

Voice of the Spire

The Newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation



Summer 2015

Arch Street United
Methodist Church

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A Neighborhood Blessing

"O," Hospitality Coordinator, Serenity House



(Photos courtesy of Nora Kerrich and Prof. Giovanna di Chiro, Swarthmore College)

It is with great joy and praise that I share some exciting news on how God continues to move in the community outreach work at Serenity House!

The Energy Coordinating Agency is Philadelphia's leading organization charged with creating and preserving affordable, energy-efficient housing in the city. Every year, ECA sponsors a city-wide 'EnergyFIT Philly' contest: a community contest in which individual city blocks are invited to submit an essay of expressed need, along with a signed individual homeowner and resident support petition, sharing why they desire to have ECA come into their homes and, *free of charge*, make important improvements to their properties. The goal is to transform an entire block from wasting energy to saving energy.

This year, a community outreach effort led by Serenity House and students and staff from Swarthmore College resulted in one of our neighboring community partners entering the contest. We are so very blessed to announce that:

The 1200 Block of West Seltzer Street is the proud 2015 North Philadelphia ECA COOLEST BLOCK! Eighteen of the 22 homeowners on this street qualify for a complete home energy audit and makeover—a service worth thousands of dollars for each household!

The Serenity House and Swarthmore led coalition continues to use the successful merger of arts and the environment as a catalyst for social change, and this victory provides important momentum towards a larger vision for a truly

sustainable community here in the 12th & Lehigh neighborhood. We have sparked a desire and yearning by participating community residents to be trained for future promising environmental employment opportunities. Specifically, we are moving to create a worker-owned, green energy efficient, solar business to provide social and economic justice for our community. The guiding concept is rooted in a cooperative "triple bottom line" business model that creates income and supports the local community while also benefiting the environment—what some refer to as "people, planet, and profits." Our ultimate goal is for a triple bottom line, resident-based, co-op business venture.

Finally, this award connects us closer to our Serenity House neighbors. The winning residents are responsible for working with ECA auditors, installers, contractors, inspectors, etc., throughout this process. The Serenity House–Swarthmore team plans to be supportive along the way to assist our neighbors.

This is truly a victory for everyone involved! As a result of the leadership and vision of Serenity House's commitment to building God's Beloved Community, we learn to work together as one family. Through community building, we usher in God's vision for life and life abundantly. God saw fit to bless this campaign and reward this work!

We proudly share this exciting news and ask you to continue to keep Serenity House in your prayers and join us as we give thanks and praise God from whom all blessings flow!

News & People

Editor's Note: This spring, Arch Street said farewell and thanks to two good friends who are moving to a new stage in their lives, and we welcomed our new facilities supervisor and music director with a third new staffer due in the fall.

A New/Old Calling for Rev. David Brown

Wilhelmina Young



Many people come through the doors of Arch Street. Some are college students, some are visitors, and some even come and stay awhile. We get to know and love them as they become part of our community as we worship, work, and even sometimes play together. But, sadly, sometimes they leave us for other ventures on their life's journey.

One of those who came to be in ministry with Arch Street and was embraced with love and friendship was Deacon David Brown. Deacon David immersed himself in the life and ministry of Arch Street with his involvement in POWER, the New Sanctuary Movement, and Grace Café, just to name a few. Even though he served on the ministry team, his ministry has always been to the community. As a deacon, "the world is his parish."

David officially left Arch Street on June 30th to join the new ministry team of Wharton Wesley UMC in West Philadelphia, which is preparing for a transition after Rev. Robert Booker (formerly associate pastor at Arch Street) retires this summer. Wharton Wesley is one of Philadelphia's historic black churches and

David is excited to help them live into their mission of "Returning to Greatness." Having grown up in the Black Church, he says it is his "foundation, legacy, and heritage" and he wants to use his mind, body, soul, and what he has learned and experienced at Arch Street to help revitalize, strengthen, and support the new ministry of Wharton Wesley.

In a conversation I had with Deacon David, he expressed his bittersweet feeling about leaving Arch Street. He said "I am grateful for my time at Arch Street. I was blessed to be part of a great ministry team with a tremendous leader like Pastor Robin." He also said, "I've made friends with people I've come to know and love and will miss seeing on a regular basis, but I will definitely be around."

