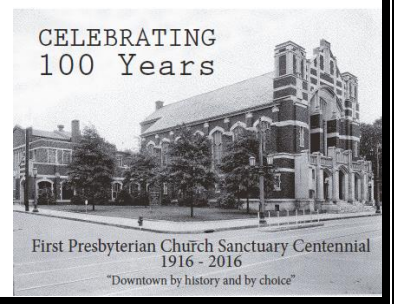


First Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2, 2016



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,
Love people even in their sin, for that is the semblance of Divine Love and is the highest love on earth. Love all of God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand of it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love. - Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

My son started working as a server in a restaurant this summer. In his work, he has learned a valuable lesson – that some people do not see servers as human beings. People come in and out of the restaurant and care only what he can do for them and how quickly and efficiently he responds to their needs. Too many do not see him as a person with feelings or even with thoughts. Few people stop to perceive in him “the divine mystery in things.” For my son, this is a temporary annoyance, but many in our world spend their lives being invisible to the world in this way.

As we move through our lives, do we pause for long enough to see God in the other – God in the light, God in the darkness, God in the breeze, God in the stillness, God in the server, God in the one being served, God in ourselves, God in the other?

“If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things,” writes Dostoyevsky. I think the reverse is the greater truth, “If you perceive the divine mystery in things, you will love everything.”

May we seek to perceive the divine mystery in all things and all people we encounter this week. In so doing, may we discover God anew and be blessed by God's presence.

With love,
Mindy

- Special thanks to **BJ and Parker Morton** for arranging the **Daytimers'** Luncheon at Cracker Barrel for the month of July. The 16 people in attendance had a good meal and enjoyed some good conversation.
- The **SCRATCH/Young Adults** group enjoyed a summer hike at Occoneechee Mountain State Park in July. Special thanks to **Jenna Kneepkens** for organizing this outdoor event.

NEW OFFICERS' TRAINING Sundays, August 14 and 21

Following worship, lunch will be provided. Each class session is expected to last about two hours. Ordination and installation of new officers will take place on Sunday, August 28.

Rest
Relax
Refresh

Dear friends,
From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the lovely gift of time and resources to undertake a much-needed period of respite from the daily duties of parish ministry. As much as I love what I do, it does exact a toll on one's body and spirit after an extended period of time. And as I have said before, I am slow, and sometimes it takes a while for my soul to catch up with the fast pace of life.

To repeat my words from Sunday, truly I think one of the kindest gifts you have given me has been *your trust*. I can't begin to tell you what it means to me to have you trust in me, especially as our congregation was going through this past three years of wilderness wandering, from one pastor to the next. I saw God at work within all of us, as I also trusted in you and we trusted in each other to make that transition without too much damage done. And now we have emerged on the other side together, no worse for the wear, and ready to serve where Christ is calling us.

Thank you for discipling with me, following Jesus with me, and at times for being Jesus to me, as we have trusted one another and walked together in God's love and in Jesus' way. Your gift of your generosity will NOT be used to build a bigger barn, I promise, but will be used to examine and renew my commitment to Christ whom we love and serve, and to take some time to see how God is at work out there in the world, outside of this church. Please know that you will be in my daily prayers, and that I entrust you to Mindy's wise and skilled leadership, and I look forward to sharing stories when I return in October.

Shalom,
Marilyn

SAVE THE DATE



Along with their families,
Abigail Bissette & Derek Warmack

warmly invite the members of First Presbyterian Church to their wedding on
Saturday, September 10
at 5:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.
Reception to follow at the Durham Armory. **Reservations needed only for those attending the reception.**
Reply to **Cheryl Henry** by **August 10th**: cheryl.barton.henry@gmail.com

Sunday, August 7

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion
Sermon:
"Our Greatest Concern"
Mindy L. Douglas, preaching

Lectionary Texts:

Old Testament	Isaiah 1:1,10-20
Epistle Lesson	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Gospel Lesson	Luke 12:32-34

Croasdaile Driver: **Michael Honeycutt**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

Talitha Kwon (Side/font),
Will McDow (Rear/Narthex)

Ushers: **Nate Pienkowski** (head), **Mary-Jo Keenan**, **Celia Dickerson**, **Susan Seahorn** (need two more to volunteer)

Communion Elders:

Bread: **Al Arrowood** (B1/process),
Caroline Rourk (B2), **Marie Sappenfield** (B3), **Jane Williams** (B4)

Cup: **Will McDow** (C1), **Lenore Champion** (C2/process), **Miriam Morey** (C3), **Jerry Postema** (C4)

