

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

March 20 - April 2, 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

As we move toward Holy Week, I hope that you have found ways to have a Holy Lent, whether it is through worship each week, one of our three Lenten classes, your own prayer and study, the adding in of a discipline, or the taking away of a vice. I hope that in some way you have found a way to create space in your life for reflection, meditation, prayer, joy, laughter, and hope.

This Lent, our congregation has dealt with deep sorrow and the season has been marked by loss and grief. The Saturday before Lent, we celebrated the life of **Bill Lorimer**. A Saturday in the middle of Lent, we celebrated the life of **Tom Carsey**. The final Saturday of Lent, we will celebrate the life of **Dorothy Graham**. In all of this, we have said goodbye too soon to those we have learned from, laughed with, served with, and loved.

C.S. Lewis reminds us that loving another is a risky business:

There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.

We have loved, friends, and as a result, our hearts have been broken. But what is the alternative? Not to love? Of course not. We love because God is love and because we have experienced God's unending love for us. We love because we see God in one another and because we are seen as God's beloved by those who love us. God's love comes as a gift to us and we experience that love when we love another.

Jim McKinnon, the first pastor I worked with after I was ordained and a cherished mentor, died just over a week ago. When I heard the news, I crumbled to the floor in sorrow because I loved him. He was an incredible man and a gift from God to endless people he cared for, taught, counseled, guided . . . and loved. He lived the way of Jesus. When I served with him, we often visited church members in the hospital together and would each pray for the person we visited. When Jim prayed, he would ask God to be as near to the person as "hands and feet and the very marrow of their bones." In times of fear, sorrow, sickness, and grief, Jim knew that God was already that close to us and even closer. His words reminded us all of that comforting news.

To love another person is to see the face of God. What brings me immense comfort in these Lenten losses we have experienced together, is that we have seen God in these holy friends and that they now know God's face. God's extensive, intimate, powerful, everlasting love is as close

to them as hands and feet and the very marrow of their bones . . . and now, even closer. What comfort! What joy!

There is a reason that Lent comes before Easter. We cannot deny the pain and suffering that led to the cross any more than we can deny the pain and suffering in our own lives. We also cannot deny the wondrous love for us all that guided Jesus to resurrection joy and life everlasting. May our love for one another and for God be directed by that love and may we claim the Easter resurrection joy and promises for ourselves and for those we have loved along the way.

“Remember, I am with you always.” The message of Easter is that kind of love. Thanks be to God.

With love 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:

. . . **Scottie Seawell and Phil, Erin, Rachel and Lauren Boyle** on the death of Scottie's mom and FPC member, **Dorothy Graham**, on March 18. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of FPC. The family will receive friends at a reception in Watts-Hill Hall following the service. Expressions of sympathy may be sent as follow:

Scottie Seawell & Phil Boyle
106 Weathervane Drive
Carrboro NC 27510

and to:

. . . **Margaret Mwangi** (wife) and **Olive, Jocelyn and Edwin Mwangi**(children) on the death of Edwin Mwangi (husband/father) here in the US. Friends of the family are raising funds to help with the cost of returning his body to Kenya for burial. Please contact **Lisa Rist** if you would like to contribute.

Congratulations to **Rebecca Harvard Barnes**, who has been accepted into the fall MDiv class of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. Charlotte's MDiv program is a weekend for students who work during the week. FPC will be sponsoring Rebecca during her years of seminary. Another member, **John Curran**, has been accepted into four seminary programs, and he is now in the process of discerning the right one for him. And **Mary Berry**, a recent graduate of Duke Divinity School, has been accepted into the PhD program of Old Testament studies at Duke, which means that she and husband, Stephen, will be staying in the Triangle. Yeah!

