

# Voice of the Spire

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



Autumn 2016

## Arch Street United Methodist Church

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## Voice of the Spire

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## Grace Café Reopens

*Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck*



With the arrival of fall, Arch Street has begun the 2016–2017 season of Grace Café!

Grace Café is a community meal and ministry of Arch Street UMC serving 200–250 meals each Sunday evening with all of our neighbors, especially those experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. Each year, about 50% of our meals are provided through in-kind donations from our community partners, faith communities, community organizations, and student groups. The remaining 50% are provided by Arch Street.

For our guests, Grace Café offers an inclusive and judgment-free safe place, a restaurant-style (table service) meal, an opportunity to connect to community resources, and access to short- and long-term case management. For our volunteers, Grace Café connects congregations, community organizations, and student groups with a ministry of justice and service through relationship building, justice education, and service.

The 2015–2016 season was eventful in the life of Grace Café. We welcomed Rachel Ternes to our congregation and the Grace Café ministry team, hosted our second annual Health Fair in

partnership with our friends at the Philadelphia Health Corps, and welcomed multiple new congregations and organizations to partner with us in providing our Sunday evening meal.

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 hoping to further develop our case management opportunities and access to health care services.

We are so thankful for your partnership, love, and care. *A special thanks to Hope UMC in Havertown for going the extra mile last winter to make sure our Grace Café congregation had a meal made with love the weekend of the blizzard!* We give thanks for new partners: Ardmore UMC, Tonic Design, and UMC Church of the Good Shepherd.

We always welcome new individual and group volunteers and have dates still available to host a meal! If you or somebody you know would like to join us in volunteering with Grace Café, please contact Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck at [darlene.didomineck@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.didomineck@gmail.com).

## News & People

### The 2016 Youth Mission Trip

*Rachel Ternes*

On Sunday, August 7th, the Arch Street youth and several adults set off on the annual Youth Mission Trip to Pembroke, North Carolina. Arch Street has developed a special relationship with this community by returning almost every summer for the past eight years to put in some hard work on a local project. But it's not just physical work that gets done—the experience also presents a lot of work for the head and the heart as the youth explore the meaning of mission and ministry *with*, while learning about a very different culture and environment from that of Philadelphia.

This year, the theme of the trip was repentance. For the past four years, the United Methodist Church has been on a journey of repentance for the Church's involvement in historical and continuing violence against Native Americans. The church has realized that the healing of relationships can only happen after the much more painful work of repentance. Part of this repentance process is reckoning with the aspects of Christian mission that have done violence to Native peoples—physically, mentally, emotionally, and culturally. Because of this, it was very poignant for the youth to focus on repentance while on a mission trip to a largely Native community (the majority of residents are members of the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina).

We were welcomed by Gary Locklear, a United Methodist Home Missioner and a member of the Lumbee tribe, who arranged our work projects. On our first work day, we headed over to the Robeson County Church and Community Center, which offers a food pantry, an affordable thrift shop, and other services and assistance to the community. There, we



*(Photo courtesy of Marge Donnelly)*

sorted clothing donations and started constructing a huge wooden cover to replace a garage-type door in the thrift shop. Pastor Kelly Hunt was our master carpenter, and with his skilled guidance we finished the cover on the first day and moved on to our main project: constructing a wheelchair ramp for a family with a member who has limited mobility. For the rest of that day and the next three, the whole team worked in the hot sun, moving wood, measuring, sawing, hammering, and drilling.

In the face of long, hot days and difficult, often frustrating work, the youth remained dedicated. They approached the work with cheerfulness, courage, and a sense of camaraderie. They never complained or got lazy—at least never more than was warranted! (It was really hot.) The perseverance, teamwork, and good nature of the six young people were truly inspiring.

But the week wasn't all work! Together we hung out, went bowling, cooked, ate,

played games (Pembroke First United Methodist Church, where we stayed, was great for hide-and-seek), had meaningful conversations, sang, laughed, watched a meteor shower, went thrift shopping, visited the Museum of the Southeast American Indian, and had nightly devotions.

Through it all, I believe each one of us grew closer to God by growing closer to one another and to the people of Pembroke. As Callie Chen, one of the youth, puts it, "It was a liberating experience. I felt that we were able to connect more with each other spiritually through the process of our nightly devotions and working together to help the community."

To make next year's mission trip an experience just as special and unforgettable, you can donate (by cash, check, or online at [archstreetumc.org/give/](http://archstreetumc.org/give/)) and designate your gift for the Youth Mission Trip.

