

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

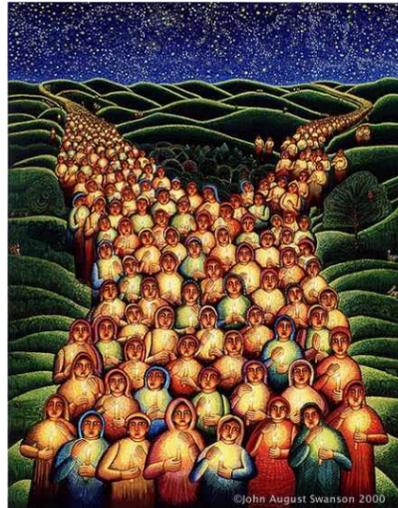
Newsletter

November 29, 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend and celebrated the beginning of Advent in worship and prayerful reflection. Advent is a gift to us at this time of year, you know. When the world around us is either caught up in the chaos of war, consumed by hatred for opposing factions, or wrapped in fear over what is or what will be; when those we love, or we ourselves, are lost in a deep personal grief, fighting an inner battle of addiction or lack of self-worth, or longing for love in whatever form it might take; when the hunger, poverty, abuse, and need around us seems so intense; when the stores and advertisements make it seem that all can be remedied by consumerism, Advent invites us to pause.



The book of Isaiah is my favorite place to live during Advent. In the reading from Sunday, the first Sunday in Advent, the prophet talks about the mountain of the Lord (Isaiah 2:1-5). It is the highest mountain, the holiest mountain, and the one the people long for. In fact, in the "days to come" people will stream to this mountain. They go to the mountain of the Lord so that God will teach them how to live and that they may walk in the paths of God, the light of the Lord. John August Swanson painted the image above, which has now also been turned into a serigraph. This image reminds me of this passage, with all the people streaming toward the mountain of peace and hope, bearing the light of God with them to the holy mountain.

During Advent, this passage and this image should give us hope – hope that all will be well and all will be well and all manner of things will be well. We live toward that hope. We work toward that future promise of peace. We walk in the light of the Lord.

Wherever you are on your journey, may this Advent bring you deep peace,

Mindy

Our Sympathies:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to:



Hank Majestic and family on the death of his mother-in-law, Kit McCoy Little. Mrs. Little died November 23 in Durham. A memorial service was held November 26 at FPC.

Dorothy Graham, upon the recent death of her sister-in-law, Carlene Kinlaw Burns, in Lumberton, NC.

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Added this week: Charlotte Klein, friend of Carol Carson

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Doug Fisher, has been discharged from Duke Regional Hospital

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

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Bob Keever, 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
Ellie Johnson, niece of Jim Johnson
Helene Johnson, mother of Jim Johnson
Paul McCombs, friend of the Walk-in Ministry
Margaret Pfeiler, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
Desiré Volkwijn, wife of Kay-Robert Volkwijn

Please keep the pastoral staff updated on the progress of your friends and loved ones. Thank you.



Sunday, December 4, 2016
Second Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School / No Confirmation Class

The Advent Festival will take place this Sunday! During the Sunday School hour, children and youth will engage in activities and craft-making. Following worship, older youth and adults will have the opportunity to participate.

An Alternative Gifts Fair will take place following worship. In addition to enjoying wassail and finger foods, members and friends will have the opportunity to support local non-profits and purchase handmade crafts, coffee, prayer shawls and more! Bring you checkbook!

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion
'Possible Impossibilities' - Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts:
Hebrew Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10
Epistle Lesson: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

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Serving this Sunday

- Acolytes: Henry Everett, Charlie Kelley
Crucifer: Sophie Wilkins
Liturgist: Amy Dillon
Croasdaile Drivers: Paul Cornsweet, Dan Hudgins
Narthex Greeter: Delia Kwon
After Worship Greeters: Al Arrowood (Side/Font), Dewey Lawson (Rear/Narthex)
Ushers: Mary-Jo Keenan (head), Jennie Alwood, Sigfried Fullenkamp, George Danser, Amy Sanchez, Mac McCorkle
Communion Elders:
Bread: Libby Gulley (B1,process), Phyllis Verhey (B2), Bob Breitweiser (B3), Carter Momsen-Hudson (B4)
Cup: Jerry Postema (C1), Caroline Rourk (C2, process), Kate Busa (C3), Will McDow (C4)
Shepherds: Almira Mbah (font aisle), Emily Diy (center aisle), Dewey Lawson (pulpit aisle)
Head elder/replenish elements: Jane Williams

## Stewardship Season

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

Thank you so much to the 130 families/individuals who have turned in their pledges for our 2017 budget year! As of Monday, November 28, we have received 130 pledges totaling \$601,783.70 towards our goal of \$913,175. We are well on our way!



