

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

February 7, 2017

From the Pastor

Dear friends,

In our nation over the last weeks and months, we have heard a lot of conversation (and a lot of accusation) about truth-telling or the lack thereof. People from opposing sides of issues and political stances point fingers at one another accusing the other of lying ("misrepresenting the truth" is too tame a phrase to use these days). What once seemed to many of us to be obvious, indisputable facts are now called into question and we find ourselves shaking our heads in disbelief. "What is truth?" we ask in an echo of Pontius Pilate who asked the same of Jesus in John 18:37 when Jesus told him he came to witness the truth and that those who listen to the side of the truth listen to him. No one knows exactly what Pilate meant by this, but we can guess that he might have meant that he was hearing many different versions of "truth." After hearing Jesus' claim, however, he declared that he could find no basis to charge him. It seems he had heard, and found, the truth.

In John 1:14, the gospel writer connects Jesus directly with truth: "[T]he Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." Grace and truth. It seems to me like we need a little more of both of these things these days.

I leave you with a poem from Carl Sandberg, *My Name Is Truth*:

My head knocks against the stars.
My feet are on the hilltops.
My finger-tips are in the valleys and shores of universal life.
Down in the sounding foam of primal things
I reach my hands and play with pebbles of destiny.
I have been to hell and back many times.
I know all about heaven, for I have talked with God.
I dabble in the blood and guts of the terrible.
I know the passionate seizure of beauty
And the marvelous rebellion of man at all signs reading "Keep Off."
My name is Truth and I am the most elusive captive in the universe.
Who Am I?

May we know truth when we see it, friends. May we help each other stay the course and keep our eyes focused on Jesus, our grace and our truth.

With love,
Mindy

OUR SYMPATHIES:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to:

Will, Leslie and Laura McDow on the death of Leslie's grandmother, Mildred Bolen, who died February 1 in Virginia;

Ted and Moffett Churn on the death of Ted's mother, Evelyn Leight Churn who died on February 1 in Maryland;

Chris and Meredith Brown on the death of Chris' aunt, Barbara Ruthjen who died last week;

Jack Kost and Nancy Kost on the death of Jack's grandfather, Robert Kost, who died February 2 in Charleston, SC.

A Memorial Garden Service will be held for Jerry Tyren on Saturday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m. at FPC. A reception will follow in Watts-Hill Hall.



Added this week:

Terry Weaver, back surgery on Wednesday, February 8

John McKey, husband of Al and Judy Arrowood's former pastor

Danny Parker, father of Al and Judy Arrowood's daughter-in-law

Traveling mercies for Miguel and Margaret Rubiera, Carl and Lisa Rist, and Laura Sappenfield who will leave on February 10 for a Habitat for Humanity mission trip to Honduras.

Chuck Barenchi Sarah and Pete Finbow Nancy Kost Carolyn Wolfe

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): Helen Garrison

Croasdaile Village: Joanne Harrar, Betty Jelstrup, Bob Kever, Bob Rankin

Hillcrest: Randall McLeod

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

- Doug Fisher, frequent visitor
Cherie Haines, sister of Vernon Neece
Mike Hugo, friend of Tom Bloom
Jaymen Lourensz, request from a Walk-in Ministry family
Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece
Margaret Pfeiler, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
Janice Rattray, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley

YOUTH "SOUPER BOWL" FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who made chili and donated money to our annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" Chili (and soup) cook-off! Our chili winner was The **James family** with their Turkey-Black Bean Chili and our Soup winner was an Indian Spiced beans and rice made by **Heather Wallace and Michael Schultz**. With your help we raised just under **\$1000**, all of which will be sent directly to Backpack Buddies and The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. This is our biggest donation yet! Thank you for helping to combat hunger in Durham!



THANK YOU NOTES . . .

Miguel and I leave this Friday, February 10, for our Habitat for Humanity trip to Honduras. We are thrilled to have **Carl and Lisa Rist** and **Laura Sappenfield** join us this year. For the fourth year, we will also be taking 26 beautiful baby quilts made by several wonderful ladies from our congregation. It is such an honor for us to be able to share quilts with new mothers in the maternity hospital as well as with babies in an orphanage run by the Sisters of Charity. Those warm, soft quilts bring a lot of joy and help us share the love of Christ with very needy and grateful people. Thank you for all the prayers and good wishes that surround us as we venture back to Honduras! - **Margaret Rubiera**

The **Walk-in Ministry** would like to thank **Presbyterian Women** for their recent donations of hats, scarfs, gloves and socks. These winter weather items are a real blessing to our clients who often spend a considerable part of their day outside in the cold and lack the resources to purchase such beneficial seasonal items. We also want to thank everyone who brought items this past Communion Sunday for the blessing and toiletry bags. FPC is such a generous faith community! We now have enough snack supplies to last a month or longer. Your concern and thoughtfulness toward our neighbors in need are so very much appreciated, especially now that the Main Library has closed for renovations.



