

The Long Term

n my sermon last Sunday I mentioned that we've been working for the better

part of the past year on a plan to put the long term care and upkeep of our building on a sustainable basis. Phil McMunigal mentioned this in his stewardship remarks that same day, as well as in an article in the Messenger last month. You may have heard others talking about it, too. We're calling it the "Facilities and Maintenance Plan," and when it's implementedhopefully over the coming year-it's going to make a big difference for our future.

The fact is we can't take care of our building the way we've always done it. The costs involved

are too great. We have to be much more disciplined in proactively planning for the upkeep of the building, and not just wait for things to break and then fix them (and hope we can find the money somewhere).



Our architects—AOS, the same firm that oversaw our Preserving First project—are working on the plan now, and we'll begin implementing it in the new year. The funds necessary to do this will ultimately have to

come from our endowment, either directly or indirectly.

This means reducing the "draw" (ie, the income) we receive each year from the endowment, and increasing the amount that we as a congregation give to support our annual operating budget. We've made progress in that direction in recent years, but we're not yet where we need to be. We don't expect to get there overnight—this is a plan for the long term—but we have to keep moving in that direction till we do get there. When we do, the church will be in a much stronger position moving forward into a new

—Jesse Garner

Annual Giving 2018 Moving First Forward: The Future at First

On October 29th following both worship services, the Annual Giving Team presented information on the sources and uses of First Church Funds. We served pie and used pie charts to show the "big picture" of First Church income and expense.

More information on the annual giving campaign is available on our website (<u>www.fpcphila.org/annual-giving/</u>), where you will find a link to the Moving First Forward newsletter; and where you can pledge online!

Stewardship Sunday is November 12!

VECTIONARY

NOVEMBER 5 Joshua 3:7–17 Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13 Matthew 23:1–12 November 12 Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25 Psalm 78:1–7 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 Matthew 25:1–13



chapter in its life.

NOVEMBER 19 Judges 4:1–7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 Matthew 25:14–30

NOVEMBER 26 (CHRIST THE KING) Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15–23 Matthew 25:31–46

November 2017 at a Glance

Wednesday, November 1 2:00 pm Women of Wit & Wisdom Art Lecture 7:30 pm Young Adult Group **Thursday, November 2** 12:00 pm Personnel Committee 6:45 pm Deacons Meeting Friday, November 3 7:00 pm Reformation Concert - Luther in Worms Saturday, November 4 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's) 9:00 am Habitat Workday Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday 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) 12:15 pm Young Adult "First Sunday" Brunch (Irish Pub) Monday, November 6 11:00 am Congregational Care Team **Tuesday, November 7** 6:30 pm PNC Meeting 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study Wednesday, November 8 7:30 pm Young Adult Group Saturday, November 11 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's) 10:00 am PDA Clean-up Bucket Packing Sunday, November 12 - Stewardship Sunday 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)

3:00 pm Drew Harrison's Installation at FPC Pitman

Tuesday, November 146:30 pmPNC Meeting7:00 pmWomen's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 1510:00 amWorship Committee7:30 pmYoung Adult Group

Thursday, November 165:30 pmMembership & Evangelism Committee

Saturday, November 18 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's)

Sunday, November 19

9:00 am	Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)
9:45 am	Christian Education
	Adults: Lectionary Study (MacColl Room)
	 Children & Youth (Cochran Room)
9:50 am	Make a Joyful Noise (Old Buttonwood Hall)
11:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45 am	Spiritual Direction Group (Whitefield Room)
12:15 pm	Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)
Tuesday, November 21	
9:30 am	WiseRetirees
7:00 pm	Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Ethical Society (1906 Rittenhouse Square)
Wednesday, November 22	
7:30 pm	Young Adult Group
Saturday, November 25	
9:00 am	Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's)
Sunday, November 26	
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)

6:30 pm Missions Committee Tuesday, November 28

Monday, November 27

6:30 pm PNC Meeting 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 297:30 pmYoung Adult Group

Parish Choir

Anyone interested in singing with the volunteer Parish Choir, should contact Andrew Senn (andrew.senn@fpcphila.org), Organist and Director of Music. Rehearsals take place on the day of the service, before worship.

The Parish Choir will be singing on November 12th (11:00 AM) and December 24th at the 4:00 PM worship service. Dates for 2018 will be published in January!

Greetings from the Pastor Nominating Committee!

The PNC continues to meet weekly this fall, as we have done since June, and have reviewed applications from scores of candidates. These applications, called personal information forms or PIFs, have come to us mainly through the PCUSA data matching system, although some have been self-referrals, meaning that the candidate learned of our search via recommendations from other clergy, presbytery, or seminary sources who know we are in the process of seeking a new pastor.

