

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

November 7, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Oh, how our hearts ache at the news of yet another mass murder, this one hitting close to home just as the one in Charleston at Mother Emanuel did. People just like us gathered for worship or study in a place of safety – a sanctuary – and left with death, despair, and untold grief. Oh, how we feel the agony of those violated and victimized by someone with a deep anger and a powerful gun. Just like that, life is lost and lives are changed forever. As we were after the recent massacre in Las Vegas and after the many other mass killings we have endured together, we are also now deeply affected by this news from Texas and send our thoughts and prayers to our siblings who suffer mightily this week.

Our thoughts and prayers, as important as they are, will not change the fact that our nation has lost control of guns, has reduced care for those who suffer from mental illness, and has decreased advocacy and education about mental illness. We have neglected those who are in need, who are susceptible to anger and violence, and who feel unloved and unsupported. We have supported a system that provides high-powered guns to anyone who will work to get them. We must turn our sorrow into anger over unjust systems that allow God's children to be so lost in such darkness that they would take the lives of innocents. We must turn our sorrow in to anger over a powerful gun lobby that will not consider more elements of control and regulation (not to get rid of all guns, but to put checks in place for those who purchase guns and to eliminate the purchase of weapons that are used for mass killings of our children, our parents, our friends, and our neighbors). Then we must turn our anger at these injustices **into action** so that the mentally ill can receive the care they need and so that some regulation will be put into place for those types of guns which are able to kill many people in a short period of time.

Some will say I am getting too political here, because gun control and mental health policy is decided by our government. Maybe I am, but I also cannot sit by and watch while, seemingly every month now, another angry, violent, and vengeful person summarily executes another innocent group of people for various reasons (and for no reason at all). I believe we *do* offer our prayers, our deep prayers. I also believe we *do* trust in God, with all our hearts, and lean upon God's understanding far more than our own. But I also believe God has given us hearts and minds and the ability to make a difference in the lives of people around our nation and even around our world.

I know there will be some who disagree with me, and I invite further conversation and exploration about this. Please email, call, or set up a time to talk about this. I value your opinion and don't expect everyone to agree with me. I also value the opportunity to be in conversation about this and the many other challenges we face as the church in the world.

Please know also that we have been working on a safety plan for about a year now. Several parts of that plan have been put into place and the safety team and staff will soon implement other parts. We have considered and will continue to consider an active shooter response. We have no way of knowing where the next shooting will be and I do not anticipate that this will change our regular patterns of behavior or church attendance, but I do recognize the need to be prepared and hope you know that we have a team at work on this.

In this and all that you are dealing with in your own life, I send love to you from God, our

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, and give thanks that our lives are in God's hand, by the power of Jesus Christ, and with the movement of the Holy Spirit. *Sola Deo Gloria.*

Grace and peace to you all,

Mindy



Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. -
Matt. 5:4

FPC member ***Anna Currie*** died October 31, 2017.

The family has requested an "Interment Only" service be held following worship THIS Sunday, November 12 (about 12:30 p.m.) in the FPC Memorial Garden (the chapel, if there is rain), followed by a reception in the East Parlor.

Expressions of sympathy (cards) may be sent to the family as follows:

William Currie (husband)
3611 Randolph Rd, Durham NC 27705.

Deems Currie (son)
2817 Herring, Durham, NC 27704

Patrick Currie and Family (son)
214 E. North Street, Albemarle, NC 28001

Please keep the family in your prayers.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Marc Crawford, friend of Ricky and Brianna Bennett

Sallie Robinson, friend of Kerry Holbrook

Jerry Walter, friend of Brian and Jeannette Castle

Families recovering from the horrific shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas

Paul Cornsweet Charles Hammond Natalie Hansel Bill Lorimer Julie Maxwell

George Bernhardt III, son of George and Jo Bernhardt and U.S. soldier in South Korea