We send our blessings and wish David well as he continues to heed God's call to use his gifts and talents to help equip and train leaders at Wharton Wesley to be "God's hands, feet, and love in the world."

We'll miss you too, Deacon David, but we also will be around!

Good-bye, Arch Street— At Least for Now!

Cathy Minecci



To quote John Burroughs, "I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see." So, I have decided to retire.

It is with mixed emotions that I leave Arch Street. I have enjoyed my seven-plus years here and am thankful to have been

part of such a warm and welcoming community. I have learned so much about people, the city, the world, and myself. The Arch Streeters are uniquely wonderful and I have made many friends.

Thank you, Robin, for inspiring me and everyone here to make the world a better place—you truly practice what you preach. And Anne McCormick, thank you for generously sharing your time, knowledge, expertise, and friendship, as well as your job.

I will miss you all, so I will be back to visit from time to time.

Arch Street's New Music Director

Adam Haines



Greetings, Arch Street United Methodist Church! It is with excitement and joy I come to you as your new Director of Music. Music has always been woven into my life, as I began piano lessons at the age of 4 in York, Pennsylvania where I grew up. I attended West Chester University, receiving a BS in Music Education, and I have taught music in the Pennsylvania public school system for the past 10 years. I hold graduate degrees from Cabrini College and have completed a great deal of course work at University of the Arts. My role in the church has been diverse, serving various congregations in the Philadelphia region for the past 11 years, most recently holding a position at St. Alban's Episcopal in Newtown Square.

After visiting Arch Street and meeting so many wonderful people, I knew it was

a great place, with a deep love for the surrounding community. The church's energy and passion for social justice are inspiring and invigorating. I am excited to partner with you as a community of faith and love to bring joy to all who enter your doors through making music together.

I look forward to meeting all of you, and to helping each of you find a place of hope, peace, and joy through the music we make together.

Frank Jones, Facilities Coordinator

Russ Alexander

As part of our work with Partners for Sacred Places, Partners asked the question: are our church leadership resources being deployed as effectively as possible? Specifically, by a reassignment of tasks, could we free up time for Rev. Hynicka and our secretaries to do what they love and at which they are most effective?

We realized that building administration (including but not limited to staffing and human resources, cleaning, repairs, security, trash removal) takes a tremendous amount of time and attention to detail. Our secretaries and our pastor shared the responsibility for building administration. This allocation of responsibilities did not seem the most effective. After a period of discernment, the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Robin decided to change our approach to staffing.

As a result, on Monday, May 4, Francis "Frank" Jones joined our ministry team as our facilities coordinator.

I ask that you take time to introduce yourselves to Frank. In this space I cannot do justice to the background, experience, and passion that he brings to our ministry. He has known joy and suffering in his life. I can best show you his character by quoting part of his response to our ad for the position, which asked applicants why a part-time position worked for them:

I don't really have a good answer about how a part-time position works for me because it doesn't. I am basically one step

from homelessness myself. 'They must be kidding,' I thought when I first read the ad, and skipped over it. However, there is something that kept telling me to respond. I figure if I am the person for the position, then God will work it out.

I want to recapture the feeling at the end of the day that what I accomplished made a difference in someone's life, if only for that day. I believe this is my true calling.

Hello to Rachel, Our US2

*Rachel Ternes and
Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck*



I'm Rachel! I recently graduated from American University, where I majored in psychology and minored in studio art and French. I have lived in lots of places, including Colorado for the longest period of my life, Saudi Arabia during high school, and Washington, DC for college. I consider all of those places (in addition, now, to Philadelphia!) my homes.

Being involved in the community life and social justice efforts of my UM campus ministry and other campus organizations built up my desire to make the pursuit of justice and building of the Kingdom of God an important part of my life. Attending the United Methodist Women's Assembly in 2014 helped me recognize that desire as a call to be a mission fellow of the United Methodist Church.

