

# The Frankford Gazette



Sponsored by:

Health Partners Plans

WWW.FRANKFORDGAZETTE.COM

VOL. IX, ISSUE 4—NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

## Giving Thanks



The **Power Circle Mentors** laid out Thanksgiving dinner for over 100 kids at the Northeast Frankford Boys and Girls Club on November 20th. Lead by **Nafisah Lewis** and **Buddha**, it was a big family meal and as you can see, from the picture above, the kids had a great time.

Frankford had many other Thanksgiving observances. Churches, elected officials, Civic groups, PDAC and individuals all contributed to making this holiday better for those who are sometimes struggling. This effort reached hundreds of people in Frankford.

Photo from Power Circle Mentors Facebook page.

# A Gift of Friendship That Began At the Frankford YWCA

By Pat Smiley

The Frankford Y has long been closed but to the “Young Mothers’ Club” our hearts were forever opened there. I’m sure we’re one of the only groups from the Frankford YWCA that still keeps in touch and has lunch get-togethers. But we’ll get to that in a minute.

The Frankford Y is located at 4704 Leiper St. but we know its location is also commonly referred to as Leiper and Orthodox Streets. Everyone knows about this historic site.

It was built by one of the early mill owners, John Garsed, of Richard Garsed and Brother, who were cotton manufacturers. This mansion was built sometime during 1866 and 1867. John would later fall on hard times and it became known as “Garsed’s Folly”. His brother, Richard, would buy it to bail him out. In 1941, the Young Women’s Christian Association took it over and the mansion became a neighborhood center. Something I didn’t know was that many, many USO hostesses were trained there during World War II. During the 1960’s, with “white flight” happening, the Y would be used to foster a better understanding between the races. There was even a community paper there, called “The Northeast Liberator”.

There was a preschool there for many years on the third floor. I even worked there for a while.

A pool would later be added. In fact, I lied about our Jimmy’s age – you had to be 6 months old for swimming lessons and he was 5½ months old. Well, of course, he was precocious. Sadly, in 2009, it closed with nearly 68 years of housing community service activities. Though a few people have tried to revive and repurpose the building, efforts up to now have not been successful. At present, the building is up for sale.

You know me in many different roles. But did you know I’m a “Young Mother”? And that there



**Going around the table: Pat Smiley, Maryann King, Peg McCauley, Donna Budelis, Sally Wiley, Anne Marie Imperatore**

are other “Young Mothers” just like me?

Back in 1979, I’m pretty sure, there was an ad in the News Gleaner about a group starting up at the Frankford Y that was for young mothers. Now, none of us that came to the first meeting had any idea how “young” the mothers would be. We learned that, of those who did come, the first was in their later 20’s, I was second at 25, and the youngest from there down to 19 or twenty years of age.

There were 5 of us at first and then we had one young mother join us soon after we started. What’s interesting is that we were not in the digital age yet, so we can’t find a copy of that ad from the News Gleaner nor did we take a lot of pictures. But in my mind’s eye, I can still see us at the Y and also “through the years”.

We were mostly from Frankford with the others from nearby neighborhoods. One of the Young Mother’s boyfriends would be the babysitter for our weekly hour or so get-togethers. I would get teased because my Great Aunt Pearl lived with us and she would care for Jimmy, so at first he didn’t attend. So it was always suspected I didn’t even have a child. Once he was walking, he did come, too.

Well, we met for at least 2 years there but some of the Young Mothers would move, work, have more children so we would occasionally meet at each other’s houses. However, much time passed between us seeing each other, but we can truly pick up just like it was yesterday. We have been doing that for 39 years.

We meet for lunch now every few months and at a recent luncheon, I said a story about the Young Mothers would be a good one for The Frankford Gazette.

Let me introduce them to you: **Anne Marie Imperatore** is our leader and has done much to keep us together over these years. As we reflected on what the Young Mothers’ Club meant to us, Anne Marie, said that, back then, she didn’t have a lot of friends. She and Donna became “fast friends” and would help each other and just be friends. Now we’re best friends and if some one has trouble, we would be there for that person. Anne Marie has 4 kids, Richie, Nikki, Mario and Brad. She also has 3 grandchildren that she absolutely adores, Brittany, Gianni and Sofia. Home is Hammonton, NJ.