PIF review is a time-consuming process since each is about seven pages long and includes a number of narrative questions that give the applicants an opportunity to provide as much detail and description as they want regarding various aspects of their ministry as well as share their statements of faith. At our weekly meetings, we discuss the week's PIFs with the overall goal of reaching consensus regarding which candidates we believe we should keep in the active candidate pool. For this difficult process of discernment we rely heavily on the information you the members of the church provided us when you completed the Congregational Assessment survey last fall and on the information the Mission Study team assembled for their report.

Even as we continue to consider new PIFs, we are starting to look more closely at the many candidates we have chosen to vet further. This can be a challenge, especially as we have committed to making our review process be as consistent as possible for each candidate. Some candidates have sermons, writing, even publications readily available. Others do not, especially if they come from churches without the technology to record Sunday services.

Closer to the end of our process we will be meeting with our top choices face-to-face, and listening to them preach at neutral pulpits. We can assure you that none of the candidates will be preaching at First Pres until we have a final candidate to present to the congregation. At that time, you will know this is the case. Guest preachers in our pulpit will continue to be just that: guests!

More than information, I wish I could convey to you the spirit of our PNC membership. Similar to any board, committee, or task force on which you may serve, we are getting better acquainted with each other and bonding more closely each week. I, for one, was not at all acquainted with Reggie, Courtney, or Cynthia prior to this assignment, and had only interacted with Andrea at parish choir. Michael and Dave, of course, I have known and valued for years! Like our broader fellowship, we are similar in many ways, but we also bring very different perspectives and concerns to the table. Because our ultimate goal is to help provide for continued, vital, Christian ministry here at 21st and Walnut, we are well aware that our success will be measured by how well we respect and value each other's different perspectives. It is a daunting task to choose a head of staff who will be acceptable and good for you all; I cannot hope to do that if I place my own views above those of my team members.

Above all, we remember each week, with our opening devotions and closing prayer, that our work is in the hands of our Redeemer and Creator, and that ultimately it is God's will we are trying to discern and to follow. We eagerly ask for your continued prayers and support—for this committee, for Jesse, and for the ministers whose lives we are crossing this year. It's a journey for us all.

—Diane Rogers

New Fellowship Group at First Church

Seventeen enthusiastic Women of Wit & Wisdom launched our new fellowship with a delightful luncheon in Old Buttonwood Hall on Wednesday, October 4. Old bonds were strengthened and new ones formed. We also crafted interesting ideas on how Women of Wit and Wisdom should go forward.

Roberta Tarbell, Professor Emerita, Art History, Rutgers University, gave an enlightening PowerPoint Presentation on "Art



History Adventures: Determining Fakes and Connoisseurship with Science" on Wednesday, November 1. She discussed various



Women of Wit & Wisdom's Inaugural Luncheon of Women, held in October.

ways Art Historians work and then look at works on paper by Auguste Rodin and Marguerite Zorach with microphotographs. This was a most enjoyable cultural event!

The church's calendar is full of events celebrating Advent. We will not meet in December, but will participate with our First Family in the many programs during the Christmas season.

Women of Wit & Wisdom meet the first Wednesday of each month. Stay tuned for what we have planned for 2018. Don't miss it!

-Ginnie Mesibov

PDA Clean-up Bucket Update

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Clean Up Bucket project exceeded all expectations: our challenge was to fill 30 buckets, and we received contributions for more than 70! But the work is not over; now we must pack the buckets with the supplies. We need volunteers to pack buckets on Saturday, November 11th at 10:00 AM in Old Buttonwood Hall. The time commitment is about two hours. If you can help, please contact Bob Gross (regrossbg@gmail.com).



Please join Mosaico Urbano / Urban Mosaic for

SEEKING PEACE IN THE CITY

Thursday, November 9th at 7:30p Mosaic Community Church 123 S. 51st St. | Philadelphia

RSVP urbanmosaicphilly.eventbrite.com

For those passionate about international missions, serving the poor, and urban ministry, join <u>Mosaico Urbano/Urban Mosaic (UM)</u> for *Seeking the Peace in the City*. This event will feature Jean-Luc Krieg, executive director of UM. He will share tools for facilitating Jesus-centered transformation in our world's poorest communities. RSVP at <u>urbanmosaicphilly.eventbrite.com</u>.

Urban Mosaic is a mission that First Church supports, and to which we hope to send a group of volunteers for a work week in Mexico City this Spring. If you have any questions, please contact Beverly Cowart (missions@fpcphila.org).

-Beverly Cowart

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, December 2



in the church kitchen (ring the buzzer and enter through the 21st 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 <u>missions@fpcphila.org</u> or 215-382-415.

