

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

*"Downtown by history and by choice"*

*Bi-Weekly Newsletter*

August 21 - September 4, 2018

## **From the Pastor . . .**

Dear friends,

I hope your week is going well and that you are finding ways to make space for devotion and reflection in your daily lives. Such space reminds us that God is present with us and an important part of our day-to-day lives of school, work, retirement, and other activities. Look for God and find the peace, love, joy, and hope that God intends for you.

This week, I want to use this space for FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), as there are many of the same questions that I hear as I move amongst you all throughout the week and on Sunday. I will address other questions in future newsletters, so let me know what questions you have! We want the congregation to be as informed as possible so that we might discern together how we might seek to serve God in the city of Durham.

## **FAQs:**

### **Questions related to the apartment upstairs in the office area:**

#### **1) I didn't know there was an apartment? How long has it been there and how has it been used in the past?**

A) As far as we know, the apartment has been in place since FPC built the "Church House" building in 1923. At that time, the five-room apartment was occupied by the Religious Education Director Aline "Kenzie" McKenzie and the Church Hostess Emma Jones (see Peter Fish's *Downtown by History and by Choice*, p. 102). Since that time, it has been used by staff, Duke Divinity School students and interns, and most recently by FPC member George Kirshmann, who served as security at night and monthly on Sundays. George moved out at the end of July.

#### **2) How will the apartment be used now?**

A) The FPC Session (our governing body made up of elected members from the congregation – see photos and descriptions on the foyer bulletin board) will be considering possible ways that the space might be used. The Property Committee invites you to share your ideas regarding how this space might be used by way of proposals (see information in this newsletter) that will be reviewed by the committee and reported back to Session for consideration.

#### **3) How can I see this space?**

A) The space can be seen during office hours. Additional work will need to be done on the apartment before it is ready for use again.

**4) How big is the space?**

A) We don't have exact measurements at this time, but it is somewhere around 630 square feet. It includes a kitchen, dining room, living room space, bedroom and bathroom.

**5) I heard something about needing to install a sprinkler system if we have someone living there? Is this the case?**

A) Some years ago, we had received information from an inspector that this was the case. However, Chris Brown, our Property Committee chair, contacted the Interim Chief Fire Marshall and learned that because the apartment space has been designated as an apartment from when the Church House was built in 1923, current code would not be applicable to it. Therefore, the apartment may be used for human habitation without requiring a sprinkler system to be installed.

**6) Does this make the space unsafe?**

A) This is a question the Property Committee and Session will have to address if they consider proposals that will have a person or people living there. There is no external fire escape, though there is a metal window ladder. Currently, the space includes two smoke detectors.

**7) Who do I talk to if I have more questions about this space and how it might be used in the future?**

A) Please contact the chair of the Property Committee, *Chris Brown*, with questions. He may be reached at [jamesbro@gmail.com](mailto:jamesbro@gmail.com).

**Next up:** Questions related to the hiring of our new Temporary Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families, the work of the Strategic Planning Team, and our Walk-in Ministry and Blessing Bag Ministry.

I hope this has been helpful!

Holding you all in prayer,  
*Mindy Douglas*

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**CALL for PROPOSALS:**

Do you have an idea for how the space might be used to promote God's work in the city through the work of FPC? Mission? Staffing? Students? Christian Education? Other? If so, please submit a proposal detailing how the space might be used and how such use connects with the *Core Values* of FPC. Deadline for proposals is October 1, 2018.

Questions related to the proposals? Contact *Chris Brown*, Property Committee Chair, [jamesbro@gmail.com](mailto:jamesbro@gmail.com) or *Mindy Douglas*, Pastor, [m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org).

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The **Diaconate** will meet on **Monday, August 27** at 6:00 p.m. Supper for Diaconate and Session will take place at 6:30 p.m.

**SESSION NOTES**

The next Session meeting will be on **August 27, 7:00 p.m. in the East Parlor**

**Regular meetings of the Session** are normally scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month.

A list of **current Session members**, along with a photo and brief bio, is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

A digest of the July 23, 2018 Session minutes appeared in the last newsletter, August 7, 2018 and can be requested again from **Valerie McMillian**, Parish Administrator, [v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org).

Copies of the full minutes may be requested from **Christyn Klinck**, Clerk or Session ([clerkofsession@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:clerkofsession@firstpres-durham.org)), **Rev. Mindy Douglas**, Moderator ([m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org)), or any pastor (contact information is on the website, [www.firstpres-durham.org](http://www.firstpres-durham.org)) or a Session member. Past minutes of Session meetings are now available on the church website, [www.firstpres-durham.org](http://www.firstpres-durham.org).

