

First Presbyterian News

APRIL 12, 2011



ESTABLISHED 1871

"When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil." Matthew 21:10 (NRSV)

The very point of the Passion is the conflicts of mood, the vacillation of the will, the confusion of the sentiments, the crowd that yells "Hosanna!" at one minute and "Crucify" the next, and it's the same crowd.

The steadfast disciples who become within minutes deserters and deniers are the same disciples. . . .

Jesus did not die in order to spare us the indignities of a wounded creation.

He died that we might see those wounds as our own. He died that we might live, fully and hopefully, not in some fantastic never-never-land, but in some ambiguous reality of the here and now.

Peter Gomes - Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY



9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Foot-washing

10:30 a.m. Palm Procession

10:45 a.m. Blessing of the Palms

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "*A God Who Stoops*"
Joseph S. Harvard, preaching

Lectionary Texts

Old Testament	Isaiah 50:4-9a
Epistle Lesson	Philippians 2: 5-11
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 21:1-11

Acolytes: *Anna Kasibhatla, Sydney Curtis*

Crucifer: *Graeme Peterson*

Narthex Greeters: *Abby Jones*

Minnie Cameron

After Worship Greeters:

Mac McCorkle (side, font)

Margaret Rubiera (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: *Delia Kwon* (head usher),

Christyn Klinck (flowers), *Charlotte*

Maxwell, Alice Raney, Dale Gaddis,

Carolyn Merritt, Anthony Kamau

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

"*Why Jesus Matters*"

"Who is this?" is the question the crowd asked as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We are still asking the same question. *Robert Brawley* and *Joe Harvard*

will look with us at the biblical account of the Passion of Jesus for clues as we continue the series on *Why Jesus Matters*. The class meets at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.

Lectionary Class

The transition from crowds shouting "Hosanna!" to betrayal and execution in just a few days is just too abrupt. How could this have happened? Why did God allow it to happen? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Hand In Hand Class

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

Journeys Class

We will meet briefly at 9:45 (second floor, Christian education building) then participate in the Blessing of the Palms event on the courthouse steps.

Women's Spiritual Formation

Join us at 9:45 in the Middle School classroom for a discussion of spiritual formation topics. *Susan Dunlap* leads the discussion.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

Easter lilies will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. Members are invited to donate (any amount) toward the lilies in honor or memory of a friend or loved one by completing a lily card and returning it along with cash or a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo: Lilies. **Cards will be available at the church through the deadline of Sunday, April 17.**



Spring Picnic

(with Easter Egg Hunt)

Sunday, April 17

FPC's annual youth

sponsored Picnic and

Easter Egg Hunt will be on the South Lawn in the Terrace Gardens at Duke Gardens **this Sunday** from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

All families with young children, and anyone else who'd love to come along, are invited to this fun family event. **Please bring a picnic lunch and join us! Candy-filled eggs will be provided but bring a basket for the hunt!**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session is calling a Congregational meeting for **Sunday, May 1** for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee to elect Class of 2014 Elders and Deacons.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL NEEDS ADULT VOLUNTEERS

We have two great problems on our hands.... VCS at Camp New Hope, June 20-24 is full to overflowing, with 169 campers signed up to attend from the six participating churches. But with so many children involved, we are in desperate need of adult volunteers. If you can give two or three days of your time, from 9-2, to work directly with children, please contact *Marilyn Hedgpeth*.

Also as good news, we have 30 participants from Iglesia Emanuel this year who now need financial assistance. If you would like to sponsor a child from Iglesia Emanuel for the week for \$50, please let Marilyn know. A check to FPC for \$50, earmarked VCS scholarship, would be wonderful.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be received on **Easter**.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we will gather on the steps of the courthouse for a service of Blessing of the Palms. This is the 27th year we have begun Holy Week by re-enacting Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. It is a meaningful way to mark the start of the most sacred week of the Christian year.

The journey into Jerusalem is not an easy ride because it leads us toward the trial and cross of our Lord. It is a painful journey which in significant ways resembles the pain in our lives. I want to encourage you to make the journey. I find this is essential for my faith. In a world where so many suffer so much, it enables us to look life in the eye without blinking, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

To be reminded of the depth of God's love for us and the world gives strength for the journey. The Passion of our Lord is for our sake and for healing the brokenness. Let us gather once again on Sunday with these hopeful words of encouragement: "Ride On, Ride On, King Jesus!"

Joe

NOTES

- Thanks for all the worlds of appreciation for *Rodger Nishioka's* visit on Sunday. His presentations will be made available for all who have asked for them.. Rodger was moved by our service with an infant, two children, and an adult baptisms, the reception of six new adult members, and two confirmands. It was a celebration of new life as God continues to work among us at FPC.
- Many thanks to the *Confirmation Class* for leading Lenten Worship last Wednesday in a powerful way, and to *Bill, Marcia, and David Lorimer* and *Marilyn Hedgpeth* for providing dinner following worship. Members of the Confirmation Class will be confirmed in worship on Sunday, May 1. A reception in their honor will follow. *Sydney Curtis* and *Lily Abels* were confirmed last Sunday during worship. Congratulations!

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated for *Colin Alexander Bethune, Brandy Leigh Salmon, Nataleigh Laine Pienkowski* and *Riley Reese Pienkowski* on Sunday. Colin is the son of *Alec and Rachel Bethune*. Brandy is married to *Nate Pienkowski* and Nataleigh and Riley are their children.

OUR CONDOLENCES . . .

to **Eleftheria Mantzouka**, one of our cherished childcare workers, upon the sudden death of her father in Greece. Notes of condolence may be sent to her at: 2602 Kirk Road, Durham, NC 27705.

OUR CONCERNS

Allen Verhey, receiving treatment at Duke
Gladys Gathu, undergoing radiation therapy at UNC

Carol Johnson
Florence McDow
David Parkins
Doris Smith

Tom Howerton
Ann McKown
Joe Robinson
Sarah Todd

Mike Atkins, friend of Rebecca Leonard
Chester Bisette, grandfather of Abi Bisette
George Cox, son of Sarah Cox
Donald Davis, brother of Lorraine Davis
Denise Duffy, sister of Andy Henry
Jim Goff, father of Leslie McDow
Jesse D. Smith, Jr., son of Doris Smith
Raymond Spivey, brother-in-law of Dorothy Graham

FIRST FRIENDS-PRIMETIMERS

SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

at the home of

Mac and Wendy McCorkle

4811 Montvale Drive, Durham
(A childfree POTLUCK event)

Please RSVP to Wendy at 490-4868 or
wenmac1@intrex.net

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON



Tuesday, April 26

11:30 a.m. at

Pomodoro Italian Kitchen

1811 Hillandale Road, Durham

RSVP to **Sydnor Patrick** (493-7031)
or the church office: 682-5511.

Hosted by **Sydnor Patrick**
and **Maxie Honeycutt**

NEWS FROM AFRICA?

Rosemary Mwangi-Gichu suggests this website to learn more about what is happening in Africa:
<http://www.todaysafricannews.com>.

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

We are approaching Holy Week, the time in the church year when we remember how Jesus gave his life in love for the world. Please join in thinking about how Holy Week is not just palm branches and Jesus' resurrection on Easter. The story includes the passion of Christ during Holy Week, when adoration and praise for Jesus turns into betrayal and demands for his crucifixion. It seems clear that the relationship between Jesus' death and resurrection are inseparable, but it often gets confusing because we forget to acknowledge what happens between Palm Sunday and Easter. Plan to join in the many opportunities to look closely at the passion of Christ during the week to come. There are services Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (for those of you not going with **Cherrie Henry** to Stone Mountain) to learn more and be in community with each other.

Palm Sunday is a time of festive remembrance that Jesus was who we wanted as King and so it's fitting to lay down the palms, to sit and break bread together, which is what we will do at Duke Gardens following worship. We will be the hosts to the young families and children of our community as they come out to play and hunt for candy eggs on the south lawn. Please remember to bring plastic eggs filled with treats to share (if you need eggs we've got lots in the youth room) and a picnic lunch to the Terrace Gardens. We will not have youth group in the evening because of this afternoon event. See you Sunday and hopefully many times next week!

Rebecca Leonard

BOOK GROUP

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, May 10** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of **Sally Ensor**, 12 Sweetbriar Lane, Chapel Hill. **Lee Courtland** will lead a discussion of **Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese. RSVP to Sally at densor1736@aol.com. Newcomers and occasional participants are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
SENIORS SPRING LUNCHEON
More details forthcoming



*** Updated Schedule of Events ***

Thursday, April 21

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship and Communion
with St. Joseph's AME Church at FPC
(Dinner served at 6 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.)

Friday, April 22

Good Friday

12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross
(Beginning at St. Phillips Episcopal Church
and ending at FPC)

Sunday, April 24

Easter / Resurrection of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Communion Service
(FPC Memorial Garden)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion
(The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**
and the **Pennies for Hunger Offering** will
be received during worship.)

CROP REPORT

I am so happy to report that as of April 8th, FPC has raised **\$5,225.00** for CROP of Durham. Praise be to God for your loving support of this important ministry.

Thank you. **Rebecca Leonard**

Friends,

This "Thank You" note is written to serve two purposes. "1st" – I would like to thank the **Prayer Shawl Group** for the beautiful shawl given to me to help with my chemotherapy. It sure has been used to keep me warm during the treatments. "2nd" – Many thanks to all the church congregation for their every prayer and support given and shown to the **McDow family**. It has been wonderful help for that family.

Sincerely,

Jim "PawPaw" Goff

Father-in-law of Will,
Father of Leslie, and proud
Grandfather of Laura Mishler and Florence



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

<http://firstpres-durham.org>