

Souper Bowl Giving Surpasses Last Year's Numbers

The Church Sent Out

While 140 million Americans tuned into the Super Bowl and enjoyed parties and abundant food, many in our country were worried about finding the money to buy their next meal. Last year we collected \$170 and 54 cans of soup; this year we collected \$216 and 118 non-perishable food items (including some from our regular first Sunday of the month collection). Everything collected was donated to the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry to help tackle hunger.

Spaghetti Dinner Helps Prepare for Mission Trip

Youth

Each year the youth spend a day transforming Widener Hall into an Italian restaurant (you just might believe that you are somewhere on the Boot), and preparing a truly Italian meal. BYOB and enjoy a meal and fellowship, while supporting the work of the youth. Tickets will be for sale in Widener Hall: Adults \$11, children \$5, and family maximum \$30. Contact Brian Russo for more information.

The event will help the youth raise funds for their upcoming summer 2012 mission trip to Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

Food Pairs Guide Visible Giving for Children and Families

Children and Families

Throughout the year, we offer a monthly mission opportunity for children and families. During Lent, we step up to weekly, visible giving. All of these efforts are designed to help families share from their abundance and raise cheerful givers.

On February 26, children will receive a One Great Hour of Sharing "fish bank" and "calendar of giving". These banks will be collected on Palm Sunday (April 1), to support OGHS in fighting global hunger and poverty.

During March, we will be collecting food items to be donated locally to the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, as listed:

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| March 4 | Piles of Pasta |
| March 11 | Stacks of Cereal |
| March 18 | Towers of Tuna |
| March 25 | Pounds of Peanut Butter |

Children are asked to bring their items to worship, to be collected during the Children's Message.

Together, we can make a difference—in the lives of our children, in our community, and around the world.

—Rev. Diane Jamison Fitch

Last Sunday Supper: Journey into Lent

The Church Gathered

Do you know why we use the color purple during Lent? Any idea what the connection is between baptism and Lent?

Find out when you join us on Sunday, February 26 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for a potluck supper, followed by an interactive journey of experiential learning about Lent, geared for all ages.

This journey is self-guided, relying on sensory and hands-on experiences to creatively grow in faith and knowledge. Bring a dish to share; dessert and drinks are provided. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office and will be available at the Coffee Table in Widener Hall during Fellowship hour. Contact Rev. Diane with questions.

Opportunities for Fellowship Expand

The Church Gathered

God's search continues to meet, on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Join this small group of the younger-adult crowd for fellowship, discussion, and periodic art projects. For further information, contact Michael Sebright (267.303.7626) or Brad Pennington (215.740.9340).

The Membership committee has reinvented a long-ago tradition, Dinner with Friends, with Dinner for Nine, which took place February 10 and 11 in several members' homes. Stay tuned for more information to come about another fellowship opportunity initiated by the Membership committee—Extended Families, which will kick off on March 25.

Welcome the Stranger

Meditation

At the January meeting of the Membership Committee, Liz Podraza told of a man who visited eighteen different churches on successive Sundays. Each Sunday, he would sit in the front of the sanctuary and, at the end of the service, walk slowly up the aisle to the narthex, then down a side aisle and up again. He smiled, was dressed appropriately, asked for directions to some part of the church, and stayed for coffee hour.

He created a points-based rating scale to help him be a bit objective about his experience:

- 10 for a smile from a worshiper
- 10 for a greeting from someone sitting nearby
- 100 for an exchange of names
- 200 for an invitation to coffee hour
- 200 for an invitation to return
- 1000 for an introduction to another worshiper
- 2000 for an invitation to meet the minister

On this scale, eleven of the eighteen church earned fewer than 100 points. Five actually received less than 20.

I have tried this experiment myself while on vacation in Maine. Admittedly, I have a church base of two—one Presbyterian and one United Church of Christ. In both cases, the score was zero. To tell you the truth, I usually spend Sunday morning with Abbey and the political talk shows.

When we have a new member class, the people joining generally report that they have received a very warm welcome from the congregation. That said, I wonder who is not in the new member class because they left worship feeling as much a stranger as when they wandered through the door. The Membership Committee (many of whom are in the choir and try to spy visitors from that balcony view) are quite intentional about making a beeline for visitors after worship. I can be downright rude to members in coffee hour when I see visitors standing helplessly alone amid a sea of best friends.

