

First Presbyterian News

DECEMBER 11, 2012



There must be always remaining in every person's life some place for the singing of angels—some place for that which is breathlessly beautiful. . . . The commonplace is shot through now with new glory—old burdens become lighter, deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old, old hurting. A crown is placed over our heads that for the rest of our lives we are trying to grow tall enough to wear. Despite all the crassness of life, despite all the harsh discords of life, life is saved by the singing of angels. - **Howard Thurman**, The Mood of Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Our worship this Sunday will consist of the reading of texts from the Old Testament prophecies to the birth of Jesus Christ, with hymns and anthems commemorating the Incarnation.

Meditation: "How Can This Be?"
Joseph S. Harvard, preaching

Acolytes: **Emily Stark, Marcy Pedzwater**

Crucifer: **Alex Buck**

Crossdaile Driver: **Paul Cornsweet**

Narthex Greeters: **Minnie Cameron,
Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters:

Jackson Buck (side/front)

James Compton (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **John Cowden** (head), **Margaret Wabera** (flowers), **Karen Romines, Pat Ashby, Keith Merritt**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

FAITH AND COMMUNITY CLASS

"Politics and Economics in the Birth Narratives"

This week we will continue our exploration of the birth narratives in the Gospel of Luke. **Robert Brawley** will lead the discussion. We will focus on politics, economics, and the births of John and Jesus. Join us at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall.

LECTIONARY CLASS

Is it good news or bad news that God is coming soon? According to John the Baptist, that depends on whether you are wheat or chaff. Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

JOURNEYS CLASS

Journeys will continue its exploration of feminist and liberation theology by discussing the essay "Following Naked Dancing and Long Dreaming" from the book Inheriting Our Mother's Garden. As a special treat this Sunday, **Neal Wilkins** will recite "The Cajun Night Before Christmas" at 10:45 a.m. Join us in the bayou at the end of the hall on the second floor of the Christian education building. All are welcome.

FAMILY MATTERS CLASS

Family Matters gathers in room 203 of the CE building at 9:45 to discuss matters of faith and our journey as parents.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class will meet in the basement classroom to continue discussing chapter 5 of Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** will be the facilitator. Mentors are more than welcome to join us.

ADVENT COMMUNION



Each service will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. **Cris Rivera** is preparing the meal each week. Childcare provided. All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 12

Led by **Sarah Finbow and Susan Dunlap**
w/ Youth Handbells

Wednesday, December 19

Worship led by **I Sil Yoon**

CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

LAST CALL to share greetings via the Christmas Concerns display at the church. The money you save on cards and postage can be given to help those in need. **The names of those who shared greetings will be listed in next week's church newsletter.**

To participate, write a check to FPC, earmarked "Christmas Concerns" and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Then address a poinsettia or stocking ornament with a greeting to your church family and hang it on the Jesse Tree in the foyer. This year's donations will be used to purchase vouchers (\$20 each) for families in need to shop at the Durham Economic Resource Center's (DERC) outlet in downtown Durham.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Costume Distribution

Sunday, December 16 following worship

Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday, December 22 at 1 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

"Feed My Sheep"

Received as of December 9th

160 Pledges totaling \$710,000

representing **81.9%** of our

2013 Pledge Goal of \$866,960.

Thank you for your generous support of Christ's work in Durham. If you have not already done so, please bring your completed pledge form to church on Sunday or mail it to the church office. Thank you!

HELP RING THE BELL

Joe Harvard and **Andy Widmark** are planning to ring the Salvation Army bell on **Monday, December 17** from 10 a.m. until noon at New Hope Commons. FPC members have been invited to serve this location from 10 a.m. until 7 pm. If you are available to serve a two-hour shift on Monday, please contact **Joe Harvard** at 919-688-3960.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

A liability of having heard the story of the birth of Jesus over and over is that we assume that there is nothing new for us to hear. Let me encourage you to listen and look at the Christmas story with fresh ears and eyes this year. It has been amazing to me how I encounter some new insight that speaks to me in a helpful way when I come to this story with a sense of expectancy.

