food insecurity*, might actually be difficult conversations to have.

But if we can't have conversations worth having in church, where can we possibly have them? So, through the years to come, I hope we will take some

Conversations Worth Having

time at a regular interval to come together just because we know there is something we ought to talk about. I want you to be a part of these conversations—if for no other reason than *this is your church family, and our life together matters.*

That said, I think our first *conversation worth having* is going to be a fairly enjoyable one... because I think so highly of Bill Enright, who will be facilitating for us. We are going to talk about giving, and in particular, the ways we talk about giving. Bill was my mentor at the Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, and his leadership there was transformational for that congregation. In his time there, the congregation more than doubled. Their budget grew. The endowment quadrupled in size. He achieved these

things in part because he knew we can't be afraid of talking about money and giving.

I am so committed to us having this conversation that I have asked all of your elders, deacons and trustees to make a commitment to give their Saturday to have this conversation. And I want to reiterate my invitation to the congregation at large to join us on March 16th. (Please see the announcement below to register.)

Bill will also lead worship on March 17th at 11 A.M. and will lead a session on telling our story for the whole congregation after the 11 A.M. worship service.

Please be a part of this conversation worth having!

—Baron Mullis

A New Commission for the Chancel Choir

Commissioning composers to write new music is a gamble. Usually one approaches a certain composer because of their established musical language—in other words, you know what you're getting. (You wouldn't ask John Cage to write a fugue in the style of Bach!) Even still, sometimes the result is wonderful and sometimes, well, not so much....

As a way to offer a Lenten text of which I'm quite fond, I've asked Chancel Choir member Nick Lombardelli to compose a new setting. I should perhaps start by saying that the only known setting of this text (other than plainsong) is by Thomas Tallis and is scored for FORTY (40) independent voices—it's broken down into eight choirs of five voices each—none of them doubling one another! The effect is dazzling and surreal - and unfortunately it's almost never done because of the forces required.

Many of you will recognize Nick as the curly-haired tenor who occasionally plays trombone. He studied all manner

of jazz at University of the Arts, and is also a wonderfully talented composer. I approached him with the idea of creating a new setting of this text, scored for SATB choir and organ—making it infinitely more accessible to choirs than Mr. Tallis's most famous work.

The result is breathtakingly beautiful—full of color and drama and crunchy jazz chords. It's always mindful of the text, but doesn't in any way try to copy Tallis. It is a superb blending of the ancient and the contemporary. I also chose to make its premier on the weekend of our *Conversations Worth Having* series; while we are celebrating all of the gifts that we are thankful for, it seemed appropriate to express gratitude to the choir in this way for all of the beauty they bring to our corner of 21st and Walnut.

So, please make a special effort to be here on March 17th at the 11:00 AM service. This stop on our Lenten journey is one that you don't want to miss!

—Andrew Senn

How We Talk About Giving

with Bill Enright

Saturday, March 16
10:00 AM–3:00 PM

William G. Enright, Ph.D. served a long and distinguished career in parish ministry, including twenty-five years as the Senior Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis before retiring from ministry to lead the Lake Institute on Philanthropy and Giving. Under Bill's Leadership, Second Church saw ministry-changing growth in both their annual giving and their endowment.

Please register using the following link:

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/conversations-worth-having/>

Prayer Labyrinth

On Wednesday, March 13, from 4 to 7 PM, a prayer labyrinth will be available in Old Buttonwood Hall for you to come and walk the path on your Lenten journey. The labyrinth, a full-scale replica of the one in Chartres Cathedral in France, is on loan to us from Princeton Theological Seminary. Here is information from a labyrinth guide:

What Is A Labyrinth?

The Labyrinth is a forty-foot circular sacred path. It is used as a walking meditation to reflect on life and to be a sacred space for creating order in times of chaos. The Labyrinth has only one path. There are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds around until you reach the center. You return out of the circle the same way you entered it. The path of the Labyrinth can be a mirror for where we are in our lives. It can touch our sorrows and release our joys. It is a tool, a physical metaphor, to guide us in healing, to help deepen our faith and open us to self-understanding. It is a place where we can silently pray.



We hope you will come participate in the meaningful experience.

—The Rev. Megan LeCluyse

Lectio Divina: Dwelling Deeply in Scripture

Lectio divina, which means “divine reading,” is an ancient practice of reading and contemplating scripture that is intended to promote communion with God and to increase our knowledge of God’s Word.

