

First Presbyterian Church

December 8, 2015



Organized 1871



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The **PCUSA Joy Gift Offering** will be received during worship. This special offering supports financial programs of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please give generously!

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND CAROLS SING-ALONG

Everyone is invited back to the annual Christmas potluck and carols sing which begins at 5:30 p.m. Families are asked to bring their favorite seasonal dish (vegetable, casserole, or dessert). We will enjoy a fellowship meal in Watts-Hill Hall. After we eat, everyone is invited to gather around the Chrisom tree to sing carols. If you play a musical instrument, bring it (and music stand) to play along with the improvised orchestra. If you will need sheet music for your instrument, please contact **Kathy Parkins** as soon as possible.

Crucifer: **Caleb Conner**
Acolytes: **Aurelia Klinck, Grace Abels**
Croasdaile Driver: **Miriam Morey**
Narthex Greeters: **Maxie Honeycutt**
Carol McKnight

After Worship Greeters:

Jerry Postema (rear/narthex)

Joseph Ngumi (side/font)

Ushers: **Jo Bernhardt** (head), **Paul Cornsweet** (no flower delivery), **Lucie House, Jackie Mbah, Emily Wilkins, Jane Williams**

CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

During Advent, 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 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.



Cookie exchange

Saturday, December 12

10:30 A.M. – 12 noon in Watts-Hill Hall
Families with young children are invited to bring cookies to share, exchange, and put in blessing bags for our neighbors. Email **Chris Brown** at jamesbro@gmail.com if you will be participating.

ADVENT MIDWEEK COMMUNION

Wednesday, December 9

Meditation by **Alex Stayer Brewington**

Wednesday, December 16

Meditation by **Mary Dance Berry**

All are welcome to gather on the Main Street steps for candlelight caroling at 5:45 p.m. followed by a procession of light into the sanctuary. Worship with Communion begins at 6:00 in the sanctuary. 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.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come hear the story of the birth of Jesus. This story is central to our experience of Christmas.

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

Is it good news or bad news that God is coming soon? According to John the Baptist, that depends on whether you are wheat or chaff. 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.

SCRATCH/Young Adults Class

We will meet this week to talk about plans for future classes. **Carlo Diy** will lead the discussion. The class will take a recess December 20 - January 3 and start back on January 10th. Those who wish to attend Sunday School during the recess period are encouraged to attend one of the other adult classes.

Scripture Readers' Class

Class has ended for 2015. Watch for an announcement about class offerings in 2016.

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.

ADVENT TABLEAUX

This year's "pageant" will take place on **Sunday, December 20 at 11 a.m.**, allowing families who travel over Christmas to participate. **Children who want to participate should meet Marilyn in the sanctuary on December 20 at 10:00 a.m. to distribute costumes and to practice the procession.** 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.

FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

This Sunday, we will observe the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, which is derived from the service that is held on Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge (England). In word and song, we will proclaim the good news that Christ is with us now, born truly human and truly divine.

We remember that we not only sing here, at the corner of Roxboro and Main, but with "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven" who at all times and in all places forever sing to the Glory of God. Here is a brief prayer of thanksgiving for this privilege:

We give you thanks, O God, for all who made music before us, playing and singing in holiness. We thank you for David, the king, and Miriam, the prophet and Zechariah and Mary, whose Magnificat echoes through the ages on the lips of those you liberate from bondage. We thank you for our mothers and fathers, the first to sing to us, for music teachers to guide us, for organists to accompany us, for instrumentalists to delight us, and for choirs to encourage us. May we sing together always til the final trumpet sounds!

