

# First Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2015



Organized 1871



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

9:45 A.M.

**Advent Festival for children and youth**  
(during Sunday School in Watts-Hill Hall)  
**11:00 A.M.**

### Worship and Holy Communion

Advent wreath candle lighting  
and seasonal music during worship  
After worship, come to the Alternative  
Giving Fair in Watts-Hill Hall  
Sermon: "Prepare Ye"

**Marilyn T. Hedgpeth**, preaching

#### Worship Texts

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Old Testament | Malachi 3:1-4       |
| Gospel Lesson | Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6 |

Crucifer: **Nathan Creadick**

Acolytes: **Ana Profeta, Laura McDow**

Crossaile Driver: **Miriam Morey**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters:

**Miriam Morey** (rear/narthex)

**Kristin Meade** (side/font)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head),

**Lucie House** (no flower delivery),

**Tim Strauman, Keith Merritt, Carl Rist,**

**Susan Seahorn**

Communion Elders:

**Miriam Morey** (head/replenish elements),

**Wes Carson** (Bread 1/process), **Will**

**McDow** (Bread 2), **Michael Schultz**

(Bread 3), **Barbara Gerwe** (Bread 4), **Eric**

**Wiebe** (Cup 1), **Talitha Kwon** (Cup

2/process), **Aurelia Klinck** (Cup 3), **Jerry**

**Postema** (Cup 4), **Bob Breitweiser**

(Shepherd pulpit), **Laura Hanson**

(Shepherd center), **Marie Sappenfield**

(Shepherd font)

## THE ADVENT FESTIVAL / ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

Children will make crafts during the Sunday School hour, and others can participate following worship, with holiday snacks provided. Community friends will join us from *Genesis Home, Café Justo, Housing for New Hope, Our Children's Place, FPC Prayer Shawl Ministry, Human Kindness Foundation, Threshold, Urban Ministries, Wheels4Hope, Habitat for Humanity, Student Farm Workers, Donate Life, Community Nutrition Partnership, and Welcome Baby*. Remember to bring your checkbook!

## 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 the Giving Tree on display in the church foyer.

**THANK YOU!**  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
**THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to those who brought the 40 blankets, at the request of the Institute of Islamic Studies in Cary, to benefit Syrian refugees in Turkey. Many refugees are camped out on the highway medians in Turkey, and with the coming winter, they will need more layers to keep warm. Thank you for caring and sharing.

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear friends,

Happy new year! Happy beginning of the Church's new liturgical year, which begins with Advent, a time of preparing our hearts for the incarnation of God's love in Jesus, the Messiah.

A funny thing happened in the old year that I don't want us to overlook. During this year's Stewardship Season, several of our members stood before us and professed how God had met them smack in the middle of their lives. **Kate Busa, Carlo Diy, and Delia Kwon** told their stories from the lectern; **Grace Abels, Kennedy Wilkins, and Carter Momsen-Hudson** told their stories from the pulpit on Youth Sunday. We call that "testimony" when we witness to the breaking presence of God in our ordinary lives. I'm thrilled that we have become more comfortable sharing our testimonies, and I hope to see that continue.

But now, during the season of Advent, we hear the ancient testimonies of people of faith from long ago: Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, a motley group of shepherds, and a scholarly group of Magi, who also experienced God breaking into their ordinary lives.

God is with us . . . still. Keep testifying, please.

Peace,

*Marilyn*

## STEWARDSHIP

### MANY PEOPLE, ONE BODY

*1 Corinthians 12:12*

The warmth of last week's Thanksgiving celebration makes me even more grateful for the presence of FPC. I spent Thanksgiving weekend in Montreat with my daughters and family in the 100-year-old house my grandmother bought in the 1950's. My grandchildren are the 5<sup>th</sup> generation to soak up the peace of the mountains there. From the top of Lookout, I noted the connection between FPC and the vibe of Montreat.

I am humbled at the fruits of the vision of so many from 100 years ago who founded a respite for spiritual renewal in the Mountain Retreat (now Montreat). We give our FPC youth, the college students at Montreat College, and many generations this gift when we support our church here in Durham.

We are so close to our goal for the 2016 pledging. Please continue to pray for our ministry and support it with your financial commitment. Many thanks from the Stewardship Committee and all who have been part of this pledge drive.

