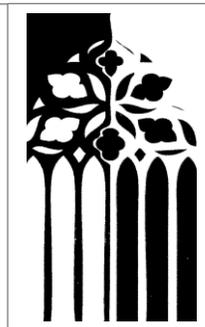


Voice of the *Spire*

The Newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation



Spring 2014

Arch Street United Methodist Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Reinhard Kruse

Deacon

David W. Brown

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Andrew Monath

Music Director, 8:30 AM

Dolores Farinre-Carey

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Voice of the *Spire*

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POWER's 2014 Voter Campaign

Betsy Connor

Let's begin at the end: It is May 21, 2014, the day after the primary. You tune in to KYW, pick up the *Inquirer*, or pull up your local online news source.

Whoa! Yesterday's referendum to include certain airport employees in the minimum wage increase passed! You remember the young woman who told her story at one of the POWER meetings. She worked for less than minimum wage plus a few tips to support herself and her kids. She sounded so worried. You know their lives will be made a little easier and more hopeful because you made phone calls to get out the vote.

Then you find out that certain voting districts had an unusually high voter turnout. Hmm... these are the districts that you went to for POWER's door-knocking effort. If you noticed this, certainly city and state politicians have noticed too. You know that POWER has told them about our voter turnout efforts. They think maybe they'd better pay more attention to what POWER, representing ordinary Philadelphians, is asking them for—especially since it won't be long until the November election rolls around and we are checking on our representatives' support for a Full, Fair Funding Formula (FFFF) for our schools and urging these same voters to pull the lever for candidates who truly want to give our kids a good, solid education.

By now, you have heard our pastor Robin Hynicka urging us all to make a contribution of our time to POWER's spring voter turnout effort. POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild) is the multi-faith organization of 45 churches, mosques, and synagogues determined to make needed changes to our city's wage structure, schools, and immigration policies.



A huge and well-planned POWER campaign has targeted the May 20 primary and referendum vote to demonstrate that we *can* move voters to the polls, even in a primary that most voters don't show up for. Our church, and all 45 POWER member congregations, *will* show up and will bring 5,000 other voters who wouldn't usually vote in a primary to the polls.

If you've volunteered already and joined your Arch Street friends in this effort, take pride in that and come back again to make calls and knock on doors. If you haven't pitched in yet, please join in and donate a few hours to get out the vote. Training sessions will be held before each phone-call and door-knocking shift. Support from experienced GOTV'ers (Get Out the Vote) will be available. Refreshments will be provided.

Back to the future—it's November 2014, elections for the governor and state reps are over. Those elected are committed to good schools via the FFFF. Airport workers are a little more financially secure. POWER is known as a force to be reckoned with. Our church helped make it happen!

Thank you, Arch Streeters!

News & People

The New Tenants at Serenity House



Rev. Nick Nicholas

So, a Deacon from Chicago gets appointed to the Northeastern Jurisdiction as the coordinator of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and needs a place to live.

That's how I ended up at Serenity House. In my first conversation with Bishop Johnson, I asked if she knew of a parsonage or church-owned home looking for a part-time resident. "Let me call Robin" is what she said to me.

I'm a Deacon in Full Connection and a member of the Northern Illinois Conference. My wife, Rev. Jane Cheema, is also a Deacon and serves as minister of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at First UMC of Evanston, Illinois, just north of Chicago. We have three grown children. One lives in Grand Rapids, Mich-

igan, one in Evanston, and one currently lives outside of Dublin, Ireland.

My role at Serenity House will be to encourage mission teams to be involved in ministry with us in the North Philadelphia neighborhood. I hope to replicate a ministry I worked with on the North Side of Chicago. There we provided a Vacation Bible School based "Kids Camp" three days a week for five weeks over the summer.

The only issue I see with this model is that we may run out of space quickly!



Jordan Harris

In the coming months, I will have the opportunity to work with Arch Street's satellite ministry at Serenity House. I will

be working with O as well as Rev. Nick Nicholas to help answer the question "What is Serenity House?"

While most of what I am actually going to do remains ambiguous at this time, there are a variety of things I want to focus on during my stay. They include: helping to find creative ways towards peace in the neighborhood, strengthening the connection between Arch Street and the people who live in the neighborhood at 12th and Lehigh, and continuing to make the actual space of Serenity House into a place where more people interested in ministry can live and grow.