My favorite thing ever is using art to communicate, inspire, and promote important ideas and causes of justice, so you can imagine how excited I am to work with a community that seems so creative and justice-focused. — Rachel

Rachel Ternes will be serving with Arch Street as a Global Mission Fellow US2 on behalf of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The Global Mission Fellows US2 program is a two-year mission opportunity for young adults ages 20–30. These young persons are invited to engage with the local communities, connect the church in mission, and grow in personal and social holiness. The program allows for transformation and leadership development to take place while addressing roots of social injustices with other young people from around the world.

Rachel will join us as a community organizer with Serenity House for two years beginning this fall! Pastor Robin and I both served as US2's in Philadelphia early on in our careers and we are excited to welcome Rachel to serve alongside us!

— Darlene

Illinois Youth Mission Team to Work at Serenity House

Deacon Nick Nicholas

The Youth Mission Team from Faith UMC of Genoa, Illinois, near Chicago, will work at Serenity House July 20–24. The group will be led by the Rev. Melissa Myers and Ms. Kris Ayers and includes 25 youth and adults who will stay at Arch Street UMC. The team will leave home on Saturday July 18 and make two stops on their way to Philadelphia. One will be a fun day at Hershey Park.

While in Philadelphia they will paint, install windows, and work in the garden at Serenity House. They'll meet members of the North Philadelphia community and have the opportunity to learn about the 12th & Lehigh neighborhood. Exploring the historical sites in Old City and eating a few cheesesteaks is also on their agenda.

This group has a long history of mission journeys to urban areas. Last summer they worked with the Epworth Project in Slidell, Louisiana, continuing the rebuilding of New Orleans after Katrina. We welcome them to Philadelphia and look forward to an ongoing relationship with Faith Church.

Columns

Minister's Message



Rev. Robin Hynicka,
Senior Pastor

The Prophet Jeremiah announces in chapter 31:31,33 that "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah... No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts." For me, that translates into "holiness of the heart made manifest in everyday acts of faith."

John Wesley was committed to holiness, both scriptural holiness and social holiness, and that commitment gained vivid expression in what was called the

"Holy Club." The Holy Club members asked themselves 22 different questions. While all of them require serious consideration and prompt life-altering behavior, there are three that stand out for me: "Did the Bible live in me today?" "Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?" "Is Christ real to me?" These three questions frame this biographical statement and my ministry.

I will begin with: "Is Christ real to me?" My faith journey began as a child in the Sunday School of St. Paul's Evangelical United Brethren Church in Mountville, Pennsylvania. Miss Reese made me memorize the Books of the Bible and Miss Hartman taught me to sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children." That small-town congregation embraced me when I knelt at the altar and in a tearful prayer asked Jesus to love me. That love is real today.

Next: "Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?" My commitment to a fully inclusive church that promotes and practices gender justice, economic justice, and racial

justice speaks clearly to my Christian conscience. Living out that commitment has fostered a spiritual bond with hundreds of people who honestly felt that the "church" didn't want them.

Finally: "Did the Bible live in me today?" When I "truly listen" to the stories of stress, strain, sickness, and sorrow of souls who see Arch Street as their spiritual home, the Bible comes alive. Preaching at Grace Café, a time of worship and food fellowship with persons experiencing homelessness and hunger, is an ominous task. I worry, wonder, and add wrinkles to my brow thinking of ways to connect with the 200 or so souls who gather in the sanctuary on Sundays at 5:30 PM. I have learned that if, before I speak, I walk up and down the aisles of the sanctuary and shake hands, fist bump, or flash the peace sign to each person gathered, what I say later in the sermon becomes a living word.

I encourage everyone to reflect on these questions and then formulate your own responses.

Reconciling Methodists See Progress at Annual Conference

Rev. Dave Krueger

At this year's annual meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, there was more momentum than ever in the movement for a more inclusive United Methodist Church. This year's May meeting was particularly important because delegates were elected to the General and Jurisdictional conferences to be held in 2016. These voting members have the power to change our church. In advance of our local meeting, we made decisions to endorse candidates who are fully and openly committed to challenging the church's discriminatory policies toward LGBTQ persons. Several good "reconcil-

ing" candidates were elected, including Arch Street's own Jordan Harris and Robin Hynicka.

