



Fleur-De-Lis

Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ
620 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa. 18101
610-435-2412 (office) 610-435-4232 (museum) 610-435-5061 (fax)
Join us on Sundays for Worship at 10:45 a.m.



Organ Centennial
Restoration Fund

ZION'S 'LIBERTY BELL' CHURCH

It's Music to our Ears: First Phase of Organ Refurbishment Completed

You won't be able to see it, but you certainly will hear the difference on Sunday, September 11 when Jane starts up the blowers to play our historic C. E. Haskill/Fritsche pipe organ. After a summer of piano accompaniment, the sounds of a pipe organ indeed will be music to our ears.

For Jane Knotek, our director of music ministry, there literally will be more notes to play. (Some remember the Sunday she demonstrated one of the problems by depressing a key and there was no sound at all!) But it's just as important to explain that now there are some things we won't hear, like the random notes that were heard more frequently this past year.

This is the first phase of a refurbishment plan presented by Benton Pipe Organ Service that will be completed, as funds are available, by fall, 2012, the 100th anniversary of the organ. This phase, a \$34,000 project approved by the congregation in June, included repairing wind lines, repair and preliminary "voicing" of some of the pipes, replacing outdated wiring with

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Sept 25 Colonial Sunday 125, Going On 250!

When you see sunlight streaming through the Apostles Window at the front of the church, remember these are the same windows people were seeing 125 years ago when they began the most ambitious building project in their history: our present sanctuary and the Sunday School building and chapel!



Colonial Sunday is special every year, a day designated to retell the story of the hiding of the Liberty Bell in our church during the Revolutionary War. However, this year also marks the 125th anniversary of commencing the present sanctuary, *and* we look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of our church next year.

So at this year's service, you'll see the earliest photographs of the church sanctuary and chapel (currently our Sunday School building) dating to 1888, projected on our video screen. You'll hear about the Bible verses that inspired and sustained the congregation through its multi-year building project, which expanded the

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www.LibertyBellChurch.org

*Zion's church is a safe place
where people can experience
the transforming power
of God's love in Jesus Christ
and are equipped to be instruments
of God's transforming work
in the world.*

Rev. Bob Stevens, Pastor
Jane Knotek, Director of Music
Debbie Baldree, Administrative Secretary

Worship – 10:45 AM

Fleur-de-lis is a monthly publication of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ and is sent free of charge to members and friends of Zion. The original **Fleur-de-lis** was first published in December, 1912 "under the auspices of the three oldest Reformed churches in Allentown". Salem and St. John's joined with Zion that year and jointly published the paper to "serve as a link between these large parishes and to aid in molding a strong, effective, progressive church-life in the Reformed churches of our community." They chose the name "**Fleur-de-lis**" ("lily") and its three-lobed symbol which is suggestive of the Trinity and which also indicated the union of the three churches in their common enterprise. Although now we distribute this solely as Zion's publication, we still affirm their mission: "laboring not against but with each other, for a common good, for the extension and growth of the kingdom of God."

Like Music to Our Ears

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plastic-coated CMR wire, as well as a complete cleaning of the pipes, chests and chambers.



Fund-raising concerts, such as the Bach & Handel Chorale last April, will be scheduled to help pay the cost of the refurbishment.

You too can help us make beautiful music with your contribution to the Centennial Organ Project. Thank you!



125 Going on 250

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congregation's ministry and mission in Allentown. And you'll learn about the many ways we are continuing the mission and extending the vision into the future. Be sure not to miss this exciting event on Sunday, September 25 at our 10:45 a.m. service!



