

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

April 17-30, 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

This Sunday, April 22, 2018, is Earth Day and we will be celebrating the gifts of God's creation in worship. While we regularly sing and pray about the beauty and bounty of our world and give thanks for God's goodness in creation, we don't stop often enough to focus directly on the power of the beauty of creation and on our roles as stewards of creation.

You and I are ourselves created beings, made in God's image by a good and faithful God who loves us and cares for us. God gave us the world and all that is in it as a gift. Too-often, however, we take this gift for granted. We pass by intense beauty without noticing, rushing on to the next thing that has become for us a deadline or an expectation. We allow our lands to be exploited for the sake of progress or greed. We don't have the time or the energy to understand how our daily actions impact the world. And yet, we love the world. Of course, we do! We fly to the mountains or the sea, the woods or the lakes and streams whenever time and money allow. We soak in the waves and the water; we breathe in the fresh air and lie under the expansive trees. Our spirits are refreshed and renewed and we begin to feel more at home and at peace with creation. This is God's gift to us. On Sunday, we pause to celebrate these gifts and to remember our own calling to be stewards of creation. I hope you will be able to join us.

I leave you this week with a poem by one of my favorite poets, Mary Oliver.

The Swan

Did you too see it, drifting, all night, on the black river?
Did you see it in the morning, rising into the silvery air -
An armful of white blossoms,
A perfect commotion of silk and linen as it leaned
into the bondage of its wings; a snowbank, a bank of lilies,
Biting the air with its black beak?
Did you hear it, fluting and whistling
A shrill dark music - like the rain pelting the trees - like a waterfall
Knifing down the black ledges?
And did you see it, finally, just under the clouds -
A white cross Streaming across the sky, its feet
Like black leaves, its wings Like the stretching light of the river?
And did you feel it, in your heart, how it pertained to everything?
And have you too finally figured out what beauty is for?
And have you changed your life?

May God be with you and guide you to embrace the beauty and joy of creation this week and always!

With love,
Mindy

OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONDOLENCES: FPC member **Doug Fisher** passed away on April 13. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held on **Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at FPC. The family will receive friends at a reception in Watts-Hill Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. (prior to the service).** Doug joined FPC on April 30, 2017. He was an attorney by profession, a gifted musician, and participated in the First Friends group at FPC. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: **Camille Augusta Bonner** was born April 7 to **Kate McCann and Tim Bonner** (participants with the Scratch group and in the Membership Inquiry Class).

Added this week:

Linda High, niece- in-law of Elizabeth High

Maria Holland, daughter of Katy and Bruce Loebrich

Clara Iedema, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

David Kilpatrick, grandson of Elizabeth High (US Air Force, deployed to Zaragoza, Spain)

Deborah Lawrence, mother of Darlington Hebron

Eric Maina, nephew of Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett and cancer patient at Duke Hospital

Margaret Sims, long-time member, recovering at Hillcrest Convalescence Center – welcomes visitors

Carsey Family

Graham/Seawell/Boyle Family

Lorimer Family

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Village: **Bette Conroy** (Friendship Hall)

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Kever, John Kerr, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford**

Dubose Center, Chapel Hill: **Mary Clark**

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

Norma Cardoni, mother of Sheila Breitweiser

Ching-Chang Chin, father of Li-Chen Chin

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Marc Crawford, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Anna Gerwe & her family, granddaughter of Barbara and Rod Gerwe

Huberg family, friends of Kathy Parkins and Mary Kay Robinson

Patricia Kost, grandmother of Jack Kost

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

Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece

Dell McMillian, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian

Sue Noel, resident at Croasdaile Village and friend of Bill Hendrickson

Rosemary Orphys, aunt of Kerry Holbrook

Jonathan Pratt, son of Lanny Pratt

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

Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost



Dearest Friends,
Thank you for all the love, care and support you shared with our mother and grandmother, Dorothy, throughout her life as a member of this congregation and especially during her final weeks and days of life. Thank you, too, for your continued love and prayers for our family.
In Peace and Gratitude,
The Graham/Seawell/Boyle Family

Dear FPC,

I am writing to thank you for your generous support of Faith Connections on Mental Illness with your donation of \$100. Your contribution will be used to support our annual conference this month and ongoing efforts to make connections among faith communities and those who are experiencing the effects of mental illness.

