

First Presbyterian News

DECEMBER 14, 2010



ESTABLISHED 1871

If it is true that God in Jesus Christ is waiting for our response to divine love, then we can discover a whole new perspective on how to wait in life. We can learn to be obedient people who do not always try to go back to the action, but who recognize the fulfillment of our deepest humanity in passion, in waiting. If we can do this, I am convinced that we will come in touch with the glory of God in our own new life. - **Henri Nouwen**, "The Spirituality of Waiting", *Weavings*, January 1987.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19



Fourth Sunday
of Advent

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School
11:00 a.m.
A Service of
Lessons and Carols
Meditation: "Waiting"

Sam R. Miglarese, preaching
The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received during worship on Sunday. See the enclosed brochure for information regarding this special offering for PC(USA).

Lectionary Texts

Old Testament	Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Gospel Lessons	Matthew 1:18-25
Epistle Lesson	Romans 1:1-7

Acolytes: **Jenna Leonard, Aurelia Klinck**

Crucifer: **Catie Brockman**

Greeters: **Linn Lopez, Minnie Cameron**

After Worship Greeters:

Dawn Carsey (side, font)

Diane Standaert (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: **Joy Kerner** (head), **John Kelley,**

Delia Kwon, Mac McCorkle,

Jackie Mbah, David Lorimer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

"A star, wise men, Herod,
and the flight to Egypt"

This Sunday **Robert Brawley** will continue a discussion of the birth narrative found in the Gospel of Matthew. Join us at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall for an enlightening discussion.

Lectionary Class

What is the significance of a child? Does the birth of a child bring love or scandal, hope or anxiety? These are weighty matters, more than a tiny human life can bear. But what about a child of God? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

Journeys continues their exploration of Genesis with a discussion of Jacob's journeys, deceptions and reconciliation. Join us at 9:45 on the second floor of the CE building for a good discussion.

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.

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.



Share Christmas greetings with 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 the congregation on the star 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 FPC friendships, and to aid the local community with heart during this difficult economy. **The names of those who shared greetings will be listed in the December 21st issue of the FPC newsletter. Will your name be among them?**

ADVENT COMMUNION

This Wednesday's Evensong Advent Communion Service will be led by **Anthony Kamau and Joseph Ngumi**. The service begins at 6 p.m., with childcare provided, followed by a light supper at 6:30. **Brent Curtis** is providing spaghetti casserole, homemade bread and salad for dinner.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

THIRD FRIDAY EVENT

First Presbyterian Church will participate in downtown Durham's monthly Third Friday activities on **December 17th**. Acclaimed vocal/instrumental duo--**Little Windows**, featuring **Mark Weems and Julee Glaub**, will perform seasonal and folk music from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for an **Alternative Holiday Gifts Fair**. Local and international organizations will offer gift-giving opportunities for the socially-conscious giver to impact the lives of many in need. Admission is free and the public is invited.

HARVARD UPDATE

Joe was discharged from Duke Hospital Sunday afternoon, which is remarkable for this type of surgery. The doctors advised him that it will be 45 days before he can drive or return to work. The Harvards are extremely grateful for your support and prayers.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It occurs to me that we do a great deal of hosting and being hosted during these holy days of Advent and Christmas. Last Wednesday evening, 70 of us were hosted at a service of candle-light communion led by **Mary Banner** and **Kathy Parkins**, and treated to a nice dinner afterwards assembled by **Lyn Francisco** and **Robert Daye**. On Friday night, the Prime Timers were hosted in a time of fellowship and carol-singing by **Rod and Barbara Gerwe**. And last night, **Alice Raney** and the **Fellowship Committee** hosted about 150 members for a congregational pot-luck, followed by a warm and wonderful evening of congregational carol singing. On Wednesday, FPC will host the **Martin and Hawkins families** and the Durham community at a memorial service for former member and former mayor of Durham, **Jim Hawkins**. Our doors will be open wide and our hospitality will be extended to those who mourn. Then on Wednesday evening, **Anthony Kamau** and **Joseph Ngumi** will bring us back to the Lord's Table for another Advent communion service, and **Brent Curtis** will host us for dinner afterwards. On Friday evening, the **Membership Committee** will host an Alternative Gifts Fair and Little Windows folk band at a Third Friday event here. And on Sunday, **Kathy Parkins** and the choir will host us for a Service of Lessons and Carols at the 11 a.m. worship service. Sometimes we are the host, and sometimes we are the guests of the host.

And soon and very soon, the heavenly host will repeat the sounding joy at our Christmas Eve pageant, and the Lord, himself, will host us at the Lord's Table as we proclaim the presence of God-incarnate, God-with-us, Jesus Christ, born, risen, and reborn in our midst as Savior and Redeemer. I am grateful for the priesthood of all believers, which swings open the doors to all, to host and be hosted as beloved friends of Jesus, our Lord.