On five Sundays in the season of Lent—March 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7—the Reverend Barbara Chaapel will teach the practice of *lectio divina* as an offering for adult education at 9:45 A.M.

Lectio divina is not so much a way to consume knowledge about the Bible as to interact with scripture, to hear God’s Word and to respond within community. Focusing on one or more of the lectionary passages for each of those Sundays, participants will read the biblical text together, and be led in contemplative reflection and sharing on the texts, listening for God’s Word in our lives with what the Benedictines call “the ears of the heart.”

This method of approaching scripture goes back to early monastic tradition when there were not Bibles for everyone and not everyone knew how to read. So monks gathered to hear a member of the community read from the Bible, and then the community shared reflection on the meaning of what they heard and its connection to their lives.

We offer this opportunity as a spiritual discipline for the season of Lent, and invite members of the congregation and guests to practice this prayerful approach to scripture together. Our practice will include time for both silence and prayer, as well as listening to and focusing on the texts. We invite anyone who wants to experience an old, yet new, approach to scripture to participate and hope those who have attended the lectionary Bible study, as well as those who have attended spiritual direction sessions, will join in an important way to share with one another in the community of faith.

Barbara is happy to respond to questions about this opportunity (barbara.chaapel@fpcphila.org).

March Faith Formation Activities

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, our Faith Formation Programming at First Church will be exploring what it means to go on a journey towards the cross. We started this work back in February by introducing the One Great Hour of Sharing, and will continue with some very special lessons that we hope you will join us for.

- **March 3: Intergenerational Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast**

We are delighted to welcome everyone to a Pancake Brunch co-hosted by our friends in the Twenties and Thirties Group. Join us for a feast of pancakes and more following the Celebration! Service at 9:45 AM.

- **March 10: Walking the Labyrinth** (Eleanor Young and Emily Roan)

Thanks to the generosity of the Princeton Theological Seminary, we will have the use of a canvas Labyrinth. Sunday school will be held in Old Buttonwood Hall for a reflective time of walking the labyrinth.

- **March 17: Make a Joyful Noise** (Pastor Megan and Daniel Mellinger)

Join us as we sing our worship together in Old Buttonwood Hall.

- **March 24: Telling the Story—the Lenten Puzzle** (Alex Weisiger and IvaLinda Baird)

Our story this Sunday will focus on the season of Lent and where we are walking. We will wonder together about the colors, the length, and the focus of the season.

- **March 31: Learning about the Sacraments: The Lord’s Supper** (Pastor Sarah and Kayla Krystek)

We continue our exploration of the Sacraments as we focus on Jesus’ commandment to break bread together.

—Rev. Sarah Weisiger

Minister for Membership and Faith Formation

REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia was held on Sunday, February 10, 2019. The meeting began at 12:30 PM, after a delicious lunch, provided by the Board of Deacons. The purposes of the meeting were to (1) receive the 2018 Annual Report, (2) hear and act on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to elect officers and members of the church's Nominating Committee for 2019, and (3) vote upon a proposed amendment of the congregational bylaws.

The Moderator, the Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis, opened the meeting with prayer and directed attention to the 2018 Annual Report, which had been distributed. Church Treasurer Craig Boddorff presented the 2018 Treasurer's Report. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he summarized the status of (1) the endowment, (2) the capital fund, and (3) the operating fund. With respect to the endowment, he noted that market losses resulted in a decline in its value; during 2018, funds were also taken from the endowment for operating support, in accordance with the church's policy of such draws, and capital needs. With respect to the capital fund, he noted that capital projects in 2018 included an upgrade of the church's telephone system, roofing work, and replacement of sidewalks and a boiler; future work has been evaluated and forecast in the church's Facilities and Maintenance Plan ("FAMP"). With respect to the operating fund, he noted that the co-pastor period during 2018 resulted in higher than usual salary expenses (although within budget); the Pastor Nominating Committee ("PNC") and Session contingency expenses for 2018 were above budget, but those expenses will not be recurring.

Elder Philip McMunigal presented the 2019 operating budget and capital budget. He presented the 2019 operating budget with comparisons to the prior two years' budgeted and actual income and expenses. In discussing the capital budget, he noted that the church's loan from the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program ("PILP") has been used to offset previously incurred capital expenses, and the second loan, approved in 2018, will be used for further capital improvements as identified in the capital budget and FAMP.

