

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

March 6 - 19, 2018



Time to **SPRING FORWARD!**

At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 11, Daylight saving time begins.

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 10.

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Last week, I attended the NEXT Church conference in Baltimore, Maryland. This conference is a part of a ground-up movement which began less than ten years ago. Around 650 people gathered to worship, pray, sing, and learn together. There were workshops, seminars, and interest groups available – something for everyone! Learn more and check out the videos at www.nextchurch.net.

As a part of my time there, I attended a seminar on stewardship and was particularly encouraged by a presentation by David Loleng, Director of Church Financial Literacy and Leadership of the Presbyterian Foundation. He began with a quote from Philippians: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition and conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

Loleng moved on to discuss spiritual practices, which I found to be very helpful, especially during this season of Lent. I share one with you here – **the spiritual practice of simplicity.**

Ours is a world of accumulation. Everywhere we turn, we are told that we deserve more stuff, we should have bigger possessions, we need all things faster, stronger, better, more advanced, more technological, and we need them *now*. Our world feeds us the message of the urgency of acquiring and having more. We are told we deserve to fill our houses with all that is bigger and better and more convenient. In the midst of this message the world feeds us every day, I hope we can find ways to simplify our lives. I hope we can clear the clutter from our hearts, minds, bank accounts, and homes. Richard Foster, in his book *Freedom of Simplicity* writes:

The complexity of rushing to achieve and accumulate more and more threatens frequently to overwhelm us . . . Christian simplicity brings sanity to our compulsive extravagance, and peace to our frantic spirit. . . it allows us to see material things for what they are – goods to enhance life, not to oppress life. People once again become more important than possessions . . . it is the Spiritual Discipline of simplicity that gives us . . . a strategy of action that can address poverty and hunger and many other social inequities.

Lynn Twist, in her book *The Soul of Money*, gives us a theology of sufficiency, reminding us that we have enough, no matter what the world tries to tell us:

Sufficiency means things are sufficient, exactly enough. There is a principle of sufficiency: When you let go of trying to get more of what you don't really need, which is what we are all trying to get more of, it frees up immense energy to make a difference with what you have.

This Lent, may we all embrace the spiritual practice of simplicity while living into the theology of sufficiency.

With love and gratitude for you all,

Mindy

OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

We extend condolences to **Terry Allebaugh** and **Lori Pistor** (former FPC Associate Pastor) upon the sudden death of their son, **Eli Ali Allebaugh**.

A memorial service was held at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on March 4th. Read Eli's obituary [here](#).

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

Terry Allebaugh and Lori Pistor
1609 Hollywood Street
Durham NC 27701

Please keep this family in your prayers.

Added:

Patricia Kost, grandmother of Jack Kost
Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost

Mary Clark and son, **Claiborne Clark**
Paul Cornsweet
Dorothy Graham
Bob Keever
Julie Maxwell, recovering at home from surgery

Atria Senior Living: Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson
Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell
Croasdaile Village: Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford
Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): Helen Garrison
The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

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
Jon Pratt, recovering from an assault in NYC
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



CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

While the battle of the blues played out at Cameron Indoor Stadium at Duke on Saturday, the battle of the FPC teams #1 and #2 played out at Hope Valley Baptist Church last night. The stakes were high: a spot in the finals of this winter's league basketball. **Congratulations are in order to both teams, but especially to FPC Team #2 who won last night's match in a very close game, 52-49!** See team rosters [here](#).

Come cheer for FPC in the championship game **this Thursday night, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Hope Valley Baptist church gym, located at the corner of Garrett and Hope Valley Roads. FPC will be playing Greystone Baptist Church's team.



"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-John 13:35 (ESV)

THANK YOU to everyone who brought supplies and even ready-made blessing bags this weekend for the Walk-in Ministry and to our FPC youth who made and decorated many! Our downtown neighbors, young and old, so appreciate these "love" bags. You are such a generous faith community.



Dear Friends (FPC Children grades K-5),

Thank you for your kind donation of School Kits and Hygiene Kits to Church World Service in Puerto Rico. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That someone cares. And they are not alone. Disasters can strike anywhere, anytime. And they can take many forms: tornadoes,

earthquakes, civil conflict, drought, hurricanes and more. Caring people like you - who understand the urgency of responding after a disaster - allow people in crisis to receive help when they need it, and hope for the future. . . . Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes your donations ensure that help is never far behind.

With deepest gratitude,

Rev. John McCullough

President and CEO
Church World Service
cwsglobal.org

PARISH NOTES

Many thanks to the host of volunteers, musicians, runners and walkers, who helped make the **6th annual Florence Forth Run** a great event. For those who participated, it appeared that there was at least one Presbyterian (and sometimes many Presbyterians) on every corner of downtown Durham. This year, a pep band made up of FPC musicians and cheerleaders was on the front steps of the church to cheer weary runners on their way. Many thanks to all who participated in this event to raise awareness and funding to address autoimmune encephalitis.

The **Friday morning Bible Study** is deviating 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 topic for this week is “lust.” The class is open to everyone, on 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**](mailto:s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org) if you are interested!

