

Voice of the Spire

The Newsletter of Arch Street United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation



Spring 2016

Arch Street United Methodist Church

55 North Broad Street
(Broad & Arch Streets)
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Tel: 215-568-6250
Fax: 215-568-2256
www.archstreetumc.org

Senior Pastor

Robin Hynicka

Visitation Pastor

Reinhard Kruse

Deacons

Nikki Kelley Kleinberg
David Krueger

Deaconess

Darlene DiDomineck

US-2 Mission Fellow

Rachel Ternes

Music Director

Adam Haines

Secretaries

Carla Brickhouse
Anne McCormick

Building Supervisor

Frank Jones

Sextons

Russell Whaley
Devon Goodwin
Joe Kalil
Toni McIlwaine
LaDonna Cuffey

Voice of the Spire

Editor

Nancy Megley

Contributors

Carla Brickhouse
Don Caskey
Betsy Connor
Margaret Harris
Rev. Robin Hynicka
Rev. Dave Krueger
Rev. Reinhard Kruse
Anne McCormick
Asantewaa Nkrumah-Ture
Laura Rigell
Dale Shillito
Rachel Ternes

Our Tithes and Gifts Serve Jesus

Don Caskey

Since I was a teen, one of my favorite passages of scripture was Matthew 25:31–46 where Jesus separates the sheep from the goats. Jesus says those who feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, nurse the sick, and visit those in prison will inherit eternal life. Those who ignore people who are hungry, naked, ill, or in prison Jesus says to depart from him and go to eternal damnation. I find the most powerful part of this passage of scripture to be the words of Christ when he says if you fail to do this to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you fail to do it to me. These words of Jesus have formed the foundation of my faith. I have always tried to think of those in need as Jesus incarnate.

What attracted me to Arch Street was the opportunity to be challenged to participate in many types of ministry. We feed, nourish, and clothe those in need through our Grace Café. There are countless chances to visit the sick and those in prison. Because of our location and our mission, we have all types of people with different needs coming through our doors.

At Arch Street, God has led me to be a part of the Finance Committee. I've fulfilled many roles

there, first counting the offering, making deposits, finally juggling money to pay bills. It has been through my time of service to the Finance Committee that I've found the greatest opportunity to live out Matthew 25. I used to be one who thought it was great if I gave money when I attended worship. Never did I use my envelopes and never did I challenge myself financially to increase my offering. By becoming active in paying the bills and balancing the budget, I've come to realize the important role each of us plays in the ministry of this Church.

I challenge each of you to pay your tithe on a regular basis, be it weekly or monthly, not just when you attend worship. Also, it's important for us as concerned Christians to consider increasing our giving of ourselves and of our finances whenever we can. By doing these things, we enable Arch Street to minister to our corner of the world. When Jesus comes through our doors as someone who is hungry, naked, sick, or in trouble, we will be able to reach out and serve our Lord.

May Jesus say to us one day, "Come to me, you that are blessed. For when you did it to the least of these my children, you did it to me."

Editor's Note: Every week, our Sunday bulletin includes this message: "Your tithes, gifts and offerings help ASUMC make a difference in our community. Thank you." The bulletin also lists the many ministries and events that occur throughout the week because Arch Street keeps its doors open Sunday through Friday. Besides Grace Café and our own programs and meetings, there is the Unity Fellowship, Tea & Talk, Hour of Power, AA groups, Freedom Band, Diversity, as well as the Student-Run Shelter, One Step Away, and a welcome for anyone who wants to come inside and spend a quiet time in our chapel.

Like Don, I am part of the team that counts the offering. We have not made our budget for the past five years and are taking much more than we should from the endowment. If this continues, we are going

to have to make some hard choices. Do we cut back on our wonderful music program? Do we shorten the hours the church is open to reduce our utility bills? Do we downsize our staff and no longer have evening and overnight programs at the church? Serenity House is a place of peace and grace in a troubled neighborhood. Do we step back from our ministry there? And what about Grace Café?

If any of this happens, are we still the church we aspire to be?

