

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

April 25, 2017



From the Associate Pastor . . .

We are Witnesses to His Resurrection

The story of the encounter of the Risen Lord with the disciples on the road to Emmaus is our story. We will never be able to prove scientifically that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. No amount of technical sophistication, the shroud of Turin, no archaeological excavations, no discovery of long lost ancient scrolls will ever offer the kind of proof that science requires for its certitude. Yes, there is the empty tomb and the appearances but they are insufficient for scientific proof. But this has always been the case, and it will remain so forever. Yet, despite our inability to prove Jesus' resurrection, despite the fact that we could never reason logically to the conclusion that he has risen, despite a complete lack of any direct evidence, millions of Christians the world over have believed strongly enough in the resurrection of Jesus to be willing to die for that belief.

How are we to account for such a remarkable phenomenon? What is it that has convinced so many people to put such absolute trust in a report so astounding that it still beggars the imagination? Is all that we have to rely on the testimonies of a few witnesses? Or is there something else that makes Jesus' resurrection credible?

I am convinced that the answer to these questions lies not just in the testimony of those two disciples on the road to Emmaus as well as the first believers. Rather, the reason so many millions have come to believe that Jesus still lives is because they have met him in the community of his followers. It is in the witness of believers in every age that we have encountered the miracle of the saving death turned into new life: sinners redeemed and victims free from the evils done to them. It is in the triumph of believers who are willing to live their faith day in and day out, in the face of suffering and even death that we have come to know the power of the Risen One in our midst. It is in our countless victories over sin and evil and all the darkness of this world that we have been convinced of the reality of Jesus' resurrection being played out again and again in every community of faith, hope and love. Christ is risen, we proclaim. And what an awesome responsibility it is for us to realize that it is the quality of **our** Christian lives which makes that proclamation credible! May we celebrate this Easter feast all year 'round by bearing witness to his resurrection by the substance of our lives? Happy Easter!

Sam Miglarese



Our Sympathies:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the following:



Jay, Christyn, JL, Elizabeth, Aurelia, and Parker Klinck on the death of Christyn's father. **Orville Joseph (Joe) Fleming II** died April 22 in Ocala, Florida.

Jay and Christyn Klinck
3224 Pinafore Dr
Durham NC 27705

Carlo and Emily Durham Diy on the death of Emily's father. **Rodger W. Durham** died on April 20 in Greensboro, NC. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. at FPC, Greensboro on Saturday, May 13.

Carlo and Emily Diy
2512 Yorkdale Court
Durham NC 27707

Added this week:

Libby Gulley's "Aunt Dot"
Linda Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
Jane Lewis Nelson, mother of Charlotte Nelson
Toni Bloom, mother of Tom Bloom, receiving special care in Pennsylvania
Sam Burness, son of FPC former member Anne Williams, hospitalized in NYC

Judy Arrowood Sarah and Pete Finbow

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): Helen Garrison

Croasdaile Village: Sarah Cox (Pavilion, room 147) **Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin**

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

Hillcrest: Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Family and Friends of FPC Members:

- **Don and Gail Champion**, uncle and aunt of Lenore Champion
- **Charles ("Kim") Cummings**, father of Drew Cummings
- **Katrina Downey**, friend of Joanne Harrar
- **Mike Gray**, cousin of Linn Lopez
- **Rick Hager**, friend of Celia Dickerson
- **Cherie Haines**, sister of Vernon Neece
- **Paul Martin**, brother of Beth Neece
- **Dell McMillian**, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
- **Shade Mecum**, stepfather of Katherine Higgins
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
- **Janice Rattray**, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- **Lisa Short**, cousin of Alissa Miles
- **Ron Smith**, husband of Day School Director Katharine Smith

Addresses NEW and OLD . . .

New Address for Dan and Mary Banner:

Dan and Mary Banner
1500 Meadow Ridge Circle
Wilmington, OH 45177

New Address for Jim Robins:

Jim Robins
3005 Anderson Drive
Raleigh NC 27609

Addresses for Sam Burness and Willams/Burness family

Sam Burness
58 6th Ave
Brooklyn NY 11217

Anne Williams and John Burness
1506 Kent St
Durham NC 27707

"Thank You Reception for Lyn Francisco

April 28 is Lyn Francisco's last working day as FPC's administrative assistant.

