

Getting to Know All About You

As we begin a season of our lives together, I am mindful of two things: First, that my arrival coincides with the departure of your well-loved and faithful minister, Jesse Garner. I want you to know that, while I am overjoyed to be with you, I do understand that the process of saying “goodbye” to someone who has been a part of your life for so many years, as Jesse has, involves some grieving.

It can be a tough thing, perhaps a source of mixed emotions, to celebrate the beginning of what we expect to be a long and fruitful season of ministry while also acknowledging that it marks a season of change.



The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis takes the reins at First Presbyterian Church.

I want you to know that I understand this because I want us to be able to talk openly with each other about our feelings about everything. Pastoral ministry works best when we share freely with each other the matters of our lives — that will be true in every season, even as it is most acutely true during this season of beginning and ending.

The second thing of which I am mindful is this: You don’t know me very well yet, and I don’t know you very well yet. The Pastor Nominating Committee and I spent quite a bit of time together, which yielded their unanimous recommendation to the congregation that I should be your pastor, and of course my acceptance of the call to be your pastor, but you and I are only just getting to know one another. Only time will bring us to that place where the relationship is deep and enduring. I’m committed to us developing that relationship. To that end, there are three things I want you to know about me.

- 1) New leadership does frequently mean change, but I will be taking the next many months to get to know you. I have no particular agenda of things I want to change or implement...yet. And whatever changes may come, your leadership will determine them together.
- 2) There is nothing that is pastorally off-limits for us to discuss. This is not to say that there aren’t thoughts that I will keep to myself, or that I won’t maintain appropriate personal boundaries, but it is to say that when it comes to the church, it’s all fair game. Let’s talk about what is on our minds. You can be sure that I will be telling you what I think, so it’s only fair that you know that I want you to return the favor.
- 3) I want you to expect honesty and kindness from me. There are a great many things we will come to expect of each other, but I want you to know that two of the most important to me are honesty and kindness.

There will be more, but that is enough to get us started. I wish you God’s shalom of peace and well-being.

—Baron Mullis

[For background information on Dr. Mullis, please see article on page three.]

SAVE THE DATE:
A Celebration of the Ministry
of
the Rev. Jesse Garner
Sunday, October 21
4 - 6 p.m.
Germantown Cricket Club



LECTIONARY

SEPTEMBER 2
Song of Solomon 2:8–13
Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9
James 1:17–27
Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

SEPTEMBER 9
Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23
Psalm 125
James 2:1–10 (11–13) 14–17
Mark 7:24–37

SEPTEMBER 16
Proverbs 1:20–33
Psalm 19
James 3:1–12
Mark 8:27–38

SEPTEMBER 23
Proverbs 31:10–31
Psalm 1
James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a
Mark 9:30–37

SEPTEMBER 30
Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22
Psalm 124
James 5:13–20
Mark 9:38–50

September 2018 at a Glance

Sunday, September 2

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)
 9:45 am Christian Education
 11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Monday, September 3

Church office closed.

Tuesday, September 4

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 5

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Thursday, September 6

6:45 pm Deacons Meeting

Saturday, September 8

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

Sunday, September 9

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)
 9:45 am *Make a Joyful Noise* (Old Buttonwood Hall)
 9:45 am Christian Education
 11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)
 12:15 pm Young Adult "First Sunday" Brunch (Irish Pub)

Monday, September 10

11:00 am Congregational Care Team

Tuesday, September 11

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 12

12:00 pm Women of Wit & Wisdom Luncheon
 Old Buttonwood Hall
 7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Saturday, September 15

9:00 am Deacons' Retreat (MacColl Room)

Sunday, September 16

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

10:00 am Welcome Brunch (Old Buttonwood Hall)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

1:00 pm Band of Boomers - Morris Arboretum Tour

3:00 pm Concerts@First - Angela Kraft Cross Organ Concert

Tuesday, September 18

9:30 am WiseRetirees

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 19

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Thursday, September 20

5:30 pm Membership & Evangelism Committee

6:30 pm Session

Saturday, September 22

9:00 am New Member Class

Sunday, September 23

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)
 9:45 am Christian Education
 11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Monday, September 24

6:30 pm Missions Committee

Tuesday, September 25

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 26

7:30 pm Young Adult Group

Saturday, September 29

8:30 am Habitat Workday

Sunday, September 30

9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)
 9:45 am Christian Education
 11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)

Welcome Brunch

Sunday, September 16 @ 10:00 AM

The Deacons invite everyone to our annual Welcome Brunch, being held this year in Old Buttonwood Hall between our 9:00 AM Celebration! worship service and our 11:00 AM traditional service. Come and get to know First Church worshippers from both services and to enjoy fellowship with friends old and new!

