

First Presbyterian Church

December 30, 2014



A Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me . . .
A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;
A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart;
A sense of humor;
Time for quiet, silent meditation;
A feeling of the presence of God;
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
with the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen. (anonymous)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

Second Sunday after Christmas

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Centered in God's Love"

Mark E. Diehl, preaching

Worship Texts

Psalm Lesson	Psalm 147:12-20
Epistle Lesson	Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel Lesson	John 1:1-9, 10-18

Acolytes: **Megan Champion,**
Gwen Dilworth

Crucifer: **Sydney Curtis**

Croasdaile Driver: **to be determined**

Narthex Greeters: **Edward & Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

Marcia Lorimer (rear/narthex)

Will McDow (side/font)

Ushers: **Lyn Williams** (head), **Jeanne**

Hervey, Mary-Jo Keenan, Talitha Kwon,

Leslie McDow, Miriam Morey

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith and Community Class "Calling All Crèches"

Before you put your Christmas crèches away, bring them to church to display and discuss during the Faith and Community Class at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall. If you have crèches from foreign countries, or unusual crèches which you would be willing to share with the congregation, please bring them with you to Watts-Hill Hall. We will leave them up after worship, so that everyone will have an opportunity to see them. **Delia Kwon** will also give a sneak preview of up-coming sessions around the Belhar Confession.

Lectionary Class

The mystery has now been revealed. Light has broken through the thick darkness, and wise men have come to see the light. Do we see the presence of the Lord as clearly as they did? Do we act on that experience as boldly as they did? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys Class

We will resume our discussion of the book of 1 Thessalonians. Reading is not necessary to join the discussion. Class meets at 9:45 on the second floor of the education building, room at end of hall.

Scratch Class

We will not meet this Sunday. Please feel free to join a discussion in another class.

Family Matters

This Sunday, our topic is "Epiphany" (*Seamless Faith*, chapter 2, p. 32). Join us for discussion at 9:45 on the second floor of the education building, across from the Resource Room.

Spiritual Formation Class (for women)

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

JOINT EPIPHANY SERVICE

You are invited to attend an Epiphany Service of Celebration and Discernment co-hosted by Covenant Presbyterian, Durham Community Church, FPC and Iglesia Emanuel on **Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. at Iglesia Emanuel**, located at 2504 N. Roxboro Street. A light dinner of pozole (soup and tacos) with Three Kings Cake (you must find the baby Jesus) will be served beforehand at 6:30. The service will include songs and prayers seeking discernment (epiphanies) in light of the unrest and dissatisfaction with issues of policing and crime prevention in our country. All are invited to participate.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Many thanks to all of you who sent in your pledges in the past week to help us get even closer to reaching our 2015 stewardship goal of \$828,215. We have now received **186** pledges totaling **\$781,081**, which puts us at **94%** of our goal. For those of you who have not yet responded please send in your pledge form or go to the church website and fill it out online. As I Timothy 6:18-19 reminds us, "Do good, be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that the faithful may take hold of the life that really is the life."

CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday at 9:45 to practice our Litany of Affirmation for the service on January 11th. We will write expressions of thanksgiving to the congregation, and talk about plans for the upcoming semester. Mentors will be included in the January 11th service, and are welcome this Sunday.

PAGEANT KUDOS

THANK YOU for a beautiful Christmas Eve pageant! The readers were superb, as were all of the angels, shepherds, animals and wise people. FPC needs your costumes back, so we can do it again next year. **Please return your costumes THIS SUNDAY to the box in the church foyer, so they can be cleaned and pressed for the next performance.**

CONGRATULATIONS to Julio

Ramirez-Eve who celebrated his 10th anniversary with Iglesia Emanuel Hispanic Fellowship on this past Sunday.

FROM THE

INTERIM PASTOR

As this note goes out, it is the sixth day of Christmas, and the next-to-the-last day of 2014. The celebration of Advent and Christmas has been a beautiful one at FPC with: glorious music, meaningful liturgy, stirring messages, glowing candlelight, the expectant eyes of children, fellowship gatherings, and the sharing of burdens with those in need. Thank you for making all this possible through your generosity, your vision and involvement, your time and leadership, your encouragement and support of staff.

Much has been accomplished in 2014 as the interim process has helped FPC examine its past, refined the congregation's vision for future ministry opportunities and directions, and elected a Pastor Nominating Committee to seek a new head of staff for a new era. 2015 is poised to be an exciting time as past and future merge into a present kairos moment full of meaning and purpose.

One piece remains to be completed for 2014 that impacts our 2015: stewardship is nearing successful completion with only a few pledges outstanding, and getting those in will bring us to full funding for the 2015 budget year. Please complete those commitments as soon as possible. And one thing more, if you haven't done so, would you consider including FPC in your will as you take care of your year end and year beginning financial obligations?

Some closing and beginning words for 2014 and 2015 from Dr. Howard Thurman:

*When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christ's coming begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among all
To make music in the heart.*

Grace and peace,

Mark

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on **Thursday and Friday, January 1-2** in observance of the New Year's holiday.