Atria Senior Living: *Peggy Mordecai*, mother of Beth Eisenson

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): *Julian Boswell*

Croasdaile Village: *Bette Conroy, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford*

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): *Helen Garrison*

The Forest at Duke: *Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson*

Family of Church and Staff:

- ***Laura Brannon***, cousin of Libby Gulley
- ***Claiborne Clark***, son of Arthur & Mary Clark
- ***Kim Cummings***, father of Drew Cummings
- ***Lillie E.***, student of Delia Kwon
- ***Lindsay Efland***, friend of Cherrie Henry
- ***Dell McMillian***, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
- ***Danny Parker***, Al & Judy Arrowood's son's father-in-law
- ***Vickie Tobey***, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman
- ***Rev. J.C. Williams***, friend of Steve & Martha Rimmer
- ***Asher Wilson***, grandson of Chuck & Jean Wilson
- ***Christina Z.***, mother of Franzi Rokoske



Please update your mailing lists . . .

Mindy Douglas and Tim O'Brien
1502 Oakland Avenue
Durham, NC 27705

Joseph and Carlisle Harvard
41 Willow Oak Court
Durham NC 27705
Phone: 919-812-8892 (Joe's mobile)

Need a ride to worship? If you would like to have a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings, please send a request to **Valerie McMillan** at v.mcmillan@firstpres-durham.org or call her at 919 682-5511 ext. 215.



The reception on October 29 following worship, which highlighted the 47-year history of the First Presbyterian Day School and recognized my dedication to the child care program and its service to children and families, was very special to me. My sincerest thanks to **Pat Ashby, Sheila Breitweiser, Joe Harvard** and **Katharine Smith** who organized the reception and spoke so eloquently. My thanks to all who attended and contributed in any way and for the beautiful cards and

flowers I have received. It was for me a life celebration while also remembering the leadership and service of many who over the years have contributed time and talent and resources to providing quality care that is affordable and inviting. Thank you for your support and friendship to me and for your continuing support to the Day School.

With love and gratitude,
Dorothy Graham

Many thanks for the donations of time and goods to Families Moving Forward. We delivered a car load of comforters, towels, cleaning supplies and more at our day of service on October 21. Also, special thanks to **Leah Graves, Tyler Momsen-Hudson, Kerry Holbrook, Lea Bingham, George Danser, Mindy Douglas, and Marila Stone** who assembled furniture for a family there. Families Moving Forward is the largest service provider to homeless families with children in Durham and your support is appreciated!

- **Libby Gulley**

Dear FPC,

Thank you for your donation! On behalf of Families Moving Forward's residents, staff and Board of Directors, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the donation of the bedding, bath and cleaning items dropped off on October 21. Our Gifts in-Kind Program helps meet families' basic needs while they are a guest with us or as they move into permanent housing. We are very fortunate to be able to partner with our caring neighbors and other community supports to help us meet our mission.

-**Erik Springer,**
Families Moving Forward Development Associate



*Seek the welfare of the city . . .
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.
- Jeremiah 29:7*

**Stewardship 2018 update:
*Love in the Heart of Durham***

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all those who submitted your pledge this fall! **We have received 159 pledges so far and are 86% toward our goal!** The Stewardship Committee is grateful to those who have heard our excitement about all we are and can be at First Presbyterian Church and have responded with generous support for our mission and ministries.

If you have not yet had a chance to submit your pledge, we hope you will do so by mail or online (www.firstpres-durham.org) as soon as you are able. Your timely submission allows the Session to put together a budget for 2018 that reflects the goals we shared with you in our stewardship brochure this year. If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office to have one sent to you. If you are unable to pledge please consider a small token pledge (\$1.00, \$5.00, ?) as an indicator of your solidarity with our campaign or send us an email indicating you cannot pledge at this time so that we can have full closure of the campaign. We are thankful for your presence and ongoing participation in our church activities.

Again, thank you all so much for the support you give to FPC so that we might continue to be the light of love in the heart of Durham!

