Women of Faith & Hope receive Susan G. Komen Philadelphia Award

Congratulations to the Women of Faith & Hope (WOFAH), a women's breast cancer support organization, for being named one of 25 Susan G. Komen Philadelphia Women’s Champion honorees in 2014. WOFAH was chosen for its achievements in presenting many events, workshops and meetings in the city throughout the year, including hosting an annual conference during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, monthly self-help groups, and peer support and spiritual renewal programs. WOFAH was founded by Novella Lyons, longtime member of Canaan Baptist Church of Germantown and member of PCA’s Clergy-Aging Interfaith Coalition.

Cyber Village Senior Housing renamed for Rev. Martha Lang

In honor of the 83rd church anniversary of Mt. TaborAME and the memory of former pastor Rev. Martha Lang, Mt. Tabor Cyber Village Senior Apartments has been officially renamed as Martha A. Lang Cyber Village Senior Housing. “Rev. Lang was a longtime member of the PCA Clergy-Aging Interfaith Coalition and was passionate about helping seniors,” said Sandy Lawrence, PCA interfaith outreach coordinator, who attended the worship service and unveiling of Rev. Lang’s portrait and new apartment signage. Cyber Village, located at 973 North 7th St., was the brain child of Rev. Lang and Rev. Dr. Mary Moore. It is the first senior housing complex in Pennsylvania to have a green roof and computer laptops for every unit. The complex is managed by Presby’s Inspired Life. Judge Bavaria, Presby’s CEO, and Curtis Thomas, Pennsylva-nia State Representative, provided reflections at the renaming ceremony. Mt. Tabor AME Church is now pastored by Rev. Albert Johnson.

Annual Spring Clergy & Seniors Day conference heads to the Northeast

The 2015 Spring Clergy & Seniors Day is on its way! This annual spring interfaith conference is scheduled for Thursday, April 23 and will take place at the Four Points by Sheraton Northeast, 9461 Roosevelt Blvd. The free event will focus on the theme of “Empowering Faith Communities: Strengthening Connections with Neighborhood Resources.” “We are excited to be returning to the northeast area of the city to provide information and services to enhance the quality of life for seniors,” says Sister Theresa Saratta, PCA Clergy-Aging Interfaith Coalition co-chair. There is no charge to attend the event, which includes continental breakfast. Space is limited, so you are encouraged to register soon by calling the RSVP line at 215-765-4470. According to Elder Michael Brasford, coalition co-chair, “the coalition is always looking for additional clergy and lay leadership representatives to join us at our conference and to help us reach out to senior citizens. We strive to reflect the diversity of the faith community in Philadelphia.” If you are not on our mailing list to receive information, call Sandy Lawrence, PCA’s interfaith outreach coordinator, at 215-765-9000, ext. 3592 or e-mail salawren@pcaphl.org.

PECO reaches out to faith community

As part of PECO’s Act 129 Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program, low-income residential electric customers may qualify for a new refrigerator. To qualify, the old refrigerator must be in working condition, and the household income must be at or below the 150% Federal Poverty Level ($17,505 for one person or $23,595 for two people; add $6,090 for each additional household member). Call 1-800-492-4262 for information on PECO’s refrigerator swap program.

Welcome to the neighborhood

On October 6, the Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church relocated from 19th & Fitzwater Sts. to 1538 Wing hochbing St., a neighborhood with a large population of seniors. Congratulations on your new church home! The grand opening included a ceremonial march and ribbon cutting. During that month, church members celebrated their new home with a Praise Carnival, Praise Concert & Showcase, and a health fair. The concert and showcase activities were sponsored by Praise 103.9, “Philadelphia’s Inspiration Radio Station.” Greater St. Matthew is an active member of PCA’s Clergy-Aging Interfaith Coalition. Rev. Dr. Steven Arviner is the church pastor.
Did you know?