**You are invited to a "Thank you" reception honoring Lyn
this Friday, April 28 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.**

Lyn has served on the church's administrative staff since 2009.
She has been a great asset to the church and staff, and she will be missed.
Please stop by, as your schedule allows this Friday, and thank Lyn for her service!



Congratulations

... to **Joe Harvard**, who was honored last Friday by the Lincoln Community Health Foundation for his service to the greater Durham Community. Joe has finished his tenure at First Scots Presbyterian church in Charleston, and he and **Carlisle** will be returning to Durham and to FPC in the coming weeks. It will be great to have them back in Durham.

CROP Hunger Walk update

Thank you to all of the walkers and donors that participated in the Durham CROP Hunger Walk this year. FPC had over 30 walkers representing our church and the team raised \$3389! It was great to be with such a multi-generational group from FPC walking to end hunger in Durham and around the world. You can visit our team page and see a picture of most of the FPC walkers by clicking the link

below. <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/durhamnc/Team/View/33229/First-Presbyterian-Church>



April 30 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Event

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "*Puzzled and Discouraged*"

Sam Miglarese, preaching

New members will be introduced during worship this Sunday!

Worship Texts:

Acts of the Apostles Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: **Jennie Alwood**

Acolytes: **Laura McDow, Kayla Champion**

Crucifer: **Ellie Dilworth**

Narthex Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey**

After Worship Greeters: **Almira Mbah** (side/font);

Will McDow (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Mary-Jo Keenan** (head), **Chris Brown, Julie Whiddon, Dale Gaddis, Jane**

Williams, Miriam Morey



5th Sunday Inter-generational SUNDAY SCHOOL Event

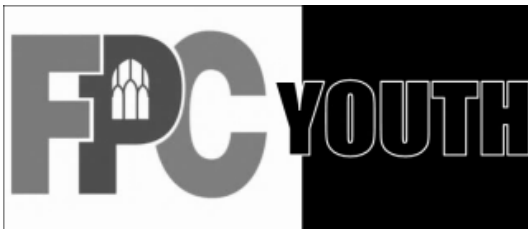
This Sunday, we will not have our regular Sunday School classes, but will gather at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall for stations pertaining to the encounter with the risen Christ on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-32). We will make cards to send to our friends **Mary and Dan Banner**, and to **Jim Robins** – who are moving away, and we will make quilt squares that will warm someone's heart, fill blessing bags for our neighbors, and eat buttered toast and jelly together. Perhaps in all of these activities, our hearts will be strangely warmed within us, as we gather around tables together- young and old.

The **Confirmation Class will NOT meet this Sunday**, but is invited to join the Fifth Sunday Inter-generational Sunday School group. Confirmation will take place in worship on Sunday, May 7, for all who wish to be confirmed, with a reception following.

The Journeys Class WILL MEET this Sunday! Journeys will begin reading and discussing Will Willimon's book "Fear of the Other" in which we are to consider loving others without their needing to become like us. Join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Friday Morning Bible Study

We will NOT meet this Friday, April 28, but will conclude our year's study on May 5 with a discussion of chapter 7 of *Parables* followed by lunch together. Come celebrate a great year of study, friendship, and prayer.



Our **Senior High Banquet** is this Sunday, April 30th in Watts-Hill Hall from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Let's give this year's senior class a great sendoff by coming and being a part! All youth are welcome.

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

Calling all graduates!

FPC will be recognizing graduates during worship on **June 4**. If you or someone in your family or household is graduating from college or high school this spring, help us share the good news. Please submit your graduate's information to **Valerie McMillian** (if a college graduate) and to **Sarah Finbow** (if a high school graduate).



FPC Children's Choir Schedule

Sunday, April 30 - rehearsal following "A Time with the Children"

Sunday, May 7 - rehearse at 9:30 in the sanctuary; sing during 11:00 worship

For more information about Children's Choir, contact **Samantha Arten** at samantha.arten@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Grounds Workday - Saturday, May 6

We'll be pruning and mulching and weeding again. Come join us beginning at 9:00 a.m. We'll call it a day about noon.

