

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

*"Downtown by history and by choice"*

## Newsletter

July 25 - August 7, 2017



### From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

We continue, in this week's newsletter, with an examination of six areas of Christian living: corporate worship, personal devotion, service to the world, stewardship of gifts, fellowship with others, and biblical and theological study. In the last newsletter, we looked at personal devotion. This week, we look at **stewardship of gifts**.

What do you think of when you see the word stewardship? Many of us think immediately of money. We recall that time in our congregation's life when we are asked to make a financial commitment for the coming year. At some level, however, we are aware that stewardship is more than money. Stewardship is how we live out our calling as followers of Christ. Stewardship is what we do after we say that we believe.

Stewardship defines the way we live our lives, the way we share the gifts God has given us, be they financial, vocational, occupational, or temporal gifts. We give back to God because we know that God has already given to us. We give back in gratitude and generosity and find joy in the giving and in what we receive back in our own spiritual, mental, and emotional lives. Our Presbyterian (U.S.A.) Directory for Worship guides our understanding of the stewardship of gifts through these words:

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of the Christian discipline of stewardship."

"Those who follow the discipline of Christian stewardship will find themselves called to lives of simplicity, generosity, honesty, hospitality, compassion, receptivity, and concern for the earth and God's creatures."

"The Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods."

Stewardship is not about the biggest financial gift or the most time spent at the church. Stewardship is a spiritual response to what God has done for us as we give back with joy a portion of the gifts we have been given. May we respond to God with gratitude and thanksgiving for the many gifts of our lives.

With love and gratitude for you all,

**Mindy**

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## From the Associate Pastor . . .

What is it like to be sixty-three, and go to the Massanetta Middle School Conference with 200 12 to 14 year-olds? It is like being a foreign exchange student in a land where:

- the natives like to run and submerge themselves in an ice-cold spring until their bodies are numb and blue, and then rise from the waters exhilarated and shivering with plans to do it all over again;
- some emit the fragrance of flowery soaps and shampoos, while others reek of sweaty socks, tennis shoes and musty towels as days go by... which you detest at first, until you start to smell that way, too;
- meals only take 10-15 minutes to consume, and the food they prefer to eat harkens back to the carbohydrate-loading days of your elementary and junior high years, when combinations of French fries, mac and cheese, cakes and cookies were not only common, but actually beneficial in keeping your weight up...ahem;
- the natives enter as either shy or swaggering teens on the cusp of adulthood, but once they make a few friends, willingly drop their guard and play Goga Ball, Pterodactyl, or Run and Scream until fireflies blink in the trees;
- the slippery slope is not an ethical conundrum, but a giant slip 'n slide on a hill;
- hair-don'ts are stylish hair-do's, and no one laughs or points;
- the wild ruckus begins as natives sing and dance sans inhibition;
- activity can cease quickly, and the natives can become quiet listeners, compassionately respectful of what each person says among a circle of friends, or willing to contribute with a waving hand raised high;
- cell-phones are taboo, and face-to-face is the preferred norm of communication;
- we are "All Together Now", Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, (63 and 13), one in Christ, as Paul suggests in Galatians 3: 28-29.

I am grateful to have been an invited guest in the foreign middler country of ***Sophie, Griffin, Joshua, Laura, Clarabelle, Charlie, and Chris. Will McDow*** and I thank you for the privilege of having all of our senses filled by the joy of their presence.

***Marilyn***

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### NOTES:

Many thanks to the work crew, ***Chris Brown, Barbara Buckley and Diane Chambers***, who came to the church on Saturday to dust and tidy-up inside this old house.

The **Durham Branch of the NAACP** held their monthly meeting on Sunday at FPC, and the following members helped to provide hospitality and worship leadership: ***Jane Williams, Carol and Wes Carson, Barbara Buckley, Kathy Krahenbuhl, Emily Wilkins, Kathy Parkins and Marilyn Hedgpeth***. It was noted that ***Diane Standert*** is away this week, attending the National Convention of the NAACP in Baltimore, MD. The NAACP asks that we continue to be involved in voter registration and in affordable housing and health care advocacy with them.

***Libby Gulley, Alice Raney, Bob Yoder, Susan Dunlap, Sam Miglarese, and Marilyn Hedgpeth*** attended the stated meeting of the Presbytery of New Hope on Tuesday, July 25, at Wake Forest Presbyterian Church.

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## OUR SYMPATHIES:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Amy, Gray and Julia Wilson** on the death of Amy's father, **Perry Allen** on July 24th at Durham's Hock Family Pavilion. The family is planning to have a private gathering of family and friends in a few weeks to celebrate his life.