Shepherds: **Barbara Gerwe** (Font aisle),
Aurelia Klinck (Center aisle), **Phyllis Verhey** (Pulpit aisle), **Emily Durham** (Head / replenish elements)

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

That pesky widow . . . she just wouldn't quit harassing the judge! The parable of the widow and the judge is meant to disturb, or at least it disturbs our stereotypes of widows and judges. Join us this Sunday in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 for a heated discussion about the meaning of this parable **Sam Miglarese** will stir the pot. Join us at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class

How much faith do you have? Do you have faith to leave your home and family in order to claim a promise? Do you have faith to believe that sins can be forgiven and relationships restored? Do you have faith that the master will come home soon? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Women's Spiritual Formation Class

We meet in the church basement at 9:45.
Susan Dunlap leads the discussion. New faces are welcome.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This week's movie is "Finding Nemo," and we'll watch the first half on Sunday. We're meeting in our usual spot at 9:45. Homer Ashby will lead the class. All are welcome!

WE'RE RAMPING UP!

Sunday, August 21

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School Teacher Training

Sunday, August 28

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School Promotion and Kickoff Activities

Come meet your new teachers!

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Dolly Douglas, grandmother of Mindy Douglas, in rehab following hospitalization

Roy Blackwell, father of Sheila Miglares, in hospice care

Traveling mercies for **Sam Miglares**, who is away directing DukeEngage in Durham, England

Eugene Brown recovering at home

Sarah and Pete Finbow

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham):
Julian Boswell

Brookdale (Farmington Rd) Chapel Hill:
Helen Garrison

Croasdaile Village:
Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Jerry Tyren

Hillcrest: **Randall McLeod**

Forest at Duke:
Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches McPherson

Molly Bowden, former FPC member
Lavonia and Pamela Cayruth, friends in the community

Elizabeth Chomba, niece of Mercy Ndambiri

Imken family, friends of Chris Brown

Ellie Johnson, niece of Jim Johnson

Helene Johnson, mother of Jim Johnson

Paul McCombs, friend of FPC

Margaret Pfeiler, grandmother of Julie Maxwell

Chuck Schultz, father of Amy Dillon

Jeanne Somerville, mother of Katharine Whitmore

Pat Utigard, cousin of Caroline Pritchett

Desiré Volkwijn, wife of Kay-Robert Volkwijn



FPC IS A POKÉSTOP!

Please be respectful of our grounds.

We do invite players to come in for a cool drink of water and/or to recharge your cell phone.

YOUTH GROUPS

Hope your summer is going well! Do you know how many days till our first youth groups meetings? The number is smaller than you think! Stay tuned for kickoff plans!

Youth Parents, please plan to meet following worship on Sunday, August 28.

SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS

August Potluck

Saturday, August 6

6:30 p.m. at the home of

Jenna Kneepkens & Matt Susen

Please respond to the EVITE. Not getting the invitation, email Valerie in the church office: v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

PRIMETIMERS

Friday, August 12

Covered Dish Supper

6:30 p.m. at the home of

Al and Judy Arrowood

Please respond to the EVITE. Not getting the invitation, email Valerie in the church office: v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

FIRST FRIENDS

Saturday, August 13

Potluck Gathering (Kid-friendly)

5:30 p.m. at the Momsen-Hudson home

Please respond to the EVITE. Not getting the invitation, email Valerie in the church office: v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

FPC GROUNDS WORKDAY

Saturday, August 20

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Contact **Barbara Buckley**

(bjbuckley@frontier.com) or 919-402-8551 to find out what work will be performed.

BOOK GROUP

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of **Marila Stone** (marilacordeiro@hotmail.com) to discuss **Middlesex**, by Jeffrey Eugenides. **Dale Gaddis** will lead the discussion. New faces are welcome to join us!



Find your service niche this summer!

Durham Teachers' Warehouse

10 Most Needed Items

Crayons Pencils Glue Sticks Markers
Highlighters Erasers Composition Books
Copy paper Clipboards Dry Erase Markers

Other needed items:

calculators, tape, pens, boxes of colored pencils, construction paper, spiral notebooks, staples, hand sanitizer, boxes of tissues, packs of loose leaf paper, supply boxes, pencil sharpeners, Post-it notes.



FPC is a collection site through August 21.

Please place supplies in the container in the foyer. For more information, go online to: <http://www.crayons2calculators.org/>



book harvest

FPC is collecting books this summer for Durham's BOOK HARVEST organization. There is a bright blue bin on the small table as you enter the sanctuary from the foyer of the church for your new or gently used children's books. We want to help all our children develop a love for reading!

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