I am looking forward to the unfolding of this incredible narrative in word, song, and pageant. Several years ago there was a line in a popular song which said "we sure could use some good news." I definitely echo that sentiment as Christmas approaches. I invite you to join me in opening our lives to the advent of the message of the angel who announced long ago, "Behold, I bring you good news." May God open our eyes so that the light can shine into the darkness.

The Service of Lessons and Carols has been a special occasion in our congregation. I hope you will invite friends to join us this Sunday for what promises to be a good opportunity to hear some good news.

Joe

NOTES

- Thanks to **Melinda Ruley and Stewart Fisher** for hosting an enjoyable Christmas gathering for First Friends on Saturday evening.
- Many thanks to **Carol Wills** and those who helped with the wonderful congregational dinner and carol sing on Sunday evening. Those who provided hospitality included: **Pat Ashby, Alice Raney, Julie Maxwell, Susan Dunlap, Kathy Conner, and Robert Daye.**
- Congratulations to **Sarah Marion** who is graduating from Brown University (Providence, RI) this week. Proud parents are **Rich and Debbie Marion** of FPC.
- Congratulations to **Jared Rist**, who played in the NCAA men's soccer finals this past weekend for Georgetown University!

Dear friends,

I'm excited to let you know that I have been approved for ordination by the Presbytery of Southern New England. The service is scheduled for Saturday, January 19, at 11:00 a.m. in Battell Chapel at Yale.

On another note, **Ren** and I are expecting a baby in June. Lots of good news this Advent Season!

Peace be with you,

Candice

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to **Tamzin and Joe Kinnett** upon the birth of a son, **Rowe Thomas Kinnett**, born Thursday, December 6. All are doing well!

OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Leigh Knauert, Harrison, Lily, and David** on the death of Leigh's son, **Peter Knauert**, on December 7th in Highlands Ranch, CO. A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Denver.

Love and concern is also extended to **Kristen Brigman** on the death of her uncle, **John Seaford** of Granite Quarry, NC, who died on December 8th.

OUR CONCERNS

Helen Garrison **Steve Gavett**
Jim Hedrick **Kerry Holbrook**
Diana Huggin **Ann Majestic**
Kristen Meade **Mozette Rollins**

Croasdaile Village

Bette Conroy (Pavilion, A-239)
Don Jenkins (Pavilion, E-116)
Carol Johnson (Friendship, D-120)
Bob Kever (Room A-162)
Jean Lazarides (Room A-229)
Bob Rankin (Pavilion, Room 109)
Jerry Tyren (Pavilion, E-205)

Hillcrest Convalescent

Tom Howerton
Randall and Connie McLeod

The Forest at Duke

Peaches McPherson
Ruth Mary Meyer

Unihealth Post Acute Care

David Garrison

- **George Bernhardt, III**, son of George & Jo Bernhardt
- **Kappy Carr Black**, daughter of the late Katherine Carr
- **Ben Browne**, great grandson of Peaches McPherson
- **Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis
- **Rick Degand**, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- **Betsy Euler**, friend of Jeanne Hervey
- **Jim Goff**, father of Leslie McDow
- **Frances Kennedy**, mother of Emily Wilkins
- **Anne Martin**, sister of Beth Neece
- **Reeves McGee**, friend of Peter & Barbara Fish
- **Joyce Peel**, mother of Anna Jones
- **Nants Reynolds**, sister of Joe Harvard
- **Sophie Steiner**, friend of the Abels
- **Owen Thornton**, nephew of the late Hilda Bradshaw
- **Bob Town**, father of Kim Abels
- **Katie Warren**, friend of Howard & Beth Eisenson
- **Kemper Foy Zeigler**, friend of Joe & Carlisle Harvard

YOUTH NEWS

What an amazing night of food, fellowship and music we had last Sunday night! The youth will continue their celebration of Christmas this Sunday night with our annual Christmas party! Please come to FPC at 4:00 p.m. so that we can carol at Hillcrest! (Parents, please let me know if you can drive!) We will then return to the church for our party (5 – 8 p.m.)! Don't forget your white elephant gift, a Christmas treat to share, and your holiday spirit! Dinner will be provided by the **Champion-Buck** family!