## OUR CONCERNS:

**Mary Goldman**, friend of Kathy Krahenbuhl

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

Our **High School youth and their chaperones** are in Montreat this week, attending the annual Montreat Youth Conference. Those attending from FPC include: **Peter Compton, Jack Kost, Matthew Brockman, Sam Henry, Alan Carrasco, Diana Carrasco, Matthew Dickerson, Ellie Dilworth, Aurelia Klinck, Parker Klinck, Jenna Leonard, Maryn Leonard, Charlotte Maxwell, Almira Mbah, Carter Momsen-Hudson, Maggie Price, Sharron Johnson, Lenore Champion and Brent**

**Curtis**. Please pray for safe travels and a great experience for our youth and their chaperones.

**Traveling mercies** requested also for the eight persons from FPC who are assisting with Hurricane Matthew recovery and rebuilding efforts in the Kinston area, July 30 - August 5.

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**Atria Senior Living: Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

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

**Croasdaile: Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Bob Keever,**

**Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford**

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

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

**Tom Bowen**, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

**Claiborn Clark**, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

**Louise Dykes**, aunt of Will Chambliss

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

## Sunday, July 30

### 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

**Sermon: "Solutions: Part 2" - Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching**

**Worship Texts:** Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b;

Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

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### Serving July 30:

Liturgist: **Jennie Alwood**

Narthex Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey**

After Worship Greeters: **Ellie Dilworth** (narthex/rear); **Delia Kwon** (side/font)

Ushers: **Kathy Krahenbuhl** (head), **need volunteer** (flowers), **Lea Bingham, Chris Anglin, Jane Williams, Catherine Dumas**

# Sunday, August 6

## 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

**11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion**

**Mindy Douglas**, preaching

**Worship Texts:** Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7;  
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

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### Serving on August 6:

Liturgist: **Cris Rivera**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Andy Henry**(narthex/rear);  
**Brent Curtis** (side/font)

Ushers: **Celia Dickerson** (head), **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers), **Karen Swope**, **Amy Sanchez**, **need two more volunteers**

Communion Elders: **Tom Bacon** (head, replenish elements)

Bread: **Al Arrowood** (process), **Tyler Momsen-Hudson**, **Carol Carson**, **Jane Wettach**

Cup: **Andy Henry**, **Caroline Rourk** (process), **Brent Curtis**, **Ellie Dilworth**  
Shepherds: **Alice Raney** (font aisle), **George Bernhardt** (center aisle), **Miriam Morey** (pulpit aisle)



## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Children (and youth) Sunday School at 9:45 in room 205

This Sunday, July 30, we will finish our art project of making paper mache animals from the movie *Zootopia*. We will put final touches on the paper mache, and paint and decorate our creations.

**Next Sunday, August 6**, we will begin to watch the critically acclaimed movie, *Moana*, a Disney film about a young Polynesian girl who sets sail to save her people. We will watch *Moana* and discuss the movie over snacks for three Sundays, until August 27, when we will reconvene for Promotion Sunday and the official beginning of our church school year at FPC.

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**Adults** (aka Faith and Community Class): This class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall**, and all are invited to join us.

How do we welcome our neighbors at FPC, especially those who come to our door in need? **This Sunday, July 30**, **Susan Dunlap**, **Marie Sappenfield**, **Bob Yoder**, and **Judy Arrowood** will conduct a workshop for those who are interested in furthering our ministry of hospitality in ways that are helpful to all. This workshop was conducted previously following worship, for officers and church volunteers. Now it is being offered to members of our wider community who want to love God and love neighbor with integrity and faithfulness.

**Beginning Sunday, August 6**, we will undertake a study of the book, *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. This book is a wonderful reflective resource for those who want to do the long, hard work of personal examination on the topic of white privilege in America. It has questions for guided reflection at the end of each chapter, which lends itself well to journaling – which is recommended to everyone. Marilyn Hedgpeth has six copies of the book, which can be purchased for \$15, or you may order your own book online. **Kathy Krahenbuhl**, a member of FPC’s Racial Equity Task Force, will lead our first class discussion.

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**Lectionary Class** (meets year-round at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**):

**July 30:** A mustard seed? Yeast? A fishing net? How can the kingdom of heaven be like these ordinary, small things? Why won't Jesus just explain it clearly, instead of talking in riddles? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

**August 6:** Can't you just imagine the disciples' frustration with Jesus? "You give them something to eat." Why does he make such impossible demands? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

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**Journeys Class and the Scratch/Young Adults Class** are on summer break. We'll resume in the fall. You are encouraged to join another class that is meeting.

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**Spiritual Formation Class** 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**.

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## Making Disciples: Called to Teach

Do you feel called to join the teaching and spiritual formation ministry of FPC? **We currently need teachers for the 2-4’s class, for the 3rd-5th grade Godly Play class (we will provide training), for the Middle School Class, and for the High School Class.** We have a good core of veteran teachers in each group, but need some new voices in these very important formative areas. If you feel so called to “make disciples” and influence young lives, please contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth**.

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## FPC History Books are still available . . .

There are **four methods** by which the book may be purchased:

1 - **At FPC** for \$25 cash or check made out to the First Presbyterian Church

2 - **At the Regulator Bookshop** (Durham) for \$30

3 - **From Carolina Academic Press** via its website using the Discount Code FPCBOOK; a shipped copy for \$38.44 (includes shipping and sales tax) or call CAP at 919-489-7486 and give the discount code.

