

# Voice of the Spire

The Newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church  
*A Reconciling Congregation*



Spring 2015

Arch Street United  
Methodist Church

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## Voice of the Spire

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## An Invitation to Racial Justice—POWER's Mission Broadens

*Betsy Connor and Rev. David Brown*



If you have access to the Internet, you will want to watch the 30-second time-lapse video at [www.powerphiladelphia.org/news/mlk-day-march-brings-out-7000-for-jobs-justice-and-education](http://www.powerphiladelphia.org/news/mlk-day-march-brings-out-7000-for-jobs-justice-and-education). You will know you are in the right place when you see our church in the background with throngs of people marching by, chanting, holding their posters high, and “praying with their feet.” Arch Street joined thousands of others marching on January 19th as part of an effort to “Reclaim MLK” by focusing on peaceful protest against social injustice. At least twenty of us were there with Rev. Hynicka, along with thousands of other Philadelphians, putting “faith into action.”

We marched that day at the invitation of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild)—the social justice organization to which Arch Street belongs along with over 40 churches, mosques, and synagogues in the city. We went to express our frustration with police brutality and our sadness at the needless deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, and others. We went to be witnesses to our belief that every life matters and to be part of POWER's new focus on racial justice.

Our church members, with other POWER congregations, worked hard in 2014 to get out the vote for a living wage and full, fair funding for

public education. While we continue our work on those pressing problems, we will be turning our attention to the underlying racial injustice at work in our city, state, and nation. Our starting place will be small group meetings, in member homes where possible, with one-on-one conversations to genuinely explore our experiences and feelings on race and to “authentically reach across race lines to build relationships of intention, honesty, and integrity.”

One of our first house meetings left us a lot to think about. As a child, one of our members learned to fear police who responded to calls from her neighborhood by sending a SWAT team. She witnessed a violent fight where the white attackers ran away and the person of color who had tried to break up the fight was arrested. She learned from that incident that people arrested in her neighborhood “never come back.” Another member explained that often, when growing up with racism and poverty, “you become what ‘they’ tell you that you are.” This “internalized oppression” can twist a person and cause many later problems such as drug use and violence.

Please accept an invitation to meet in one of these small groups. Our work as individuals and as a church can move us towards the fulfillment of Rev. King's dream and a world closer to the heaven on earth God wants for all people.

## News & People

### A Glimpse into the Nursery

*Anne McCormick*

A number of years ago, Arch Street UMC saw the need to have a visible nursery where parents could check on their little ones without disturbing them. Our cute little nursery was born. It's a great, loving and fun place for your little ones, allowing you time to be at the services. We thought you might like to know who is behind that little window in the hall.



*Joyce Mojher* has been our nursery attendant for several years. She now lives in Lancaster County where she takes care of her five grandchildren. Joyce enjoys singing, auctions, and volunteering at her local Lions Club thrift store. Joyce loves to

see the children in our nursery and how they have grown from babies to school-age children. She also enjoys meeting the interesting people here at Arch Street.



*Samantha Nigrelli* has been working in the nursery since 2009. She started working here while she attended Temple University. She graduated college in 2012 and continues to help out on the weekends even though she has a full-time job as a recreational therapist. She enjoys and continues to work in the nursery because she loves seeing the children grow and seeing the smiling, friendly faces of staff at Arch Street.



Our youngest nursery attendant is *Mark McNeill*, who inherited the position from his sister Sarah. Mark is a senior at George Washington Carver High School for Engineering and Science. He hopes to attend a college in Boston, New York, or Pennsylvania. Mark is very active in his school's volleyball program, from managing the girl's team to starting on the boy's team. What he likes most about his job in the nursery? "Well, I like the fact that it takes me back to when I was a kid and I remember how freewheeling and outgoing kids can be. Working in the nursery has given me job experience with children, and they have given me many good memories."

### Jubilee has a brother!

On March 13th, our deacon Nikki Kelley Kleinberg and her husband Chris added a baby boy to their growing family. *Congratulations, Nikki, and best wishes from your Arch Street family.*

### Why We Live in Community

*Nikki Kelley Kleinberg*

I have found great joy in home-sharing/intentional community/cooperative housing for about ten years with no less than 40 other people, and for the past year I have been blessed to be a small part of the process that Serenity House is in as a cooperative and intentional household. Once a month, I make my way from Germantown down to 12th and Lehigh, and join this small and friendly group for dinner, prayer, and dialogue. In so doing,

we each experience the calling of Serenity House, which is a spiritual vision inhabiting and healing each person involved.

The space is a refuge from violence, chaos, empty chatter, and urgencies. It is a greenhouse for peace, creativity, friendship, stability, and healing. My old friend Kathy Brown told me that "Creating home is creating a place that feels close to God's heart." The characters involved

in making home together at Serenity House are doing just that.

