

# First Presbyterian News

AUGUST 2, 2011



ESTABLISHED 1871

Transformation into adult faith comes about because we do what some of us moderns call inner work, or take the journey of the spiritual life, or what others refer to as a contemplative life, a life fueled by prayer. We try to live open to grace. . . . To stand before God rooted in prayer and reflection does not mean to escape the pain and conflicts of the world, but to engage them, confront them, to sink into the wounds. Genuine relationship with God always, always, always leads outward toward care for the earth and its peoples. – *Kathleen O'Conner, Vantage* (Summer 2011)

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2011

*19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Working in God's Messy Garden"  
*Joseph S. Harvard*, preaching

### Worship Texts

Old Testament	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
New Testament	Matthew 13:24-30

Croasdalle Driver: *Miriam Morey*

Crucifer: *Cecelia Moore*

Narthex Greeters: *Edward & Delia Kwon*

After Worship Greeters:

*Jane Brawley* (font)

*Lea Bingham* (Narthex, Main St)

Ushers: *Bill Brown* (head), *Christyn Klinck* (flowers), *Jon Kimball*, *Kate Strauman*, *Leslie Shaw*

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Praying in Color

Wear **RED** this Sunday and we'll pound some playdough and talk about anger and things that make us red-hot (besides the heat). We'll do some bubble painting, brainstorm about red things, read a few psalms, and offer up our anger issues to God. Red apples slices are the food of the day!

Summer Reading Series

This Sunday we will discuss *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. This discussion will be led by *Tim Tyson*, accompanied by vocalist *Mary D. Williams*. Published in 1936, this year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Gone With the Wind*. Set in Atlanta during the American Civil War and Reconstruction, the novel depicts the experiences of Scarlett O'Hara, the spoiled daughter of a rich plantation owner. Tyson, author of *Blood Done Sign My Name*, is a Senior Research Scholar at the Center for Documentary Studies and Visiting Professor of American Christianity and Southern Culture at Duke Divinity School. Williams is an historian studies performer of songs and narratives of the Black South. Tyson and Williams have team-taught at the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham. Join us at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall for what promises to be a good discussion.

Lectinary Class

Before he was sold into slavery in Egypt, Joseph was an annoying, arrogant little brother. Was his suffering required for his spiritual growth? And did Peter have to sink into the sea before his faith could grow? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Adult Discussion Class

Please join us at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor for a continued discussion of Islam.

Women's Spiritual Formation

*Susan Dunlap* leads this class on spiritual formation on Sundays at 9:45 in the Middle School classroom located below the sanctuary. New faces always welcome!

## FELLOWSHIP EVENT

### FPC at the Durham Bulls Sunday, August 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets will be available for purchase (\$8 each) on Sunday after worship in the foyer while quantities last! Children under age 2 get in free!



## AVILA WOMEN'S RETREAT

*When Angels Do Not Come to Lunch:  
The Art of Everyday Living*

This year's Avila Women's Retreat will look at Proverbs and its wisdom as "the sweet fruit of intimacy from God". **Candice Ryals Provy**, FPC's newly-appointed minister to young adults, will lead our time together, **August 12-13<sup>th</sup>**. We'll gather around 6:00 on Friday for a sandwich supper, and kick off our discussion by considering the proper role of fear in our lives, and what "fear of the Lord" might mean. Then on Saturday, Candice will tackle Lady Wisdom and examine her role as a prophetic teacher, as compared to the role models and teachers who have shaped each of us. Finally, after some time for quiet reflection and lunch, we'll gather once again to look at some of the broader themes in Proverbs as they relate to creation and our own households, and close with worship. Cost of the retreat is \$50, with scholarships available to those who request them (checks made to FPC, earmarked to Avila Retreat). **The deadline for registration is this Friday, August 5**, so please let Marilyn know if you plan to attend. You will need to bring a Bible/journal, overnight clothes, toiletries (sheets and towels provided), comfortable exercise clothes and shoes.

## VISITORS / NEW MEMBERS

A new series of Newcomers' classes are planned for the upcoming weeks. A get-acquainted supper for participants in these classes is planned for Sunday evening, **August 21 at 6:00 pm at Joe and Carlisle Harvard's home**, 124 Monticello Avenue. Visitors who are interested in exploring membership at FPC or any members who have not had the opportunity to attend the classes in the past are cordially invited to participate. Please contact **Shirley Frederick** at [s.frederick@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:s.frederick@firstpres-durham.org) or 682-5511 to indicate your plans to attend.

## OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Joyce Houk** on the death of her great niece, **Christine Arnold**, on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Michigan.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I was visiting a homebound friend last week. We were discussing the heat. It was over 100 degrees that day. I was telling him how oppressive the heat is. He said, "And Joe, it is not even August yet!" Well, it is August now and the heat persists. I am keenly aware of those who suffer in hot weather. Every once in a while we are blessed with a cool breeze.

The temperature seems to have risen in our public life as well. The debt ceiling deliberations in Washington have the entire nation upset. A recent poll shows that over 70% of all the Americans surveyed, both red and blue, find the whole thing "disgusting". In the midst of this "heat" we all felt an amazing breeze when Representative Gabrielle Giffords entered the House chamber on Monday to cast her vote. It caused us to pause, take a deep breath and reflect on this act of courage and sign of hope. She, as a victim of the violence so pervasive in our common life, stood up to cast her vote. She received applause and embraces from Republicans and Democrats alike. It was a moment to cherish and ponder.

On Sunday, I hope you will join me as we consider a parable of Jesus about wheat and weeds growing in the same garden. I think it helps us with the messiness that seems to surround us this hot August.

*Joe*

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The **Sacrament of Baptism** was celebrated for **Dorothy May Saldarini Barron**, daughter of **Walt and Katy Barron** on Sunday. Dorothy's grandfather, **William Barron**, preached for the worship service and served as celebrant for the baptism.

## MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Sudduth** and **Remi Treuer** who were married in Decatur, Georgia on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Summer is here, but please remember that the work of First Presbyterian goes on in the midst of school and family vacations. Keeping your pledge commitments up to date during the summer helps insure that the worship and ministries of our congregation continue to serve our community. Stewardship is 24/7/365! As of June 30, we have received 40% of current year pledges, compared to last year at the same time when we had received about 50%. **Please keep your support current. It means so much!**

## OUR CONCERNS

*Elizabeth Usher*, sister of *Anne Davis*, is recovering from surgery at a hospital in New Bern, NC.

*Margaret Boswell*      *Hilda Bradshaw*  
*Peggy Hammond*      *Katie Hirsch*  
*Tom Howerton* (Hillcrest)  
*Carol Johnson*      *Florence McDow*  
*David Parkins*      *Ann Prospero*  
*Mozette Rollins*      *Margaret Rubiera*

### Added this week:

*Michael Honeycutt*,  
son of Maxie Honeycutt

*Susanne Matheny*,  
friend of Carol Willis

- *Mike Atkins*, friend of Rebecca Leonard
- *Chester Bissette*, grandfather of Abi Bissette
- *Sarah McCracken Cobb*, sister of Mary Ann Compton
- *Kate Crockett*, granddaughter of Alex and Becky Crockett
- *Donald Davis*, brother of Lorraine Davis
- *Denise Duffy*, sister of Andy Henry
- *Steve Emrich*, friend of FPC's men's basketball team
- *Jim Goff*, father of Leslie McDow
- *Lucy Hanchey*, baby at Watts Street Baptist
- *Frances Kennedy*, mother of Emily Wilkins
- *Mary-Jo Kreger*, sister of Phyllis Verhey
- *Mary Russell Roberson*, daughter of Ruth and Russell Roberson
- *Jesse D. Smith, Jr.*, son of Doris Smith
- *Karen Wolcott*, cousin of Jean Wilson
- *Kemper Foy Zeigler*, friend of Joe and Carlisle Harvard

FLOWER DONORS are needed for Sunday worship on August 7<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>. Call *Susan Thompson* if you would like to donate flowers: 477-0425 (home) or 361-8868 ext. 292 (work).

## NEW OFFICERS

**Training Make-up Session**  
**Wednesday, August 3 at 6:00 PM**  
Supper will be provided.



Newly elected officers (Class of 2014 elders and deacons) will meet with the **Session on Monday, August 15** for examination. Supper will be provided beginning at 6:00 p.m.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### **Monday, August 8**

**6:00 p.m.** Christian Education

**6:30 p.m.** Service and Mission

**7:15 p.m.** Worship and the Arts

### **Tuesday, August 9**

**6:00 p.m.** Property Committee

If your committee is not listed above, please contact your chairperson to determine when your committee will meet.

## YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

I hope you all enjoyed your trip to see *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2* on Sunday with **Emily**. I regret not being able to be there with you! With all the talk about HP while we were in Montreat last week (which, by the way-- was FANTASTIC) and with having recently seen HPDH2 myself, I've been thinking a lot about that story--it's fascinating to me how much of the HP story meshes with all the biblical stories and theological themes we studied in Montreat. Do you remember in HP year 2 when Dumbledore says to Harry "It's our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities"? And for those of you who were in Montreat, remember when keynoter David Ealy talked about temptation and how life is about choices and commitments? In the gospel of Matthew there's the story about Jesus being tempted by Satan. Jesus made the right choice, over and over, because of 'what was written' on Jesus' heart. He refused to perform the miracles that would ease his own suffering and prove he was the Son of God. Jesus made choices that showed who he truly was and we all can learn from that.

With the beginning of a new year of Sunday school, worship and youth group upon us, you have the choice to commit to be engaged in the community or not. I hope you will choose to be engaged because it is here, among your faith community, that you can be who you truly are and not be measured by the unrealistic and unattainable standards of an unforgiving society. So, check out our Google calendar and plan to be a part of it all.

Love you,

**Rebecca**

## FIRST FRIENDS POTLUCK

First Friends and Families will gather on **Saturday, August 13 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of **Rebecca Leonard** at 605 E. Lavender Ave. 27704 unless it's raining. If it rains, we will gather at the church. Please bring a potluck dish to share and a chair for lounging. Ham, rolls, and tea will be provided. \*If we gather at the church, bring a board game in lieu of a chair.

## THIRD FRIDAY EVENT

August 19 at 7:00 p.m.

**Bibis Ellison**, a North Carolina native, is a veteran, seasoned performer with a powerful voice. She specializes in the reinterpretation of classic songs from Etta James to Patti Smith to Beyoncé, and has traveled the US and Mexico performing both originals and covers. Triangle Arts and Entertainment identifies Bibis as a "powerhouse singer." She will be performing folk and soul originals. The event is free and open to the public.

## CROASDAILE VILLAGE

The following persons have agreed to provide Sunday transportation to and from worship for members at Croasdaile.

Aug 14      **Jean Cary/ George Danser**  
Aug 21      **Dan Hudgins**  
Aug 28      **Mary-Jo Keenan**

## Needed:

### A Few Good Caretakers

Did you know that FPC is blessed with 18 members who are 90 years old or above? They are pearls of great price, and of great value to our church. FPC would like to form a 90+ birthday club, which would match younger members with older members, so that we can honor their birthdays and keep in touch with them throughout the year. Here is what would be required of volunteers:

- 1) Send card, visit, or call your 90+ member on his/her birthday;
- 2) Notify the clergy of your friend's birthday, and perhaps we can come celebrate with you (or bring communion);
- 3) Arrange a ride to the semi-annual senior adult luncheon, if he/she would like to attend;
- 4) Make sure the church is aware of pastoral needs of your 90+ friend, and of the history of his/her history of participation in the church;

Ideally, I would like to match younger members to older members, one-on-one. If you would be interested in being a 90+ birthday celebrant and caretaker, please contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth**. Hopefully, all caregivers can meet early in the year to facilitate one-on-one matching. Here is the break-down of birthdays by month: September, 4; November, 2; December, 2; January, 3; February, 1; March, 1; April, 1; May, 2; Summer, 2.

## DURHAM CAN

### Strategy Teams Forming

Do you want to get involved in working with people of faith across racial lines to respond to Durham's most pressing challenges? Strategy Teams are being created through Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods). If you are interested in serving on a team, contact **Sharon Hirsch** at [hirschnc@earthlink.net](mailto:hirschnc@earthlink.net) or 451-7893. Sharon plans to host a team on homelessness on **Saturday, August 20 at 10 a.m. at FPC.**

## GROWING TOGETHER '11

Saturday, September 17

It's not too early to register for Growing Together, the Presbytery of New Hope's annual educational event. This year's event will be held at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, from 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration forms can be found on the table in the foyer. More information is available on the Presbytery's website.

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter is published weekly on Tuesdays.

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