## Native American Trip— Senior Division

*Dale Shillito*

From July 31st–August 3rd, three members of Arch Street’s Native American/Indian Awareness Group journeyed to Lake Junaluska, North Carolina for a seminar on “Cherokee Culture in the (beautiful) Great Smoky Mountains.”

Our group—Dale Shillito, Linda Singleton, and Dolores Johnson—came with high expectations and we were not disappointed. Linda was eager to learn more about her genealogic background. Freeman Owle, a native Cherokee, gave her key information (the Dawes Rolls) to continue to find her Cherokee roots. Freeman has written a book, *Living Stories from the Cherokees*. We were so fascinated by his lecture and friendly attitude that we decided to invite Mr. Owle to speak at Arch Street’s Native American Sunday on October 30. He accepted.

We learned in class discussions that the Cherokee speak Iroquoian. They call themselves *Tsai-la-gi*, “people of the fire.” *Cherokee* was a name given by the rival Creek tribe, meaning “cave dwellers” because they lived in the mountains. Cherokees were called by Whites one of the five “civilized tribes” because they lived in settled towns (not caves) and grew crops on communal farms. In 1821 Sequoyah, a Cherokee silversmith, developed a syllabary, or alphabet for their language. This enabled the founding of a newspaper, *The Cherokee Phoenix*, which was the first paper published by Native Americans in the U.S. as well as the first published in a Native language.

Every afternoon we boarded a bus. We visited the Cherokee Museum, an excavated mound at Kituwah, and a restored village at Oconaluftee where native crafts were demonstrated. Cherokeean villages consisted of circular wood and plaster dwellings surrounded by a high palisade wall for protection. On our last night, we were taken to see “Unto these Hills,” a Native reenactment of Cherokee history

including events leading up to the Trail of Tears removal to Oklahoma.

Lake Junaluska is best known as a United Methodist retreat and conference center. Our program was sponsored by Road Scholar/Elder Hostel, a nonprofit with a mission to keep seniors active, traveling, and learning. Near the entrance of Lambuth Inn, where we stayed, is Inspiration Point—a high promontory with a tall, white cross overlooking the lake and surrounding green mountains, the perfect setting for early morning devotions. We met fellow ‘scholars’ from across the country, as far away as Arizona and California. On our car journey to and from, we saw Natural Bridge, Skyline Drive, and the Luray Caverns in Virginia. It was a truly enjoyable and educational experience.

## News from Arch Street’s Music Program

*Adam Haines*

Greetings, Arch Street! First, I am thrilled to be your Director of Music and to be able to share in worship with you each Sunday. Over the summer, Pastor Robin and I have reflected on many ways to enhance the worship experience, to better serve the community we greet each week, and to assess the needs of serving our Arch Street.

While we still celebrate the deep devotion and beautiful music of Cheryl Roebuck, we have been seeking to hire a new musician to lead the early service each Sunday. After advertising the position and conducting auditions with qualified applicants, I am pleased to report that we have hired a new musician, James Dell'Orefice. James brings with him a wealth of musicianship and is a great Jazz pianist, and we welcomed him to Arch Street on Sunday, October 2nd. A huge thank you to Remone Mundle, who has stepped in as our interim Worship Musician at the 8:30 AM service. We are truly thankful for your thoughtful words, dili-

gent planning, and general care for the music you provide and the people you interact with.

As we all know, Arch Street has a long history of spreading love to the local community and providing a rich and diverse musical experience to its guests and members. The first organ at Arch Street was installed in 1871, and was replaced in 1916. Our organ, like many, is composed of three main sections: the Great, which encompasses the main set of pipes, and the Swell and Choir, which are secondary to the Great. A complete overhaul in 1958 brought us the organ you hear each Sunday, which has been in grave need of significant repairs for years.

Starting this fall, the organ at Arch Street will begin to undergo a substantial restoration. We also recognize that the ceiling above the organ will need to be repaired simultaneously to avoid damage to the restored instrument once it is in place. Pastor Robin and I are in the midst of a thoughtful and thorough investigation with the help of a restoration consultant, Andrew Senn from First Presbyterian Church, to review the scope of the project and to make the most informed and responsible decisions. Our budget is quite a substantial undertaking, and we are grateful to the anonymous donor who has contributed a large portion of the funding for the restoration.

We are working carefully to preserve the integrity of the organ, to remain within our budget, and to provide you with a beautiful instrument that can lead our weekly worship in glorious music and praise. When a final agreement is made between Arch Street and Patrick Murphy Associates, the project will take approximately one to two months to complete. We will inform you of the work schedule when this agreement is reached.