There are a lot of ideas and visions around programming at Serenity House, from things like a vacation bible school for children, to a center for practicing and teaching "green living" and intentional community, to creating a space for young adults interested in ministry to explore their calling in a way that has not yet been seen. Many dedicated members of Arch Street have been and are being very hands on in what is already happening there. My job is to help connect those ideas with people who can make them into ministry.

The Spring Concert Will Be "Amazing"!

Andrew Monath

Our Spring Concert will take place on Sunday, May 4 at 4:30 PM. It will be a concert of big hymn arrangements for choir, organ, and orchestra. We will include some of your favorites, among them "Here I Am, Lord," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "It Is Well with My Soul."

The main feature of the concert will be the World Premiere of "God's Amazing Grace," a piece written by Doug Helvering for choir and organ. He sets six verses of "Amazing Grace" to six different tunes, including "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," "The Gift of Love," the themes from *The Brady Bunch* and *Gilligan's Island*, "O For a

Thousand Tongues to Sing," and "Joy to the World." It is going to be quite spectacular!

Go ahead—sing those tunes with the Amazing Grace text. It works!

Remembrances

Angie Scott – She “Loved” Facebook

Janis Campbell



An e-mail address retires ...
apscott1@att.net

Thank you to 21st century technology, to e-mail, and to Facebook for helping many of us stay connected to Angie Scott, devoted physician, compassionate friend,

and for 25-plus years, a die-hard fan of the ASUMC 8:30 service. She will be long remembered for her gracious humility and the loving acceptance she offered to all.

Despite moving more than 1,000 miles away to relocate to Florida a few years ago, Angie continued to connect to her many friends across the country and here at Arch Street through her weekly e-mail blasts and Facebook messages. Without social media, many of us might have lost touch with her along the way. Instead, almost every week, Angie could hop on the laptop and blast us and keep in touch!

Even before she left the Delaware Valley, for many years, Angie through weekly e-mail updates shared information about academic scholarships for young people

of color, particularly young women who wanted to attend medical school but may not have been aware of such opportunities. Angie enthusiastically encouraged students to *apply, apply, apply!*

The priceless gift of her gracious dignity and humility is a shining example of authentic servant leadership. In memory of Angie Scott, I share the following redacted excerpt from a William Cullen Bryant poem:

*So live, that when thy summons comes
 to join the caravan in the silent halls of
 death, you go not like the quarry-slave
 at night, scourged to his dungeon, but,
 sustained and soothed by an unflin-
 tering trust. Approach thy grave as one
 who wraps the drapery of his
 couch about him and lies down to
 pleasant dreams.*

Bertha Morris: Angel in a Fur Coat

Margaret Harris

I've been asked to write a few words about my friend and longtime Arch Street member, Bertha Morris, who departed this world last July. I can't write about her life story, but only about what she meant to me.

I loved Bertha, and if you ever met Bertha, I'm pretty sure you loved her too. In case you are fairly new to Arch Street and are wondering who Bertha was, you might remember having seen a small African-American woman of mature years, wearing a big hat and a fur coat, sitting on a bench in the hall outside the chapel between or after services, surrounded by friends, who always seemed to be having a great conversation or

enjoying a good joke. That would be Bertha.

I had the very great good fortune to be in a Disciple group with Bertha for years. The members of our Disciple group liked each other so much that we kept finding excuses to meet, long after we finished the Disciple studies. Bertha was a big part of what made that group so much fun. She knew how to enjoy herself, and made everyone around her enjoy themselves too. I don't think I ever had a conversation with Bertha when we didn't laugh. This wasn't because we didn't talk about difficult issues or discuss hard problems—many of us shared experiences of great pain, anxiety, and suffering. However, no

matter what you talked about with Bertha, you always felt better after your conversation than you did before. She always saw the best in people, and after talking with her, you felt better about yourself and other people too. It wasn't that she didn't know trouble, or was unrealistic, but she had tremendous faith. Her faith gave you hope that you could get through whatever problems you had in your life, partly because, if Bertha was praying for you, things were going to work out.

I miss Bertha, but I know that heaven is a lot more fun now that Bertha is there.

Columns

Minister's Message



Rev. Robin Hynicka
Senior Pastor

Student Groups at Arch Street UMC

Six students from the College of William & Mary camped out at Arch Street United Methodist Church from March 2 to 7, 2014. Instead of going to Florida or some other exotic place for their spring

break, they decided to come to snow- and ice-covered Philadelphia to live, learn, and lend a hand.

