

First Presbyterian News

DECEMBER 6, 2011



*So God was born as a baby in a stable in Bethlehem of Judea.
The divine light and love entered our troubled world,
where peace was kept among nations only by the Roman sword.
God wanted women and men to know the depths of the holy love in the heart of being,
the love that moves the sun and other stars.
The message was this: Love is the ultimate reality and creator;
live in harmony with this love and there will be peace on earth and goodwill among all people.*

- **Morton Kelsey**, The Drama of Christmas

DECEMBER 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Light and life to all He brings"
Joseph Harvard and Marilyn Hedgpeth
will be preaching

Worship Texts	
Old Testament	Isaiah 9:2-4
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 126
Gospel Lesson	John 1:6-8, 19-28

Acolytes: **Jenna Leonard, Aurelia Klinck**
Crucifer: **Lily Abels**
Croasdaile Driver: **Dan Hudgins**
Narthex Greeters: **Hilda Bradshaw, Maxie Honeycutt**
After Worship: **Jean Wilson** (side, font)
Mac McCorkle (rear / narthex)
Ushers: **Joy Kerner** (head), **Margaret Wabera, Leslie Shaw**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

"The Birth of Jesus"

During Advent as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ, it is good to pay attention to the birth narratives. We know about the wise men and shepherds. The Gospel of Mark has no birth story. Mark goes straight to the "good news" Why? We will look at the interesting way the story developed. The class meets at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall. Join us!

Lectionary Class

"There was a man sent from God...." How did John know that? "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...." How did Isaiah know that? "The one who calls you is faithful...." Are you listening? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Adult Discussion Class

We are currently studying The True Story of the Whole World. Join us at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor.

The **Starting from Scratch** and **Women's Spiritual Formation** classes will meet as usual.

CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

Are you looking for a good way to honor friendships and help someone in need? You are invited to share greetings via the Christmas Concerns display at the church. The money you save can be given to help those in need. Simply write your greeting on the tree-shaped note card in the church foyer, adhere it to the Christmas Concerns window display, and then follow up with a donation to FPC, memo: Christmas Concerns. This year's donations will be divided between Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministry, and Durham's Emergency Energy Fund.



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND SING-ALONG Sunday, December 11 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Each family should bring a family-sized dish (salad, pasta, vegetable, or dessert). Meat and beverages will be provided. Following supper, we will gather around the Crismon tree for a time of caroling. **If you would like to participate in the improvised orchestra, please bring your musical instrument and music stand.** Contact **Kathy Parkins** to obtain sheet music for your instrument.

ADVENT COMMUNION

Worship at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Supper at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.

Wednesday, December 7

led by **Anthony Kamau**

Wednesday, December 14

led by **Susan Dunlap**

DONOR DRIVE

Sunday, December 11 at FPC
from 12 noon – 2 p.m.

There are many ways to support the **McDows** and the **Crocketts** during the stem cell/bone marrow transplant process. If you're between the ages of 18 and 60, and meet the health guidelines, you can donate a simple cheek swab and enter the registry with the possibility of donating later to someone you don't know. Or, you can go to BeTheMatch.org and make a financial donation, or you can come on Sunday and sign a card to Florence and to Kate, and you can continue to pray for them. Registration forms are available in the church office to be a stem cell donor. The three-page form is the most time-consuming part of the process on Sunday. If you would like to pick one up ahead of time, they are available in the church office. Fill them out before Sunday, and you'll move to the head of the line and be finished quickly. Kate Crockett's stem cell transplant takes place this Friday. Florence will probably undergo her procedure after Christmas. Both families are thankful for friends beyond their knowing, and for ongoing signs of God's love. Our friends from St. Phillip's Episcopal, Trinity UMC, Union Baptist Church, Duke University and NCCU have been invited to join us in this effort.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

While I was living in Decatur, GA, a little girl on our street, whom I did not know, was diagnosed with a potentially-lethal disease, aplastic anemia. The plea went out in our neighborhood for anyone who could, to join the stem cell/bone marrow registry, in HOPE that a match would be found to save the life of that child. Now, I don't know about you, but suffering children is something that I do not tolerate well at all. So we went, my husband and I, to stand in line behind about 100 neighbors and friends who showed their support for this little girl by donating a cheek swab of tissue, and entering the national registry. It was so moving to see the support for this family from people who knew them, and those who didn't, like us. We felt like we were part of a God-moment of radical love for one of the least of these. Whether our particular stem cells matched those of a particular recipient, we didn't know. But we did know that this line of people was a sign of God's HOPE for this family. And she did find a match, and she did survive, and today, she thrives.

And that is my hope for **Florence McDow, for Kate Crockett**, and others like them: that Sunday's line of people either signing a get-well card, or making a financial contribution, or donating a cheek swab, or helping with the donor drive will be a sign of God's HOPE, that will possibly bring them light and life. Not everyone can donate stem cells, but everyone can stand in a line that spells HOPE. **BJ and Parker Morton** reminded me this week, that one year ago their son, **Peter**, received a liver transplant from an unknown donor, and his life was totally transformed for the better. It only takes one match to save a life. I HOPE to see you Sunday, from noon-2:00.

Shalom,

Marilyn

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Building the Body of Christ Together

Received as of December 4 :

143 Pledges totaling **\$618,134**

representing 74.6% of our goal.

2012 Pledge Goal: \$828,182.98.

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 REMINDER

Timely payment of pledges by December 31st will allow FPC to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and meet its benevolence obligations for 2011. **The church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday, December 30, 2011, or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2011, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2011 taxes.** If you wish to make a gift of stock, please notify **Tom Bloom**, (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible.

OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **George and Johanna Berndardt** on the death of George's mother, **Katherine Bernhardt**, on December 2nd in Lenoir, NC, and to **Robert and Jane Brawley** on the death of their daughter, **Sara Brawley**, on December 1st in Denver, CO. Memorial gifts can be made to a favorite animal charity or to a music or social justice concern. The Brawleys will return on Thursday evening.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

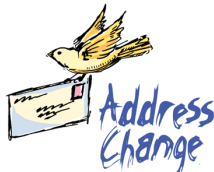
- **Carol McKnight** is having surgery on Wednesday of this week.
- **Michael Atkins**, friend of Rebecca Leonard
- **Dwight Huntley**, father of Lesley Curtis
- **Rob and Amy Harkey** remain in Uganda to receive their adopted child.

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

- **Chester Bisette**, grandfather of Abi Bisette
- **Mary Causey**, sister of Ellen Bacon
- **Sarah McCracken Cobb**, sister of Mary Ann Compton
- **Kate Crockett**, granddaughter of Alex and Becky Crockett
- **Donald Davis**, brother of Lorraine Davis
- **Rick Degand**, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- **Rolf Olsen**, friend of Bob and Lina Yoder
- **Mary Russell Roberson**, daughter of Ruth and Russell Roberson
- **Karen Wolcott**, cousin of Jean Wilson

Jerry Tyren has moved to the Pavilion at Croasdaile, Room E 203.

Cam Reinhart has moved to Pleasant Garden, NC, to live with her daughter and son-in-law:
1335 Ryegate Drive
Pleasant Garden NC 27313



SALUTING A SENIOR

On December 8, 1918 **Mozette Riggsbee** was born on Trinity Avenue in Durham, the same neighborhood where her future husband, **Steed Rollins**, grew up. Steed was in WWII and while he was overseas, she worked in the Department of Dramatic Arts at UNC. She was secretary to **Frederick Koch** (founder of the Playmakers) and sat in on seminars with Paul Green. She says, "I got to work with some very interesting people."

As a young girl, she sang in the choir under the direction of Mr. Twadell, who was instrumental in raising the standards of choral music in Durham. She continued to sing in the choir and was an enthusiastic supporter of the church's music program, serving on committees and donating a harpsichord to First Presbyterian.

Mozette now lives at the Forest, where she attends the music programs there.

On Sunday mornings, when we enjoy the worshipful music, let us all give thanks for the long, meaningful life of **Mozette Riggsbee Rollins!**

— submitted by **Ruth Roberson**

YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

Come one, come all, to FPC's beloved sing around the Crismon Tree potluck fellowship dinner! This Sunday, we will gather as an entire community to celebrate the Advent season and coming of Christmas! We will not have regular scheduled youth group this Sunday so that you, your family and friends can be together in fellowship at this event. Next Sunday, December 18th we will have our annual caroling and White Elephant Christmas party from 4 – 8 p.m. I hope to see you there and at our Wednesday evening Advent Communion and supper series, and all the best with finishing up the semester in school. Peace y'all.

Rebecca

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

AT 11:30 A.M.

AT CROASDAILE VILLAGE

To RSVP, call the church office (682-5511) no later than Monday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m. The cost per person will be \$9.00 (all inclusive of tax, gratuity).

A CHRISTMAS GATHERING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

at 6 p.m. the Harvards' home
124 Monticello Ave, Durham

You are invited to bring a side, dessert or drink to share.

RSVP to: candice.provey@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Advent Festival, sponsored by Christian Education, was a grand occasion, thanks to all who prepared crafts, brought food, glittered, swept-up, made Wassail, decorated tables, helped shepherd our youngest participants, made cards, and engaged in alternative giving. Kudos to **Katharine Whitmore**, the queen of the Advent Festival and of "all things sparkly and messy", as CE Chair **Dawn Carsey** says. One of our favorite images was the street visitor who dropped in to ask for a bite to eat, and ended up decorating cookies! If you left without your crafts, they are still in Watts-Hill Hall.



Café Justo, freshly roasted, will be sold in December by the Service and Mission Committee.

One-pound bags are \$10 for mountain-grown Arabica, and \$14 for the prized Marago beans from Salavador Urbina, Chiapas. Café Justo, literally coffee with justice, is an outgrowth of one of our Presbyterian border ministries.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

OF BRASS, ORGAN AND VOICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30 P.M. AT FPC

featuring **The Old North State Brass Band**, **Kathy Parkins** (organ) and **Lesley Curtis** (soprano)

Free admission. A goodwill offering will be received to benefit the **National Alliance for Mental Illness**.



FIRST FRIENDS

ADVENT GATHERING

Saturday, December 10

at 6:30 p.m. hosted by

Melinda Ruley & Stewart Fisher

5301 Cabe Ford Rd, Durham

This is a child-free event.

RSVP to Melinda: ruleyfish@earthlink.net



PRIME TIMERS'

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

at 7 p.m. at the Gerwes' home

2704 Trailwood Drive

bebegeerwe@gmail.com

Check your mailbox for details

ATTENTION FPC HOOPSTERS!

For all men (and young men 16 and over) interested in playing in the competitive Hope Valley Baptist Church league this winter, we have open gym on **Saturday, December 17**. For more information, contact **Carl Rist** at rist@frontier.com. Note: the gym is **not available** for open play on Saturday, December 10 as previously advertized.

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter is published weekly on Tuesdays.

© 2011 First Presbyterian Church

Web site: <http://firstpres-durham.org>

♦ 305 East Main Street ♦ Durham, NC 27701 ♦ Phone: (919) 682-5511 ♦ Fax: (919) 682-0493