

# Voice of the Spire

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



Summer 2017

## Arch Street United Methodist Church

55 North Broad Street  
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## Voice of the Spire

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## The Hotel Project

*Rev. Robin Hynicka*

The Prophet Jeremiah, in the year 594 BC, wrote these words to the Israelites while they were in exile in Babylon: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Even in desperate times, the people of God are required to have a creative and restorative connection with the world. The Hebrew *shalom* is a word that is translated as "welfare," or sometimes as "peace." Shalom is a little word with a very big meaning. Shalom represents all of what it takes to have a good quality of life: economic dignity, educational opportunity, accessible healthcare, affordable housing, fresh food, empowering relationships, and artistic and cultural activity. Shalom is what heaven on earth looks like. Shalom is what the people of God are called to create.

I listed economic dignity first in the litany of things that contribute to shalom because ASUMC, along with some partners (Old First Reformed UCC, the Ethical Society, POWER and Unite Here), is pursuing economic dignity related to the hotel development at 101 North Broad Street. After some serious research it was discovered that the hotel, which will have 179 guest rooms, is receiving \$33 million in public subsidies. That means taxpayer funds are providing a \$183,000 subsidy per room. Nearly half of the total, \$15 million, comes from a federal program known as the New Markets Tax Credit Program (NMTC). NMTC funds are to be used to stimulate economic development in low-income communities. Center City is not a low-income neighborhood.

On June 6th, ASUMC and its partners hosted a community meeting on the matter and more than 70 people attended, including Councilman Mark Squilla. Those gathered contacted Congressman Bob Brady by calling his Philadelphia

and Washington, DC offices. Within three days, Brady's chief of staff came to Philadelphia for a meeting to see what more could be done about the project. In a letter to the U.S. Treasury Department, Congressman Brady said, "This hotel is perhaps the most highly subsidized hotel project in Philadelphia on a per-room basis." He pointed out that "NMTC-supported projects must demonstrate their impact on the low-income community in which they are based." He also commented that a possible benefit from the public money could be the creation of quality jobs and a pipeline to those jobs from local low-income communities.

The idea that a community benefit could be quality jobs and access to those jobs from local low-income communities came from ASUMC and our partners—that's stimulating shalom. In addition, shalom is all about organizing the community in ways that are more just and responsive to the needs of everyone. In keeping with that vision, ASUMC, Old First, the Ethical Society, and POWER have formed a group called Center City Organized for Responsible Development (CCORD), which was just approved by the City Planning Commission to be a Recognized Community Organization. With that designation, zoning notices are sent for the organization's review and potential interaction before a project begins.

The ancient Israelites were encouraged to settle in for the long haul and make the most of a difficult situation by creating quality of life. Our advocacy, organizing, and community-building are done in that spirit—the spirit of shalom.

*The owner/operator of the hotel has offered to meet in early August 2017 to discuss our concerns. Please keep all of this in prayer!*

## News & People

### Good-bye from Rachel

Dear Arch Street family,

About two years ago, I received news that the Global Mission Fellows program I had applied to had matched me with a church in Philadelphia called Arch Street United Methodist Church. When I read a little bit about the church and its mission, and the ministries I would be involved in if I accepted the match, I almost cried with happiness.

When I applied to the program, I knew I was taking a risk. I had no idea what kind of community I would be placed in or what kind of work they would have me do. Would I be welcomed and supported? Would the work be worthwhile and life-giving? I had a lot of questions and a little bit of fear, but the feeling of being called to participate in God's justice work outweighed all that. And I thank God that it did because it led me to Arch Street, a community that I now consider family.

Over the past two years, I have been changed fundamentally. Through serving with the Grace Café community and the Serenity House community, and various other church and community initiatives, I have learned so much about God, the world, and myself. Some things were hard to learn. Confronting racism and my own white privilege was (and is) challenging. Facing the realities of the oppression and injustices that so many members of our communities face was challenging. Navigating how to work within a new neighborhood, a new culture, and a new church system was challenging. But through every challenge, so many of you loved and supported me as a whole person. The love you supplied reassured me of God's presence and gave me the strength to grow both in confidence and in humility.

