

First Presbyterian News

NOVEMBER 16, 2010



ESTABLISHED 1871

Gratitude is, after all, at the very heart of our faith, the fundamental Christian emotion. Gratitude, the theologians have always said, is the basic human response to the goodness and mercy of God and to grace, God's undeserved and unconditional love. At the heart of Christian experience and teaching is not guilt, as we have sometimes been taught, not obligation, as we occasionally conclude and teach, but gratitude, pure and simple—gratitude for God's grace, gratitude because all of life, all of it, is a gift we did not earn but were given.
—*John M. Buchanan, Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21



9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and the Sacrament of Baptism

Sermon: **"The Heart of the Matter"**
Joseph S. Harvard, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	Deuteronomy 10:12-22
Psalms	Psalms 99
Epistle Lesson	Colossians 1:11-20
Gospel Lesson	Luke 23:32-43

Acolytes: **Almira Mbah, Neil Peterson**

Crucifer: **Eli Miller**

Greeters: **Elizabeth High, Minnie Cameron**

After Worship Greeters:

Peter Fish (side, font)

Phyllis Verhey (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: **Delia Kwon** (head), **John Kelley, Michael Bacon** (flowers), **Paul Strohm, Leslie Strohm, Moses Gatheca, Charlie Sneed**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class "Waiting for Superman II"

The conversation about the challenges faced by our public schools will continue this week. **Sam and Sheila Miglarese** began a discussion of issues and opportunities in our school system. Supporting public education has been a central commitment of Presbyterians. Join us for a good discussion at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall. All are welcome!

Lectionary Class

On the last Sunday before Advent, we celebrate Christ as King. What does that mean? How can Christ be King when the other kings and powers of the world ignore or mock his kingship? Is his reign only apparent to the eyes of faith, or is it still in the future? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

Please join Journeys this Sunday as they continue their discussion of the community, covenants and faith or Abraham. The class meets at 9:45 on the second floor of the CE building, classroom at the end of the hall.

Hand in Hand/ Crossroads

We are discussing Becoming Bridges: The Theory and Practice of Diversity by Gary Commins, who writes about diversity as an intrinsic part of the life of faith and our calling to bridge the things that separate us. Join us at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor.

Women's Spiritual Formation

Susan Dunlap invites women to participate in this time of prayer, sharing our lives, and exploring the disciplines and practices of Christian spirituality at 9:45. The class meets in the Middle School Youth room (former Bell Choir room) below the sanctuary.

"GRATITUDE TO GOD PROMPTS A GENEROUS SPIRIT"

A Reflection on Possessions and Giving

As we continue to focus on this stewardship season, let's all remember that all we possess are all gifts from the open hand of God, and they all belong to Him.

Christian stewardship is the giving of oneself to serving God through one's abilities. It could be time, money, material resources, volunteering at church events, participating in Sunday worship, mission work, etc. Being able to communicate and being inviting to others is also a good thing. FPC is a welcoming place where people of all races feel accommodated and accepted and are able to fit in quickly into this community.

Therefore, let's all please dedicate our stewardship commitment to holy giving and receiving to support the church and the community at large through the church in whichever way we can to the glory of our God, who for our sake took the form of a servant.

"Seek joy in what you give, not in what you get."

Margaret Mwangi

THIRD FRIDAY EVENT

FPC will participate in downtown Durham's monthly Third Fridays evening activities on November 19th.

The featured attraction is **WestGlen**, a folk band with vocal harmonies, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.



to view the Durham Civil Rights Heritage Project banners recalling Durham's African American community history during the Civil Rights movement. The banners will be on display from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. and from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. Plan to come help host our neighbors and invite a friend!

A **NEWCOMERS/INQUIRERS** class will begin this coming **Sunday morning, November 21st at 9:45 am in the Chapel**. Visitors who would like to learn more about Presbyterian tradition and the ministry of First Presbyterian in particular are invited to attend. Responses and questions may be directed to Shirley Frederick at s.frederick@firstpres-durham.org or 682-5511.

JOINT OFFICERS' MEETING will take place on **Monday, November 29**. Deacons will meet at 6:00. Supper will be served at 6:30 for all officers.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The Thanksgiving Season is here, and I am deeply grateful for the way God is working through the congregation at FPC. **Carlisle and I** have attended several congregational dinners over the years, and we both agreed that last night was as inspiring and enjoyable an evening as we can remember. From **Mel Williams** to the music, to the pictures, to the menu, to the spirit of those present, it was exceptional. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it such a success. Special thanks to **Julie and Jody Maxwell** who did the planning, preparation, and decoration with help from their friends.

Lisa Rist challenged all of us to take some time this week to give prayerful consideration to our pledges for the work to which God is calling us. You will receive a mailing from the Stewardship Committee this week with a letter from **Lisa and Carl Rist**. Please give careful attention to the information enclosed.

We are being asked to increase our financial commitment to the church by 4% this year. In these difficult and uncertain times, we are surrounded by needs and challenges. It was once said of a church that it did the best of things in the worst of times. Let it be so with us!

When each of us becomes a member of a congregation, we commit to supporting its life and ministry as disciples of Christ. Giving thanks to God with our gifts is more than an obligation. It is an essential way we respond to God's goodness. Please join Carlisle and me this Sunday as we walk the walk of gratitude, bringing our commitments to the Lord's Table.

With gratitude,

Joe

COMPANY OF PASTORS AND EDUCATORS

FPC's clergy and educators will meet in the Wilson Parlor following worship for a brief time of conversation.

"LEARN BY HEART"

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff -- they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life **long**.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Betty Jelstrup, the Pavillion at Croasdaile.

