

Voice of the Spire

The Newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation



Winter 2015

Arch Street United Methodist Church

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David W. Brown
David Krueger
Nick Nicholas

Deaconess
Darlene DiDomineck

Music Director, 8:30 AM
Dolores Farinre-Carey

Guest Musician, 11:00 AM
George Grace

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Anne McCormick
Cathy Minecci

Voice of the Spire

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Rev. Dave Krueger
Rev. Reinhard Kruse
Anne McCormick
Cathy Minecci
Dale Shillito
Cathy Simpson

Offering Sanctuary in Our Houses of Worship as Instructed, as Our Hearts Compel Us

Nikki Kelley Kleinberg

“You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.” This is one of many references directly related to care toward the traveling stranger found throughout the Old Testament’s Pentateuch, also called “The Law” (cf. Ex. 22:21; 23:9; Lev. 19:10; 22:18; 23:22; 25:6; Num. 9:14; 15:15; Deut. 5:14). God instructs God’s beloved to be hospitable to transient visitors and look after their needs as if they are our own, because we can remember or imagine what it is like to be a sojourner ourselves. *I’m just a poor, wayfaring stranger, travelling through this world of woe.*

Angela was born in Honduras, a country with 60 percent of its population living under the oppression of poverty. She is 28 years old and a mother of two children, ages 8 and 11, who are U.S. citizens. Her husband is also a citizen. During the winter of 2003, when Angela was 16 and pregnant, she crossed the Texas–Mexico border without documents seeking a better life for herself and her family in the hopeful abundance of the richest country in the world. She was immediately arrested at the border and sent to live with her parents here in Philadelphia, who are secure under Temporary Protection Status after the 1998 devastation of Hurricane Mitch. Their status is renewable, and Angela’s parents are still here with documentation. Angela has received deportation orders that she must return to Honduras while her family remains here. Today, she is in sanctuary with her children under the care of God’s people in Philadelphia in the housing of West Kensington Ministry.

Ain’t no sickness, toil or danger in that bright land to which I go... Church, we are called to be a sign, a witness and a foretaste of the Laws of heaven here in Philadelphia for Angela, the many



(Photo by Aiden Un, courtesy of the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia)

immigrants who are following her story, and the power who can order her life to be one of sadness and suffering. Right now, we have been called to support the sanctuary of Angela in the church of West Kensington Ministry in cooperation with the New Sanctuary Movement—an interfaith immigration justice group of which Arch Street is a member—through our presence, home cooking, and finances.

Angela will not leave the WKM building for months to come, and will need company and support throughout her time in sanctuary. This is not only in direct service to Angela and her family, but also a public expression of our obedience to the higher law. Arch Street UMC will be asking for special offerings for Angela with the goal of collecting \$165 per month for her—please consider budgeting for this cause.

And if anyone feels able and willing to participate more in this work, please contact me, nikkikelleykleinberg@gmail.com. To learn more, see sanctuaryphiladelphia.org.

News & People

Welcoming Annell Cordero, Arch Street's New Youth Leader

Rev. David W. Brown, Deacon



I first met Annell Cordero through a mutual clergy colleague, Rev. Alicia Julia-Stanley, who “introduced me” to her as she was coming to study Screenwriting at Drexel as an incoming freshman.

Annell was leaving everything that was familiar to her growing up in nearby

Reading, Pennsylvania, to find her fame and fortune in the big city of Philadelphia. As a fellow writer, I was taken in immediately by her creativity and passion for life, faith, and simply making a difference through her work.

“I came to Drexel because I have such a strong interest in film and script writing and the university’s co-op program would allow me to pursue career exposure opportunities in Los Angeles, which I am looking forward to this coming summer,” Annell told me.

Before pursuing the bright lights of Hollywood, Annell is working part-time to keep up with her responsibilities and will be leading Arch Street’s youth education

activities. “I used to go to Gretna Glen in my past summers for camp and I always loved the services and the small Bible studies there,” she said. “The only thing that would bug me is that the feeling I had during those great times in camp would die out in the months that followed. I want to keep the fire burning that I used to experience at camp and pass it along to others. I know what it's like to struggle with peers and the changing world and my relationship with God. At Arch Street, I feel I would be able to not only teach but relate to our youth as well.”

Let’s welcome Annell to the Arch Street family!

Grace Café – A Sacred Story

Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck

As I write this article, we are preparing the way for Advent. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of hope and liberation that is represented in the birth of the baby Jesus, born in a manger, in the midst of great oppression. It’s not the sweet story of television Christmas movies, but it is our story. A messy story filled with struggle, community, hope, and justice-seeking. It is a timeless story and one that changed the course of history. When shared, a story has the power to change both the listener and the storyteller.

