

First Presbyterian News

DECEMBER 20, 2011



Emmanuel—God with us. . . . The claim is that it is something that has happened. Year after year the ancient tale of what happened is told—raw, preposterous, holy—and year after year the world in some measure stops to listen.

- Frederick Buechner, *Secrets in the Dark*

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Many of you have commented on the magnificent Service of Lessons and Carols and your comments capture what that service meant to me. Someone at the door after worship said to me, "It was the most meaningful worship I have ever attended." Gratitude is extended to Kathy Parkins and the choir! What a gift to have Mary Kay and Joe Robinson playing for us. It was an incredible service with a full house. Some of our regulars went to the balcony to find seats. It was a day that the Lord made and we rejoice and were glad in it. CD's are available if you want one.

I hope you will join us for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The pageant and communion at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve has become a valued tradition at FPC when we let our amazing children help us tell the story. Since Christmas is on Sunday this year, our worship on Christmas Day will enable us to sing and tell the story of Christ's birth. Let me encourage you to come with your family to celebrate our Savior's birth. I look forward to celebrating Christmas with you.

Joe



5 PM Pageant, Communion and Candle Lighting Service

Gluten-free communion bread will be served at the baptismal font location. The **Christmas Eve offering** will be used to support FPC's Emergency Assistance fund.

Acolytes: **Jenna Leonard, Aurelia Klinck**
Crucifer: **Kennedy Wilkins**

Communion Elders

Lea Bingham (B1, Process)
Mac McCorkle (B2),
Carlisle Harvard (B3),
Lisa Rist (B4), **Andy Henry** (B5),
Peter Fish (C1, PC), **Mal King** (C2),
Jon Abels (C3),
Bill Hendrickson (C4, Head),
Wendy McCorkle (C5),
Carl Rist (SF), **Guy Cecelski** (SC),
Kate Busa (SP), **Scottie Seawell** (SB),
Phyllis Verhey (SB),
Jean Wilson (A1)

Ushers: **Jody Maxwell** (head), **Julie Maxwell**, **John Kelley**, **Bill Brown**,
Christyn Klinck, **Jim Johnson**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

"A Celebration of Christmas:
The Characters Around the Cradle"
Nativity of Jesus / Christmas Day

Worship & Holy Communion – 11 a.m.
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

The **Hunger for Change** offering will be received on Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1 so that you will be able to assist us in responding to the need for food among our neighbors.

Acolytes: **Graeme Peterson, Gwen Dilworth**
Crucifer: **Neil Peterson**

Narthex Greeter: **Linn Lopez**,

After Worship Greeters:

Lisa Rist (side/ font), **Leslie Strohm** (narthex)
Ushers: **Susan Seahorn** (head),

Mary Ann Compton, Rob Everett

Communion Elders:

Anthony Kamau (B1, PB), **Guy Cecelski**, (B2),
Andy Henry (B3), **Kate Busa** (C1, PC),
Jean Cary (C2), **Leslie Strohm** (C3),
Lea Bingham Head), **Luke Everett** (SF),
Mac McCorkle (SC), **Jean Wilson** (SP),
Scottie Seawell (A1)

The following members and friends send Christmas greetings to the church family. In the Spirit of Christmas, they also made donations to Christmas Concerns to support Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministry, and Durham's Emergency Energy Fund:

<i>Homer & Patricia Ashby</i>	<i>Laura Hanson & David Cecelski</i>	<i>Miriam Morey</i>
<i>Paul Baldasare & Jane Wettach</i>	<i>Joe & Carlisle Harvard</i>	<i>Parker & BJ Morton</i>
<i>Dan & Mary Banner</i>	<i>Lynn Hayes</i>	<i>Edward & Caroline Pritchett</i>
<i>Tom & Ellen Bacon</i>	<i>Marilyn Hedgpeth</i>	<i>Candice Provey</i>
<i>Betsey Beach</i>	<i>Andy & Cheryl Henry</i>	<i>Steve & Martha Rimmer</i>
<i>Fran Bryant</i>	<i>Jeanne Hervey</i>	<i>John, Betsey, Sarah & Emma Robinson</i>
<i>Compton family</i>	<i>Hirsch family</i>	<i>Karen Romines & Connell Fullenkamp</i>
<i>Sarah Cox</i>	<i>Maxie & Michael Honeycutt</i>	<i>Caroline Rourk</i>
<i>Alex & Becky Crockett family</i>	<i>Dan Hudgins / Ann McKown</i>	<i>Henderson & Jane Rourk</i>
<i>Margaret Davis</i>	<i>Anthony Kamau</i>	<i>Miguel & Margaret Rubiera</i>
<i>Day School 's Two -year-olds</i>	<i>Mary Jo Keenan</i>	<i>Ken Schlecht</i>
<i>Ann Driscoll</i>	<i>Tom & Margaret Keller</i>	<i>Jim & BJ Seitzer</i>
<i>Howard & Beth Eisenson</i>	<i>Mal King</i>	<i>David & Judy Smith</i>
<i>Peter & Barbara Fish</i>	<i>Dewey & Bet Lawson</i>	<i>Diane Standaert</i>
<i>Shirley Frederick</i>	<i>Rebecca, Jenna, Maryn Leonard</i>	<i>Marila Stone</i>
<i>Rod & Barbara Gerwe</i>	<i>Lorimer family</i>	<i>Phyllis Supple</i>
<i>Ken Goldner</i>	<i>Carolyn McAllaster</i>	<i>Heather Wallace</i>
<i>Richard & Carrick Goldner</i>	<i>Tyrone & Valerie McMillian</i>	<i>Andy & Ginny Widmark</i>
<i>Dorothy Graham</i>	<i>Sam & Sheila Miglarese</i>	<i>John & Lyn Williams</i>
<i>Libby & Dub Gulley</i>	<i>Harriett Mitchell</i>	<i>Carol Wills</i>
<i>Mildred Hamby</i>	<i>Tyler, Deborah, Carter & Griffin Momsen-Hudson</i>	<i>Chuck & Jean Wilson</i>



The CHURCH OFFICE is CLOSED:
Monday and Tuesday, December 26 & 27, 2011, and Monday, January 2, 2012. The church office must receive your contributions by **December 30**, or they must be **postmarked by December 31, 2011 if mailed**, to be deductible on your 2011 taxes. Contact **Tom Bloom** regarding stock gifts.

Stewardship Update

Received thru December 19, 2011

168 Pledges totaling \$704,170

85% % of 2012 Pledge Goal

If you would still like to make a donation, **Christmas Concerns** and **Christmas Joy contributions** should be brought or mailed to the Church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations to **Rob and Amy Harkey** and **Tom and Catherine Admay** who are welcoming new members into their family this Christmas.

Barbara Buckley and **Jackie Randell** are having surgery this week.

Margaret Boswell **Bob Graper**
Martha Howerton **Tom Howerton**
Diana Hyland Huggin **Don Jenkins**
Carol Johnson **Florence McDow**
Carol McKnight **David Parkins**
Mozette Rollins **Sarah Todd**
Jerry Tyren

- **Michael Atkins**, friend of Rebecca Leonard
- **Chester Bisette**, grandfather of Abi Bisette
- **Mary Causey**, sister of Ellen Bacon
- **Kate Crockett**, granddaughter of Alex and Becky Crockett
- **Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis
- **Rick Degand**, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- **Dwight Huntley**, father of Lesley Curtis
- **Rolf Olsen**, friend of Bob and Lina Yoder
- **Mary Russell Roberson**, daughter of Ruth and Russell Roberson
- ♦ **Karen Wolcott**, cousin of Jean Wilson

FPC MEN OF FAITH

Breakfast / Conversation

Friday, December 30

7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

at Nosh's Café – 2812 Erwin Rd
Drop by and stay as long as you can!

A HABITAT HOUSE . . .

FPC is making plans for a Habitat House to be built in 2012 in honor of the service of **Joe Harvard, Rabbi John Friedman and Bishop Elroy Lewis**, long-time friends and social justice advocates in Durham. A Kick-off / Planning Dinner will be held on **Sunday, January 8 at 6 pm at Judea Reform Synagogue** (Levin Social Hall). If you are interested in helping with this exciting project, please contact **Tom Bacon** or **Sharon Hirsch**.

EMANUEL IGLESIA

Wednesday, December 21

A Christmas program starts at 6 p.m. with a FREE meal served about 7 p.m. Everyone is invited. Food donations for the meal and pantry are very much appreciated.