Admay Family

Fricks Family

Jeanne Hervey

Don Jenkins

Knauert Family

Carol McKnight

Jerry Tyren

Katherine Carr

Jim Hawkins

Tom Howerton

Carol Johnson

Florence McDow

Josh Stanek

◆ *George Bernhardt, Jr.* son of George and Johanna Bernhardt is deployed in Iraq.

◆ *Frank Bradshaw*, brother of Hilda Bradshaw

◆ *George Cox*, son of Sarah Cox

◆ *Steele and Molly Dewey*, daughter and son-in-law of Peaches McPherson

◆ *Bruce Foster Momsen*, father of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

◆ *Brad Holbrook*, father of Kerry Holbrook

◆ *Helene Johnson*, mother of Jim Johnson

◆ *Norma Johnstone*, stepmother of Jancy Strauman

◆ *Kris, Joe, Becca and Lauren Juarez*, Vernon Neece's niece and family

◆ *David Kilpatrick*, grandson of Elizabeth High, deployed in Iraq

◆ *Elizabeth Leathers*, daughter-in-law of Anne Leathers

◆ *Bill Lorimer, Sr.*, father of Bill Lorimer

◆ *Anne Martin*, sister of Beth Neece

◆ *Machua Mbugua*, brother of Mary Gitata

◆ *Stephen McAllister*, son-in-law of Bill and Debbie Mathews

◆ *Robert Miller*, friend of the Harvards, Dorothy Graham, and Scottie Seawell

◆ *Peter Morton*, son of Parker and BJ Morton

◆ *Edward Mungai*, friend of Mercy Ndambiri

◆ *Jeanine Romines*, mother of Karen Romines

◆ *Nancy Sappenfield*, mother of David Sappenfield

◆ *Joe Snyder*, nephew of Michael Leonard and cousin of Jenna and Maryn

◆ *Laura Tandler*, sister-in-law of Susan Spratt

◆ *April Turner*, niece of Marilyn Hedgpath, deployed in Afghanistan

◆ *Sharon Van Vechten*, friend of Ann Prospero

◆ *Samuel Watson*, father of Dale Gaddis

◆ *Reverend Bob Wells*, cousin of Bill Hendrickson

◆ *Karen Wolcott*, cousin of Jean Wilson

PARENTS OF SERAPHIM CHOIR

Please note that the children will be singing in church **this Sunday**. Also, they will have rehearsal as usual following church. Please remind your children to come directly to the choir room following church.

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Our annual rake-n-run fundraiser has been indefinitely postponed (we'll probably make it an every other year event ☺), and so on Sunday we will gather for a regularly scheduled youth group from 5–8pm instead. Advent, the time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, begins in less than 2 weeks, and so our theme for Sunday will be 'Anticipation'—we hope to tie it nicely in with last week's discussion on preparedness. I will not mention anything else about what we will be doing Sunday evening now; instead, I'll let you wait with expectant anticipation to find out. Trust me though, you won't want to miss it. See you Sunday.

Love, *Rebecca*

PS. On Sunday the 28th we will have an outing at the movies—more info on this will be forthcoming.



It's hard to believe, but Advent is upon us, and FPC's Advent Festival will be held **December 5th** following worship. Our youngest members will participate during Sunday School; everyone else is invited to stay after worship for food, wassail, Advent wreath-making, crafts, and alternative giving opportunities. This year we will be seeing how to use wine corks creatively, which members have been generous in providing!



FPC's Christmas pageant featuring our children will be at 5:00 on December 24. Rehearsals will be held after worship on **December 19th**, and at 1 p.m. on **December 22nd**. Please mark your calendars now to attend.

PRIME TIMERS GATHERING

Saturday, November 20

6:30 p.m. at the home of

Mary-Jo Keenan and Larry Reed

2407 Tryon Rd., Durham

Colony Park subdivision, off Cornwallis Rd between 15-501 & Erwin Rd. Feel free to park in the driveway or on the road.

Please RSVP to Mary-Jo:

919-490-2973 or

mjkeenan39@gmail.com

and let her know what you will bring.

CARE PACKAGES

The Diaconate is assembling care packages for our college students and other children away from home. Please bring in flat items to contribute to the packages – **gum, hot cocoa, candy, granola bars, puzzles, joke books**, etc. A collection box will be in the church foyer. Please also let the church office know the names and updated contact information of your **college-age students** and children in the **armed services** so we can update our records. The packages will be assembled at the next Diaconate meeting and sent out after Thanksgiving.

CAREER WORKSHOP

Are you feeling "career challenged" or experiencing career stress or unemployment? Save the date for this important workshop: "Take Charge of Your Career Success" presented by **Jim Koehneke**, on **Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon** at First Presbyterian Church. Class size is limited, so enroll soon by emailing Jim: jim@jimkcoaching.com, or calling 919-768-7425. Jim has been a career coach for over 20 years and is committed to assisting people discover and live from their unique and authentic life purpose.

INTERFAITH TOUR TO ISRAEL

Members from Judea Reform, First Presbyterian and Fisher Memorial will tour Israel, **June 19-28, 2011**. People of all ages are invited to join us! The price per person: approximately \$3,700 plus airport taxes (currently \$505.69) and includes: roundtrip airfare from RDU to Tel Aviv, transfers to/from hotels and airport, first class accommodations, hotel taxes, eight days of touring in luxury bus with English-speaking private tour guide, daily breakfast buffet, five dinners and one lunch, and most gratuities. **There will be an information session for persons interested in the trip following worship on December 5th.**

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