**Donna Budelis**, is the youngest of the group, and she was a teenage Mom – an amazing Mom. Her role

as Mom really put her beyond her high school friends as her responsibilities changed. Donna wanted understanding and new friends who knew what it was like to be a Young Mother. Donna has suffered the loss of a son. It’s still hard for many of her friends to talk to her but she finds that with us, it’s much more comfortable. Thank you, Donna. I think we all appreciate and are glad you feel that way. Donna has 5 kids and lives in Mayfair. As Donna lives closer, we travel to our lunches together and it’s been a treat to reconnect with her.

**Peg McCauley** is our wise one. When we first met, she had a daughter, Sarah, and I had Jim who was a little younger. Sarah would call him “Mim”. Peg and I became friends and I always admired her.

She had a home on Foulkrod Street with the original hardwood floors, stairs and bannisters. She also bought a white sofa from Work Bench, if you remember them. Well, I wanted to have something nice, too. So, I bought one. But I also had day-care in my home.

A day or two after I got it, somehow Jim and Philip got a hold of the Vaseline and put it on the new sofa cushion. Vaseline is oil and you can’t get that out. Well, Aunt Pearl and Bob, turned the cover over and it was some time before I learned of this!! Peg, too, wanted friendship and understanding of what it takes to be a mother. Peg remembers the fun, crafts, a summer barbecue and playground time. Most of all, it was the acceptance and no judgement space that we all needed. Peg has 3 kids and now lives in Swarthmore.

**Maryann King** is our positive and effervescent, ever youthful Young Mother. Maryann has two boys, and was very active in their sports and school. They are now 41, and 37. Maryann went on to be a “perpetual student”, and became a registered dietitian. The “Young Mothers’ Club” was a haven for all

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

of us. We were able to talk about the challenges of being “young mothers”, and there was such comfort in our friendship. The fact that we’re still friends, and love getting together is a testimony of what a support/friend’s group can do.

I, **Pat Smiley**, have one son and I have always worked with children, so Jim has always been around children. When I had child care in my home, he would wake up and ask, “Where are the friends?”

I, too, wanted friends who would

have similar interests and could understand that kids change your life in many ways but so enrich your life as well. I didn’t keep in touch with high school friends, college I went evenings and Saturdays, many work friends I didn’t keep in touch with but these Young Mothers were special. And they still are. I am very happy to keep in touch with them. I’m the only one who still lives in Frankford. We lived at 2961 Fairhill St. – it’s not there anymore. But Great Aunt Pearl and I were always riding over here to Frankford on the bus from Rockledge (right outside Fox

Chase) so I really feel I grew up here.

**Sally Parham Wiley** is the funniest and lots and lots of fun. She describes herself as a suburban brat from South Philly (South Philly is suburban?) but she loved Frankford. Sally needed something in her life like the Young Mothers.

First we met with our kids; now we meet without them. That’s coming full circle.

The Forever Young Mothers’ Club is very special to each one of us and when we first met at the Frank-

ford Y, who knew where we would go or who we would be?

Given all the changes in our lives, we are still Young Mothers from the Frankford Y and that’s a gift that grows more precious each year.

Look online  
[www.frankfordgazette.com](http://www.frankfordgazette.com)  
for our photo gallery.

## Everyday in Frankford



Philadelphia PA / USA. November 6 2018. Retired Philly Sanitation Department worker, Rosalind Rodgers, wore her Obama 2008 era hoodie for the last few months encouraging people to vote.

Photo by Chris Baker-Evens



# Frankford NAC Approves Dyre, Bridge and Orthodox

By Christine DeJesus

At the Frankford NAC zoning meeting on November 8th, the group approved 3 applications and continued two.

**1713 Dyre Street** – PERMIT TO CONVERT AN EXISTING SINGLE FAMILY HOUSEHOLD LIVING TO A SINGLE ROOM RESIDENCE – Legalization of a rooming house.- **Approved**