Congratulations to

Asimo and Duane Long
married on May 21
Geoffrey and Sara Jane Sechler
married on May 28
Jason and Sophia Christman
married on June 18



Worshippers on August 7 in Memorial 'Chapel'

Rediscovering our Chapel - August Worship in Memorial Hall

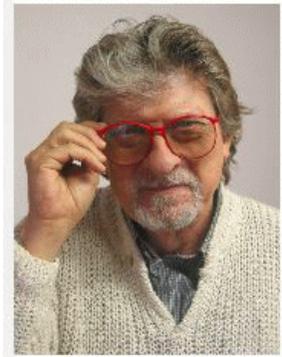
An impromptu decision by our elders on a hot Sunday, July 24, took the congregation to Fellowship Hall for worship, where the temperature was a good 10° cooler than the sanctuary. The following Sunday we were back in the sanctuary for George Esparza' wonderful vocal rendition of "Moses." But since the heat wave continued, and because the organ was undergoing repair and couldn't be used for worship anyway, Consistory members conferred and decided to have two air-conditioners installed in Memorial Hall. (They originally were headed to an upstairs "archive" room – and will eventually wind up there!) Pastor Stevens christened it the Memorial Chapel.

At the first service in August, Pastor Stevens noted that in 1886, the building on the site of our present sanctuary was torn down to make way for the beautiful edifice we now have. During construction, the congregation worshiped in what we now call Memorial Hall.

Many of our members remember a time, prior to the 1962 "Program of Progress" renovations, when Sunday School rooms bordered a two-story chapel with a skylight overhead.

How fitting it was to be worshiping in the "chapel" again!

Liberty Bell Museum Welcomes George Miller



George Miller has been named the 2011 Director of the Liberty Bell Museum's Pip the Mouse Education Program. He will take on responsibility for running the popular holiday program for the museum beginning September 15 and continuing into January, 2012.

George is no stranger to the museum or to Zion's church members. This past year he helped write and direct a play about John Adams and James Allen for the museum, and more recently served as a volunteer tour guide.

A professional actor and director, members of Zion will remember George's portrayal of characters from Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol* during an Advent worship series at Zion. Formerly the director of Theatre Outlet, he also has served as executive director of the Old Allentown Preservation Association. His work on numerous boards as well as his vocational talents make him ideally suited for this position, vacated by Joshua Fink last March.

Museum Unveils New Exhibit

George will officially be welcomed at the museum's annual dinner meeting on Sept. 16. The meeting will be a memorable kickoff for the Jubilee Anniversary of the founding of the Shrine, now known as the Liberty Bell Museum. In addition, there will be a sneak preview of the museum's newest exhibit, a "kid-sized" Conestoga wagon that teaches children how the Liberty Bell was brought to Zion church.

For information about the dinner and the exhibit, contact the church office (610-435-2412) or check out our new web site (after September 15): www.LibertyBellMuseum.org

From the Music Corner



Jane Knotek,
our Director
of Music Ministry

Wow, September is here! We have had a great summer filled with guest preachers (including Zion's Geoff Brace!) and special music which included "Moses," a sermon in song. Zion is blessed to have had several musicians share their time and talent to enhance the summer church services.

On September 11, guest soloist Philip Diaz will present special music commemorating 9/11's 10th anniversary.

September 11 also marks the choir's return, with the first anthem to be sung on September 18. The choir will be leading the singing of the new response, Chris Tomlin's, "How Great is Our God." We plan to be adding more contemporary music to the service as the year progresses. Don't worry – we won't abandon the standards and favorites!

Choir rehearsals will be held after church starting on September 11. Weekday rehearsals will be held at 12:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month beginning on September 15 up to and including December 22. Come one, come all! As the saying goes, try it; you might like it.

I'll be looking for you in the pews; choir, sanctuary or a mix of the two as you are willing and able to do so. ~ Jane

P. S. – Thank you to the Women's Guild for the very generous donation of \$3,107.16 towards the Organ Centennial Fund. This is a very thoughtful and much appreciated gift.

*Did you remember Zion's
Church in your will?*

Imagine What's Possible

Geoff Brace, vice-moderator for our Penn Northeast Conference as well as a member of Zion, spoke at our August 7 worship service. He shared some reflections about the experiences he and Sara had at the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in July.