Warm regards,

Hugh Tilson

FCEMI Board Treasurer

PARISH NOTES

- At Saturday's fifth annual **Dr. Martin Luther King Good Neighbor Prayer Breakfast**, FPC members ***Dan Hudgins*** and ***Diane Stander*** were recognized for their on-going service to the least of these to create God's Beloved Community in Durham. They both were presented with plaques commemorating their contribution to the community. ***Rev. Warren Herndon*** and the **MLK Steering Committee** sponsor the event, which FPC is proud to host.
- **KUDOS** to ***Cris Rivera*** and ***Beth Stringfield*** and their kitchen helpers for a wonderful congregational lunch on Sunday, April 15, that featured beautiful, fresh spring foods from the Durham Farmer's Market. **A BIG THANK YOU** to the 20+ **Primetimers** who volunteered to prep, set up, serve, and clean up for the luncheon after worship. They were an amazingly spirited group!
- The **Friday morning Bible Study** will conclude this **Friday, April 20**, with a look at "self-control," the last of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians. However, we will convene one last time in May (date TBA) for a celebration brunch (at which time we will practice self-control!). The class is open to everyone and meets from 10:30 – noon at the church. ***Marilyn Hedgpeth*** leads the class and would love to have you join us. Looking ahead: next fall, we begin a study of the book of *Isaiah*.
- 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* 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. We will meet again on **Sunday, May 20 from 5 – 6 p.m. in room 205**, to discuss and share poems that deal with loss. Anyone is welcome to bring interesting poems to share, and to join us around the table. ***Marilyn Hedgpeth*** is the facilitator.

- **Membership Inquiry Classes Continue Through April 29**

April 22 – Presbyterian Polity and Theology (9:45, Wilson Parlor)
led by **Phyllis Supple**

April 29 – The Christian Life/Meeting with the Session (9:45, Wilson Parlor)
led by **Mindy Douglas**

Those who wish may join FPC during the worship service at 11:00 on April 29.



Sunday, April 22

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Earth Day Celebration**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Membership Inquiry Class
11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion
Mindy Douglas, preaching

The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received during worship.

Liturgist: *Michael Schultz*

Narthex Greeter: **TBD**

After Worship Greeters: *Brent Curtis* (side/font); *Lenore Champion* (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Emily Wilkins* (head) ([*Click here to sign up to usher.*](#))

Communion Elders:

Head Elder/Replenish elements: *Al Arrowood*

Bread: *Miriam Morey* (B1/process), *Jay Klinck* (B2), *Libby Gulley* (B3), *Jane Wettach* (B4)

Cup: *Andy Henry* (C1), *Lenore Champion* (C2/process), *Delia Kwon* (C3),
Tyler Momsen-Hudson (C4)

Shepherds: *Alice Raney* (center aisle), *Jane Williams* (font aisle), *Karen Romines* (pulpit aisle)

Sunday, April 29

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 29 will be a Fifth Sunday Inter-Generational Sunday - School Class in Watts-Hill Hall for young and old at 9:45 a.m.

Since we will have celebrated Earth Day the week before, we will do activities together that celebrate planting, growing, nature, rocks, and all things natural made by God. Surveys tell us that families want to get to know members outside of their own immediate age group. Christian Education hears this desire, and has designed this hour with that goal in mind. So, we invite adults, youth, Scratch, children, one and all, to meet us in Watts-Hill Hall for an active Earth Day celebration.

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion
Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching

New Members will be introduced during worship

Liturgist: **Gerald Postema**

Narthex Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey**

After Worship Greeters: **Libby Gulley** (side/font); **Ellie Dilworth** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins (head), Christy Gudiatis, Dale Gaddis**
Click [**here**](#) to sign up to usher.

Communion Servers:
Head/replenish elements: **Carol Carson**

Bread: **Andy Henry** (B1/process), **Cris Rivera** (B2), **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** (B3), **Gray Wilson** (B4)

Cup: **Miriam Morey** (C1), **Sigfried Fullenkamp** (C2/process), **Gerald Postema** (C3), **Caroline Rourk** (C4)

Shepherds: **Delia Kwon** (center aisle), **Alice Raney** (font aisle), **Jane Wettach** (pulpit aisle)

SUNDAY SCHOOL / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Alec Bethune and **Delia Kwon** will be working with the children this **Sunday, April 22**, on maps and models of nets, boats and fish – for the fishermen who met the risen Jesus on the beach and had breakfast with him there. (John 21: 15-27).