All are welcome—new members, visitors, returning members, and friends. No reservation is needed. Please join us!



Congregation Votes to Approve PNC Candidate: the Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis

On Sunday, June 24, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) introduced the Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis to the First Presbyterian Church congregation as their unanimous selection to be the Head of Staff.

Dr. Mullis preached at both the 9:00 and 11:00 AM worship services; a meeting of the congregation was held immediately following the 11:00 service for the purpose of acting on the



recommendation of the PNC. Members of the PNC presented their report and answered questions from the congregation. The congregation voted by written ballot to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis to be the Co-Pastor and Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

PNC Chair Dave Huting presented the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Mullis, and the congregation voted to approve them as presented.

Rev. Jesse Garner, Moderator of the meeting, thanked the members of the PNC for their service. The PNC members were Reginald Amoa, Andrea Bowman, Cynthia Decrucq, Dave Huting (Chair), Diane Rogers, and Courtney Russ-Friedman.

Dr. Mullis accepted the call to be the next Co-Pastor and Head of Staff, and expressed his gratitude to the PNC, the church staff, and the congregation.

Dr. Mullis began working at First Church on August 1.

—Patti Sassoli

Introducing...

The Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis

The Reverend Doctor Baron Mullis is a native of Charlotte, NC. After finishing high school and college in Charlotte, he attended Princeton Theological Seminary where he completed his seminary training. He returned to Princeton to earn a doctoral degree with a focus on understanding the psychology and theology of giving.

After completing a post-graduate fellowship in Indianapolis, Baron pastored churches in Charlotte and Atlanta. He presently serves as a trustee for Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, and has previously served on the board of directors of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.

In his ministry through the years, he has focused on creating intentionally inclusive congregations where unconditional welcome is recognized as a fundamental facet of the kingdom of God. His work has included breaking down barriers to LGBTQ equality, addressing hunger and food insecurity at the neighborhood level, and increasing awareness of the need for economic inclusivity in the local congregation.

He lives in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia with his spouse Lester and their two dogs.



Transitioning!

With the August arrival of Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis, the two-year-long pastoral transition carefully orchestrated by our Session has very nearly reached its end. Baron has moved into the pastor's office on the first floor, and assumed the primary pastoral responsibilities. I've moved up to the Staff Office on the 2nd floor of the parish house, and am now helping Baron with transitional issues and tying up loose ends. After 17 years, there are a lot of loose ends! The good news is that everything has gone just exactly as we'd hoped, and the future looks very bright indeed here at the corner of 21st & Walnut.

Over the next two months, I'll continue to help Baron in every way I can, serving along with Megan and Sarah as occasional worship liturgist, teaching the Lectionary Bible Study on Sundays, and assisting Baron with quite a few baptisms and weddings that are on the calendar. I am scheduled to preach one last time on Sunday, October 21, and that will be my last Sunday with you. After 17 years, I also have a lot of good-byes to say, and I'll be busy doing that, too. I'm confident that I'm leaving you in very good hands. God bless you all.

—Jesse Garner

FIRST CHURCH MISSION TEAM TRAVELS TO MEXICO



Currently, 1.3 billion people live in urban poor communities. By 2050, almost half of the people on earth will live in such communities, and most of them will have had no opportunity to establish community with their neighbors or a relationship with God.



A residential street in Las Palmas



Shipping container with medical clinic inside.



Community Healthcare Director Yolanda stands beside medicine cabinet to be organized and catalogued.