Who knows why someone has walked through the doors of this church. Usually they are in transition: a move to a new community, a baby born, an engagement, a divorce, a death, a diagnosis. If we are trying to follow Jesus, we each need to remember that we are called out of our Sunday morning isolation to live for the other, especially the stranger. As Paul wrote to the early church: Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Academy Award and March Madness Pools

Adult Fellowship

The season of competitive prognosticating is upon us! That's right, it's another year of Oscar picks and March Madness pools. Few things in life offer more satisfaction than besting your Youth/Senior Adult Director in such endeavors. What's particularly great about this year's renditions, is that the money generated from both events will help benefit the mission work done by our church's youth as they head off to New Mexico in the summer of 2012. So not only can you 1) beat me and brag to me in coffee hour, but you can also 2) donate to the church's outreach at the same time! Just try to name a better way to spend your pocket change.

All you have to do to join in the fun is to write a check for at least \$10 and to submit your Academy Award selections for every category to me prior to February 26; and your college basketball brackets before March 15. You'll receive a detailed file with fancy charts and exciting colors, personally made by your gracious soon-to-be-losing director, so that you can follow along in all of the scoring. However, if all of that isn't enough to entice you, we're also offering a small non-cash prize to the winner, along with an announcement of your spoils from the pulpit the following the week! Don't miss out on this incredible, ridiculous opportunity!

—Brian Russo

PCCH is now on iTunes

A podcast of Sunday sermons is now available on iTunes. Search "The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill," subscribe to the podcast, download it to your digital device of choice, and listen to the sermon whenever and wherever you wish!

First Sunday Arts

Arts at PCCH

In the fall our very first First Sunday Arts outings took groups to see Rembrandt's faces of Jesus at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Winterthur decorated for yuletide.

This spring our arts-related adventures continue. On March 4, we will visit the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts to see the first major exhibit of Philadelphia native Henry Ossawa Tanner's work. On April 1, we will return to the PMA to visit the Perelman building and the Rodin Museum. On April 22 (not the *first* Sunday of the month, but no less a part of the series), we will host Dr. Marcia Hall for a lecture during Adult Education and then visit the Michener Museum in Doylestown, to see their new exhibit, *Offering of the Angels: Treasures from the Uffizi Gallery*. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Coffee Table in Widener Hall. Contact Hillary Mohaupt (hmohaupt@chestnuthillpres.org) or Cindy Jarvis with questions.

Spring COTH Programming includes Health and Resource Fair

Center on the Hill

Center on the Hill brings to the community a whole host of programs, events, and trips. For a full list of activities, you can read the newsletter, *At the Center of Things*, online. To register for any of the following, call Jackie Yorko, Director, Center on the Hill, 215.247.4654 or e-mail jjoroko@chestnuthillpres.org.

Health and Senior Resource Fair—Free!

A collaborative event between Center on the Hill, Chestnut Hill Hospital and Chestnut Hill Center for Enrichment.

Tuesday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bring questions for nutritionists, physical therapists, podiatrists, sleep care specialists, vein care specialists, and women's health specialists; practitioners of acupuncture, massage, and Reiki also will be on hand. Stroke screenings, foot screenings, and breast health information will be available. Experts will answer questions about services like home care, transportation, financial counseling, senior day care, exercise, and meals at home. Refreshments will be served.

Mindfulness Based Eating Awareness

10 Thursdays, March 8–May 10

3:00-5:30 p.m., with 2 follow-up sessions, dates TBD

\$460 tuition for 12 session program includes all materials, workbook and CD's.

Mindfulness Based Eating Awareness is a 12-session group program that teaches you to manage eating behaviors and lose weight in positive and nurturing ways that enhance your sense of well-being and efficacy, without the feelings of deprivation that accompany traditional dieting. Pre-registration required by March 1, 2012.

Get Free Help with your Spring Clean Up

Sunday, April 22

Students from Chestnut Hill College will volunteer their time to help with everything from yard work, to painting, to baseboard and window cleaning. Seniors and students first meet each other, receive their assignments, and set their expected arrival time at a casual lunch on April 21 at Chestnut Hill College. Register by April 6 to participate; space is limited to 50 people. Please have a rough idea when you register of the project(s) you need done.

Upcoming Trips

Join Center on the Hill for trips to the Philadelphia Flower Show (March 7); the National Mall (April 30); Hillwood Estate and Gardens (May 24); and Williamsport, PA (June 28). Contact Jackie Yorko for more information.

Remember these dates

These and all other dates can be found on the web site of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. A weekly e-newsletter, *News from the Hill*, is also distributed every Friday, with information about upcoming events and projects.

Would you like to receive *News from the Hill*? E-mail Hillary at hmohaupt@chestnuthillpres.org.

February

- 21: 7:30 p.m. Theology on Tap
- 22: 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday
- 26: 11:30 a.m. Adult Education: Barrie Shepherd
- 11:30 a.m. New Member Class
- 5:00 p.m. Last Sunday Supper
- 2:30 p.m. PCCH serving at Our Brother's Place
- 28: 12:00 p.m. Community Luncheon
- 6:45 p.m. Movie Night for Adults

March

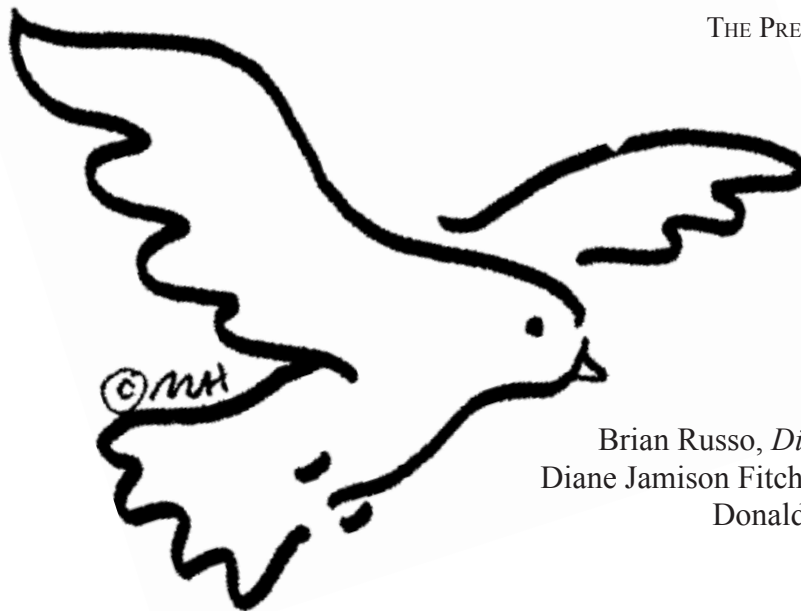
- 4: 11:30 a.m. First Sunday Arts: PAFA
- 11:30 a.m. New Member Class
- 11:30 a.m. Middle School Fellowship
- 12:00 p.m. Center on the Hill Art Reception
- 7: 7:30 p.m. God:search
- 8: 12:00 p.m. Men's Luncheon
- 11: 11:30 a.m. New Member Class
- 3:00 p.m. Fourth and Fifth Grade Fellowship
- 5:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner
- 20: 7:30 p.m. Theology on Tap
- 21: 7:30 p.m. God:search
- 25: 2:30 p.m. PCCH serving at Our Brother's Place
- 5:00 p.m. Last Sunday Supper
- 27: 12:00 p.m. Community Luncheon
- 6:45 p.m. Movie Night for Adults

April

- 1: 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday
- 2:00 p.m. First Sunday Arts: Rodin and Perelman
- 4: 7:30 p.m. God:search
- 5: 8:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
- 6: 8:00 p.m. Good Friday
- 8: Easter Sunday (services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.)
- 12: 12:00 p.m. Men's Luncheon
- 15: 11:30 a.m. Fourth and Fifth Grade Fellowship
- 18: 7:30 p.m. God:search
- 22: 11:30 a.m. First Sunday Arts: Michener
- 2:30 p.m. PCCH serving at Our Brother's Place
- 24: 10:00 a.m. COTH Health and Resource Fair
- 6:45 p.m. Movie Night for Adults

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Donald Nally, *Interim Director of Music*

Ken Lovett, *Interim Organist*

Jo Ann West, *Administrator*

Margot Cohn, *Director, Pre-K School*

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Owintier Charles, *Sunday Sexton*

Icilda Hames and Debbie Lambeth, *Sunday Child Care Givers*
