

FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Dear friends,

As I sit and write this letter to you on Election Day, I realize that many hearts and minds are dramatically distracted by the events of this day. We are tired of the political rhetoric all around us, the name-calling and feelings of hopelessness. We know that by tonight we will have a new President-elect of the United States. We wait. Some wait in fear. Some wait in hope. Either way, tomorrow this will be decided and we must move on with our lives and the work that God has called us to do.

My good friend John Leggett wrote a poem this morning before he went out to vote. I share John's poem with you because it reminds us all that as we awake to a new day tomorrow, our work continues in many ways as it has before. We are, after all, God's people who move forward in faith and hope, living as those who work for peace, who strive for justice, and who walk in the light of Christ.

*When the clamor of pollsters is stilled,
when the commercials and phone calls go silent,
when the memes and insults are gone,
when the nation awakes on Wednesday,
the work of living begins:
to love the neighbor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to welcome the stranger,
to renew trust among the people,
to hear the voices long silenced,
to bring peace to the nation,
to build a home for hope.[1]*

Thanks be to God for God's calling on our lives. May we live and move and have our being in God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

With love,
Mindy

[1] This poem is modeled after one by the poet Howard Thurman, "The Work of Christmas Begins."

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated on Sunday, November 6, during worship, for **Shane Muchugia**, son of **Lydia** and **Kevin Muchugia** (grandson of **Mary Gitata**).



Added this week: **Joanne Harrar**, a patient at Duke Hospital (broken leg)

Kit Little, mother-in-law of Hank Majestic

Our friends and neighbors affected by Hurricane Matthew along the U.S. East Coast, in Haiti and Cuba

Bob Kever, receiving hospice care

Beth Brockman

Al Crumbliss

Sarah and Pete Finbow

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Brookdale (Farmington Rd) Chapel Hill: Helen Garrison

Croasdaile Village: Jean Moore, Bob Rankin, Jerry Tyren

Hillcrest: Randall McLeod

Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches McPherson

- **Elizabeth Chomba**, niece of Mercy Ndambiri
- **May Frances Fisher**, mother of Doug Fisher
- **Freda Rose Hamilton**, friend of the Walk-in Ministry
- **Ellie Johnson**, niece of Jim Johnson
- **Helene Johnson**, mother of Jim Johnson
- **Paul McCombs**, friend of the Walk-in Ministry
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
- **Sallie R.**, friend of Kerry Holbrook
- **Marcella Thompson and son Alex**, friends of the Walk-in Ministry
- **Desiré Volkwijn**, wife of Kay-Robert Volkwijn
- **Young girls who lost their mother and the aunt who will now care for them**, friends of the Williamson family



Sunday, November 13, 2016

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We welcome **Kathy Parkins** back from her sabbatical this Sunday!

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Remember to bring your completed pledge form to worship **THIS SUNDAY** for a symbolic dedication. If you have not received pledge information, or need help with pledging online, please call Tom Bloom in the church office: 919-682-5511 ext. 216 or email him: t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org. If you cannot be present on Dedication Sunday, please kindly return your completed pledge form (by mail, online or in person) to the church office by the end of November.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Confirmation Class

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Heaven and Earth Will Rejoice"
Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture Lesson: **Isaiah 65:17-25**
Epistle Lesson: **2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**
Gospel Lesson: **Luke 21:5-19**

Serving this Sunday

Acolytes: **Maryn Leonard, Grace Abels**

Crucifer: **Graham Curtis**

Liturgist: **Michael Honeycutt**

Croasdaile Driver: **Miriam Morey**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters:

Caroline Rourk (Side/Font)
Karen Romines (Rear/Narthex)

Ushers: **Sherry Everett** (head), **Michael Honeycutt** (flowers), **Karen Swope, David Lorimer, Geoffrey Kennedy, Jeanne Hervey**

Stewardship Season

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." - Luke 12:34



Stewardship season has us digging into this passage from Matthew (a passage significant enough to be found also in Luke... and Harry Potter). Just where is my treasure? Where is my heart?

"Where your treasure is..." – In order to grasp *where*, we need to grasp *what*. More obviously, treasure is our bank account, our home, and our family. A little less obvious but still easy to recognize, it's our health, our time, and our talents. It's also our relationship with others, a sustainable environment, and a fair and equitable workplace. Treasure is what we find valuable and what we value. What amazes me is not only how much of this inventory is now tied to my church family, but how much this community has taught me by example how to identify these various treasures, see them as the gifts they are, and encourages us towards a just allocation of those resources. The opportunities that FPC has given my spouse and me to serve, to lead, to worship, to love, to grow, and to share our gifts, are immeasurable.

