

# First Presbyterian News

MARCH 15, 2011



ESTABLISHED 1871

That is the only reality: that God's love is the only thing that makes sense out of suffering, conflict, and tragedy. God's love does not do away with suffering, conflict, and tragedy: the cross should teach us that. God's love does not do away with it; God's love is the thing that makes it possible to bear it, to see it, to share in it, to understand it, and to pass through it. That is the truth of the Gospel; that is the essence of the Passion.

*Peter J. Gomes, Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living*

## SUNDAY, MARCH 20



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

Sermon: "The Keeper"  
*Joseph S. Harvard, preaching*

### Worship Texts

Old Testament	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121
New Testament	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

Crossdaile Driver: *Dan Hudgins*

Acolytes: *Kennedy Wilkins,  
Benjamin Brigman*

Crucifer: *Neil Peterson*

Greeters: *Abby Jones, Minnie Cameron*

After Worship Greeters: *Jane Brawley* (font);  
*Jane Wettach* (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: *Rob Everett* (head), *Hilda  
Bradshaw, Pat Dillon* (flowers), *Margaret  
Wabera, Leslie Shaw, Sophie Wilkins*

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Faith and Community Class Education for Youth At-Risk

The discussion of public education in Durham will continue as we look at how we provide for youth with risk factors associated with academic failure and suspension and/or dropping out of school. *Susan Blackmon*, a former public school principal in Lumberton and current program director of YO: Durham (Year of Opportunity for Durham Teens), will our guest. Join us at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hills Hall.

### Lectionary Class

How does faith work? Why does someone leave his family and travel to a far country, based only on belief in a promise? How can eternal life come simply from belief? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

### Journeys Class

This Sunday Journeys continues their exploration of Genesis and the story of Joseph. The class meets at 9:45 on the second floor of the CE building.

### Hand in Hand/ Crossroads

We are currently studying 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.

## 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.

## THIRD FRIDAY EVENT



First Presbyterian Church will participate in Durham's downtown monthly Third Friday activities on **March 18<sup>th</sup>**. The featured attraction at the church is the North Carolina State University Gospel Choir "*Uninhibited Praise*", in concert at 7:00 p.m. **Marie and David Sappenfield's** daughter, **Laura**, is a member of the choir and a senior at NC State. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. 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.



Walkers, thank you for volunteering your Sunday afternoon to walk to raise awareness and resources to help feed the hungry in Durham and around the world. We are going to have a great time. We will gather at the Duke Statue in front of the chapel at 2:00 p.m. Please bring me your signed walking envelope so I can register our group of walkers. If it's a pretty day, join me for a picnic lunch on the lawn before the walk! And to all the sponsors of walkers, THANK you! It really DOES make a difference.

*Rebecca Leonard*

## BUDGET UPDATE

As of today, we have received over \$12,000 in contributions to help us meet our budget shortfall for 2011. If you are able to make an additional contribution, please send it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your support of the life and ministry of FPC.

**VCS registration deadline for FPC members is April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please get your forms in NOW! Copies are available on the table in the foyer. **Note: only 40 spots remain for member church sponsors.**

**FLOWER DONORS** are needed for worship on **Sundays, March 27, April 3 and 10**. Please contact **Susan Thompson** if you would like to donate flowers for worship: 477-0425 or 361-8868 ext. 292.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The Russian philosopher **Nikolai Berdyaev** once said, "Bread for myself is a material question. Bread for my neighbor is a spiritual one." Central to the ministry of Jesus was feeding the hungry. It is estimated that 922 million people in our world suffer from hunger and malnutrition. We cannot provide food for so many, but we can work to provide for some.

As a part of our Lenten discipline, I invite you to join me in following Christ by responding to the needs of the hungry. There are numerous ways for us to be involved during this season from the CROP Hunger Walk this Sunday to contributing to the One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter. The CROP Walk theme this year is "Ending Hunger One Step at a Time." You can walk or sponsor a walker. The named footprints are on the foyer door. I am looking for sponsors as I walk again in memory of **Robinson Everett** and **Waldo Beach**, two dedicated CROP Walkers.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us when we feed the hungry we are feeding him (Matthew 25:35). So when you join the effort to end hunger, you are in good company.

*Joe*

## CONGRATULATIONS . . .

to **James Compton** who received a call to serve as High School Enabler for two weeks this summer at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center, in Harrisonburg, Va.

## OUTREACH TO JAPAN

Those who are interested in providing financial assistance to the victims of the recent devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan can go to the PCUSA website: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/give/make-a-gift/DR000117/>. There you may make a donation on-line, and find other resources about how the church is reaching out to those suffering in the wake of this unfolding disaster.

## OUR CONCERNS

*Katherine Carr*      *Don Jenkins*  
*Carol Johnson*      *Tom Howerton*  
*Sue Fricks*      *Betty Jelstrup*  
*Florence McDow*      *Sarah Todd*

*Alex and Becky Crockett's* 23 yr old granddaughter, Kate, daughter of A.G and Galey, is hospitalized in NYC.

*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

## 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). 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 27<sup>th</sup>.**

## L. E. N. T. PROJECT

Thanks to everyone who turned in a L.E.N.T. (Love Earth Not Trash) project form. We received 30 reports and would love to hear from the rest of you who are interested in giving up items that harm our environment during the Lenten Season. So far we're pleased to report that the majority of you are NOT using plastic water bottles at all! THIS is fantastic and wonderful news. Keep it up! Also, we've received a lot of great ideas in addition to the ones we suggested. We will be reporting on these ideas during the next five weeks of Lent. One of these ideas is to remember to keep cloth bags (for groceries) in your car at all times so that when you go to the grocery store you can use them instead of the plastic grocery bags. Just don't forget to take them into the grocery store after you've got them in your car ☺!!!

