

First Presbyterian News

NOVEMBER 23, 2010



ESTABLISHED 1871

Everybody's worried 'bout the atomic bomb, but nobody's worried about the day my Lord will come. You better set your house in order, or he may be coming soon. And then he'll hit like an atom bomb, when he comes, when he comes.

- *Blind Boys of Alabama, Atom Bomb*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28



9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion
The **Pennies for Hunger** offering will be received during worship.

Sermon: "**The Antithetical Thief**"
Marilyn T. Hedgpeth, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 122
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 24:36-44

Acolytes: **Anna Kasibhatla, Lily Abels**

Crucifer: **Sydney Curtis**

Greeters: **Sarah Todd, Judy Pidcock**

After Worship Greeters:

Scottie Seawell (side, font)

Sharon Hirsch Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: **Delia Kwon** (head), **Rob Everett, Walt Barron, Jon Abels, Jody Maxwell, Sarah Todd**

Communion Assignments:

Bread: **Guy Cecelski** (process),

Andy Widmark, Jane Wettach, Lesley Curtis

Cup: **Lea Bingham** (process),

Diane Standaert, Scottie Seawell, Peter Fish (head elder)

Shepherds: **Bill Hendrickson** (font aisle),

Mac McCorkle (center aisle),

Phyllis Verhey (Pulpit aisle)

Replenish elements: **Jane Brawley**

"INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH" SUNDAY

As we approach Thanksgiving Day it gives us an extra 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 28th** is "*Invite a Friend to Church Sunday*". Won't **YOU**?

CARE PACKAGES

The Diaconate is assembling care packages for our college students and those in active military service. Please bring in flat items to contribute such as **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 those in active military service so we can update our records and send them a care package.

"GRATITUDE TO GOD PROMPTS A GENEROUS SPIRIT"

Received as of November 21, 2010:
85 Pledges totaling \$ 418,623.00
representing **49.6%** of our goal
2011 Pledge Goal: \$830,411.45.

This initial response is encouraging. **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 the Time and Talent sheets to the church office. Thank you for your generous support.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

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! The CE committee does have a few needs, and would love to have members volunteer in a few ways.

We need evergreens for people to take home for their wreaths. We're not using the Styrofoam discs this year, but are giving away the last few if you should want them (we're trying to go "green" for Advent). Also we need helpers at the stations after church. Last year the Crossroads group assisted with the crafts. We'd love for them to assist again, and any others who might be interested. Please call the church office if you might be willing to help.

ADVENT COMMUNION



DECEMBER 1, 8, 15

Join us on three Wednesdays during Advent from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. for a service of Scripture, prayer, song and sacrament bringing quiet and meditation into an otherwise busy season. A light supper will follow at 6:30 p.m. **Please RSVP for the suppers.**

JOINT OFFICERS' MEETING

Monday, November 29

Deacons will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Supper will be served at 6:30 for all officers. Joint Officers will meet at 7:00.

The **Church Office is CLOSED** in observance of Thanksgiving on **Thursday and Friday, November 25-26.**

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear friends,

Thanksgiving is the one unencumbered holiday that we manage to celebrate during the year, isn't it? The things that tend to bother us concern travel schedules or delays, menu planning, food idiosyncrasies, family differences and seating arrangements around the table, over-indulgences, and football. Oh, for all holidays to be so blessedly uncomplicated, and so blessedly relational. So, I wish everyone a very joyous Thanksgiving holiday, and I pray for safe travels for all who go to be with family or friends, and for all who come here to join you.

Sunday was a joyful celebration of Christ the King Sunday, a time when we affirm that Jesus is Lord, even as wars continue, and mines collapse, and cholera epidemics spread, and jobs become difficult to retain or to find. I don't know about you, but more than ever, I wanted to hear that assurance this year - that Jesus is Lord, that Christ is King - and to follow that with our gesture of gratitude as we brought our tokens of personal sacrifice to the Table of the Lord. The choreography of everyone moving to the Table was a powerful symbol to witness: some skipping down the aisles, some hobbling, all responding to Christ's call to discipleship. And there are opportunities for service during the week, should you have time to participate. A crew will be working on the Habitat House at 102 Young Street, trying to finish up before Christmas so that **Nikkita Jones** and her family can be "home" for the holidays. And others will be serving breakfast and lunch on Thanksgiving Day at Urban Ministries down the street. We express our gratitude to God in many ways.