With gratitude,
Miriam Morey
George Bernhardt

Sunday, November 12

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism

The **Sacrament of Baptism** will be celebrated
for **Eloise House**, daughter of **Lucie and Wayne House**.

New Members will also be received during worship.

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Acolytes: **Clarabelle Brown, Isabel Brown**

Crucifer: **Jack Kost**

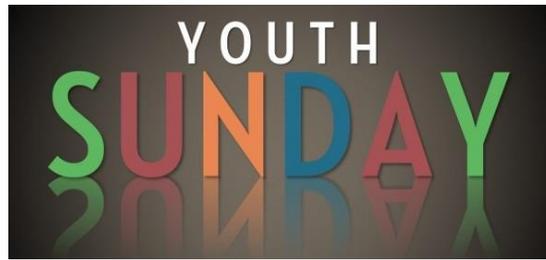
Liturgist: **Amy Wilson**

Narthex Greeters: **Maxie Honeycutt** and **Carol McKnight**

After Worship Greeters: **Jane Wettach** (narthex/rear); **Alice Raney** (side/font)

Ushers: **Kathy Krahenbuhl** (head), **TBD** (flowers), **Stephen Berry, Chris Anglin**

Sunday, November 19



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. **Sunday School**

11:00 a.m. **Worship**

The youth of FPC will conduct worship on Youth Sunday!

Following worship, everyone is invited to Watts-Hill Hall for a **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal (\$8/person; \$24 max per family).

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Karen Romines** (narthex/rear); **Alice Raney** (side/font)

Ushers: **Stephen Berry**(head), **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers), along with FPC youth



SUNDAY SCHOOL

All classes begin at 9:45, and parents are asked to walk your children to their classrooms, and to come back and get them for worship. Thank you!

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.

Children's Sunday School – Grades 3-5

We have started a new story: the Gift of the Poor Widow from Mark 12: 41-44, and it's time to join **Alec Bethune and Delia Kwon** to make some maps and coin boxes, perhaps, to go along with our story. That's what we'll do this Sunday, November 12. Then on November 19, we'll gather in the Spirituality Room for some alternative activities pertaining to the upcoming liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. **Li-Chen Chin and Marilyn Hedgpeth** will review our songs for the Christmas Pageant, and we'll gather around tables to doodle, make scrabble grids, and prayerfully play together and share in a time of Fellowship. All are welcome!

Faith and Community Class:

A new book by Asheville author, Alan Gratz, called *Refugee* is the focus of this Sunday's Faith and Community class. Gratz has written the book for young adults, but its message is for all who have lived through the mass migrations of people who have been persecuted and forced to flee for their lives. It covers three historical migrations: the flight of Jews from Nazi Germany; the plight of those trying to escape communist Cuba; and the exodus of Syrians from the current warfare there. **Our guests for November 12 will be the FPC youth**, who will join us for our discussion. The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45, and all are welcome.

On **November 19**, Faith and Community welcomes one of our new members, **Stephanie Pavik**, who is a public health practitioner. She will lead our class in a discussion of Substance Abuse and Addiction, Social and Spiritual Implications. It's a topic we all need to address.

We encourage you to be ON TIME for these classes, as presenters have prepared for a 45 minute class, and we need to honor their commitment to FPC, with our respect for their time and preparation.

Lectionary Class: Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

November 12: Choices have consequences. Even simple, everyday decisions -- did you bring an extra set of batteries for the flashlight? -- can have dire consequences. If we are very fortunate, someone might warn us in advance about the importance of a decision we are about to make. You have been warned.

November 19: What task will God give to you? To lead an army against an enemy? To manage resources, increasing your talents or wealth? Or something very different? Whatever it is, be awake and be ready!

