



# The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

211 Lansdowne Road, Havertown, PA 19083

610-789-1639; [www.llanerchpres.org](http://www.llanerchpres.org)

## FEBRUARY 2017 News and Notes

---

Driving home from a recent Presbytery meeting, I was listening to a large audience event where one famous writer interviewed another, and the moderator asked both to introduce themselves in only seven words. The word selected by the two authors differed significantly—one gave us a sentence fragment, the other a list of cities in which he had lived—and, I assume, this was to give the impression that there existed a significant difference between their prose styles. But what is perhaps more likely is that the exercise revealed nothing more than the moment in which they were situated, with an audience anticipating drastically clever words, and the pressured of this sudden moment of creation.

My seven words: Still trying to figure it all out.

I have been worshipping with you since mid-November, but today I want to introduce myself again, and take that fabled second chance to make a first impression. I am William H. Searight, married to Sarah Cooper Searight, who is Supply Associate at Swarthmore Presbyterian Church. We have two daughters, Maggie (age five) and Ella (age two). We live in Rose Valley with two cats and the occasional deer which comes to graze from the salad bar of our yard.

I come to you after serving two very different contexts, first as Pastor to the Presbyterian Churches of Plain Dealing, Louisiana, and then as Supply Pastor to the First Presbyterian in Springfield Township, the congregation commonly referred to as “Flourtown”. These ministries were markedly different, with one rural and yoked, and the other suburban and growing, but both congregations showed themselves to have the spiritual gift of kind hospitality, a gift you have shown me as well. In both contexts, we built connections—connections between the congregations, their mission partners, and the neighborhoods into which God had placed them. I believe a congregation in this modern day is called to create partnerships, to spend energies and resources discerning first the needs of neighbors and then encouraging local agencies and ministries to meet those needs. I am reminded of the Samaritan who, after finding his neighbor near death on the side of the road, carried him to the local inn, and promised to support the innkeeper in caring for the man.

I look forward to growing in our friendship with one another and to ministry with you. We have a simple task ahead of us. I will put it in seven words: Love God with strength, heart, soul, and mind.

## Worship in FEBRUARY!

---

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>CELEBRATION:</b>	<b>READINGS:</b>	<b>GOSPEL:</b>
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany	Isaiah 58: 1-12	Matthew 5: 13-20
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20	Matthew 5: 21-37
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20	Matthew 5: 38-48
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Transfiguration of the Lord	Exodus 24: 12-18	Matthew 17: 1-9

---

### REFORMATION REVELATION

Yes, 2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation! That protest by Martin Luther on October 31, 1517 began highly significant changes in theology, liturgy, and church music.

Throughout the Middle Ages, corporate worship had evolved from the small, fervent gatherings of the early to large spectator-only gatherings in large ornate, works-of-art buildings. The clergy chanted everything in Latin. The people did not speak, pray, sing, or take Communion. Largely illiterate, they learned Bible stories as depicted on the stained-glass windows. Thanks to Martin Luther, worship was celebrated in German, and congregational participation was desired, including receiving Communion.

Because Luther was a musician as well as a priest, I think his greatest personal influence was in congregational singing. Luther translated existing Latin hymns and parts of the Liturgy and catechism, paraphrased psalms, and composed new hymns – altogether, more than 40.

Here is your word of the month – **chorale**. Chorale is the name for the unison melody to which the congregation would sing unaccompanied these newly translated, paraphrased, or composed German texts. Some of these choral melodies were adaptations of existing chant, but most were newly composed – some by Luther himself, others by Johann Walter, a known organist/composer, and other composers of the time. As early as 1524, Walter published in Wittenberg *Eyn geystlich Gesangk Buchleyen*, the first hymnal for the growing collection of new German chorales. Very gradually four-part harmonies were added, culminating in the 1700's with those of the master harmonizer, J.S. Bach.

Beginning this March 1, Ash Wednesday, there will be services which will feature Reformation Revelations = bringing to light a Reformation-era hymn or historical fact: Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to sing Luther's paraphrase of the moving penitential psalm 130, "Out of the Depths I Cry to You" (424). The choral melodies are wedded to the texts and share the same name. The one to Psalm 130, *Aus Fieffer Not*, is by Johann Walter. March 1 is also the first day in the "300 Days for 300 Years" Book of Devotion, a commemoration of the Presbytery's 300 year Anniversary. Throughout 2017, there will be offerings in worship related to one or the other of these two momentous Anniversaries. Stay tuned!