Sunday, February 12, 2017 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School (See class details below)

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Choose Life" - Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm Lesson: Psalm 119:1-8

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:21-26

Serving this Sunday:

Acolytes: **Eleanor Cole, Annabelle Brown**

Crucifer: **Aurelia Klinck**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeter: **Will McDow** (side/font); **Almira Mbah** (narthex/rear)

Ushers: **Mary-Jo Keenan** (head), **TBA** (flowers), **Amy Sanchez, Sharon Hirsch, Chris Brown, Alissa Miles**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes for children (through 5th grade) are held on the second floor of the Christian Education building at 9:45.

Middle and high school youth meet in their designated classrooms in the basement (below the sanctuary) at 9:45.

Faith & Community Class (Adults)

We welcome **Tim O'Brien** to lead our class this Sunday in a conversation on globalization (he will do his economics of poverty lecture another time!). A recent book by our McPherson lecturer Miroslav Volf is *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World*. Tim will lead us in a discussion about globalization and what it means to love our neighbor in this new world order. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall**. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults)

How can we live up to the high standard of Jesus' teachings, in which anger is as bad as murder? How can we read the writings of Paul, when he says that our jealousy means we are still just infants in our understanding? It may be a matter of life and death, but it seems too hard. Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults)

This Sunday, Journeys continues reading and discussing the Book of Esther. Come and hear how things unfold when a king decides to rid his land of immigrants -- this is going to make you think! All are welcome to join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Scratch Class (Young Adults)

This week we'll continue our study of Lauren Winner's book, *Wearing God*, with more images of God conversation on the Laboring Woman chapter, reading pages 156-178. See you around 9:45 on the second floor of the **CE building, room 205**. New faces are always welcome.

Women's Spiritual Formation

Susan Dunlap will lead our discussion. This class meets in **basement classroom B-16**, at 9:45.

Membership Inquiry Class

Those interested in exploring membership at First Presbyterian Church are invited to the Wilson Parlor at 9:45, where **Sam Miglarese** will lead us in a discussion of Baptism and Eucharist. All are welcome, even if you have not attended previous classes.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmands and mentors are coming to the end of our study time together. We will meet in our classroom to discuss: *The Word and the word (Covenant Life according to the Word of God)*. It's always fun to have youth and adults together in spiritual formation. Hope to see you there!



Thanks to all the youth who helped make our second annual chili cookoff / Souper Bowl fundraiser a success this past Sunday!

This Sunday we will have regular youth groups and our topic will be "What is Love?" The **Bingham/Dilworth** family will provide the meal.

Contact **Sarah Finbow** (s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org or 919-682-5511) for info on youth activities at FPC!

Coming Next Month: Lenten Book Study

Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life, by Rowan Williams

Because Lent is a season for examining our baptismal commitment to faithful discipleship, FPC is offering an opportunity to read together and discuss together the core values of our Christian Faith. Rowan Williams says in his introduction, discipleship is "about how we as Church go on being a learning community, and how we grow in depth of relation with each other and God." Books are available for \$6 from **Marilyn Hedgpeth**. Class leadership will be shared by clergy and lay-persons. Classes will meet on **Wednesdays, March 8 – April 5 from 6-7 p.m.** (bring a bag dinner/childcare provided); and on **Friday mornings, March 3- April 7 from 10:30 – noon at FPC.**

Opportunities for Service and Mission

Feeding our Neighbors!

Please continue to bring non-perishable food items for Iglesia Emanuel's food pantry and supplies for blessing and toiletry bags. Not sure what to bring for Iglesia's food pantry? Contact the church office for a list of recommended items.

Fellowship Committee Needs Volunteers

Do you love helping out in the kitchen? Do you have a passion for loading the dishwasher just right? Are you looking for a great way to serve your church community? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, the Fellowship Committee would love your help! We are always looking for volunteers to help out with FPC's monthly Fellowship Lunch on the third Sunday of every month. Email **Abi Warmack** (abi.bissette@gmail.com) or **Julie Whiddon** (foxylady3542@yahoo.com) to be added to our email list!

Pastoral Care is looking for volunteers!

Specifically members interested in assisting with flower delivery, reading to home-bound members, and members with sewing, knitting, crochet, or quilting skills. Interested members can email **Chris Brown** (jamesbro@gmail.com).