Thank you for being my family, my teammates, my mentors, my supporters, my challengers, my teachers, my friends. Now my two-year program is coming to an end, and I'm preparing to move on

from Philadelphia and Arch Street to start a three-year Master of Divinity program at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee—a step that my experiences here with you have led me toward. I will miss you dearly. You have shaped me, and I will take that with me wherever I go.

As I leave in August, a new US-2 missionary will be arriving to serve with you. She is Carmen Francesco, and I know that you will love and support her just as you did me. I pray that you continue to be a community that loves prophetically and unapologetically.

Love,

*Rachel Ternes*

RachelTTernes@gmail.com

### Introducing Global Mission Fellow US-2 Carmen Francesco!

*Darlene DiDomineck*



This August, Carmen Francesco will join the Arch Street UMC team as a Global Mission Fellow US-2 and will serve with us for two years. Carmen is from Beach Lake, Pennsylvania. She graduates this summer from Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona with a degree in Social and Environmental Justice. Carmen has a long history of faith-based activism. She previously served as an intern with the United Methodist Women's national office in New York City, educating young adults on justice issues and launching a climate justice program.

Carmen has been active in advocating for just immigration reform, urban farming, and economic justice.

US-2's are called to engage with local communities and do ministry with them. They discover ways in which God is already at work in the community, and they serve alongside churches, community groups, and individuals to address the justice-seeking priorities of people in the community they are serving.

Carmen will join the Grace Café leadership team as well as the People's Garden leadership team in the Serenity House community. She will help us build capacity, further develop our partnerships, and expand justice-seeking opportunities.

Carmen's background makes her a wonderful addition to the Arch Street family for such a time as this! Stay tuned for opportunities to meet and welcome her to Arch Street. The best way to get to know Carmen is to volunteer alongside her at Grace Café on Sunday evenings beginning Sunday, September 10th!

### The 2017 Pride Parade



*(Photo courtesy of Rachel Ternes)*

Every year, Arch Street marches in the Philadelphia Pride parade with other Reconciling UM churches from the area. This year, we decided to look more closely at what that participation means and how it interacts with our commitments to racial, economic, and environmental justice. To learn about how we took the first steps in this process, go online to Rachel's blog at [wp.me/s6urtZ-pride](http://wp.me/s6urtZ-pride).

*Editor's note:* ASUMC is a member of the New Sanctuary Movement, a nonprofit that works with congregations and immigrant rights organizations to assist undocumented residents. One of the partner organizations is Juntos, and Juntos approached us last fall about offering sanctuary to one of their clients.

Javier Flores Garcia is a 40-year-old husband and father of three U.S. citizen children. He has been living, working, and raising his family in the U.S. since 1997. Javier entered sanctuary at ASUMC last November due to a deportation order, even though he is eligible for a U-Visa (available to immigrants who are victims of a crime and cooperate with police) and his case is pending. Juntos suggested sanctuary to give Javier a fair shot at having his case heard.

With no court date in sight, ASUMC and Juntos organized a "Caravan for Freedom" to the immigration office in St. Albans City, Vermont that has jurisdiction over Javier's case. All along the route, from June 26 to July 1, the delegation held press conferences and collected petitions of support.

Joe Kalil managed logistics for the trip. In his role as navigator, cook, and babysitter, he did not see everything that took place along the way. His account follows, with Rev. Hynicka's comments interspersed in italics.

## On the Road for Javier

Joe Kalil, with Rev. Robin Hynicka

Robin invited me to tag along on the Juntos Caravan for Freedom. My boss at the Friends Center was supportive and gave me the time off—thanks, Chris! Darlene went shopping and got snacks and bread and peanut butter and jelly for the road, and she and Rachel made sandwiches using leftover chicken from Grace Café.

*A press conference in the chapel on the morning of our departure was well attended by allies, elected officials, and the media. The message to ICE and to all was simple: Liberate Javier by granting him a U-Visa. The key voices at the press conference were Javier's wife Alma and step-daughter Adamaris, and a highlight was the presentation of over 1,000 signatures on a petition demanding justice for Javier. Several news items and social media feeds featured the story and helped publicize the action: The Caravan for Freedom!*

Robin likes to drive so I navigated. We made good time to New York City, and when we got to the church Monday afternoon there was a parking spot right on their corner. The staff at Saint Paul and Saint Andrew UMC was great. They didn't mind at all when Robin and I played soccer in the parlor with Jael and Javier, Jr.