The William & Mary students are just one of several student groups that in recent years have made Arch Street their home for a week of service. Students from Western Michigan University, Dickinson College, Emory & Henry College, and Carson-Newman College now call ASUMC their second home. Thanks to the ASUMC support and pastoral staff, the students are made to feel welcome and safe. They sleep in the conference room or the chapel, cook their meals in the kitchen, and branch out from the church each day to work at places like MANNA, Serenity House, and Grace Café. In fact, the College of William & Mary calls their Alternative Spring Break program – BRANCH OUT! The goal is to develop service learning contexts

that provide students with hands on, heads up, and hearts open experiences that classroom course work just can't provide. Student Leader Sara Dufour from William & Mary said, "We had an amazing and eye-opening experience at Arch Street and will take away the lessons learned and apply them in our local community."

ASUMC does its part to introduce students to the way congregations engage in social justice and community development activities. In particular, the William & Mary students learned about and helped out with POWER's "Living Wage" Campaign and the Serenity House renovation project.

Offering ASUMC as a temporary home to students on spring break is just one more way the congregation contributes to a more gracious, generous, and "get it done" social and spiritual agenda.

Capital Campaign Update

The "Be Lifted Up Campaign" will support four things that will "Lift Us UP"!

1. Design and install an elevator
2. Support and participate in building the Serenity House Ministry and short-term mission projects
3. Give in thanksgiving for the restoration of the Arch Street Window
4. Provide a "love gift" to Annual Conference in support of the campaign

to cover the gap in the pastors' pre-1982 pension fund

Since the Winter issue of the *Spire*, significant progress has been made toward the capital campaign goal of \$800,000. We now have receipts and pledges totaling just over \$650,000. That means we need just \$150,000 to reach our goal.

If you haven't made a gift or pledged to make a gift, please do so now in order to

close the gap. Contact Pastor Robin (robin@archstreetumc.org or 215-498-3718) and make an appointment to discuss your personal contribution.

This project will make the church building more welcoming and accessible. The Building Committee is forming and will soon resume work to bring this dream into reality.

Church Picnic

Arch Street's annual Church Picnic will take place Sunday June 22 at Carson Simpson Farm in Hatboro. There will be an open air worship service, lunch, and games.

Come for the food and fellowship and to swim, hike, talk to your friends, play softball, and watch Pastor Robin compete with the kids in sack races, egg tossing, and tug of war.

“U” Are a Part of US!

Rev. Reinhard Kruse

Only relationships give life meaning. You are born into your first relationship with your mother, which expands to your family and friends. Relationships keep developing, and when God enters in, it becomes a spiritual and eternal relationship.

The most intimate human relationship is marriage. For Sue and me, our relationship started in college and now has passed 50 years. It has grown, is still growing, and now has reached the point where neither one of us can make it on our own; each is totally dependent on the other, indispensable. We can also testify from observation that a marriage relationship dedicated only to each other will not survive; it must be a relationship where together the couple serves a higher cause or purpose. Then it becomes a joint spiritual relationship serving God

and neighbor, and that is the glue which gives meaning to our individual and common life.

The church is a group of people who join together to serve a higher purpose. The church is a community, a fellowship, a “communion of Saints.” It is a spiritual relationship with other believers, and a spiritual relationship with each one and all to God.

Read I John 1:1–7. Here John says that we have the word of life revealed to us through our fellowship with God in Jesus Christ, and that fellowship is among us.

Two examples of how relationships work to bring meaning and salvation:

Study groups meet regularly to study and learn. They learn from each other and get to know one another. Growing in knowledge and understanding of the

subject matter and each other, they are ready to help and support anyone in the group in a crisis. Thanks be to God!

The choir meets because they enjoy singing; talent helps, but the spirit and purpose is the most important key—sing praises and glory to God! Over a period of time the singers gel into one group; there is a feeling of camaraderie that lifts the spirit of God, the group, and of each singer.

The church always needs volunteers. It is your opportunity to do something good and worthwhile. It benefits others while also building relationships between you and others and God. Involvement makes your life richer and fuller. Just as a tag may read “Void if detached,” don’t be a loner or outside and lost—“U” should be part of *US*.

Our History: Friendly Hour under Betty Smith

Dale Shillito, Arch Street Historian

Music and singing were staples of Friendly Hour, the weekly social event for young adults after the Sunday Evening service. Arch Street’s choir director Alyce Bianco played the piano, accompanied by the church’s paid quartet. Provided with songbooks, the crowd joined in the sing-along as well. The theme of Friendly Hour was “In My Heart There Rings a Melody.” Arch Street’s archives contain a thank you letter from a young British seaman who was shipped out in 1942. What he remembered most was the friendship and camaraderie at Friendly Hour, and all of the new hymns he had learned.