We introduced three pieces of legislation this year. They called for an end to discriminatory language in the Book of Discipline, its policy of excluding practicing gay and lesbian candidates from ordination, and its prohibitions against UMC clergy from performing same-gender weddings. Although none of our resolutions passed, the number of favorable votes was remarkable given the history of the conference. All three

resolutions garnered between 45% and 47% support.

There was also a record turnout at the reconciling information session hosted by Herb Snyder. There were many new faces and growing interest in learning about the process for congregations to become reconciling. Likewise, the protest vigil prior to the ordination service was well attended and Bishop Johnson spent some time with the group.

There is still much work to do, but there are many signs that God's spirit of radical inclusivity is at work!

Domestic Aliens

Rev. Reinhard Kruse

The Train to Crystal City, a book by Jan Jarboe Russell, published in January 2015, is about the Japanese and German “prisoners of war” in Crystal City, Texas—the only family internment camp during World War II. As a 3-year-old kid, I was on that train, lived in the camp for one year, and was used in a “prisoner of war” exchange by the U.S. government. This book, based on declassified government documents, is an eye-opener about how unjust, illegal, and contrary to basic human laws of habeas corpus our government treated innocent people.

Officer O’Rourke, the camp supervisor,

once took a high-ranking government official through the camp. During the tour, they encountered a group of small children. O’Rourke asked what they were doing. “Playing war,” a young boy said. “Okay,” said O’Rourke, “but I hope nobody gets killed,” and they continued their tour. On the way back they stopped at the same spot and found the children sitting on the ground, looking glum. “What happened to the war?” asked O’Rourke. “It ended,” the boy explained. “Nobody wanted to be the enemy; we all want to be the Americans” (page 58).

The vast majority of the internees, especially the teenagers who were born in the United States and were thus legal U.S. citizens, were all sent back to Japan or Germany while the war was still being fought.

Some things never change. To this day, over 70 years later, Congress still refuses to pass the “Dream Act” to allow our “undocumented aliens” to become legal citizens. These young people were born, grew up, and were educated in our country. They too want to be Americans. However, they are still being shipped out.

Our History: Church Reorganizations after WW II

Dale Shillito, Arch Street Historian

The Methodist Church consolidated its women’s organizations shortly after World War II. At Arch Street, this was under Dr. Alex K. Smith. Formerly, Arch Street women served on the Ladies Aid Society, Woman’s Home Missionary Society, and Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society each with its own leadership and meetings. These became the Woman’s Society for Christian Service (WSCS). A subgroup, the Wesleyan Service Guild, was formed to accommodate career women unable to attend WSCS meetings held during the day. The Guild was particularly popular at Arch Street, becoming one of the largest such organizations on the East Coast.

Meetings of the WSCS were held at 11:00 AM on the fourth Thursday of every month. There were 109 members at Arch Street. Meeting attendance averaged 55. Guest speakers included missionaries to Native Americans and to foreign missions around the world. Auxiliary groups helped to sponsor Methodist Hospital, Simpson House, the Methodist Home for Children, and similar causes.

The Wesleyan Service Guild met on the fourth Tuesday of every month with a potluck dinner. In 1946, a guest speaker was the past president of the Isabella Thoburn College in Lucknow, India. Ms. Thoburn was the first female Methodist

missionary to India, in the 1870’s, a mission heavily supported by Arch Street women. The Local Guild continued supporting foreign missions as well as Arch Street itself. In 1947, a new piano was purchased for Nichols Hall.

The Men’s Club was a social group that held dinner meetings. It was an outgrowth of the Ushers’ Association. Along with the trustees, the Men’s Club sponsored a reception every year to welcome the pastor’s return from Annual Conference and learn of new developments within the denomination.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

- Nathan Jefferson graduated from Pomona College, Claremont, California, on May 17th. He majored in Economics and minored in English.
- Toni McIlwaine received a degree in Leadership from Harcum College, Bryn Mawr, on May 9th.
- Mark McNeill graduated from the George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science on June 16th. He plans to attend Mansfield University of Pennsylvania this fall.
- Miles Jefferson graduated from Strath Haven High School in Wallingford, Pennsylvania and was accepted by early admission to Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

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
 11:00 AM - Worship, Sanctuary
 12:30 PM - Get Acquainted Time
 2:00 PM - Unity Fellowship Church Service, Chapel

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

Fridays during the Summer, the church office will be closed but the Church will remain open.