A Note from Rev. Jerry K. Foote, Director of Congregational Care

First let me say how pleased I am to have become a part of FPC during the last two years, and now as your Director of Congregational Care. Before retiring and coming to FPC with my husband, Chuck Hodgkinson, I served Rosemont and Broomall Presbyterian Villages as Chaplain for nine years. Walking beside older folks in their living and in their dying was a great privilege and very meaningful journey for me. As you now know, I had the honor of so knowing and coming to love your fellow member, Marjorie Griffiths, during her last years' journey. What a lady! Because of her, our worshipping community at Rosemont gave much of our Sunday offerings to MANNA, which she had known and grown to appreciate through FPC.

Now I am looking forward directly to working with and getting to know many of FPC's older members who are not able regularly to attend services due to illness or other reasons. I find it a great privilege to represent FPC, and in particular the body of Jesus Christ, as I visit with these folks in their homes, rooms, or apartments. Also, representing Christ's Church when visiting you during your hospital stays, is also a calling which I treasure. So let me thank you for this privilege, and I fondly anticipate getting to know many of you much better as we journey together through the highs and lows of life and her offerings. May God grant us God's peace, strength, and comfort as we walk together.

Blessings, Jerry

Habitat Philadelphia Young Professionals

Habitat Philadelphia Young Professionals (HPYP) is a network of young Philadelphians that combines networking, social events, and meaningful service to the community. PYP has several ways for you to get involved in our network and support Habitat Philadelphia's mission, ranging from volunteer days on site to social and networking events. Join us for **"Habi Hour: Raise the Roof**" on Thursday, November 9 from 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. at WeWork, 1900 Market Street. Tickets are \$25 and include drinks and light fare. Our goal is to raise \$5,000, which will help put a roof on two Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia homes! For tickets go to www.donorlynk.com/habitatphiladelphia/habihour2017/.

MANNA Drivers Needed

On Thanksgiving Day, all MANNA clients receive a hot meal (for 4 people), including all the Thanksgiving favorites (turkey, stuffing, sides, and a MANNA pie). They are in need of drivers to deliver these special meals Thanksgiving morning between 9:45 AM and 12:30 PM. Drivers are given 3-4 stops in their delivery route, which only takes about 1-1.5 hours to complete. If you can help, please contact Taylor Perkins (tperkins@mannapa.org or 215-496-2662x100), and let her know you're from First Church!



MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Penn's Village is pleased to offer our annual review of Medicare options, especially for Medicare Part D. Please see the link that mentions us: <u>www.philly.com/philly/health/</u><u>health-cents/ten-questions-to-ask-during-medicare-open-</u><u>enrollment-20171012.html</u>.

If you have any questions yourself, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Jane Eleey at jane@pennsvillage.org.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

Friday, November 3 <u>Revolution, Cosmic Desire & Poetry</u> Rochelle Owens

> Tuesday, November 14 Show & Tell for Grownups Marianne Waller

Wednesday, December 6 <u>Philadelphia: Finding the Hidden City</u> Elliott, Popkin & Woodall

Wednesday, December 13 <u>Tasting Freedom</u> Daniel Biddle & Murray Dubin

For further information check our website: pennsvillage.org. To register, please email <u>info@pennsvillage.org</u> or call 215-925-7333.

OLD PINE STREET CHURCH 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION





Faith & War: American Presbyterians and the War for Independence

November 5, 2017, 1:00pm

Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church 412 Pine Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106

William Harrison Taylor, PhD

Associate Professor, Alabama State University

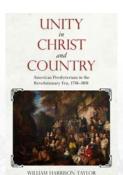
Free to the public

Light refreshments will be provided and limited on-street parking is available.



Dr. William Harrison Taylor, associate professor of history at Alabama State University and author of *Unity in Christ and Country: American Presbyterians in the Revolutionary Era*, 1758-1801 (University of Alabama Press, 2017) will be the next speaker at Old Pine Street Church's 250th Anniversary Speaker Series.

In his presentation, Dr. Taylor will explore the issues and circumstances that led to the transformation of the Presbyterian Church during the founding of the U.S. and its impact on the future of the denomination and the country.



In his current book, William Harrison Taylor examines the interdenominational pursuits of the American Presbyterian Church from 1758 to 1801 to highlight the church's ambitious agenda of fostering and uniting a host of New World values, among them Christendom, nationalism, and territorial exceptionalism.

Note: Dr. Taylor will sign books at the Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA, at 3:00pm



Member News

Births

Emily and Chris Roan welcomed a son, MARTIN MATTHEW ROAN, born on October 30th.

Baptisms

ARCHER DANIEL SCHERNECKE, son of Greg Schernecke and Lauren Daniel was baptized on October 22^{nd} at the Celebration Service.