This past May, several members of our congregation—Jesse Garner, Craig Boddorff, Cindy Elliott and Beverly Cowart—traveled to Mexico to work along with one of our missions partners, **URBAN MOSAIC**, which is seeking to address this issue in the slums of Mexico City and beyond.

We brought with us medical supplies, and spent a week in a newly opened health center sorting through donated medicines to insure they were within their expiration dates, putting them in alphabetical order, and creating a database to enable tracking their distribution. We also went out into the community to distribute health-related materials and supplies. The most poignant of our activities was our work in local schools, providing baseline health assessments (weight, height, blood pressure and dental health) of the students so that they can be followed and supported in coming years. But by far the most revelatory insight of our time in Mexico was the joy and promise



Cindy replicates a dental health poster for schools. "Higiene Bucal" = "Oral Hygiene."

that the gospel message brought to these communities and to those who work with them. The strength of their faith strengthened ours.

We hope to continue this connection and to engage others in our congregation in this work. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Missions Committee (missions@fcpchila.org).

—Beverly Cowart



The team performs height and weight measurements at school.



The team relaxes after organizing the medicines and entering the inventory into a database.

Can You Swing a Hammer?

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - HABITAT

On Saturday, September 29th, First Church will be doing home repairs with Habitat's West Philadelphia Repair Initiative (WPRI). We need 5-7 volunteers. No skill or construction experience is necessary—just a readiness to help out! The work day is from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. For information or to volunteer, please email missions@fcpchila.org.



Help Stock the Children's Library for the New School Year!

If you stop by the Beadle Room about 10:15 most Sunday mornings, you'll find some of our children surrounded by the books they are reading from our children's library! As we head into the new school year, check out our [Amazon WishList](#), where you can purchase new books for our library to help our kids continue to learn and grow in their journey of faith. Embrace your inner child and stop by and read a book yourself as well!

—Megan LeCluyse



Bible Studies

- **Women's Bible Study** meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. at the church. For information contact Jerry Foote (jerry.foote@fpcphila.org).
- **Men's Bible Study** meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 A.M. at the upstairs café at DiBruno's (1730 Chestnut Street). All are welcome to participate. Contact Mac McLarin (mac.mclarin@fpcphila.org) for information.
- **A Community Bible Study** led by Delores Brisbon meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 A.M. at the Old City Presbyterian Apartments (25 N. 4th Street). Contact Delores Brisbon (deloresbrisbon2201@comcast.net) for information.



Concerts@First

presents

Angela Kraft Cross
organist

Charles-Marie Widor - Symphonie VII

Sunday, September 16th @ 3 pm

Visionary Women Connecting with Other Faiths

Last spring we, Carol and Diane, had the opportunity to participate in a "Visionary Women" series sponsored by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia (see note below). The series was comprised of six sessions in which we visited different religious communities, listened to a panel discussion by women of faith, experienced their hospitality, and broke into small discussion groups.

We met with women from Jewish, Catholic, Bahai, Sikh, and Muslim communities. We were profoundly moved by listening to faith stories from different traditions and as a result felt greater connection to our spiritual sisters. We both felt that creating spaces for community across different religious perspectives is an imperative; more than just a breath of fresh air, it empowered us to continue to seek these spaces as an antidote to political distrust and disrespect.

In our roles as "visionary women" for the first half of this year, we feel challenged by the Interfaith Center's mission to promote social harmony and inter-religious understanding. We look forward to opportunities to explore this further, including sharing information about the "holy days" of different faiths as they occur throughout the year.

This month features Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. **Rosh Hashanah** marks the beginning of the

Jewish New Year, when God makes plans for the coming year. It is celebrated ten days before Yom Kippur, beginning this year at sunset on September 10 and ending at sundown on September 11.

Yom Kippur is the Jewish day of atonement. This year, it begins at sunset on September 18th and ends the following day at sundown. As in our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, many Jews precede the start of the holiday with a feast before the day of fasting. It is a day to give to charity (demonstrate love to humankind) and to publicly and privately confess sins to God and to each other, which may include visiting those from whom you wish to ask forgiveness.

As our Jewish sisters and brothers mark these holidays, in what ways might we stand with them, recognizing our common theology and humanity?