Rev. Hynicka has increased his giving to Arch Street by 20% this year and asked us all to consider doing the same. So let's think about what is truly important to us and see if we can rise to our pastor's challenge.

Nancy Megley

News & People

The Grace Café Art Project

Rachel Ternes

“Obelisk.” “Geode.” “Snow globe.”

“Octagon.” “Tetrahedron.”

“That big white thing in the sanctuary.”

These are all things that I’ve heard people call the product of the collaborative art project that our Grace Café congregation created over the four Sundays of Advent. If you’ve been in the sanctuary these past months you’ve seen it, and you’ve probably wondered about the story behind it. I call it the Grace Café Sculpture but I love hearing all the other names it receives—signs of its uniqueness and the fact that no one is quite sure how to refer to it, because no one has ever seen anything quite like it.

For the past six months, I’ve been working with the Grace Café congregation every Sunday evening to make our prayer service more creative and participatory. We started a worship team, which gathers before each service to choose hymns, prayers, and poems (some written by members of the congregation, some by the poets who publish in *One Step Away*, Philadelphia’s street paper). But I wanted to try something visual, and Pastor Robin suggested we make it large and three-dimensional. So I cut 20 giant triangles out of white foam board and started bringing a stack of them and boxes of markers to the sanctuary before the Grace Café service. Some folks were skeptical at first. Another childish art project? But I asked the worship team to give it a chance—after all, this was not going to be just *any* art project. And sure enough, each week, someone’s eyes would light up as I walked through the sanctuary waving foam triangles and handfuls of markers, and I would know I had found a fellow artist.

The worship team had agreed not to restrict the content of the drawings, but suggested the themes of “Christmas” and



The smaller sculpture (left), and Raymond Wilson helping me and several Grace Café congregation members construct the bigger sculpture (right).

“Happiness” for artists who weren’t sure where to start. The results were beautiful. I collected a pastoral Puerto Rican landscape with a dream house, a little girl’s flower garden topped with a rainbow, colorful doodles woven with prayers for God’s blessing, bright abstract shapes, carefully rendered Christmas scenes, illustrated verses of scripture, and more. Some triangles were decorated by families, some by people who had previously worked professionally as artists, some by folks who insisted they couldn’t draw but turned out appealing compositions nonetheless.

Whenever I gave someone a blank triangle, I tried to explain what the finished triangles would be combined into. Understandably, it’s kind of hard to describe, and difficult to imagine a huge white sphere when you’re holding a flat triangle. So after several members of the worship team helped me form the 20 finished triangles into an icosahedron (a polyhedron with 20 faces) on the Sunday before Christmas, many Grace Café members were very surprised at the result.

The sculpture is monumental. It catches your attention. Members of the Grace Café congregation walked up to the sculpture to search for their own triangle, admire the beauty of other triangles, and appreciate the effect of all the faces coming together. Folks who had declined to draw on a triangle before became interested in the project after seeing the im-

pressive collaborative sculpture, so I cut out some smaller triangles and continued to distribute them before the services. The resulting smaller icosahedron is also living in the sanctuary.

The Grace Café Sculpture is beautiful because it’s a result of two very ancient, very human, and very spiritual impulses: the impulse to create beautiful things and the impulse to work together. Creating art is so natural for our bodies and our minds, a form of meditation that’s healing, especially for members of our community who face stressful and dangerous situations. Art is also self-expression and communication, a special opportunity for those whose voices and gifts are seldom valued. And the power of art is magnified when it’s collaborative, demonstrating that the whole icosahedron is so much more than just the sum of its triangles. May the Grace Café Sculpture be a lesson to us all on the power of art and collaboration!

If you would like to volunteer your musical or artistic gifts to the Grace Café worship service, please contact Rachel at RTernes@UMCmission.org or 504-475-2387. If you’d like to help serve dinner to the Grace Café congregation, please contact Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck at GraceCaféphilly@gmail.com or 215-568-6250.