Honoring Miguel and Margaret Rubiera: As Miguel and Margaret prepare to lead another group of volunteers to Honduras in April, they were honored during worship with a commissioning service, a certificate of appreciation, and a plaque for their years of service in building homes and relationships with our neighbors in Central America. The Service and Mission Committee decided to earmark \$2500 of this year's Habitat contribution to be given to

Habitat of Honduras in honor of Miguel and Margaret's work. The local Habitat affiliate contributed a handmade plaque to celebrate their longstanding contributions.

Birth Announcement: *Caroline and Ed Pritchett* are pleased to report that their third grandchild in the last 10 months arrived March 9, 2018. *Graham Robinson Devooght* was born March 9, 2018 to *Eloise (Ellie) Whitlock* and *Andrew DeVooght* in Chicago.

Added this week: *Anna Gerwe & her family*, granddaughter of Barbara and Rod Gerwe

Carsey Family
Mary Clark
Paul Cornsweet
Julie Maxwell

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): *Julian Boswell*
Croasdaile Village: *Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin*
Croasdaile Pavilion: *Bob Keever, 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:

Tom Birchfield, step-father of Wil James
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, friends of Kathy Parkins and Mary Kay Robinson
Patricia Kost, grandmother of Jack Kost
Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church
Sue Noel, resident at Croasdaile Village and friend of Bill Hendrickson
Jonathan Pratt, son of Lanny Pratt
Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman
Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost



May kindness return to you in the same beautiful way that it was given.

Dearest Friends,
Thank you so much for continuing to remember me with flowers, notes and *Jennie Alwood!*
Love,
Ann Prospero

Dear friends,
Miguel and I are incredibly honored and so very grateful for your decision to donate \$2,500 to Habitat Honduras. Especially this year, when there have been so many challenges for Habitat Honduras due to the political unrest, those additional funds will be deeply appreciated. We will now go back to the community of Santa Rosa de Copan armed with many gifts of love from our congregation — the beautiful baby quilts made by our members, the prayers and encouragement from all, soccer balls from Jody's company (always a huge hit!), and your generous financial donation. We will report back on how those funds help impact the lives of the wonderful Honduran people with whom we have the tremendous privilege to work. Our hearts are full, and our joy immense! Thank you for continuing to believe in this ministry that has been such an

important part of our lives.

With love and gratitude to all of you,
Margaret (and Miguel) Rubiera



CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Congratulations to **Carl Rist** and FPC Team #2 on their championship win over the Greystone Baptist Church team on March 8. The final score was 58-52. Way to go, guys!

PARISH NOTES

- **LENTEN MATCH: With Deepest Gratitude** - Thanks to the generosity of the congregation as we raised \$21,235 and exceeded our Lenten Match! There was broad support for this request as 80 households gave a “gift for Lent.” The money raised, along with the money given by our donor, will be used to assist our neighbors in need for food, transportation, housing, and other critical needs. - **The Service & Mission Committee**
- The **Friday morning Bible Study** is deviating from virtues for Lent (Feb. 16 – March 30), to 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 “gluttony;” and next week we’ll finish out with “greed.”** 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.
- **The Lenten elective, Holy Listening: Poetry Reading and Writing**, which used poetry as a lens for focusing our attention on God, has ended. But members of the class have requested that we continue, perhaps on a monthly basis, bringing poems to share, writing poems to share, looking at Biblical poetry, and considering how metaphor and image form us spiritually. Since most good poetry is essentially about love or death, and since we will be on the other side of Easter/Resurrection Day, the group would like to meet again on **Sunday, April 15 from 5 – 6 p.m. in room 205**, to discuss and share poems that deal with loss and/or death (their request). Anyone is welcome to bring some interesting poems to share, and to join us around the table. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** is the facilitator.
- **Membership Inquiry Classes Continue Through April 29** *Our classes will take a hiatus for Holy Week, NOT meeting March 25 or April 1*, but will continue on April 8 from 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.

3/25 – **No Class** (Palm Sunday, but join us for the Egg Hunt at 9:30, and Palm Parade at 10:15 a.m.)