*Just before dinner, another press conference was held and a live-stream video aired. Again, Alma and Adamaris spoke passionately about Javier's commitment*

*to family and his courage and strength of character, even after seven months of living behind closed doors. Church members and Pastors K. Karpen, Lea Matthews, and Vicki Flippin were on hand to provide support, to learn more about broadening Sanctuary, and to submit more petitions.*

Tuesday morning, Robin went back to Philly for a meeting and I organized peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for breakfast. This was not received as well as I had hoped so I tried to make up for it by going out to get coffee—sometimes redemption is that easy. Then we loaded up the van and pushed off for Boston.

About an hour out of New York City the roads got wet, and shortly after that it turned into a torrential downpour. The van was like a submarine plowing through the ocean. With seven souls on board all happily singing along to the mix list blasting from the speakers, I felt the full weight of the responsibility on my shoulders. I held on and we arrived safely.

Rev. Sara Garrard at the Old West UMC in Boston made us feel right at home, and not only had no reservations about our playing soccer in the sanctuary, but suggested it! Which we did immediately.

*Tuesday evening there was another press conference, live video feed, and interaction with folks from the church.*

Robin rejoined the group in Boston on Wednesday morning. Breakfast sandwiches and coffee from Dunkin' Donuts were a huge hit, and getting Robin back

and having a proper breakfast lifted the group's spirits. The ride to Burlington, Vermont was scenic and uneventful—we stopped at a mountaintop rest stop to break up the monotony. It was glorious.

First UMC in Burlington was awesome. They have a full kitchen with a pizza oven, cafeteria-size reception hall, showers, and a basement playroom I could not believe! Foosball table, an indoor slide with big couch cushions, and a projector and screen! The very first sight of this wonderland prompted a game of heroes vs. the supervillain. Javier's boys are small but they are fast and nimble. They tripped me up and were beating the crap out of me when I informed them that they must surrender or I would unleash my superpower. They scoffed at my threats so I broke wind, a mighty wind! This brought them to the floor, they were holding their bellies and laughing so hard. I declared victory and then everyone took advantage of the showers.

*Pastors Mark Demers and Rachel Fraumann and the members of the church provided a feast for dinner and a forum for our cause. A live-stream video was aired and more petitions were received. It was a good turnout. Thanks to all who helped make us feel so welcome.*

The next day, we drove to the regional immigration center in St. Albans City. We met up with some local supporters, sang a couple of songs in the parking lot, and then a delegation took in our 1,000-plus petitions. The staff would not accept these in person but said we could submit them electronically or by U.S. mail.

Some might judge this effort by the failure to gain an immediate positive decision in Javier's case. I would disagree. The outpouring of support for him, his family and situation, and the people of conscience that we engaged makes like a pebble thrown into the pond—the ripples of waves touch more than we can measure. We were planting seeds of Justice everywhere we went, and whether we see the fruit of those seeds or not, acting on conscience for justice's sake has its own value.

## Columns

### Minister's Message



*Rev. Robin Hynicka,*  
Senior Pastor

The other day, I was in a meeting with people from POWER (People Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild) discussing a local issue closely related to ASUMC. When I asked the members of the group to share why they cared about the issue and were willing to work on it with me, one person said this: "Oh, I don't know exactly why I am here, but there is a magnetism about this church and I want to be here." That comment made my head spin. What a dramatic and

dynamic statement! Of course I think it is true, but I was surprised to hear someone—someone not even from the church—say it out loud!

It is that magnetism that draws so many curious people to our church and so many community groups to share our space. Three different churches use the building during the week along with a community band; several support groups; a nonprofit newspaper that employs folks experiencing homelessness; countless community groups that come to stage meetings, trainings, and events; and, of course, our Grace Café from September through June. ASUMC is a Center—a center of creative and constructive action!

Sharing the building all week and all day long is a significant commitment and a wise investment of time and space. So many critical connections and holy alliances have been formed over the years because we provide an affordable and accessible place for purposeful people to

congregate, communicate, and create the beloved community.