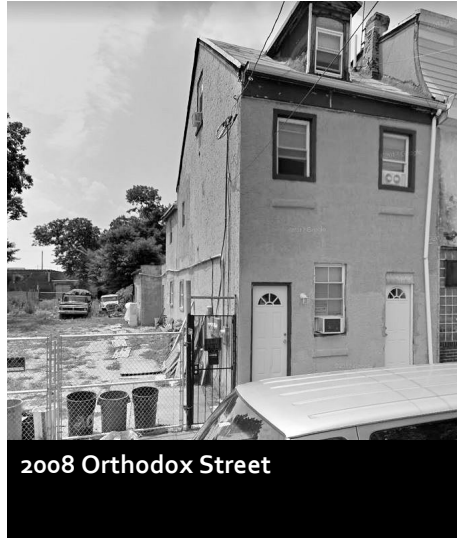
1713 Dyre Street

**2008 Orthodox Street** – PERMIT FOR FOUR (4) FAMILY DWELLING (MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING) IN AN EXISTING STRUCTURE – **Approved for three family dwelling, not four.**



2001 Bridge Street

**2001 Bridge Street** – PERMIT FOR USE AS PERSONAL SERVICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR FRONT WITH MULTI-FAMILY (FOUR (4) DWELLING) HOUSEHOLD LIV-



2008 Orthodox Street

ING UNITS IN AN EXISTING STRUCTURE. NO SIGNS ON THIS APPLICATION – **Approved**

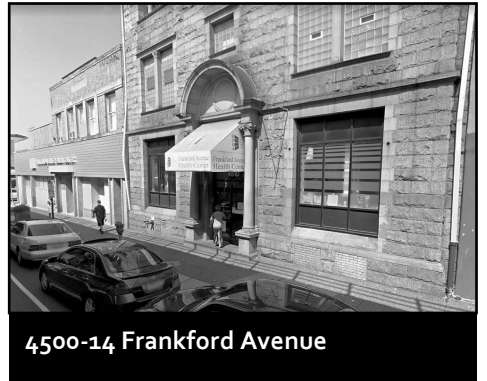


4101-07 Paul Street

**4101-07 Paul Street** – PERMIT FOR THE EXTENSION OF A TAKE-OUT RESTAURANT WITH SEATING FROM 1ST FLOOR

TO 2ND FLOOR AND RETAIL SALE OF MALT BEVERAGES IN AN EXISTING ATTACHED STRUCTURE – **Continued. Owners and residents decided to go back and find a volume level that would be suitable for both the owner and residents.**

**4500-14 Frankford Avenue** – SPECIAL EXCEPTION/PERMIT FOR THE RELOCATION OF LOT LINE TO CREATE ONE(1) LOT “PARCEL A” FROM FIVE(5) OPA ACCOUNTS ( 4500 FRANKFORD AVE, 4502 FRANKFORD AVE, 4506 FRANKFORD AVE, 4510 FRANKFORD AVE AND 4510R FRANKFORD AVE) AS FOLLOWS: “PARCEL A”: APPLICATION IS FOR THE ERECTION OF THIRD STORY ADDITION OF AN EXISTING STRUCTURE WITH PILOTHOUSE FOR THE EXTENSION OF EXISTING GROUP PRACTITIONER TO THE THIRD FLOOR AT BUILDING # A AND EXTENSION OF GROUP PRACTITION AT CELLAR AND EXISTING GROUP PRACTITIONER AT FIRST FLOOR IN BUILDING# B. SIZE AND LOCATION AS SHOWN IN THE APPLICATION – **continued till December**



4500-14 Frankford Avenue

The next Frankford NAC zoning meeting will be held on December 13th at 7 PM at the Second Baptist Church, 1810 Meadow Street.

## The election of 2018 is finally over

First, thanks to 177th District State Representative Republican **John Taylor** who is retiring after a long distinguished career. Taylor managed to avoid partisanship as he represented his district which includes Northwood. He served both Philadelphia and Northwood well. His constituent service has been unparalleled and his successor has some big shoes to fill. Democratic candidate **Joe Hohenstein** won Taylor's seat over his opponent, Republican Patty Kozlowski. Congratulations to Joe.

Both State Representative **Jason Dawkins** from the 179th District and State Senator **Tina Tartaglione** from the 2nd District and a number of Democratic Party candidates ran unopposed. Congratulations to Jason and Tina.

Now, with that behind us, let's look forward to the holidays and a great new year of progress.

## Frankford – Your Voices Were Heard

By Bob Smiley

**The zoning application by Wedge Medical for a 16 unit residential drug treatment facility at 4800 Frankford Avenue was withdrawn.**

**Thanks** to all the people who showed up in person at the ZBA hearing downtown on November 14th. They took up a lot of seats in the room. Also thanks to the 15th District who sent the police officers who were prepared to testify to the drug and crime situation at the address. Thanks to Representative Jason Dawkins and Kim Washington from the CDC. Thanks to the Frankford Civic for getting the word out.