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class

We meet in **room 205 on the 2nd floor of the education building.**

Journeys and Scratch will discuss the first chapter of the "*The Story of Christianity*" by Justo Gonzalez, which covers the history from the reformation to the present day. All are welcome to join the discussion. The book info is: Gonzalez, Justo. 2010. *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. A scan of the first two chapters is available by email or can be printed upon request.

Spiritual Formation This year-round class for women is led by **Susan Dunlap** and explores the topic of spiritual formation. Join us at 9:45 in **basement classroom B-16**.



All hands on deck! This Sunday evening (**November 12**) will be our dress rehearsal and final prep for our Youth Sunday Service, which will be held on the following Sunday, **November 19** at 11:00 a.m. Check your email for final information on remaining tasks and activities as we prepare to lead worship on YOUTH SUNDAY!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday, November 28
Daytimers' Luncheon

at Bennett Pointe Grill located at 4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham
RSVP to **Maxie Honeycutt** by November 26: 919-286-4680.

First Friends & Families

SAVE THESE DATES . . .

Saturday, December 9

Advent Potluck (adults only)

6:30 p.m. at the home of **Melinda Ruley/Stewart Fisher**

Friday, January 5

Game Night and Potluck

hosted by the *Wilkins family*

5:30 p.m. at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall

Scratch/Young Adults

November Gathering:

"SOUP NIGHT"

Friday, November 10

6:30 p.m. at the home of Andy and Cherrie Henry

The Henrys are excited to host the November potluck which will be a soup night. They are providing the soup and bread. Please bring salad and dessert. Lots of activity potential: some board games, or movie fun (with Netflix), or you can look at some sabbatical photos! As always, new faces are welcome! Watch for the EVITE.

December Fellowship Event

Saturday, December 2

Dress as animals or shepherds and walk in the Durham Christmas parade, then go locally for lunch!

Annual Scratch/Young Adults

Planning Retreat

Sunday, January 7

Noon - 3:00 p.m. at the church. Lunch will be provided.

BOOK GROUP

November Discussion

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, November 14** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of *Mary-Jo Keenan* (2407 Tryon Rd, Durham) to discuss Viet Thanh Nguyen's book, *The Sympathizer*. *Celia Dickerson* will be the discussion leader. Let Mary-Jo know you will attend by emailing her at: mjkeenan39@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, December 8

PRIMETIMERS Covered Dish Supper

hosted at the home of **Mac and Wendy McCorkle**

More details forthcoming!

Activities for Families with Young Children

Sunday, November 19
Parents Eat Out /
Christmas Pageant Practice
for the Children
5:00 - 6:15 p.m.

This is a time of fellowship for parents and an opportunity for children to prepare for the Christmas pageant and also complete a service project for our neighbors in Puerto Rico.

Saturday, December 2
2017 Durham Christmas Parade
THEME: The Friendly Beasts

FPC's children, youth and parents are invited to dress as animals and march in the parade. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Main and Dillard. Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at Duke's East Campus (Main and Buchanan Streets).

Sunday, December 3
Advent Festival

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. for children & youth

There will be Advent-related activities and crafts for children and youth.

Alternative Giving Fair

After worship, food, vendors, and activities for all ages

Sunday, December 10
Christmas Pageant

9:45 a.m. Dress rehearsal and face painting for pageant

11:00 a.m. Pageant presentation during worship

Service and Mission Opportunities

Care Packages for College Students and Military



The **Pastoral Care Committee** is assembling care packages for our college students and young adults away serving our country. You are invited to support this project by bringing in flat items for the packages — gum, hot cocoa, microwave popcorn, hard candy, granola bars, puzzles or joke books, etc. Baskets are labeled at the Mission Collection Center in the foyer for your donations. **Items are needed by Sunday, November 26.** The care packages will be sent the week after Thanksgiving. **Parents, remember to update your**

student's college address to ensure a timely delivery of the care package.

Anti-Racism Education Corner

The FPC's Racial Equity Task Force invites you to see "13th," an award-winning 2016 documentary that explores the history of institutional racism and the mass incarceration of African-American males.