Again, many thanks, Arch Street, for your love of music and for allowing me to lead that part of your worship each Sunday. I look forward to being with you during this time of excitement and transition.

## Columns

### Minister's Message



*Rev. Robin Hynicka,*  
Senior Pastor

On Saturday, September 10th, the National LGBTQ Task Force convened a conference in Philadelphia's African American Museum. "Queering Racial Justice" was the theme, which I interpreted to mean—understanding how the unique oppressions and complexities of racism and heterosexism intersect.

Presenters and those present wrestled with questions like the following: How is

the mainstream LGBTQ movement a colonizing force that sustains white supremacy? What investments have the LGBTQ movements made in whiteness and anti-Blackness? How can these colonizing investments be interrupted by centering Blackness?

These important and intricate questions stimulated deep, honest conversation in what one presenter called "a brave space." Folks spoke their truth without apologizing for breaking the silence we are taught and expected to keep in order to get along in a white and straight social structure. Collective liberation is the goal. We, even whites, are drowning in a sea of whiteness, and dismantling the myth of white supremacy is liberating for all.

One of the breakout sessions I attended was called "A Conversation About Faith, Race and the LGBTQ Community."

Too often, the church is silent on these issues and perpetuates the pain inflicted by racism and heterosexism. Analyzing the words of hymns and liturgies as well as reinterpreting scripture to create opportunities to dismantle whiteness is an essential task.

We as persons of faith must make a decision to speak out against and act to interrupt those persons, places, and policies that cause pain and oppression. Jesus was a radical, and still inspires a radical response to oppression that embraces and empowers the oppressed—and in fact elevates their voices and their witness, which alone will create a culture of collective liberation.

For more information on the National LGBTQ Task Force, please visit their website at [www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org).

### A Resolution on Radical Welcome

*Rev. Dave Krueger*

This past June, at the Annual Conference meeting of the Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodists, we passed a piece of legislation called "Resolution on Radical Welcome." It was authored by Arch Street's Rev. Herb Snyder. The resolution specifically notes that between 30% and 40% of all LGBT youth have attempted suicide and that rejection by church communities is one of the most frequently cited reasons.

Herb's resolution calls on the 417 United Methodist churches in Eastern

Pennsylvania to welcome LGBT persons "in specific and tangible ways." The resolution also invited Eastern Pennsylvania churches to participate in a United Methodist witness at the 2016 Philadelphia OutFest, which was held Sunday, October 9th from noon–6:00 PM.

In a demonstration of prophetic leadership, the Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania, with the help of Arch Street volunteers, sent a letter to all of our conference churches challenging them to remember the importance of

showing radical welcome to LGBTQ persons. The letter was endorsed by our 14 Reconciling churches and we are hopeful that more congregations will open their doors to all God's children. To view the full text of the letter, visit our website: <http://www.reconcilingepa.org>.

To find out how you can support OutFest, contact Ariel Gonzalez at [arcanum32@gmail.com](mailto:arcanum32@gmail.com).

## What Is “Being Done”?

*Rev. Reinhard Kruse*

In the Lord’s Prayer we usually say, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” I think the comma is in the wrong place: it should be after *earth*. That puts the emphasis on the three-word phrase “done on earth.” Shouldn’t we say, “thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven?” Remember, anything “done on earth” in God’s name—that is our prayer in action.

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

Notice the word *daily*. It means every human being is entitled to receive each and every day at least the essential necessities of life. However, to hoard far more than is necessary, to save up for hundreds or thousands of days ahead, whether for self or for descendants, is simply wrong, as Jesus taught.

“Forgive us...as we forgive” is what we pray, but much more is at stake. It is not a

one-to-one equation, nor is it a balance of one to the other. Our model is Jesus Christ, who forgave all of our sins. This broke down barriers between us and God, and between one another. Forgiveness does deliver us from much evil.

Faithfully living the Lord’s Prayer daily by “doing on earth” will establish God’s kingdom, *heaven*, here on earth.

### POWER—A Call to Action!

POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild) has grown to more than 60 congregations in the Greater Philadelphia area whose faith calls us to confront systems of oppression and to advance social justice. Our current work is directed to:

- Racial justice
- A living wage
- Full and fair funding for our public schools
- An end to mass incarceration

POWER holds a monthly Action Team meeting and quarterly Leadership Assembly to keep members informed of progress and to plan future campaigns and actions—watch the weekly “What’s Happening” bulletin for announcements of POWER meetings and events.