Through their authentic and cooperative daily interactions, the small group at Serenity House is cultivating stillness, wonder, honesty, and an ability to live life in real time. They are stewards of a creative and life-giving vision that changes their own lives and overflows to the people of their neighborhood.

## The Solar Energy Project at Serenity House

*Prof. Carr Everbach, Swarthmore College*

*Editor's Note: For the past year, Prof. Carr Everbach and the engineering department at Swarthmore College have been working with the Serenity House Men's Group to develop and build solar panels as a possible income-generating project for Arch Street's Serenity House ministry in North Philadelphia. Here, Prof. Everbach explains the science behind the project.*

*(Photographs courtesy of Prof. Giovanna Di Chiro, Swarthmore College)*

How is it that sunlight can be turned into electricity without heat? Most electricity is made by boiling water into steam using fossil fuels or nuclear heat and then using the steam to turn a turbine connected to an electrical generator, like the alternator of a car. But how do solar panels do it?

In the 1920s, Albert Einstein discovered that individual particles of light, called photons, can knock electrons off of atoms in certain materials, producing an electric current. In modern solar panels, common beach sand is melted down into silicon wafers with small amounts of boron (the element in Borax used in some detergents) or antimony (used in eye shadow)

added. When sunlight shines on the surface where the silicon touches the antimony-silicon, electrons are knocked off the atoms and an electric current is produced. Lots of individual cells are connected together in a solar panel.

How much electricity is possible? At ground level, a very sunny day can produce about 200 watts of electrical power from a 3-foot-by-3-foot panel. Only about 10 percent of the total sunlight makes it into electricity; the rest bounces off or warms the panel unnecessarily (panels do not have to be warm to work; in fact, they turn more light into electricity if they are colder). Also, people need electricity when the sun is not shining, so the electricity can either be stored in batteries or put right onto the electric grid. In Pennsylvania, there is a law that the electric company has to buy back solar power at the same cost as they sell it to you, so in effect your electric meter runs backwards when you put solar power onto the electric grid. PECO will even pay you if you put back more than you take!

The price of solar panels is still high but has dropped by more than half in the past few years. Each panel lasts over 25 years



and can pay back the initial purchase price within several years in the electricity produced by the panel. And, best of all, the electricity keeps coming as long as the sun is shining, and will work even if the electric grid goes down, such as in a power failure.

You can see why people are becoming more interested in this technology, and in making it more practical.



## Columns

### Minister's Message



*Rev. Robin Hynicka,*  
Senior Pastor

As I write this article, the temperature outside is plummeting to the single digits. So, sharing some changes with and some ideas about events and activities that will happen in May and June of 2015 gives me a significant sense of hope!

In the Fall of 2014, church staff and lay leaders spent time reflecting on the efficacy of the special events and services that fill the church calendar each year. The results of that discussion are the following:

- On Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, the congregation is asked to wear something with one or more of the following colors – red, orange, or yellow. Balloons

will fill the sanctuary and the song “Jesus Loves Me” will be shared in multiple languages.

- The entire month of June will be Music Month and we will experience more congregational singing and celebrate the talent and appreciate the beauty of our choir. The chaperones and youth from Trinity UMC of Rome, Georgia will visit Arch Street on June 7th but will not present their entire musical. They will be invited to share one or two selections as a part of all three of our regular worship services. A special Get Acquainted Time will be held in June in honor of the choir.
- Since Arch Street UMC (a Reconciling Congregation) started marching in the Pride Parade, the number of people from the church joining the parade has increased. This year, the parade is scheduled for Sunday, June 14th, and we want even more participation. We learned that there is really no need to rush out early from the 11:00 AM service because the parade does not start exactly on time. So make plans now to join the parade and bring family

members and friends to church that Sunday so they can march with us.

- On Sunday, June 21st, the youth of the congregation will lead worship. They will engage the congregation to support their summer mission trip to North Carolina.
- The start time for the church picnic, to be held Sunday, June 28th at Carson Simpson Farm, will be after the 11:00 AM worship service. The swimming pool opens at 1:00 PM and games for all ages will be played. A closing “vespers service” will be conducted at 4:30 PM in the wooded chapel. Everyone is encouraged to bring main course dishes, salads, side dishes, and desserts to share. Transportation is available upon request.

Alexander Pope in his “Essay on Man” wrote these words:

*Hope springs eternal in the human breast;  
Man never is, but always to be blessed:  
The soul, uneasy and confined from home,  
Rests and expatiates in a life to come.*

I'll just settle for Spring!

