



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

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SEPTEMBER 2017 News and Notes

Teachers and Students

Mr. Jordan hung advertisements from the blackboard, their blocks of copy obscured, and invited the class to find stories for the strange pictures—dogs dressed as Sherlock Holmes inspecting dog food, for example—and to write those stories into our first short stories, meanwhile telling us his favorite riddles, which later appeared in our stories. Ms. Trice, with her writing arm in a sling, recited portions of Shakespeare's *Othello* for the class, Iago's monologues, and then taught us how to critique two staged performances of the play. Professor Melugin scribbled in chalk the Hebrew of the first sentence of the Bible, paused, and then added the twelfth century vowel points so as to reenact the history of the text. Mr. Britton, while we analyzed Coleridge, praised our well-formed opinions by hurling the chalkboard eraser at the trashcan in the back of the room, trying to make a "basket", but decorating the wall and the carpet with dusty white rectangles whenever he missed.

The teachers I remember best all had quirky personalities. As I reflect on my education, it was their quirks that made the lessons memorable. The quirks were the humanity that brought to life the testable material: the dates and facts and plot summaries. I cannot fully separate the Rime of the Ancient Mariner from Mr. Britton's congratulatory throwing of an eraser, and because he was enlivened by our opinions, I cannot forget the downed albatross ("God save thee, ancient Mariner!") or the ideas the poem stirred up among Mr. Britton's students.

We use the fancy word "disciple", but the first followers of Jesus were his students. And he was the humanity that brought to life all the Scriptures and lessons of their faith. The stories of God's grace, the promise of the prophets, the ancient psalms of hope—these came alive in Jesus, and the ones who were privileged to hear him firsthand, could hear the echo of eternity in his voice. He was every word from "In the beginning... God said..." to "I am with you", and yet still greater than these. He is the Word of God, God's very speech, in the flesh.

We do not get to listen to Jesus firsthand in exactly the same way, but as teachers and preachers we are called to bring our humanity to the Scriptures and to the words of our faith. Sunday School will restart this month, and the teachers who volunteer and study and bring the lessons to the children have three great challenges before them: To be human, to be honest, and to be humble. No teacher can know all the answers to the questions of students. In fact, it is better to teach students to ask more questions. As Anselm of Canterbury once wrote: "faith seeks understanding". A teacher who is human and honest and humble will not attempt to reduce God to simple weekly lessons, but will instead tell students the stories of faith and will inspire students to find their own meaning in the stories.

Teaching, especially teaching in church, is not an easy task. But with love God calls and equips our teachers for the assignment. Thank you, teachers, for answering the call of God.

Grace and peace,

Bill

Worship in SEPTEMBER!

DATE	CELEBRATION	WORSHIP TEXT
September 3	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Communion	Amos 7
September 10	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Romans 15: 17-29
September 17	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Romans 3: 19-26
September 24	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Matthew 20: 1-16

Worship time will return to **11:00 AM**
beginning Sunday, September 10th.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

Rally Day

Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers

Blessing of the backpacks



Sunday School begins on September 17th at **10:00 AM.**

CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month—
Sunday, September 3rd! Bring your family's care closet can with you to worship!



PREPARE TO CELEBRATE!

Look ahead and save the dates for two very momentous occasions:

OCTOBER 7 is the Presbytery-wide Festival Service to observe the Presbytery's 300th Anniversary at 10:00 AM, Enon Baptist Church, 2800 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia. Peter Hiebert and Georgia Schrom will participate in the mass choir. Bill Searight has a role in formulating this event.



OCTOBER 29 at our 11:00 AM Service, we will have a Festive Celebration to honor the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Augmenting our Senior Choir and Handbell Choir, we will have some additional professional singers and trumpeter. A Congregational Dinner will follow. More details to come later! There will be new musical Reformation Revelations in upcoming services to prepare the way.



Support the Music Program!

We are looking forward to the special commemorative service in October and to the guest musicians who will share in that service. To replenish our fund for special musicians, we have been offering a commemorative hymnal opportunity. This is your chance to celebrate, remember, or honor a loved one, near or far, by dedicating one of our new hymnals with a special book plate for a donation of \$20 per hymnal. Of course, we would be happy for a donation to this fund, even if you have already dedicated a hymnal. Donations marked "Music Fund" can be put in the collection plate.



