

First Presbyterian News

AUGUST 30, 2011



ESTABLISHED 1871

In a world where racism is rampant, where narrow nationalism seems to be on the increase, and where tensions between and among ethnic and religious groups regularly erupt into hostility and war, it is crucial to affirm that God loves the whole creation, including every human being. Indeed, God loves humanity so much that God has entrusted the majestic creation to our care, risking God's own reputation, and perhaps the creation itself, for love's sake. In the words of a familiar hymn, the love God has shown to us human beings, as well as the trust God has placed in us, demands "our soul, our life, our all." Such submission is the essence of praise. ---Clinton McCann, [Great Psalms of the Bible](#)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon:

"The Single Most Important
Text in the Entire Christian Bible"

Clint McCann, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	Psalm 82
New Testament	John 1:14

Acolytes: **Talitha Kwon, Jenna Leonard**

Crucifer: **Carter Momsen-Hudson**

Narthex Greeters: **Edward & Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

Scottie Seawell (font)

Sharon Hirsch (Narthex, Main St)

Ushers: **Michael Bacon** (head usher), **Pat Ashby** (flowers), **Joy Kerner**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

"The Psalms and Ecology"

What do the Psalms say regarding our care and concern for the environment? **Clint McCann** will be our guest on Sunday. He will look at several Psalms with an eye towards their implications to the stewardship of the earth and the flourishing of creation. Clint is Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Seminary, and his work on the Psalms is highly regarded. In addition to discussing material from his book, [Great Psalms of the Bible](#), musical settings of Psalm 148 (by the Iona Community), as well as other Psalms, will be played. Please join us in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 for what promises to be an interesting discussion.

Lectionary Class

What does the Lord's vengeance look like? How does the Lord treat sinful people or sinful nations? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Newcomers Classes, including a get acquainted time, will be held on **Sundays, September 11 and 18** following the morning worship service. The classes will convene in the East Parlor of the Church house and will include a light lunch for participants. 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 or 682-5511 to indicate your plans to attend.



The Church Office will be **closed** on **Monday, September 5** in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Sunday, September 11

Community-Wide Events

Habitat for Humanity Build

Join Habitat for Humanity for a special volunteer opportunity commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. We need 10-15 volunteers so if you are interested, please contact **Rebecca Leonard** 919-682-5511 ext. 213 to sign up!



Durham Interfaith Community Memorial Service for Remembrance, Comfort and Hope

This service will be held at 7 p.m. in FPC's sanctuary and is open to the public. This event is being sponsored by Durham Congregations in Action.

SYMPATHIES AND CONCERNS

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Nesta Gerberding**, upon the death of her grandmother last week in Florida.

Margaret Boswell **Peggy Hammond**
Tom Howerton **Carol Johnson**
Florence McDow **Mercy Ndambiri**
David Parkins **Mozette Rollins**

Added this week:

- Toni Bloom**, mother of Tom Bloom
- Chester Bissette**, grandfather of Abi Bissette
- Mary Causey**, sister of Ellen Bacon
- Sarah McCracken Cobb**, sister of Mary Ann Compton
- Val Cottle** (and family), cousin of Brent Curtis
- Kate Crockett**, granddaughter of Alex and Becky Crockett
- Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis
- Steve Emrich**, friend of FPC's men's basketball team
- Jim Goff**, father of Leslie McDow
- Lucy Hanchey**, baby at Watts Street Baptist
- Mary-Jo Kreger**, sister of Phyllis Verhey
- Susanne Matheny**, friend of Carol Wills
- Murphy family**, friends of the Brown family
- 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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

"The Bible is a mirror of identity. We see ourselves reflected there." This comment by a noted biblical scholar is helpful to me. The stories of our lives fit into a larger picture which puts our lives into perspective. The biblical narrative provides insight into who and whose we are and what God wants us to do.

This is why it is important for us to listen together to "the Word of the Lord" in worship and to let this story guide our steps. We are encouraged to teach it to our children. It was exciting to see Watts-Hill Hall packed with learners of all ages last Sunday as we began a new year of study and service.. We have large classes with an excellent staff of teachers. Raising children in the faith is a team effort. I am deeply grateful to all of you who are using your gifts to help us fulfill our commitments made to these children in baptism.

This Sunday we will have a gifted teacher of Scripture as our guest. **Clint McCann** is a Presbyterian minister, the brother of **Carrie McCann**. Clint has served churches in our presbytery. He studied at Davidson, Union in Richmond and Duke, and now is Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Seminary in St. Louis. His work on the Psalms has received international recognition and his book, [Great Psalms of the Bible](#) is a valuable resource. Please join me in welcoming Clint to FPC on Sunday.

Joe

NOTES

- Many thanks to the Christian Education (CE) Committee for a wonderful Owl Day kick-off to the church year. Kudos to **Lesley Curtis**, who rotates off as CE chair; and to **Dawn Carsey**, the new CE chair and skit-writer extraordinaire; to actors **Bill Lorimer, JL Klinck** and **Lily Abels**; and to all committee members who brought breakfast food. Especially, we are grateful for the wonderful turnout Sunday, and for the many, many children and their friends who graced our doors.
- Thank you for a great kick off for our **Hunger for Change Offering** on Sunday. We received **\$562.10** (doubled from July). As part of our work this year, we will share information about hunger and how you can help. Bread for the World has a wealth of resources about the causes and solutions to hunger. Their motto is "Have Faith. End Hunger." To learn more about hunger in the US and around the world, go to www.bread.org. And, remember to keep saving your quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies for September!