At Grace Café we invite students, neighbors, congregations, and commu-

nity organizations to share in a sacred story. It too is a story of struggle, hope, finding community, and justice-seeking. Grace Café is a ministry with our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity and a ministry with our neighbors struggling to find a way to be a part of changing the narrative. We are partners, co-creators of justice and co-sharers in a sacred story. We invite you to join us each Sunday night at Grace Café to share in this sacred story.

This season, we are building relationships with new student groups and giving thanks for our community and faith partners who have shared in the Grace

Café story year after year. We are so thankful for your partnership, love, and care! Special thanks to two new meal hosts this season: the Temple University Fox School of Business, International Business Association and the Jefferson University Occupational Therapy Student Association. We always welcome new individual and group volunteers and have dates still available to host a meal in the New Year. If you would like to join us in volunteering with Grace Café, please contact Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck at darlene.didomineck@gmail.com.

Dolores Farinre-Carey: “It only takes a spark...”

Janis Moore Campbell



(Photo courtesy of Warren Cederholm)

More than 23 years have passed since Dolores Farinre-Carey lit a long-burning fire at Arch Street United Methodist Church. Dolores was hired to lead a new praise and worship service at the church. Under her insightful tutelage, the 8:30 AM worship service blossomed into a won-

derful celebration of music that complemented the scripture readings, parables, homilies, and personal revelations during “Joys and Concerns.” If you are an “8:30 person,” then under Dolores’ skillful musical leadership, no doubt you have learned dozens of praise songs, participated in worship with tambourines, maracas, and other rhythm instruments, and even literally marched around the chapel to the strains of “Marching in the Light of God” or “When the Saints Come Marching In.”

A retired music educator from the School District of Philadelphia, Dolores earned a Master’s Degree in Music Theory and Education from Temple University, but what is most memorable about her is her keen understanding of the deep rewards that come with pro-

viding a safe environment for children, teens, young adults, visitors, and music professionals to find and share their musical “voice” through instrument, dance, or vocal performance. A true virtuoso, Dolores’ biggest gift to us is the knowledge that music is not about fingering or bowing or strings, but a connective vibration that flows through all human beings like a heartbeat. Such rewards are deep and enduring.

“It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in the glowing. That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it.” Dolores Farinre-Carey spreads God’s love to everyone—she wants to pass it on.

Good-bye to Our Dear Friend, Ken Dorsey

Dale Shillito

Ken Dorsey was born in Philadelphia to William H. Dorsey and Pocahontas Bazemore on November 22, 1952. He graduated from John Bartram High School in 1970, and attended Peirce Business College. He received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force in 1973. Though he lived in Center City within walking distance of the church, Ken worked for R.J. Reynolds–Nabisco in far Northeast Philadelphia for 38 years, where he was a dough mixer for baked products.

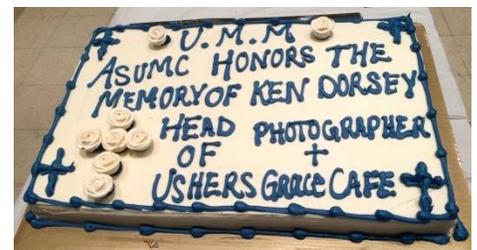
In 1990, Ken Dorsey found the doors to Arch Street open during a freezing snowstorm. He stepped inside for shelter. Ken was a religious man, having been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for 12 years. In 1994, Ken re-

turned to Arch Street and was impressed by the multiethnic nature of our congregation. In May 1997, the day of Pentecost, he transferred his membership.

Ken immediately joined in church activities: United Methodist Men, the Adult Bible Study group, and the Evangelism, Nurture and Church Planning Committee. Ken was appointed to be church photographer, which gave him the opportunity to photograph both fun and important activities for the *Voice of the Spire* newsletter. Ken was quiet and unassuming, but most dependable. He could be seen helping to clean up after Get Acquainted Time, Grace Café, and any other event where food was served. As Arch Street’s head usher, he will probably

be best remembered for the quiet, warm welcome he extended to everyone coming through our doors.

Ken had an adult son and two adult daughters, as well as grandchildren, when he died on September 28, 2014. We will truly miss him.