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ) People's Assembly and Moral March Saturday, February 11

Join us this Saturday as we march for peace, love, and justice. Those who want to march with the church will meet at the Sir Walter Raleigh Statue in front of the Raleigh Convention Center on Salisbury Street between 9 - 9:30 a.m.. We will have our church banner. If you want to connect with the FPC group, but can't find us, text **Mindy** at 919-260-5107. Parking is available at Davie Street Presbyterian Church on 300 East Davie Street in Raleigh. Use this link for more information about logistics. <https://hkonj.com/moral-march-on-raleigh/logistics/> If you need a ride, contact the church. Carpooling spots are still available. **Note: The organizers request, and we agree, of course, that we should not bring partisan signs.**

♥ Valentine Party for Families with Young Children ♥

This **Sunday, February 12, from 5:00-6:00 p.m.**, young children and parents are invited to a Valentine party in Watts-Hill Hall, to celebrate the many ways we share love as Christians, as we make valentine cards and assemble blessing bags for our friends and neighbors. The Middle School youth will be helping with the event, after which they will stay for their usual meal with the high school youth.

FPC Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session for **Sunday, February 19** at the end of worship to elect officers for the Class of 2020.

El Fuego Early Music Ensemble in Concert Friday, February 10

7:00 p.m. in FPC's sanctuary; Admission required

Travel to Northern Spain through music and beautiful poetry in Galician-Portuguese to get an insight of the minds of praying souls of the 13th – 14th centuries. General admission is \$15; seniors, FPC members, and students with ID: \$10.

THE THINGS THAT MATTER BOOK GROUP Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m.

at the home of **Lee Courtland** (915 Monmouth Ave, Durham)
We will have dinner together (food will be provided) and discuss *Gratitude* by Oliver Sacks. **Barbara Gerwe** will lead the discussion. New faces always welcome!

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m.
at the home of Chuck and Jean Wilson

Please respond to the EVITE. Not getting the EVITE? Contact Valerie in the church office to be added to (or removed from) the listserv for Primetimer events.

Indonesia Birds Slide Show

Monday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall
Come see and hear a presentation by David and Judy Smith
on a recent trip they made to Indonesia. All are welcome.

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

FPC has two teams playing in the Hope Valley Baptist Church Men's Basketball League this winter: Old School (team 1) and Young Guns (Team 2).

In the first game of the season, FPC's two teams played each other. Team Young Guns snuck out a victory over team Old School, 56-48. **Carter Momsen-Hudson** hit two big free throws with the game tied 48-48 with under two minutes to play.

Games are played on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the Hope Valley Baptist Church gym (corner of Hope Valley and Garrett Roads).

McPherson Lectureship 2017

Sunday, February 26

Guest Lecturer: *Dr. Miroslav Volf*

Dr. Miroslav Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School and the Founder and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture.

See the enclosed brochure for details.



FLORENCE FORTH RACE

Saturday, March 5

The race honoring our little **Florence McDow** is just over one month away now. Please help the McDows get ready to support the Durham-based, global non-profit that benefits Autoimmune Encephalitis research: share a personal email about Florence Forth with your friends; post information about the race on your neighborhood listserv; include it on your social media site; create a running / walking team and invite others to join; help distribute Florence Forth postcards, stickers and fliers. For more information, go to the Florence Forth Road Race website: <http://florenceforth.org/>.



YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY



During the recent Listening Sessions members of the congregation expressed an interest in prison ministry. On **Monday, March 6 at 7:00 pm**, Rev. David Morton will provide education and training for Yokefellow Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina is an inter-denominational Christian ministry of reconciliation begun in 1969. Its focus is on a ministry of listening, encouragement, and support from volunteers to those in prison in the form of small group meetings. This session will last one and a half hours.

After the informational session on Monday, those interested in volunteering as a Yokefellow at Orange County Correctional, a minimum prison facility near Hillsborough, will complete paperwork and training at the Peace Center at OCC on **Thursday, March 9 at 6:00 pm**. This training is lead by Chaplain Jerry Love. The training is required to volunteer at the prison.

If you think that you might have an interest in this new ministry, please come to the Yokefellow session to learn more about this approach. Attendance does not commit you to become a volunteer. If you would like to commit to the training at OCC, please contact **Jane Williams** (336-577-8240) or janepsych1@mac.com for further details and registration information.

In the Spotlight

Congratulations to **Lucie House** who was the featured volunteer in the Families Moving Forward February newsletter. Since volunteering in 2011, Lucie has helped set up apartments for new guests, been a Study Buddy and helped children with their homework. She and other young adults from FPC have also volunteered with the Circles of Support program. Lucie has also served during evening programming as both a facilitator of adult programming, and as a volunteer serving meals and helping with children's programming. Lucie's current offering to FMF: *she comes in on Friday afternoons and provides a meditation and mindfulness course to both FMF residents and their staff – and they love it!*



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