

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

February 6-19, 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

I am so excited about events coming up during the rest of February (we are making sure the winter doldrums don't get you down!). We have a wonderful few weeks ahead of us as we move into the preparatory season of Lent.

First up is **Transfiguration Sunday** on February 11 (with Holy Communion, the children's choir, and more). Then we enter into the season of Lent with our **Ash Wednesday** services on February 14, at noon and 6 p.m. (see below for details). We will mark our heads with ashes and acknowledge with gratitude and humility our total dependence upon God.

From there we go to an incredible **interfaith worship opportunity** with **Judea Reform**. We will worship together at Judea Reform for their Shabbat service on Friday, February 16 at 7:30. Our choirs will sing together and I will speak at their service. On Sunday, February 18, we will welcome the congregation of Judea Reform to our service of worship and Rabbi Larry Bach will speak. Following worship, we will celebrate our interfaith connection over a meal in the fellowship hall.

Also, on the 18th, we will meet as a congregation to hear a report from the **Nominating Committee**. They have put together a gifted and faithful group of people who have responded to God's call to serve the church as a deacon, an elder, or a member of the nominating committee. I hope you will be present as we elect these new folks for service and ministry at FPC.

The following weekend, we welcome our **McPherson lecturer, Rev. Starsky Wilson**. Rev. Wilson will speak multiple times over the weekend and I encourage you to look at the schedule below and come hear him as many times as you are able! His theme for the weekend is "Martin, the Messiah, and #MeToo: Framing Faith-Inspired Activism."

I am excited about these opportunities for worship, inspiration, and fellowship, and I am looking forward to learning and growing with you along the way.

Grace and peace,

Mindy

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

FPC member **William (Bill) Lorimer** passed away December 7, 2017. The family held an interment service in the Memorial Garden at First Presbyterian Church, Durham on December 17, 2017.

A memorial service in celebration of Bill's life will be held Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of FPC. Your prayerful support and presence (as your schedule allows) at this service is very much appreciated by the family. The family will greet friends at a reception in Watts-Hill Hall following the service.

OUR CONCERNS

We extend **CONDOLENCES** to the following:

- **Marki Watson** and **Megan Champion** on the death of Marki's mom (Megan's grandmother), **Lora Watson**;
- **Chris Wehrman, Li-Chen Chin, Sheya and Sean**, on the death of Chris' mother, **Martha A. Wehrman**;
- **Sharon and Steve Hirsch** on the death of Steve's father, **John Hirsch**, in Atlanta.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

CONCERNS

Dorothy Graham

Joe Harvard – Duke Hospital, recovering from pneumonia

Florence Shackelford – the Pavilion at Croasdaile Village

Bob Keever – the Pavilion at Croasdaile Village

Beth Eisenson

Paul Cornsweet

Julie Maxwell

Jon Pratt, recovering from an assault in NYC

Pam and David Martin, friends of Chris and Meredith Brown

Dete Cruz – older sister of Lina Yoder, in the Philippines

Russell and Ruth Roberson – both recovering at home in Croasdaile Village

Atria Senior Living: Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Croasdaile Village: Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): Helen Garrison

The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Marc Crawford, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Heath, Rebecca, and Julia Huberg, family from South Dakota

(Heath is receiving care at Duke)

Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church

Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

Jerry Walter, friend of Brian and Jeanette Castle

Christina Z., mother of Franzi Rokoske

PARISH NOTES

Many thanks to those of you who supported the "Pump Boys and Dinettes" fundraiser to help **Rev. Ben Krase-Johnston and his family**.

Special thanks to **Mindy Douglas and Tim O'Brien** who hosted the **Scratch/Young Adults** group in their home this past weekend.

Congratulations to **Margaret Eme**, who received an Outstanding Attendance Award from Sherrill's University Barber-Styling and Cosmetology School.

Kudos to Business Manager **Tom Bloom**, who was recognized recently for 30 years of service to The Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill.

Congratulations to **Jennie Belle**, who has been offered a position with the national office of Church World Service. Jennie will be leaving her position with the North Carolina Council of Churches, where she has served since 2014.