FALL WEEKDAY BIBLE

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

With Owl Day behind us, and Sunday School ready to take wing again, it is also time to start considering weekday Bible study opportunities. "Psalms For What Keeps You Up At Night" will be the topic of the Mom's and Croasdaile Bible Studies, which begin on September 16th and 18th, respectively. Using Walter Brueggeman's paradigm of Orientation/Disorientation/and Reorientation, both of these Bible studies will look at psalms that ground us, psalms that address our stages of disorientation, such as anger, depression, abandonment, shame humiliation, grief, and death, and psalms that speak of God's greater wisdom and that re-ground us. No curriculum will be required, but participants will be asked to read ahead the psalms for each week's discussion. The **Mom's study group** will meet on Fridays from 10:30 - noon at the church (beginning September 16), with childcare provided, if necessary. The **Croasdaile group** will meet in the Heritage Hall activities room from 3 - 4:30 p.m. on Sundays (beginning September 18). Please contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you are interested in joining either group.

The **Presbyterian Women's** monthly Bible study will usually meet the first Monday of the month, except when a holiday interrupts. This year's study will be "Confessing The Beatitudes," led by **Judy Pidcock** once again. Because of Labor Day, the first PW meeting will be on Monday, September 12 from 10:30 - noon. All are invited to this first meeting to pick up your study book for the year and to renew acquaintances.

FIRST FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Celebrate the end of summer!

BEACH RETREAT

September 9 – 11, 2011

Contact **Kathy Conner**

for more info: 382-6332 or

kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com

Save the Date!

PRIMETIMERS POTLUCK

Saturday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.

at the home of **Harriett Mitchell**

3402 Ogburn Court, Durham

RSVP to Ruth: 489-2106 or

ruthhroberson@gmail.com.

This "Remembering the 1960s" fellowship event is being co-hosted by **Harriett Mitchell** and **Ruth and Russell Roberson**.

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

I was sad not to be here for 'OWL' day and the big kick off to the Sunday School year. I was at the 95th reunion of my beloved summer camp, Rockbrook Camp for Girls, in Brevard NC. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, stories, singing and playing (I shot archery and riflery, went hiking and swimming and more). It was bliss! I was reminded that a person's soul begins to suffer without at least an occasional dose of time to revel in memory and play; in other words, to take a Sabbath. The years of summers that I spent at RBC were extremely formative for me as a child and youth, and I am so grateful to have had the experiences. I recognize that my work in youth ministry is possible, in large part, because of who I became in light of my time spent at camp. Ahh . . . memories!

A couple of things to know: we will not have evening youth group until **Sunday, September 18**. In the meantime, we will gather on **Monday, September 5** from 12 noon-3:15 p.m. at Southpoint Mall for lunch and a movie ("Spy Kids" rated PG). And on **Sunday, September 11** from 1:00 p.m. – 4 p.m., there will be a Habitat for Humanity BUILD to raise hope and awareness of the 10th anniversary of 9-11. We will need 10-15 volunteers that day so I hope you can join us!

In peace,

Rebecca

BOOK GROUP

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of **Beth Eisenson**, 1423 Acadia Street, to discuss [In Sorcery's Shadow: Apprenticeship Among the Songhay of Niger](#) by Paul Stoller and Cheryl Oakes. Please RSVP to Beth at 688-5818, or heisenson@aol.com.

FPC MEN MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:30 p.m. at the Rists' home

809 Watts Street, Durham

Please join the FPC men for a viewing of the recent movie "Of Gods and Men," a French film about a group of Trappist monks stationed with an impoverished Algerian community who, under threat by fundamentalist terrorists, must decide whether to leave or stay. Pizza will be provided. Please RSVP to **Carl Rist** at rist@frontier.com.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

What are your biggest health concerns?

Share your thoughts at

COMMUNITY LISTENING

SESSIONS

Thursday, September 1

6 – 7:30 p.m. - South Regional Library
4505 S. Alston Avenue, Durham

Tuesday, September 13

6 – 7:30 p.m. - Little River Community Center
8305 Roxboro Road, Bahama

Monday, September 19

6 – 7:30 p.m. - East Regional Library
211 Lick Creek Lane, Durham

Contact **Mel Downey-Piper** by email at mpiper@durhamcountync.gov or call 560-7833 for more information.

DURHAM FAITH INSTITUTE

ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

Pre-Conference Tours of Agencies & Thursday, September 8

3:30 – 6:30

hosted by Durham County Main Library

Workshops, Stories & Action Steps Friday, September 9

8:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Union Baptist Church, 904 N. Roxboro St. Event is co-sponsored by the Coalition to

End Homelessness in Durham, DCIA, Durham Cares and Union Baptist Church.

Registration: \$15 (deadline September 5)

Register electronically at:

faithinstituteonhomelessnessandpoverty.eventbrite.com.

For more info contact Tamaira Johnson at 489-6282 x 101 or send an email to: tamaira@housingfornewhope.org.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS:

WHAT TO EXPECT

Thursday, September 8

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Southwest Regional Library

3605 Shannon Rd

Learn what can occur at different stages of Alzheimer's and get advice on managing care of the disease from Lisa Gwyther with The Duke Family Support Program.

Sponsored by the Durham County Library

For more info call: 560-8590

Copies of the 2010-2011

FPC Annual Report

are available in the church foyer.

If you prefer an electronic copy, one can be sent via email. Please contact **Valerie McMillian** in the church office: 682-5511 or v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter is published weekly on Tuesdays.

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