

First Presbyterian Church

November 24, 2015



Organized 1871



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Did You Get It?"

Cheryl B. Henry, preaching

Worship Texts

Old Testament	2 Kings 22:1 - 23:3
Gospel Lesson	Luke 24:30-32

Crucifer: **Sigfried Fullenkamp**

Acolytes: **Graham Curtis,**

Charlotte Maxwell

Crossdaile Driver: **Paul Cornsweet**

Narthex Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey**

After Worship Greeters:

Will McDow (rear/narthex)

Talitha Kwon (side/font)

Ushers: **Michael Honeycutt** (head), **Karen**

Swope, Nate Pienkowski, Tom Keller,

Carolyn Merritt, Miriam Morey

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community

What Time Is It?

This Sunday, as the season of Advent begins, **Robert Brawley** will begin an Advent study from the Gospel of Luke. All are invited to come and explore the question, "What time is it?" Class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45.

Lectionary Class

We plan our lives -- careers, investments, families -- as though everything will continue pretty much as it has in the past. What if that's not true? Would you change your plans if Jesus were returning tomorrow? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

We will discuss selected chapters from Proverbs and continue our study of chapters in Ecclesiastes. We meet at 9:45, CE building, second floor, classroom end of hall.

SCRATCH/Young Adults Class

We are continuing our study of theology of place this Sunday. Join us at 9:45 in the basement classroom.

Scripture Readers' Class

Join **Steve Rimmer** in the chapel at 9:45 to learn the art of reading scripture and serving as liturgist in worship. Please bring a Bible, preferably NRSV. Interested persons welcome!

Family Matters Class

Parents of elementary age and younger children share the road of parenting and dabble in Scripture. We meet at 9:45 in the CE building, room 203.

Spiritual Formation

Susan Dunlap leads this class for women on spiritual formation. We meet at 9:45 in the basement classroom.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The class will gather in the Godly Play room for feast time at 9:45. Come and express thanksgiving, one more time!



MANY PEOPLE, ONE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:12

A Minute for Stewardship

given by **Delia Kwon** during worship on November 22, 2015.

When I was 10 years old, my father decided it was time for me to start my "artistic" career. He got me a part in a poetry night at the theatre where he used to work.

After many days of rehearsals, the night of my debut finally came. I was terrified. The huge stage, in my young eyes at least, and the even bigger house were frightening. The little me, petrified in the middle of the stage, under hundreds of eyes! I looked over my shoulder. My father, behind the curtain, on the right wing, was signaling me: "Go on!" The light in his blue eyes and his smile gave me courage. I remembered all the lines and went on with confidence, knowing he was there, behind me, my strength and my support. Nothing bad could ever happen as long as he was there.

This is the feeling I get when I think about this church. It is here, behind me, assuring me I can go on. It will always be there to support me, to be my strength and my courage if I need it. Church means different things to each of us. For me it is the confidence I am not alone. I have a family here that supports me and encourages me when I am most in distress.

This was a very difficult year for Talitha and me as we lost Edward to cancer. But you were there, behind us, helping, supporting and encouraging us. Your unconditional love and support helped us to go on. You gave me the gift of time. This is what we do in a church: we give! We give time, we give talent, we give money

My father always told me: "Whatever you give, God will always send you even more!" I am sure there is a verse in the Bible about this, but I do not know it.

When I look through the blue chips of our church's wonderful stained windows, I can see my father smiling at me: "I am here! I support you! Go on!" . . . But maybe it is God, who is smiling at all of us . . . so we can go on.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

140 pledges have been received totaling **\$666,237.82** which represents **80%** of our 2016 goal of \$835,885. Please return your pledge sheet as soon as possible. Contact **Tom Bloom** in the church office if you have questions or need pledge materials. Call 919-682-5511 ext 216 or send an email to Tom at: t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org.