When Beth and I were looking for a church home twelve years ago, there was no way to predict just how important this place would become in our lives. Or maybe there was. It wasn't just the music and the pastors and the beautiful stained glass that attracted us (although those helped). We were compelled to be in relationship with the warm, welcoming, genuine folks in the pews who doubled as dedicated, peace-loving, justice-seeking members of the Durham community. The work of this congregation reinforced in us the concept of giving out of gratitude, in thanksgiving for the gifts we each had been given and for the grace of God.

"...there your heart will be also." – In order to grasp *where*, we need to grasp *what*. More obviously, Heart is our beloved, our home, and our family. A little less obvious but still easy to recognize, Heart is what we find valuable and what we value. Of course Treasure is where your Heart is. They are the same.

Beth and I invite you to join us in sharing your gifts in an annual pledge or increasing your pledge as you are able. We have been pledging annually since we joined because we believe FPC is our heart. We support the church that has supported us through both joyful and challenging times and want to ensure continued support for this beautiful community that makes up our heart.

-Cris Rivera

SONAM in Concert

THIS SUNDAY, November 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary

Love Music? Love Dogs? Love Charity? SONAM - Singers of New and Ancient Music - will sing a benefit concert on the themes of war and peace. The hour-long concert sung by 20 local singers will range from anguished laments to comforting blessings, with music by composers from Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, and the US. There will be a \$10 suggested donation, all of which will go to Vets to Vets United to support their work in partnering and training dogs from local shelters with veterans in need of a service dog. For more information visit Sonamchorus.org and vetstovetsunited.org

Durham CAN Fall Fundraiser "Songs of Hope"

THIS SUNDAY, November 13, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

The event will feature jazz singer, *Lois Deloatch* along with other local and regional musicians. Tickets are \$30.00 each. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket or making a donation please contact *Homer Ashby* at 919-943-7112. Thanks for your support of our partner in ministry, Durham CAN.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith & Community Class (Adults)

Faith and Community welcomes *Homer Ashby* this Sunday to discuss affordable housing. If you would like to see how Durham churches, Assemblies and neighborhoods are at work shaping the future of Durham, come join the discussion. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall**. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults) Will the Day of the Lord be a pleasant time or not? Our readings paint a confusing picture. On the one hand, Isaiah shows a vision of joy and delight, with long, peaceful lives; on the other hand, Jesus warns of war, famine, persecution and hatred. Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) This Sunday, Journeys will discuss chapter 11, "Stalking," of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. All are welcome to join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) We are using Lauren Winner's book, *Wearing God*, as our study book. Join us on the second floor, **CE building, room 205** at 9:45 for an interesting and informative class led by *Heather Wallace*.

Women's Spiritual Formation *Susan Dunlap* will lead our discussion. This class meets in **basement classroom B-16**, at 9:45.

Family Matters (for parents with young children) This parent-led class is using *Searching for Happiness* as a guide for our study. Join us on the **second floor, CE building, room 209** at 9:45.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmands and mentors will meet this Sunday at 9:45 (please be on time) upstairs in the Education Building to hear *Cris Rivera* and *Graham Curtis, Beth Stringfield* and *Minna Fullenkamp* share their faith stories, and to watch and discuss a video clip, "Get It and Give It" (Grace and Gratitude), a very appropriate topic for Stewardship Dedication Sunday. It was great on Sunday to see *Vern Neece* stand up for the baptism of little *Shane Muchugia*, son of *Kevin and Lydiah Muchugia*. Vern was Kevin's confirmation mentor, so these commitments to our youth are very steadfast and long-lasting.

A New Bible Study Begins Friday, November 11

Mashal, is the Hebrew term; *parabole*, the Greek term; *parable* is a literary form used by Jesus (and others) to speak indirectly about the Kingdom of God. A new study is forming to look at the parables from many points of view, using the Kerygma curriculum as our primary guide, but also using Godly Play, Amy- Jill Levine's *Short Stories by Jesus*, and Richard Lischer's *Reading the Parables: Interpretation*. **The class will meet for an introduction two Fridays in November (11th and 18th) from 10:30 –noon, upstairs in the Education Building, then we'll break for the holidays before beginning in earnest on January 6.** New members are welcome and encouraged to join the conversation. If you are interested in joining, or need a study book, contact Marilyn.



