

First Presbyterian News

NOVEMBER 22, 2011



We know that marriages, families, communities, nations often come together and discover their true strength when some apocalypse – some new revelation of the fault lines in our lives – has occurred. Hospital chaplains see this all the time. For some reason we human beings seem to learn best how to love when we're a bit broken, when our plans fall apart, when our myths of self-sufficiency and goodness and safety are shattered. Apocalypse is meant to bring us to our senses, allowing us a sobering, and usually painful, glimpse of what is possible in the new life we build from the ashes of the old. - *Kathleen Norris, Amazing Grace*

NOVEMBER 27, 2011

First Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion
The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received during worship.

Sermon: "Christ Will Come Again"
Marilyn T. Hedgpeth, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	Isaiah 64: 1-9
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 80: 1-7, 14-19
Gospel Lesson	Mark 13: 24- 37

Acolytes: *Anna Kashibhatla*,
Megan Champion

Crucifer: *Sydney Curtis*

Coarsdaille Driver: *Mary-Jo Keenan*

Narthex Greeter: *Linn Lopez*

After Worship Greeters:

Jon Abels (rear / narthex)

Kate Busa (side, front)

Ushers: *Susan Seahorn* (head), *Leslie*

Shaw (flowers), *Jon Abels*, *Amy Sanchez*

Communion Elders:

Bread: *Guy Cecelski* (Process), *Andy*

Widmark, *Jean Cary*, *Leslie Strohm*

Cup: *Lea Bingham* (Process), *Diane*

Standaert, *Scottie Seawell*, *Jean Wilson*

(head)

Shepherds: *Anthony Kamau* (font aisle),
Luke Everett (center aisle), *Margaret*

Rubiera (pulpit aisle)

Replenish elements: *Jane Brawley*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

"How Will It All End?"

The new church year begins this Sunday with an announcement of the Second Coming (Mark 13). There is a lot of "craziness" in our society about the "end times." We all have questions about how things will end. Jesus' disciples were curious and so are we. On Sunday we will take a look at how Jesus responded to their questions and what this might mean for our lives. Class will meet at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class

Do you have a feeling that something is about to happen? Things aren't going to go on as they always have. The ones who think they're in charge will be surprised. Yes, something is about to happen. But when? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Adult Discussion Class

We are currently studying The True Story of the Whole World. Join us at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor.

Starting from Scratch

This class for young adults meets at 9:45 in room 203. We are looking at different types of psalms and learning the language of prayer.

Women's Spiritual Formation

Class, led by *Susan Dunlap*, meets at 9:45 in the Middle School Youth Room.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Building the Body of Christ Together
Received as of November 20, 2011:
77 Pledges totaling \$330, 244.00.

This initial response is a good start. **If you have not made a pledge, please do so as soon as possible.**

Please remember to mail or bring your completed pledge card and Time and Talent sheets to the church office. Thank you for your generous support.

"INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH" SUNDAY

Thanksgiving Day gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on blessings for which we are thankful. Perhaps you will include thanks for your FPC church family. But have you ever thought about people who do not attend a place of worship, who do not have a church home? Do you know someone whom you can invite to come to worship at FPC? Sunday, November 27th is "Invite a Friend to Church Sunday". Won't YOU?

ADVENT COMMUNION

Three week-day communion services are planned to turn our hearts towards the coming Christ child. These are short, family-friendly services where we count the cold days together, in remembered hope that Christ has come, and that Christ will come again.

Worship at 6:00 p.m.

in the sanctuary will be followed by
Supper at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.

Wednesday, November 30

led by *Bob and Lina Yoder*

Wednesday, December 7

led by *Anthony Kamau*

Wednesday, December 14

led by *Susan Dunlap*



ADVENT FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 4

This year we will be offering metal Advent wreath candle holders for \$5, along with the candles. **Alternative giving** guests will be present to keep the needs of the community before us.

Café Justo (Coffee) **Threshold**
Genesis Home **Habitat for Humanity**
Urban Ministries of Durham
Church World Service
Housing for New Hope

The Church Office will be
CLOSED on Thursday,
November 24 and Friday,
November 25 in observance of
Thanksgiving. Hope you have a safe
and happy Thanksgiving celebration!