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## **BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Adrienne and John McNair** (regular visitors to FPC) have a new addition to their family. **Lowell Carter McNair** was born August 11th.

## **SYMPATHIES**

FPC's dear member, **Flo Johnston**, died August 7. A memorial service was held on August 11 at the retirement village in Laurinburg NC where she had been living. Read her obituary [here](#).



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### Added recently:

**Fran Alwood**, mother of Jennie Alwood

**James Zehmer**, son of Jennie Alwood

**Ben Johnson-Krase**, pastor of The Farm Church

### Home:

**Franzi Rokoske**

**Carolyn Wolfe**

Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin**

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

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: **Helen Garrison**

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

### Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

**Kwesi Aggrey**, husband of Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey

**Jerry Arrowood**, brother of Al Arrowood

**Marc and Holly Crawford**, friends of Brianna Bennett

**Randy Heffelfinger**, friend of Eric Wiebe

**John Hendrickson**, cousin of Bill Hendrickson

**Marsha Hussung**, sister of Brent Curtis

**Carolyn Kreuger**, former member of FPC

**Paul Martin**, brother of Beth Neece

**Dell McMillian**, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian

**Rosemary Orphys**, aunt of Kerry Holbrook

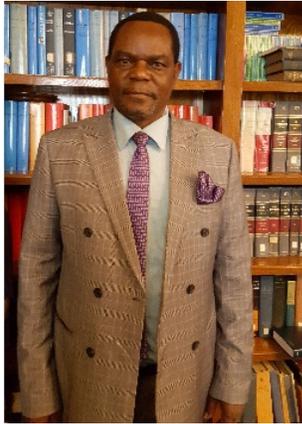
**Mary Putman**, friend of FPC

**Vickey Tobey**, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

**Ryan Washington**, infant friend of Adrienne Allison and Bob Pleasants

**Mandy Wooten**, sister of Randy Lang Howard

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On Sunday, August 12, the Session of FPC received a new member. He was introduced to the congregation during worship.

**George Kafula**, 1613 Great Bend Drive, 27704; 984-244-3886; georgekafula2020@gmail.com, is an ordained pastor in the Pentecostal Assemblies of God. His homeland is Zambia. He has 10 children. George moved to Durham in March of this year to be with his wife, Margaret Mubanga. He holds a Bachelor of Theology degree and enjoys reading, watching Christian movies

and visiting places.

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**Shirley Frederick**

17 Aldersgate Court

Durham NC 27705

New phone number: 919-384-2017

**Sarah, Pete and Sadie Finbow**

607 Arlingham Road

Flourtown, PA 19031

Sarah's email: sarah.finbow@gmail.com

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To the FPC family,

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the people of First Presbyterian Church for our mother's August 3 memorial service.

Through meaningful words and beautiful music, the service truly captured and celebrated the essence of **Florence Shackelford**.

What a blessing it was to our family as your deacons provided a lovely reception so that we could visit with family and friends. Our parents were long-time, active members of FPC. In their later years, the church body ministered to them so well through pastoral visits, prayers, flowers and cards. When she became wheelchair bound, Mom received regular visits from several church members. They took her on "rides" in her wheelchair around Croasdaile, communicated with her (mostly through writing on a dry-erase board), advocated for her, and even let her "blow off steam" if that's what she needed. Their ministry brought joy to her and peace to us, her children, when we couldn't always be there. So we thank you again for being the "hands and feet of Christ" in meeting her at her point of need. Like the

Apostle Paul said to the church at Philippi, we thank God for every remembrance of you. -**Gene, Frances, and Daniel Shackelford**

To the First Presbyterian Congregation,  
Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, and emails during Dan's illness and after his death. I have received many, many kind notes with the cards. They meant more than words can express. - **Mary Banner**

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We wish to thank **Mal King** for once again coordinating the school supplies drive at FPC. We collected about six bins worth of supplies this year along with some financial contributions to the Teacher's Warehouse!



**Crayons2Calculators** would like to express to each of you our sincere appreciation for your participation in the "Fill That Bus!" school supply drive for teachers and classrooms within Durham Public Schools. This has been a great year for us with the increase in donations and donors. Donors such as your church play a major part in the lives of teachers and students with the amount of donations you provided to Crayons2Calculators! Our teachers will be thrilled as they "shop" at no cost for much needed supplies for their classrooms. Please know that we are grateful and look forward to your participation next year!