New Members



JOSEPH BEDONT is originally from Jeannette, a small town outside of Pittsburgh in western Pennsylvania. He meandered his way through Rochester and Baltimore for school before arriving in Philly as a post-doctoral neuroscience researcher at the University of Pennsylvania. He studies the pathways linking sleep and internal timekeeping with various diseases, especially neurodegeneration...so if you want to learn about the implications of your insomnia, find him during coffee hour

sometime. A Google search led him in the door for the Young Adults and the church more generally, and the warm and intellectual tenor of both led him to stay. He is thankful for being welcomed into the church family, and he looks forward to getting to know the congregation better in the coming years as a member.

DAVE FRIEDMAN began attending First Church with his fiancée (now his wife), Courtney Russ-Friedman, who has been a member here for several years and is currently a deacon. Dave is originally from northern New Jersey, and after living a number of places around the country he moved to Philadelphia several years ago and is an architect here. Dave and Courtney are regulars at our early Celebration service on Sundays.





GEORGE T. NUTTY moved to Philadelphia five years ago from Phoenix, Arizona, and has been attending First Church ever since. He has two grown children who live in California. George works for Knoll at their headquarters here and travels a great deal during the week, but is almost always in his pew here on Sunday mornings and is a regular at the Saturday morning men's Bible study.

FRAZAR "FRAZ" THOMAS was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. After attending Middlebury College (where he and Drew Harrison overlapped), Fraz came to Philadelphia to attend law school at the University of Pennsylvania and began attending First Church. After law school he moved to New York to work in a law firm there, but this past summer, Fraz moved back to Philadelphia where he is currently working remotely for a law firm in Texas. We're delighted he's back at First.





MARYELLEN VAN ROYEN has been a member of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC, Union, Church of Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, and most recently Old Pine Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. She moved here five years ago from Brooklyn, NY with her husband Donald and 15 year-old son Aidan. She currently works with Hyatt Hotels & Resorts on their Corporate Task Force. Maryellen has been honored with several awards for excellence in her field, though she's most proud of her

recognition from the International Women's Leadership Association's for *Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the Family, Career and Community Award*. She is an adjunct faculty member at Temple University and is a Graduate Student herself in Adult & Organizational Development. Maryellen volunteers with local organizations including Lombard Senior Citizens Center, Saturday for Seniors Luncheon, and Little Smiles (littlesmiles.org), an organization that focuses on helping children during difficult times.

DREW HARRISON'S INSTALLATION

Rev. Drew Harrison will be installed as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pitman, New Jersey, on Sunday, November 12, at 3:00 P.M.

YOUNG ADULT NEWS

The young adults have had a great start to the fall season! We recently visited Linvilla Orchards for some apple picking, a hayride, and fun. The young adults Wednesday night programming has been discussing faith with the help of *Animate: Faith* and other curricula. The last week in October the Young Adults gathered for some pumpkin carving.

The young adults enjoy good discussion around many different topics which will be continued throughout the next couple of months. We will continue to grow in our faith and spend some time learning about the Thanksgiving holiday this month. 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.

We are excited to see new, and returning, faces and invite all young adults to join us! For more information, contact youngadults@fpcphila.org.

-Annie LeCluyse



COUPON UPDATE!

The Young Adults have enjoyed receiving and cutting all the coupons that have been brought to the church office during our Wednesday night gathering. We have sent in three large shipments and are in the process of getting a fourth ready to be sent. Thank you to all who have brought in coupons thus far. Please continue bringing them in!



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 Mr. Andrew Senn, Director of Music & Organist The Rev. Jerry K. Foote, Director of Congregational Care Ms. Sue Riemann, Church Administrator Mrs. Patti Sassoli, Director of Communications Ms. Annie LeCluyse, Young Adult Leader The Rev. Barbara A. Chaapel, Parish Associate The Rev. Kenneth Ross, Parish Associate The Rev. Herbert D. Valentine, Parish Associate

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS *Class of 2018* Jen Johnson, Rebecca Melley, Allan Schimmel, George Schneider *Class of 2019* Beverly Cowart, Karen Marston, Philip McMunigal, Emily Roan, Patricia Sassoli *Class of 2020* Susy Christensen, Heather Coyne, Cynthia Decrucq, Michael Smith

DEACONS

Class of 2018 Fred Barfoot, Miles Davis, Cathy Lever, Jean Witmer 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, Philip Woehr

TRUSTEES

Class of 2018 Jeannie Boehner, Gary Christensen, Tom Lever, Leila Vaughan Class of 2019 Craig Boddorff, Andrea Bowman, Mike Carl, Jennifer Gay, Robert Romano Class of 2020 Rebekah Horowitz, Robert Linck, Cade Massey

THE MESSENGER

Patti Sassoli, *Executive Editor* Owen Robbins, *Layout and Design*

Please submit all information for the December issue of The Messenger to communications@fpcphila.org by **Friday**, **November 24**th.



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.

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.

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

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.

Norris Square promotes change through youth education, community leadership, green spaces, the arts and the celebration of Latinx cultures.

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 hosthome or group facility.

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

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



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