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear friends,

Advent is upon us, a season sandwiched between memories of how God has come to be with us in the past, and anticipation of God's promised presence in the future, to heal and redeem. It's my favorite season, I think, because it leans so fervently into hope, without any clear signs as to when or where it might resolve. Our recent experience of the Occupy Wall Street movement in the US reminds me of Advent, in that its adherents sit in our cities, waiting for great change which will bring a righting of our economic life together. They don't know when this might occur, or how it might occur; they are just waiting together in great anticipation. To me, they are a secular manifestation of what the church has been doing for 2,000 years – waiting in community for the God-changes that we foresee just beyond the horizon: changes that will raise up those who are down-trodden, changes that will heal those who are wounded, changes that will bring light to those who have long in darkness pined.

Sunday is our first experience of Advent, with its beautiful, weighted hymnody, and celebration of Holy Communion. On December 4, when all return from Thanksgiving travels, we will gather for the Advent Festival and Alternative Giving opportunities following worship. I hope you will join us as we take the scenic detour through Advent, while the rest of culture takes the short-cut to Christmas.

Grace and peace,

Marilyn

OUR CONCERNS

- *Kate Crockett*, granddaughter of Alex and Becky Crockett, is preparing for a stem cell transplant at Duke.
- *Florence McDow* is undergoing tests at Duke for a second bone marrow transplant.
- *Rob and Amy Harkey* are in Uganda to receive their adopted child.
- *Martha Howerton* is at home.
- Margaret Boswell* *Dub Gulley*
- Tom Howerton* *Don Jenkins*
- Carol Johnson* *David Parkins*
- Mozette Rollins* *Sarah Todd*
- Susan Thompson* *Jerry Tyren*
- *Chester Bissette*, grandfather of Abi Bissette
- *Mary Causey*, sister of Ellen Bacon
- *Sarah McCracken Cobb*, sister of Mary Ann Compton
- *Donald Davis*, brother of Lorraine Davis
- *Rolf Olsen*, friend of Bob and Lina Yoder
- *Mary Russell Roberson*, daughter of Ruth and Russell Roberson
- *Karen Wolcott*, cousin of Jean Wilson

NOTES

- **Joe Harvard** will be a guest on "Who's Talking" on WCHL1360 on Wednesday, November 23 at 6:00 p.m. The show is hosted by **D. G. Martin**, longtime friend of Joe and new president of the Kenan Fund in Chapel Hill.
- "Save Water" is a poster on the bulletin board by **Annabelle Brown**. It is a Girl Scout project. Check it out!
- **Daytimers** had a good lunch today at Papas Grille. Thanks to **Ann Prospero** and **Shirley Frederick** for hosting.

OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Caroline and Ed Pritchett** on the death of Caroline's aunt, **Elizabeth Smith**, in Charlottesville, VA on November 13th.

"Jesus said,
'I am the resurrection and the life.'"

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated for **Daniel Liam Short** on Sunday during worship. Daniel is the son of **Rollin and Maureen Short** who were received into membership on Sunday.

MEDICARE ANNUAL ELECTION IT PAYS TO COMPARE

Senior PharmAssist, a local non-profit, is eager to help any Medicare beneficiary in Durham, regardless of age or income, review Medicare drug and medical coverage options for 2012. For an appointment or more information, call (919) 688-4772. Don't delay – **Medicare's annual election period ends December 7th**.

"TIME OUT" RADIO SHOW

On Monday, November 28, **Gabe Baldasare**, an active "Occupier" in Durham will be the guest discussing the lives and objectives of Occupiers in Durham and elsewhere. **Bill Hendrickson** is the show's host. WCOM is heard in Carrboro and Chapel Hill on 103.5 FM and in Durham and elsewhere on the web at wcomfm.org.

IGLESIA EMANUEL

Volunteers are needed for Christmas Camp, the first three Saturdays of December (3, 10, 17) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of preparing for the Christmas performance.

