



July 9, 2017

Stewardship Workshop



August 5, 2017

9:30 am—12:00 noon

@ Zwingli UCC, Souderton

Is your church in need of a Stewardship Campaign? Would you like to learn good Stewardship Principles and Practices? Would you like to know how to run an effective campaign?

If so, join our Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley for this Stewardship training. Bill requests you familiarize yourself with the book "Not Your Parents Offering Plate" prior to the workshop.

Registration is open now and can be accessed via the PSEC website, www.psec.org. Just click on the Stewardship slider at the top of the opening page!

Endings Create New Beginnings, Shine New Light

Few congregations wondered so far in its history as did Pilgrim, United Church of Christ (UCC), in the Philadelphia Association. It was a new church start in 1824 known then as the Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1829, it became the Methodist Protestant Church. In 1897, its name was changed to First Independent Christian Church of Kensington and not long thereafter became the First Congregational Christian Church. The 1957 merger that created the UCC also gave rise to the Pilgrim Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ. One of Pilgrim's most faithful members, Evelyn Greenberg, married her husband Neil at Pilgrim Church where they raised their two sons Lee and Dwayne. Pilgrim UCC's original journey came to an end in 2014. The church building was sold and the members moved to other congregations but the faith effects of Pilgrim's people continues.

Evelyn Greenberg was the last president of the congregation. She connected with the Conference through Reverend Bill Worley and expressed to him a wish that somehow Pilgrim UCC's journey might continue via a different path.

She was present Sunday, June 11 at PSEC's Annual Conference meeting to present a legacy gift of \$269,712.12-- half of which will support PSEC Members In Discernment as they move through the process to become authorized pastors. The other half is the first offering to start a new fund --The Pilgrim Fund -- for communities of people and their leaders who are seeking to begin new churches. Evelyn's gift was a statement of faith in God's capacity to create a new beginning from a painful ending. That is the ebb and flow of all life -- including church life.

Similarly, when First UCC closed their doors in Reading last October they donated their bell sets to St. Paul's in Fleetwood. During a dedication ceremony of the bells at St. Paul's, St. Paul's donated \$1000 to the Conference earmarked for new church starts, in honor of First UCC.

Money that comes into the Conference from churches at the end of life goes out to create new communities of light. I can't wait to see how and where that light shines.

- Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister