

First Presbyterian News

MARCH 22, 2011



ESTABLISHED 1871

Experience is what happens when God meets us. The word is not "if". God will meet us; it is a given. Notice, too, that God is the initiator. We can count on God to come but not to call ahead, since it must be admitted that God shows very little interest in coordinating schedules and apparently relishes the surprise factor.

- *Anna Carter Florence, Preaching as Testimony*

SUNDAY, MARCH 27



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

The **Pennies for Hunger offering** will be received during worship.

Sermon: "Engaging Jesus"
Marilyn T. Hedgpeth, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalms Lesson	Psalms 95
Gospel Lesson	John 4: 5-30

Coastdale Driver: *Dan Hudgins*
Acolytes: *Caleb Conner, Nathan Creadick*
Crucifer: *James Compton*
Greeters: *Elizabeth High, Linn Lopez*
After Worship Greeters: *Jean Wilson* (font);
Joseph Ngumi (Narthex/Main St)
Ushers: *Rob Everett* (head), *Abby Jones*
(flowers), *Pat Dillon, Lin Bentel, Doris Smith, Mary Ann Compton*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class "Responses to Durham's Disconnected Youth"

Barker French, a community leader in Durham, will be our guest to share with us responses currently underway to reach disconnected youth in Durham and discuss where the gaps are. Barker is active in developing the East Durham Children's Initiative which is a hopeful new development. Join us at 9:45 a.m. in Watts Hill Hall.

Lectionary Class

What is more important to a thirsty person than water? But perhaps there are gifts from God that are even more vital than that. Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

This Sunday Journeys will discuss the final chapters of Genesis; the conclusion of a great story, and the end of a great beginning. 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, through April 14
10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon
in Watts-Hill Hall
The lectures are free
and open to the public.

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY

*Thankfulness...Praise...Worship...
Community...Healing*

What are the feelings you experience when you worship at First Presbyterian Church? Have you thought about sharing this special time with a friend, a neighbor or a new colleague? Sunday, March 27th is this month's "Invite a Friend to Church" Sunday. Won't **YOU** invite a friend to join you for worship at FPC?

Wednesday, March 23, 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. **Allen Verhey** will preach and **Brent Curtis** will provide dinner.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Time is running out 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 27th.**

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.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY GATHERING

Sunday, April 3

6:00 p.m. at the home of
Joe and Carlisle Harvard
124 Monticello Ave, Durham
For more information contact
Anthony Kamau: 430-0397.

These Days **devotional booklet** for April – June 2011 have arrived. Regular and large print copies are available from the table in the foyer.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear friends,

FPC's Property Committee has been cleaning out basement rooms and classrooms, removing some very antiquated furniture to make room for the Triangle Counseling Center to use space at our church as a counseling venue. And so they have called Trosa to come and pick up a few pieces to cart them off. One piece, a huge desk that used to be in **Rebecca Leonard's** office, even Trosa rejects. It's massive, dark painted wood, and ultra-heavy. Trosa says they only take oak and cherry pieces now, as that is what sells best.

The two study groups that have taken on a study of *Forgiveness* as a Lenten discipline are also unearthing and lifting some very heavy personal furniture. We are uncovering some very dark and heavy pieces within our hearts – pieces of deep resentment and anger – that no one else seems interested in taking from us, not even Trosa. But we must move them, in order to achieve peace and a freedom. And so we are offering them to God in prayer, knowing that our true peace and freedom comes only in Christ. We cannot do this heavy lifting on our own.

Our next Lenten worship and communion service is Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. **Allen Verney** will preach on Psalm 22, which Jesus quotes from the cross. I hope you will bring your heavy furniture and come. Supper, afterwards, is **Brent Curtis'** treat. Shalom,

Marilyn

The **CROP HUNGER WALK** was a good experience again this year. Thanks to all who walked and to the sponsors. Kudos to **Rebecca Leonard** for her leadership.

DAYTIMERS had a good lunch at Bullock's Barbeque today. Thanks to **David and Helen Garrison** for hosting.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulation to **Laura and Shaun Horrigan** on the birth of a daughter. **Ella Hope Horrigan** was born February 23rd.

OUR CONCERNS

Ann McKown, recovering at home
Carol Johnson **Tom Howerton**
Sue Fricks **Florence McDow**
Sarah Todd

Alex and Becky Crockett's 23 year old granddaughter, Kate, daughter of A.G and Galey, remains 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

CROP HUNGER WALK

What a glorious day it was Sunday to walk and raise money and awareness in the fight against hunger in the annual Durham CROP walk! Thanks to they MANY of you (40 plus) who walked and the MANY of you who sponsored (as of March 21, we've raised \$3,410). Together, we CAN make a difference! Walkers, please continue to bring me your contributions! Thanks again for all that you do as a community of faith serving to bring forth God's kingdom! – **Rebecca Leonard**

L. E. N. T. PROJECT

(LOVE EARTH NOT TRASH)

The FPC youth want to encourage each of you to continue to strive toward reducing the use of bottled water, disposable plastic bags and paper towels this LENTEN season. One suggestion we have is that each time you find yourself cutting back, reusing or reducing in an attempt to protect our environment say a simple prayer, perhaps something like this: "God, thank you for the beautiful earth you created. With love and praise to you and with thanksgiving for all the gifts of life, I (fill in the blank i.e. 'happily use cloth shopping bags') today. Amen". This will help each of us to understand that our attempts to protect the environment can be a spiritual discipline and ultimately will bring us closer to God by praying daily.

Thanks everyone.

-The FPC youth

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Thanks to everyone who came out to walk on Sunday in the Durham CROP Hunger Walk. It was awesome to see so many people, from so many different walks of life, together to raise money and awareness for the need to combat hunger! It was wonderful seeing so many of you giving your time and energy in this loving way.

This Sunday we will have a regular scheduled youth group with "God Squad" meeting from 5:00 - 6:30pm and "Iter" meeting from 6:00 - 8:00pm. Dinner will be provided by **Kathy Conner**. Please join us!

Rebecca

PS. The "iter" lock in is scheduled for Friday, April 8 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Put it on your calendar now!

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

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

FPC OFFICERS MEETINGS

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Deacons – 6:00 p.m.

Joint Supper – 6:30 p.m.

Joint Officers – 7:00 p.m.

Session – 7:30 p.m.

DURHAM YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE WEEK

WEEK 1: JUNE 19 - 24

WEEK 2: JUNE 26 - JULY 1

The Durham Summer Service Week is open to rising 9th – 12th 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. For more information and to apply, contact **Christyn Klinck** (cfklinck@gmail.com) or info@durhamsummerservice.org. Enrollment is limited to 15 students. **Registration deadline is April 30.** Limited scholarships are available.

FPC Co-HOSTING CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Lectures from 3:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Panel Discussion from 7– 9 p.m.

Duke Divinity School and FPC are co-hosting 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). Lectures will be given 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. The conference will conclude on Saturday, March 26 at Duke. This event is open to the public, but **registration is required**. To register, go online to www.divinity.duke.edu and search for moral consensus against torture.

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 or call **Jacqueline Carter** at 919.350.0461.

"LEARN BY HEART"

The Shema

(Do you know the missing words?)

Hear, O Israel: The _____ is our God, the _____ alone. You shall love the _____ your God with all your _____, and with all your _____, and with all your _____.

- Deuteronomy 6: 4-5

REMEMBER TO BRING
YOUR PENNIES FOR
HUNGER OFFERING
ON SUNDAY!

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