

# First Presbyterian News

DECEMBER 21, 2010



Joy abides with God and it comes down from God and embraces spirit, soul, and body; and where this joy has seized a person, there it spreads, there it carries one away, there it bursts closed doors. . . . The joy of God passed through the poverty of the manger, and the agony of the cross, and so it is invincible, irrefutable.

- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, Christmas with Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear friends,

Beth Stringfield's father gave Joe and me a new biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer by Eric Metaxas which I have been reading in snippets, as time has allowed. Perhaps over the holidays, I will find time to finish it. But it strikes me in Bonhoeffer's writings, that he holds the manger and the cross in close proximity, and reminds us that they go hand in hand. There would be no Christmas, were it not for Easter. A good third or fourth of each of the gospels is taken up with Jesus' passion narrative, while only two gospels convey the birth narrative of Jesus. And every Sunday is a "Little Easter" as we celebrate the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

As we rejoice in the birth of our Savior this week, let us also rejoice in the new life offered to us when old sins are forgiven, and in the new love and eternal life possible through God's Word made flesh. Our Christmas Eve offering will benefit the six at-risk children in our FPC Dayschool, now without state-supported subsidy. May the joy of God embrace your spirit, soul and body. On behalf of the entire FPC staff, we wish you Christmas blessings.

*Marilyn*



### 5 PM Pageant, Communion and Candle Lighting

**Gluten-free communion bread** will be served at the baptismal font location.

The **Christmas Eve offering** will be used to support six children in the FPC Day School keep enrollment for 2011.

#### Communion Elders

Bread: **Lea Bingham** (process), **Margaret Rubiera**, **Phyllis Verhey**, **Scottie Seawell**  
Cup: **Henry Njoroge** (process), **Jean Wilson**, **Joseph Ngumi**, **Carl Rist** (Head)  
Shepherds: **Mac McCorkle** (balcony), **Jane Wettach** (font aisle), **Sharon Hirsch** (center aisle), **Peter Fish** (pulpit aisle), **Diane Standaert** (replenish elements)

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 Durham's Urban Ministry, Housing for New Hope, and FPC's emergency walk-in assistance:

Jon & Kim Abels	Joe & Carlisle Harvard	Tyler & Deborah Momsen-Hudson
Bob Adams	Marilyn & Ingram Hedgpeth	Miriam Morey
Tom & Ellen Bacon	Sharon Hirsch & family	Parker & BJ Morton
Paul Baldasare & Jane Wettach	Maxie Honeycutt	Vernon & Beth Neece
Dan & Mary Banner	Dan Hudgins & Ann McKown	Jerry Postema
Fran Bryant	Mary-Jo Keenan	Alice Raney
Mary Ann Compton & family	Tom & Margaret Keller	Russell & Ruth Roberson
Bette Conroy & family	Mike & Joy Kerner	Betsey Robinson
Sarah Cox	Dewey & Bet Lawson	Romines / Fullenkamp family
Margaret Davis	Jean Lazarides	Henderson & Jane Rourk
Linda Dobson	Anne Leathers	Scottie Seawell & family
Ann Driscoll	Bill & Marcia Lorimer	Jim & BJ Seitzer
Peter & Barbara Fish	Jody & Julie Maxwell	David & Judy Smith
Shirley Frederick	Carolyn McAllaster & Coin Page	Jim & Amanda Sparger
Rod & Barbara Gerwe	Mac & Wendy McCorkle	Phyllis Supple
Ken Goldner	Valerie & Tyrone McMillian	Carol Wills
Dorothy Graham	Horst & Ruth Mary Meyer	Chuck & Jean Wilson
Dub & Libby Gulley	Harriett Mitchell	

**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 26**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas*

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Worship – 11 a.m.**

**Sermon:** "Unto You: A joy that does not wither – and a journey"

**Allen Verhey**, preaching

Pennies for Hunger Offering received.

Acolytes and crucifer: **to be assigned**

Narthex Greeters: **Linn Lopez**, **Judy Pidcock**

After Worship Greeters:

**Guy Cecelski** (side/ font),

**Henry Njoroge** (narthex)

Ushers: **Joy Kerner** (head), **Abby Jones**,

**Moses Gatheca**, **Jody Maxwell**, **Matthew Hirsch**

### LAST CALL for Pennies!

**Pennies for Hunger** offering will be received during worship on **Sunday, December 26**. Please give generously to help combat hunger! This is your last opportunity for 2010!



**The CHURCH OFFICE is CLOSED:**  
**Monday and Tuesday, December 27 & 28, 2010, and Monday, January 3, 2011.**

### EMANUEL IGLESIA

#### HOSTING FREE HOLIDAY MEAL

Emanuel Iglesia will provide a FREE traditional holiday meal in the Northgate PC fellowship hall on Wednesday evening, **December 22**. A Christmas program starts at 6 p.m. with the meal served about 7 p.m. Everyone is invited. Food donations for the meal and pantry

### Year-End Giving Reminders

The church office must receive your charitable contributions by **December 31**, or they must be **postmarked by December 31, 2010 if mailed**, to be deductible on your 2010 taxes. Contact **Tom Bloom** regarding stock gifts.

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!

