

# First Presbyterian News

MARCH 29, 2011



ESTABLISHED 1871

Christians have never believed that the central reality of their faith – the grace of God in Jesus Christ – is only an artifact in a museum of religious history. Rather, this God who has been disclosed in Jesus of Nazareth is a living reality who continues to speak to people and to be active in the world. Christians are called and commissioned to listen for God's Word, which addresses them anew in the living Christ. Therefore the church cannot be faithful to this God simply by repeating old confessions: the church must continue to listen for what God's graceful yet disturbing Word in Jesus Christ calls us to do in the contemporary world. – **George W. Stroup**, *Why Jesus Matters*

## SUNDAY, APRIL 3



9:45 a.m.

Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "One Thing I Know"  
**Joseph S. Harvard**, preaching

### Worship Texts

Old Testament	1 Samuel 16;1-13
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 23
Epistle Lesson	Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel Lesson	John 9:1-41

Acolyte: **Grace Abels**

Crucifer: **JL Klinck**

Greeters: **Edward and Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Lanny Pratt**  
(font);

**Lea Bingham** (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: **Delia Kwon** (head usher), **Jim Johnson** (flowers), **John Kelley**, **Abby Jones**, **Bill Brown**, **Alex Crockett**, **Linda Dobson**

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Faith and Community Class "Why Jesus Matters"

The German pastor and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote from his prison cell in April of 1944: "What is bothering me incessantly is the question what Christ really is, or indeed who Christ really is for us today." This Sunday, **Joe Harvard** and **Sam Miglarese** will lead a discussion of Bonhoeffer's question. The class meets at 9:45 a.m. in Watts Hill Hall.

### Lectionary Class

Jesus provoked controversy by restoring sight to a man who was born blind. The healed man's faith and understanding continued to grow as he was questioned, but others refused to see or accept the truth. "The Lord does not see as mortals see." Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

### Journeys Class

This Sunday Journeys will conclude their reflections on the Book of Genesis, and discuss which scripture or theological topic will be the subject for the remainder of this Sunday school year. 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 (led by **Susan Dunlap**) at 9:45 in the Middle School Youth Room.



Rodger Yutaka Nishioka

## Sunday, April 10

9:45 a.m. "Ancient-Future Church" presentation to combined adult classes

11:00 a.m. Preaching

Sermon:

"Is there life in these old bones?"

6:00 p.m.

"Will Your Faith have Children?" - Supper and Conversation with Young Adults

## Monday, April 11

10:00 a.m. Leadership with Courage and Nerve - A Conversation with pastors and educators (lunch provided)

**Rodger Nishioka** holds the Benton Family Chair in Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Seattle Pacific University, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Georgia State University. Prior to his joining the faculty at Columbia, he served as the Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The son of a retired Presbyterian pastor, Rodger is evidence that you can be a pastor's kid and still love Jesus.

All events will be held at FPC and are open to the public

## Easter Lilies

will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. Members are invited to donate toward the lilies in honor or memory of a friend or family member by completing a lily card and returning it along with cash or a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo: Lilies. The amount received that exceeds the money needed to purchase the appropriate number of lilies for the sanctuary will be contributed to the One Great Hour Of Sharing offering. Lilies will be taken to our homebound members, unless donors have other intended recipients. **Cards with envelopes are enclosed with this week's newsletter mailing. They will also be available in the worship bulletins through the deadline of Sunday, April 17.**



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

We are halfway through our Lenten journey. As we move toward Holy Week and Easter, the pace quickens and the intensity grows. It is a good time to pause and take stock of what lies ahead.

The challenge before us is to consider the cost of discipleship. Jesus still calls us to follow him. The way to the cross is not a pleasure trip. How much of ourselves are we willing to invest in our relationship with Christ and the work of his church? I invite you to consider with me why Jesus matters to us and how we can more faithfully follow him.

All of this may seem like heavy "lifting". It does require us to go below the surface in our faith journey. The promise that Jesus gives us is that investing ourselves in God's reign enriches our lives and strengthens the community and our faith.