Friendly Hour was designed for people not only to be entertained, but to meet each other. Specifically, many activities

were designed to break the ice and share fun experiences. Betty Smith, the director of Friendly Hour, sometimes would write half of a well-known Bible verse on a sheet of pink paper, and the other half on a green sheet of paper. The young women would choose a pink sheet, and the young men a green sheet, out of a hat. The fun began as everyone tried to match up their Bible verse. Similarly, at Christmas, two large Christmas trees were placed at either side of the room. Inexpensive gifts were purchased from Woolworth’s and set under the trees. Each gift under one tree had a red string attached to it. The red string extended halfway across the room. Green strings were attached to gifts under the other tree. The red and

green strings were tied together in the center of the room. A woman with a gift would follow her red string to the center of the room where she would find a young man holding a gift with a green string.

Many young people meeting at Arch Street fell in love. Weddings between Friendly Hour participants were often followed by long-term membership at Arch Street. Church membership grew as Friendly Hour prospered. Eventually, however, the advent of television and the exodus of many families to the suburbs in the 1950’s and ‘60’s took their toll and Friendly Hour came to an end.

Events

Regular Sunday Activities

- 8:00 AM - Nursery, 1st floor (open till 12:30 PM)
- 8:30 AM - Worship, Chapel
- 9:45 AM - Adult Sunday School, Chapel
- 9:45 AM - Youth Bible Study, 2nd fl. Office
- 9:45 AM - Children's Sunday School, Nichols Hall
- 9:45 AM - Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft
- 11:00 AM - Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:30 PM - Get Acquainted Time, Chapel
- 2:00 PM - Unity Fellowship Church Service, Chapel
- 4:30 PM - Grace Chorale Rehearsal, Nichols Hall
- 5:30 PM - Grace Café, Sanctuary and Nichols Hall

Weekly Activities

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 1:00 PM - Bible Study with Rev. Cederholm, Office |
| | 1:00 PM - Tea and Talk, Chapel |
| | 4:00 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel |
| | 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall |
| | 7:00 PM - Freedom Band Rehearsal, Chapel |
| Tuesday | 12:00 PM - Bible Study with Rev. Waller, Sanctuary |
| | 3:30 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel |
| Wednesday | 3:00 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel |
| | 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall |
| Thursday | 3:00 PM - Community Music Program, Chapel |
| | 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall |
| | 7:00 PM - Diversity Group, Chapel |

Committee Meetings, Special Events and Activities

United Methodist Men meet the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM; United Methodist Women meet the second Sunday of the month immediately after the 11:00 AM service; the Native American Indian Awareness Group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Refer to the weekly "What's Happening" bulletin for exceptions to these dates.

April 2014

- Sun Apr 13: Palm Sunday
- Sun Apr 20: Easter
- Apr 25-27: UMW Assembly

May 2014

- Sun May 4: ASUMC Spring Choir Concert
- Sun May 11: Mothers Day

June 2014

- Sun June 1: Caribbean Heritage Concert
- Sun June 8: Pentecost Sunday
- Sun June 15: Fathers Day
- Sun June 22: Church Picnic

Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley (nmegley@msn.com).
Listings for Summer 2014 issue due *June 1*.

Birthdays

April

- 1 - Devon Goodwin
- 2 - Donald Lathrop
- 3 - Amy Woodworth
- 4 - Robert Arsenault, Gabe Bedell, Elizabeth Fuller, Kenny Jackson, Seilala Tapealava
- 7 - Barbara Williams
- 10 - Rick Taylor
- 14 - Jason Paul Regino
- 15 - Louella Chase, Solange Pereira
- 16 - Thomas Bowen
- 23 - Bruce Byker James
- 24 - Anana Tinnhé
- 27 - Miriam Cady

May

- 2 - Amy Durfee West
- 3 - Michelle Brooks Whittaker
- 7 - Ilaisaane Tapealava
- 11 - Fred Farmer
- 12 - Jacob Bonfante, Jane Pipes
- 14 - Tom Bartlow, Jordan Harris
- 17 - Ken Bere
- 19 - Martin Farmer
- 21 - Frederick Farmer
- 27 - Sophia Govorov
- 28 - Susan Mattison
- 30 - Rev. Oscar Allen
- 31 - Alexander Govorov