### Stewardship Update

**Received thru December 20, 2010**  
**187 Pledges** totaling **\$711,948**

**81.3 %** of 2011 Pledge Goal

## OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Jan, Bob, and Caroline Paul** on the death of Jan's father, **James Perrin**, in Greensboro on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

*"Jesus said,  
'I am the resurrection and the life.'"*

## OUR CONCERNS

**Sarah Todd**, in rehab at Hillcrest (Rm 2318).  
**Millie Hester**, mother of Marie Sappenfield,  
(now at Croasdalle Pavilion Room E-211)

**Lisa Gauldin**                      **Joe Harvard**  
**Betty Jelstrup**                 **Carol Johnson**  
**Florence McDow**

### Added this week:

- ◆ **Dana Niger**, friend of Sara Neece
- ◆ **Merwyn Oliveria**, being deployed to Iraq (friend of Lyn Francisco)
- ◆ **George Ombati Nyangena** and **John Thiani**, friends of Mercy Ndambiri



- ◆ **Frank Bradshaw**, brother of Hilda Bradshaw
- ◆ **George Cox**, son of Sarah Cox
- ◆ **Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis
- ◆ **Steele and Molly Dewey**, daughter and son-in-law of Peaches McPherson
- ◆ **David Hester**, former associate pastor at FPC
- ◆ **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 BJ and Parker 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
- ◆ **Sharon Van Vechten**, friend of Ann Prospero
- ◆ **Samuel Watson**, father of Dale Gaddis
- ◆ **Reverend Bob Wells**, cousin of Bill Hendrickson
- ◆ **Jonathan Wilkins**, brother of Neal Wilkins
- ◆ **Karen Wolcott**, cousin of Jean Wilson

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

\*\*\* DATE CHANGE \*\*\*

**Monday, January 10, 2010**  
**at 10:30 a.m. – East Parlor**

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to **Justin and Alissa Miles** upon the birth of a son, **Jackson Bennett Miles**, on December 18th.

## NOTES

- ◆ It has been a joy having **Leigh Knauert** and her four children, **Peter, Harrison, Lily and David**, visiting with their FPC church family and friends in Durham this week.
- ◆ Hats off to **Michael Bacon, Shirley Frederick** and the **Membership Committee** for the wonderful Third Friday event featuring musicians Mark Weems and Julee Glaub. If you haven't sampled downtown Durham in this way, perhaps you should give it a try!
- ◆ Did you think you heard angels singing yesterday? You did and it was FPC's choir and congregation joining voices in our annual Service of Lessons and Carols. It was beauty befitting the season, and we are grateful for the leadership of **Kathy Parkins**, for instrumentalists **Jane Lynch, Stephen Coffman, Dewey Lawson, Rebecca Telford-Marx, Emily Telford-Marx, and Graeme Peterson**, for the skill and dedication of the chancel choir, and for our articulate readers.

## FPC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Games are played at Hope Valley Baptist Church gym. Come support FPC's team!  
9 pm Tues., January 4 vs Triangle Pres  
7 pm Thurs., January 6 vs Westminster I  
9 pm Thurs., January 13 vs Westminster II  
8 pm Tues., January 18 vs Hope Valley II  
7 pm Thurs., January 20 vs Hope Valley I  
7 pm Thurs., January 27 vs Triangle Pres  
February schedule to be posted later.

## "TIME OUT" RADIO

On **Monday, January 3** **Connel Fullenkamp**, economics professor at Duke, will be the guest with a review and preview of international economic conditions. Time Out is live at 5:00 PM on WCOM-FM, 103.5 in Carrboro and Chapel Hill and worldwide on the web at [wcomfm.org](http://wcomfm.org).

🎵 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** 🎵  
**Wednesday, January 5 at 7 p.m.**  
(Childcare provided)

🎵 **Seraphim Choir Rehearsal** 🎵  
**Sunday, January 9 after worship.**

🎵 **Bell Choir Rehearsal** 🎵  
**Tuesday, January 11 at 5 p.m.**

## SAVE the DATE

FPC youth are sponsoring a church wide **Talent Show** and potluck supper on **Sunday, January 30** from 6-8 p.m.  
ALL are welcome to participate.

## YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

The waiting for the celebration of Jesus' birth is almost over! What wonderful news that this baby, God incarnate - Emmanuel, came to us, to show us God's love by giving us the best Christmas gifts EVER: grace, forgiveness and the model of how we should live our lives. Granted, a new iPod Touch would be cool, but it wouldn't even begin to compare to God's gifts. So, no matter what gifts you receive, remember the 'really real' reason for the season!!!

For the next two Sundays we will not have regular youth group gatherings. On **this Sunday, December 26**, many of us will be out of town, and on **Sunday, January 2**, I will be headed to Montreat for the College Conference. Please take these opportunities to spend time with your family and friends. We will resume youth gatherings on **Sunday, January 9** at our regular scheduled times and dinner will be lovingly provided by **Peter and Barbara Fish**. Till then, see you in worship. Merry Christmas everyone!

*Rebecca Leonard*

P.S. . . . and Happy New Year too!

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas*

**Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.**

**Worship - 11 a.m.**

**Sermon: "Why?"**

**Robert Adams**, preaching

Acolytes: **Talitha Kwon, Kennedy Wilkins**

Crucifer: **James Compton**

Narthex Greeters: **Edward and Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

**Jane Brawley** (Font / side)

**Jane Wettach** (Narthex)

Ushers: to be assigned

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Faith and Community Class

*"Anti-Gospel: The role of Herod"*

**Allen Verhey** will lead us in an exploration of Matthew's account of Herod's role in the slaughter of the innocents. Allen will pick up on what Robert Brawley taught in December about Matthew's infancy narrative. (Don't worry, no quiz!) The discussion should be helpful in trying to figure out how this horrific story may be relevant to us. Join us at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall.

### Lectionary Class

The one we were waiting for has come. Was the event worth the wait? Was he what we expected? How has his arrival changed us? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

### Journeys Class

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

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year*  
**Matokeo ya Utafutaji Kwa**

**Feliz Navidad**

© 2010 First Presbyterian Church ✪ 305 East Main Street ✪ Durham, NC 27701 ✪ Phone: (919) 682-5511 ✪ Fax: (919) 682-0493  
[www.firstpres-durham.org](http://www.firstpres-durham.org)