

First Presbyterian Church



Organized 1871

January 20, 2015

"The Kingdom of God has come near." With these words, Jesus points away from himself and toward God. It is God's kingdom, God's reign, that Jesus announces. The good news has its origin in God, who here reclaims human lives and demands repentance and faith. Like the prophets before him, Jesus' task is to proclaim God's action in the world, not his own.

—*Texts for Preaching* by Brueggemann, Cousar, Gaventa, Newsome

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

The **Hunger for Change Offering**

will be received during worship.

Please give generously!

Sermon: "The Reluctant Prophet"

Sam R. Miglarese, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	Jonah 3:1-5
Psalm Lesson	Psalm 62:5-12
Epistle Lesson	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel Lesson	Mark 1:14-20

Acolytes: **Juliana Miglarese, Almira Mbah**

Crucifer: **Carter Momsen-Hudson**

Crossdaile Driver: **Miriam Morey**

Narthex Greeters: **Linn Lopez,**

Elizabeth High

After Worship Greeters:

Michael Schultz (rear/narthex)

Phyllis Supple (side/font)

Ushers: **Jo Bernhardt** (head), **Jeanne**

Hervey (flowers), **Mary Ann Compton,**

Sharon Hirsch, Talitha Kwon, Leslie

McDow

ATTENTION VISITORS

A Newcomer's/Inquirer's class for those who would like to explore membership at FPC will be held this **Sunday, January 25** following the worship service. Subsequent classes will be held on **Sundays, February 1st, 8th and 15th** during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested in learning more about the ministry of this congregation, please contact **Shirley Frederick** at s.frederick@firstpres-durham.org or 919-682-5511.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class

In response to the racial unrest in our nation, we will continue our discussion by looking at South Africa as a model for dealing with racial inequality and apartheid there. The Belhar Confession is a faith statement that has come from the church in response to South Africa. It has been approved by the PC(USA) General Assembly for inclusion in our Book of Confessions, and now must be ratified by two-thirds of the Presbyteries. **Jon Nelson** will note what Belhar has to say about racism, and how that might be applicable to our situation in the US. All are welcome in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45. Mark your calendars now for a screening at FPC of the movie, "The House I Live In" on Thursday, January 29th at 7 p.m.

Lectionary Class

"The end is near. Repent!" Jonah brought that message to the Ninevites, and Paul to the Corinthians, and Jesus to the Galileans. How did they respond? How would you? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

Come and explore Paul's letter to the Galatians, Chapters 5-6, and his principles of Christian freedom. Newcomers are encouraged to join the discussion at 9:45, second floor, classroom at end of hall.

LETTER TO FPC MEMBERS

We are taking the next step on our "interim journey" between senior pastors. **Mark Diehl**, who has so ably guided us as interim pastor, will finish his work at the end of February. Mark leaves us as planned, having completed his contract and successfully led us to the stage when the Pastor Nominating Committee opens our search for a new pastor. We are grateful for Mark's service and wish him well.

The Session of FPC has approved **Marilyn Hedgpeth** to once again serve as temporary head of staff beginning March 1. She will be assisted by **Sam Miglarese** and **Sarah Finbow**, who have agreed to enhanced roles until we call a permanent senior pastor -- anticipated within the year.

What can you do during this next phase in the life of the church?

- **Attend church Sunday mornings** -- **Mark Diehl** will preach his final message for us on February 15th. Then join our celebration of his interim leadership at the Fellowship Lunch after worship. Beginning in March, we'll enjoy meaningful worship led by Marilyn, Sam and Sarah, who will augmented by guest preachers once a month.
- **Volunteer your time** -- have you considered helping with fellowship events, pastoral care, or service and mission activities? March would be a great time to volunteer, as our remaining church staff will be stretching further to meet these needs.
- **Share your ideas with the Pastor Nominating Committee** -- chaired by **Paul Baldasare**, they are hard at work seeking exciting nominees to consider for leadership at First Presbyterian Church.

The time between senior pastors is a special phase in the life of this church, allowing us to reflect on our history, reconsider our mission, and reaffirm that we - the members of FPC - are the church together. Yours in Christ,

Barbara Gerwe,
FPC Clerk of Session

Last call to register!

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT January 30-31

**Please pay \$50 (\$80 if you can)
registration, payable to FPC by Jan. 23**

Remember to let **Marilyn** know if you plan to join us. There will be yoga with **Brianna** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday!

Scratch Class

Young adults will discuss "Holy Spirit" - Chapter 15 of Guthrie's Christian Doctrine. Join us at 9:45 in our lower level classroom.

