

First Presbyterian News

JANUARY 3, 2012



ESTABLISHED 1871

Karl Barth referred to Jesus' baptism as a "summary of the essence of the gospel." The astounding epiphany, dramatized by the heavens opening and the Spirit descending as a dove, lies in the revelation that God is no longer hidden in the heavens but has become incarnate in the person of Jesus. All we need to know about God is now knowable in the character, purpose, and grace of Jesus. – *P. C. Enniss, The Christian Century* (December 27, 2011)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m.



Worship and Communion
(Note: *Gluten-free bread* will be available during the service.)

Sermon: "Why Does Baptism Matter?"
Joseph S. Harvard, preaching

Lectionary Texts

Old Testament	Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 29
Epistle Lesson	Acts 19:1-7
Gospel Lesson	Mark 1:4-11

Acolytes: *Jane Carsey, Rosie Johnson*

Crucifer: *JL Klinck*

Narthex Greeters: *Hilda Bradshaw, Maxie Honeycutt*

After Worship Greeters: *Mal King* (side, font)

Mac McCorkle (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: *Susan Seahorn* (head), *Tamzin*

Kinnebrew (flower delivery), *Joy Kerner*

Communion Servers:

B1, PB – *Scottie Sewell*, C1, PC – *Jon Abels*

B2, Head Elder – *Dawn Carsey*

C2 – *Luke Everett*

B3 – *Lea Bingham*

C3 – *Bill Hendrickson*

B4 – *Andy Henry*

C4 – *Lisa Rist*

A1 – *Anthony Kamau*

SP – *Guy Cecelski*

SC – *Leslie Strohm*

SF – *Mac McCorkle*

CHRISTIAN NURTURE

Sunday School for all ages will be in full swing this Sunday, January 8. All teachers are needed back at their posts to welcome children and adults interested in their spiritual formation and nurture. The *Mom's Bible Study Group* (with childcare provided) and *Croasdaile Bible Study Group* will convene again this Friday at 10:30 and Sunday at 3 p.m., respectively, to continue studying Psalms, and the *Presbyterian Women* will meet next Monday at 10:30 to continue their study of the Beatitudes. All classes are open to new members for the new year. For more information, contact Marilyn at 682-5511.

Faith and Community Class

"Restoration of Persons in Community"

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus does not simply restore the lives of individuals, there is also a reconnection with community. *Robert Brawley* will continue his introduction to Mark's gospel by exploring the important implications of this insight in a culture that promotes radical individualism. Join us at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall.

Lectionary Class

Wouldn't it be reassuring to hear a voice from heaven, announcing God's approval of your life and your plans! But on the other hand, it might raise expectations and even limit your choices. What did that voice mean to Jesus? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.



FPC is making plans for a Habitat House to be built in 2012 in honor of the service of *Joe Harvard, Rabbi John Friedman and Bishop Elroy Lewis*, long-time friends and social justice advocates in Durham. A Kick-off / Planning Dinner will be held on **Sunday, January 8 at 6 p.m. at Judea Reform Synagogue** (Levin Social Hall, 1933 West Cornwallis Rd, Durham). If you are interested in helping with this exciting project, please contact *Tom Bacon* or *Sharon Hirsch*.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christmas Joy \$ 1,695.00

(supporting the PCUSA Pension Fund and Racial / Ethnic Schools)

Christmas Concerns \$3,752.00

(to be divided between Urban Ministries of Durham, Housing for New Hope, and Durham's Emergency Energy Fund)

Christmas Eve \$ 4,103.40

(for FPC's Emergency Assistance Fund)

If you missed the opportunity to give to these special offerings, you can still contribute. Please mail or bring your donation to the church office this week.

Hunger for Change Offering
Received December 25, 2011: **\$311.00**

Thank you so much for your generous giving in 2011.



WOMEN'S VOICES CHORUS

WINTER CONCERT

Saturday, January 21

4 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

FPC members will receive a discount on the cost of admission.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Discussion Class

The class meets in the Wilson Parlor at 9:45.

Starting from Scratch

This class for young adults meets at 9:45 a.m. in room 203 of the education building.