On **April 29**, everyone is invited to Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 a.m. for Earth Day activities!

Middle and high school youth classes meet at 9:45 a.m. in their lower level classrooms.

Faith and Community Class:

The class will continue its focus on the well-being children in Durham this **Sunday, April 22**, with our guest presenter, **Shirley Harley-Smith**, Director of the Guardian Ad Litem program in Durham. **Celia Dickerson** will introduce Shirley and frame our discussion. Class meets in **Watts-Hill Hall** from 9:45 – 10: 45, and all are welcome!

What's on tap for May? "Can We Talk About Guns?" on **May 6** and **May 13**; and "Understanding Islam" on **May 20** and **May 27**, led by **Abdul Waheed**.

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

April 22: "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Are we likely to be called upon to lay down our lives for others? If not, is there any other way we can demonstrate our love?

April 29: "I am the vine, you are the branches." What kind of fruit do we bear? The fruit of love for brother and sister? The fruit of the good news? Or some other kind of fruit?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class:

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.



Sunday, April 22

Middle School Youth Mystery Day (all day)
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Sunday, April 29

High School Seniors Banquet in Watts-Hill Hall

Sunday, May 6

Youth Groups End-of-Year Party at the Momsen-Hudson home

Children's Choir Schedule

April 22 - rehearsal before worship during Sunday School (9:45 - 10:10 a.m.)

April 29 - rehearsal during worship following "A Time with the Children" til the end of worship

May 6 - rehearsal before worship during Sunday School (9:45 - 10:10 a.m.)

May 13 (Mother's Day) - Children's Choir sings during worship

After May 13, our summer break begins.

UP-COMING EVENTS

First Friends and Families Spring Hike w/optional Picnic

Saturday, April 21

We're hiking the Occoneechee Mountain Trail in Hillsborough from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. with a picnic afterwards for those who wish to stay. Details provided on the EVITE. Click [here](#) to view and respond to the EVITE.

Seniors Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, April 25

11:30 a.m. - Gather in the Wilson Parlor

12 Noon - Luncheon in Watts-Hill Hall

The program will feature a slide presentation by *Harold Dunlap : "Presbyterian Missionaries to Iran from 1963-1967"*

RSVP to the church office: 919-682-5511

PrimeTimers' Covered Dish Supper

Friday evening, April 27

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

Please respond to the EVITE

Events for Families with Young Children

- **Samantha Arten** (Children's Choir director) **Vocal Recital Saturday, April 21, 5 pm, Nelson Music Room (Duke's East Campus)**; free and open to the public! Recital will feature songs by Amy Beach, Fanny Hensel, and Samuel Barber, with texts by William Shakespeare, Robert Browning, Goethe and other German poets, and medieval saints and mystics.
- Our next "Parents Night Out" will be **Sunday, April 22 from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m.**, when parents will step out for a bite to eat while children learn a little about building robots from *Sigfried Fullenkamp*. Should be VERY interesting! Come and bring a friend.
- **Registration has begun for this summer's GBCFF** (Great Big Church Family Festival), **June 17, 18, and 19** at participating churches, from 5:30 – 7:30, followed by an **August 5** reunion at Camp New Hope, with swimming, potluck, singing, and games. This year's theme is "*Serve the Lord with Gladness*," and each evening will involve dinner, crafts, and a service project that all can participate in together. GBCFF is for children of God young and old. Click [here](#) to register your family.

BOOK GROUP

The *Things That Matter Book Group* will meet on **Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss Christina Baker Kline's *A Piece of the World*. **Caroline Pritchett** will host the group in her home (202 Villa Drive, Durham). **Hendrika Vande Kemp** will lead the discussion. Please let Caroline know if you plan to attend (caropritch@gmail.com; 919-479-8218 or cell: 919-491-4490).



