

# First Presbyterian News

NOVEMBER 29, 2011



We ask, Lord, for ourselves the most meaningful Advent season we have ever known. Drive us to our knees; to the Book; to an awareness of our sin; to a careful searching of our virtues; to a serious examination of words and terms so glibly sung and spoken. And grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have something more to show for our much running about than tired feet, wrapped presents, and regrets for cards not sent. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *Ernest T. Campbell, Where Cross the Crowded Ways: Prayers of a City Pastor*

DECEMBER 4, 2011

**Second Sunday of Advent**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Going Home for Christmas?"

**Joseph S. Harvard**, preaching

### Worship Texts

Old Testament	Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Gospel Lesson	Mark 1:1-8

Acolytes: **Carter Momsen-Hudson,**  
**Nathan Creadick**

Crucifer: **Corey Allen**

Crossdaile Driver: **Miriam Morey**

Narthex Greeters: **Edward and Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

**Lisa Rist** (rear / narthex)

**Jane Brawley** (side, font)

Ushers: **Cris Rivera** (head), **Tamzin**

**Kinnebrew, Pat Ashby, Miriam Morey**

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Faith and Community Class**

**An Introduction to Mark**

Mark is the Gospel used in lectionary this church year. **Robert Brawley**, an insightful New Testament professor in our congregation, will lead us in an introduction to the Gospel of Mark. Here are some questions for the next three Sundays: During Advent how can we comprehend that Mark displays no interest in the birth of Jesus? What is the Advent of the gospel (good news) for Mark? What happens at the end of Mark? What comes in between Advent and end? Answers are not guaranteed, but join us in seeking a better understanding. The class will meet at 9:45am in Watts-Hill Hall.

### Lectionary Class

Who is bringing God's message today? The preacher in the pulpit? The celebrity in the commercial? The talk show host, or the presidential candidate, or the homeless person on the corner? Or maybe you? 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.

The **Starting from Scratch** and **Women's Spiritual Formation** classes will meet at usual.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

Are you looking for a good way to honor friendships and help someone in need? Instead of mailing cards, you are invited to share greetings via the Christmas Concerns display at the church. The money you save can be given to help those in need. Simply write your greeting on the tree-shaped note card in the church foyer, adhere it to the Christmas Concerns window display, and then follow up with a donation to FPC, memo: Christmas Concerns.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

**Building the Body of Christ Together**  
**Received as of November 30, 2011:**  
**113 Pledges totaling \$510,984.00**  
representing **62%** of our goal. Over half of the pledges have been increases.  
**2012 Pledge Goal: \$828,182.98.**

**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 COMMUNION

Three mid-week 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  
**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

The younger children will enjoy some light refreshments and craft-making during Sunday School while the older youth and adults will participate following worship. We will be offering metal Advent wreath candle holders for \$5, along with the candles. 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 this week.** Any questions about the manger craft, please call **Katharine Whitmore** at 286-0249. The following 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**

## HUNGER FOR CHANGE

**OFFERING** received on **Sunday,**  
**November 27:** totaled **\$379.08.**  
**Thank you for your generous giving!**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is that crazy time of the year between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I hope you had a good Thanksgiving weekend with a chance to catch your breath. Take a look at the calendar for December with this newsletter. So much going on, so much to do, and so little time!

In the church, we call the season Advent and it is a period of reflection as we await with anticipation the coming of our Lord. These are opportunities at FPC for you to slow down and listen and look for sounds and signs of God's hopeful presence among us. It may be in Advent and Christmas music or an encounter with a friend or a stranger. It may be in worship or in paying someone a visit. My prayer is that you will encounter the One who is coming again this year to bring healing and hope.

Let me encourage you to join us for three Wednesday Advent vespers and dinner beginning at 6 p.m. this week. This is one way we can get ready for the celebration of the coming of our Lord. During this season, let us accept the invitation to "Be still and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10)

Grace and peace,

*Joe*

## NOTES

- **Henry Njoroge** will leave on Monday, December 5 to return to Kenya. Henry has served faithfully as an elder at FPC. We wish him God's blessing as he rejoins his family. We will miss him. He will worship with us this Sunday and you will have a chance to greet him following worship.
- Congratulations to **Bob Yoder** and **Christina Ricardi** who have successfully defended their dissertations.

## YEAR-END GIVING REMINDER

Contributions statements are being mailed next week to all those who had pledge balances as of November 27<sup>th</sup>. Timely payment of pledges by December 31<sup>st</sup> will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2011.

**Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday, December 30, 2011, or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2011, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2011 taxes.**

If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator ([t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org)) as soon as possible.

## OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Will, Mary Ann, James, Peter, and Anna Compton** on the death of Mary Ann's grandmother, **Sue Phillips**. Also to **Neal, Emily, Kennedy and Sophie Wilkins** on the death of Emily's uncle, the **Reverend William Varker**, in Greensboro, NC.

## OUR CONCERNS

**Added this week:** **Rick Degand**, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

- **Carol Willis** is a patient at Duke.
- **Rob and Amy Harkey** remain in Uganda to receive their adopted child.