Women's Spiritual Formation

Susan Dunlap leads this class at 9:45 in the Middle School classroom.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rob

and *Amy Harkey*, new members, who have returned from Uganda with their new son, *Eric*, who is two and half years old. After a period of bonding, they will bring Eric to church to meet his new church family.

FROM THE PASTOR

*Later after the angels,
after the stable,
after the Child,
they went back . . . as we always must,
back to the world that doesn't understand
our talk of angels and stars and especially
not the Child.*

Dear Friends,

These words by Ann Weems spoke to me today as we go back to our routines. We wonder what it means for our lives that Christ was born.

So now, what? To make sure the significance of this birth is not put away with decorations, we remember the baptism of Jesus and our own baptisms on the first Sunday of Epiphany. Who Jesus is becomes clearer to us and we accept our baptism identity as disciples of Christ.

What will it mean for you and me to remember our baptism in 2012 and seek to deepen our discipleship? There are a number of ministries that need you to assist as volunteers. The Service and Mission Committee is asking each of us to consider a commitment to service in the new year. A list of opportunities will be available on Sunday.

There are other ways for you to practice your faith. The invitation is for us to grow together as followers of Christ. Let us gather at the baptismal font and the Lord's Table on Sunday to prepare for the journey ahead.

Joe

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated for *Millicent Delano Mokgoro Admay*, daughter of *Tom and Catherine Admay*, during worship on Sunday.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to *Julia and Kit Law* upon the birth of a son, Isaac, born December 23rd. The Laws have been visiting FPC regularly.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT KUDOS

Many thanks to all of the shepherds, angels, animals, and Holy Family members who helped make this year's Christmas Pageant a beautiful depiction of the birth of Jesus. *Catie Brockman* and *Sam Henry* were lovely soloists on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as were *Jenna, Maryn, and Michael Leonard* on New Year's Day. Thanks also to *John Fricks* and *David Smith*, who took care of technical matters, like sound and light, and to *Peter Fish*, who handled the pyrotechnics (candles) with aplomb! It was a joyous celebration. All angel, shepherd, and animal costumes should be returned to the church, so they can be cleaned and ironed for upcoming worship opportunities. Joy!

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Sarah Todd is in room 1305 at Hillcrest .
The Champion / Buck family: David Buck, Susan Buck's brother, who was hit by a car on January 2 and is in critical condition at Duke Hospital.

Charles Curtis, father of Brent Curtis, is in hospice care in Wichita, Kansas.

Margaret Boswell **Bob Graper**
Tom Howerton **Diana Hyland Huggin**
Don Jenkins **Carol Johnson**
Florence McDow **Carol McKnight**
David Parkins **Jackie Randell**
Mozette Rollins **Jerry Tyren**

- **Michael Atkins** , friend of Rebecca Leonard
- **Chester Bissette**, grandfather of Abi Bissette
- **Kate Crockett**, granddaughter of Alex and Becky Crockett
- **Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis
- **Rick Degand**, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- **Dwight Huntley**, father of Lesley Curtis
- **Rolf Olsen**, friend of Bob and Lina Yoder
- **Mary Russell Roberson**, daughter of Ruth and Russell Roberson
- ♦ **Karen Wolcott**, cousin of Jean Wilson

NOTE: We will begin a new list of concerns next week. Please call the church office (682-5511) to add or remove a name from the list.

🎵 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 🎵

Wednesday, January 4 at 7 p.m.
Childcare provided.

🎵 Junior Choir Rehearsal 🎵

Sunday, January 8
after worship.

🎵 Bell Choir Rehearsal 🎵

Tuesday, January 10 at 5 p.m.

MLK CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, January 11 at 12 Noon
Durham City/County Employees
MLK Civic Celebration (FPC sanctuary)

Sunday, January 15

Deborah Mullen , preaching at 11 a.m.
(FPC sanctuary)

Monday, January 17

Annual MLK March and Rally

Begins at 10:30 a.m. from N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company, 411 West Chapel Hill Street, to FPC. Program begins at 10:45 a.m. (FPC sanctuary)

PRIMETIMERS . . .