THIS SUNDAY . . .

All youth will meet together from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. for dress rehearsal for Youth

Sunday. Supper will be available from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

All youth (6th-12 grade) are invited to participate in youth groups. Contact Sarah Finbow (s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org or 919-682-5511) for info on youth activities at FPC!

QUILT EXHIBIT Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after church THIS Sunday, November 13, for coffee and juice and an opportunity to view the beautiful display of quilts.

*** A SPECIAL REQUEST *** We especially invite anyone baptized at FPC and who received a quilt made by one of our dedicated quilters to bring their quilt. We'd like to get a photo of those who received the quilt -along with their quilt - and those who made the quilt.

NOTES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn Hedgpeth . . . will be away this Sunday, preaching the Stewardship Dedication service for Shallotte Presbyterian Church in Shallotte, NC. **Henderson, Jane and Caroline Rourk** are closely connected to this church, as Henderson's father gave the land on which the church was built, his mother was a charter member, and his sister, **Marie Rourk Harrison**, is still a member there. It is great to see the connectional church at work.

WINTER EXAM CARE PACKAGES The Pastoral Care Committee will be collecting small items to send to our college members. **Please drop off your donations in the volunteer's office between November 8th and November 27th.** Suggested items include hot chocolate packets, chewing gum, small candies (extra Halloween Candy is perfect), granola/energy bars. Thank you for supporting our college students as they get ready for winter exams.

HELP NEEDED IN THE FPC NURSERY

Are you willing to help keep the nursery during worship, if needed? Because there are currently 27 children who are four and younger on our rolls, it can get quite busy in the nurseries. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table outside the nurseries in the Education Building. If you wouldn't mind leaving your name and phone number, the caregivers might text you if they are short-staffed or overwhelmed. Responsible middle school and high school students with babysitting experience, as well as parents and other adults, are requested to lend a hand when needed. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the East Parlor

NOTE: The Property, Service & Mission, and Worship & the Arts Committees will meet on Monday, November 14 at their regular times.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Tuesday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the East Parlor.

SERVICE AND MISSION

Please continue to bring items for Blessing Bags, Toiletry Kits and Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry. Donations are needed year round!

DRESS FOR SUCCESS needs ladies' purses, handbags, shoulder bags, etc. Drop off donations at FPC and **Caroline Rourk** will deliver them to Dress for Success.

HELP (Health Equipment Loan Program) continues to exceed goals in number of items donated but they badly need wheelchairs and rollators (AKA "Cadillac" walkers with wheels, a seat, and brakes). HELP is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and will happily provide a receipt to the donor. HELP is open on Tuesdays from 11 - 3 pm and Fridays from 2 - 6 pm inside The Scrap Exchange at Lakewood Shopping Center. Unfortunately, they do not have the means to pick up a donation from an individual donor. For more information, please call 919-470-7281 or visit the website: <http://projectaccessdurham.org/HELP>

The Things That Matter Book Group

Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of **Dale Gaddis**. **Jane Williams** will lead a discussion of the book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Meditation with Lucie House
Thursdays at 12 noon in the Wilson Parlor

NIA Fitness Classes (with Heather Wallace)
Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall through November 17.

Organizing Against Racism: Presentation (lunch provided) followed by DurmTalks Community Forum
Saturday, November 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1737 Hillandale Rd., Durham
Registration is required. Contact **Kathy Krahenbuhl** if you want to attend: 919-801-0422. Scholarships are available.

CELEBRATING CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Sunday, November 20

Youth Sunday - FPC's middle and high school youth will lead the 11:00 a.m. worship. Our regular monthly **fellowship lunch** will be available following worship. There will be a **presentation by the youth** who attended this summer's Appalachian Service Project.

Celebrating 100 years of Music Making
featuring FPC's Century-old Austin organ
4:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

Kathy Parkins, organ, assisted by **Joe Robinson**, oboe, **Mary Kay Robinson**, violin, **Ben Maxwell**, cello, and **Lesley Curtis**, soprano, performing works by Bach, Buxtehude, Elgar, Rachmaninoff, George Thalben-Ball. The concert is free and open to the public.

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