Calling all Ushers

Friends, we have been having a difficult time of late filling our roster of folks to usher. If you’d like to perform a really easy service to FPC, ushering is one way to do it. This only takes a few minutes out of the service and is a real help to us all. The Head Usher has a few more tasks to do, including counting the offering (with a second usher to help double check). Please let us know if you would like to be put on the list to be available to usher either on a regular basis, or just from time to time. You don’t have to be a Deacon or an Elder to do this. Email either **Stephen Berry** ([**stephen.d.berry@gmail.com**](mailto:stephen.d.berry@gmail.com)) or **Kathy Krahenbuhl** ([**kat.krahenbuhl@gmail.com**](mailto:kat.krahenbuhl@gmail.com)) to be added to the list to receive emails for the Sign-Up Genius. We’d love to have you join us.

Sunday, March 11 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon:

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Following worship, everyone is invited to Watts-Hill Hall for a fellowship lunch. The SCRATCH / Young Adults group will be assisting the Fellowship Committee with set-up, serving and clean-up. Donations (\$8 per person / \$24 max for a family) will be received to help off-set the cost of the meal

Liturgist: **Amy Dillon**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Cris Rivera** (side/font);

Karen Romines (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **please sign up** (head), **please sign up** (flowers), **Karen Swope** (count), **Amy Dillon**, **need two additional ushers**

Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

SUNDAY SCHOOL / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's and Youth Sunday School is a wonderful example of small group ministry in our church. **This Sunday, March 11**, *Alec Bethune* and *Delia Kwon* will help us imagine what the city of Jerusalem looked like during Jesus' days, as described in Mark 14, when the disciples were too afraid to follow Jesus.

Then on **March 18**, we will meet in the upstairs Spirituality Room for some music, prayerful doodling, braiding, scrabbling and building with *Li-Chen Chin*.

Let's get ready for Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Parade around downtown on **March 25**, and for Easter Sunday worship on **April 1**. Hope to see you on Sunday for these high holy days.

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

Faith and Community Class: Our Teachers in Residence, *Sam Miglarese* and *Robert Brawley* will continue their Lenten series of characters Jesus meet on the road to Jerusalem. This **Sunday, March 11**, Sam will discuss the man born blind and his interaction with Jesus; and on **March 18**, Robert Brawley will lead the class to think about Lazarus and his interaction with Jesus. 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.

March 11: What does it take to remove our sins? Surely there is a price we must pay or a difficult task we must perform or a punishment we must endure, in order to be forgiven.

March 18: What do you do when what you've always done doesn't work anymore? It can be frightening to abandon the old ways -- old structures, old covenants -- and try something very new, but the rewards can be wonderful. As Jesus said, bury the old seed and it will grow into a new plant.

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class: We meet in the corner room of the 2nd floor of the education building.

March 11: Journeys and Scratch will read and discuss the Easter story in Mark's gospel, starting with chapter 11.

March 18: Journeys and Scratch will read and discuss the Easter story in Mathew's gospel, starting with chapter 21.

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.

Membership Inquiry Classes have begun!

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, FPC will be offering a series of Membership Inquiry Classes this spring for those who have expressed a curiosity about membership. We are grateful to the Membership Committee for hosting a lunch on March 4 for inquirers. Classes will continue on Sundays (excluding Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday) at 9:45 – 10:45 in the Wilson Parlor 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. Know that we would love to include you and get to know you better.

The schedule, topics, and presenters are as follows:

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 (9:45)	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 on April 29.)

Two Lenten Study Series

Class #1: Holy Listening: Poetry Reading and Writing

Sundays, March 11 and 18 from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m.

An introduction to poetry as a spiritual discipline, led by ***Marilyn Hedgpeth***

Class #2: Spiritual Autobiography: God Shows Up As Your Life

Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Led by ***Cherrie Henry***. Bring your own supper and join the group.

Sunday, March 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Members of the spring Habitat for Humanity Mission Teams to Honduras will be commissioned during worship.

Narthex Greeter: ***Alice Raney***

After Worship Greeters: ***Caroline Rourk*** (side/font);

Jane Wettach (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **TBD** (head), **TBD** (flowers), ***Christy Gudiatis*** (count), ***Dale Gaddis, Amy Sanchez, need one more***

Sunday, March 25

PALM SUNDAY EVENTS



9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
(FPC's playground; for young children)

9:45 a.m. Hot Cross Buns and Coffee
(No Sunday School)

10:15 a.m. Palm Parade
Parade around the block waving palms and blessing neighborhood ministries, then return to our sanctuary for worship.

11:00 a.m. Worship

We will remember Christ's passion through lessons and songs.

Maundy Thursday

March 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Joint Worship at Covenant PC

FPC and Covenant Presbyterian Church (2620 Weaver St, Durham) will come together at Covenant for worship and Holy Communion to commemorate Jesus' last supper. A **light supper** will be available at 5:00 p.m. before worship. **Childcare** will also be provided during the service. All are welcome.