A serving utensil was left behind at the Gerwe's home following the dinner on December 16th. If you are missing a utensil please call the church office to identify it.

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Greetings from a snowy, beautiful Montreat! **Elizabeth Klinck** and I are staying in the beloved 'Heart House' with 11 other wonderful college students and adults from WPC and Duke for this year's college conference, 'Seeking Stars'. What a joy it is to be in this 'thin space' listening for God's call to us at this time of Epiphany.

On Sunday night, there will be an educational dinner at Judea Reform Synagogue for folks interested in helping with the Habitat Build honoring **Pastor Joe, Rabbi Friedman and Bishop Lewis**. If you'd like to join us for the dinner at 6:00 p.m. let me know ASAP - as it's a catered event!

And mark your calendars for 6:00 p.m. January 15th as we will all gather for a baby shower for **Emily and Drew Hansel**.

There's much to be thankful for and to praise. Join me in seeking to make the spiritual made known in all things physical!
Peace, y'all.

Rebecca



FPC BASKETBALL

This year FPC has **two teams** in the Hope Valley Baptist Church adult basketball league. Games are played at Hope Valley Baptist Church gym. Come support FPC's teams!

January Schedule

Mon Jan 9	7 PM	FPC2 vs Triangle PC
	9 PM	FPC1 vs Westminster1
Thur Jan 12	7 PM	FPC1 vs Triangle PC
	9 PM	FPC2 vs Westminster2
Thur Jan 19	7 PM	FPC2 vs Hope Valley BC
	9 PM	FPC1 vs Westminster2
Mon Jan 23	8 PM	FPC1 vs FPC2
Thur Jan 26	7 PM	FPC2 vs Hope Valley BC
	9 PM	FPC1 vs Westminster1

These Days devotional books for January – March 2012 have arrived. Regular and large print copies are available from the table in the FPC foyer.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

FPC members and friends are invited to donate flowers for worship in 2012. You may donate flowers to mark a special occasion, or in honor /memory of a loved one. Persons with standing reservations for a specific Sunday should contact **Susan Thompson** to confirm their intent to donate flowers in 2012. Susan may be contacted at 477-0425 (home).

FPC COMMITTEES will meet on Monday, January 9. Contact your chairperson to determine if your committee will be meeting and at what time.

BOOK GROUP

CORRECTION

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will be discussing Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People by William I. Hensley on **Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of **Mary-Jo Keenan** (2407 Tryon Rd, Durham). **Barbara Gerwe** will be leading the discussion.

CONGRATULATIONS

Laura Hanson, MD, MPH, Associate Professor in Geriatric Medicine and Co-Director of the Palliative Care Program at UNC Hospital, was chosen as this year's Fuller Award recipient. The Fuller Award recognizes members of the medical staff who demonstrate the qualities embodied in Dr. Fuller's lifelong dedication to the highest standards of patient care, teaching and community.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Received as of December 31, 2011:

180 Pledges totaling \$747,410

representing **90%** of our goal

Please remember to mail or bring your completed pledge card and the Time and Talent sheets to the church office.

CROASDAILE DRIVERS

The following persons have agreed to pick up members at Croasdaile Village on Sundays for worship:

January 8 – **Dan Hudgins**

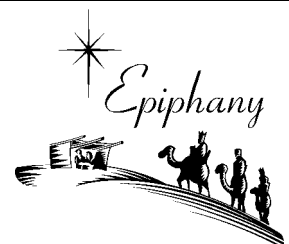
January 15 – **Mary-Jo Keenan**

January 22 – **Mary-Jo Keenan**

January 29 – **Miriam Morey**

TRAVEL SEMINAR PLANNED

Carlisle Harvard will be assisting **Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon** on a travel seminar entitled "From Constantinople to Kiev: The History of Eastern Christianity and the Diverse Challenge of Modernity" from **April 26 – May 10, 2012**. If you are interested, please email Carlisle Harvard at ccharvard@gmail.com.



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter is published weekly on Tuesdays.

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