4/1 – **No Class** (Easter Sunday, Prayer Service & two worship services)

4/8 – History and Theology (9:45) led by Mindy Douglas

4/15 – Liturgical Year and Worship (9:45) led by David Smith

4/22 – Presbyterian Polity and Theology (9:45) led by Phyllis Supple

4/29 – The Christian Life/Meeting with the Session (9:45) led by Mindy Douglas

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

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 for children. The Journeys/Scratch and Lectionary classes will be meeting for adults who do not wish to walk in the Palm Parade.

10:15 a.m. Palm Parade

Parade around the block with our neighbors from St. Philip's Episcopal and Trinity United Methodist churches, waving palm branches and blessing neighborhood ministries, then return to our respective sanctuaries for worship.

11:00 a.m. Worship

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

Liturgist: **Graham Curtis**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Jane Williams** (side/font); **Gray Wilson** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Kathy Krahenbuhl** (head), **Mary-Jo Keenan** (flowers), **Jo Bernhardt** (count), **Jennie Alwood**, **Amy Dillon**, **El Hess**



Maundy Thursday

March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Joint Worship at Covenant PC

First Presbyterian, Beacon Light Missionary Baptist Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church (2620 Weaver St, Durham) will come together at Covenant for worship, foot-washing, and Holy Communion to commemorate Jesus' last supper. **Supper** will be available at 6:00 p.m. before worship. **Please RSVP**

via the EVITE or call the church office (919-682-5511) if you will come for supper. 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. Prayer Service in the FPC Memorial Garden

9:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Brunch

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

Narthex Greeter: *Delia Kwon*

After Worship Greeters: *Miriam Morey* (side/font); *Lenore Champion* (rear/narthex)

If you would like to greet after the 9:00 a.m. service, please contact the church office to sign up. Usher, please use sign up genius to sign up to usher at each of the two worship services.

The 2018 One Great Hour of Sharing Season has begun!!!

What is OGHS?

It is our denomination's Lenten offering and the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. It is the way we share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world: by providing:

RELIEF from natural and human caused disasters (via PDA: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)



FOOD for the hungry (via PHP, Presbyterian Hunger Program)



SUPPORT for the poor and oppressed (via SDOP, Self Development of People)



First Presbyterian Church, Durham will receive this Offering on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

Annual CROP Hunger Walk

Here is the list of FPC walkers as of last week:

Shirley Frederick Jane Williams Andy Henry Jody Maxwell

Charlotte Maxwell Bill Brown Clarabelle Brown Jane Brown

Deborah Momsen-Hudson Griffin Momsen-Hudson Carlisle Harvard

Joe Harvard Kerry Holbrook Laura McDow Leslie McDow Will McDow

Mercy Ndambiri Mindy Douglas Sharon Hirsch Marilyn Hedgpeth

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**](#). Contact **Jody Maxwell** or **Paul Cornsweet**, FPC's coordinators, if you have questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's and Youth Sunday School is a wonderful example of small group ministry in our church. Let's get ready for our **Easter Egg Hunt** and the **Palm Parade** around downtown on **March 25**, and for Easter Sunday worship on **April 1**. Hope to see you on these high holy days.

No Middle or high school youth classes on March 25 and April 1.

Faith and Community Class: Many thanks to **Sam Miglarese** and **Robert Brawley** for focusing our attention on the great Biblical narratives of Lent during the month of March. **The class will not meet (officially) on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, but we encourage all adults to join the Palm Parade on March 25 at 10:15, after which we will be treated to hot cross buns and coffee.** And then on Easter Sunday, April 1, we will host three services with Holy Communion during two that morning. When we convene again in April, we will look at issues dealing with the well-being of children in Durham.

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

March 25: From public acclaim at the beginning of the week to disgrace a few days later... was this really necessary?