Next Sunday we begin the new liturgical year and the season of Advent. We'll light the Advent wreath, sing the beautiful, haunting Advent carols, and begin a season of preparation and reflection about the coming of the Lord, once and yet again. And we'll practice that other great migration, the choreography of our dance to the Lord's Table to celebrate Holy Communion. I will see you there, joyfully. Peace,

Marilyn

NOTES

Great to see **Carol McKnight** and **Bruce Foster Momsen** in worship on Sunday, following recent surgeries, and a surprise appearance by **Ammon Gitau** who now lives in Seattle, Washington.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Edwin Mwangi**, whose Jordan High School soccer team won the state championship on Saturday in Raleigh.

NOTES

KUDOS to **Andy Widmark**, for being honored with this year's **Visionary Award** by Downtown Durham, Inc., for envisioning the renewal of downtown Durham back in 1993 with his graduate level real estate class.

MANY THANKS to **Shirley Frederick** and the **Membership Committee** for hosting an open-church event for Third Friday Durham, which featured quintet WestGlen in our sanctuary.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Lisa Gaudin is recovering from surgery.
Millie Hester, mother of Marie Sappenfield, is a patient at UNC Hospital.

Admay Family

Fricks Family

Jeanne Hervey

Betty Jesstrup

Carol Johnson

Florence McDow

Jerry Tyren

Katherine Carr

Jim Hawkins

Tom Howerton

Don Jenkins

Knauert Family

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
- ◆ **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 Hedgpeth, 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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

"Before the Second Advent in Matthew 24"

Robert Brawley will begin this Sunday a four week series on the birth narrative in the Gospel of Matthew. Robert is a highly regarded New Testament scholar and author. He is an excellent teacher. Join us as we listen together to Matthew's telling of the birth of Jesus in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The class meets at 9:45 a.m. in Watts Hill Hall.

Lectionary Class

In Advent, we're waiting for . . . what? Something is going to happen, but just what is it, exactly? Will it be a time of universal peace and understanding? Will it be a terrifying time of judgment? How can we prepare, when we don't know what to expect? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

Please join Journeys this Sunday as we continue our discussion of the community, covenants and faith of 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.

INTERFAITH TOUR TO ISRAEL

Members from Judea Reform, First Presbyterian and Fisher Memorial will tour Israel, June 19-28, 2011. **There will be an informational session for persons interested in the trip following worship on December 5th.**

"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.

Remember to bring your Pennies for Hunger offering on Sunday!

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

I'm hoping that each of you has a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday - time spent with family and friends, giving thanks and eating yummy food! I can think of few things lovelier than this.

On Sunday, for those of you in town, we will head over to Southpointe Mall after church to grab some lunch, receive donations at the Youth United for Habitat for Humanity Giving Tree (located in the middle of the mall) from 2 - 4 p.m. and then go see a movie (rated G or PG)!!! Please join us for this fun filled afternoon of outreach mission and fellowship.

Until then, I give thanks for each of you!

Love, **Rebecca**



December 19th
December 22nd

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.

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 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CIRCLE MEETING

Monday, December 6

10:30 a.m. - East Parlor

Bible study led by **Judy Pidcock**

Join us for the next

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 14

11:30 a.m. at Neo China

4015 University Drive, Durham

Hosted by **John Kerr**

RSVP to the church office: 682-5511.

DURHAM CAN

DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Episcopal Church El Buen Pastor

1852 Liberty Street, Durham

Delegates from FPC are needed. Contact **Sharon Hirsch** for more information.

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter is published weekly on Tuesdays.

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