Family Matters Class

"Death of a Pet" (Seamless Faith, Chapter 4, p. 89) is our topic this Sunday. Join us at 9:45, second floor, across from the Resource Room.

Spiritual Formation Class

This class for women is led by **Susan Dunlap** and meets at 9:45, lower level classroom located across the hall from the Youth Room.

FROM THE

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Gift of Time

Our Stewardship Committee is committed to a comprehensive vision of how we are to understand the notion of embracing time, service and money as generous expressions of our gratitude to a gracious God in Christ. Most of us understand what we mean when we speak of gifts of talent and treasure. However, what do we mean by giving the gift of time? As we begin a new year, with new resolutions and new hope, a reflection on time is, well, timely.

The gift of time refers to commitments we make before God to grow in our own spiritual life. We give the gift of **time** to ourselves, in a sense, by dedicating ourselves in a deliberate way to the enrichment of our relationships with God. Our personal journeys are so unique that it is impossible for anyone else to decide for us how we should grow spiritually. But, certainly, we Presbyterians are part of an enormously rich tradition of believers who have learned, over the centuries, a great deal about how people best come closer to God.

As a community of faith, we attempt to provide for our members a wide range of opportunities that can appeal to and nourish our diverse membership in the ways of God. **Prayer and Worship**, of course, are fundamental, and we seek to offer many different times and ways for individuals and groups to deepen their lives of prayer. **The Word of God**, too, is foundational, and our community has recognized more and more the importance of opportunities to study, discuss, pray over and proclaim and listen to the Scriptures.

Sharing one's faith is particularly productive of growth for many, and so we provide retreat opportunities for men, women and our young people. Some people find that they best grow spiritually by **servicing others**, and so the many opportunities we offer for serving the needs of the poor and underserved are always seen by us as fundamentally spiritual activities. The list of ways we can make a sacrificial gift of **time** is long, indeed. This New Year of 2015, I invite you to embrace fully the stewardship of time by giving the gift of time to yourself.

Sam

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH

When communities of faith are inviting and relevant, new people will want to come. A good sign of life and health in a church is growth. All it would take for our church to double in size would be for each of us to invite one friend. Won't YOU invite a friend to church this coming Sunday, January 25?

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 31 at FPC for **Frederick Mba**, father of **Raymond Mbah**. The family will receive friends in Watts-Hill Hall following the service.

OUR SYMPATHIES

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Jackie and Raymond Mbah, Sharron, Almira, and Ariel**, on the death of Jackie's stepfather, **Robert Taylor**, in Oxford on January 7th; to **Betsy and John Robinson, Sarah and Emma**, on the death of Betsy's father, **Gerald Thomas**, on January 12th in Southern Pines; and to **Jim Seitzer** on the death of his wife and FPC member, **BJ Seitzer**, on January 15th in Chapel Hill. A Memorial Service will be held for BJ in March at Carolina Meadows.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week: Dewey Lawson

Edward Kwon, a patient at UNC Hospital

Ann Prospero returns to her home this week!

Nowell Creadick **Jacque Robins**

Carolina House (Durham): **Julian Boswell**

Clare Bridge (Chapel Hill): **Helen Garrison**

Coasdaile Village:

Pavilion: **Bob Rankin, Jerry Tyren**
Friendship Hall: **Bob Keever, Anne Davis**

Hillcrest: Randall McLeod

The Forest at Duke:

Fran Bryant **Joan Englund**
Ken Goldner **Peaches McPherson**

Treyburn (Peak Resources):

Sara Anne Martin, sister of Beth Neece

- **Stuart Bethune**, father of Alec Bethune
- **Ruby Brown**, mother of Eugene Brown
- **Norma Cardoni**, mother of Sheila Breitweiser
- **Ching-Chang Chin**, father of Li-Chen Chin
- **Gera Fleming**, mother of Christyn Klinck
- **Lawson Family**, Arlington, VA
- **Alan Pelton**, friend of Lyn Francisco
- **Tshiek family**, friends of the Fricks

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

As **Miguel** and I prepare to leave on January 23rd for two back-to-back Habitat trips to Honduras, we want to thank the congregation for all the support and prayers you are giving us. **Marie, David and Laura Sappenfield** will join us on our second trip, and we are taking 35 beautiful and colorful baby quilts made with love by members, ranging in age from 7 to 95! Many thanks to **BJ Morton, Caroline Pritchett, Betsy Robinson, Mary Ann Ruegg, Sophie Snell, Jo Bernhardt, Carol McKnight, Sally Ensor, Jane Wettach, Linn Lopez, Sue Fricks, Ann Leathers, Barbara Gerwe, Jean Cary, Dawn Carsey**, and **Marie Sappenfield**.
-Margaret Rubiera

Special thanks to **Paul Cornsweet** and **Tom Keller** who helped **Margaret Eme** move into her new apartment at Williams Square on East Carver St. Margaret is "snug as a bug in a rug," but has requested a ride on Sundays to and from church. If you can provide a ride to Margaret, call the church: 919-682-5511.