**Most of all thanks** to those of you who could not attend the hearing in person but expressed your opinions online. **Your voice could not be ignored. You can't ignore the power of social media to show where you stand.**

This is a win for Frankford but it is only for this issue at this location. There will be others coming down the road. Wedge responded to Request for Proposals which originated with the City of Philadelphia when they decided that it would be a good idea to put a residential treatment facility in Frankford. With all of the drug treatment facilities located here, we have enough.



**The Peter Bressi Northeast Senior Center and Keep the Faith in Frankford** would like to thank our generous donors who contributed to our "We are Grateful for our Seniors" Turkey and Dinner fixins' giveaway. We were able to help 50 Seniors and their families.

A feather of generosity is hereby given to: **Amuncal Corporation, Dedicated Senior Medical Center, Episcopal Dioceses of PA, Jefferson Frankford Hospital, Keystone First, Brenda Miranda, Oak Street Health, ShopRite of Wissinoming, Kristin Smereczynski, Bob and Pat Smiley, Stein Florist and Vi Young!**

We raise a drumstick to you all and wish you continued blessings and success in your work and for you and your families! To Aldi of Bensalem, thank you for keeping the turkeys on ice! Gobble, Gobble!

## THE REMNANTS OF YOUR SCENT



Yesterday you were just a flower growing from the Earth.  
It's not all about your beauty, but the remnants of your scent.  
It's that sweet intoxicating aroma you left to linger in the air.  
As the rain and winds surround us,  
Your fragrance still lingers there.  
It's not about the beauty of the flower that I want to see,  
It's all about your sweet aroma that intoxicates me.

By LENNY JAYNES

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF FRANKFORD

Drama Ministry Presents

Mr. Arrington's  
CHRISTMAS  
CAROL

A Christian Adaptation of "A Christmas Carol"

# 2 Nites

Friday, December 14th at 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, December 15th at 5:00 P.M.

1801 Meadow Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19124  
215-533-6222

Rev. Dr. Darrell R. Bradsbery, Pastor

**Free-Will Offering**

## About the Frankford Gazette

**Keep the Faith in Frankford** publishes the Frankford Gazette. This is a print edition of some of the articles available online. We cover the Frankford neighborhood in Philadelphia. Go to [www.frankfordgazette.com](http://www.frankfordgazette.com) to get full details.

**Editor:** Bob Smiley; **Associate Editor:** Pat Smiley; **Veterans Affairs:** Richard W. Johnson; **IT Director:** Jim Smiley; **Printing by Health Partners Plans.**

You can receive Frankford/Northwood news and event information by text message sent directly to your cell phone. Text the word JOIN to sms+659@telefio.com.

Interested in writing for Frankford's community newspaper? Email [contrib@frankfordgazette.com](mailto:contrib@frankfordgazette.com) or call (215) 847-5506. Want your event on the community calendar? Email [events@frankfordgazette.com](mailto:events@frankfordgazette.com) or call (215) 847-5506. Publication date is the 20th of each month. Events and ads are due by the 14th.

Distribution locations: Frankford CDC - 4667 Paul St., S&A Dry Cleaner - 4935 Frankford Ave., Rep. Dawkin's Office - 4667 Paul Street, PA Auto Insurance Outlet - 4901 Frankford Ave., Lee Brothers Deli - Harrison St. & Frankford Ave., Lowi's Market - 4801 Frankford Ave., Peter Bressi N.E. Senior Center - 4744-46 Frankford Ave., Taha Barber Shop - 4665 Frankford Ave., Meadow House - 4649 Paul Street, Frankford Library - 4634 Frankford Ave, Frankford High School, Frankford Friends School, Northwood Academy Charter School, Marshall School, Gambrel Recreation Center, McIlvain Recreation Center, Simpson Recreation Center, Boys and Girls Club, Great Awakenings Cafe - 1466 East Cheltenham Ave. Campbell AME Church 1657 Kinsey St., St. Marks Church 4442 Frankford Ave., 2nd Baptist Church 1801 Meadow St., All Star Kids Learning Factory 4654 Frankford Ave., Sen. Tartaglione Office 1061 Bridge St., American Legion POST 224 2006 Orthodox St.