4 - **From Amazon**; a shipped copy for \$65.

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**Annual Report Summary Deadline: July 31, 2017**  
Contact Valerie in the church office if you need assistance in completing  
the annual report summary for your committee or ministry area.

**~ MEETINGS/ FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ~**

**First Friends and Families  
August Potluck  
Saturday, August 5 at 5:30 p.m.  
at the home of *Deborah and Tyler Momsen-Hudson*  
Bring lawn chairs and a dish to pass.**

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The *Klinck Family* invites the First Presbyterian family to  
**Aurelia and Parker's Senior Recital  
Sunday, August 6  
3:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary  
A reception follows in the Wilson Parlor**

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**Scratch / Young Adults  
August Potluck  
Saturday, August 12 at 6:00 p.m.  
at the home of David Lorimer**

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**Budget Working Group  
Wednesday, August 16  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Wilson Parlor**

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**Tough Conversations & Theology on the topic of  
"Church and Community Response to Violence"  
Sunday, August 6  
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
215 N. Church St., Durham  
Rev. Susanne D. Priddy, Pastor  
Punch and cookies will be available following this ecumenical event.**

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**SAVE THE DATE!  
FPC All Church Gathering / Potluck Supper  
Sunday, September 24, 2017  
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
New Hope Camp and Conference Center**

# Service and Mission Opportunities

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## Urban Ministry of Durham's Food Pantry

You can help Urban Ministry of Durham's Food Pantry program in three ways:

- 1) **Donate reusable grocery bags**, new or gently used.
- 2) **Donate healthier foods** (whole wheat, low and no added sugar; whole wheat flour, nuts, raisins and other dried fruit, muffin and pancake mixes (preferably needing just water)).
- 3) **Donate most needed foods**: canned meat (especially chicken), pasta (dry and canned), pasta sauce, mac & cheese, rice, and shelf-stable milk.

Bring your donations to FPC and the Service and Mission Committee will see that they get delivered to UMD.

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## Anti-Racism Education Corner

FPC's Task Force will be featuring regular opportunities for Anti-Racism education here in the newsletter.

The Montreat Crossroads training on August 18-19 has been postponed until 2018. We will let you know as soon as it has been rescheduled.

There were still open slots in the REI Phase 1 workshop on August 10 & 11 in Durham.

Please see elsewhere in the newsletter information from Marilyn. The Faith and Community Class will be reading *Waking Up White* starting on August 6th.

You can see all the REI workshop dates (click on Register Here to see if there are any openings) at <http://www.oarnc.org/events/>

Any questions about the Task Force can be addressed to **Kathy Krahenbuhl, Jon Abels, Diane Standaert, Emily Wilkins, or Sharon Hirsch.**

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## Minute for Mission - Presented Sunday, July 23

**Meals on Wheels of Durham** exists because people in our community are hungry. We deliver a hot, nutritious meal, a smile and a safety check to people who are elderly or disabled, and are unable to either obtain or prepare appropriate, nutritious food. This lifeline enables people to remain safely and securely in their own homes as they continue to age. This means they remain connected to the communities and surroundings that provide them comfort.

How important is this service? That can be answered, in part, by looking at the results of a national study that was conducted by Meals on Wheels America. This study compares seniors who receive a home delivered meal to seniors on waiting lists for those same meals. The results are profound, and include the following: compared to older adults on waiting lists, seniors receiving home delivered meals have better self-rated health, are more active – they are more likely to move around in their own home, knowing a volunteer is coming each day - they are less depressed, have less anxiety, have an improved sense of safety, and have fewer doctor visits, fewer urgent care visits, fewer ER visits, and fewer hospital stays. Think of the cost benefit - for the cost of one day in the hospital, which is about the same cost as six days in a skilled nursing

home, a meal program can deliver a year's worth of meals to an individual.

About two years ago, we were serving just over 300 meals each day. We now have over 540 active clients. Our addition of over 200 clients during the past two years has stretched our cadre of volunteers. We have increased the number of drivers we send out each day from 24 to 32. Our routes are full – there is a limited number of meals that a driver can deliver – for food safety reasons, the route needs to be completed within a specific time frame. We need to open even more routes – which require even more volunteer drivers. I hope you will consider becoming one those drivers. A model that has worked well for some churches is for the church to adopt a route. For example, if 10 people in this church were interested in being part of a group, and you covered a route on Thursday, and came in pairs – each of those 10 people would only have to drive once every five weeks.

Thank you for all that you have done and all that I know you will do to help seniors. Thank you for helping us serve the next meal.

- **Gale Adland**, Executive Director for Meals on Wheels, Durham

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It is with much love and gratitude that we thank our sisters & brothers at FPC for all the kindness and caring we've enjoyed during my recovery - prayers, cards, visits, food, flowers, and more. You have demonstrated all the ways Christian love manifests itself and we are overwhelmed & very appreciative. I can't wait to be back among you. Shalom,

**Barbara & Rod Gerwe**

The next newsletter will be issued August 8, 2017.

Visit our website  
<https://firstpres-durham.org>

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