Yours in peace,

—Carol Cook and Diane Rogers

(Note: The Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, whose offices are in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia, is a recipient of mission support from First Church. It has had a long-standing relationship with our church, and has helped to arrange adult education classes focusing on other faiths. Kay Keenze, Margaret Somerville and Rev. Garner have all served on its board, and Rev. Garner is now the board chair.)

First Church Cited by the Community College of Philadelphia for Recognizing Community Needs



(pictured from left) Sulaiman Rahman, Foundation Board Member; Dr. David Lugg, General, President; Lisa Timberman, professor and facilitator, Peeriny Program; Amy Baker, student and Malcolm Jenkins, Philadelphia Eagle and Foundation Board Member at a Community College of Philadelphia Foundation event at Ballard Square

Recognizing Community Needs and Community Service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Actively engaged in helping residents acquire a college education, the mission committee of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia recently redefined their scholarship criteria to focus on specific students who improve the lives of others.

Providing \$5,000 among two to three students, the scholarship benefits participants in ACHIEVEability, an organization that works to break the cycle of poverty through services and assistance aimed at self-sufficiency, including earning an education. Applicants must also be involved in community or volunteer endeavors.

"The goal is to assist those who are working to improve their and their families' lives through education. We focus on individuals who are struggling with personal adversities, but who nonetheless take time to serve others in their communities. We seek to encourage and support those who exemplify Christian community, whatever their personal religious beliefs," said Beverly Cowart, a member of the church's mission committee.

First Presbyterian reached out to the College's Foundation in 2008 to establish the scholarship, which has since awarded eight students approximately \$28,500.

26 Pathways

PARX CASINO

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Young Adult News

The Young Adults have had a great summer of fellowship visiting different locations throughout Philadelphia. These have included attending a Phillies game, local beer gardens, the Philly Art Museum, book and podcast discussions, movie and game nights and so much more. Attendance has been anywhere from 3-10 people for these weeknight hangouts and around 15-20 for our monthly brunch at the Irish Pub, and we've really grown closer together. Young adults and other members have opened up their homes for game nights and movie nights, providing a relaxing atmosphere including a great gathering with fpcQ for Friday Night Happy Hour.

As September rolls around we will return to First Church for our weekly gatherings. We will be hosting dinner at the Christian Association as well as continue discussion based fellowship with the help of books, podcasts and the Feasting on the Word curriculum.

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. If you are interested in joining the Young Adults or to possibly host the Young Adults for dinner and fellowship send an e-mail to Annie at youngadults@fpcphila.org.

—Annie LeCluyse

Women of Wit & Wisdom

First Church's incomparable Women of Wit and Wisdom will kick off their second season with a luncheon in Old Buttonwood Hall on Wednesday, September 12, at

noon. We will enjoy "fellowshipping" with one another, catching up on what's been happening since we last met in the spring, and looking ahead to this year's programming.

Who are these witty wise women anyway? Well, we're mostly over the age of 50, but not necessarily; mostly retired, but some not; and all looking to enhance our spiritual and social connections with each other. We have various programs planned for the coming year, including a number of lunches, a "mother/daughter" dinner, and a Q&A with our new pastor Baron Mullis.

By the time the Messenger comes out, you may already have received communication from us about the September lunch; if we have missed you, do let us know by emailing womenwitwisdom@fpcphila.org or calling the church office.

—Ruth Camisa and Diane Rogers

“Open Door, Welcome Table”

I was searching online for inspiration to write this brief article about the upcoming “Open Door, Welcome Table” congregational dinners celebrating the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Baron A. Mullis as Head Pastor and Chief of Staff at First Church.

I came across an article entitled, “The Dinner Table as a Place of Connection, Brokenness and Blessing” by Dr. Barry D. Jones, published in the online magazine of the Dallas Theological Seminary in 2015. In the article, Dr. Jones cites a well-loved English pub table used by his family as a metaphor for fellowship, celebration and sorrow. Two quotes caught my eye.

“Sharing tables is one of the most uniquely human things we do. No other creature consumes its food at a table and sharing tables with other people reminds us there is more to food than fuel. We don’t eat only for sustenance.”