## Veteran of the Month



**Pedro Figueroa**

Campbell, Ronald E.\* - Army  
 Carleo, Louis - Air Force  
 Carr Jr., Clancey - Army  
 Carter, Christine - Navy  
 Carter, Curt - Navy  
 Carter, Ollie - Marines  
 Charleston, Winston - Army  
 Cherry, Frank - Army  
 Chippey, William - Army  
 Clair, James\* - Army  
 Clodfelter, Jon - Army  
 Cole, Clayton - Marines  
 Cole Jr., Clayton - Navy  
 Coleman, Floyd R. - Marines  
 Collins, Harry - Navy  
 Collins, Jerry - Navy  
 Collins, John - Army  
 Collins, Paul - Army  
 Collins, Robert - Army  
 Cosby, Donald A. - Navy  
 Cosby, Donald M. - Navy  
 Cosby, Eric - Navy  
 Cosby, Henry - Army  
 Cosby, Melvin - Navy  
 Costello, Joseph - Army  
 Coyne, Thomas J.\* - Army  
 Craig, Allen - Navy  
 Craig, Arthur - Navy  
 Craig, Sonny\* - Navy  
 Crane, James Bartholomew\*\* - Army

Crenshaw, Edward - Navy  
 Crenshaw, Freddie - Army  
 Cupit, Robert L. - Air Force  
 Dandridge, Lowell - Army  
 Daniel, Emanuel - Army  
 Daut, Charles W.\*\* - Marines  
 Dawkins, Louis - Marines  
 Daniel, Franklin - Army  
 Debman, Kelly - Army  
 Dennis, George - Army  
 Dennis, George - Air Force  
 Dennis, Louis - Army  
 Dennis, Louis - Navy  
 Dietrich, Sr., Frank\* - Navy  
 Dietrich, Jr., Frank\* - Navy  
 Donaldson, Don - Army  
 Donaldson, Don - Marines  
 Dorsey, William\* - Army  
 Durham, Terren - Navy  
 Ellis, Skeet\* - Army  
 Fairhurst, Albert - Army  
 Fairhurst, Daniel - Army  
 Fairhurst, Fred - Army  
 Fairhurst, James - Navy  
 Fairhurst, Lorraine - Navy  
 Fenton, Walter - Army  
 Ferraro Jr., Joseph J. - Marines  
 Ferraro Sr., Joseph J. - Marines  
 Fletcher, William (Junie)\* - Army  
 Flowers Travers, Donna T. - Army

**Pedro Figueroa**, known to his friends in Frankford as Pete, was born in 1955 and grew up in Queens, New York. He enlisted in the Army in 1971 and went to Basic Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He served in the infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia and other locations until he returned to Fort Dix where he finished up his enlistment. He was honorably discharged in 1975.

He went to work in the construction field and became a painter, which is the trade he followed all of his life. He worked in New York and New Jersey and finally came to Philadelphia and Frankford 17 years ago. He continued working but encountered some serious health issues that sidelined him.

He has struggled through the hard times with the help and support of his girlfriend, Tammy Hartenstine, who is an outreach worker at St. Marks Church in Frankford. He is an inspiration to all and is definitely still a soldier. He has made it through so many difficult health issues, and still going strong.

Pete was recently baptized at St. Mark's Church. He speaks about his faith and how it has helped him over the years. He says: "God did for me what I didn't do for myself."

**Pedro Figueroa—Thank you for your service!!!**

# Coming Up in Frankford

**Friends of Overington Park** - Tue, December 4, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 1500 Orthodox Street - The group maintains and supports Overington Park at Orthodox and Leiper Streets. This park has been resurrected and now hosts events almost every month of the year but it can't do it without your active participation. New members needed. Join us the first Tuesday of the month. We meet In the Park from May to September.

**Produce Stand** - Wed, December 5, 8am - 9am, John Marshall Elementary School, 4500 Griscom St. - Fresh Fruit and vegetables for up to 50% of grocery store prices, every first Wednesday, outside the main entrance to Marshall School. September 3rd 2018 to May 1, 2019.

