

First Presbyterian News

NOVEMBER 30, 2010



ESTABLISHED 1871

Advent comes to us in the grey, bleak days of December when things get darker and darker and colder and shorter. It comes to us when, with the tinny, glitzy surroundings of our material pleasures and prosperities, we know in our inner heart of hearts that all that glitters is not gold. . . . It is into such a season as this, against the tide, against the world, against the culture, against the fashion, that we Christians are invited to hope in the face of hopelessness. Advent is the season of hope: that the darkness will not cover the light, that the cold will not overwhelm the warmth, that hatred will not prevail over love, and that repression will not triumph over freedom. - **Peter J. Gomes**, *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon:

**"When Half Spent
Was the Night "**

Joseph S. Harvard, preaching



Worship Texts

Old Testament	Isaiah 11;1-10
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 72:1-7
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 3:1-12
Epistle Lesson	Romans 15:4-13

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

Crucifer: **Corey Allen**

Greeters: **Edward & Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

Andy Henry (side, font)

Andy Widmark (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: **Joy Kerner** (head), **Rob Everett**,
Nancy Kost, **Hilda Bradshaw**,
Jon Kimball, **Jay Klinck**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

The Message of John the Baptist
in Matthew 3

John the Baptist shows up every Advent in the lectionary readings. This repeated appearance does not make his message any easier to understand or his message any more palatable. **Robert Brawley** will seek to help us seek to hear the message. Join us at 9:45 a.m. in **the chapel**.

Lectionary Class

There is news of one who is coming. One report says he will be a wise, righteous judge, bringing in a time of peace. Another report says he will be very powerful and will collect the wheat but burn the chaff. Should we welcome him or flee from his wrath? 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 Book of Genesis and the 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 below the sanctuary.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Alternative Giving Opportunities

This Advent we welcome back our good neighbors from Habitat, Urban Ministries, Housing for New Hope, Threshold, Human Kindness, and Genesis House, who provide alternative giving opportunities for Christmas. Please bring your checkbooks to the Advent Festival, if you want to shop with a social conscience.

FPC's Advent Festival is this Sunday, December 5, 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. Bob and Lina Yoder are leading this week's service. A light supper will follow at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be available. **Please RSVP for the suppers.**

"GRATITUDE TO GOD PROMPTS
A GENEROUS SPIRIT"

Received as of November 29, 2010:
117 Pledges totaling \$ 475,068.00
representing **54.3%** of our goal
2011 Pledge Goal: \$830,411.45.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Carlisle and I deeply appreciate the encouragement and support you offer to us concerning my surgery next week. It means so much that your love and your prayers are accompanying us during this time.

I am also encouraged by the way many of you are offering to step up and assist **Marilyn** and **Sam** during my absence. As I hear about plans for Advent and Christmas, I regret that I will not be present to experience this enriching time in the church as we await and celebrate the coming of Christ into our lives and our world. I am also encouraged by the generous responses so many of you have made through your pledges to meet the challenges God has placed before us as a congregation. Thanks for your generosity!

This Sunday I will be with you for the second Sunday of Advent. The **Advent Festival** following worship promises to be a special event. The theme for worship this Sunday is hope. I don't know about you, but I can use a dose of the hope we have in the faithfulness of God. It will be especially meaningful for me to gather with you on Sunday. With hope,

Joe

MANY THANKS to those who gave of their holiday time to volunteer at the Habitat House last Monday and Tuesday, or at Urban Ministries Community Café on Thursday. And kudos to **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** for organizing and overseeing the Habitat opportunity. Volunteers included: **Kathy Conner, Jody and Julie Maxwell, Kathy Kirschmann, Doris Smith, Lauren Kennedy, Michael Bacon, Dawn Carsey, Cherrie Henry, Brent Curtis, Lanny Pratt, Kerry Holbrook, Kate Busa, Leslie Shaw, Jancy Strauman, Marilyn Hedgpeth and Tyler Momsen-Hudson.**

OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Mary, David, Ian and Kevin Gitata** on the death of Mary's brother, **Machua Mbugua**, who died in Kenya on November 26th. **You are invited to the Gitatas' home (4120 Settlement Drive) on Saturday, December 4 at 11 a.m.** for a time of remembrance and gratitude for the life of Machua.

"Jesus said,

"I am the resurrection and the Life."