Training and Meeting Schedule

Sunday, April 22

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. at FPC

Training for newly elected deacons and ruling elders

Monday, April 23

6:30 p.m. at FPC - Newly elected deacons and ruling elders' fellowship dinner with current officers followed by examination by the Session (7:00 p.m.) **This is the last meeting for Class of 2018 deacons (6:00 p.m.) and ruling elders (7:00 p.m.)**

Sunday April 29

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at FPC with Trinity Avenue PC officers
All newly elected officers; class led by **Art Ross**

Sunday, May 6

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Ave PC
All newly elected officers; class led by **Art Ross**

Sunday, May 20

11:00 a.m. Worship at FPC
Service of Ordination and Installation of newly elected officers

Monday, June 4

First meeting for newly installed officers with Class of 2019 & Class of 2020 officers
Diaconate at 6:00 p.m.
Officers' Supper at 6:30 p.m.
Session at 7:00 p.m.



Communion during Eastertide

We will be celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday during Eastertide (April 1 - May 13). **We are asking that you bring blessing bag supplies (or ready-made bags) again on Sunday, May 6.**

Opportunities for Service at Urban Ministries

Month after month, dedicated volunteers from our congregation head down the street to Urban Ministries to help prepare and serve meals to our neighbors in need. In addition to serving meals, we also have quite a few members who are helping sort and organize donated clothes to make them available for the many people who walk through the door of Urban Ministries seeking assistance. Other volunteers answer the call to help with special projects, such as stuffing envelopes for large mailings.

If you would like to be on the email list to be the first to hear of these opportunities, please contact **Margaret Rubiera** at margaretmr29@gmail.com. Every little bit that we do makes a significant difference, and we are the richer for the time we give to others.



Smart Devices Needed for Dementia sufferers

Do you have an old iPod, iPhone, or iPad? Please bring it to church to donate! Your device will be donated to Music and Memory (www.musicandmemory.org) to provide "personalized music" for people suffering from dementia.

Look for the plastic box with the Music and Memory logo in the volunteer's office, or contact **Christyn Klinck** for more information (cfklinck@gmail.com). Donations accepted through Sunday, May 27.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

REI's Groundwater Presentation:

An Introduction to Racial Equity - Durham

When: Saturday, April 21, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: Carolina Friends School - 4809 Friends School Rd, Durham

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 (dinner/fundraiser)

Iglesia Emanuel wants to spread the news about their very special and impactful ministries. On **Saturday, April 28, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**, 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.

SPRING CONCERTS AT FPC

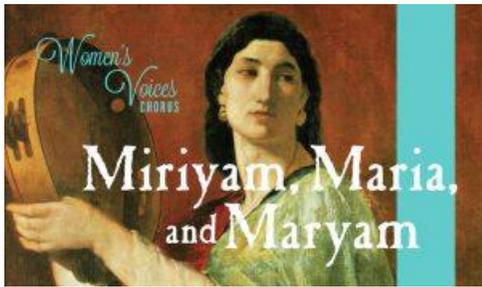
I Told my Soul to Sing:

Poems & Musical Settings of Emily Dickinson

Sunday, April 22, 2018

3:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary

Join **Lesley Curtis**, soprano, **Deborah Coclanis**, piano, and **Ann Harrison**, reader, for a program of readings and musical settings of the poems of Emily Dickinson. Event is free and open to the public.



Women's Voices Chorus

Sunday, May 6, 2018

3:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

This concert will feature Artistic Director Allan Friedman's new refugee song, *Miriyam, Maria, and Maryam*, a dramatic piece written in response to the present reality of millions of displaced people around the globe. Accompanied by guitars, oud, percussion, and interpretive dance, with text from Psalms, Rumi, and Hafez, Friedman imagines three women of different faiths as they are swept up in tragic historical events. The spring program will also include modern and Renaissance choral works by women on the Virgin Mary; Ariel Ramirez's romping and lively South American folk mass, *Misa Criolla*; and international songs of peace, including an Iraqi lullaby and a Palestinian-American's song on the longing to be free. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$7 for students. To purchase advance tickets online, please visit [*our Square store*](#). All tickets purchased online will be available for pickup at the ticket table in the lobby on the day of the concert.

**The next church newsletter will be issued May 1, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, April 29, 2018.**