**Joe**

## NOTES

- **Joe Harvard** is attending a Board-Faculty Retreat at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA for a couple of days. He is a member of the Board.
- **Mildred Hamby's** grandson, John Duncan Hamby, son of Mike and Teresa Hamby and nephew of **Linn Lopez** received his Eagle Scout Award last week in Fuqua-Varina.
- **Lena Yoder** returns home from the Philippines on Thursday.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to **Francis Muchuku Njoroge**, son of **Janet Maina Njoroge** and Peter Muchuku, born February 25<sup>th</sup>. Sister **Nelly** is proud of her new baby brother.

Congratulations to **Scott and Margot O'Neill** on the birth of a daughter, **Sydney Noelle O'Neill**, born on Thursday, March 24. Sydney joins big brothers **Conner** and **Mannix**.

**Note:** Six babies have been born into our congregation since December.

## OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to the **Radtko family** (Sara, Rod, Tyler, Justin, Lindsay) upon the recent death of Rod's father in Illinois.

"Jesus said,  
"I am the resurrection and the life."

## OUR CONCERNS

**Howard Eisenon**, recovering at home from surgery.

**Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis

**Carol Johnson**

**Tom Howerton**

**Florence McDow**

**Ann McKown**

**Joe Robinson**

**Doris Smith**

**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

## AFRICAN COMMUNITY

### COVERED DISH SUPPER

FPC's African community members are invited to a covered dish supper on **Sunday April 3 at 6:00 p.m.** at the home of **Joe and Carlisle Harvard** (124 Monticello Ave, Durham).

This supper is jointly sponsored by **Anthony Kamau** and **the Harvards**.

Please RSVP to **Anthony:**  
430-0397.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will meet **following worship on Sunday, April 3** in the East Parlor to assess the nominations received for the Class of 2014 elders and deacons. We will discuss prospective candidates. This is a major duty call for all members of the Nominating Committee. Lunch will be provided. Contact Chairperson, **Peter Fish**, for more info: [pfish@duke.edu](mailto:pfish@duke.edu).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Monday, April 4**

10:30 AM – East Parlor

## LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING WORKDAY

**Saturday, April 9**

(Rain date: April 16)

Please join us from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon for weeding and tidying up around the grounds at FPC. For further information contact **Barbara Buckley** ([bjbuckley1@frontier.com](mailto:bjbuckley1@frontier.com)) or **Kate Busa** ([katebusa@gmail.com](mailto:katebusa@gmail.com)).

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

## YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Join me this **Saturday, April 2 from 1:00 -3:00 p.m.** for some Youth United HfH work at the Montgomery's home, 801 Colfax Street, where we will be making rain barrels!

**On Sunday night we WILL have regular scheduled youth group** and dinner will lovingly be provided by **Lea Bingham**. See you this weekend!

**Rebecca**

**VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL 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.

## 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](mailto:cfklinck@gmail.com)) or [info@durhamsummerservice.org](mailto:info@durhamsummerservice.org). Enrollment is limited to 15 students. **Registration deadline is April 30.** Limited scholarships are available.

## "LEARN BY HEART"

### The Shema

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

- Deuteronomy 6: 4-5

Dearly beloved friends at FPC,

Thank you for the many ways that you blessed and continue to bless us in my recuperation. Your thoughtfulness and encouragement were awesome. Delicious easily-swallowed food, cheery cards, phone calls, visits, good thoughts and special prayers have sustained us and continue to do so. Thanks be to God!



**Sue and John Fricks**

## CROP HUNGER WALK

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's Crop Hunger Walk. Please turn in your contributions to **Rebecca Leonard** as soon as possible so a final report can be made. Also, check out FPC's CROP Hunger Walk photos on the Youth's bulletin board in the church foyer.

## L. E. N. T. PROJECT

(LOVE EARTH NOT TRASH)

We are charting a good course in our stewardship of the earth during this Lenten season. Check out our activities and results – posted throughout the church building.

## EFIRD LECTURES ON ISAIAH

**Thursdays through April 14**

**10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon**

**in Watts-Hill Hall**

Lectures are free and open to the public.

## 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.



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.

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