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Georgia Marshall Schrom  
Minister of Music

---



Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Morning -- 9:45 AM

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe that we are at the half-way point of our Sunday School program “Feasting on the Word”. The teachers are always happy to see the children that attend. Attendance varies on a weekly basis. We do appreciate our church families efforts to bring their children to Church and Sunday School! Just a reminder that we are encouraging the children to bring an offering each week along with their continued ENTHUSIASM!!



#### Advent Wreath Making Project:

The children of our Sunday School would like to thank members of the congregation for their support of this project. The money donated (\$240) allowed the children to purchase a sheep and a pig for Heifer International. The boys and girls liked the idea that they could help people in another part of the world by making their lives a little bit better.

#### Alternate Gift Giving:

Once again a huge thank you to all those members of our church who tried a “little different angle” to their Christmas gift giving during the holiday season. Through your generous donations \$780 was collected. Some church members designated the animal or “part of the animal” that they would like their donation to be directed to, while others were content to make a donation and have the children decide what part of the gift catalog to put the money towards. What a wonderful feeling knowing that your generous donations will be making such a difference in the lives of so many less fortunate than ourselves.



CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month— Sunday, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>! Bring your family’s care closet can with you to worship!

# Tackle "Souper Bowl of Caring" Hunger



Let's Team Up to Help Others!

Our Sunday School class will be helping us to participate in the "Souper Bowl of Caring Offering" on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th!

In an effort to help our friends at Chester Eastside Ministries, the children of our Sunday School are asking you to bring canned or packaged soups to church on Sunday, February 5th. Open those cupboards, see what you have to share and bring those cans along to church.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated as well. Let's make this a cooperative effort that we can be proud of! The children of our Sunday School thank you!!



Lately our weather has been keeping us guessing! Would you like to help warm the feet of a friend in need?

We have invited our friends at the Pre-School to join us in collecting "Socks for Someone" during the month of March.

**NEW ADULT SOCKS** would be appreciated – preferably **MENS!**

These socks will be shared among our friends at Connect-By-Night.

PLEASE HELP US FILL OUR BARRELS!!

We look forward to your support throughout the month of March.

Thank you! The Christian Education Committee



## **PRESCHOOL NEWS.....**

One mission of our church is our preschool that continues to adapt each school year to the needs of our community families. This year's enrollment numbers are approximately 25 children ages three to five which allows for exceptional social and curriculum based programming. The Christmas season highlights include the hat and mitten collection for needy children in our county, wooden trees decorated with bottle caps and a return visit from Santa! Llanerch is grateful for the commitment and dedication of our certified teachers and staff in making our preschool a treasure in the church and community. You may enjoy the art work of the children in the classroom and share the news with your friends and neighbors! Registration is in progress for the 2017-18 school year. Please contact Preschool Director, Mrs. June Hoyle at 610-789-1639 or visit the church/preschool website for further information.

---

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Fellowship Committee is planning a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 28. Get ready to share fellowship with your friends as we prepare for the solemn season of Lent. Proceeds will benefit the Sunday Breakfast Mission, the homeless shelter program in Center City.

---



## MISSION NEWS

### A Small Way to Make a Big Difference:

We have been partnering with Christ Community Church at the Riverview Center to help provide the evening meal for about 200 members of the community at the Life Center at 63<sup>rd</sup> street about every 3 months (every time there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday). The meal is usually a huge amount of chicken soup, with leftovers available for take-out so that other family members can be served. You can help! We are collecting **clean snap-top containers** (from yogurt, take-out, cottage cheese, etc.) to have on hand to serve leftover soup and salad. Donations can be dropped off in the church kitchen where you'll find a box to hold them.



