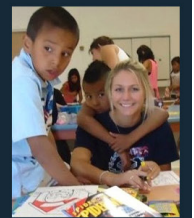




MinistryLink

Sharing Ministry in @SEPASynod



October/November 2014

#wearesepa Turning Point Makes Connections



In 2007, volunteers from Redemption Lutheran and Rhawnhurst Presbyterian began listening to the Spirit and the community's longings for a safe place to welcome neighborhood youth. After much prayer, planning and fundraising, **Rhawnhurst Turning Point** opened its doors in 2011. The center gets some support from the Synod, ELCA and the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Turning Point's storefront on Castor Avenue is a haven for local youth who work on homework with mentors, participate in free art, culture and performance classes, and serve their neighbors. Director Cheryl Lafferty shared with us how things are going.

What are you most excited about?

The variety of art and music classes. Last spring we had an "Intro to Japanese Language and Culture." Now their teacher is in Japan, so we are going to do pen pals with her class. We started a "Star Wars" Bible study on Saturdays. I love that we have all of these outlets so that a youth can explore different activities, and find what they are passionate about and where they feel they fit in.

Where do you see God at work?

In the relationships. God is making connections, growing self-confidence in kids, and helping them to find trusted mentors in the volunteers. They now have a network of peers that is committed to making good choices.

What do you need?

We need prayer, always. We need unrestricted financial support that we can use to keep the doors open. We always need volunteers working directly with the youth or behind the scenes with fundraising.

What is one word that sums up what is happening?

Action. It feels like we are in perpetual motion, in a good way.

More at ministrylink.org/rtp14

HAPPENINGS OCT/NOV

Making Mutual Ministry Work

Oct 4, 9:30 am-3 pm
New Hanover, Gilbertsville

Stewardship for Mission-Minded Congregations

Oct 6, 7-9 pm,
St. James, Limerick
Oct 12, 2:30-4:30 pm, LTSP
Oct 28, 7-9 pm,
St. Paul's, Doylestown

JYG: "Dunked and Stuffed"

Oct 10-11 and 11-12,
Refreshing Mountain Camp

Navigating the Unknown: Social Media for Ministry

Oct 11, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Moyer Hall, Muhlenberg

Mwangaza Learning Session

Oct 15, 5 pm, Good
Shepherd, King of Prussia

Grief in the Church

Nov 1, 9 am-noon,
Holy Spirit, Emmaus

Disaster Spiritual Care Training

Nov 5-6,
Norristown State Hospital

Bishop's Convocation

Nov 12-14,
Hotel Bethlehem

ministrylink.org/events

A
Message
From the

Faith
Formation
Team

Isaiah
40:28-31



The soaring of an eagle in a blue sky is a magnificent sight. How does an eagle fly for so long without flapping its wings? It's not the eagle's own strength that keeps it up in the sky; it is the wind. When the eagle finds a place where warmer air is rising quickly, it can ride that rising column of air higher and higher into the sky, then glide back down to earth. The warm air rising up beneath the wings of the eagle keeps the eagle soaring in the sky.

- When have you experienced the Lord's power beneath your wings?
- How do you "wait for the Lord" in your daily journey?

faithinbloom.com



Gods work. Our hands.

#ELCADayofService on September 7 saw Lutherans across Southeastern Pennsylvania putting their hands into God's work, loving their neighbors.



Mediator, Philadelphia, sponsored a health fair for the community.



A crew from St. Paul's, Ardmore spread 20 yards of mulch and spruced up South Ardmore Park.



St. Petri-Hope in NE Philadelphia made "blessings bags" to share with those who stand on Roosevelt Blvd. asking for help.



Grace, Drexel Hill prepared meals for University Lutheran's Feast Incarnate.



In Quakertown, St. John's helped to clean up a section of Tohickon Creek in Memorial Park.



Trinity, Lansdale conducted an "Ice Bucket Challenge" station to earn support for the ALS Foundation.



Workers from Ascension, Washington Crossing repaired a roof at the New Jerusalem Recovery Center in North Philadelphia.

Use the hashtag **#wearesepa** when posting about your congregation's activities.

Ready for Reformation 2017?

Our Synod has a **Reformation at 500** Committee that is collecting resources and links to help you prepare to mark the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 97 Theses. Visit the Reformation at 500 website at ministrylink.org/2017. For more information contact Pastor Steve Godsall-Myers at gmsteve@adventharleysville.org.



The Luther Rose (or seal) was created for Luther at the invitation of Prince-Elector

John Frederick of Saxony. It was sent to him while he was staying at the Coburg Fortress during the Diet of Augsburg in 1530. A description of the meaning of the Rose using Luther's own words is visually displayed in a YouTube video (<http://bit.ly/Lrosevid>)

Best Practice Sharing A Growing Approach to Food Insecurity

From the seeds that planted a garden to help a local food pantry, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (LCR) in Yardley is nurturing an ever-widening circle of ministry to people experiencing food insecurity.

"God keeps putting opportunities in front of us to serve the hungry and the homeless," says Diane Casey, LCR's coordinator of serving hearts ministries.

Volunteers led by Nicola Fiscarelli planted a "Resurrection Garden" three years ago to support local food pantries and their monthly shared meals for persons in need. The 50-by-50-foot garden is small but in September volunteers picked, packed and delivered as much as 300 pounds of fresh produce per week.

Growing interest in food insecurity has led LCR to join forces with God's Love, Newtown and a local Episcopal parish to form a Food Insecurity Alliance. Its first project will be to support a food backpack program for local children run by St. Mary Hospital in Langhorne.

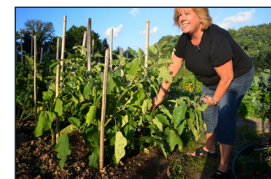
"We are convinced we should be partnering with other non-profits and building bridges, rather than reinventing the wheel," Casey says.

Members of LCR's informal network of hunger servants are on the board of Family Promise of Lower Bucks, a network that will arrange for homeless families with children to sleep in local churches at night, then get support with work skills, budgeting, and creating resumes during the day. The group, which expects to begin

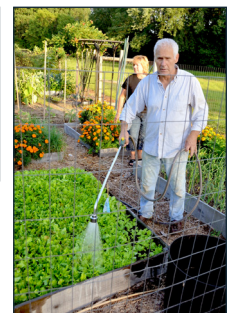
serving in 2015, "is truly grassroots," Casey said, involving Christian, Buddhist and Muslim communities.

Other members at LCR are instrumental in The Way Home, another non-profit that recently bought a home in Bristol to shelter homeless men. — Bob Fisher

Learn more at ministrylink.org/lcrfi



Karen Yerkes works in the garden. Nicola Fiscarelli waters the Resurrection Garden he helped start.



Photos by Rev. Jesse Brown