The **Friday morning Bible Study** will deviate from virtues for Lent (Feb. 16 – March 30), and focus on vice in a course called: "What's Nice About Vice: A Positive Look at the Seven Deadly Sins". The curriculum for the course will consist of a series of TED Talks about topics such as sloth, gluttony, pride and lust, which we will discuss together in class, supplemented by biblical stories and passages that are pertinent. The class is open to everyone, held Fridays from 10:30 – noon at the church. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** leads the class and would love to have you join us as a Lenten practice.

Acolytes / Crucifers needed

Interested in serving as an acolyte or crucifer during worship? We are looking to welcome more people, regardless of age, into this important aspect of our weekly worship! Please email s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org if you are interested!

Membership Inquiry Classes Coming This Spring

The new year is upon us, and with it many exciting opportunities at FPC. Some of you have been visiting FPC for quite some time; some of you have already joined; and some of you are entertaining the concept of membership. To address your questions, and to introduce you to other like-minded people, we will be offering a series of six Membership Inquiry Classes this spring for those who have expressed a curiosity about membership. These classes will begin with an introductory luncheon following worship on **Sunday, March 4**, and continue on Sundays thereafter (excluding Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday) at 9:45 – 10:45 through April 29. We do not require anyone to take these classes before joining; you are welcome to join at any time, as your schedule allows. Just let the pastors know if you are ready to join, and we'll convene the Session of the church to make that happen.

These classes are an opportunity for you to ask your questions, and to make an informed decision with knowledge of the history, ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. Let **Marilyn Hedgpeth** know, please, if you would like to attend the luncheon on March 4 (so we'll have enough food for you and your children), and the series of classes which follow. Know that we would love to include you and get to know you better.

The schedule, topics, and presenters are as follows:

3/4 - Fellowship luncheon, and intros (following worship)	Marilyn Hedgpeth
3/11 – Scripture and Prayer (9:45)	Marilyn Hedgpeth
3/18 – Baptism and Eucharist (9:45)	Sam Miglarese
3/25 – No Class (Palm Sunday)	
4/1 – No Class (Easter Sunday)	
4/8 – History and Theology (9:45)	Mindy Douglas
4/15 – Liturgical Year and Worship (9:45)	David Smith
4/22 – Presbyterian Polity and Theology	Phyllis Supple
4/29 – The Christian Life/Meeting with the Session (9:45)	Mindy Douglas

(Those who wish may join during the worship service at 11:00)



Because of all the blessings that First Presbyterian Church offers to the congregation and to others, we have joined the Legacy Society to help support the work of future generations. We are grateful that this community of faith has been engaged in worship and in a ministry of peace, justice and reconciliation for the past 146 years. May FPC continue to proclaim the Gospel, welcome all

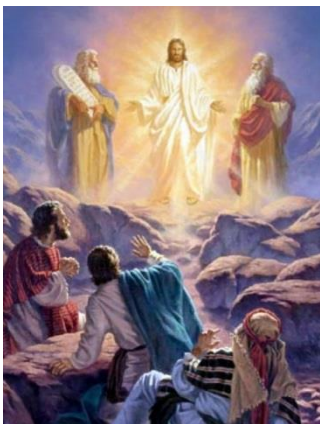
people, and serve God faithfully. - **Jean and Chuck Wilson**

Members of FPC's Legacy Society

Al and Judy Arrowood
Bob and Sheila Breitweiser
Chris and Meredith Brown
Arthur Clark
Celia Dickerson
Mindy Douglas and Tim O'Brien
Lisa Gabriel
Charles and Peggy Hammond
Joe and Carlisle Harvard
Mark Higgins
Dan Hudgins
Mary-Jo Keenan
Mal King
Sam and Sheila Miglarese
Miriam Morey
Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield
Caroline Rourk
Henderson and Jane Rourk
David and Marie Sappenfield
Jim Seitzer
Jane Williams
Chuck and Jean Wilson
Bob and Lina Yoder

FPC's Legacy Society will hold its second annual Appreciation Luncheon for Society members on February 7, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at Croasdaile Country Club.

Sunday, February 11 - Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday



9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

The **Children's Choir** will be singing during worship.