A POWERful Witness to Our Interfaith Movement

Betsy Connor

On February 22nd, POWER Metro held their Founding Convention in Lansdale, PA. About 450 people, representing 16 interfaith congregations from Montgomery and Delaware counties, attended. Our pastor Robin Hynicka was there, as were other leaders of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild). To see photos of the event, please visit the terrific new POWER website: www.powerinterfaith.org. You will be inspired by the story and pictures of people of all ages from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths starting on their quest to right some of the wrongs in their communities and our state.

Many of us at Arch Street remember a similar meeting in 2011 when a group representing over 30 Philadelphia congregations voted on a name (POWER) and some areas of great injustice in our city that we would address. Almost unbelievably, after years of meetings, much prayer, singing, marching, get-out-the-vote campaigns, visits to legislators, and attending sessions in City Hall and Harrisburg, we have achieved remarkable results. Now, it is no longer surprising to hear about POWER members being consulted by City Council, high-level state government officials, including Governor Wolf, and even the Vatican last summer!

Our work for better public schools, economic dignity, and a solution to the problem of mass incarceration continues and has been revitalized after a period of reflection within the POWER organization.

Opportunities to join in this movement to improve the lives of our fellow citizens will be posted in the weekly "What's Happening" bulletin. Please join in! You will meet some wonderful Philadelphians as well as get to better know some church members.

If you are interested in participating in any POWER event, please contact Betsy Connor at 215-232-7186.

Serenity House Goes Soular!

Laura Rigell, Swarthmore Student

Building on three years of partnership between Swarthmore College and Serenity House, this spring Serenity House is going Soular! Serenity Soular, a team of Swarthmore students and faculty and North Philadelphia residents, is facilitating an installation of 22 photovoltaic panels on the roof of Arch Street's outreach ministry at the corner of 12th Street and Lehigh Avenue in North Philadelphia.

Solar States, a solar company based in North Philadelphia, will install the array in May. To put the "soul" in "solar," Serenity Soular has selected two community members to apprentice with Solar States during the installation. Solar States founder Micah Gold-Markel has invited the apprentices to attend a six-week solar training that he is teaching at the Philadelphia Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), in preparation for their time on the roof. The apprentices will be compensated from donations to a 2015 crowdfunding campaign.

To finance the installation cost, Serenity Soular has partnered with RE-volv, a nonprofit based in San Francisco. With the support of RE-volv, Serenity Soular is crowdfunding to cover the \$14,000 cost of the installation. Please support the campaign at www.re-volv.org!

After the installation, Arch Street will begin a 20-year power purchase agreement with RE-volv, during which the church will make monthly lease payments to RE-volv. These payments, which are guaranteed to be 15% less than Serenity House's previous electric bills, will be invested into RE-volv's Solar Seed Fund that will help to subsidize future installations for other nonprofit organizations.

You are invited to learn more and donate to the project at a Community Forum about Serenity Soular's ongoing efforts to build the green economy in North Philadelphia. The Forum will be held in the chapel at Arch Street on Wednesday, March 30th from 6:00–7:30 PM. A light dinner will be provided.

Meet the Newest Member of Serenity House



I am Asantewaa Nkrumah-Ture. I moved to Philadelphia from Washington, DC last October and am excited about my new beginnings in this New Year.

I am a long-time community organizer and activist and have worked on various social justice campaigns such as violence against women, immigrant and worker human rights, the human rights of incarcerated LGBTQ people, Occupy Wall Street, and similar causes. I am currently working on the "Justice for Tyree Carroll" campaign, a project of the local Global Women's Strike. Tyree is the young Black man whose brutal April 2015 beating by Philadelphia police was caught on video.

In Washington, DC, I was an active member of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ where I was deeply involved with its social justice ministry. I enjoy listening to gospel music legends Mahalia Jackson and Rosetta Tharpe; socializing with friends; shopping at thrift stores; watching international films; dining at Ethiopian, Latin American, and Chinese restaurants; and reading about liberation theology. My favorite scripture is Acts 2:44–46:

"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts..."