FROM THE PARISH ASSOCIATE

Last Sunday **Marilyn** excitedly told me to check in my mailbox before leaving church. "I found something! I think it will preach," was all she said. In my box I found the November 11, 2015 *Christian Century* article about Dr. Jeffrey A. Miller, asst. professor of English at Montclair State Univ., who recently uncovered the earliest draft translation of the Bible known to us as the King James Version published in 1611. He found it in a notebook belonging to Samuel Ward, a 17th century biblical scholar whose work sat on the shelves at Cambridge University untouched all these years. ". . . in a certain sense this draft was hiding in plain sight," Miller said. "The draft was there for hundreds of years, but no one realized exactly what it was." (*The Christian Century*, November 11, 2015. p. 14.)

Miller's discovery is much like the discovery Josiah made in II Kings 22 when he found the book of the law. Their stories make us wonder what treasures are hiding in plain sight still. What gifts from God do we pass every day without realizing what they are? And most importantly, what are the consequences for leaving them unnoticed? Well, that **will** preach! See you on Sunday!

Cherrie

The Church Office will be CLOSED Thursday and Friday, November 26-27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Wishing all of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving celebration!



Advent and Christmas

A copy of this brochure is included with today's newsletter mailing. You can pick up a copy at the church from the tables in the foyer and narthex to share with friends, family, neighbors and co-workers.

The brochure can also be viewed (or download a copy) by going online to: <http://www.firstpres-durham.org>

SESSION BRIEFS

November 23, 2015 Meeting

- Approved purchase and installation of a new phone system, early 2016
- Approved continuation of Youth Minister position as a full-time position through Fiscal Year 2016
- Approved Child and Youth Protection Policy updates

- **Barbara Gerwe**, Clerk of Session

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Please welcome **Christy Gudaitis**, 4914 Eno Woods Trail, 27712; home - 919-382-0560; cell - 919-452-0241, who was received by the Session on Monday, November 23, 2015. Christy was raised in Louisville, KY and has lived in Durham periodically since the late 1970's when she arrived as a freshman at Duke University. She earned her JD degree at Duke Law School. Christy has practiced law since 1986, specializing in health care and corporate Law. She has served as an attorney for Duke University since 1999. Christy and her husband, Jim, are the parents of two adult children. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, horseback riding, and hiking. Christy is joining FPC by transfer of her membership from Calvin Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Kerry Holbrook, recovering from surgery
Jinhwa Kim, a patient at UNC Hospital
Family of Debbie Pratt, friends of Kathy Parkins

Jean Cary **Mary Clark**
Creadick Family **Paul Cornsweet**
Sarah & Pete Finbow **Dewey Lawson**
Snell Family

Brookdale Senior Living: **Julian Boswell**

Brookdale of Chapel Hill: **Helen Garrison**

Croasdaile Village:

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

Hillcrest: **Randall McLeod**

Forest at Duke:

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

- **Roy Blackwell**, father of Sheila Miglarese
- **Anna Brawley**, daughter of Jane and Robert Brawley
- **Ron Brewington**, uncle of Alex Stayer Brewington
- **Parker Brown**, nephew of Neil Wilkins
- **Russell & Peggy Cockerell**, great uncle and aunt of Abi Bisette
- **Roger Durham**, father of Emily Durham
- **Helene Johnson**, mother of Jim Johnson, in Aurora, OH
- **Genie V. Martin**, cousin of Emily Wilkins
- **Brooks Minks**, grandmother of Lucie House
- **Lindsay Morris**, sister of Emily McClure
- **Aquiles Navarro**, friend of Robin Morey
- **Edward Robinson**, brother of Joe Robinson
- **Ryan Schlecht**, grandson of Ken and Mary Jo Schlecht
- **Charles Schultz**, Amy Dillon's father
- **Judy and Chris Wood**, mother and stepfather of Sharon Hirsch

Where do I begin to thank our church for the outpouring of love and support that was given to our family and friends?



Nowell's death was a surprise, although not unexpected, and you were with us through the year with food, prayers and presence. We stand stronger through these hard times now knowing you are with us still. It has truly been a holy experience.

