

First Presbyterian News

MARCH 8, 2011



ESTABLISHED 1871

Do not bother looking for Lent in your Bible dictionary, because there was no such thing back then. There is some evidence that early Christians fasted forty hours between Good Friday and Easter, but the custom of spending forty days in prayer and self-denial did not arise until later, when the initial rush of Christian adrenaline was over and believers had gotten very ho-hum about their faith. . . . So the church announced a season of Lent, from the old English word *Lenten*, meaning "spring" – not only a reference to the season before Easter, but also an invitation to springtime for the soul. Forty days to cleanse the system and open the eyes to what remains when all comfort is gone. Forty days to remember what it is like to live by the grace of God alone and not by what we can supply for ourselves. – **Barbara Brown Taylor**, *Home By Another Way*

SUNDAY, MARCH 13



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

Sermon: "Telling the Truth"
Joseph S. Harvard, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
New Testament	Matthew 4:1-11

Croasdaile Drivers: **George Danser**
Jean Cary

Acolytes: **Parker Klinck**, **Leo Kerner**

Crucifer: **Anna Kasibhatla**

Greeters: **Hilda Bradshaw**

Maxie Honeycutt

After Worship Greeters: **Guy Cecelski**

(font); **Henry Njoroge** (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: **Joy Kerner** (head usher), **Michael Bacon** (flowers), **Jon Kimball**, **Nancy Kost**, **Kate Strauman**, **Miriam Morey**, **Leslie Shaw**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class How Can We Make a Difference?

Scottie Seawell and **Mac McCorkle** will lead a discussion of public policy issues regarding public education. What are the issues about which we as Christians should be concerned? How can we affect public policies about public education? Please join us at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hills Hall.

Lectionary Class

Is it sinful to seek knowledge? Is it sinful to seek the means to feed the hungry? Is it sinful to act with faith and confidence in God's protection? How easily temptation twists our noble goals into greed and selfish ambition! Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

We have read about Joseph preparing to reunite with his nefarious brothers – should we get ready for some vengeance? Or, will something different transpire? Join us to discuss how this story continues to speak to our lives. The class meets at 9:45 on the second floor of the CE building.

Hand in Hand/ Crossroads

John Timmer's *Four-Dimensional Jesus*
Please join us at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor.

Women's Spiritual Formation

A time of prayer, sharing and exploring the practices of Christian spirituality for women at 9:45 in the Middle School Youth Room.

A REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

In his report to the congregation, **Carl Rist** told us that after trimming our budget for 2011, we still have a \$22,000 shortfall. The Session is asking each member to make a pledge to the work of the church in 2011 and for those who have already made a pledge to consider an additional contribution to help enable us to respond faithfully to the challenges God has placed before us. If you have questions, call Carl Rist or one of the pastors.

Let **Tom Bloom** know if you are able to contribute. Thanks you for your support of the life and ministry of FPC.



THE PRACTICE OF FORGIVENESS

A **Friday morning class** with childcare will run from **March 4 – April 22** from 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon. A **Sunday evening class at Croasdaile** will run from **March 6 – April 17** from 3- 4:30 pm. If you would like to order a book, contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth**.

EFIRD LECTURES ON ISAIAH

Thursdays, March 10 – April 14
10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon in Watts-Hill Hall
The lectures are free and open to the public.

MIDWEEK COMMUNION

Wednesdays, March 23, April 6, April 20
Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for a service of Lenten scripture readings, prayers and Holy Communion. Childcare will be provided. A light supper will be served at 6:30 in Watts-Hill Hall.

LOVE EARTH NOT TRASH

For the six weeks of Lent, FPC's youth are asking you to give up (or reduce) your use of **bottled water, disposable plastic bags, and paper towels**. On **Sunday, March 13**, we will ask you to write down how much you will reduce your use of these items. Then we will add up how much we as a congregation will save during Lent and let you know the savings

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

This Wednesday we enter the Season of Lent. It is a time of preparation for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. It is a time for us to reflect on the journey of Jesus to the cross. The lead article in this newsletter provides a good explanation of the season by **Barbara Brown Taylor**. Observing a Lenten discipline means to engage in a time of reflection and confession and to give expression to your faith.