To learn more, visit the POWER website at [www.powerphiladelphia.org](http://www.powerphiladelphia.org) or speak with any of the co-chairs of Arch Street’s POWER Local Organizing Committee: Betsy Connor (215-232-7186), Nancy Megley (215-574-8320), or Wilhelmina Young (215-227-4034). *We welcome your help in this important work!*

## Our History: The Chapel of Prayer, Part 2

*Dale Shillito, Arch Street Historian*

The congregation agreed to the pastor Dr. John McElroy’s dream for a prayer chapel. Beginning on the 90th anniversary of the chapel building, a Chapel Crusade, headed by J. Bruce McCullough, began to raise \$35,000 for construction and renovation of the new chapel. Memorial gifts, to be listed in the Book of Remembrance, were encouraged. On Easter Sunday, 1956, the crusade met and passed its goal, eventually collecting almost \$38,000.

In 1954, even before work was being done inside, scaffolding went up in front of the chapel to restore the stonework,

repoint the chapel wall and window, and repair the stone tracery of the chapel’s large stained glass window. Inside, construction began on May 28, 1956. As it neared completion in October, Holy Communion was observed in the unfinished chapel.

The new chapel had its dedication ceremony on November 11, 1956, conducted by Resident Bishop Fred Pierce Corson. At that ceremony, lay leader Stanley Lynch and Monroe Van Sant, president of the Board of Trustees, presented the chapel for dedication.

Since that day, Arch Street UMC has maintained its open-door policy every weekday for over half a century. During that time, our chapel, located a half block from City Hall, has welcomed City Council members, judges, local businessmen and employees, touring visitors, students, shoppers, social justice activists, conventioners from the Philadelphia Convention Center, the poor, and those experiencing homelessness.

All are welcome, equal in God’s sight.

## 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  
 11:00 AM - Children's Sunday School, Nichols Hall  
 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 6:00 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](http://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.

#### October 2016

Oct 2: World Communion Sunday  
 Oct 30: Native American Sunday

Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley ([nmegley@msn.com](mailto:nmegley@msn.com)). Listings for Winter 2017 issue are due December 1.

#### November 2016

Nov 6: All Saints' Sunday  
 Nov 19: NSC Thanksgiving Celebration  
 Nov 24: Thanksgiving—*office closed*  
*Nov 24 and 25 (AA will meet Nov 24)*  
 Nov 27: United Methodist Student Day

#### December 2016

Dec 1: World AIDS Day  
 Mid-Dec: Eliza Shirley Christmas Party  
 Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
 Dec 25: Annual Christmas Breakfast for the Homeless—*office closed*

### Birthdays

#### October

3 - Emi Starr  
 5 - Joan Ferron  
 10 - Nicola Jefferson  
 11 - Sylvia Rose Kim,  
 George Logan  
 15 - Kalolaine Tapealava  
 18 - Pat Taylor  
 19 - Nemahun Tucker  
 20 - Terry Whaley  
 22 - Tolu Ogunkeye Ajise  
 23 - Janis Campbell  
 24 - Yema Tucker  
 26 - Joe Gutman  
 28 - Charles Fry, Siafa Lewis  
 31 - Katie Donnelly

#### November

2 - Gaspar Santos  
 3 - Daniel Timmerman  
 4 - Joe Kalil  
 6 - Gwendolyn Beatty  
 10 - Ray Mount  
 11 - Cathy Minecci,  
 Abel Wediongo Adungy  
 12 - Francisco Santos  
 16 - Savannah Mae Lindquist,  
 Danyale Small  
 17 - Molly McNeill  
 19 - Pamela Thomas  
 20 - Dorothy Twigg  
 22 - Phil Gressman,  
 Serafim Santos  
 24 - Rev. Robert Booker,  
 Mary Crawford  
 25 - John Kitterell, Sue Kruse,  
 David Mordell  
 28 - Myrna Brown, Patti Manuel  
 30 - Debra Wood

#### December

2 - Regina Bedell  
 4 - Aaron Carson  
 6 - Kobina Amissah,  
 Don Robinson  
 16 - Fornati Bedell,  
 Elizabeth Lexa,  
 Bob Reeves  
 19 - Gladys Ackerman,  
 Heather Warley  
 20 - Alice Ming  
 22 - Carol Jones, Steve Raytek  
 24 - Stephanie Ann Carroll Carson,  
 Magumbu Chritelle  
 25 - Janice Ciampa  
 26 - Nathaniel Collazzo  
 28 - Juanita Campbell Ford  
 29 - Barbara Prince  
 30 - Zoey Bonfante  
 31 - Jonathan Liu

## A New Mentoring Program

*Rev. Robin Hynicka*

ASUMC has received a grant to establish a mentoring program from The Forum for Theological Education, an Atlanta-based nonprofit with a long history in helping to develop and nurture faith leaders. Our new mentoring initiative is designed to engage young adults from the ages of 18 to 25 in a year-long experience that will assist each mentee to hear and discern how God is calling them into service.