Please check the "Events" tab on our website (www.archstreetumc.org) 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.

July 2015

Sat July 4: Independence Day —
office closed Friday July 3

August 2015

Youth Mission Trip

September 2015

Mon Sept 7: Labor Day — *office closed*

Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley (nmegley@msn.com). Listings for Autumn 2015 issue are due September 1.

Birthdays

July

1 - Aaron Bonfante
 4 - Rebecca Ciampa,
 Marge Donnelly
 5 - James Lane
 7 - Dr. Patrick Kim
 8 - Weslia Hynicka
 9 - Myrna Brown, Jacob McNeill,
 Dorothy Wells
 10 - Sharon Gerred, Bryan Sieber
 15 - Norris Broadway,
 Darlene DiDomineck
 18 - Baki Tucker
 20 - Roberto Bonfante
 21 - James Abel
 23 - Rev. James Pittman
 26 - Heidi Bowen, David Dunah,
 Varsay Lewis
 29 - Margaret Harris
 30 - Stephen Fowlkes,
 Parasram Gobin
 31 - Patrick Ledlum

August

1 - Randall Cronin, Ototta Kolo,
 Daniel Lee, Irene Meyer
 3 - Linda Berry, Prabhu Paulraj
 4 - April Evans
 5 - Kirby Brislin, Thomas Cooper,
 Denise Whaley
 6 - Jay Newlin
 7 - Rev. Herb Snyder
 8 - Kim McKonly Cooper
 9 - Rebecca Patterson
 14 - Dale Shillito
 15 - Tremir Ford, Sarah Byker James
 16 - Eugene Minus
 19 - Helen Purtel
 22 - Molly Dang
 23 - Souda Dunlap, Darlene Evans,
 Oladumi Farmer, Cathy Johnson,
 Steven Whaley
 24 - Trent Ford
 26 - Beth Leonberg
 27 - Sarah Burger, Henry Geiger
 30 - Loide Ann Santos
 31 - Vivian Liu, Max Manuel

September

3 - Pavi Jaisankar
 4 - Rev. Robin Hynicka
 7 - Rev. Susan Cole,
 Raymond Wilson
 8 - Thomas Brislin, Laura Jones
 9 - Jim Bibber
 10 - Anna Jackson, Bryan Shay
 11 - Evelyn Tinsley
 15 - Barbara Bailey,
 Warren Cederholm,
 Nelson Servano
 16 - Ginger Doubt
 21 - Nikki Kelley Kleinberg
 22 - Rob Schell
 24 - Ida Morris
 25 - Harold Glass
 26 - Guy McNeill, Mandi Rollerson
 27 - Beverly Faunce,
 Joel William Robeson
 28 - MuiMui Kolo, Dustin Long
 29 - Barbara Kelly
 30 - Leon Rollerson

A Special Sunday at Grace Café

Rev. Robin Hynicka

On Sunday, April 12, the saxophonist, bassist, and percussionist opened the third worship service at Arch Street with soul-stirring songs. Over 200 worshippers were swaying to the sound when I welcomed everyone with prayer and greeted each person with a handshake, fist bump, or peace sign. In addition to the sweet sounds, a savory aroma emanated from the kitchen where volunteers, with encouragement from Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, were preparing a dinner of baked chicken and all the fixings for the Sunday evening fellowship of praying, praising, preaching, and feasting that we know as Grace Café.

The beauty of this already very special and sacred scene intensified when three guests—Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, Moses Kumar, General Secretary of the United Methodist Church's General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), and Michael Daniel, Pro Account Representative of Home Depot—addressed those gathered with the news that Grace Café would receive a love gift of \$4,418.05 from the GCFA's special relationship with Home Depot. Through a pilot project initiated by the GCFA, several hundred United Methodist churches and institutions gain points on purchases from Home Depot that are converted into gift card values. GCFA allocates those gift cards to United Methodist ministries engaged in addressing poverty. The Grace Café community decided to use the gift to purchase a commercial-grade refrigerator to further improve the kitchen facilities.