(Photo courtesy of Rev. David Brown)

Columns

Minister's Message



Rev. Robin Hynicka,
Senior Pastor

Change is difficult, but essential to deal with. Pastoral care is almost always about helping congregations and the children of God to cope with and even to celebrate change. During one particularly problematic period in a former parish, I stated: "If we don't execute change, change will execute us." This statement is especially true here at Arch Street United Methodist Church. Our geographic location and the fluidity of our fellowship, with folks here today and gone tomorrow due to new professional or personal circumstances,

demand that Arch Street be reinvented on a daily basis.

Splendid soul, Church Council Chair, and Arch Street Angel, Ginger Doubt retired from a dedicated nursing career at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and moved to Charleston, South Carolina. Her steadfast, sincere, and spirit-filled leadership was essential to Arch Street becoming a Reconciling Congregation and implementing the various phases of the Capital Campaign. I miss Ginger—change is difficult. But change can be inspirational. Already, I see the compassion, critical thinking, and collegial support that Ginger modelled evident in the next generation of leaders.

Ken Dorsey, a gentle, good, and gracious guy always on duty as an usher and Grace Café volunteer, died in September 2014. How do you fill the void left by someone who every Sunday found my Bible when I put it down and forgot where; someone who filled the cups and provided the bread for communion, and

someone who carefully removed the trash after the Grace Café meal? I miss Ken—change is difficult. But change can be inspirational. Already, I see the unassuming, unselfish, and unconditional love that Ken exhibited emerging in the lives of Arch Street's youth and young adults.

Under the direction of Andrew Monath, the Music Ministry at Arch Street advanced to an amazing level of lyrical, sacred sound. Blessed with the opportunity to advance his professional career by accepting the position of Music Director at the Epworth United Methodist Church, Andrew moved to Rehoboth, Delaware. I miss Andrew—change is difficult. But change can be inspirational. Already, I see the energy, enthusiasm, and musical excellence Andrew brought to Arch Street blossoming in the sanctuary choir.

In this season of change, I am thankful that the One who does not change continues to inspire the children of God at Arch Street to meet the challenge of constant change.

The Bible in 64 Words

Rev. Reinhard Kruse

God created	Bush talked	David powerful	Hate crucified
Man deviated	Moses balked	Solomon bountiful	Savior died
Noah arked	Pharaoh plagued	Israel sinned	Christ rose
Rainbow sparked	Passover saved	Prophets condemned	Church goes
Abraham nationalized	Sea divided	People forlorn	Paul led
Isaac sacrificed	Tablets guided	Jesus born	Word spread
Jacob fooled	Joshua battled	Lord walked	World infernal
Joseph ruled	Tribes settled	Love talked	God eternal

Reconciling Methodists Reach Out

Rev. Dave Krueger

Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania are in the midst of a renewed outreach effort in our region. The Congregational Outreach and Support Team met in early November and identified two goals. First, we aim to support existing Reconciling congregations and help them develop strategies to better reach out to LGBTQ persons. Second, we identified nearly a dozen congregations that have expressed interest in becoming Reconciling churches. Team members committed to following up with these congregations and helping them to discern further their interest in becoming a congregation that is fully

welcoming of LGBTQ persons. There are currently nine Reconciling churches in Eastern Pennsylvania and our hope is that we will double this number in the next couple of years. Rev. Lorelei Toombs and Rev. Ginny Miles are our new congregational outreach coordinators.

Clergy members who co-officiated the wedding of Bill Gatewood and Rick Taylor in November 2013 had their first meeting with some of those who levied an official complaint with Bishop Johnson last summer. After two months of conversations between representatives of the “respondents” and “complainants,” both sides agreed to two sessions of deep dialogue

about human sexuality and the policies of the United Methodist Church. An open meeting was held in early December for participating clergy to share their reflections on this dialogue process with the broader Reconciling movement.

If you would like more information about the various teams or want to participate in one of them, please contact davidkrueger01@gmail.com. You can follow the activities of RUM-EPA on our website www.reconcilingepa.org, Facebook page www.facebook.com/rumepa, and also on our new Twitter feed: [@ReconcilingEPA](https://twitter.com/ReconcilingEPA).

Our History: Arch Street’s Endowment Fund

Dale Shillito, Arch Street Historian

The first entry in the ledger of the Arch Street Endowment Fund is dated January 1, 1923, and shows a starting sum of \$33,000. This money was invested very conservatively in railroad and utility bonds. As a result, the fund grew slowly during the booming 1920’s, but then lost very little when the stock market crashed in 1929. Contributions such as \$5,000 given as bequests by Sarah and Ida Simpson, daughters of the bishop, helped to sustain the fund during the pastoral years of Dr. Milton H. Nichols. The farewell testimonial at the end of Dr. Nichols’ long tenure contains the following mention of the endowment fund:

Through the thoughtfulness and generosity of [our] members, we have a mod-

est endowment fund. This fund should be increased, that in the years to come Divine service may be maintained here “where cross the crowded ways of life.”