This quote embodies the spirit of “Open Door Welcome Table.” Soon,

our FPC family will gather in homes and restaurants throughout the area to learn more about Rev. Mullis and his vision for First Church. But these dinners offer much more than that. They offer a chance to learn more about each other, what we do, our likes and dislikes and enjoy the spiritual food that is our shared experience as members of this amazing congregation.



The second quote was, “I’m increasingly convinced that food is one of God’s love languages.”

I can’t agree with this more! I couldn’t find any evidence that our spiritual lives are made better by good food, but I submit to you that a good roast chicken can do wonders for the soul. Regardless of whether these dinners take place in a home or restaurant, it is the spirit of community, of celebration welcoming Baron and Lester to their new home and our shared faith that will make of each of these dinners a very special occasion.

—Bill Swoope

New Photo Directory Available

Copies of the new First Church photo directory are available in the church office. If you would like to receive an electronic (pdf) version of the directory, please call or email the church office (215-567-0532 or office@fpcphila.org). If you did not submit a photo and would like to be included in the next printing of the directory, please send jpg files to communications@fpcphila.org.

Band of Boomers September Event

The Band of Boomers will visit the beautiful Morris Arboretum in Chestnut Hill, after the 11 o’clock service on September 16. We will plan to arrive by 1:00, in time to have a casual lunch at its Compton Cafe, followed by a tour at 2:00, lasting about an hour. Admission (payable upon entry) is \$19 for boomers under 65, and \$17 for those 65 and up. Arboretum members and PennCard holders are free. For those who wish to carpool from the church, we will coordinate that at the beginning of the fellowship hour. Please RSVP to boomers@fpcphila.org.

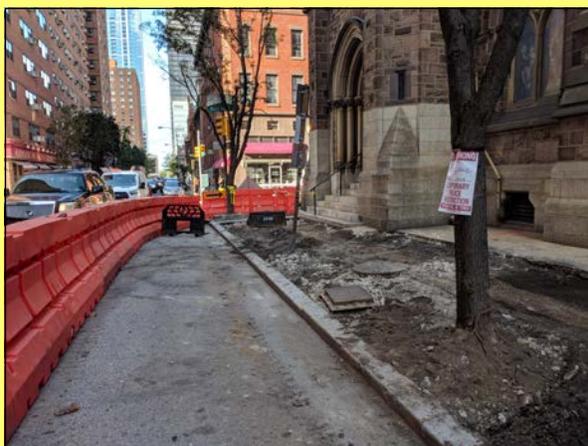
—Rick Unger



The Band of Boomers enjoyed a Schuylkill River cruise to Bartram’s Garden in June.

Sidewalk Repairs

Sidewalk repairs have finally begun and work is ongoing. Access to church entrances may be limited as the work progresses. Notices will be posted on the [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#). Contact the [church office](#) for up-to-date information! Thank you for your patience.



Celebrating Pat Quigg and Reading Buddies

50 Years of Love

This past summer, on June 9, a luncheon was held at First Church to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Reading Buddies and its founder, Pat Quigg. Pat began the program in 1968 by arranging for a group of students from the Benson School, an elementary school in South Philadelphia, to come to the church on Monday and work



one-on-one with members of the church. The reading program was called the Monday School, and this may be urban legend, but as I understand it, Pat drove the school bus which transported the students — a bus borrowed from the Big Brothers Association, whose president at that time was Pat's husband, Ben Quigg.

Some years later, a church member who had moved to Riverside Presbyterian Apartments expressed regret that she couldn't see the children anymore and asked if they could come to Riverside. Benson School had closed, but Pat worked with the Philadelphia School District to connect W.S. Pierce School with the

reading program. And so began this outreach, which matched a class — typically a 2nd or 3rd grade class — with residents of a senior community located close to the school. Often schools were in at risk neighborhoods, and students sometimes came from dysfunctional families, so it was a chance for children to spend time with someone who cared about them and was concerned about their welfare. And, it was a two-way arrangement because volunteers were also rewarded. It became a bright spot in their week, improved the quality of their lives, and made them feel that they were giving back to the community and contributing to a child's life.