Grace Café addresses the immediate needs of hunger and homelessness, the effects of poverty, but also seeks to confront the root causes of poverty. By collaborating with over 40 other congregations through POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild) and numerous advocacy groups,

Arch Street seeks to address systems, policies, and practices that perpetuate poverty. Currently, a major campaign is underway to raise the minimum wage.

Grace Café receives significant support from numerous United Methodist congregations. Hopewell UMC has been especially generous, and over several years has provided significant financial support for various kitchen and bathroom renovation projects and equipment purchases. In addition, there are many congregations, student groups, civic organizations, and individuals who donate thousands of hours a year to produce the hospitality and holiness that happen at Grace Café.

For the good will, generous gifts, spiritual support, and volunteer service, the Grace Café Community is so thankful. If you want to learn more or get involved, please contact Darlene DiDomineck at darlene.didomineck@gmail.com.

POWER Gives Us a "Mission Impossible"

Betsy Connor

Date: February 19 to April 17, 2015

Assignment: A group of Arch Streeters must meet with Philadelphia's lone Republican State Representative to discuss the FFFF (Full Fair Funding Formula) for Pennsylvania's public schools.

Mission (should we accept it): To present POWER's and ASUMC's strong belief that—

- All Pennsylvania's children need adequate funding for their schools
- The disparity in state education funding between high and low income districts, *now the worst in the United States*, must be ended
- Racial bias in state funding, suspected but only recently proved, must be eliminated

Special Challenges: Our target, Rep. John Taylor, represents a district including parts of Fishtown, Frankford, Bridesburg, Mayfair—but *not* us at 55 North Broad

Street. Rep. Taylor is on the Liquor Control Committee and Transportation Committee (as Chair), but not the Education Committee. He has held his office since 1985 and runs unopposed, so we won't be able to use the power of the ballot to persuade him to join our cause. Other POWER congregations have only been able to meet with their assigned legislator's aides or assistants—and they are in the same district! How will we get a meeting with Rep. Taylor himself?

And just when we thought it couldn't be worse: The assignment didn't self-destruct.

But almost immediately, things started to look brighter for us! Our cause was just. We had compelling data to present. We heard John Taylor was a smart and reasonable person, and a good man. Then the news got better—our pastor Robin knows him personally, was planning to go to the meeting, and would call to make the appointment. Amazingly, an appointment with Rep. Taylor himself was scheduled.

To make this long story short: Pastor Robin, Wilhelmina Young, Dottie Wells, Betsy Connor, Nancy Megley, and Shaun Christopher from Arch Street together with Kim Washington, head of the Frankford Community Development Corporation in Rep. Taylor's district, worked on our presentation. On April 17, we had a prayer in the car before the meeting. God was with us and stayed with us. Our scheduled 30 minutes with Rep. Taylor lasted for 75 minutes. He listened carefully, clearly knew the issues, and agreed to call a meeting with Philadelphia-area state legislators and POWER's expert on racial bias in the schools.

We can't yet declare victory in the battle for the FFFF. Rep Taylor thinks if that happens, it will take all summer. But we succeeded in this mission beyond our expectations.

Thank you, Arch Street, for being a POWER congregation and working for justice!



Summer Issue
July – Sept 2015

Voice of the Spire, the newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church, is published 4 times per year and distributed free to members and friends of the congregation. To be added to our mailing list, please notify: Secretary, Arch Street United Methodist Church, 55 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

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Voice of the Spire

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Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Future Dates

World Communion
Sunday
October 4

All Saints Sunday
November 1

UM Student Day
November 29

World AIDS Day
December 1

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

Arch Street United Methodist Church



With assistance from Serenity House and Swarthmore volunteers, residents of the 1200 block of West Seltzer Street submitted the winning entries to become the Energy Coordinating Agency's "2015 Coolest Block" for North Philadelphia (*story on page 1*).

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