### New Members

Arch Street UMC has been blessed to receive a number of new members in recent months:

Timothy Adams	Mark Lord
Kieta Carter	Remone Mundle
Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck	Elaine Petrossian
Michael Gilbertson	Robert Schell
Jayden Hensley	Emi Starr

*It is a great joy to welcome them into our church family!*

## Reconciling Methodists Reach Out

*Rev. Dave Krueger*

The Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania (RUM-EPA) are dedicated to helping the church become a place that is fully welcoming of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) persons. We are currently hard at work making preparations for Annual Conference May 14–16.

This year's conference is particularly important because delegates will be selected and legislation proposed for the General and Jurisdictional conferences to be held in 2016. The 2016 General Conference could have profound implications for the future of our denomination. There are several ways you can get involved with RUM-EPA, such as joining our Congregational Outreach or Special Events teams. Find out more by visiting our website: [www.reconcilingepa.org](http://www.reconcilingepa.org).

You are invited to submit your stories and articles to the RUM-EPA blog at

[www.reconcilingepa.org/blog](http://www.reconcilingepa.org/blog). What are your hopes and dreams for the church regarding LGBTQ persons? Where do you see God at work in your ministry among LGBTQ people? What is your story of "coming out" or changing your theology? We also welcome thoughtful articles on LGBTQ theology, Biblical interpretation, LGBTQ history, or UMC church policies. You may also comment on current events or write reviews of new books and resources.

Finally, Arch Street friends are invited to participate in the Philadelphia Pride Parade and Festival on Sunday, June 14th. Please meet us after the 11:00 AM service to process to the parade site. Our witness and pastoral presence are needed at this event and it is important to the congregational life of Arch Street. Dress comfortably and wear your walking shoes!



*(Photo courtesy of Rev. David Brown)*

## Life-Giving Blood

*Provided by Rev. Reinhard Kruse (from a church bulletin clipping)*

I gave my blood; *Christ gave his.*

I gave a pint; *He gave all.*

The needle is small, sharp;  
*The nails were large, dull.*

The table is soft, relaxing;  
*The cross rough, painful.*

The nurses kind, gentle;  
*The soldiers cruel, mean.*

The people commend my sacrifice;  
*Those who passed by the cross reviled him.*

Mine is O positive;  
*His was positively for all.*

Mine, at best, will prolong one life,  
for a while.  
*His, no doubt, can save all, forever.*

## Our History: The Ministry of Dr. Alex K. Smith

*Dale Shillito, Arch Street Historian*

Bishop Fred Pierce Corson appointed Dr. Alex K. Smith to succeed Dr. Nichols at his retirement in 1945. Dr. Smith, a native Philadelphian, was considered an outstanding choice for this city ministry, having preached within its borders for most of the prior quarter century.

Dr. Smith was a graduate of Dickinson College and Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He continued all of the services of his predecessor: Sunday night with Friendly Hour afterwards, the

mid-week service, as well as worship on Sunday morning. He continued the radio preaching begun by Dr. Nichols. He hoped to increase interest and awareness by preaching on the Christian perspective of issues of the day. Sunday night/Friendly Hour and mid-week service attendance began to drop off. Sunday morning worship remained well attended. Lenten weekly services actually rose, as Dr. Smith brought in well-known guest pastors, including leaders from other denomina-

tions. In fact, Good Friday services in 1949 were the best attended ever!

Dr. Smith reconstituted the Sunday school program. He created a Board of Education with a Children's Division. Dr. Smith hoped a special program would draw youth from outside the church. New books and equipment were purchased and new teachers enlisted. The program grew, though not phenomenally.

## 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 6:30 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.

#### April 2015

Sun Apr 5: Easter  
*(see page 7 for complete list of Holy Week services)*

#### May 2015

Sun May 10: Mother's Day  
Sun May 24: Pentecost – wear red, orange, or yellow

#### June 2015

Sun Jun 14: Philadelphia Pride Parade  
Sun Jun 21: Father's Day / ASUMC Youth Mission Sunday  
Sun Jun 28: Annual Church Picnic

Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley (nmegley@msn.com).  
Listings for Summer 2015 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
- 17 - Remone Mundle
- 23 - Bruce Byker James
- 24 - Anana Tinnhé
- 27 - Miriam Cady

#### May

- 1 - Esther McAllister
- 2 - Thomas Freeman Jr., Amy West
- 3 - Michelle Brooks Whittaker
- 7 - Ilaisaane Tapealava
- 11 - Fred Farmer
- 12 - Jacob Bonfante, Jane Pipes
- 14 - Thomas L. Bartlow, Jordan Harris, Rev. Jeffrey Haskins
- 17 - Ken Bere
- 19 - Martin Farmer
- 20 - Miles Jefferson
- 21 - Frederick Farmer
- 26 - Timothy Adams
- 27 - Sophia Govorov
- 28 - Lea Booth
- 30 - Rev. Oscar Allen
- 31 - Alexander Govorov

