

First Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2015



Organized 1871



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children who plan to participate in the Advent Tableaux during worship this Sunday will get their costumes and have practice at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

11:00 A.M.

WORSHIP AND ADVENT TABLEAUX

Sam R. Miglarese, preaching

Worship Text:

Old Testament	Micah 5:3-5a
Gospel Lesson	Luke 1:39-55

Crucifer: **Kennedy Wilkins**

Acolytes: **Robbie Creadick,**
Frances Zehmer

Crossdaile Driver: **Miriam Morey**

Narthex Greeters: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters:

Caroline Rourk (rear/narthex)

Alice Raney (side/font)

Head usher: **Jeanne Hervey**

Brianna Honea, Karen Swope,

Jennie Zehmer, Al Arrowood,

Barbara Fish

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Faith and Community Class –
“What Time Is It?”**

Robert Brawley will continue to enlighten us concerning Luke’s birth narrative in the ways it is unique and in the ways it borrows from other Gospel writings. Join us in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class

The good news of Christmas is that God chose to come to us in human form. Blessed are those who believe that there was, and will be, a fulfillment of what was spoken by the Lord. Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

Journeys will continue an exploration of the wisdom literature by reading and discussing Proverbs and Song of Solomon. All are welcome to join us at 9:45, CE building, second floor, classroom end of hall.

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.

The **Scratch / Young Adults** and **Scripture Readers** classes **are not meeting** for the remainder of 2015. You are invited to join another class.

ADVENT COMMUNION

Wednesday, December 16

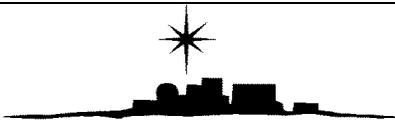
Meditation by **Mary Dance Berry**

This Wednesday, December 16 will be the last opportunity to gather on the Main Street steps for candlelight caroling.

Caroling begins at 5:45 p.m. followed by a procession of light into the sanctuary at 6:00 for worship. A light supper will be provided at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall. All are welcome. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal.

CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

LAST CALL to share Christmas greetings with friends in the FPC family by making a donation to Christmas Concerns. Proceeds will be allocated to Durham’s Emergency Energy Fund and to the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham. To participate in Christmas Concerns, write a check to FPC earmarked “Christmas Concerns” and put it in the offering plate. Then write greetings on one of the ornaments provided and place them on the Giving Tree in the church foyer. Next week’s church newsletter will list the names of those who participated in Christmas Concerns.



CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

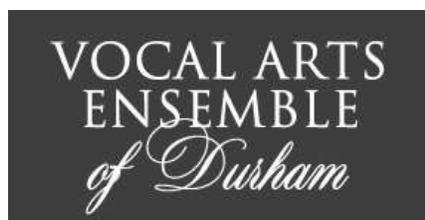
10:00 a.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

A live stream broadcast of King’s College Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

5:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

All are welcome. Children are invited to wear their Advent Tableaux costumes in worship and turn the costumes in following the service. Childcare is available for young children. Our Christmas Eve offering will benefit Welcome Baby of Durham and PC(USA)’s Refugee Resettlement Assistance.



Carols and choral music for the season
Rodney Wynkoop, conductor

Friday, December 18

8:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary
Free Admission. The public is invited!

FROM THE

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Longing for a Savior
As **Marilyn** has noted, we hear from the prophets, Mary, and John, and others their testimonies of hope during the season of Advent. The names and places and cultures change but the longing for a Savior is felt as deeply by us as by our Jewish ancestors. We see around us the awful realities of famine, terrorism, and infectious disease, violence in our homes and on our streets. From the depths of our troubled hearts we cry out with the psalmist, why, O Lord, why? We yearn for a Messiah to save us from so much that is wrong with us and with our world.

The prophet Micah knew that from us would come “one who is to rule in Israel.” The saving God, for whom we long must first be born in our hearts if ever we are to see a world transformed. Advent is a time of anticipation, just as much as it is a time of longing, for we know that the prophet’s hopes have been fulfilled in the birth of Christ. We do not act as if, nor pretend, that Christ has not been born in Bethlehem of Ephrathah. Rather, we connect to the ancient testimonies for the Messiah’s birth so that our hearts today can be more open to his presence now in our midst.

This Advent let us all join together asking God to come into the broken places of our world so that peace and justice may flourish and those who suffer may be healed and comforted.

Sam

NOTES

- Many thanks to all who signed the cards of support on Sunday that will go to four area masjids to affirm our Muslim neighbors. **Sue Fricks** designed the cards which were a work of artistry and beauty. A copy of the accompanying letter is on the table in the elevator lobby.
- Kudos to our hosts this weekend: **Barbara and Rod Gerwe**, who hosted the Primetimers; and **Melinda Ruley and Stuart Fisher**, who hosted the First Friends. Both events were very well attended.
- The families with young children met on Saturday to make cards and bags of Christmas cookies for our neighbors who come to the door hungry. Many thanks to **Chris and Meredith Brown** for organizing the event.
- **Lessons and Carols** on Sunday was majestic. All the hard work of the choir was evident in the joyful noise. Thanks to **Kathy Parkins** and **Tom Warburton** for their brilliant leadership.
- The **Congregational Potluck and Carols Sing** on Sunday was wonderful. Many thanks to **Abi Bissette** and the Fellowship Committee for their leadership.

