

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

305 East Main Street, Durham NC 27701

"Downtown by history and by choice"

## Newsletter

November 22, 2016



Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday! The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24-25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

### FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"! It certainly has been an amazing week in the life of First Presbyterian Church, for which we can thank God. I am so grateful to **Sarah Finbow** and the Youth who led a perfectly fabulous Youth Sunday service of great depth and integrity on Sunday. Weren't we all so proud of our Youth, who have "grown in wisdom, stature, and knowledge of God" right before our eyes? As **Almira Mbah** so appropriately stated in her Minute for Stewardship, it has been the collected effort of parents, Sunday School and Confirmation teachers, Christmas pageants leaders, mission trip chaperones, youth advisors, and those who have stepped in when babies were born, when parents were ill, or when grandparents died, that have shaped the faith of our Youth. It does take a village/community to raise a child. And that was amazingly displayed this past Sunday. Thank you all!

Lunch for the congregation, prepared by **Cris Rivera** and **Beth Stringfield**, was a thanksgiving feast! And the concert Sunday afternoon, the final event celebrating the 100th anniversary of our sanctuary and of the Austin organ, was a wonderful exhibit of the gifted and talented musicians in our church. **Kathy Parkins** made the room vibrate with music that reminded me of the timeless transcendence of the Almighty. And **Lesley Curtis, Joe and Mary Kay Robinson, and Ben Maxwell** were beautiful and gifted grace notes in celebrating the day. Thank you all for sharing your time and talents as an act of your stewardship. And kudos as well to **Caroline Rourk**, who chaired the Centennial

Celebration Committee and who tirelessly worked this year to embellish worship services and concerts with luncheons and receptions that gave us time to come together as community... and be thankful.

Happy Thanksgiving, all; travel safely. And I look forward to seeing you in Advent as we journey together and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

### Marilyn

#### Our Prayer Concerns

**Added this week: Doug Fisher**, a patient at Duke Regional Hospital

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**George and Jo Bernhardt**, recovering at home following out-patient surgery last week

**Joanne Harrar**, recovering at Croasdaile Village Pavilion (room 110)

Traveling mercies for **Mercy Ndambiri** who is in Kenya to care for her niece, **Elizabeth Chomba**.

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**Bob Kever**, receiving hospice care

**Sarah and Pete Finbow**

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): **Julian Boswell**

Brookdale (Farmington Rd) Chapel Hill: **Helen Garrison**

Croasdaile Village: **Jean Moore, Bob Rankin, Jerry Tyren**

Hillcrest: **Randall McLeod**

Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches**

**McPherson**

- **Mary Frances Fisher**, mother of Doug Fisher
- **Freda Rose Hamilton**, friend of the Walk-in Ministry
- **Ellie Johnson**, niece of Jim Johnson
- **Helene Johnson**, mother of Jim Johnson
- **Kit Little, mother-in-law of Hank Majestic**
- **Paul McCombs**, friend of the Walk-in Ministry
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
- **Sallie R.**, friend of Kerry Holbrook
- **Marcella Thompson and son Alex**, friends of the Walk-in Ministry
- **Desiré Volkwijn**, wife of Kay-Robert Volkwijn
- **Young girls who lost their mother and the aunt who will now care for them**, friends of the Williamson family



## Sunday, November 27, 2016

### First Sunday of Advent

**9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Confirmation Class**

**11:00 a.m. Worship**

The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received during worship. We have one more opportunity after Sunday to give! Please bring a generous offering to help with hunger relief. Thank you!

**Advent wreath materials** for celebrating Advent at home will be available in the foyer following worship.

Sermon: "*Habitually Ready*" - **Marilyn Hedgpeth**, preaching

#### Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture Lesson: **Isaiah 2:1-5**

Psalm Lesson: **Psalm 122**

Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 24:36-44**

#### Serving this Sunday

Acolytes: **Almira Mbah, Charlotte Maxwell**

Crucifer: **Juliana Miglarese**

Liturgist: **Jennie Alwood**

Croasdaile Drivers: **Paul Cornsweet, Dan Hudgins**

Narthex Greeters: **Linn Lopez, Elizabeth High**

After Worship Greeters: **Jane Williams** (Side/Font)

**Gray Wilson** (Rear/Narthex)

Ushers: **Chris Brown** (head), **Catherine Dumas, Chris Anglin, Dale Gaddis, Sharon Hirsch, Brianna Honea**

### Stewardship Season

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." - Luke 12:34



**Minute for Stewardship given by Almira Mbah during worship on Youth Sunday, November 20:**

Good morning,

... I have been a member of First Presbyterian Church now for almost 18 years. Throughout the many years here, First Presbyterian Church has given me some of the best opportunities and memories, some that I will never forget, but all I will forever be grateful for, like for instance:

1. My baptism
2. Being a part of the day school when I was younger
3. Attending Sunday school
4. Being confirmed in 2013
5. Being a part of this awesome youth program
6. Preaching for you all two years ago during our youth Sunday
7. Serving one year as a youth deacon
8. Currently serving as a youth elder

Not only has First Presbyterian Church given me these great opportunities, this church has been there for my family throughout the years whenever we needed assistance. After the birth of my sister, nine years ago, meals were brought to our home so food was never an issue. This church was there for us when my father was sick, and when my grandfathers passed away. The love and support we received was something I could never have asked for and is still appreciated to this day. First Presbyterian Church was there for my family, and will be there for you and yours as well.

In order for the younger generation of our church, and I mean younger than me, to have the same opportunities I was blessed to have, as well as the love and support I received, your pledges really do matter this stewardship season. I even pledged!!! Anything you are financially able to give is very appreciated.

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Thank you to everyone who has made a financial pledge for 2017. We are off to a good start! Pledges can be mailed in, dropped off, or made online via the church's webpage. If you have questions about the pledging process, please contact **Tom Bloom** in the church office: 919-682-5511 x 216 or [t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org).



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Classes for children (through 5th grade) are held on the second floor of the Christian Education building at 9:45. Middle and high school youth meet in their designated classrooms in the basement (below the sanctuary) at 9:45.**

**Faith & Community Class (Adults)** This Sunday we welcome **Jennie Belle** who will speak about her recent trip to Cuba with a delegation from the NC Council of Churches. The class meets at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall and all are welcome.

**Lectionary Class (Adults)** In Advent, we're waiting for ... what? Something is going to happen, but just what is it, exactly? Will it be a time of universal peace and understanding? Will it be a terrifying time of disruption and judgment? How can we prepare, when we don't know what to expect? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

**Journeys Class (Adults)** This Sunday, Journeys will discuss chapter 12, "Night Watch," of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. All are welcome to join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

**Scratch Class (Young Adults)** This Sunday we will meet with the Faith and Community Class at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall.

**Women's Spiritual Formation** This class is led by **Susan Dunlap** and meets in **basement classroom B-16**, at 9:45.

**Family Matters (for parents with young children)** This parent-led class is using *Searching for Happiness* as a guide for our study. Join us on the **second floor, CE building, room 209** at 9:45.

**Confirmation Class** Confirmands and mentors will gather upstairs in the education building to discuss "Keeping it Real: the Sacraments." We'll share highs and lows, break bread, and have some small table discussions this week. See you Sunday!

The **Scripture Reader's Class** will meet at 9:45 a.m. this Sunday in **room 205** of the CE Building during Sunday School. We will spend time preparing for the up-coming Lessons and Carols and the Advent Season. Please make every effort to be there. - **Steve Rimmer**

## Make Your Own Advent Wreath

Materials to make your own Advent wreath at home will be available this **Sunday, November 27**, following worship in the foyer. A ring (\$5) and four purple candles (\$5) can be purchased, and we will have Advent scripture bookmarks and Advent calendars available for family units to take home and use throughout the season. We hope this will help families develop a discipline of observing Advent at home, as well as at church.

## Children's Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant will take place during worship on **Sunday, December 18**. There will be a few speaking parts this time...and it is the animals who do the speaking. So, if your child would like to dress as an animal and learn a line or two (donkey, cow, mouse, rat, lamb, ram, chick), let me know, and I will try to incorporate them. We will give out costumes and practice on **Sunday, December 11** right after worship until 12:30 p.m., and on **Saturday, December 17** from 2 – 2:30 p.m. Anyone can be in the pageant! Adult helpers are always welcome and needed! Let Marilyn know if you are interested.



## QUILT EXHIBIT

The exhibit will run until the end of the year! Come by Watts-Hill Hall and see the lovely quilts made by members and friends of the congregation.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, November 29 at 11:30 a.m.**

**Bennett Pointe Grill - 4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham**

Hosted by **Maxie Honeycutt** and **Sydnor Patrick**

RSVP to **Maxie Honeycutt** at 919-286-4680 if you plan to join us.

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### SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH POTLUCK

**Saturday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m.**

Hosted by **Carlo and Emily Diy**

Please respond to the EVITE. Contact **Valerie** in the church office to be added to this fellowship group.

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### FIRST FRIENDS ADVENT POTLUCK (ADULTS ONLY)

**Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

Home of **Melinda Ruley and Stewart Fisher**

Please respond to the EVITE! Contact **Valerie** in the church office to be added to this fellowship group.

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### PRIMETIMERS' COVERED DISH SUPPER

**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, December 16**

Home of **Rod and Barbara Gerwe**

More details forthcoming!