You're invited to a
Community Pot Luck

Friday, September 15th 6-9 pm
at the Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

*Bring a favorite summer dish or one inspired by your travels
Hosted by the fellowship team*

RSVP by email to llanerchpres@verizon.net,
on church sign up sheet or call 610-789-1639

GreetingsIsland.com



New Neighbors at 205 Lansdowne: We are happy to welcome Tong tong and Shan Chen and their three children as residents of the Manse next door to the church. They have recently moved from Maryland and are looking forward to getting settled in their new home.

MISSION NEWS

The events beyond our region have captured our hearts this month, as we have watched the devastation in Texas created by Tropical Storm Harvey. You can find out more about the storm relief and how our denomination is already helping by following this link to the website of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. As of the Labor Day weekend, crews from PDA are in Houston starting to figure out how to help the many churches and their members whose lives have been affected by as much of 6 feet of floodwater and accompanying high winds.

<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/tropical-storm-harvey/>

Our church supports PDA through One Great Hour of Sharing. You can make special gifts to the relief effort through this website or through a specially marked donation to the Church. We are also investigating preparing cleanup buckets like the ones we sent for flood relief along the Mississippi in 2010.



Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. — Song of Solomon 8:7

Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still pounding parts of Texas and Louisiana. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks and submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people. We are relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with these communities and the Presbyterian family as it responds to its neighbors.

The needs for the response are great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Please give generously to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Designate gifts to DR000169-Harvey.

ACT: Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/.

Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities.
Call (866) 732-6121 or email pda.callcenter@pcusa.org.

PRAY: God, our Shelter, be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty and weary days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

Keep up to date on long-term recovery efforts at presbyterianmission.org/pda or facebook.com/PDACARES

LOCAL MISSION NEWS

Red Cross Blood Drive: The Church sponsored a blood drive on Aug 28 with the help of the Red Cross and the Haverford Township Library. Thirty-one units of blood were donated in one afternoon, a record for the library site. This means that as many as 90 lives in our community could be saved from this one drive. Thanks to all those who donated.



63rd Street Life Center: We partner with Christ Community Church/Riverview Center in helping serve the community meals at the 63rd Street Life Center. Our next chance to serve will be on Saturday, Sept 30. This is a great opportunity for people who want to have a real hands-on chance to serve but know they can't take on a huge task alone. Teams cook the meal at Riverview and another team transports it for serving to the Life Center and serves the meal, cafeteria-style, to 150-200 people. Let Kate Hiebert know if you are interested in helping.

News from Chester Eastside: Our monthly donation for the food bank at Chester Eastside Ministries will be dedicated on Sunday, September 17. At Chester Eastside, programming is just shifting from their "Camp Phoenix" summer program for teens to their regular school programming. This year's theme at camp was civic responsibility with campers involved in training to meet these goals:

- Increasing knowledge of one's community and one's civic role in it.
- Developing peer leadership skills.
- Engaging in self-expression through the arts and computer technology.
- Maintaining academic skills and planning ahead to universities and employment
- Improving social skills like group decision-making and conflict resolution.

Food security is an important part of doing well in school. Our traditional "back-to-school" offering has been boxes of cereal for healthy breakfasts. Any packaged food is welcome, and you will find the baskets in the Narthex all month long. Thank you for continuing generosity.

Follow this link to find out how Chester Eastside is one of the ways that the Presbytery is giving itself a 300th birthday present of faith, hope and grace:

<https://presbyphl.org/300-mission-campaign/chester-eastside/>

SCOUTING NEWS

Boy Scout Troop 434 is back at the church after a fabulous summer of camping, hiking, and a trip to the National Jamboree by a crew of scouts and adult medical personnel. Their first formal camping trip this month will be to Rickett's Glen State Park where they hope for warm enough water to enjoy swimming under the waterfalls. They will also be working on service projects led by two scouts who are hoping to earn the rank of Eagle Scout this Fall. A new group of young scouts who joined the Troop in the Spring will be forming a new patrol and practicing a group of traditional scout skills as they prepare to earn their Tenderfoot badge. Over at Chatham Park School, Cub Pack 462 has a full schedule of events planned, starting with inviting first grade boys and their families to get involved! Almost 100 families participate in Scouting through the sponsorship of the Presbyterian Church of Llanerch.



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!