**Dr. Eunice O. Sanders**  
**Barbara Parker**

Co-Executive Directors of Crayons2Calculators

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**Youth Groups will begin meeting on Sunday evenings on September 9th.**

**Proposed new schedule for Middle Schoolers will be 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., and high schoolers will meet from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Youth groups will meet together for supper from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

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## **NOTES**

Many thanks to **Cris Rivera, Beth Stringfield and the Fellowship Committee** for a wonderful congregational lunch on Sunday. As people drift back in after summer vacation, it is great to have an opportunity to sit and chat with everyone.

**Ben Maxwell** gave a wonderful cello concert on Sunday evening in the sanctuary. Even without his piano accompanist (who had a family emergency), Ben was effortlessly able to perform pieces by Debussy and Bach. And as his mother said, "Ben rocked the Bach"!

**Kudos to all of the Sunday School teachers, youth advisors, "gold fish ladies (superintendents), and to the Christian Education Committee** who turned out on Sunday morning for Teacher Training. Part of that training is always a review of FPC's *Child and Youth Protection Policy*, which is very timely

and important in light of all of the stories and incidents of child abuse by the church which are coming to light. FPC requires that a background check of all who work with children and youth be conducted every three years, and that an annual review of our child safety policies and procedures be made. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** is grateful to the Christian Education Committee for providing leadership in this area.

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## From the Associate Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

**Promotion Sunday is this Sunday**, and I am thrilled with the wealth of Christian Nurture Opportunities and the wonderful cadre of teachers, leaders, and advisors at First Presbyterian Church this year. Our theme for this year is “Winds of Change,” since we have a new Associate Pastor for Youth and their Families, and things already are

beginning to look a little different. But other changes are “in the air” as well. Let me list a few that we will explain more fully **this Sunday at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall:**

1) We have **six offerings for adult learning** on Sunday mornings, which is pretty amazing!

- **Adult Lectionary** – unpacking the texts for each Sunday’s worship service
- **Faith and Community** – looking at *Love Letters of Faith* from the likes of MLK, Dorothy Day, the Apostle Paul, and Reinhold Niebuhr
- **Journeys & Scratch** – combining their inter-generational forces to examine *Prophetic Voices* from MLK to Flannery O’Connor and the Belhar Confession.
- **Women’s Spiritual Formation** – a great support system of sharing and prayer for women
- **Becoming an Anti-Racist Church** – an eight-week course on themes of racism, diversity, white privilege and barriers to inclusivity led by FPC’s Racial Equity group.
- **The Pleasures of Parenting** – a time of discussion and support for parents who find raising children in today’s world to be an exciting and daunting task.

2) **FPC’s 3rd – 6th grades** will be trying out a new rotation model of Sunday School, which will allow them to experience the foundational stories of the Old Testament in many different ways through drama, art, games, legos, music, cooking, gardening, etc. Should be great fun for the students and for the teaching teams!

3) **Confirmation** - includes our 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders this year (plus several youth from Covenant Presbyterian who will be joining us). Each student will pick an adult mentor to make the journey with them. We will visit other communities of faith in the fall and learn how to be good guests. Then in the winter, we will spend some time in the classroom talking about what it means to be a Christian in the Reformed Tradition.

Young and old are invited to join us this Sunday, August 26, for some “windy” activities, some refreshments, lots of fellowship, and time to meet new teachers

and classmates. **Teacher/Advisor Dedication and a Blessing of Backpacks will take place during the 11:00 a.m. worship service this Sunday.**

New classes begin in earnest on **Sunday, September 2**. The Christian Education Committee has been working hard to harness the winds of the Spirit and make great opportunities available for the whole people of God.

Grace and peace,  
*Marilyn Hedgpeth*

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## **Sunday, August 26**

### **21st day in Ordinary Time**

**9:45 a.m. Sunday School Promotion / Fall Kick-off**

**11:00 a.m. Worship (Blessing of Backpacks and Teacher Dedication)  
Sermon: "*Strange Armor*" - Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching**

The **Hunger for Change offering** will be received during worship. Please give generously.

Liturgist: *Jane Wettach*

Greeter: *Chris Williams*

After Worship Greeters: *Carol Carson* (side/font);

*Jane Wettach* (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Will Chambliss* (head), *Christy Gudaitis* (flowers), *Matt Cline* (counting), *Bob Pleasants, Emily Wilkins* - **need one more** Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

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## **Sunday, September 2**

### **22nd day in Ordinary Time**

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

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

**Mindy Douglas, preaching**

Liturgist: **To be determined**

Greeter: *Delia Kwon*

After Worship Greeters: *Gray Wilson* (side/font);

*Tom Bacon* (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Julie Whiddon* (head), *Mary-Jo Keenan* (flowers), *John Mozart* (counting) - **need three more** - Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **Children and Youth**

What wonderful Summer Sunday School we had as we *Rocked Around the Liturgical Clock*. We are so grateful for the creative juices of members of the Christian Education Committee like *Katharine Whitmore, Dawn Carsey, Brent Curtis and Lenore Champion*. And we are superbly grateful to the

adults and youth who stepped forward to lead the class each week. A great season of learning was had by all!