<b>Margaret Boswell</b>	<b>Dub Gulley</b>
<b>Martha Howerton</b>	<b>Tom Howerton</b>
<b>Don Jenkins</b>	<b>Carol Johnson</b>
<b>Florence McDow</b>	<b>David Parkins</b>
<b>Mozette Rollins</b>	<b>Sarah Todd</b>
<b>Susan Thompson</b>	<b>Jerry Tyren</b>

- **Chester Bissette**, grandfather of Abi Bissette
- **Mary Causey**, sister of Ellen Bacon
- **Sarah McCracken Cobb**, sister of Mary Ann Compton
- **Kate Crockett**, granddaughter of Alex and Becky Crockett
- **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

## IGLESIA EMANUEL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Christmas performance:  
"A Colorful Christmas"**

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

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

Volunteers are needed for Christmas Camp, Saturdays, December 3, 10, 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for the purpose of preparing for the Christmas performance. Please contact **Julio Ramirez** for more information on how you can support these Christmas activities: 672-4333.

## YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Advent is a time to be mindful of all the ways God is present in our lives and to think about how we choose to live out the HOPE of God's promise to us, that God will come again and heal us and our troubled world. While we wait, we do things like staff the Habitat for Humanity Giving Tree at Southpoint Mall — reminding shoppers that there's more to the Christmas holiday season than shopping for stuff. Every time you smiled and spoke to a stranger, asking them to be a part of Habitat's Youth United, you were spreading that hope! It was a beautiful thing and I was so proud to be a part of it!

This Sunday is the FPC Advent Festival. All youth will join us in the fellowship hall during the Sunday School hour to accompany one of our younger friends in the celebration. After worship will be your chance to play! **We will not have youth group Sunday evening** in light of this intergenerational fellowship event!

Save these Dates . . .

**Sunday, December 11 at 6 p.m.**

Sing around the Chrismon Tree

**Sunday, December 18 at 4 p.m.**

FPC youth caroling and

White Elephant Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

No Sunday School or youth groups!

**Sunday, January 1 – New Year's Day**

No Sunday School.

FPC college youth will lead worship!

Love you,

*Rebecca*

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Monday, December 5  
at 10:30 a.m. – East Parlor**

We will be discussing Chapter 4.

New faces are welcome!

## DAYTIMERS' GATHERING AT CROASDALE VILLAGE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

AT 11:30 A.M.

## A CHRISTMAS CONCERT OF BRASS, ORGAN AND VOICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30 P.M. AT FPC

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**.

## FIRST FRIENDS

## ADVENT GATHERING

**Saturday, December 10**

at 6:30 p.m. hosted by

**Melinda Ruley & Stewart Fisher**  
5301 Cabe Ford Rd, Durham

**This is a child-free event.**

RSVP to Melinda: ruleyfish@earthlink.net

## PRIME TIMERS'

## CHRISTMAS GATHERING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

at 7 p.m. at the Gerwes' home

2704 Trailwood Drive

[bebegeerwe@gmail.com](mailto:bebegeerwe@gmail.com)

Watch your mailbox for details

## ATTENTION FPC

## HOOPSTERS!

Basketball season is upon us again, so it's time to get organized for another year of church league basketball. For all men (and young men 16 and over) interested in playing in the competitive Hope Valley Baptist Church league this winter, there will be a **brief meeting after church this Sunday, December 4**. In addition, we have reserved gym time at Hope Valley Baptist Church on the following Saturdays at 11 a.m. -- **December 3, 10 and 17**. Please come out and join us on those Saturdays for pick-up basketball and fellowship. For more information, contact **Carl Rist** at [rist@frontier.com](mailto:rist@frontier.com).

## DONOR DRIVE

Sunday, December 11 from Noon - 2 p.m.

**Little Florence McDow** is only six, but already she is facing her second stem cell transplant within a year at Duke Hospital. We know because we have been praying for Florence, her sister **Laura Mish**, and parents **Leslie and Will** all year. **Kate Crockett**, granddaughter to **Alex and Becky Crockett** is also facing a stem cell transplant at Duke. **Allen Verhey** is in remission due to a previous stem cell transplant. How can we show our support and solidarity for these precious people? On Sunday, December 11, FPC will host a donor drive from noon to 2 p.m. to boost the international bone marrow/stem cell registry and to support and stand in solidarity with Florence, Kate, and others like them. Our neighboring churches and organizations will be invited to participate, as well.

How can you help? If you are between the ages of 18 and 60 and fit the health profiles, you can have your cheek swabbed to include your tissue type in the international registry. If you are a match, they will give you a call. If you are any age and want to take part, you can contribute to **Be The Match Foundation** which needs \$100 per registrant to process their tissue samples. Or, you can indicate on your driver's license or at the church that you are willing to be an organ donor at the end of life. All of these are ways of alternative giving, ways that give life and hope to those who are groping for possibilities. Forms will be available at the Advent Festival, and on December 11<sup>th</sup> to participate and donate. For more information about the registry, go to [BeTheMatch.org](http://BeTheMatch.org). Jesus says in John's Gospel, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

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