April 1: How can we believe an unbelievable story? Those who tell it have little credibility -- fishermen, fanatical converts, frightened women who said they saw an angel. But we are commanded not just to believe but to help spread the word. "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class:

Journeys and Scratch will read and discuss the Easter story in Mathew's gospel, starting with chapter 21. All are welcome to join the conversation. We meet in the corner room of the 2nd floor of the education building.

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.



No Youth Groups this Sunday. Join us for the CROP Walk. All youth are welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

Lenten Study continues . . .

Spiritual Autobiography: God Shows Up As Your Life

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

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



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. 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.

Sunday, April 8

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sam Miglarese, preaching

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

Upcoming Events for Families with Young Children

Come one, come all to the annual **Easter Egg Hunt**, this Sunday, Palm Sunday, March 25 at 9:30 a.m., followed by a treat of **Hot Cross Buns**, before the Palm Parade around our neighboring downtown churches steps off at 10:15. Then later Sunday afternoon, the **Durham CROP Walk** will take place beginning at Duke Chapel at 2:30 p.m. These are all wonderful family activities in which all ages can participate. Please sign up for the CROP Walk in the FPC foyer.

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.

PrimeTimers' Covered Dish Supper

Friday evening, April 27

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

Details forthcoming!

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**



If landscaping is your niche, join **Barbara Buckley** and her team of faithful volunteers in another workday at the church!

Saturday, April 7

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Contact Barbara if you can help!

Email: bjbuckley1@frontier.com or call 919-210-0482.

Two Service Opportunities with Urban Ministries:

A strong group of faithful volunteers from our congregation continue to help prepare and serve meals at Urban Ministries 3 or 4 days each month. We have an additional opportunity to lend a hand on Good Friday. We will be preparing and serving a special breakfast from 8:30 - 10:30 that morning, **March 30**. If you would like to honor that sacred day by giving of your time to help feed our neighbors in need, contact **Margaret Rubiera** at margaretmr29@gmail.com. Children over the age of 10 are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a parent or grandparent.

If preparing food is not your calling, but you still would like to be involved with Urban Ministries, then consider joining together with a small group from our church to help sort and organize donated clothes for their Clothes Closet one day a month. Any time you can give would be wonderful! To add your name to the potential volunteer list, or for more information, contact Margaret at margaretmr29@gmail.com.

Kinston Mission Trip

FPC is returning to Kinston June 24 – 29 to rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew. Participants must be 14 or older, and we are seeking a range of youth and adults to form this team. We will again stay at FPC – Kinston and work with K.A.R.E, the local recovery effort. A \$150 fee is requested for food and lodging expenses, but scholarships are available. **Please attend an interest meeting after worship on Sunday, April 8.** We hope to have the team assembled by the end of May. Please contact **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** for more information. tylermmh@embarqmail.com.

Community Invitations

Robert Parkins Organ Recital

This **Sunday, March 25**, Duke University Organist **Robert Parkins** (husband of FPC's **Kathy Parkins**) will play a recital in **Duke Chapel at 5:00 p.m.** The recital will include a world premiere of a new composition by **Dan Locklair**. Event is free and open to the public.

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** and 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 open at <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.

FAITH CONNECTIONS ON MENTAL ILLNESS

Cultivating Mental Health: Hope and Healing is a day-long interfaith conference to explore ways faith communities can support families and individuals living with mental illness. It will focus on addiction, depression in the elderly, and mental health resources available in the community. This conference will be held at **St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Chapel Hill on Friday, April 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

Learn more about the conference and how to register at: <http://www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org/annual-conference.html>

**REI's Groundwater Presentation:
An Introduction to Racial Equity - Durham
Saturday, April 21, 2018
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Carolina Friends School ([map](#))**

Contact Stephanie Baker: sbakeract@gmail.com for more information.

Register here.

Sponsored by OAR Durham with help from contributing sponsors Carolina Friends School, Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham Shambhala Center and Duke School

**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

**The next church newsletter will be issued April 3, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, April 1, 2018.**