YOUTH NEWS

Dear friends,

We had an amazing experience working with community Midrasha, Sikh Gurudwara and Iglesia Emanuel to make soup and bagged lunches for Urban Ministries of Durham. Over 125 youth gathered on Sunday night to make the meals and talk about justice in our respective faiths! Thank you for your support!

Blessings,
Sarah

CONFIRMATION

It's been a difficult few weeks in the life of our congregation, and with that in mind, we will conclude our discussion about baptism, and then look at the topics of death and resurrection. How do people feel when someone they loved has died? What does the Bible say about these things? And how can we be church to them at this time? On February 15th we will travel at 9 a.m. to St. Barnabas Greek Orthodox Church for their service at 10 a.m., and then return to FPC. Mentors are always welcome to join us.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

If you would like to donate flowers for worship, please sign up on the Flower Chart located on the bulletin board in the foyer. You may also contact **Phyllis Verhey** (919-973-2929 or pverhey@nc.rr.com) if you have questions and to confirm a standing reservation to donate worship flowers.

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 27
11:30 a.m. at Hope Valley Diner
3710 Shannon Rd Durham
Hosted by **Chuck and Linda Barenchi**
RSVP to: 919-908-6156.

FPC MEN OF FAITH

Friday, January 30
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast / Conversation
at Nosh's Café – 2812 Erwin Rd
Come by and stay as long as you can!

BOOK GROUP

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will discuss **Alex & Me** by Irene Pepperberg on **Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of **Mary-Jo Keenan** (mjkeenan39@gmail.com). Contact Mary-Jo for the address and directions to her house. **Dale Gaddis** will lead the discussion. New faces welcome.

FPC HOOPS

Hope Valley Church League games are played at Hope Valley Baptist Church gym at the corner of Garrett and Hope Valley Roads in Durham.

UPCOMING GAMES

Mon, Jan 26 7 PM FPC2 vs. South Durham
8 PM FPC vs. Free Agents
Thur, Jan 29 8 PM FPC2 vs. Westminster 2
9 PM FPC vs. South Durham
Mon, Feb 2 8 PM FPC2 vs. Westminster
9 PM Westminster 2 vs. FPC

Youth "Soup"er Bowl Fundraiser to combat hunger! Sunday, February 1

Homemade soups, provided by the youth of the church, will be available for purchase following Sunday School and worship. The money raised will be used to combat hunger in our community and around the world. Dine in and takeout will be available.

"We Can All Bow Our Heads" Sunday, February 8 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Jewish Congregational Center
Cornwallis Road, Durham
Parents, clergy and advocates will engage in an interfaith dialogue about inclusion of the differently-abled in the life cycle events in the church. **Marilyn Hedgpeth, Celia Dickerson, Katherine Whitmore** will be participating. Register for a space:
<https://jccfed.wufoo.com/forms/we-can-all-bow-our-heads/>

PrimeTimers Winter Gathering Saturday, February 21 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jean and Chuck Wilson

Scratch (young adults) is invited to this covered dish supper.

McPherson Lectureship

Guest Lecturer: **Dr. Ron Cole-Turner**, the H. Parker Sharp Professor of Theology and Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Sunday, February 22
9:45 a.m. Sunday School Presentation
11:00 a.m. Preaching for Worship
Monday, February 23
Clergy Presentation at 10:30 a.m.

FPC Men of Faith Retreat April 17 – 18

6:00 p.m. Friday – 2:00 p.m. Saturday
Homer Ashby is leading this retreat

Vacation Church School at Camp New Hope (ages 4-18; childcare for volunteers) June 15 – 19

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Registration will be online soon
BOCS

Post-Vacation Church School Music Camp

Under the direction of **Kathy Parkins**
June 15 – 19

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at FPC

For FPC member families only
Transportation provided upon request
Registration will be online soon

BLESSING BAGS NEEDED

Items needed: lunch bags or large Zip-lock bags, snack crackers, peanuts, cereal or nutrition bars, non-perishable fruit, a washcloth (or individually wrapped wet-wipe), and small bottled water. You can assemble bags at home as a family or bring the items to the church, and volunteers can assemble bags for you! Thanks to the **Dillon family (Amy, Pat, Noah and Rory)** who brought blessing bags on MLK Day and to all of you who support this ministry to our neighbors in need.

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FPC Website