(Remember to bring supplies for blessing bags)

Sermon: "Glory on the Mountaintop"

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Brent Curtis** (side/font); **Carol Carson** (rear/narthex)

Communion Servers:

Head / Replenish elements: **Alice Raney**

Bread: **Cris Rivera** (B1, process); **Miriam Morey** (B2); **Carol Carson** (B3); **Jane Wettach** (B4)

Cup: **Andy Henry** (C1); **Caroline Rourk** (C2, process); **Brent Curtis** (C3); **Ellie Dilworth** (C4)

Shepherds: **Sigfried Fullenkamp** (pulpit aisle); **Jerry Postema** (font aisle); **Jane Williams** (center aisle)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Amy Dillon** (flowers), **Karen Swope**, **Amy Sanchez**, **Catherine Dumas**



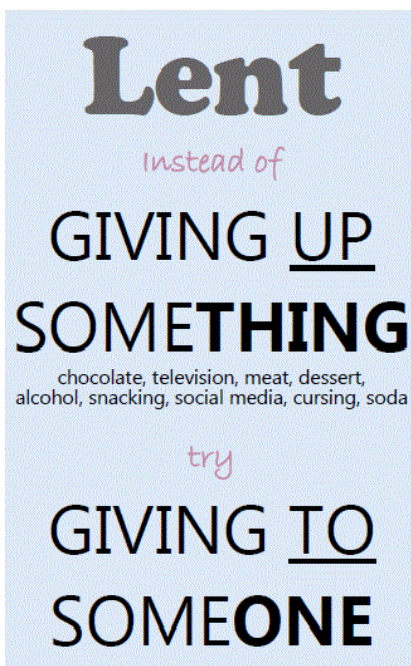
Ash Wednesday Worship

**12 Noon A Service of Holy Dusting
FPC Memorial Garden**

**6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
FPC sanctuary**

Both services will include the

imposition of ashes on our foreheads. A light supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. before the evening worship.



LENTEN MATCH

Lent is a time to step back from our usual routines and engage in acts of transformation. The church traditionally suggests a threefold form of action for Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As Jesus instructs his disciples, *Come and see what is happening. Come and follow me.* (John 1 35-50) We follow Jesus with a sense of wonder as to how things will turn out. Will our actions make a difference?

In this Lenten season of 2018, a generous donor has invited our congregation to join them in enabling transformative acts of service and mission. The donor will match gifts given by the congregation with their own gift up to \$20,000. The money will go to meeting emergency needs through our Walk-In ministry, feeding individuals who are elderly or disabled through Meals on Wheels, providing shelter through Urban Ministries of Durham, and to other organizations focused on meeting basic needs.

This opportunity to follow with a sense of wonder begins with Lent on February 14th and lasts till March 14th. If you feel called to participate, please make checks to FPC, designated to "Lenten Match" and put them in the collection plate or send them to the church office. Thank you.

Jewish and Christian Congregations to Worship Together

The congregations of Durham's First Presbyterian Church and Judea Reform will worship together on Friday, February 16 and Sunday, February 18. The Rev. Dr. Mindy Douglas will be speaking during the Friday Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. at Judea Reform, and Rabbi Larry Bach will be speaking during the 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship at First Presbyterian. The choirs from both congregations will be joining together to provide music for both services.

Your presence at both services is appreciated. Judea Reform is located at 1933 West Cornwallis Road, Durham.

Sunday, February 18 - 1st Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Combined worship with Judea Reform Congregation

Rabbi Larry Bach, speaking

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the end of worship to elect officers.

Following worship, everybody is invited to Watts-Hill Hall for a fellowship lunch.

Liturgist: *Jeanne Hervey*

Narthex Greeter: *Alice Raney*

After Worship Greeters: *Dewey Lawson* (side/font); *Delia Kwon* (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **TBA**

2018 McPherson Lectureship

Sunday, February 25 – Monday, February 26

Guest Lecturer: Starsky Wilson

Senior Pastor of St. John's Church, St. Louis, MO; President and CEO of Deaconess Foundation and member of the Ferguson Commission;

THEME: Martin, the Messiah and #MeToo: Framing Faith-Inspired Activism"

See back of newsletter for more information about this year's Lectureship

All are welcome. Reservations are required for the Clergy / Church Leader Gathering on February 26: v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

Sunday, February 25 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship - Starsky Wilson, preaching

The **Hunger for Change offering** will be received during worship. Please give generously to help combat hunger.