#### June

- 1 - Agatha Lewis, Russell Whaley, Karen Wolfe
- 3 - Rev. Reinhard Kruse
- 4 - Tyler Liam Scott
- 5 - Nelson Warley
- 6 - Callie Chen, Alicia Garcia
- 9 - Davida Gobin
- 10 - Elaine Jensen
- 11 - Demaris Anderson, Jean Bibber, Ben Cady, Anne McCormick
- 13 - Deborah Fowlkes, Dr. Charles Lewis
- 15 - Susan Lee Miller
- 16 - Don Caskey
- 17 - Virginia Brown
- 18 - Karen Porter
- 19 - Audra Wolfe
- 21 - Ralph Ciampa, Paul Ertel
- 22 - Mark Lord
- 24 - William Crawford, Ted Koziara
- 25 - Rev. Dave Krueger
- 26 - Roger Rohtert
- 27 - Nicole Gilmore
- 30 - Vanessa Flacks-Brown, Alex Patterson, Chris Whaley

## At the POWER MLK March, January 19th, 2015

"It felt great to march with people of all ages and races, to chant, to see the creativity and passion that went into the hand-made posters, and even to stand in the cold and damp to hear compelling speakers at Independence Mall.

Like many others, we came from different origins—white, black, young and old, gay and straight, and every stripe in between, reflecting the character of the community we share."

—Betsy Connor & Rev. David Brown



(Photos courtesy of Rev. David Brown)

## 2015 Holy Week Services

*Mundy Thursday, April 2*

Tennebrae Service, 7:00 PM

*Good Friday, April 3*

"Seven Last Words," Noon–2:00 PM

"Stations of the Cross," 5:00–7:00 PM

*Easter Sunday, April 5*

Sunrise Service at LOVE Park, 6:00 AM

Easter Worship and Celebration, 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:30 PM

For more information, contact Rev. Robin Hynicka at 215-498-3718 or robin@archstreetumc.org.

## Small Groups at Arch Street

*Len Wilson*

I have led and been a part of many small group experiences and have always come away feeling that the greatest learning experience came from the participants sharing their life's journey in the context of the subject being studied or the values issue being examined. It only took a couple of meetings to sense the same bonding and willingness to share in our bible study group. You do not have to be an expert on the bible to discuss small parts of the vast treasure available from the teachings of Jesus. Arch Street has its own great treasure in the diversity of its members, and small group sessions allow for trust and confidence to share on difficult life issues.

I believe Arch Street is on the right path with organizing small groups sharing their valuable life experiences and learnings from the teachings of Jesus.

## The Church Picnic – New This Year!

*Russ Alexander*

Our annual church picnic will take place Sunday, June 28th at Carson Simpson Farm. While the venue will be the same, the schedule will be different this year.

Feedback we received was that folks were conflicted about having to choose between attending the picnic and missing our traditional Sunday morning services. This year, we decided to hold the picnic after our Sunday morning services. The change will mean several things:

- You can attend your usual service, and then make your way to Carson Simpson Farm for an afternoon of swimming, eating, and fellowship with other folks or with nature.
- You can start swimming as soon as you arrive! The pool opens at 1:00 PM and closes at 5:00 PM.
- Cooking will start as soon as the cooks arrive, and snacks will be available until the food is ready.
- The usual activities, including team games and exploring the woods and creek, will be available during the afternoon.
- We will have a late afternoon devotion in the woodland chapel at the end of the picnic.

Carson-Simpson Farm is a United Methodist Church camp in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Stay tuned to our weekly "What's Happening" bulletin for more details and directions. Bring your swimwear to enjoy the pool. Be thinking of a yummy dish you can bring to share. Please plan to join all your church friends, and make new ones, for a day of worship, games, fellowship, sunning, swimming, and eating.

So join us and share in God's outdoor creation on Sunday, June 28th. Hope to see you there!



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## Future Dates

Independence Day  
*July 4*

Youth Mission Trip  
*Early August*

Labor Day  
*September 7*

World Communion  
Sunday  
*October 4*

Fall Church Retreat  
*October 10–11*

See page 6 for full calendar of events.

Read past issues of *Voice of the Spire* and follow events at our website:

[www.archstreetumc.org](http://www.archstreetumc.org)

## Arch Street United Methodist Church



(Source: [www.100besteverything.com/best-cities](http://www.100besteverything.com/best-cities))

Join us at Arch Street's Easter Sunrise Service at 6:00 AM in LOVE Park

*Help Us Make Love Come Alive!*

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