Keep up all the good, prayerful, and thoughtful Lenten work. Thanks,  
- The FPC youth

## DAY TIMERS' LUNCHEON

Tuesday, March 22

at 11:30 a.m.

**Bullock's Barbecue**

3330 Quebec St, Durham

RSVP to **David or Helen Garrison**  
at 697-5810 or: 682-5511.

## FPC CO-HOSTING CONFERENCE

On **Friday, March 25**, Duke Divinity School and FPC will co-host a national conference entitled: "Toward a Moral Consensus Against Torture: A Gathering of Students, Clergy, People of Conscience, and People of Faith". The interfaith conference is sponsored by the Duke Human Rights Center, the NC Council of Churches, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). **Events scheduled at FPC include keynote lectures from 3:30 – 5:45** by Dr. George Hunsinger, founder of NRCAT, and by Dr. Ingrid Mattson, Director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary; **dinner at 6:00; and a panel discussion from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** The conference will conclude on Saturday, March 26 at Duke. This event is open to the public, but registration is required. To register, go [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu) and search for moral consensus against torture.

## YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

This Sunday, March 20 is the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Durham CROP walk. We will all gather at 2:00 p.m. in front of Duke's Chapel to walk, raising money to help feed the hungry in Durham and around the world. You may find this hard to believe, but I walked my first CROP walk, here in Durham, 30 years ago when I was the age of many of you! Back then the walk was 10 miles and we raised money per mile walked (not like today's 4.5 mile walk and raising money and awareness up front).

I've been pondering the fact that this event has gone on for so long... what I find most troubling (besides the fact that I'm getting old) is that we still need to do this walk. Don't get me wrong, it's an amazing, important, community-wide event that we must do but WHY are there still so many hungry people in our world and in our neighborhood, when there's MORE than enough food on this earth to feed everyone? I think the reason is systemic and that we have to look honestly into how to change the system in addition to continuing to walk the walk.

Why is it so hard for us to share what we have with people who have nothing? What are we afraid of? Would it kill us to do with less so that people can have the basic things they need for survival? How do we make this change? When will we make this change? Let's talk about this while we walk on Sunday and again and again and again. Let's figure out a plan and then implement it! What do you think?

**Rebecca**

## "TIME OUT" RADIO SHOW

**Carl Rist** will be the guest on **Monday, March 21** outlining the work of CFED (Corporation for Enterprise Development). WCOM can be heard world-wide on the web at [wcomfm.org](http://wcomfm.org) and locally in Carrboro and Chapel Hill at 103.5 FM and hosted by **Bill Hendrickson** at 5:00 p.m.

Durham's Early Childhood Faith Initiative

## LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Tuesday, March 22

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Duke Memorial UMC

504 W. Chapel Hill Street

Topic: "Turning No into a Yes: Positive Communications with Young Children"

Bring your lunch, beverages provided.

## MARCH 23, APRIL 6, APRIL 20

Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary for a service of Lenten scripture readings, prayers and communion. Childcare will be provided.

Supper will be served at 6:30 in Watts-Hill Hall. On March 23, **Allen Verhey** will preach and **Brent Curtis** will provide dinner.



Dear Friends,

Both of our trips were outstanding this year, and we feel extra blessed that we had good representation from FPC members. **Mary-Jo Keenan** and **Edward Kwon** came with us on the January trip, and **Tom and Simon Carsey** were with us for the March trip. It was an excellent opportunity for Miguel and me to get to know all of them better, and they were fantastic representatives of our church. Simon, at age 17, was the youngest person we have ever taken, and he fit in beautifully with the team and was a great asset to the whole group. We had quite a few students from Duke, as well as two from NCCU, on this latest trip, so it was a high energy, fun bunch, who also brought a wonderful amount of spiritual commitment and depth. It is remarkable to be with young people who are not afraid to express their love for God and their desire to serve God with their lives. We are deeply grateful to have these repeated opportunities to lead groups to Honduras on Habitat building trips. I may be physically exhausted, but I am full of joy for the way God blessed all of us during those past 10 days. We worked hard, accomplished a significant amount of building, but also – and every bit as important – we built relationships that will have a lasting impact on our lives as well as the lives of our Honduran friends. I thank all who prayed on our behalf during each of our trips. The only negative is that we may have to wait all the way until next January to go back! All the best,

**Margaret Rubiera**

## YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE WEEK

JUNE 19 – 24 and JUNE 26- JULY 1

The Durham Summer Service Week is open to rising 9<sup>th</sup> – 12 graders interested in serving Durham neighbors in need, while learning more about our community and themselves. Tuition is \$250 and includes transportation between worksites, meals and adult supervision. Contact **Christyn Klinck** ([cfklinck@gmail.com](mailto:cfklinck@gmail.com)) or [info@durhamsummerservice.org](mailto:info@durhamsummerservice.org) for information and to apply. Enrollment is limited to 15 students. **Registration deadline is April 30.** Limited scholarships are available.

## MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

*Mental Illness as a Spiritual Journey:  
Creating Caring Communities*

Friday, April 1, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. Thomas More

940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill  
Registration: \$25

For more information and to register online: [www.wakeahec.org](http://www.wakeahec.org) or call **Jacqueline Carter** at 919.350.0461.

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