Narthex Greeter: *Elizabeth High*

After Worship Greeters: *Jerry Postema* (side/font); *Tyler Momsen-Hudson* (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Emily Wilkins* (head), *Christy Gudaitis* (flowers), *Jane Williams*

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Children's and Youth Sunday School is a wonderful example of small group ministry in our church. On February 11, the class will talk about Jesus Healing a Young Boy in Matthew 9: 14-29. Then on February 18th, we will take a look at the Transfiguration of Jesus, as told in Mark 9: 14-29. Our prayers are with one of our teachers, **Li-Chen Chin, and with Sheya and Sean** also, over the death of her mother-in-law, and their grandmother recently in Philadelphia.

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

Faith and Community Class:

We have begun a month-long look at pastoral issues surrounding dementia / Alzheimer's disease, discussing how best to minister and care for those who suffer from these conditions, and their care-givers. After finishing the documentary, *I'll Be Me*, about singer/song-writer Glen Campbell, the class had a good discussion about what it might take to become a dementia-friendly congregation. This **Sunday, February 11**, we welcome **Dr. Warren Kinghorn**, Associate Research Professor of Psychiatry and Pastoral and Moral Theology at Duke Divinity School, who will lead a discussion of the theology of dementia. Then on **Sunday, February 18**, we hope to have a presenter join us to address issues of caring, both individually and as a community, for those with dementia and Alzheimer. This will round out our series on dementia and Alzheimer, which has been valuable in increasing awareness of an area in which FPC can grow in its inclusivity. The class meets at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall, and all are welcome.

Lectionary Class:

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

February 11: Have you ever discovered that someone you know is greater – more esteemed, more famous – than you were aware? It happened to Elisha, and it happened to Peter, James, and John. How did they react? How would you?

February 18: Something decisive happened to Jesus at his baptism. The heavenly voice, the temptation in the wilderness, the preaching and teaching, the controversies – his old life, whatever it was like, was washed away by the waters of the Jordan, and his new life began at that moment. Did your baptism change your life?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class:

We meet in the corner room of the 2nd floor of the education building. We are finishing up our study of "The Story of Christianity" by Gonzalez. All are welcome to join us.

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.



Join us on Sunday evenings . . .
Middle Schoolers at 5:00;
Supper for all youth at 6:00;
High Schoolers at 6:30.

All youth are welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

Sunday, February 11: Fun and Games

Sunday, February 18: Temptation

Sunday, February 25: "Screenagers" (offsite) with Westminster and Trinity Ave youth groups

Upcoming FPC Events . . .

Parents Night Out and An Evening for Young Children

On Sunday, February 18, from 5:00 – 6:15 we will gather in the church foyer again , and send parents down the street to Bull City Burger for a quick time of fellowship. Marilyn Hedgpeth and members of the CE Committee will stay with the children to talk about the New Testament stories of Jesus feeding people, leading to the Lord's Supper. We'll make and bake our own bread, and have our own love feast around tables in the way of Holy Communion. Then we'll gather for dinner before parents return at 6:15. Please let **Marilyn Hedgpeth** know if you will be attending this Sunday.

Book Group Mid-Winter Dinner

The **Things That Matter Book group** will meet at the home of **Beth Eisenson** (1423 Acadia St) on **Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss Jane Williams' book, *Mysterious Moments: Thoughts That Transform Grief.* Attendees are reminded that this is our mid-winter group dinner, a wonderful tradition started by Lee Courtland. Please **RSVP to Beth** (919-688-5818 or heisenson@aol.com) and remember to bring a dish to share. Note the time is earlier because of the meal.

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m.
at the home of Jean and Chuck Wilson
25 Pennington Place, Durham

Please respond to the EVITE and remember to comment on the type dish you will bring.

Congregational Meetings

The FPC Session has set the following dates for Congregational Meetings (to be held at the end of worship):

Sunday, February 18 - elect new officers

Sunday, March 4 - vote on changes in terms of call for installed pastors

Indonesia Bird Show

Indonesia is a nation made up of thousands of islands, and many of those islands are home to special endemic birds, mammals, really big lizards, and other creatures. In November of 2017, *David and Judy Smith* made their second birding trip to Indonesia, visiting five islands. (Along the way, they also stopped briefly in Singapore, a small and densely populated island that still has some remarkably good natural areas.) Join David and Judy on **Wednesday, February 21, at 6:00 in Watts-Hill Hall** for a photographic exploration of the wildlife of Indonesia and Singapore.