We invite you to attend a screening (in members' homes or at church) and participate in an ongoing discussion about institutional racism, its impacts, and our responsibility as Christians and the Church. The film is 100 minutes and can be seen on Netflix.

Scheduled Screenings

Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:45-9:00 p.m.

Libby and Dub Gulley's home. Seating for 8.

Monday, Nov. 20, 6:45-9:00 p.m.

Jon and Kim Abels' home. Seating for 12.

Thursday, Nov 30, 2:00-4:15 p.m.

Dan Hudgins and Ann McKown's home. Seating for 8

Sunday, Dec 3, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

FPC, Watts-Hill Hall. Pizza and drinks provided; \$3/person.

Tuesday, Dec 5, 6:45-9:00 p.m.

Mindy Douglas and Tim O'Brien's home. Seating for 8.

RSVP: Please email, call or text **Kathy Conner** (kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com or 919-451-5445) to indicate which screening you would like to attend.

Housing Inequality in Durham

BullCity150 Exhibit: "Uneven Ground: Foundations of Housing Inequality in Durham"

(<https://www.bullcity150.org>). The exhibit is open on the following dates: **November 14** with a Housing Policy Discussion - 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and **November 17** - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: MDC Building - 307 E. Main St.



Leftover Candy?

Kathy Parkins and **Samantha Arten** will gladly take your leftover candy for the Children's Choir. Makes a great incentive to focus the children during rehearsals. Just bring with you on your next trip to the church and leave it at the Volunteer's desk. Thank you!

~ COMMUNITY INVITATIONS ~

"TIME OUT" Radio Show with Bill Hendrickson

Monday, November 13 at 5:00 PM

Bill's guest will be a repeat visit honoring veterans with **Retired General Arthur Clark..**

Listen live at WCOM, locally on 103.5 FM and elsewhere on the web at wcomfm.org.

Presence is Power: Learn how to diffuse a volatile situation

Saturday, November 11

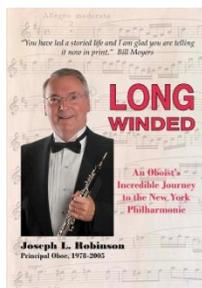
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Durham

Registration required. A donation of \$20 is appreciated to help offset expenses.

Celebrating a Low Carbon Thanksgiving

Are you concerned about the environment? Have you considered how the food industry and our food choices impact the environment? To learn more, click [here](#). No access to the internet? Copies of "Celebrating A Low Carbon Thanksgiving" will be available at the church in the foyer and narthex. Information provided by Interfaith Power & Light.



Our own **Joe Robinson** has written a book, **LONG *winded***, about his journey to the New York Philharmonic. Copies are \$39.00 (includes shipping) if purchased before January 1, 2018. For a limited time, a bonus CD will be included for free. Use PayPal or send a personal check to:

Joseph Robinson
10011 Hammock Bend
Chapel Hill, NC 27517.

November is National Adoption Awareness Month

Durham County DSS celebrates our adoptive families. They also recognize the role each of us plays in the lives of youth in foster care and those who need a permanent home. If you or anyone you know is interested in more information on becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please call: 919-560-8092 or email: fosterdreams@dconc.gov.

Request from Iglesia Emanuel

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We are beginning to plan for our annual Thanksgiving celebration on Wednesday November 22, and are in need of donations of turkeys (or monetary donations with which to purchase turkeys) for the community dinner. If you have time to cook a turkey at home and bring it to the church, then that would be even better! Folks are also welcome to sign up to help serve and clean up after the hot meal, as well as helping to distribute a large amount of food for food bank recipients to take home. As usual, we will have a children's performance preceding the dinner, and all are welcome to join us for both the performance and the dinner. We always appreciate the help and support of our sister churches. - **Julio Ramirez**, Iglesia Emanuel

The next newsletter will be issued November 21, 2017.



The Church office will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.