Contact **Barbara Buckley** (bjbuckley1@frontier.com or 919-402-8551) if you have questions or plan to help.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Monday, May 8, 2017 (NOTE the date change)

10:30 a.m. Circle and Bible Study in the East Parlor following by the annual Spring Social in Watts-Hill Hall.

The Things That Matter Book Group

Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

***** Location has changed*****

Join us for a discussion of Vanessa Diffengbaugh's "The Language of Flowers." **Barbara Gerwe** will be hosting the group at her home (2704 Trailwood Drive in the Croasdaile Village community). **Dorothy Graham** will lead the discussion. Dorothy is asking that attendees **bring a favorite flower**.

Annual Mother's Day Luncheon

Sunday, May 14

following worship in Watts-Hill Hall

Call the church office (919-682-5511) to make a reservation for your family!

\$8 per persons; \$25 max per family

Save the Date!

A Service of Healing

for those who grieve

Saturday, May 13

5:00 p.m. in the FPC Memorial Garden

All are welcome.

Great Big Church Family Festival

Registration Deadline, May 5



This summer, FPC is co-sponsoring an event called the Great Big Church Family Festival (GBCFF), June 11-14, from 5:30 – 7:30. This year's theme is **Surprising Friends**, and sometimes we will host our surprising friends, and sometimes we will be the surprising friends who visit other churches. In either case, FPC will be hosting on **Sunday, June 11** and **Wednesday, June 14** – and **we need YOU** (families, singles, grandparents, children, parents and young adults) to gather around tables and practice our hospitality skills. Dinner is provided each night at 5:30, and t-shirts are provided for those who register by May 5. Registration forms are in the foyer, and can be found on our FPC website, too. Sign up now, and join the GBCFF, which includes Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, Mt. Bethel Presbyterian, Iglesia Hispana Emanuel, and Duke Memorial Methodist. Now, more than ever, we need to practice welcoming the stranger.

Schedule for New Officers

May 22 New Officers meet with the Session

June 4 Ordination and Installation of New Officers during worship

June 26 First meeting - Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.; Elders meet at 7:00 p.m. Supper for all officers at 6:30 p.m.

Did you know?

You can find photos of new members who jointed FPC during the past several years in the photo album on the end table in the foyer? The most recent new members' photos are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. So, if you are having difficulty remembering a name, check the board or the book!



I very much appreciate your warm response when Marilyn recognized me Sunday morning. The award is also a recognition of First Presbyterian Church, which has taught and supported me during our 57 years as members. For you, and the many faithful members who came before you (read about them in Peter Fish's book!), I am grateful.
-Margaret Keller

Dear Friends,

I was deeply moved by the support of First Presbyterian for the Legacy Luncheon honoring **Joe** to benefit Lincoln Health Center. It meant a lot to have my pastors, **Mindy** and **Marilyn**, present. The work of Lincoln to help the most vulnerable is so important. Our time in Charleston is ending, and we are looking forward to coming home. With much gratitude and love, **-Carlisle Harvard**

Service and Mission Opportunities

Please continue to bring non-perishable food for Iglesia Emanuel's food pantry and supplies for blessing and toiletry bags.



Urban Ministries of Durham

Margaret Rubiera is now coordinating FPC's monthly volunteer opportunities at Urban Ministries of Durham. Volunteers are needed in the coming weeks as follows:

- **Friday, May 19, breakfast and lunch shifts**
- **Thursday, May 25, lunch shift**
- **Friday, June 16, breakfast and lunch**
- **Thursday, June 22, lunch**
- **Friday, June 30, breakfast and lunch**
- **Friday, July 21, breakfast and lunch**
- **Thursday, July 27, lunch**

If you have been, or would like to begin, volunteering to serve breakfast or prepare lunch bags, please contact Margaret: margaretmr29@gmail.com. This is a great way to serve the downtown community.

Resource Center for Women & Ministry in the South, Inc. (RCWMS) presents:

Coming Out of the Shadows:

Connection & Spirituality Among LGBTQ Communities

An interfaith festival featuring workshops and talking circles with skilled facilitators, as well as ritual and music from various traditions. Recommended for ages 16 and up.

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park, Durham

Lunch provided. Free, with suggested donation of \$10 for those who are able. For more information and to register, visit: www.lgbtqspirituality.wordpress.com or <http://www.rcwms.org>