Elder Cynthia Decrucq, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following nominees for the boards for the Class of 2022:

The Session:	The Board of Deacons:
Andrea Bowman	Joshua Banks
Karen Marston	Edna Dicks
Mac McLarin	Chuck Hodgkinson
Patti Sassoli	Dave Huting
	Anita McLarin

There being no nominations from the floor, it was voted by acclamation to elect the nominees to their respective boards.

The Meeting of the Congregation was suspended and the Meeting of the Corporation convened. Elder Decrucq presented the following nominees for the Board of Trustees for the Class of 2022 (except as noted):

Carolyn Crego
Katherine Crockett
Jennifer Gay
Karl Miller (Class of 2020)

There being no nominations from the floor, it was voted by acclamation to elect these six nominees to the Board of Trustees. The meeting of the corporation was adjourned and the meeting of the congregation reconvened. Elder Decrucq presented the following nominees for the 2019 Nominating Committee:

Representing the Session: Cynthia Decrucq
Representing the Board of Deacons: Jack Melvin
Representing the Board of Trustees: Rebekah Horowitz
At-Large Members: Kay Keenze, Ellen Rapsheer,
Emily Roan, Rebecca Yep

There being no nominations from the floor, it was voted by acclamation to elect these seven members to the 2019 Nominating Committee.

Elder Rebecca Melley introduced the proposed amendment to the congregational bylaws. By way of background, the Presbytery of Philadelphia has requested that its churches update their bylaws to include reference to the required sexual misconduct policy of the church. The proposed amendment to the congregational bylaws would thus add, in a new Section XVII, titled "Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy," the following:

Consistent with the policy of the Presbytery of Philadelphia that the by-laws of each church incorporate the church's sexual misconduct policy, the applicable portions of the Personnel Policy of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, including the Workplace Free of Harassment or Discrimination Policy and the Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy are incorporated by reference into these Bylaws.

After discussion, the question was called, and seconded, and the congregation unanimously approved calling the question. The congregation then voted to approve this amendment to the congregational bylaws as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Dr. Mullis at 1:42 P.M.

—Rebecca Melley, Clerk of Session

Connecting with Other Faiths

“What do you think when you see someone in a hijab (the head covering often worn by Muslim women) enter the building that houses the Christian Association at Penn?”

On February 24th in the Christian Education class we heard from Megan LeCluyse, Director and Campus Minister for the Christian Association at Penn, and Patty Anton, Penn’s Chaplain for Muslim Life, who have shared space for offices and programs over the past year. They spoke about how the arrangement has enlivened their thinking and benefited their students.



Megan and Patty began by speaking briefly about their respective journeys towards living with an interfaith perspective. For Megan, it began long ago with the realization that beliefs do not always govern behavior; in other words, there are people of different faith traditions or who have no religious affiliation leading good lives, and at the same time there are some of professed faith who do not live according to the beliefs they espouse. Patty shared a long history of interfaith experience, both locally and internationally. She pointed out, poignantly, that being Muslim in American necessarily means living in an interfaith society. She has been involved in numerous peace, justice, and disaster relief activities, and observed that disaster aid operations were most effective when interfaith groups worked together to bring help to all in need—but it didn’t always happen.

Last summer it became clear that while the Christian Association (CA) had more than adequate space on the Penn campus, the Muslim Life Center had significant space constraints, and the two groups decided to try sharing the CA

building, a three-story former parsonage at 37th and Sansom Streets. There was a trial run in the spring of 2018, and now a formal agreement is in place. Megan and Patty found that their students have reacted favorably, even enthusiastically, to the shared space. A focal point is the kitchen, where a lot of good conversations happen! Megan had to learn about halal foods to know which snacks to purchase, and the third floor of their space is now a “shoeless” prayer area.

Their students want to do things together but there is little time for intentional conversation because their lives are so busy. The two leaders established a book club to create a space for such conversation. Books that emphasize the values held dear by the Abrahamic religions are featured, with the second selection being *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong.

Megan and Patty gave us a good sense of what it means to be in a caring relationship across faiths, to find common ground, and to learn from each other. In her comments at the beginning of the class, Megan remarked that interfaith dialogue pushes us to talk about our own tradition, what we believe, and what the scriptures tell us. She articulated something that we authors were aware of to some extent, as we took part in the Visionary Women seminars, and it remains a challenge.

—Carol Cook and Diane Rogers

Women of Wit & Wisdom

IT’S MOVIE TIME! We Women of Wit and Wisdom will view the movie *What They Had* on Wednesday, March 13 at 1:00 PM, in the MacColl Room. The writer and director, Elizabeth Chomko, created a raw and true film in *What They Had*. She balances comedy and drama while laying out the complex family dynamics that occur when facing the progression of Alzheimer’s in a mother. She shows the layers of a family facing the difficult decision of their mother’s long-term care while simultaneously struggling with the loss of the mother they once knew.