Columns

Minister's Message



Rev. Robin Hynicka,
Senior Pastor

What appears below is something I wrote way back in early August 2015. The purpose of the exercise was to articulate the vision for a nonprofit organization connected to the church. As Grace Café, Serenity House, and our community partnerships expand and grow, it is useful to think about creating an organization that intersects with this activity and provides access to a wider set of resources to sustain them.

The proposed name of the organization is "The Center – Philadelphia." Church Council and other leaders of the church will pick up on this idea and determine whether it is advisable and feasible. For the experience of it, a committee is filling

out the forms necessary to register with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Internal Revenue Service. Bylaws, policies, and procedures that will govern the organization will also be drafted.

Please read the vision and purpose statement below and pray for insight and wisdom as the discernment process unfolds.

THE CENTER – PHILADELPHIA

The Center – Philadelphia is available, affordable, and accessible to all people:

- Seeking a more just, peaceful, and spiritual world
- Producing circles of community-building activity and advocacy
- Resisting oppression of all kinds
- Inspiring acts of uncommon compassion
- Navigating social change by community organizing
- Giving creative and artistic expression to human dignity and integrity

The Center – Philadelphia is an extension of the community-building activity of the Arch Street United Methodist Church.

The Center – Philadelphia is open to all persons without regard to age, race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or marital status, physical or mental ability, or spiritual tradition.

The Center – Philadelphia is committed to exploring the intricate balance and intersection between mind, body, and spirit.

The Center – Philadelphia is an incubator for people from all walks of life, spiritual traditions, academic disciplines, and artistic media to create circles of human fellowship that generate synergy and a life force that changes the world.

The Center – Philadelphia provides the capacity to generate and sustain resources; to produce and preserve community spaces; to assemble and organize creative people; and to generate a monumental movement of the human spirit.

"Connecting people through creativity, compassion, and community engagement"

#ItsTime #UMC

Rev. Dave Krueger

This spring and summer could be a turning point for the United Methodist Church. Will we be a church that truly welcomes all? Or will we continue to allow our church's discriminatory rules to harm our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender siblings?

The global church will meet in May, the Annual Conference meets in June, and

new bishops will be elected at the Jurisdictional Conference in July. I urge you to join the Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania in our efforts to give voice to those in our churches and beyond who desire a more just community of faith.

Please "like" our Facebook page and visit our website www.reconcilingepa.org

to find out how you can get involved. Our followers are encouraged to use the hashtags #UMC and #ItsTime in social media to bring greater awareness of the change that God's revolutionary love can bring.

Doing to Others

Rev. Reinhard Kruse

Three experiences on our trip to Russia last October:

In getting on a subway train at rush hour, I got jammed in among several people. The crowd suddenly dispersed and I discovered that my wallet was gone. That was the worst event from our trip—however, the exact same thing happened to Sue in Philadelphia on a SEPTA bus a few years ago.

One evening, we got open-seating tickets for a concert in an area with an obstructed view. Many people were in line waiting to get the best seats, and two ladies motioned us to follow them. Doors opened and, of course, Sue with her cane and I were much slower following. They had led us to a side stairway up to a higher level in the hall, and when we got there, they had saved us two good seats.

At another time, Sue was standing in a long line for a restroom and a lady at the front of the line insisted that Sue should come up to her place.

We don't know if these ladies were Christians, but their thoughtfulness and courtesy certainly indicate that they practice it.

Do you?

Church Picnic

Mark your calendar! Arch Street's annual All-Church Picnic will take place Sunday, June 26 at Carson Simpson Farm in Hatboro. This popular event is a time for swimming, hiking, fun games, and good food and fellowship in a beautiful country setting. Watch for the announcement in the Sunday "What's Happening" bulletin later this spring.

Our History: The Legacy of Dr. John McElroy

Dale Shillito, Arch Street Historian

Living with the Seven Words

Throughout the 1950's, during the ministry of Dr. John A. McElroy, it was normal for about 3,000 worshippers to attend afternoon services on Good Friday—a neat trick in a sanctuary seating only 920. Three services were given between noon and 3:00 PM. The balconies were filled and extra seats were placed in the sanctuary and chapel in anticipation of overflow crowds. At this time, brown-bag downtown workers would use their lunch hour to come, listen for a while, and leave, being replaced by others.