DURHAM CAN DELEGATES ASSEMBLY
Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 p.m.
Episcopal Church El Buen Pastor
1852 Liberty Street, Durham

OUR CONCERNS

Millie Hester, mother of Marie Sappenfield, is at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

Florence McDow is visiting the Mayo Clinic this week for evaluation, but is doing well.

Lisa Gauldin
Jeanne Hervey
Carol Johnson

Jim Hawkins
Betty Jelstrup

- ◆ **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
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Anne Martin**, sister of Beth Neece
- ◆ **Stephen McAllister**, son-in-law of Bill and Debbie Mathews
- ◆ **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 Tendler**, sister-in-law of Susan Spratt
- ◆ **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

Names will remain on this list for two weeks unless there is a request from the family to keep a name on the list.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FPC needs volunteers this Saturday, morning and afternoon, for the **Everett Habitat House**. Please contact Tom Bacon (403-9683 or send email to: tom_bacon@med.unc.edu) if you can help.

FIRST FRIENDS GATHERING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
at 6:30 p.m. hosted by
Melinda Ruley & Stewart Fisher
5301 Cabe Ford Rd, Durham
(This is a child-free event.)
The main dish (meat) will be provided.
Please bring side dish or dessert.
RSVP to Melinda:
ruleyfish@earthlink.net

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Monday, December 6
10:30 a.m. – East Parlor

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Kudos to all of you who showed up on Sunday at Southpointe Mall's Giving Tree to help raise money for Habitat for Humanity Youth United. Thanks to your persistence and graciousness we raised \$309.00! I was so impressed and proud of all of you. It was fun having lunch and seeing 'Mega Mind' too.

This Sunday we will gather for our last regular scheduled youth group of 2010. Per usual, 'God Squad' will meet from 5-6:30 and 'I'ter' will meet from 6-8 p.m. Dinner will be lovingly provided by the Maxwell's.

Love,

Rebecca Leonard

PS: mark your calendars because on December 19th we will have our caroling and Christmas party from 4-8 p.m.

CAREER WORKSHOP

"Take Charge of Your Career Success" workshop will be 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 by emailing **Jim Koehneke**: jim@jimkcoaching.com, or calling 919-768-7425.

Christmas Concerns, In Lieu of Cards or Gifts

Send Christmas greetings to your church family, AND help alleviate suffering in the Durham Community. This year's Christmas concerns donations will be divided between Durham's Urban Ministries, Housing for New Hope, and Emergency Walk-in at the church. To participate, write a greeting to a favorite FPC friend on the note provided in the foyer, adhere it to the Christmas Concerns display, and then follow up with a donation check of any amount to FPC, memo: Christmas Concerns. This is a good way to honor friendships, and to aid the local community with heart during this difficult economy.

ATTENTION

BASKETBALL PLAYERS . . .

The First Presbyterian men's basketball team is getting ready for another season in the church league sponsored by Hope Valley Baptist Church. As we prepare for the season, we will be getting together on the following **Saturdays -- Dec. 4, 11 and 18 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Hope Valley Baptist's gym** for open gym and pick-up play. We invite all interested adults and youth aged 16 and up to scrimmage with us and learn more about the team. If you have questions or need directions, please contact **Carl Rist** at 688-5969 or rist@frontier.com.

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 this Sunday, December 5**.

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.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDER

Contributions statements are being mailed this week to all those who had pledge balances as of November 28. Timely payment of pledges by December 31 will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2010.

Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, December 31, 2010, or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2010, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2010 taxes.

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

Christmas Eve Offering to Subsidize Children in FPC Dayschool

Did you know that Durham's Child Care Services Association, which provides childcare subsidy to low-income families, has run out of money? This shortage will affect about 250 families in Durham County. Six of those children are enrolled at the FPC Dayschool, and they could lose their opportunity to attend a five-star, high quality Dayschool if support is not found. Dayschool Director **Katharine Smith** has assured these families of funding through April, but beyond that, nothing is certain.

FPC desires for these children to stay in a stable environment where they can learn and be loved. Children do not do well when transitioned quickly from one caregiver to another. Therefore, the session has requested that FPC's Christmas Eve offering be used to subsidize the continued care of these children and of their parents who work to support them. If you will not be here for Christmas Eve, you may still help, by earmarking any donations to FPC / Childcare subsidy. It's a win-win, for the children, their families, and for our FPC Dayschool. Many thanks. – **Marilyn**

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