Arch Street will recruit, orient, train, support, engage, and supervise six young adults for one year. Drawing on our established programs and relationships with Grace Café, Serenity House, urban congregations, POWER, and the New Sanctuary Movement, each mentee will be prepared and positioned to add capacity to ongoing activity within one aspect of Arch Street's community ministry portfolio. For approximately 10 hours per week, with two weeks of vacation during the year, each person will be engaged in activity set out in a clear job description. Biweekly one-on-one supervision for 1 hour, biweekly peer group exchanges for 1 hour, and six training sessions for up to 2 hours each will be factored into the schedule. Program site supervisors will provide hands-on direction and support.

The biweekly supervision conducted by the Senior Pastor will center each mentee on discerning the call to ministry, spiritual formation, personal development, and interpreting the theological significance of each person's work in the world. The biweekly facilitated peer groups will stimulate conversation and connections between the young adults and deepen their experience in telling their "call" story and reflecting on its development. The six training sessions will provide training in areas such as: Community Organizing, Action Research and Power

Analysis; Issue Testimony Preparation and Presentation; Developing and Presenting Faith Reflections; Addressing Family and Community Trauma; Self-care; Self-reflection and Transformation; Understanding the Intersectionality of Race, Class, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Environmental Concerns in Addressing Oppression; Effectively Supporting and Engaging Persons with Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions; Asset-based Community Development; and Creating New Forms of Worship and Communities of Faith.

Each mentee will receive a monthly public transit pass as an incentive. Two retreats will be provided. The first will serve as part of the orientation to and preparation for the program and the second will provide for reflection and closure at the end. A group trip to implement a service project together in a rural community is also planned. In addition, with guidance from Rachel Ternes, the mentees will create community-building activities that will take place outside of program hours.

Prayer, meditation, singing, reading sacred texts, spoken word, and other forms of worship and spiritual formation will be infused throughout the program. Connecting all of the above in a seamless set of interactions, conversations, and shared experiences will provide an excellent context for discerning and developing each person's Divine Call and Spiritual Direction.

## It's A Small World

*Amy Durfee West*

A few days after I got home from the Arch Street Youth Mission trip I had a call from Russ Nye, a first cousin of my mother's whom I've known all my life. We hadn't talked in awhile and he wanted to know what was new with me. I told him I had

just come back from a mission trip to Pembroke, North Carolina.

He said, excitedly, "Pembroke, North Carolina! My sister Alta's been living there for over sixty years. Her late husband Leon was from there!" We talked further about the people I had met and the things I had done while I was there. Russ listened attentively, and said he'd convey that news to Alta. He said Alta's son-in-law is a Methodist lay minister currently serving just over the border in South Carolina.

When I told Russ we stayed at Pembroke First United Methodist Church, he said he thought that might have been the church where Leon and Alta got married. Then he told me Leon was one-fourth Lumbee, meaning he was considered Indian. At the time it was illegal in North Carolina for people of different races to marry (the U.S. overturned laws prohibiting interracial marriage in 1958 in the landmark case of *Loving v. Virginia*). Upon finding out that Alta had worked among the Blackfeet Indians on their reservation in her home state of Montana, the Methodist pastor in Pembroke asked her if, by chance, the Blackfeet Nation had made her an honorary member. She told him that they had. The pastor smiled and said, "That's good enough for me," and he agreed to perform the ceremony.

I wrote about this on Facebook. One of my cousins pulled up the record of Alta and Leon's marriage. Sure enough, they are both classified as "I" for Indian.



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### Future Dates

- New Year's Day  
*January 1*
- Human Relations Day  
*January 15*
- Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day of Service  
*January 16*
- Ash Wednesday –  
Lent begins  
*March 1*
- World Day of Prayer  
*March 7*
- Daylight Savings Time  
begins  
*March 12*
- Easter  
*April 16*

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



*(Photo courtesy of Rachel Ternes)*

The Youth Mission team building a wheelchair ramp on a *hot, hot* day in Pembroke, NC—did we mention it was hot? (Story on page 2)

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