

# First Presbyterian News

DECEMBER 7, 2010



ESTABLISHED 1871

Open our eyes, Lord, especially if they are half-shut because we are tired of looking, or half open because we fear to see too much, or bleared with tears because yesterday and today and tomorrow are filled with the same pain, or tightly shut because we only look at what we want to see. Show us the world as in your sight, riddled by debt, deceit and disbelief, yet also shot through with possibility for recovery, renewal, and redemption. Open our eyes in yearning for Jesus. On the mountains, in the cities, through the corridors of power and streets of despair, to help, to heal, to confront, to convert, O come, O come, Immanuel.  
(Cloth for the Cradle, Wild Goose Publications)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12



9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Advent in Blue and Pink"  
**Cherrie Henry**, preaching

### Lectionary Texts

Old Testament	Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 146:5-10
Gospel Lessons	Matthew 11:2-11 Luke 1:47-55
Epistle Lesson	James 5:7-10

Acolytes: **Jenna Leonard, Aurelia Klinck**

Crucifer: **Catie Brockman**

Greeters: **Hilda Bradshaw,**  
**Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters:

**Bill Hendrickson** (side, font)

**Carl Rist** (Narthex/Main St)

Ushers: **Joy Kerner** (head), **Miriam Morey,**  
**Margot Johnson, Doris Smith, Caroline**  
**Rourk, Michael Bacon**

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Faith and Community Class

"Virginal Conception and Divine Initiative"  
**Robert Brawley** will continue a discussion of Matthew's gospel, turning our attention this week to the virginal conception and divine initiative. Join us at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.

### Lectionary Class

There are reports of amazing things: miraculous healings, plentiful food for the hungry, streams in the desert, safety in dangerous places . . . . Does this mean that the one we have been waiting for is almost here? How much longer do we have to wait? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

### Journeys Class

Please join Journeys this Sunday to continue the discussion of the Book of Genesis and the faith of Abraham. The class meets at 9:45 on the second floor of the CE building, classroom at the end of the hall.

### 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.

### Women's 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.



## CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

### AND SING-ALONG

Sunday, December 12

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Each family should bring a dish, enough to feed 8-10 people, i.e.: salad, vegetable, pasta, or dessert. Meat and beverages will be provided. Following supper, we will gather around the tree for a time of singing songs of the season. If you would like to participate in the improvised orchestra, contact **Kathy Parkins** to obtain sheet music for your instrument.

## ADVENT COMMUNION

This Wednesday's Evensong Advent Communion Service will be led by **Mary Banner** and **Kathy Parkins**. This week's service will be a service of candle lighting for those who have lost someone dear this year, or who have someone they wish to pray for. The service begins at 6 p.m., with childcare provided, followed by a light supper at 6:30. This week's menu will feature lasagna, salad, and bread. Please call the church and RSVP for dinner.

Many thanks to **Bob and Lina Yoder** for their worship leadership last Wednesday, and to **Jami Moss and Fred Wise** for the wonderful spaghetti dinner.

## "GRATITUDE TO GOD PROMPTS A GENEROUS SPIRIT"

Received as of December 5, 2010:

**167** Pledges totaling **\$629,477**

representing **71.9%** of our goal

**2011 Pledge Goal: \$875,390.**

(Note: last week's newsletter listed the 2010 pledge goal instead of the 2011 goal.)

**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.

The **PENNIES FOR HUNGER** OFFERING received on **Sunday, November 27** totaled **\$165.00**. Thank you for your generous giving!

**MANY THANKS** to **Melinda Ruley** and **Stewart Fisher** for hosting the First Friends IN THE SNOW on Saturday night. It felt like being on-set for the movie *White Christmas*.

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear friends,

We are entering into a new era of "being church" at FPC, and that means being church without Joe, while he takes the time he needs to heal from his surgery.

As I write, he is in surgery at Duke, and we are all waiting prayerfully for word from Carlisle that Joe has come through with a new and improved aorta.

I know you will join us all in praying for Joe's full recovery. We will let the congregation know as soon as we hear a good word from the hospital.

As I announced in worship on Sunday, Joe and Carlisle solicit your prayers and cards of good wishes. However, they ask that visitors NOT come to the hospital to see Joe, and that friends wait to see how Joe is doing before coming to the house for visits, too. Carlisle will let us know when Joe is strong enough to entertain visitors. In the meantime, Joy Kerner and the deacons are putting together a list of those who want to bring meals to the house once Joe is home. We will send that email out to the whole congregation, and those who are able can respond.