"General Synod 28's theme was *Imagine*

What's Possible. I've never had a problem imagining. As a kid, I had buckets of Legos. My favorite thing to do was build homes.... When I was satisfied, I would construct an addition.... Then I would destroy it. The home had served its purpose, which was allowing my imagination to create something. But when its purpose was served, it was time to build something new.

"Perhaps that is where we are as in the life of many churches. I'm not saying we need to be foolish and wipe out our church buildings. But maybe it's time that we look at the structures inside the church: the committees, the systems and management."

"I left General Synod inspired to tell the story of a God whose love is so powerful and so real that it can change people, communities and nations ... in a world that needs the church badly and needs the love of Christians even more, it won't hurt to imagine the possibilities. Just imagine what we might accomplish. For a brief moment, we just might accomplish what Jesus prayed in John 17: that in being a unified church, we might be able to help the world know that God really does love each and every one of us."

(A copy of Geoff's complete talk is available from the church office.)

“Dr. Hotspot” Coming to Zion Mon. Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Jeff Brenner is the Founder and Executive Director of the Camden Coalition of Health Care Providers, and the subject of a recent documentary on PBS’ Frontline, titled “Dr. Hotspot,” after Dr. Brenner’s successful work in one of the most difficult health care systems in the country.

In what has been called America’s poorest city, Camden, NJ, more than 50% of the residents visit the Emergency Room every year, twice the national average. Dr. Brenner launched a project to study costs, and then to bring about change that has significantly lowered the cost and improved the quality of health care, saving tax dollars along the way. See: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/doctor-hotspot/>

One of the reasons that significant change happened was community organizing. Our own Joshua Chisholm worked with this project in Camden before coming to Allentown to head Congregation’s United for Neighborhood Action. Thanks to Joshua’s work here with members of Allentown churches and community leaders like the Rider Pool Foundation, Dr. Brenner is coming to the Lehigh Valley to talk with professionals on Sept. 26. The public session will be held here at Zion, and you’re invited!



Dear Zion,

Thank you very much for allowing the PROGRAM for Women and Families and the Allentown Art Museum to conduct the Transitions artist residency in your Fellowship Hall (during the summer).

Despite the museum being closed, we were able to continue this valuable program for another year because of your help.

Sincerely, Kathy Odorizzi
Arts in Education Manager

Thank you to your congregation for supporting Bethany Children’s Home Anniversary Day Awards program for youth. The awards recognize youth in the residential program who have worked hard, overcame challenges and presented themselves as role models for others during the past year. Your gift in the amount of \$50 will provide the Scholastic Attitude Award to a Bethany youth.

Sincerely, Jonathan L. Henning
Chief Relations Officer



Nancy Frederick, Bill and Lois Frederick’s daughter, is Asst. Principal Second Violin, Orquestro Nacional do Porto, Portugal. She played at our Aug.21 service.

Sensational Summer Soloists at Zion

Once again this summer, Jane Knoteck brought a wide variety of musicians and singers to Zion to inspire us in worship. George Esparza sang Ken Medema’s “Moses”; Lynn Mastio Rice sang “Ye People Rend Your Hearts” and several others; James Thomson sang “Psalm 121”; Nancy Frederick played violin; Loretta Hein played handbells. And there are more to come!



Save the Dates ~ 2012 (yes, 2012)

May 18, 2012 - 50th Anniversary of the Liberty Bell Shrine

To celebrate the Jubilee Anniversary of the founding of the Liberty Bell Shrine in 1962 we're having a Celebrate the Sixties Dinner Dance with music by the Large Flowerheads, a groovy band you'll love. Lots more information will be coming.... Save the date!

September 22, 2012 - Zion's Colonial Ball to celebrate 250th Anniversary

Be sure to mark your calendar to join us for our Colonial Ball, surely the most interesting and memorable event of the anniversary year. Re-enactors from the 6th PA Regiment will be on hand, wearing their colonial "finery" and we'll have callers teaching colonial dance and more. Save the date!