At the time, this “modest” fund consisted of over \$50,000—an impressive sum, coming out of the Depression and the World War II years.

The next year, 1946, brought the largest contribution to date, \$22,776. It was the bequest of George B.C. Thomas, a former president of trustees. Other bequests included homes of departed members, which were sold and added to the fund. By 1950, the endowment had grown to \$87,633.

As if in response to Rev. Nichols’ injunction to increase the fund, his great-nephew Rev. James Haney made a sustained effort to build the endowment after he became pastor of Arch Street in 1964. Meetings were held in his home to which potential donors were invited. The need and purpose of the fund were explained with assurances that the money would only be used to create income for the church. Such encouragements and reminders resulted in increased benevolence in the wills of the congregation. By 1982, when Rev. Haney retired, the Arch Street UMC Endowment Fund had grown to over half a million dollars.

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 floor Office
- 9:45 AM - Children's Sunday School, Nichols Hall
- 9:45 AM - Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft
- 11:00 AM - Worship, Sanctuary
- 2:00 PM - Unity Fellowship Church Service, Chapel
- 5:30 PM - Grace Café, Sanctuary and Nichols Hall

Weekly Activities

- Monday 1:00 PM - Tea and Talk, 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
- Wednesday 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall
- Thursday 5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall
7:00 PM - Diversity Group, Chapel

*Please check the **Events** tab on our website for the latest calendar activities.*

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.

January 2015

- Thur Jan 1: New Year's Day –
Office closed (AA will meet)
- Sun Jan 18: Human Relations Day
- Mon Jan 19: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service – *Office closed* (AA will meet)

February 2015

- Mon Feb 16: Presidents Day
- Wed Feb 18: Ash Wednesday – Lenten Series begins (every Wednesday through April 1)

March 2015

- Fri Mar 6: World Day of Prayer
- Sun Mar 8: Daylight Savings Time begins
- Sun Mar 15: One Great Hour of Sharing

Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley (nmegley@msn.com).
Listings for Spring 2015 issue due March 2.

Birthdays

January

- 1 - Nikole Daniel, David Fante
- 2 - Elizabeth Garcia
- 4 - Stacy Powers
- 5 - Diana Pearce
- 8 - Nathan Jefferson
- 10 - Dolores Farinre-Carey
- 11 - Shirlee Chambers
- 14 - Aaliyah Halliday
- 18 - Jazzmen McIlwaine Cuevas, Sam Starnes
- 19 - Melanie Beers, Jennifer Olree Collazo
- 22 - Mark McNeill
- 26 - Emory Champ
- 27 - Albert Crawford
- 29 - Bart Everts
- 30 - Opal Ripley, Seni Tienabeso

February

- 2 - Nancy Cheng
- 3 - Nick Nicholas
- 4 - Bill Gatewood, Sabrina McLaughlin
- 6 - Thomas Brislin, Carl Dargan
- 7 - Kate Buckley, Frederick Farmer Jr.
- 9 - Lily Menaldi
- 11 - Kristen Johnson, Elaine Tara Petrossian
- 12 - Wilhelmina Young
- 13 - Laura Long
- 16 - Angela Berry
- 18 - Cashor Farmer, Cathy Simpson
- 22 - Katie Hoch Mount
- 23 - Lori Timmerman
- 25 - Russ Alexander, Danielle DiLeo Kim, Andrew Monath
- 27 - Alice Farmer, Sarah McNeill
- 28 - Jack McGrath

March

- 1 - Yvonne Perri
- 7 - Mary Allen, Megan Oxenford
- 8 - Phil Dellinger, Denise McGiboney
- 9 - Frank Lexa
- 10 - Emma Falcon Wing Walton
- 12 - Elizabeth Donnelly, Gbarbea-Nuwoo Dunlap
- 14 - Rhonda Moore
- 15 - Arthur Pershing
- 17 - Nancy Hahn
- 18 - Diannajean Giganti
- 23 - Betsy Connor, Nancy Megley
- 25 - Martin Williams
- 26 - Judy Claude, Evelyn Estrada
- 27 - Anthony Mastrando, Stephanie Ng
- 29 - Grace Regino
- 30 - John Gatter
- 31 - Thomas Fithian, Steven Whaley

POWER's Fall Voter Campaign

Lea Booth

When most state legislatures begin to deliberate on their budgets for the upcoming year, they work with a formula to fairly distribute state funds to their educational systems. Pennsylvania's legislature is not bound by such a mandate, meaning that state funds are distributed to school districts based on deals made in Harrisburg. Schools have no priority in the budgeting process and other projects can take precedence over the full funding of our already underfunded schools.