During the Good Friday service, the scene of the crucifixion and the last words of Jesus were vividly described. Over the years, Dr. McElroy considered each 'word'

spoken from the cross, deconstructing it from many different perspectives. After leaving Arch Street, he compiled these mini-sermons into a book published in 1961. It is arranged as a Lenten daily devotional reading, one of the seven words for each day of the week.

Living with the Seven Words is in our church archives. It retains its freshness of insight even today!

Organ Restoration

In 1958, sections of the sanctuary organ were rebuilt by the Casavant Organ Company of Canada. Howard Price, a trustee of the church, generously sponsored a restoration ceremony featuring the renowned organist E. Power Biggs. A large

attendance was welcomed to this special, historic event.

A Bishop Laid to Rest

Bishop Ernest G. Richardson asked in his last will and testament that his ashes be laid in an urn underneath the altar of Arch Street Methodist Church. He imagined some part of his spirit would remain to hear the Word of God spoken here through the ages. Although there was a small controversy at the time over the rightness of cremation, his wish was fulfilled in 1947 as a small locked door was installed on the left side of the altar to permit interment of his earthly remains.

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
- 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 6:00 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall
- Thursday 5:00 PM - Diversity Group, Chapel
5:30 PM - AA Meeting, Nichols Hall

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 third Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM. Refer to the weekly "What's Happening" bulletin for exceptions to these dates.

Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley (nmegley@msn.com).

Listings for Summer 2016 issue due June 1.

May 2016

- Sun May 8: Mother's Day
- Sun May 15: Pentecost Sunday
- Sun May 22: Peace with Justice Sunday
- Mon May 30: Memorial Day—*office closed (AA will meet)*

June 2016

- Sun Jun 12: Philadelphia Pride Parade
- Sun Jun 19: Father's Day
- Sun Jun 26: Annual Church Picnic

Birthdays

April

- 1 - Devon Goodwin
- 2 - Donald Lathrop ("Country")
- 3 - Amy Woodworth
- 4 - Robert Arsenault, Gabe Bedell, Elizabeth Fuller, Kenny Jackson, Seilala Tapealava
- 7 - Barbara Williams
- 10 - Rick Taylor
- 12 - Ladonna Cuffee
- 14 - Jason Regino
- 15 - Louella Chase, Solange Pereira
- 16 - Thomas Bowen
- 17 - Remone Mundle
- 23 - Bruce Byker James
- 24 - Anana Tinnhé

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 - Jean Bibber, Anne McCormick
- 13 - Deborah Fowlkes, Dr. Charles Lewis
- 15 - Susan Lee Miller
- 16 - Don Caskey
- 17 - Virginia Brown, Toni McIlwaine
- 18 - Karen Porter
- 19 - Audra Wolfe
- 21 - Ralph Ciampa, Paul Ertel
- 22 - Mark Lord-Schell
- 24 - William Crawford, Ted Koziara
- 25 - Rev. Dave Krueger, Alicia Thomas
- 26 - Roger Rohtert
- 27 - Nicole Gilmore
- 30 - Vanessa Flacks-Brown, Alex Patterson, Chris Whaley

United Methodist Men at Arch Street

Rev. Robin Hynicka

"I am aware that many men become intensely introverted when asked to talk about their spirituality, yet it is time to speak out and be heard," Matthew Fox says in the introduction to his book *The Hidden Spirituality of Men: Ten Metaphors to Awaken the Sacred Masculine*. He goes on to say, "Ultimately, men are not 'problems to be solved' but deep, impenetrable mysteries. Each one of us carries many stories, many ancestors, many metaphors, and many archetypes in often hidden places."