Kathy Parkins

NOTES

- Many thanks to **Emily Durham** and the CE Committee for the wonderful Advent Festival and Alternative Giving Fair on Sunday. **Katharine Whitmore** did a splendid job, once again, of planning activities and crafts for all to enjoy. And we had a great turn out from our non-profit friends in the community, who extend the work that we want to do for our neighbors. Thanks to everyone who provided food, to the youth who accompanied the children, and to those who made alternatives to consumerism a part of our Christmas experience.
- The **Scratch group** enjoyed a wonderful holiday brunch at the home of **Carlo Diy and Emily Durham** on Saturday. Thanks to all of the cooks and attendees!
- With sadness, we say farewell to our student intern, **Alex Stayer Brewington**, who will be moving on to work as stated supply minister at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Mebane, NC. Alex is a third year divinity student at Duke, and is working towards ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. We are grateful for all he has done for the Scratch group, especially, and pray for all good things to come his way (and **Caroline's** too), as he continues his faith journey.
- Sign a **Peace Card** this Sunday after worship to send to our local Muslim communities during this time of unrest and discrimination. Let them know that they have Presbyterian friends in the community who welcome them and their families in peace. Cards will be in the foyer for you to sign.

OUR CONCERNS

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to **Lyn Francisco and family** on the death of Lyn's grandmother, **Potenciana Francisco**, who died on December 7th at the age of 102 in Los Angeles, CA.

Added this week:

Aurelia Klinck,

recovering from foot surgery

Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost

Sara Jones, friend of Chuck & Jean Wilson

Traveling mercies for **Susan Dunlap** who

is with Duke Divinity School in El Salvador

this week teaching lay pastors

Jinhwa Jeong (Kim),

a patient at UNC Hospital

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 Neal Wilkins

• **Russell & Peggy Cockerell**, great uncle and aunt of Abi Bissette

• **Roger Durham**, father of Emily Durham

• **Dorothy Harward**, neighbor of Neal and Emily Wilkins

• **Helene Johnson**, mother of Jim Johnson

• **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

• **Judy and Chris Wood**, mother and stepfather of Sharon Hirsch

CHURCH LEAGUE

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).

MUSIC AND POETRY

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Sunday, December 20

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

Join **Lesley Curtis**, soprano and

Deborah Coclanis, 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.

YOUTH GROUPS

Dear friends,

The youth had a great time decorating the church Christmas tree using the beautiful Chrismons that the Women of the Church made by hand in years past. We also started creating "ugly Christmas" apparel that will be part of a fun competition at our Christmas party on December 20th. The youth are looking forward to the congregational potluck and carols this week.

Thank you to all who have signed up to help with youth meals and gatherings while I am away! If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know!

Advent Blessings,

Sarah

PRIMETIMERS

COVERED DISH SUPPER

Friday, December 11

7:00 P.M. at the home of

Rod and Barbara Gerwe

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!

DAYTIMERS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

*** **DATE CHANGE** ***

Thursday, December 17

at Croasdaile Village

in the Commons Dining Hall

Gather at **11:30 a.m.** - Cost: **\$12.00**

Arrangements by **Ruth Roberson**

RSVP to the church (919-682-5511)

by Sunday, December 13

if you plan to attend!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24

A live stream of King's College

Lessons and Carols

10:00 a.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
with Holy Communion

5:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

All are welcome. Children are invited to wear costumes and turn them 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**.

VOCAL ARTS
ENSEMBLE
of Durham

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

(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!

The **Pastor Nominating Committee** has provided an update. See the separate document included with this week's mailing!



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.

COMMEMORATIVE TILES

The FPC Commemorative tiles were such a success that we are offering them again this Sunday after worship. Pre-ordered tiles will be available for pick up as well. The tiles are beautifully crafted by local artist Elise Atkins, at a cost of \$10 each. Proceeds are going to the Youth Group. The tiles will make a perfect gift for yourself or someone else.

Save the Date!

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

THE FOREST AT DUKE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 13, 2 p.m.
Steve Rimmer will officiate and **Phyllis Supple** will accompany as pianist

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

MANY PEOPLE, ONE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:12

PLEDGES UPDATE

As of December 4, 2015, 146 pledges have been received totaling **\$680,252.82** which represents **82%** 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.

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.**

Sunday, January 17

COMPASSION SUNDAY

Sponsored by the FPC Deacons

"Do something radically
compassionate for someone"

Commissioning during worship



Thanks to **Sam Miglarese** and FPC, I will walk across NCCU's stage this December. I'm very grateful for the tuition assistance. Thank you,

Yolanda Smith