To organize all this human potential for greater impact and to plan for a sustainable future, ASUMC is developing a separate nonprofit entity called "The Center—Philadelphia." An inaugural board of directors the majority of whom are from our congregation is forming, by-laws are being written, and the paperwork is being completed. With the help of our bookkeeper, a financial analysis is underway to document the total investment ASUMC makes in community development.

The Center will help tell the story of the congregation's community outreach, best represented by Grace Café and Serenity House. Telling that story will attract more resources and allow us to deepen our impact and to invest in the operation that supports it all. If you are interested in helping with the development of The Center—Philadelphia, please contact me at [robin@archstreetumc.org](mailto:robin@archstreetumc.org).

### Compassionate Healing

*Rev. Reinhard Kruse*

At the time of Jesus, medical practices were unknown. When you got sick, you suffered and depended on your family to provide for you. If able, you could go to the temple to make a sacrifice and pray. It was generally thought that evil spirits caused your sickness, and there were numerous faith healers, exorcists, magicians, witches, and spiritualists who, for a fee, claimed to be able to drive out the evil demon and make you better.

Most people considered Jesus to be just another faith healer, but there was one big difference: Jesus did not charge—

he healed out of love, out of compassion. No wonder huge crowds of poor people came to him, lepers cried out for mercy, those with seizures fell down before him. Jesus touched them, drove out demons, and healed them; Jesus did this because he loved them and took pity on them.

In today's world, we have advanced medical procedures. When sick, we go to a doctor, clinic, or emergency room where staff test, diagnose, prescribe, and treat. However, remember that they treat and cure—God heals.

Finally, we who claim to be "loving" Christians now ought to be doing what Jesus did: treat and care for those who are unable to afford the cost. Most industrialized nations have a national health system; in the U.S., we supposedly provide coverage through commercial insurance, but too many fall through the cracks. It behooves us out of compassion and love to provide the treatments which every human being has a right to receive, so that God can heal.

*Editor's note:* Last November, Hurricane Matthew delivered 18 inches of rain to Robeson County, North Carolina—the site of ASUMC's annual youth mission trip. Rev. Hynicka announced a fund drive to help rebuild the Community Center and we have reached \$5,000 of the \$8,000 goal. On June 4th, some of our young adults spoke to the congregation about what the mission trip has meant to them.

## Reflections on Robeson

### *Anana Tinnhé*

Many of you know me—I am a young adult member of Arch Street and have been attending for most of my life. Long before I started the process to become a member, I would visit with my mother and I knew that Arch Street was destined to be my permanent church home.

Arch Street and its welcoming arms have embraced me with love, a sense of belonging, and purpose in some of the most critical times in my life—through Sunday school with our beloved Ms. Betsy, the confirmation class and ceremony led by our own pastor Rev. Robin, and into my later high school years where our close-knit youth group shared many great memories and times together. We did weekly bible studies and held sleep-ins here at the church, but the highlight was our yearly mission trip in service to the Lumbee tribe and UMC churches in Pembroke, North Carolina.

As we have grown older, the mission trip to Pembroke has never failed to bring most of the group back together again. Over the past nine summers, we have sorted and prepped clothes and food donations to distribute to needy persons in the local community; painted churches, homes, and other larger spaces; weeded, cleaned, and planted anew; as well as rebuilt things ranging from tile floors to a wall and a door for a needy family.

During the aftermath of the tragedy that hit Robeson and surrounding counties last fall, much of the hard work we completed over the years was destroyed or seriously damaged. Many of the families and church members we met have

been displaced due to the storm's damage, and still do not have permanent housing or shelter.

It breaks our hearts as a youth group to hear of the hardships our families in Pembroke are experiencing. We are here today to share our reflections of how our youth group has been affected by this tragic news in hopes that you will be moved to help us help them. Thank you.

### *Katie Donnelly*

Good morning, everyone. I'm one of the young adults who grew up in Arch Street. Those of you who had the pleasure of witnessing my generation's youth in our heyday will probably remember that we were—and remain—a spirited bunch with many interests and personality types, and with our own unique sense of propriety.

What was amazing about the space we created, and that was created for us, is that it was magnetic enough to keep us coming back even when it became clear that we were very different individuals. And we didn't always love one another—at times, we disagreed or flat-out fought as we were becoming more independent and forming our opinions about the world. Then I would sit down with Laura Beth, or with the group, or hear a sermon, and be reminded, as a 12-year-old, that it didn't matter if I loved them. God loved them, and I didn't get to be selective with my acceptance of other youths.