Good Friday

March 30 at 12 noon

Stations of the Cross (Downtown Durham)

A spiritual pilgrimage of the Holy Week texts in Durham's downtown context, beginning at St. Philip's Episcopal and ending at FPC. This is a great family event. All are welcome to take this walk on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 1

8:30 a.m. Communion in the Garden

9:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Brunch

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

The *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be received to provide relief to the hungry, poor and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters.

***** Last Call *****

This opportunity ends Wednesday, March 14th.

LENTEN MATCH

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. 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. **You may also give online using this [link](#).**

Art Exhibit at Scrap Exchange Arts Center



Hendrika Vande Kemp invites members and friends of her First Presbyterian Church family to an art exhibit featuring her Framed Iris Folding at the Cameron Gallery of the Scrap Exchange Creative Reuse Arts Center in the Lakewood Shopping Center, 2050 Chapel Hill Road, Durham, 919-688-6960. **The exhibit will open as part of the Third Friday Durham activities on March 16, with a reception from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The exhibit continues during store hours (11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) through April 14th. The exhibit will also feature works by collage artist Sam Lasris.



Easter lilies will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please fill out a donor card and return it to the Church office with your donation (any amount) by Palm Sunday, March 25. Additional details are provided on the donor cards which will be available beginning this Sunday, March 11 at the church. Click [here](#) to print the donor card. Remember to return it to the church with your donation.

Scratch / Young Adults Brunch



Saturday, March 24
Brunch and Palm Cross Folding
10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
at the home of Cherrie and Andy Henry
1407 Arbor Street, Durham
Palm cross supplies provided by hosts;
Bring a brunch dish to share



Annual Crop Hunger Walk

It's time to get our team together to walk in this year's Durham Crop Walk for hunger relief.

The 44th Durham Crop HUNGER Walk will be Sunday, March 25, 2018 beginning at 2:30 p.m. from Duke Chapel.

Not able to walk this year? Support FPC's team by sponsoring a walker. Please make checks payable to Durham Crop Walk and give to the person you are sponsoring. For more information about this event, go to [**DURHAM CROP WALK**](#).

To sign up to walk and/or make a donation, click [**FPC Crop Walk Team**](#). You can also sign up after worship on Sundays in the foyer. Contact **Jody Maxwell** or **Paul Cornsweet**, FPC's coordinators this year.

SAVE THE DATE!

PrimeTimers' Covered Dish Supper

Friday evening, April 27

6:30 p.m. at the home of Andy and Ginny Widmark

Details forthcoming!

Retirement Celebration

Congratulations to **Margaret Smith**, who after 62 years of faithful service in the music ministry at Fisher Memorial United Holy Church of Durham, is retiring. Not only has Margaret served faithfully at Fisher Memorial, she also played in First Presbyterian Church's Bell Choir for over 10 years. A retirement celebration will be held to honor Margaret on **Sunday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. at Fisher Memorial United Holy Church** (420 E. Piedmont Ave, Durham). This musical program will feature selections from the church's choirs, along with the **United Voices of Praise Community Choir**, as well as the **United Holy Churches of America Central District Choir**. Members of First Presbyterian are invited to come and celebrate with Margaret.

2018 Bread for the World Convention

The 2018 North Carolina Bread for the World Convention, scheduled for **Saturday, April 7**, is rapidly approaching. This year's theme is "Spiritual Politics: Resisting the Impending Hunger Crisis." Again this year, the convention will be held at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in downtown Durham. Registration is now open at [**https://spiritualpolitics.eventbrite.com**](https://spiritualpolitics.eventbrite.com). Individual pre-registration is just \$25 per person. A discounted rate of \$15 is available for students.

Scholarships also are available upon request. Simultaneous translation into Spanish will be available throughout the day. This year's keynote speaker will be **Michael Becketts**, former director of the Durham County Department of Social Services and now Assistant Secretary for Human Services at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Plan now to attend.

Iglesia Emanuel Transforming and Serving: Celebrating our Ministries

Iglesia Emanuel wants to spread the news about their very special and impactful ministries. On **Saturday, April 28, from 6 - 8 pm**, they are hosting a dinner, prepared by members of their church, which will be held in the fellowship hall of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church. Following the delicious dinner of tantalizing flavors from the various countries of origin of the church members, there will be musical entertainment as well as stories of the unique outreach projects of the church. Although there is no cost for the dinner, it is intended to be a fundraiser to help Iglesia Emanuel expand their ministry in the community, as well as an opportunity for people from various churches to come together in friendship and fellowship. Seating is limited, so if you would like to help support our sister church, please reserve your spot soon. Contact **Margaret Rubiera** at margaretmr29@gmail.com.

Durham Senior Games & Silver Arts Monday, April 16 - Thursday, May 3, 2018

Ages 50 or better may participate and volunteers are also needed!
For more information call or visit: 919-560-4355 ext. 27232 or DPRPlayMore.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

The **Church Office** will be **CLOSED** in observance of the Easter holiday on **Monday, April 2**.

Presbyterian Women will meet again for **Circle and Bible Study** on **Monday, April 9** at **10:30 a.m. in the East Parlor**.

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

August 5 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. – GBCFF Reunion at Camp New Hope

**The next church newsletter will be issued March 20, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Monday, March 19, 2018.**