**This Sunday is Promotion Sunday**, and we will have stations in Watts-Hill Hall with some “windy” activities for everyone. Come and participate, and come and meet your new teachers and classmates. Sunday School begins at 9:45, and friends are always welcome.

### **Adult Study**

**Faith and Community Class:** Many thanks to the Racial Equity Group for leading the class through Jonathan Wilson-Hargrove’s Book, *Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion*. The class is invited to join the congregation in inter-generational Promotion Sunday activities in Watts-Hill Hall this Sunday at 9:45 a.m. The series on *Love Letters of Faith* begins September 2. All are welcome!

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### **Lectionary Class:**

#### **August 26:**

Solomon prayed that God would confirm for him the covenant promises made to David. Can we claim to be a part of the covenant? Are we prepared to accept the difficulties and trials of faithful life along with the good promises? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

#### **September 2:**

What variety we find in our Bibles! There is praise, confrontation, advice and even love poetry... and that's just in the readings for one Sunday.

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**Journeys and Scratch Class:** Everyone is invited to join the Promotion Day activities in Watts-Hill Hall this Sunday at 9:45. We will resume class for the fall on September 2.

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**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.

## **Happenings around FPC**

### **Day Timers’ Luncheon**

#### **Tuesday, August 28**

**11:30 a.m. at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant**

at Northgate Mall (Entrance # 7, facing Guess Road)

RSVP to **Shirley Frederick**: shirleyfred@nc.rr.com or 919-384-2017.

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**The Church Office and Day School will be closed Monday, September 3 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.**



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**First Friends and Families  
ANNUAL BEACH TRIP**

**September 7 - 9, 2018**

**DEADLINE** to make a reservation for this beach weekend is **Saturday, August 25**. Contact **Kathy Conner** if you have questions: [kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com](mailto:kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com). Please let Valerie know if you would like to be added to this group's EVITE list.

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**SCRATCH (Young Adults) “AfterChurch”**

Scratch/Young Adults lunch and *lectio divina* for 45 minutes: September 9, 23, and October 7, 14 and 28. If you want to become good at anything, you have to practice! This Fall on Sundays - Sept 9, 23, and Oct 7, 14, 28 (those are all the Sundays in September and October that do not have an all-church lunch happening after worship) the Scratch/Young Adult group will meet AFTER CHURCH (that is after Church School at 9:45 a.m. and Worship at 11 a.m.) in the parlor room down under our sanctuary for a cheap (\$3!) lunch, time to catch up with one another, and a bit of time to practice the old spiritual discipline of slow reading sacred texts (*lectio divina*).

Our plan is to stay not more than 30-45 minutes once everyone is gathered. Please talk with our leaders **Mary Berry**, **Alex Stayer-Brewington**, and **Rev. Cherrie Henry**, if you have questions. Childcare available upon request. Anyone interested is welcome to join us.

**Scratch (Young Adults) September Brunch**

**Saturday, September 15**

**10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the home of Tim and Kate Bonner**

920 9th Street, Durham - 646-238-1764

Please respond to the EVITE

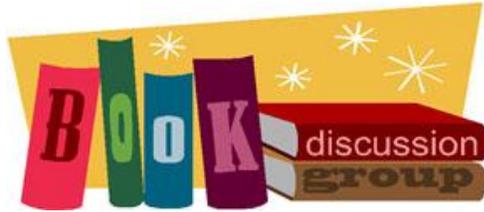
Please let Valerie know if you would like to be added to this group's EVITE list.

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**Presbyterian Women** will resume their monthly circle meetings and Bible study on **Monday, September 10**. We'll meet at **10:30 a.m. in the East Parlor**. New faces are welcome to join us.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN



*Zeitoun*. New faces welcome.

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on Tuesday evening, **September 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jane Williams** (2804 Ashland Drive). **Marsha Butler** will lead a discussion of Dave Eggers'

**A Season of Peace is coming . . .**



**September 2 - October 7**

God calls us to have the courage, self-control and endurance to be Peacemakers!

## September Birthdays

The next church newsletter will be issued September 4  
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office  
by Sunday, September 2

## August BIRTHDAYS

Online Church Calendar



Visit our website