This was pretty much the depth of my understanding of Christianity in sixth grade, which was the first year I went on the mission trip to Pembroke. The age to go was supposed to be 13 but I was 12—an exception that I found flattering at the time. Most years, the group included me and my sister Elizabeth, Anana, Jacob Bonfante, Sarah and Jacob McNeil, and Nathan Jefferson, with Laura Jones and my mom as chaperones. We were essentially kids at camp—six middle schoolers with no construction experience who were excited to see what we would get from the trip and assumed we didn't have much to offer beyond our enthusiasm.

In North Carolina, we all volunteer regularly because there is too much work

not to. Over the years, I have painted houses, patched a church roof, built wheelchair ramps, nailed down the primary planks for floors, and one year we took up a church floor by literally chipping away with little slabs of metal at a tile floor.

Last year, we built a wall in the Community Center. This is a really important local resource and we went shopping there later in the week to support it. I planned to spend, like, \$20 because this is, to be clear, one of the most impoverished counties in the U.S. and we've lived with that community for nine weeks—over the course of nine years—so we have a personal incentive to see them thrive. But the woman at the register wouldn't take our money, and when I pushed her about it, she charged me 30 cents. It was a show of gratitude for the work we did on the wall.

That warehouse was flooded when the Lumbee River dam broke last fall. Thousands of donations are gone but they won't have trouble replacing them—they get more than enough donations. The problem is that the place where you go to get access to these donations is gone.

I feel a responsibility to these people, the Lumbee in particular, because I've benefited so much from their hospitality and their knowledge. Before the flood, our friends and mentors there were already fighting an uphill battle and relying on their faith to inform the way they approach community problems.

As James Cone, a black liberation theologian, said in a speech I watched this year, "If the concept of God has any validity or any use, it can only be to make us larger, freer and more loving. If God cannot do this, then it is time we got rid of Him." I would say that I am honestly my largest, freest, and most loving on the mission trip—even if it's in private moments and my actual interactions with you are manic—and I think that speaks to how important Robeson County has been for my understanding of what it means to be Christian.

I'm thankful for that, and to you guys for listening today. So, thank you.

## Events

### Regular Sunday Activities

- 8:30 AM - Worship service, Chapel
  - 9:45 AM - Adult Sunday School, Chapel
  - 11:00 AM - Children's Sunday School, Nichols Hall
  - 11:00 AM - Worship service, Sanctuary
  - 2:00 PM - Unity Fellowship Church Service, Chapel
- (Grace Café will resume on September 10.)

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

#### July 2017

- July 4: Independence Day  
(office closed)
- July 21–22: Eastern Pennsylvania UMW's Mission U, The Inn at Reading, Reading, PA

#### August 2017

- July 30–Aug 5: Youth Mission Trip
- Submit calendar events to Nancy Megley ([nmegley@msn.com](mailto:nmegley@msn.com)). Listings for Autumn 2017 issue are due Sept 1.

#### September 2017

- Sept 5: Labor Day (office closed—AA will meet)
- Sept 10: Grace Café resumes
- Sept 12: New East District Celebration, Christ UMC, Lansdale, PA

### Birthdays

#### July

- 1 - Aaron Bonfante
- 4 - Marge Donnelly
- 5 - James Lane
- 6 - Juan Dakota
- 7 - Dr. Patrick Kim
- 9 - Myrna Brown, Jacob McNeill, Dottie Wells
- 10 - Bryan Sieber
- 14 - Norris Broadway
- 15 - Darlene DiDomineck
- 18 - Baki Tucker
- 20 - Roberto Bonfante
- 21 - James Abel
- 23 - Rev. James Pittman
- 26 - Heidi Bowen, Varsay Lewis, David Dunah Kpakolo
- 29 - Margaret Harris
- 30 - Parasram Gobin
- 31 - Patrick Ledlum

#### August

- 1 - Ototta Kolo, Daniel Lee, Irene Meyer
- 3 - Linda Berry
- 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
- 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

## Death by a Thousand Amendments

*Rev. Dave Krueger*

From June 15–17, members of ASUMC joined with other Reconciling United Methodists at the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference near Oaks, Pennsylvania. Two events in particular illustrate the conflicting feelings of optimism and frustration experienced by many Reconciling delegates.