With love and grateful hearts,
Jennifer, Bonnie, Nathan & Robbie

YOUTH GROUPS

Dear friends,

May God bless you all during this thanksgiving season! The youth will not meet this Sunday evening but will meet on December 6th to decorate the tree!

Blessings,
Sarah

SCRATCH/YOUNG ADULTS

POTLUCK BRUNCH

Saturday, December 5
10:00-11:00 A.M.

at the home of

Carlo and Emily Durham Diy

Please respond to the EVITE

CHRISTMAS CARDS PROJECT

Young adults are invited to **Andy and Cherrie Henry's** home (1407 Arbor St) on **Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** to make Christmas cards for death row inmates.

PRIMETIMERS

COVERED DISH SUPPER

Friday, December 11
7:00 P.M. at the home of
Rod and Barbara Gerwe

Please respond to the EVITE

FIRST FRIENDS

ADVENT POTLUCK GATHERING

Saturday, December 12
6:00 P.M. at the home of

Melinda Ruley and Stewart Fisher

This is an "Adults only" gathering!
Please respond to the EVITE

DAYTIMERS

CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 16
12 noon at Croasdaile Village
in the Dining Hall

Arrangements by **Ruth Roberson**
RSVP to the church (919-682-5511)
by Sunday, December 13
if you plan to attend!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign up as a customer service assistant or equipment repairer at HELP, the new **Health Equipment Loan Program** opening in January 2016. Greet customers and assist with filling out forms so they can borrow a piece of durable medical equipment, e.g. a walker, wheelchair, or crutch, at no cost for up to three months with renewal if necessary OR be an equipment repairer by checking donated equipment for missing parts and safety and sanitizing with an industry-recognized antibacterial. Eight hours/month is the requirement for either job. Volunteer training will be on Monday, January 11 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Location to be announced. To reserve your space, contact **Anne Drennan**, volunteer coordinator, at 919-489-2942 or adrennan@projectaccessdurham.org.

DON'T FORGET TO
TURN IN YOUR PLEDGE FORM!

CELEBRATING ADVENT

Candles and candle holders for celebrating Advent in your home will **only** be available following worship this Sunday, November 29.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 6

Activities and craft-making during Sunday School for the children and youth.

Local non-profits will be available following worship for an opportunity for alternative gift-giving.

Refreshments provided. All are welcome!

COOKIE EXCHANGE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

FPC families with young children are invited to bring cookies to share, exchange, and to put in blessing bags for our downtown neighbors. Bring a few dozen Christmas cookies and meet in Watts-Hill Hall on **Saturday, December 12 from 10:30 – noon.** RSVP to **Chris Brown** by email: jamesbro@gmail.com if you will participate.

ADVENT TABLEAUX FOR CHILDREN

At the request of parents, this year's Advent Tableaux will take place on **Sunday, December 20 at 11 a.m.** This will allow more families who travel over Christmas to participate. We will meet in the sanctuary that day during Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. to distribute costumes and to practice the processional. The children's part in the service is at the very beginning, after which they can either sit with parents, or go to the nursery. Children who want to keep their costumes for Christmas Eve are welcome to wear them on December 24 for a shorter time with children during that service. We hope these **two events** will include more children, and make both services shorter and more amenable to children's schedules. Families are also invited to **bring cupcakes** to celebrate Baby Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve.

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Sunday, December 20

4:00 p.m. - St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1200 West Cornwallis, Durham

Join **Lesley Curtis**, soprano and **Deborah Coclans**, piano, for a program of Christmas musical offerings and poetry. The program will feature Morten Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium", poems by Dorothy Parker and Langston Hughes, and Christmas hymns.

ATTENTION ALL INTERESTED

BASKETBALL PLAYERS

FPC will again be competing this winter in the Hope Valley Baptist Church men's basketball league, and we hope to reclaim the championship! We will likely have two teams again this year. If you are interested in playing or learning more, come to an organizational meeting follow the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 20. If you have questions, contact **Carl Rist** (rist@frontier.com or 919-688-5969).