June

- 1 - Agatha Lewis, Russell Whaley, Karen Wolfe
- 6 - Callie Chen, Alicia Garcia
- 9 - Davida Gobin
- 10 - Elaine Jenson
- 11 - Demaris Anderson, Jean Bibber, Ben Cady, Anne McCormick
- 13 - Deborah Fowlkes, Dr. Charles Lewis
- 15 - Susan Lee Miller
- 16 - Don Caskey
- 18 - Karen Porter
- 19 - Audra Wolfe
- 21 - Ralph Ciampa, Paul Ertel
- 24 - William Crawford, Ted Koziara
- 25 - Rev. Dave Krueger
- 26 - Roger Rohtert
- 27 - Nancy Gilmore
- 30 - Vanessa Flacks-Brown, Alex Patterson, Chris Whaley

Holy Week at Arch Street

Rev. Warren Cederholm

Sunday, April 13th starts this year's Holy Week. A special service commemorating Palm Sunday will be held at the 8:30 AM service, followed by a "parade" with palms through Love Park and City Hall. At the 11:00 AM service the choir will bring us special music, including some from the rock musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, interwoven with the scripture that tells the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on through the arrest, the trial, and the crucifixion.

Holy Week is not just Palm Sunday and Easter—it constitutes the week between as well. You will want to be sure to participate in many of the worship services planned at Arch Street. These events define the substance of our faith.

Wednesday at 11:30 AM, we will have the final of our Lenten series of organ concerts followed by the mid-week worship at noon. The dramatic visual presentation toward the back of the sanctuary will take many forms during the week, depicting familiar Christian symbols.

Thursday evening, beginning at 7:00, we will celebrate one of the holiest nights of the Christian year. We will gather in the chapel for our Tenebrae service to remember Jesus' last supper that he shared with his disciples. Through the centuries, the words and memory have been passed down to us, his present-day disciples. After hearing once again the

powerful story of Jesus' last days, and extinguishing all the candles, we will leave the church in darkness quietly. We are left to contemplate the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior when we come back on Good Friday to hear members of our own congregation express their thoughts on the "Seven Last Words of Christ," spoken while Jesus was hanging on the cross and dying for our sins.

We are given three opportunities to come back together as a congregation on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, starting with a Sunrise Service in Love Park at 6:30, a Praise Service at 8:30 in the chapel, and a festive service with Brass and Choir and a memorial garden at 11:00 in the sanctuary. The celebration will conclude with our Grace Café service at 5:30 PM.

On that day, we will join with Christians everywhere to shout "Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!"

United Methodist Women "Make It Happen!"

Margaret Harris

Every four years, thousands of United Methodist Women from all over the United States and around the world gather for Assembly. This year's conference, entitled "Make It Happen!," is taking place April 24–27 in Louisville, Kentucky, and Wilhelmina Young and I are going. We'll be reporting back to you in

May. Meanwhile, here's a brief preview of what we have to look forward to.

The theme this year is helping each person find her individual voice for mission. There are hundreds of workshops focusing on leadership development and offering education and skill-building on a broad array of topics, including growing spiritually, service and advocacy for justice, and personal wellness and self-care. To give you some idea of the great diversity and range of topics covered, here are just a few of the workshops that will be offered: Birthing a Healthy World, Race and Immigration in the United States, Violence against Women and Native American Women, Land-grabbing and Women's Livelihoods, Challenging the Culture of Violence in the United States, How Is It with Your Soul?, Missionaries for the 21st Century, Love Like You've Never Been Hurt, Generation Transformation, When a Family Member's Faith is Not Yours, and Where Do Our Mission Dollars Go?

The film festival is always illuminating and well worth attending. Films are being shown on domestic violence, economic justice, environmental justice, human trafficking, immigration, peacemaking, and racial justice. We've already shown *Not My Life* at Arch Street and I will be watching for more movies for us to see and discuss together.

There's a lot more, and Wilhelmina and I look forward to sharing with you what we have learned on our return!

The 2014 African Heritage Luncheon



Future Dates

Independence Day
July 4

Youth Mission Trip
Early August

Labor Day
September 1

World Communion
Sunday
October 5

Fall Retreat
October

See page 6 for full
calendar of events

Follow events at the
"What's Happening"
page on our website:
www.archstreetumc.org

Arch Street United Methodist Church



Photo courtesy of Sheila Buchanan

The Caribbean American Heritage Foundation of Pennsylvania will kick off National Caribbean Heritage Month with a special program at Arch Street on June 1.

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