MUSIC AND POETRY

Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 p.m.

**St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
1200 West Cornwallis, Durham**

Join **Lesley Curtis**, soprano and **Deborah Coclanis**, piano, for 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.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Pam Peters, cousin of Sue Fricks

Jinhwa Jeong (Kim),
a patient at UNC Hospital

Jean Cary **Mary Clark**
Creadick Family **Paul Cornsweet**
Sarah & Pete Finbow **Dewey Lawson**
Aurelia Klinck **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 Neal Wilkins
- **Russell & Peggy Cockerell**, great uncle and aunt of Abi Bisette
- **Roger Durham**, father of Emily Durham
- **Dorothy Harward**, neighbor of Neal and Emily Wilkins
- **Helene Johnson**, mother of Jim Johnson
- **Sara Jones**, friend of Chuck & Jean Wilson
- **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**, father of Amy Dillon
- **Anne Turlington**, aunt of Jack Kost
- **Judy and Chris Wood**, mother and stepfather of Sharon Hirsch

FPC BASKETBALL

If you are interested in playing on one of FPC's teams or learning more about church league play, come to an organizational meeting following the worship service on **Sunday, December 20**. If you have questions, contact **Carl Rist** (rist@frontier.com or 919-688-5969).

YEAR-END GIVING

Timely payment of pledges by December 31 will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2015. **Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Wednesday, December 30, 2015, or postmarked by December 31, 2015, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2015 taxes.** If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible.

YOUTH GROUPS

Dear friends,

The youth will have their annual Christmas party this Sunday night! It is sure to be a lot of fun! This year, in addition to our white elephant gift exchange, we will also have an ugly Christmas apparel contest! Youth should bring a wrapped gift \$5 or under and wear their "ugly" or "tacky" Christmas clothes! It promises to be a night of great fellowship leading into Christmas week! Truly, the laughter shared each year is a great gift to me!

Blessings,

Sarah

DAYTIMERS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 17
at Croasdaile Village
The Commons Dining Hall
Gather at **11:30 a.m.** - Cost: **\$12.00**
Arrangements by **Ruth Roberson**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

No Sunday School
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
No Children's Choir rehearsal
No Youth Handbells rehearsal
No evening Youth Groups

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Dinner followed by a
Community Worship at 6:45 p.m.
at Iglesia Emanuel (2504 N. Roxboro St.)
Participating congregations:
Iglesia Emanuel, Covenant Presbyterian,
Durham Presbyterian and First Presbyterian
Meditation by **Jennie Wilburn Belle**

SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS

PLANNING RETREAT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

following worship
(Lunch will be provided. Please confirm via EVITE that you will be attending. Remember to bring your calendars.)

COMPASSION SUNDAY

*"Do something radically
compassionate for someone"*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Commissioning during worship
More details forthcoming!
Sponsored by the FPC Deacons

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Church office will be **closed**
Friday, December 25 and Monday,
December 28 for the Christmas holiday,
and **Thursday, December 31** and
Friday, January 1 for the New Year
holiday.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The FPC Centennial Celebration is a year-long series of events during 2016 to commemorate our having worshipped in our current sanctuary and enjoyed beautiful music offered to the glory of God from our Austin organ for 100 years.

Save the Date!

Thursday, January 14, 2016
Centennial Celebration Kickoff
Fellowship Dinner
6:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall
More details forthcoming!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

MANY PEOPLE, ONE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:12

As of December 14, 2015, **159 pledges** have been received totaling **\$716,217.82** which represents **85.68%** of our 2016 goal of \$835,885. Those of you who have not responded will be contacted by a member of the Stewardship Committee to make sure you received your pledge materials and to field any questions you may have.

To the Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thanks so much for all the beautiful scarves that were contributed to individuals served by Meals on Wheels. I was just overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and the number of scarves that were given. The folks at Meals on Wheels were very appreciative. Thanks for making a difference for others in the Durham community this Christmas.



Peace,
Jane Williams

P.S. from **Barbara Fish** - Jane tells me that she collected about 30 scarves from our group, an amazing accomplishment at this busy time of year!

☪☪☪

Dear Friends of IITS,

Thank you so much for helping with the blanket and coat drive for the Syrian Refugees in Turkey. On Sunday December 6, with the help of volunteers, we packed all the blankets and coats in a 24 foot truck and shipped to ATFA in Fairfax, VA. The donations will be transported to Turkey by Embrace Relief. This year's drive was a great success. We collected 1,681 blankets and 2,384 coats. Thank you so much for all the help.
-The Institute of Islamic & Turkish Studies

Presbyterian Heritage Tour

SCOTLAND

September 6-17, 2016

led by **Carlisle Harvard & Joe Harvard**
We will visit historical sites and churches, meet local pastors and congregations, and attend educational lectures at the University of Edinburgh's New College.

For more information call
Carlisle Harvard at 919-812 2632.

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