### Chester Eastside Ministries:

Thanks for the donations of groceries and supplies that were delivered to Chester Eastside ministries this month. More than 90 pounds of food were weighed in for the food pantry there in January. This month there is a special focus on SOUP with the children in the Sunday School accepting donations of soup or money to buy soup, in honor of the "SOUPER BOWL" offering. Of course, there is another event with a similar name running on Feb. 5, and you are welcome to support your favorite team by the soup pot you choose for your donation. Hedge your bets and support our friends in Chester with nutritious food; put a can in both pots!

### CONNECT-BY-NIGHT:

Our service to the homeless adults participating in the Connect-by-Night program concluded at the end of January with Cecile Burgert and a team of friends serving snacks, fruit, and drinks. The guests offered a special prayer of thanksgiving and a round of applause in appreciation for the support and kindness that they had experienced during the month. Another church will serve as the home base for this counseling, support, and housing program for February, and then Llanerch and Christ Community Church will join again to serve for the month of March. We need volunteers to serve, shop, cook, and support the others. Already a great group of volunteers is posted on the calendar on the "Mission" tab on the main page of the Church's website. We need more, so check your schedule and talk to your friends about getting a lunch packing party or soup making session together.

## GENEROSITY & STEWARDSHIP

### **Our Stewardship Campaign for 2017: “Gifts of Faith”**

Pledges of support for the 2017 Annual Budget were received in worship on Sunday, January 29. We thank you for stepping up to offer a pledge and will be reporting progress in raising money for our ministry during the month of February. We want to hear from you and have you be part of our year of worship, fellowship, and service!



Offering envelopes will be available for pickup starting on Sunday, Feb. 5. If you have a pledge card filled out, you may mail it to the Church Office or leave it in the offering plate during worship. If you need a pledge card, you can pick one up in the Narthex, in any pew, or by calling Kelly in the Church office. If you have questions about pledging or online giving through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange, let a member of the Generosity Team know: Mary Kane, Kate Hiebert, Phyllis Gibson, or Paul Gibson.

---

## SCOUTING NEWS



Den 4 of Llanerch's Cub Pack 462 demonstrated service with a smile this month as they prepared bag lunches in the church kitchen for distribution at Connect-by-Night. This is the third year that the den has participated in helping Connect. Thanks to Ulf Timme for his leadership of this great group.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The older scouts in Troop 434 also had a great month: Marcus Shera was honored for his earning Eagle Scout Rank in a special ceremony in the sanctuary. Marcus, the son of David and Suzanne Shera, built and installed community kiosks for the dog park at the Haverford Reserve for his Eagle project. He may be even more famous for his contributions to skits and campfire comedy routines. Havertown Magisterial Judge Robert Burke attended the ceremony to thank Marcus for his service and all the scouts for their tradition of leadership.

Later in the month, the scouts took off for their annual winter trip to Resica Scout Reservation, using the camp as a jumping off point for a day of skiing. This year, for the first time in several years, conditions were perfect and the boys were on the slopes for more than 7 hours. A group of leaders and scouts stayed back to hike and also prepared a big dinner of gumbo with homemade brownies for dessert. There will be more good food when the Scouts host their annual banquet and Court of Honor (with skits) at the High School on February 4.



**Red Cross Blood Drive:** February 4 at the Church from 9 to 2. At this writing, the drive is fully booked, which is a wonderful piece of news. Each unit of blood can save 3 lives, truly a magnification of a generous gift to a stranger. The 20 pints of blood will provide about 48 trillion blood cells!

## **CONVENIENT PLEDGING. GIVE IT A TRY!**



### **WE'RE GLAD TO MAKE ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE FOR FINANCIAL GIVING TO OUR CONGREGATION.**

You can make secure, online gifts to our congregation by using our web portal provided by the Presbyterian Foundation. It takes less than a minute, and your pledged giving can go directly from your checking/savings account to our Church account. You can schedule your gifts for the whole year, make contributions monthly, or give weekly. If you haven't tried it, you might like it!

Access the "Give Now" Button on the "Donate" tab on our website, or use your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code on the right!



### **MANSE UPDATES:**



Significant work is in progress ... painting and repairs are almost complete on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bedrooms. The wallpaper has been removed on the first floor, and the basement cleared out. The kitchen renovation is ready to begin! More information to come about needed bathroom repairs and further progress.