- **Celia Dickerson**, Chair

## PLEDGES UPDATE

**As of November 30, 2015, 145 pledges** have been received totaling **\$680,222.82** which represents **81.38%** of our 2016 goal of \$835,885. Contact **Tom Bloom** in the church office if you have questions or need pledge materials: 919-682-5511 ext 216 or t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's time for the Advent Festival – arts, crafts, and snacks. Come to Watts-Hill Hall and join the fun at 9:45! Wear clothes that you won't mind getting dirty.

## 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. **The class will meet this week in the Wilson Parlor** since the Advent Festival is taking place in Watts-Hill Hall. All are welcome.

### Lectionary Class

When the Lord looked favorably on the people, who heard the word of God? The emperor in Rome? The Governor? The rulers or the high priests in Jerusalem? No, the word of God came to a strange man in the wilderness. Who will hear the word of God in our time? 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 Song of Solomon. All are welcome to join. 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.

### 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.

## OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations to **Katherine Higgins and John Brantly** on the birth of a daughter. **Sara Elizabeth Brantly** arrived November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to **Cecil and Mary Macaully** on the birth of a granddaughter. **Zuri Bangura** was born on November 21<sup>st</sup> to **Cynthia Macaully** and **Mohammed Bangura**.

Congratulations to **Brian Knowles** who will be commissioned a Lieutenant in the US Air Force on Friday, December 11 in Montgomery, Alabama. Brian is the son of **Sheila and Sam Miglarese**.

### Added this week:

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

**Jinhwa Jeong (Kim)**, a patient at UNC Hospital

**Jean Cary** **Mary Clark**  
**Creadick Family** **Paul Cornsweet**  
**Sarah & Pete Finbow** **Kerry Holbrook**  
**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 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

## CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

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 leaning more, come to an organizational meeting follow the worship service on Sunday, December 20. If you have questions, contact **Carl Rist** (rist@frontier.com or 919-688-5969).

## YOUTH GROUPS

Dear Friends,  
The Advent season is my favorite season of the church year! I look forward to all of the events that the church has planned and especially look forward to kicking off the season with the youth by decorating our tree this Sunday evening! If we have time we will also start decorating "Ugly Christmas" sweaters and t-shirts that will be completed at home and worn to our Christmas party on December 20th! Youth should make sure to bring a plain sweater, sweatshirt or t-shirt and we will have some decorations to start you off!

Advent Blessings,  
**Sarah**

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Circle and Bible Study

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7**  
10:30 a.m. in the East Parlor

## YOUNG ADULTS

### 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 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!

## ADVENT TABLEAUX FOR CHILDREN

This year's "pageant" will take place on **Sunday, December 20 at 11 a.m.**, allowing families who travel over Christmas to participate. **We will meet in the sanctuary on December 20 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 wear their costumes on Christmas Eve (for "A Time with Children" during that service) may keep their costumes to wear December 24th. Families are invited to **bring cupcakes on Christmas Eve** to celebrate Baby Jesus' birth.



## 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**

## FPC COMMEMORATIVE TILES

One of the items the Youth will be selling this year at the Alternative Giving Fair is First Presbyterian Church Commemorative Tiles, celebrating our upcoming Centennial Celebration in 2016. **The tiles are beautifully crafted by local artist Elise Atkins, at a cost of \$10 each. Proceeds will go to the Youth Group.** The tiles will make a perfect gift for yourself or someone else.

## WELCOMING REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS, AND OUR NEWEST NEIGHBORS

**Monday, December 7, 6 p.m.**  
St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
403 East Main Street, Durham

We will hold a brief service to pray for peace throughout the world and express our desire to welcome immigrants and refugees. Faith leaders from Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities will be present, as well as immigrants and refugees from many backgrounds, along with agencies and individuals who have been part of North Carolina for many years. Immediately following the service, we will break bread and celebrate the diversity of our beautiful community.

- **BRING a food dish to share from your culture and/or ancestry**
- **BRING a canned food donation to support the food pantry of Urban Ministries.**

Event supported by the NC Council of Churches and Church World Service.

## YEAR-END GIVING

Contributions statements are being mailed this week to all those who had pledge balances as of November 30. 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 the gift must be 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.