Against the backdrop of classic stories and parables that display and illustrate the many facets of human experience and, in this case, the experience of the masculine human, the United Methodist Men (UMM) of Arch Street are on a year-long spiritual journey of discovery. If you haven't considered joining Arch Street's UMM, please do think about it and visit one of the breakfast meetings. On the first Saturday of each month, the group gathers in Nichols Hall for a delicious morning meal, prayer, and the hearing and telling of sacred stories.

For more information and to get a copy of Matthew Fox's book, contact UMM President Steve Whaley at 267-229-4838 or Pastor Robin at 215-498-3718.

Who Are the United Methodist Women and What Do They Do Anyway?

Margaret Harris

United Methodist Women (UMW) is the largest denominational faith organization for women in the world with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing women leaders, and *advocating for justice*. Our special focus is women, children, and youth.

The UMW advocates for women's rights, economic justice, climate justice,

protection from domestic violence, global justice and peace, health care, racial justice, immigration justice, peace-building, and an end to human trafficking. We read and discuss books related to these issues and support programs and projects that further justice in the United States and around the world.

The UMW is financially independent from the United Methodist Church—the organization does not get money from the church or give money to it. Members raise up to \$20 million each year to support programs and projects in the United States and around the world that empower women, children, and youth; promote antiracism and multiculturalism; and promote fair labor practices.

Here are just a few examples of the hundreds of projects that the UMW has supported:

Acción Medica Cristiana, Managua, Nicaragua – Trained and equipped midwives and provided food to maternal health houses, offering safer birthing conditions for women

Navajo United Methodist Center, Farmington, New Mexico – Provided mothers and children with medical wellness check-ups, Medicaid application assistance, and transportation to domestic violence and mental health counseling

Union Women Center, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia – Mobilized ethnic rural women, men, youth, doctors, religious leaders, and local government representatives to improve the quality of reproductive and maternal health in the community

Kasungu District, Malawi – Supported a bicycle ambulance project to assist in filling a service gap to transport expectant mothers to hospital for delivery

Milijuli Samaj, Nepal – Promoted skills and capacity-building for women and teens in the areas of gender awareness, breast cancer, reproductive health and law, HIV/AIDS, and economic development

Kathmandu, Nepal – Supported earthquake recovery through training of medical personnel

Arch Street's UMW group usually meets in the second floor conference room on the second Sunday of the month immediately following the 11:00 AM worship service. We invite you to come, get to know us, and learn more about our work. Any questions, contact Margaret Harris at margaretharris@me.com or 215-568-2206.



Acción Medica Cristiana: A midwife examines an expectant mother. UMW has trained and equipped midwives to improve maternal and neonatal care in Nicaragua.



Malawi: Critically ill patients in this tiny southeast African nation are often transported from remote villages to a hospital by an ancient ox cart. (Photo, the Malawi Project)



Kathmandu, Nepal: A young patient receives care after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck in May 2015. UMW has trained local medical personnel to help in the recovery effort.



Spring Issue
Apr – Jun 2016

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.

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

Voice of the Spire

Arch Street United Methodist Church
55 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 164

Future Dates

Independence Day
July 4

UMW's Mission U
July 22–23

Youth Mission Trip
August 7–13

Labor Day
September 5

World Communion
Sunday
October 2

Fall Church Retreat
October 7–9

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



After a year of work and planning, Serenity House volunteers and neighbors met on Saturday, March 12 to begin turning a vacant lot at 13th & Silver Streets into a community garden.

Besides a place to grow fruits and vegetables, the People's Garden will be a place where neighbors can gather to play and to rest.

(Photo courtesy of Rachel Ternes)

In this issue

News & People

Our Gifts Make a Difference	Page 1
The Grace Café Sculpture	Page 2
POWER News	Page 3
Serenity House's New Occupant	Page 3
The Serenity House Solar Project	Page 3

Columns

Minister's Message	Page 4
Reconciling News	Page 4
Doing Good to Others	Page 5
Our History: Rev. McIlroy's Legacy	Page 5

Events

Calendar, Birthdays	Page 6
United Methodist Men	Page 7
United Methodist Women	Page 7