During this election cycle, Arch Street UMC, under the auspices of POWER, reached out to voters to urge them to speak out on behalf of Pennsylvania's schoolchildren. While POWER volunteers are prohibited from endorsing specific candidates—doing so could endanger the organization's tax-exempt status—we can engage with voters and make sure they are informed of the issues surrounding the funding of public schools in the state. We can log their support, and we can bring a united voice to the newly elected administration to declare that this is a priority among a wide variety of citizens of Pennsylvania.

Members of Arch Street pounded the pavement, canvassing voters in our neighborhoods. We spent hours on the phones asking for peoples' support around this issue. We logged a number of commitments to vote in the just-passed 2014 election, and encouraged the folks we spoke with to engage with others about the need to make educational funding a priority in our state.

The fight isn't over, though. Find out how you can be involved with POWER and help us to speak with one voice on issues that matter. Watch for bulletin announcements about meetings of Arch Street's POWER Local Organizing Committee or speak with Betsy Connor, Nancy Megley, or Wilhelmina Young.

Small Discussion Groups

Cathy Simpson

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." As I spoke with each Group Leader, this verse rang in my ears and it became quite apparent how true these words are; all the responses made it quite clear that God was at work in our midst. The Group Leaders seemed to share pretty much the same feeling about their groups. It is an opportunity to hear other thoughts on scripture, life matters, and experiences; to become more involved in the life of Arch Street UMC; to introduce new people to Arch Street and get to know our fellow congregation members on a deeper level; and finally, to become more spiritually connected. The excitement each Group Leader shared with me was so inspiring that I was compelled to look at my own group and found the same inspiration, once again proving God is always there in the mix.

Over the course of the group meetings there was some growth in numbers, and in others consistent attendance with a few members, but as the groups progressed, so did the discussions. One group found that after reading the scripture they were compelled to return to the lead question, which became the basis of their discussion that evening—often leading them to return to the scripture and find parallels, answers, and even questions. Another group had such a spirited discussion that before anyone realized it, three hours had passed. In my own group, the comment was made that "Whoever it was that came up with this idea is a genius," and that's a direct quote. Of course, I let them know right away whose brainchild it was (smile).

As in all situations, there were pros and cons discussed about the dynamics of the groups. This prompted the idea that before the next series begins in February, we might hold discussions and come up

with solutions to concerns, and share moments and ideas that really worked. The general consensus was that the Small Discussion Groups are an exciting, compelling project that needs to live on in our midst, as does the Holy Spirit.

Stewardship

Jim Bibber

Something new is coming to Arch Street: we will soon be launching a stewardship campaign. Don't expect to be getting pledge cards, however, and you won't be seeing thermometer props, slick brochures, or a lot of repetitive talk about putting more in the offering plate. This will not be your traditional stewardship campaign.

We will be taking a close look at many things we do, to see if we can't do a better job. We don't just want to become more efficient with better bookkeeping habits, although that is part of our task. There is a spiritual dimension to giving as well, which we want to explore and share. Your ideas will certainly be welcome as our campaign begins to take shape in the coming weeks.

Here is why we are planning a stewardship campaign this year: we simply must acknowledge that our budget is becoming too dependent on the endowment. In 2014, we drew over \$150,000 from endowment investments, which is well above what our fund managers recommend. We are not on a sustainable path. We need to restore a better balance to the income portion of our annual operating budget. So our first goal—one of many—will be to increase the weekly offering portion of our 2015 budget by 10 percent.

Details of how we expect to achieve this goal, and set additional goals, is still a work in progress. But be assured, you will be kept informed on how it's going!



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POSTMASTER: Return undeliverable pieces to Arch Street United Methodist Church, 55 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Future Dates

Palm Sunday
March 29

Easter
April 5

Mother's Day
May 10

Pentecost Sunday
May 24

Father's Day
June 21

Church Picnic
June 28

Read past issues of
Voice of the Spire
and follow events at
our website:
www.archstreetumc.org

Arch Street United Methodist Church



Ginger Doubt and Ken Dorsey
at a 1990's Laity Banquet

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