One reviewer commented, “It’s been a long time since a movie came out that actually had substance like this one! Powerful cast, a lot to think about as we deal with life, who we are, what’s going on today, especially when I think of everything in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!”

Join us in viewing this award-winning (Heartland International Film Festival) thought-provoking movie and discussion. This is a “must see” film, not to be missed! Light refreshments will be served. Please email womenwitwisdom@fpcphila.org to RSVP or call Diane at (609) 980-5421 by Monday, March 11.

—Diane Rogers and Ruth Camisa

Twenties & Thirties Group

The Twenties & Thirties had a great February and have seen many new faces this winter and are very excited to expand the group. We have been using the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum to help guide a very thought-filled Wednesday night discussion.

For Valentine’s Day week we had a discussion on “self-care” and came together later in the month for a game afternoon. In March, we will gather together on Wednesday evenings to

continue exploring our Faith using the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum and other discussion means. We are starting out March by making the meal for the church’s Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast. Our goal is to grow closer together as a group, fostering friendships, building trust, and creating a community of support and love for one another. For more information, contact youngadults@fpcphila.org.

—Annie LeCluyse

Member News

Births

REV. SARAH AND ALEX WEISIGER welcomed their fourth child, **TOBIAS MARTIN WEISIGER** on February 5th. He was born happy and healthy at 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and 20.5 inches long. His first name, Tobias, honors our ancestors who came to this country long ago from Germany and means "love God" in Greek, and his middle name honors Alex's mother and her family. Sarah & Alex write "We have so appreciated the kindness of so many people at First Church who have reached out to us with kind words, prayers, and even a meal or two. It has been a true blessing to be a part of this church family, and we look forward to introducing Tobias to you all soon."



Bill Cornwell Featured in Southeastern Veterans' Center Newsletter



In the January 2019 issue of the *Vet Gazette*, the newsletter of the Southeastern Veterans' Center of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, **William "Bill" Cornwell** was the **Featured Resident**. Bill is one of our Congregational Care folks whom we visit and to whom we send cards and notes. Bill was an

active deacon and hard-working volunteer at First Church for many years. The following is taken from the *Gazette* article:

The word "minister" has several meanings. Although Bill Cornwell is not an "ordained" minister, he meets the definition of someone who "attends to the needs of others," as he is frequently seen tending to a fellow resident among the flock at SEVC.

During his more than three years here, Bill has used his "ministerial" skills to assist fellow residents in various ways. He prepares and teaches weekly Bible studies, and plays the organ for church programs, selecting the Sunday service hymns.

Originally from Wyncote, PA, Bill was raised in the Germantown/Mt. Airy sections of Philadelphia. A cousin's stories of life in the U.S. Navy inspired him to join that branch of service as well, before he turned 18-years old. He served in the Navy from 1955-1963, and was stationed on the USS Waldron DD-699 in Norfolk, VA. He later passed along his naval knowledge as well, teaching at the Marine Corps/Navy Training Center in Delaware County.

Today, Bill volunteers his time at SEVC, and is often found sitting with other residents, reading the Bible, and sharing warm conversation.

—The Rev. Jerry K. Foote, Minister for Congregational Care



The Ability to Volunteer with Penn's Village is Endless

In the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Volunteerism is one of the most important and beneficial actions that we can take as human beings. Our ability to provide our time and expertise can make an immense difference in the world around us and within the communities that we reside.

Penn's Village is "a community-based nonprofit organization, operated by and for neighborhood residents, that exists to support residents of central Philadelphia as they age in place." Whether you are a member, a volunteer, or support the village in other ways, there are a myriad opportunities for connecting, engaging, and thriving that make Penn's Village so special. We depend on many volunteers to provide services to help our members meet the challenges of aging, the opportunity for members themselves to get involved is in itself a huge benefit of membership!