The church provides opportunities for worship and service. There will be two Ash Wednesday services. An excellent Bible Study on Isaiah will be led by **Mickey Efird** on each Thursday morning. There are opportunities for serving meals at Urban Ministries and walking to alleviate Hunger in the Crop Walk on March 20th. There are also devotional materials available for daily use during this season. Once again this year you will be invited to observe a holy Lent "by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the word of God." It is my hope that you will accept the invitation. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Joe

NOTES

First Friends had an enjoyable GAMES night at FPC on Saturday evening. Many thanks to **Deborah Momsen-Hudson** and **Kathy Conner** for their leadership.



Daylight Saving Time ...

begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Remember to **set clocks ahead one hour** before going to bed on Saturday night.

JON LEVINSON TO SPEAK

Jon Levinson, professor of Jewish Studies (Harvard Divinity School), will address the apparent contradiction between modern Reform Judaism skepticism about resurrection.

Sunday, March 13

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Judea Reform Synagogue

Monday, March 14

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Ministers' Conference at FPC

The 2010 statistics for FPC were presented by clerk **Jane Wettach** at last week's stated Session meeting. FPC currently has **533** active members, down from 535 last year. That number does not reflect our additional **165** inactive members or **118** baptized members (mostly children), making a total of **816** adherents. The average attendance each Sunday in worship is 208, and last year there were 5 baptisms. FPC's demographics are interesting: **152** participants age 25 and under; **117** participants 26-45; **69**, who are 46-55; **77** who are 56-65; and **118** who are over 65. We have a good diversity of ages in our congregation. And speaking of diversity, our membership is a little over 10% non-Caucasian. In benevolence to the larger church, FPC ranks number **7** among 131 churches in the Presbytery of New Hope, and number **1** among Durham Presbyterian churches.

OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Joyce Houk** on the death of her sister and brother-in-law, **Betty and Don Morgan**, in Florida last week.

“Jesus said,

‘I am the resurrection and the life.’”

OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations to Alec and Rachel Bethune on the birth of their first child, **Colin Alexander Bethune**, on February 28th.

Miguel and Margaret Rubiera, along with **Tom and Simon Carsey** are part of a Habitat for Humanity mission trip to Honduras this week.

Katherine Carr is recovering at home.

*Don Jenkins Carol Johnson
Tom Howerton*

*Sue Fricks Betty Jelstrup
Florence McDow Sarah Todd*

Chester Bissette, grandfather of **Abi Bissette**

Denise Duffy, sister of **Andy Henry**

Jim Goff, father of **Leslie McDow**

Jesse D. Smith, Jr., son of **Doris Smith**

The **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** will have a brief meeting after church on **Sunday, March 13** in the Wilson Parlor.

PENNIES FOR HUNGER OFFERING

on **February 27, 2011: \$202.00.**

Thank you for your generous giving!



Please join us for this year's CROP Hunger Walk in two weeks, Sunday, March 20 at 2:30 p.m. at Duke Chapel. There are

a lot of walkers signed up but we need MORE (so see me in the foyer after worship on Sunday to get your 'walking papers') and we certainly need loads of sponsors so grab a walker and tell them you'll support them, CROP and the hungry in Durham and around the world. Thanks everyone!

Rebecca Leonard

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Monday, March 14

7:15 p.m. Worship and the Arts

Tuesday, March 15

6 p.m. Property Committee

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

It is time again to nominate from among our members those who will make up the **Class of 2014 Officers** (elders and deacons), and we call upon you to help us identify our new leadership by filling out a nomination form. Nomination forms are available from the church office during the week, and during worship on Sunday mornings. **Please submit your list of nominees to the church office by March 27th.** We are counting on your nominations.