Gratefully,

Marilyn

OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to the **Martin and Hawkins families** on the death of **Jim Hawkins**, father of **Becky Martin** and **Richard Hawkins**, and former mayor of Durham. A Memorial Service will be held at FPC on Wednesday, December 15 at 3 p.m. A reception will follow in Watts-Hill Hall.

"Jesus said,

'I am the resurrection and the life.'"

NOTES

- The **Prime Timer's** enjoyed a festive evening of fellowship on Friday, hosted by **Rod and Barbara Gerwe**.
- The sanctuary looks beautiful with the poinsettias in place, thanks to the **Arthur and Mary Clark**, and the Decorating Committee of **Dale Georgiade** and **Alice Raney**.
- Many thanks to **Alice Raney** and the **Fellowship Committee** for a wonderful Christmas Congregational Dinner and Sing-along on Sunday night. About 150 people attended, and enjoyed accompaniment by our impromptu FPC orchestra under the leadership of **Kathy Parkins**. **Joe Harvard** enjoying hearing the final carol, *Silent Night*, via telephone. Sadly, however, during the festivities, some children vandalized one of the Dayschool classrooms and destroyed the children's artwork. If you know who did this, please report to the church office.
- Those interested in joining the multi-faith trip to Israel in June led by **Rabbi John Friedman** need to call the church office by Wednesday to make the list. Rabbi Friedman needs to make reservations and plans for the group, and asks that participants make their commitment now about going.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Kelsey Osman** who will be graduating from NC State on December 18th. Kelsey is the daughter of **Mary-Jo Keenan**.

"GRATITUDE TO GOD PROMPTS A GENEROUS SPIRIT"

Received as of December 13, 2010:
178 Pledges totaling **\$695,068**
representing **79.4%** of our goal
2011 Pledge Goal: \$875,390.

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.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

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.

OUR CONCERNS

- ♦ **David Hester**, former associate pastor at FPC, Louisville, KY
- ♦ **Sarah Todd**, a patient at Duke Hospital, recovering from a broken wrist and fractured pelvis
- ♦ **Peter Morton**, recovering at home
- ♦ **Joe Harvard**, recovering at home
- ♦ **Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis
- ♦ **Jonathan Wilkins**, brother of Neal Wilkins
- Lisa Gauldin** **Betty Jelstrup**
Carol Johnson **Florence McDow**
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **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

"LEARN BY HEART"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

DEADLINE

The last edition of the 2010 FPC newsletter will be issued on December 21. This edition will cover church news through January 4, 2011. Sunday School teachers and church officers / staff are encouraged to submit your articles to **Valerie McMillian** by **December 20th**. Thank you!

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

This Sunday we will have our annual Caroling and White Elephant Christmas party. We will gather at the church at 4 p.m., head out to a few stops for caroling and then return to FPC for dinner and our party. Parents, we will need drivers, please.

This year, for our white elephant party, you need to know two things: first you will need to bring a canned food item to donate to the Iglesia Emanuel Food Bank to participate, and secondly, we're thinking alternative giving this year. . . so bring a recycled, handmade or under 2\$ gift this year (think candy not silly plastic stuff) for our fun game. Pizza will be provided but please, bring a dessert to share, too. Thanks and can't wait to see everyone on Sunday!

Rebecca Harvard Leonard

Remember, you still have time to vote for our Habitat for Humanity Youth United tree...text 46988 and enter TREE19.

BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGES

FPC's men's basketball team is getting ready for another season in the church league sponsored by Hope Valley Baptist Church. We invite all interested adults (and youth aged 16 and up) to scrimmage with us on **Saturday, December 18 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Hope Valley Baptist's gym**. Please contact **Carl Rist** at 688-5969 or rist@frontier.com if you are interested in playing on FPC's team.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Durham's Child Care Services Association, which provides childcare subsidy to low-income families, has run out of money. As a result, six children enrolled at the FPC Dayschool could lose their opportunity to attend a five-star, high quality Dayschool if support is not found. The FPC Session has requested that our Christmas Eve offering be used to subsidize the continued care of these children. If you will not be here Christmas Eve, you may still help by earmarking any donations to FPC, memo: Childcare subsidy.

TRAVELING MERCIES to our

newest PC(USA) missionaries, **Josh, Kimberly and Mahalia Vis**, whom we honored in worship on Sunday before they leave to take a teaching position at the university in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Josh will be teaching Old Testament at the university there. We ask God's blessings on the Vis family as they step out in faith, and we will support them with our prayers and resources as they live into their new calling. Their session liaisons are **Phyllis and Allen Verhey**.

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