In the meantime, we will become a multi-vocal church in Joe's absence. Our many clergy affiliates have offered to preach and teach, and you will be hearing their voices at Wednesday evening services during Advent and on Sunday mornings, too. This week you'll hear the voices of **Mary Banner, Robert Brawley,** and **Cherrie Henry**, primarily. And many others of you have offered to help in so many ways, in the event of a funeral or a happening scheduled at FPC. It will be a good time for us as church to pull out those core values bookmarks, and keep them before us as we weigh our options for "being church" on a daily basis. I trust in the priesthood of all believers, and hope that you will join me in putting it into practice as a spiritual discipline in the days ahead. We don't want to be like sheep without a shepherd; rather we want to be sheep with many shepherds!

Blessed Advent,  
**Marilyn**

## NOTES

Many thanks to **Lesley Curtis,** **Katharine Whitmore** and the Christian Education Committee for Sunday's fun Advent Festival. Everyone seemed to enjoy the festivities and the alternative giving opportunities. Thanks to all who brought the many, many wine corks for crafts. You may stop now!

## OUR CONCERNS

- ◆ **Peter Morton**, Duke Hospital, recovering from a liver transplant
- ◆ **Joe Harvard**, Duke Hospital, recovering from heart surgery
- ◆ **Florence McDow**, home from Mayo Clinic
- ◆ **Jim Hawkins**, hospice care in Wilmington
- ◆ **Millie Hester**, mother of Marie Sappenfield, UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

*Lisa Gauldin* *Betty Jelstrup*  
*Carol Johnson*

- ◆ **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

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FPC needs volunteers on Saturday, morning and afternoon, for the **Everett Habitat House**. Please contact **Tom Bacon** (403-9683 or send email to: [tom\\_bacon@med.unc.edu](mailto:tom_bacon@med.unc.edu)) if you can help.

## "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.

## DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, December 14**

**11:30 a.m. at Neo China**

4015 University Drive, Durham

Hosted by **John Kerr**

**RSVP to the church office: 682-5511.**

## YOUTH NEWS

Friends,

As I write this message to you, I am at the hospital, waiting for my dad to get out of surgery. It's not an easy wait. It occurred to me, that we've been talking about the waiting and anticipating of Advent as a time of reflection and preparing for what we know is good news; the birth of Jesus. But what about when life makes you wait for something unknown or when your waiting is a scary time instead of a joyful time? What do we make of Advent then? How do we cope at these times? For me, being with my family, reaching out to my friends for support, and prayers, lots of prayers they are all really helping. So maybe it's that simple: during the good times and the bad, take time to reflect, to pray and to find gratitude for all the blessings of our lives, our family and friends.

This Sunday, in lieu of regular schedule youth group, we will all spend time together for our annual FPC potluck and singing around the Chrismon tree! Bring your family, friends, instruments, food to share and voices to sing and we'll see you there.

With peace and love,

**Rebecca Leonard**

## CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

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 a favorite FPC friend 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 friendships, and to aid the local community with heart during this difficult economy.

## 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 **Saturdays, December 11 and 18 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Hope Valley Baptist's gym**. If you have questions or need directions, please contact **Carl Rist** at 688-5969 or [rist@frontier.com](mailto:rist@frontier.com).

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The last edition of the 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 encourage to submit your articles to **Valerie McMillian** by **December 20<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

## COME ONE, COME ALL!

First Presbyterian Church will participate in downtown Durham's monthly Third Friday activities on **December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Acclaimed vocal/instrumental duo--*Little Windows*, featuring **Mark Weems and Julee Glaub**, will perform seasonal and folk music from 7:30-8:30pm. Doors will open at 6:30pm 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.

## BOILING OVER

Did you hear that knocking sound during worship on Sunday morning? That was one of our finicky boilers acting up again in the basement. The good news was that we had heat. The bad news was that it was noisy heat. Many thanks to **Lanny Pratt** and the **Property Committee** for staying on top of this pesky problem.

## COAT ALERT

FPC has experienced a spate of coat robberies over the past two weeks on Sunday morning. It's cold outside, and our neighbors need coats to stay warm. Therefore, we encourage you to keep your coats with you while you are in the building. And if you have any spare coats in your closet and wish to give them away, bring them to church and we will hang them on the rack by the foyer door with a note advertising "free coats; take one".

## 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](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org)) as soon as possible.

## 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.

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