**Frankford Civic Association Meeting** - Thu, December 6, 7pm, St Mark's Church Frankford, 4442 Frankford Avenue

**Historical Society of Frankford** - Tue, December 11, 7:30pm - 9:00pm, Historical Society of Frankford, 1507 Orthodox Street - The Whitaker Mills Fred Maurer - Historian and Robin Irizarry - Conservationist Henry Whitaker's Textile Mill began as a waterwheel operation in 1813 on the banks of the Tacony Creek at Tabor Road in the Olney section of Philadelphia. A dam was built to maintain water flow to the wheel and a covered bridge was built to carry Tabor Road across the creek. For 157 years

the mill provided employment for hundreds of local residents and finally ceased operations in 1970. Some structures still remain and the land is now part of Tacony Creek Park and is part of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership environmental conservation efforts

**Neighborhood Advisory Committee Zoning Meeting** - Thu, December 13, 7pm, Second Baptist Church of Frankford, 1801 Meadow Street

**Recovery Café** - Fri, December 14, 7pm - 9pm, St Mark's Church Frankford, 4442 Frankford Ave. - Every 2nd Fri of every month. St Mark's Church, Frankford hosts a Recovery Cafe. This Coffeehouse Event to celebrate and encourage those in recovery as well as those who support them. This free event is complete with live music, dessert fare, and positive uplifting fellowship. [Doors open at 6:30]

**Northwood Civic Association Meeting** - Tue, December 18, 7pm, Simpson. Recreation Center, 1010 Arrott St,

**5th Police District PSA1 Meeting** - Thu, December 27, 7pm. Jefferson Frankford Hospital, 4900 Frankford Ave.

## Fall Programming at Frankford Library

### School Age

#### **Frankford's Movie Night**

Every 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.  
Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

#### **Block Building and Lego Playtime**

Wooden Block Party and Lego free play time at the library.  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m.  
Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17

#### **Wii Wednesdays with Mr. Vince**

Play Wii and other games at the library.  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.  
Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 26

### Teens and Adults

#### **Teen Third Thursdays**

Come have fun doing various activities and games. Snacks provided.  
Teens Only  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 4:30pm.  
Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20

#### **Email Basics**

Create an email, upload attachments and learn how to navigate your email with our Digital Resource Specialist.  
Every Tuesday at 12pm  
Sept 4, 11; Oct 2, 9, 16, 30; Nov 6, 20, 27; Dec 4, 11, 18

#### **Resume Help**

Create and edit your resume with our Digital Resource Specialist.  
Every Thursday at 12pm  
Sept 6, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 25; Nov 8, 29; Dec 6, 13, 27

*LaBae Daniels*

*Branch Manager & Adult/Teen Librarian*

*Frankford Neighborhood Library*

*4634 Frankford Avenue*

*Phone: 215-685-1473 Email: danielsl@freelibrary.org*

#### **Services at St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

4442 Frankford Ave.

**8:30AM SIMPLE AND  
SHORT WORSHIP**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:00am  
10:00AM Main WORSHIP SERVICE**

#### **Northeast Baptist Church**

4744 Tackawanna Street

**Service at 11:00 AM Sunday**

#### **Padre Pio Prayer Center**

Chapel corner of Griscom and Church Sts.  
Mass 730 AM Tues, Wed, Thurs  
Mass: 700 PM Monday and Wednesday  
Mass: Saturday 800 AM (Spanish)

Chapel open for private prayer Monday  
through Friday from 7 to 9 PM

#### **Campbell AME Church**

1657 Kinsey Street

Church Office: 215-288-2748

Email: campbella.m.e.frankford@gmail.com

St. James Lutheran Church

5185 Castor Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19124

215-743-1828

www.StJamesPhilly.com

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00am

Friday Night Youth Ministry (4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>

Grade): 6:30pm - 8:30pm

#### **Services at Faith Assembly of God 1926 Margaret St**

Sunday 11 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

Friday 7:30 P.M.



**Your  
health.  
Our  
focus.**

**The *only* Medicaid plan  
in Pennsylvania to receive  
excellent status for exceptional  
service and clinical quality programs.\***

Our award-winning health plan has served Southeastern Pennsylvanians, like you, for more than 30 years. Now that's a plan you can trust!

To see if you qualify or to enroll in Health Partners, call PA enrollment services at 1-800-440-3989 (TTY 1-800-618-4225) or visit [enrollnow.net](http://enrollnow.net).

\*According to NCQA's  
Medicaid Health Insurance  
Plan Ratings 2017-2018



2017-2018



**Health Partners** Plans

[HPPlans.com](http://HPPlans.com)

CC-2522-17