🎵 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** 🎵
Wednesday, January 4 at 7 p.m.
(Childcare provided)

🎵 **Junior Choir Rehearsal** 🎵
Sunday, January 8 after worship

🎵 **Bell Choir Rehearsal** 🎵
Tuesday, January 10 at 5 p.m.

NOTES

- The Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday was beauty befitting the season, and we are grateful for the leadership of **Kathy Parkins**, for instrumentalists **Sarah Bereza, Stephen Coffman**, and **Dewey Lawson, Joe and Mary Kay Robinson**, for the dedication of the Chancel Choir, and for our articulate readers.
- **Prime Timers** had a great evening at the Gerwes' last Friday with good food and singing, accompanied by Rob and Kathy Parkins.
- The **Rists** hosted a gathering Sunday afternoon who went caroling to the McDows.
- The **Youth** went caroling and jointed the group at the McDows.
- FPC's young adults enjoyed dinner and conversation at the Harvards on Sunday.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES

Walter and Florence Shackelford
celebrate their 60th
Rod and Barbara Gerwe
celebrate their 50th

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CIRCLE AND BIBLE STUDY

Monday, January 9, 2012
at 10:30 a.m. – East Parlor

BOOK GROUP

CORRECTION

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will be discussing Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People by William I. Hensley on **Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of **Mary-Jo Keenan** (2407 Tryon Rd, Durham). **Barbara Gerwe** will be leading the discussion.

TRAVEL SEMINAR PLANNED

Carlisle Harvard will be assisting **Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon** on a travel seminar entitled "From Constantinople to Kiev: The History of Eastern Christianity and the Diverse Challenge of Modernity" from **April 26 – May 10, 2012**. If you are interested, please email Carlisle Harvard at ccharvard@gmail.com.

Dear FPC,

The Marrow Drive was a wonderful success. Your volunteers were AWESOME! 49 new members were added to the registry. They will bring HOPE to patients everywhere who are searching for a matching donor. This is a wonderful way to honor Florence and Kate. I will keep them, their families and church family in my prayers.



Warmest regards,
Betsie Letterle

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

We are in the last week of Advent, are you ready, or still preparing yourself, or both? There's been some interesting conversation at my house this year about the fact that Christmas falls on a Sunday, which means that we will be coming to church . . . *gasp* say what?!?! Church on Christmas?!? (is kinda how it went). Yeah, church on Christmas — because remember, that's what it's really all about, isn't it?! Have we forgotten that Advent is a season of reflection on the gift of God's grace for all of us, or are we simply thinking about all the stuff we will give and get? Isn't our true savior Jesus Christ or are you convinced it's Santa?! Here's the deal kiddos — Santa's gifts don't sustain you the way God's love does. Santa's stocking stuffers aren't there for you when the going gets tough, like the body of Christ is! So know this my precious friends: Faith in God and the gift of the church and its people are the gifts I wish for each of you! Now, you just have to be willing to accept it. Merry Christmas!

Rebecca Leonard

PS: Since this is the last newsletter until the new year, let me also say, HAPPY NEW YEAR! On Sunday, January 1 we will staff the Habitat Youth United Giving Tree at Southpoint Mall, again, from 2-4 p.m. with possibly lunch together before and a movie afterwards (this is still TBD—look for emails next week with more info).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

1st Sunday after Christmas

New Year's Day

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Worship - 11 a.m.

Narthex Greeters: **Edward & Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

Luke Everett (Font / side)

Mac McCorkle (Narthex)

Ushers: **Nancy Kost, Leslie Shaw**

"TIME OUT" RADIO SHOW

Duke University's Associate Professor of Economics, **Connel Fullenkamp**, will be the guest on **Bill Hendrickson's "Time Out"** radio show on **Monday, January 2 at 5:00 p.m.** on WCOM. Bill and Connell will discuss economic conditions in the US and the world. Listen in Carrboro and Chapel Hill on 103.5FM, and in Durham and elsewhere on the web at wcomfm.org.

THESE DAYS devotional books for the first quarter 2012 have arrived. Pick up a copy (regular or large print) from the table in the church foyer while supplies last.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Matokeo va Utafutaii Kwa

Feliz Navidad

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