One of the most rewarding ways you can stay actively engaged and get to know other Penn's Village members and volunteers is to become active in a Committee which provides members with opportunities to help decide upon, develop, arrange, and publicize such events, as well as to participate in them. We invite you to consider joining one of the following:

- Program Committee – plans programs each month in community affairs, the arts, history, technology, health, and meeting new people and with commitment to enriching lives.
- Marketing and Communications Committee – oversees the production of the newsletter and blog, creates social media posts, and determines marketing strategies.
- Fundraising Committee – determines strategies for seeking financial resources to support the organization. (This year we are selling \$25 raffle tickets to the Broadway blockbuster Hamilton when it comes to Philly in September. Call the office to learn how you could win two orchestra seats.)
- Membership/Welcoming Committee – creates an environment that is friendly, warm and welcoming as well as strategies for seeking new members, volunteers, and business partnerships.

Volunteers, on average, spend 50 hours per year donating their time to the greater good. Please consider joining us. At Penn's Village, it's easy to connect and engage! Just email your inquiry to info@pennsvillage.org, call 215-925-7333, or visit our website at www.pennsvillage.org for a volunteer application.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

The Arc of Philadelphia advocates with and for all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, to promote active citizenship, self-determination, and full inclusion.

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.

Hosts for Hospitals provides families in need of lodging when coming from out-of-town to the city for medical care the option of staying at a locally administered volunteer host-home or group facility.

Girls' Leadership Camp program at Bartram's Garden is to help build a new community garden and farm while learning about the environmental impact of growing our own food. Volunteer days are every month on second Saturdays starting in October.

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.

MANNA, an organization founded by First Church, needs volunteers to help prepare or deliver meals for people battling life-threatening illnesses. Contact Manna's Volunteer Services at 215-496-2662 or volunteers@mannapa.org.

FOR INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
CONTACT missions@fpcphila.org.



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



PLANNED GIVING
Planting Seeds for the Future

**Become a member
of the
Buttonwood Circle!**

www.fpcphila.org/planned-giving/

REMINDER:

Opportunity to Serve the Urban Poor with Urban Mosaic

Christ's Great Commission calls us to "make disciples of all nations." By 2050, almost half of the people on earth will live in a poor urban community, and most of them will have had little opportunity to establish true community with their neighbors or a relationship with God if we don't act.

Several years ago, FPCP began to partner with a group working in Mexico City, Urban Mosaic, which has the ambitious goal of developing an exportable model to reach out to our brothers and sisters living in urban slums worldwide. Last May, several of our members spent a week helping them open a community health center, distributing health-related materials and supplies in neighboring communities, and working in local schools to collect basic measures of the children's health status. It was a faith-affirming experience that we hope to repeat and share with other members of our community.

We are tentatively scheduled for a missions trip to Mexico City from June 8 – June 15, but need to begin establishing firm plans so that our time there can be spent most effectively. If you have any interest in participating, please contact Beverly Cowart (missions@fpcphila.org) to learn more. Financial support is available.

—Beverly Cowart

Please submit all information for the April issue of The Messenger to communications@fpcphila.org by **Monday, March 25th**.

The First Presbyterian Church IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis, Minister
The Rev. Megan LeCluyse, Celebration Team Leader
Mr. Andrew Senn, Director of Music & Organist
Ms. Sue Riemann, Church Administrator
The Rev. Jerry K. Foote, Minister for Congregational Care
The Rev. Sarah Weisiger, Minister for Membership and Faith Formation
Mrs. Patti Sassoli, Director of Communications
Ms. Annie LeCluyse, Young Adult Leader
The Rev. Barbara A. Chaapel, Parish Associate
The Rev. Kenneth J. Ross, Parish Associate
The Rev. Herbert D. Valentine, Parish Associate

the Messenger

Patti Sassoli, Executive Editor
Owen Robbins, Layout Design

Elders

Class of 2019
Beverly Cowart
Karen Marston
Philip McMunigal
Emily Roan
Patricia Sassoli

Class of 2020
Susy Christensen
Heather Coyne
Cynthia Decrucq
Stella Tsai

Class of 2021
Carol Cook
Rebecca Melley
Larry Slagle
Shellie Unger

Deacons

Class of 2019
Linda Deis
Edna Dick
Dave Huting
Anita McLarin
Evelyn Schwartz

Class of 2020
Jack Melvin
Cynthia Olds-Greeley
Courtney Russ-Friedman
Don Williams

Class of 2021
Ruth Camisa
Carl Gakeler
João Magalhaes
William Swoope
Jean Witmer

Trustees

Class of 2019
Craig Boddorff
Andrea Bowman
Jennifer Gay
Karl Miller

Class of 2020
Rebekah Horowitz
Morgan Klinzing
Robert Linck
Cade Massey

Class of 2021
Jeannie Boehner
David Friedman
Elaine Rothbauer