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Ann Prospero, in rehab at the Brian Center
BJ Seitzer, recovering at home
Vic Moore, friend of Tom & Margaret Keller
Families in Indonesia whose loved ones were lost in the Asia Air plane tragedy.

Nowell Creadick **Edward Kwon**
Jacque Robins

Carolina House (Durham): Julian Boswell

Clare Bridge (Chapel Hill): Helen Garrison

Croasdaile 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

- **Dorothy Anderson**, grandmother of Laura Kelley
- **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
- **Roger Edmund-Adcock**, father of Catherine Admay
- **Gera Fleming**, mother of Christyn Klinck
- **Brad Holbrook**, father of Kerry Holbrook
- **Lawson Family**, Arlington, VA
- **Louise Miglarese**, mother of Sam Miglarese
- **Gladys Njenga**, friend of Mercy Ndambiri
- **Hannah Joy Richards**, grandniece of Chuck and Jean Wilson
- **Gerald Thomas**, Betsy Robinson's father

THESE DAYS

Remember to pick up a copy of *These Days* devotional booklet (January – March 2015) on your next visit to the church. Large and regular print copies available, while supplies last.

TIME OUT RADIO SHOW

Bill Hendrickson will interview **Connel Fullenkamp** on **Monday, January 5 at 5:00 p.m.** on his "Time Out" radio show. Connel will discuss international economics through his eyes and through the International Monetary Fund. Listen to the discussion locally on WCOM, station 103.5 FM, and elsewhere on the web: wcomfm.org.

REHEARSALS BEGIN!

🎵 **Children's Choir Rehearsal** 🎵
Sunday, January 4 after worship

🎵 **Youth Bells Rehearsal** 🎵
Sunday, January 4 after worship

🎵 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** 🎵
Wednesday, January 7 at 7 p.m.

🎵 **Bell Choir Rehearsal** 🎵
Monday, January 12 at 5 p.m.

YOUTH NEWS

Dear Friends,

I pray that you have had a blessed Christmas and that the new year is one that brings the hope and joy of Christ! The youth will start off the year serving those in our community through Project Linus! We will meet at our regular times (Middle Schoolers 5:00 - 6:30; High Schoolers 6:00 - 8:00) with **5th graders** invited to join the Middle Schoolers on **THIS SUNDAY, January 4!**

Sarah

NEW BOOK STUDY FOR WINTER

Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the CULTURE OF NOW, by Walter Brueggemann, is our study this winter. Brueggemann addresses our 24/7 society of consumption in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform and possess. He shows readers how keeping Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important, offering world-weary (and Christmas-weary) Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life. Classes will be held at the church on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. – noon, January 9 - February 13, and at Croasdaile Village/Heritage Hall activities room on Sundays from 3 - 4:30 p.m., January 11-February 15. Books are \$10, and may be purchased from **Marilyn Hedgpeth**. All are welcome!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle and Bible Study
Monday, January 5
10:30 a.m. in the East Parlor



"Winter Concert"

Sunday, January 18

3:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary

Fend off the winter blues with Vox Virorum as they present a wintry mix of classic and exciting men's choral selections.

Free admission for FPC members.

Others: \$10 suggested donation.

For more info on Vox Virorum, go to: <http://www.trianglesings.org/vox-virorum-mens-chorus-2/>.

BOOK GROUP

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will discuss *Alex & Me* by Irene Pepper Berg on **Tuesday, January 13 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 home. **Dale Gaddis** will lead the discussion. New faces welcome.

CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

The **Bethune Family** (Alec, Rachel, Colin and Juliet) and the entire **Hirsch Family** (Sharon, Steve, Matt and Katie) participated in Christmas Concerns and send greetings to the congregation.

SCRATCH WINTER RETREAT Sunday, January 11

Join us after worship until about 3:00 p.m. at the church. We'll make our plans for 2015. Lunch will be provided!

SAVE THESE DATES

After-Christmas Stretch

Free yoga class led by **Brianna Honea**
Wednesday, January 14
6:15 p.m. in Watts Hill Hall



Avila Women's Winter Retreat "Sabbath Rest"

January 30-31

Friday, 6 p.m. – Saturday, 3 p.m.

\$50 registration fee

Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** to register
Yoga at 7:30 p.m. with **Brianna Honea**



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 on-line in early January



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 on-line in early January

Dear Rev. Diehl,

We want to thank you and the Service and Mission Committee so much for First Presbyterian's \$2,000 Human Needs Grant to Senior PharmAssist. This generous gift is being put to immediate use to add years to life and life to years for Durham seniors. Most of this generous gift will also be matched by the Steward's Fund. Thanks so much for your commitment to Durham seniors. With gratitude,

Gina Upchurch and **Joe Daly**



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for your generous contribution of \$2,000 to Meals on Wheels of Durham. The support you have shown not only helps us to provide nutritious meals but also enables us to provide important human contact to homebound seniors. Thank you for your support of our program, and your involvement in Durham.

Sincerely,

Gale Singer Adland

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