- Mount Carmel Baptist Church installed Rev. Donald D. Moore as its ninth pastor-elect in the church’s 132-year history. Rev. Dr. Albert Campbell recently retired and is now pastor emeritus.
- Helping Hands Ministry celebrated its 38th annual Honoree Dinner & Auction event on September 13. The event was held at the Enterprise Center, 4541 Market St. PCA was recognized as a sponsor and special supporter. Congratulations to Elder Marietta Melton, Helping Hands Ministry founder, on the success of the ministry and the event.
- Rev. Leonard Dow, Pastor of the Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, was the featured speaker at the City School Partner’s Breakfast held on November 7 at City School Spruce Hill, 4115 Baltimore Ave. The event drew an interactive audience.
- Rosalind McKeever, a member of PCAs Clergy-Aging Interfaith Coalition, was selected the Dead & Hard of Hearing Council’s Hearing Person of the Year for 2014. A special luncheon was held on November 9 to honor her for many years of service to the deaf community.

Water Revenue Assistance Program (WRAP) can help with bills

Do you need help with paying your water bill? Philadelphia’s Water Revenue Assistance Program (WRAP), offers manageable payment agreements to customers who are at risk of having their water service shut off because of a past due balance. WRAP can provide extended payment agreement terms; applicants may also be eligible for a city grant. Eligibility is based on income. To apply, the water bill must be in your name and you must reside at the property. You must also furnish copies of each household member’s Social Security card, provide copies of household bills and have an automatic meter reader installed on your property. For information, call 215-686-6880 or visit www.phila.gov and type “revenue” in the search function.

Seniors travel Memory Lane with Mahalia & friends

On September 26, more than 400 seniors at Deliverance CDC spent an afternoon enjoying a dramatic ensemble performance highlighting the music of legendary greats Mahalia Jackson, Sam Cooke, James Cleveland and others. Dot Newton, Deliverance CDC executive director, frequently piaans performances showcasing Mahalia Jackson’s life and music. She staged the Sept. 26 event to provide seniors at Deliverance CDC with a day of fun, a chance to revisit some good memories, and a little rockin’-to-the-music exercise. PCA was the featured guest agency at this free event. A good time was had by all.

Community approach to emergency preparedness

Your house of worship can be vital in helping vulnerable elders in your community prepare for an emergency. Encourage your ministry leaders to identify seniors in the community who could benefit and support their local community. Request your church to form a local network of volunteers who can assist with needs during an emergency. For information on how to get involved, contact the Red Cross, at 215-299-4067 or email Mike.Kiley-Zufelt@redcross.org.

First Tabernacle Church hosts a cappella choir for 50th year celebration

First Tabernacle Church on 602 S. Broad St. hosted a celebration on November 15 to recognize the 50th year anniversary of its Hebrew Israelite ministry and the naming of the building to the city's historic registry of churches. The event featured the Congregation Beth El’s A Cappella Choir. Established in 1951, First Tabernacle is known for its ministries to visit the sick, and to strengthen and support people of all ages in the surrounding community.

Interfaith celebration honors Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Monday, January 19 the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Ave., held a special observance service and program in honor of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Father Martin Shaw, church pastor, shared his pulpit with Malaak Shabazz, the youngest daughter of the late Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz; Rabbi Beth Kalach of Beth David Reform Congregation; and Minister Rodney Muhammad, the new president of the Philadelphia branch of the NAACP.

Young at Heart Ministry sponsors Social Services Resource Day

The “seasoned saints” of the Deliverance Evangelistic Church are truly young at heart. This senior ministry held a resource day on October 9 for more than seniors. Sandy Lawrence, PCA interfaith outreach coordinator; along with representatives of Lehigh Senior Center; the In-Home Support Program administered by North City Congress, Art Reach and other senior programs attended. Thanks to the church’s Social Services Department for organizing a great day.

Milestones newspaper

Milestones newspaper, published by PCA, has a readership of 170,000 older Philadelphians each month. This free newspaper is aimed at reaching senior citizens with news, features and information on activities and opportunities for involvement. Copies are distributed at more than 900 locations throughout Philadelphia, including senior community centers, senior living facilities, libraries, doctor’s offices, pharmacies and conveniently located honor boxes. Milestone is available for free delivery to faith institutions that order 50 or more copies. Contact PCA at 215-765-9000, ext. 5050.