



# The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

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## NOVEMBER 2017 News and Notes

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### **... A stone, a leaf, an unfound door...**

Out my window for the past few weeks, I have watched the leaves deteriorate in beauty, as their sunny photosynthesizing comes to an end and the pigments inside each cell break down. And then, from a breeze or drops of rain or the strong pull of gravity, the dying plummet to the ground, once again in beauty. I am in love with the fall, in love with the varied colors of the trees, in love with the afternoon sunshine, with its golden beams and gentleness.

This year, the falling leaves and the stones, both natural and human-crafted, sent me again to Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward Angel*, and to the poem that begins that wordy novel. The first words of the poem are the title of this column. Wolfe compares human life to a prison, a prison in which we spend our days seeking after a true home.

This is not so far from what Jesus' followers thought. They did not compare life to prison, but thought their situation was akin to prison. God was coming to set them free. They asked Jesus about it more than once, and he gave them words that were confusing, to say the least. They thought they understood. They expected the world to end soon, they counted on it, and yet two millenia later, we still wait. And perhaps we are better for the waiting. In waiting, we are set free to observe. We have begun to understand better in these many years how beautiful is the world that God created and placed us within, how it is not escape that we need, but rather discovery: a discovery of joyous wonder. The leaves, which fill the world with the air we breathe, change their color and die, and the trees continue on, growing them again. Is this not a joy to see?

In November, I invite you will practice a little "wonder recognition" with me. Look around you, breathe the air, listen to the changing tones, and find hope. Together, let us be mindful of the joyous wonder of God's world—record what you see, if it helps—and then prepare your heart to give, every day, thanks for God's creative love, especially on our national Day of Thanksgiving.

Grace and peace,

Bill

## Worship in NOVEMBER!

DATE	WORSHIP TEXT	
November 5	Revelation 7: 9-17	
November 12	Matthew 25: 1-13	Guest Preacher: Rev. Zuline Wilkinson
November 19	Matthew 25: 14-30	
November 26	Matthew 25: 31-46	

### From the Minister of Music .....



It is with deepest appreciation that I thank you for all your loving expressions of gratitude and support shown to me this past Sunday on the occasion of my 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary here at Llanerch. I will continue to serve to the best of my ability in the call God has chosen for me. I appreciate this congregation more than you will ever know – you have truly been like family. I am so blessed to do what I do and to have this special place in which to do it.

The anthem which you had commissioned for the celebration of my 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is now published, and thus that gift from five years ago has fully come to fruition through Sacred Music Press, c. 2017. Many thanks to John and Rosemarie Trainer who, through a liaison to composer Alfred Fedak, made this commissioning possible. A copy will be on the piano for you to view on Sunday.

Many thanks to all who made the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation such a success: the choir, those who set up for the meal, and all who brought such delicious food. This whole Reformation musical journey this whole year has been a very rewarding and fulfilling challenge for me and a highlight of my 50-year total career.

*Soli Deo Gloria*  
Georgia Marshall Schrom

### Support the Music Program!

We are looking forward to special services during the Christmas season and to the guest musicians who will share in them. 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.



## ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!



### Sunday School – New Time, Same Location

Beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School will be moving to a new time. Classes will start at 10:45 AM and conclude at 11:40 AM. The children will join the members of our congregation for the remainder of the church service.

Please remember that daylight savings begins November 5<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour so that you will arrive to Sunday School on time. Looking forward to seeing you there!



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



A special thank you to everyone who helped make Trunk or Treat a success. We would like to extend our gratitude to the following individuals for their time and talents: Phyllis Gibson, Donna Helms, Kate and Peter Hiebert, Joanne Janos, Vicki Murphy, Jennifer Schmoll, Georgia Schrom and Joan Sheppard.



Thank you also to members of the congregation who contributed candy and other treats. Your help is always appreciated.

## A HEADS-UP CONCERNING ADVENT

The birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ is a time of anticipation and wonder. We will usher in this special season the morning of December 3<sup>rd</sup>; the first day of Advent.

Come share fellowship at our Continental Breakfast and join our live wreath making activities all before church. More information to follow. Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room for sign-up sheets.

## ALTERNATE GIFT GIVING



Are you wondering how to solve the gift giving dilemma that surrounds the upcoming holiday season? Consider participating in the Alternate Gift Giving Program that the Christian Education undertakes in conjunction with Heifer International.

Since 1944, Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities through livestock, training and Passing on the Gift. Heifer International works in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty. Consider honoring a loved one in this manner.

# MISSION NEWS

## **DIASTER RELIEF:**

We partnered with St. James United Church of Christ in a community relief project this fall aimed at helping the thousands of homes and churches that had been impacted by storms and flooding in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. Members of our church sent 6 blue buckets crammed with equipment and supplies to combine with the orange buckets filled by members of St. James. They'll be on their way this week to a distribution center in Maryland to be shipped out to a community in need. An estimated 5 million families may have been affected by hurricanes so far this season. Thanks to all who participated in this project, especially lead volunteer Lynn Beckwith and the Quarry Center Lowe's.

## **LOCAL MISSION:**

Our partnership with Christ Community Church at the Riverview center has been fruitful through the year as we joined to meet the needs of local families and homeless adults in Delaware County. On September 30, volunteers from Llanerch backed up by students from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts helped serve the meal at the 63<sup>rd</sup> St. Life Center. Our next chance to serve in this program will be on December 31, the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday in December. The very next day, the Connect-by-Night program will begin running its overnight shelter for homeless men and women at the Riverview Church during the month of January 2018! We are preparing for our turns to serve evening snacks, make bag lunches, and provide supportive fellowship to participants in that program. Let Kate Hiebert or Phyllis Gibson know if you have questions about how you can help. We will be looking for volunteers, donations, and prayers to cover 15 nights in January. The sign-up calendar will go live soon! Get ready to show the love of Christ at work in our community: this big job always gets done with the aid and faith of many.

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## SCOUTING NEWS

Troop 434 Scouts and Cubs from Pack 462 made us proud this month with their showing at Haverford Township Day. A group of scouts led the parade carrying a banner at special invitation from the organizing committee, and the Troop and Pack with their leaders pitched in to run their traditional booths at the corner of Brookline and Darby. The troop raised more than \$1400 to replace tents and other camping gear. Camping this month was a glorious trip to Hawk Mountain along the Appalachian Trail in perfect weather. In addition to many hawks riding the thermal breezes, the scouts saw a bald eagle! In town, two scouts were busy with their Eagle Rank projects: Josh Angell led a crew of volunteers planting trees and shrubs along Karakung Drive, and Kevin Dougherty worked making a sensory wall for the playground at Chatham Park School. This is the third Eagle project from the troop to improve the play area at Chatham, connecting the Scouts to their old elementary school and the place where many of them started out as Cub Scouts. At the end of the month, the Troop was back at the church with their fall Court of Honor in which badges and rank advancements were awarded, including dozens of achievements accomplished at summer camp in July.



You'll see the Cubs and Scouts in many neighborhoods as they take part in the region's "Scouting for Food" drive in November. Our mission partner, Chester Eastside Ministries, receives part of the tons of food received. If you see a smiling Scout on your front porch, offer them a grocery item (can, box, or other unbreakable container) and a smile in return!

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## APPORTIONMENT DUES PER CAPITA OFFERING 2017



*Per Capita -  
For Love of  
Christ's Church*

As a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, our church sends dues to support the Presbytery and its programs. This work supports the administration of the church, training and support of church leaders, and helps grow new initiatives to meet the needs of the community. This year our per-person dues are \$27.10 per person, about \$2.26 per month. You will receive a letter in the mail with an envelope for you to return this offering, either in the offering plate or by mail to the church office. Thank you for your generous continuing support for the church, both in our congregation and all of those we are connected with.

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## 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!



The Havertown Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.

Armenian Martyrs Church, 100 North Edmonds Avenue, Havertown.