Blessings,
Sarah Finbow

JUNIOR CHOIR SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 16

Rehearsal following worship

Sundays, December 23 & 30

No rehearsal

Handbells Choir

No adult handbell rehearsal on Tuesday, December 11

Youth Handbells

Please arrive by 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12 for the Advent evening worship.



PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

LAST CALL: If you would like to order for yourself a copy of the new "Glory to God" Presbyterian Hymnal, please send a check, payable to FPC for \$15.00, to **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator, by **December 15th** noting on the check that it is for a personal hymnal. For more information please visit: www.presbyterianhymnal.org.

COFFEE, ANYONE?

Café Justo: We still have a supply of Arabica dark roast beans, and also a few bags of ground coffee which will be on sale Sunday after worship, \$10 per pound. Please contact **John Fricks** if you want the premium Marago, or perhaps decaf. We may be able to order those for delivery in early January.

Society of Orpheus and Bacchus in Concert

Sunday, December 30

4:00 p.m. in FPC's sanctuary

FPC is hosting this all-male capella singing group for their 2012 tour. The concert will be followed by a catered reception. This is a ticketed event, open to the public. Adults: \$15 per person purchased on-line, \$20 per person by cash/check at the door; Children under 12: \$10 purchased on-line, \$15 per child by cash/check at the door. For more information and tickets go online to: [Society of Orpheus and Bacchus](http://SocietyofOrpheusandBacchus.org)

WELCOME BACK!

On Sunday, December 9, 2012, the Session approved the transfer of former members, **Carlton Gainey** and **Walt and Katy Barron** back into the FPC church family.

Carlton has returned to the Triangle area after living in Beckley, West Virginia for the past year and a half. He has accepted a position with *Unifirst* in the Sales Department which focuses on rental work wear. Carlton lives at 7711 Collection River Drive, #6303, Raleigh, 27617. He is transferring his membership from Beckley Presbyterian Church in Beckley, WV.

Walt and Katy Barron and daughters, Ruby, three and a half, and **Dot** one and a half years old spent the past six months in New Orleans. Walt has accepted a position with his former company, McKinney Advertising, as SVP, head of Account Planning. The Barrons live at 916 Dacian Avenue, 27701. Walt and Katy are transferring their membership from St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, LA.

PRIMETIMERS'

COVERED DISH SUPPER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00 p.m. at the Gerwes' home

2704 Trailwood Drive

RSVP: bebegerwe@gmail.com

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 18

12 Noon at Croasdaile Village

RSVP to **Jean Moore** at 919-384-2799 if you plan to join us.

If you need a ride, call **Maxie Honeycutt** at 919-286-4660.

YEAR-END GIVING

Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Monday, December 31, 2012, or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2012, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2012 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 --- the brokerage information to make stock gifts has changed recently.

Friends,

The staff of Healthy Families Durham wishes to thank FPC for the new baby / mommy gift bag items and books that were donated before Thanksgiving. "They were wonderful and well-received."



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The last edition of the FPC newsletter for 2012 will be issued next Tuesday, December 18 and will cover news through January 7, 2013. Please submit relevant articles to Valerie by **Monday, December 17**. Thank you for your cooperation and support in 2012. (v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org)

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♦ 305 East Main Street ♦ Durham, NC 27701 ♦ Phone: (919) 682-5511 ♦ Fax: (919) 682-0493
<http://firstpres-durham.org>