A group of young adults, Arch Street's own Rachel Ternes, Anana Tinnhé, and Katie Donnelly among them, led a beautiful preordination worship rally in solidarity with those who cannot be ordained in the United Methodist Church because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Between 75 and 100 persons attended and the service included hymn singing, litanies, and a tearful, yet powerfully prophetic lamentation by Anana about the church's refusal to become a truly welcoming place. There were many new faces among the gathering of Reconcilers and the joyous chorus "We Are Marching in the Light of God" echoed throughout the cavernous expo center.

The hopeful tone of the Friday night vigil was tempered by disappointing moments during Saturday's legislative debates. Inspired by success at the 2016 conference, Rev. Herb Snyder submitted his resolution of radical welcome which called upon Eastern Pennsylvania UMC churches to practice "radical welcome" to LGBTIA persons and asked the conference to invite "the Reconciling United Methodists to represent the Conference as a welcoming presence at Pride Parades and Outfests."

Despite easy passage of the resolution in 2016, a handful of conference delegates approached the microphones with long lists of amendments that stripped the resolution of its specificity. Many called into question the need to mention LGBTQIA events. Others did not want the term "Reconciling" to be acknowledged. Reconciling leaders, including Rev. Snyder, made the decision to withdraw the

resolution rather than pass one that had been robbed of its power to call for radical welcome.

We believe that withdrawing the resolution was an important prophetic act which we hope will inspire others. Our Reconciling work will continue. Please email [davidkrueger01@gmail.com](mailto:davidkrueger01@gmail.com) if you would like more information.

## Our Harrisburg "Ask" Was Answered!

*Betsy Connor*

Seven Arch Streeters were among the statewide crowd, organized by POWER, who traveled to Harrisburg on June 21st to literally stand up against "Education Apartheid"—our state's racially biased system of public education funding.

Led into the capitol building by a drill team from Philly, we stood on the beautiful rotunda steps for more than an hour listening to elected officials, ministers, rabbis, parents, and students explain the injustice that brought us there to protest, and then marched to the office of the

senate's Education Committee chair. Our mission was to request a public meeting with the entire committee to present the case for adequate and fair funding.

Our "debrief" on the ride home was simple: "That was great!" We had enjoyed each other's company in the car, felt uplifted when we joined the larger group, participated with joy and energy in the protest, and knew that God was with us all the way as we worked for all of God's children.

Thank you, Arch Street members, for supporting POWER's efforts to end Education Apartheid. If you haven't seen the video demonstrating the racial bias in the state's education funding, please go online to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for "Racial Bias in PA School Funding," which is narrated by David Mosenkis, the data scientist and POWER member who authored the study.

To learn more about POWER, contact Betsy Connor ([betsyfconnor@gmail.com](mailto:betsyfconnor@gmail.com), 215-232-7186), Nancy Megley ([nmegley@msn.com](mailto:nmegley@msn.com), 215-574-8320) or Wilhelmina Young ([thecatalyst212@yahoo.com](mailto:thecatalyst212@yahoo.com), 215-227-4034).



*(Photo courtesy of Cathy Simpson)*



Summer Issue  
July – Sept 2017

*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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### Future Dates

World Communion  
Sunday  
October 1

EPA Conference UMW  
Annual Celebration  
October 21

All Saints Sunday  
November 5  
(Daylight Savings  
Time ends)

UM Student Day  
November 26

World AIDS Day  
December 1

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

#### Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates!

*Jordan Harris*, MDiv, Boston University  
School of Theology

*Brian Schenk*, MFA, Pennsylvania Academy  
of the Fine Arts

*Annell Cordero*, BS in Screenwriting and  
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### In this issue

#### News & People

The Hotel Project	Page 1
Good-bye from Rachel	Page 2
Hello to Carmen	Page 2
Thoughts on the Pride Parade	Page 2
The Caravan for Freedom	Page 3

#### Columns

Minister's Message	Page 4
Compassionate Healing	Page 4
The Youth Mission Trip	Page 5

#### Events

Calendar, Birthdays	Page 6
POWER in Harrisburg	Page 7
2017 Annual Conference Matters	Page 7