The program grew with the full encouragement of the Philadelphia School District, which along the way gave Reading Buddies a distinguished achievement award for outstanding contribution. Many of the adult communities involved were part of PresbyHomes, now called Presby's Inspired Life. In 2000, the Department of Housing and Urban Development selected Reading Buddies as one of the top 100 Best Practices out of 3,000 submissions and further honored the program as the single best practice in the nation of all the cost effective programs involving HUD properties for the elderly and disabled. This



award was key because it led to increased grant money and to significant expansion in the number of programs which could be offered. Not too long ago, there were as many as 25 Reading Buddies programs involving 22 schools. So in a typical year there were about 600 children who were part of Reading Buddies. It would be impossible to make an accurate count of all the children impacted during the life of the program, but it is many thousands.

In 2013, Pat was awarded the AARP's highest volunteer tribute, the Andrus Award.

Through the years she was ably assisted by others. Lois Van Eerden served as program coordinator for almost 20 years. Ben Quigg started as a grants writer but also handled insurance matters, served as treasurer, and gave legal counsel. Ben encouraged and affirmed. In talking about Pat's passion for Reading Buddies, Lois has said that Pat has had 3 great loves: God, Ben, and Reading Buddies — and that it was sometimes hard to know in what order they fell.

Happy Anniversary to Reading Buddies.

—Laura McMunigal

Join the Musicopia String Orchestra (MSO)

The Musicopia String Orchestra (MSO) makes its home at the wonderful First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia holding rehearsals here every Tuesday throughout the school year. We'd love any students to come join us!

Who: String Players (Age 7-18)

What: MSO Auditions

When: Saturday, September 8

Where: First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, 21st & Walnut Streets (entrance on 21st Street)

About MSO: Founded by Musicopia in 2005, MSO is based on the philosophy that participating in serious, long-term musical endeavors can have a transformative impact on students, encouraging discipline, teamwork, and personal and creative development. MSO serves students throughout the greater Philadelphia region with three levels of ensemble: Musicopia Young String Players (MYSP), Musicopia String Orchestra, and Musicopia Chamber Orchestra.

MSO is open to students from public, private, parochial, and charter schools. All MSO students rehearse every Tuesday with a core faculty of passionate and committed teaching artists.

Audition Requirements: Please review the [detailed ensemble information](#) which includes age ranges and audition guidelines. Students should prepare a short solo piece and scales, and will be asked to sightread. They will also need a letter of recommendation from their individual or school music teacher. Students are encouraged to audition regardless of financial constraints.

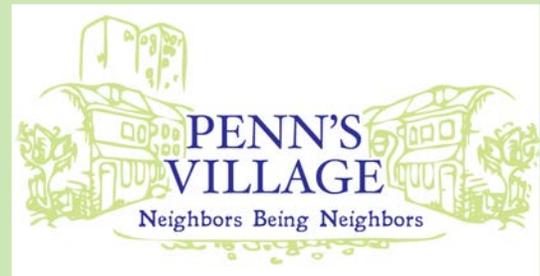
Register for an Audition: To register, please complete the [online registration form](#).

Support MSO: We welcome volunteers at our weekly rehearsal and concert events. Visit www.musicopia.net to make a donation or volunteer.

Please contact Musicopia String Orchestra Manager, Colleen Hood, at colleen@musicopia.net with any questions about the audition process or volunteering.



HELP WANTED AT PENN'S VILLAGE!



Penn's Village is looking for a couple of administrative volunteers to assist with daily operations of the village. **This is not your usual office volunteer opportunity!** It is a chance to facilitate volunteer-delivered services in the community, to help with registration for workshops, outings and social events and to respond to inquiries about the organization.

Administrative volunteers work from their own homes to provide office "coverage" via our information management system and remote access to our phone. We have a dedicated group of such volunteers who each "cover" their specific day(s), but we need to expand the group. We will train you and support you all the way!

If you are interested in learning more, please email info@pennsvillage.org or call the office at 215-925-7333. You will be contacted either by one of the current administrative volunteers or by me.

Thank you for considering this request!