First Friends and Families Fast Break

Friday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m.
at the home of Brent, Lesley and Graham Curtis
2713 Dogwood Rd, Durham
Teenage and older kids welcome!
This is a potluck so please bring a dish to share!
EVITE coming soon! Please respond.

FPC Officer Meetings

Monday, February 26
6:00 p.m. - Diaconate
6:30 p.m. - Joint Officers' Supper
7:00 p.m. - Session

Daytimers' Luncheon

Tuesday, February 27 at 11:30 a.m.
at Bennett Pointe Grill
4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham
Arranged by *Linda and Chuck Barenchi*
Please RSVP to: 919-908-6156 or cnlbars@gmail.com.

SAVE THESE DATES!

GBCFF (Great Big Church Family Festival) 2018
June 17, 18, 19 – at participating churches

August 5 from 4-7 p.m. Reunion at Camp New Hope



CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Games are played on Mondays and Thursdays (7:00, 8:00, 9:00 p.m.) through the end of February in the Hope Valley Baptist church gym, located at the corner of Garrett and Hope Valley Roads. Click [**schedule**](#) to see when FPC's teams play.

Habitat for Humanity Mission Trips 2018

Our well laid plans for the Habitat for Humanity trips to Honduras have taken a bit of a turn. Due to political unrest following the presidential elections in late November, we have made some adjustments to our plans. The trip led by **Margaret and Miguel Rubiera** will still go to Honduras, but has been rescheduled to **April 6 – 15**. **Blake Strayhorn** will lead a group **February 9 – 17** to Guatemala. **Carl and Lisa Rist** will be representing First Presbyterian on the Guatemala trip. In both countries, we will be building houses as well as beautiful friendships beyond our borders. It seems that politics have a way of complicating life the world over! Please join us as we pray for a restoration of peace and hope in Honduras.

Refugee Resettlement

Several FPC members have been helping a refugee family from Afghanistan to resettle in Durham, after they spent 4.5 years in Turkey. The couple has three daughters, the youngest less than two-years old, and the other two already enrolled in Durham Public Schools. The father works part-time, but his income is not sufficient for their expenses. He is an IT professional with 12 years of experience with computers, both hardware- and software-related problem solving, including working with the US Embassy in Kabul and the United Nations. Information on potential contacts that might lead to a full-time job, which could use all of his professional skills, would be very helpful. If you would like to receive a copy of his CV, please get in touch with Jean Wilson at JeanJWilson@gmail.com or Marila Codeiro-Stone at marilacordeiro@hotmail.com.

TERRY SANFORD DISTINGUISHED LECTURE AND BOYARSKY LECTURE IN LAW, MEDICINE & ETHICS



Poverty, Health and Social Justice
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II

Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 5:30 pm
Page Auditorium, Duke University

Free and Open to the Public
Event Tickets Required - Available January 23
tickets.duke.edu or 919.684.4444
Parking at Bryan Center Deck on Science Drive

Supporting "Sanctuary"

The **Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill** has become a sanctuary church. FPC is a partner in this effort as part of an interfaith network of volunteers. Volunteer activities include everything from prayer support to providing a meal, paying a visit, doing laundry, advocating to change inhumane immigration laws, or providing medical care. **Individuals who are interested in volunteering can sign up at: <http://eepurl.com/c77iRn>.**

Membership Directory: SMARTPHONE ACCESS

Do you want access to the church membership directory and the online events calendar on-the-go? You can have access when you download the Church Life app to your smartphone. You must sign up and then download the app. Contact the church office if you need help getting/using the app on your device.

The February birthday list and calendar of events are enclosed.

**The next church newsletter will be issued February 20, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office by
Sunday, February 18, 2018.**

© 2018 First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church
305 East Main Street, Durham NC 27701
919682-5511 (office) 919-682-0493 (fax)
<https://firstpres-durham.org>