Peter Fish,

Chair of Nominating Committee

THIRD FRIDAY EVENT

First Presbyterian Church will participate in Durham's downtown monthly Third Friday activities on **March 18th**. The featured attraction at the church is the North Carolina State University Gospel Choir "*Uninhibited Praise*", beginning at 7:00 pm. **Marie and David Sappenfield's** daughter, **Laura**, is a member of the choir. Doors will open at 6:30 pm to view a photography exhibit by **Eugene A. Brown**. The exhibit will be on view both prior to and following the gospel choir performance. The event is free and open to the public.

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

This Friday from 7 p.m. until Saturday at 9 a.m. (note the change of pick up time) there will be an FPC youth lock-in for our Middlers, "God Squad". Supper will not be provided but there will be loads of yummy treats and we will have breakfast in the morning before pick up. Please bring a sleeping bag and anything else you'll need for the sleep-over! God Squad will not meet on Sunday evening for regular youth group HOWEVER, our older youth, "Iter" will meet from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. for a special youth group led by **Emily Hanse!** You certainly won't want to miss out on either of these wonderful youth opportunities! Hope to see you this weekend. If you've got any questions, feel free, as always, to give me a call 682-5511 ext. 213.

Rebecca

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

Please welcome the following new members who joined FPC on Sunday, March 6, 2011:

Carlton Gainey, 316 Mayfield Circle, 27705, 358-6848; gaineycarlton@yahoo.com, moved to Durham about a year ago and has been attending FPC since he first arrived. A native of North Carolina, he was raised on a farm near Laurinburg, NC in Scotland County. Carlton earned a degree in Business Administration at UNC-Pembroke. He continued his education at NCSU-Ag Institute (A.AS). Carlton is joining FPC by transfer of his membership from Beckley Presbyterian Church in Beckley, WV.

Mawufemor "Yao" Kudadze, 105 West Knox Street, 27701, 949-1815; kudanesa@yahoo.com, was born and raised in Accra-Ghana. He received a B.S. in Physics from the University of Ghana-Legon. Yao moved to the United States in August, 2010 to continue his education, currently pursuing a Master of Science in Physics at North Carolina Central University. He eventually plans to study for a Ph.D. in the same field. Yao has a variety of interests including learning about scientific innovations, debating international relations, and studying historical events. He also likes sports, particularly playing soccer. Yao is transferring his membership from the Presbyterian Church in Ghana.

Amy and Miguel Sanchez, 4114 Lady Slipper Lane, 27704, Amy - 618-5785; 86amysanchez@gmail.com; Miguel - 475-6271; snchzllgs@yahoo.com, were married about 1½ years ago. Amy was raised in Cary, NC, earned a B.A. in Elementary Education at UNC-CH and is presently a 2nd grade teacher at Burton Elementary School. During her spare time she enjoys gardening and is a runner. Amy is transferring her membership from Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh. Miguel, a native of Zacatecas, MX, moved to the U.S. almost twenty years ago. Miguel is employed as a Distribution Coordinator for Champagne Logistics. His interest in sports has led him to join a team in the Cary Soccer League. Miguel joined FPC by reaffirmation of faith.

Amy Allen and Gray Wilson plan to be married in August in Raleigh. Amy, 1500 Duke University Road, Apt. G2A, 27701, 741-0486; alleamy@gmail.com, was raised in Knightdale, NC. She received a B.A. in Romance Languages and Religious Studies from UNC-CH, and pursued a Master in Education from Wake Forest University. Amy is employed as a Spanish teacher at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough. When not busy with teaching and wedding planning responsibilities, Amy enjoys sailing and travelling. She is joining FPC as an affiliate member. Gray, 2309 Alabama Avenue, 27705, 704-906-7671; j.gray.wilson@gmail.com, hails from Charlotte, NC. He majored in Environmental Studies and Spanish at UNC-CH. Gray is presently pursuing a law degree and a Master of Public Policy from Duke University, planning to graduate in 2013. He lists a special interest in playing basketball—he was a *valued* member of the FPC winning team this past season! Gray is transferring his membership from Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte.

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◆ 305 East Main Street ◆ Durham, NC 27701 ◆ Phone: (919) 682-5511 ◆ Fax: (919) 682-0493

<http://firstpres-durham.org>