Jane Eeley, Executive Director
www.pennsvillage.org



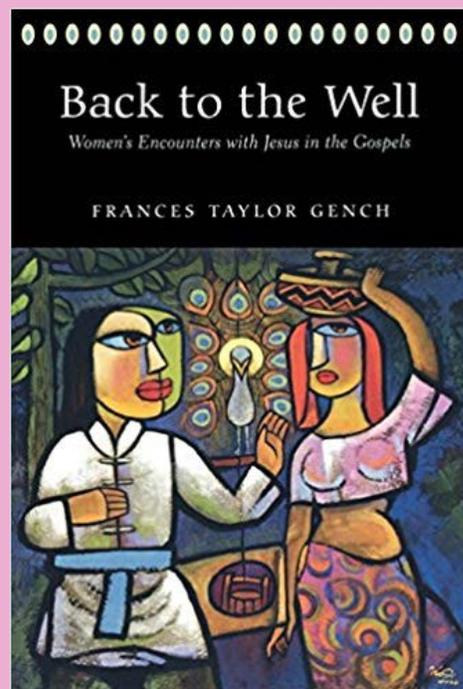
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will resume after a summer hiatus on Tuesday evenings, beginning September 11th at the church at 7:00 PM. This Fall we will include with our Bible study, a guide book, *BACK TO THE WELL: Women's Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels*, by Frances Taylor Gench.

Rev. Gench writes in her introduction to the studies: "How would you describe your relationship with the Bible? My own journey with it, in recent years, has been marked by two things in particular: (1) a fascination with women in the biblical world—how their lives and experiences are represented and refracted, and how their stories might illumine contemporary Christian life and faith; and (2) a deep appreciation of the ways in which feminist biblical scholarship has deepened and broadened engagement with the stories by articulating new questions and insights for the community of faith." (p. ix)

I feel this book will enable us to ask new and intriguing questions of the six biblical passages that are studied and highlighted in the book. Won't you consider joining us this Fall on Tuesday evenings as we study and discuss together these women's encounters with Jesus? Of course, we will also examine our own relationship with the Bible as well as our personal encounters with Jesus while on our life's journeys.

Please contact me before September 11th, and I will send you a study book so that you can read and prepare ahead of time. Contact Jerry Foote at (jerry.foote@fpcphila.org). I look forward to hearing from you.



--Rev. Jerry K. Foote

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY AT FPC

Today's demographics and insights are compelling for clergy and lay leaders to consider:

- Today over 14.5% percent of the U.S. population is age 65+.
- By 2030, the 65+ age group will comprise 20% of the population.
- Within 10 years, the high-risk age 85+ population will increase by 40%.

This unprecedented rapid growth of the older adult population nationwide, and worldwide, and the resultant challenges to the social and economic system, demands responses from the church.

This brings us to our ministry of Congregational Care at FPC. Our committee of Congregational Care, and my role as leader of this committee means we are praying for, visiting, calling, and sending notes and cards to about 20 of our FPC older adults who are homebound, or

are in care-giving facilities. According to the above statistics, this number will only increase in the future. What we need now and even more in the future are volunteers from our congregation to participate in this ministry to our formerly faithful attendees who can no longer join us on a regular Sunday morning or during the week.

Our Congregational Care committee meets the first Monday of the month at the church at 11:00 a.m. for an hour. Won't you please consider joining us in this vital ministry of FPC?

Please contact Jerry Foote (jerry.foote@fpcphila.org). I know you will be blessed by participating in this ministry, and you will be such a blessing to so many others who are in need of your care.

--Rev. Jerry K. Foote
Directory of Congregational Care

Member News

New Members:

• **JOAN DETZ** is an avid reader, a fan of all libraries (especially the Free Library of Philadelphia) and she advocates for global literacy via Twitter @JoanDetz. Joan belongs to the PA Horticulture Society, PAFA, Global Philadelphia, German Society of PA, Mutter Museum, American Society of Journalists & Authors, International Association of Business Communicators, Authors Guild. Her interests include parks, gardens, urban design, public health, and public safety. Her son and his wife work in Singapore. Joan is the author of *How To Write & Give A Speech* (St Martin's Press).