Wednesday, December 21

Christmas performance:
"A Colorful Christmas"

Northgate Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. followed by our Christmas community meal

Sunday, December 25

Joint Christmas service at 1:00 p.m. with dramatized sermon at Northgate Presbyterian Church

Please contact **Julio Ramirez** for more information on how you can support these Christmas events: 672-4333.

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Join us **this Sunday** for a trip to Southpoint Mall for the opportunity to serve Habitat for Humanity at the 2011 Giving Tree, and then we'll go see a movie together! We will also grab a quick lunch in the mall food court. So bring \$\$\$ and your Santa hats (to be Habitat elves) and of course a positive attitude for the Giving Tree! Youth will need to get a ride to and from the mall. We will meet about 12:30 in the food court and pick up will be outside the movie theatre at 4 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and traveling mercies for those of you leaving town! Love you.

Rebecca Leonard

PS: Another big kudos to all the adults who helped out this past Saturday with the DPR Ropes Course! You're awesome!

CLEMENTINE BOXES?

This year we are adding a manger craft to our annual Advent Festival. We will need about 50 boxes so that each child can decorate and take home their own little manger. We hope that all clementine lovers will share their boxes and **bring them to the volunteer office at church by November 27th**. That way we can make the boxes ready for the Advent Festival on December 4th. Any questions please call **Katharine Whitmore** at 286-0249.

SAVE THESE DATES! FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30 P.M. AT FPC

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT
OF BRASS, ORGAN AND VOICE
featuring
The Old North State Brass Band,
Kathy Parkins (organ)
and **Lesley Curtis** (soprano)
Free admission. A goodwill offering will be received to benefit the **National Alliance for Mental Illness**.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 PRIME TIMERS'

CHRISTMAS GATHERING
at 7 p.m. at the **Gerwes' home**
2704 Trailwood Drive – 383-8787



Carol singing with two grand pianos and four hands playing wonderful Christmas music!



Remember to support the
Hunger for Change
Offering this Sunday.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following who joined FPC on Sunday, November 20, 2011:
Ivy Muthoni, 5639 Old Chapel Hill Road, Apt. 1108, 27707, 402-3509, moved to the US from Kenya about a year ago to join her family who had immigrated earlier. Her mother, FPC member, **Rosemary Mwangi-Gichu**, and brother **Wahome Gichu**, worship at FPC on a regular basis. Ivy is a junior at Jordan High School and participates in the youth activities at FPC. In addition to her school work and other teenage activities, Ivy loves to cook. Her extended family includes FPC members, **Aunt Margaret Mwangi** and cousins **Olive, Joyceline and Edwin Mwangi**. Ivy is joining FPC by transfer of membership from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Membly congregation in Ruiru, Kenya.

Martha and Steve Rimmer, 676 Hawthorne Place, Creedmoor, NC 27522, 529-2235 moved to Creedmoor about a year ago. Martha and Steve were both raised in the area of Statesville, NC. They both attended Erskine College in South Carolina; Steve also graduated from Erskine Theological Seminary. Following his ordination, Steve served as pastor at a church in Charlotte prior to entering the US Navy as a chaplain in 1968. He retired in 1994. Martha worked in the federal civil service, both for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of the Navy. The Rimmers share an interest in golf and travel, especially exploring the NC mountains. Martha has a special interest in photography; Steve has a love of gardening. They are both fans of UNC basketball. Their daughter and son-in-law, **Lyn and John Williams** joined FPC recently. Martha is transferring membership from the Riverside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, FL. Steve is a retired member of First Presbytery, General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. **Maureen and Rollin Short**, 905 Park Ridge Road, Apt. A-7, 27713, 530-7489, are newcomers to Durham. Maureen is a native of Kenya and following completion of her B.Ed. from Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya moved to Texas to attend Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX (M.Ed.) and earned a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas in Denton. She is an Assistant Professor in the NCCU School of Education where she is a colleague of FPC member, Ellen Bacon. Rollin was born in Houston, TX, earned a B.A. in Political Science from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX, an M.S. in Sociology at the University of Houston-Clearlake, TX and is presently completing graduate studies at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. They are the parents of 20 month old Daniel. In her spare time Maureen enjoys reading and cooking. Rollin is a runner and also enjoys reading. Maureen and Rollin are joining FPC by reaffirmation of faith.

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