Births:



• **EMMA MARGARET MCCARTHY**, daughter of **Jessica and Mike McCarthy**, was born on May 16th. She weighed in at 6 lbs 8 oz. Her family is doing well and is thankful for your prayers.

• **BENJAMIN "BEN" LEE FRIEDMAN**, son of **Courtney and Dave**, was born on June 7th. He was 5 lbs 6 oz and 19 inches. The family is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and love from FPCP. We look forward to his baptism on September 16th.



• **Anna and Daniel Mellinger** have joyfully welcomed a new daughter into their family. **CAROLINE ELISE MELLINGER** was born August 22nd, joining big brother Dan. They look forward to introducing her to their church family at Celebration Service and are thankful for the kind thoughts and support of their church family at FPCP.

Baptisms:

• The church joyfully celebrated the baptism of **OWEN BOYD**, son of **Jennifer and Doug Boyd**, on Sunday, June 24th at the 11:00 AM service. Owen was baptized by the Revs. Jesse Garner and Megan LeCluyse.



Deaths:

• **CLEIRACH PARTIN** was born in Chambersburg, PA, came to Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania, and lived here for the rest of her life, mostly in East Falls. She spent her working career in the medical field, primarily at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Cleiry had three daughters, Zoe who now lives in Berlin, Adrienne who lives in Montana, and Jesse who died at the age of 11. Cleirach joined First Church in 2016 and was an active and enthusiastic participant in worship, always with a smile on her face. She died suddenly and unexpectedly on June 17, and is very much missed.

Honored:

• **MARVIN KEENZE** is the Coordinator of International Activities of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. At the recent national conference in Las Vegas, he was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the Association and the International Congress of Voice Teachers.



Graduate:

• **JOSHUA BANKS** graduated from Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health with a master's degree in Biostatistics on June 15. He is now working as a Statistical Analyst at Thomas Jefferson University here in Philadelphia providing statistical support to research projects in cancer epidemiology and public health research in Italy.



Interested in First Church?

If you would like to learn more about First Church and how you can be a part of the life and ministry of the church, you're invited to attend our **New Member Class** on Saturday, September 22nd, from 9 am. to 12 pm. The class is informal and explores what Presbyterians believe, what membership means, and how to get involved at First Church. Contact Sarah (sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org) for more information.

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/

Penn's Village Invites You to Our Early Fall Programs

Penn's Village, a non-profit organization redefining what it means to be older, has many varied programs during the months of September and October. We hope there is something of interest to you. Here is our line-up:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 9/12 <i>The Silver Binder</i> | <i>Mario Oropeza</i> |
| 9/17 <i>North Korea: Historical Perspective</i> | <i>Eugene Park</i> |
| 9/20 <i>Hearing and Balance Health</i> | <i>Sarah L. Lively</i> |
| 9/28 <i>Arcadia to Montana: Inside the Cello</i> | <i>George Economou</i> |
| 10/2 <i>Medicare Part D</i> | <i>Richard Salkowitz</i> |
| 10/16 <i>New at the Zoo</i> | <i>Arleen Dascola</i> |
| 10/25 <i>Rumba, Samba, Tango</i> | <i>Peter Schoenbacher</i> |



Attending a program or two is one of the best ways of learning about the benefits of being part of Penn's Village and the support it provides. To find out more about these programs, visit our website: www.pennsvillage.org. To register for a program email info@pennsvillage.org or call 215.925.7333. We would appreciate a \$5 donation from guests who are not members or volunteers.

Please submit all information for the October issue of The Messenger to communications@fpcphila.org by **Monday, September 24th**.

The First Presbyterian Church IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Church Staff

- The Rev. Jesse B. Garner, *Minister*
- 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, *Director of Congregational Care*
- The Rev. Sarah Weisiger, *Director of Membership Development*
- 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*

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

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- Edna Dick
- Dave Huting
- Anita McLarin
- Evelyn Schwartz
- Class of 2020**
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- Cynthia Olds-Greeley
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- Don Williams
- Class of 2021**
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- Carl Gakeler
- João Magalhaes
- William Swooper
- Jean Witmer

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- Morgan Klinzing
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- Cade Massey
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