If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card, please do so as soon as you are able so that we can finalize our mission spending for 2017. Every pledge counts. What a joy it would be to say that we had 100% participation from our members in the mission of this congregation to the city of Durham and beyond! Your gifts allow us to do so much. Thank you.

Lost your pledge card? No worries! You can pledge online at our website <http://firstpres-durham.org/stewardship-pledge/>, call Valerie at the church to have one mailed to you (919-682-5511) or email Tom Bloom with your pledge information ([t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org)). Thanks, again.

### ADVENT MIDWEEK CAROLING AND HOLY COMMUNION



Wednesday, November 30  
Meditation by Katherine Higgins

Wednesday, December 7  
Meditation by Chris Karnadi

Wednesday, December 14  
Meditation by Jennie Belle

All are welcome to gather on the Main Street steps for candlelight caroling at 5:45 p.m., followed by worship with Holy Communion at 6:00 in the sanctuary. Donations will be received to help with restoration from Hurricane Matthew in eastern NC. A light supper will be provided at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal. All are welcome.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL – December 4

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.

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### Faith & Community Class (Adults)

Faith and Community will not meet this week due to the Advent Festival, which will occupy Watts-Hill Hall. Members are invited to enter this inter-generational time and help children with Advent crafts during the Sunday School hour, or join one of the other adult classes: the Lectionary Class in the East Parlor, or the Scratch Class upstairs in the Education Building, or the Journeys Class in the basement classroom B-17.

### Lectionary Class (Adults)

There is news of one who is coming. One report says he will be a wise, righteous judge, bringing in a time of peace. Another report says he will be very powerful and will collect the wheat but burn the chaff. Should we welcome him or flee from his wrath? 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)

We continue our study of Laurie Winner's book, *Wearing God*, this week, reading pages 109-131 and discussing God as "Bread and Vine." Join us on the second floor of the **Christian Education building, room 205** at 9:45 a.m. New faces are always welcome.

### Women's Spiritual Formation

*Susan Dunlap* will lead our discussion. This class meets in **basement classroom B-16**, at 9:45.

### Confirmation Class

Confirmands and mentors are invited to participate in the Advent Festival in Watts-Hill Hall. We always need helpers with the younger children, and refreshments will be served. Come and join the fun!



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! Come one, come all! All youth meet from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. with supper provided between 6:00-6:30 p.m. – *Sarah Finbow*

Contact *Sarah Finbow* ([s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org) or 919-682-5511) for info on youth activities at FPC!

## YEAR-END GIVING

Timely payment of 2016 pledges by December 31 will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2016.

Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday December 23, 2016. You may also put your offering in the collection plate on Sunday, December 25. Gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2016, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2016 taxes.

If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator ([t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org)) as soon as possible.

Members aged 70½ + who own an IRA may be able to make a qualified charitable distribution directly to First Presbyterian from your IRA and have that gift satisfy any required minimum distribution for this year. Please contact your IRA administrator ASAP if you wish to consider this giving option for tax year 2016 (the gift must be delivered directly to FPC by the IRA plan administrator, postmarked on or before December 31, 2016). Tom Bloom, Business Administrator, can provide information needed by the plan administrator.

## THE POET'S CORNER

We are blessed to have a number of poets and writers in our midst. Beginning January 2017, we will add "The Poet's Corner" feature to the weekly newsletter. If you would like to share your poetry with our faith community via the church's newsletter, please send submissions for consideration to Valerie in the church office: [v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org).

## Children's Christmas Pageant



This year's Children's Christmas Pageant will take place on **Sunday, December 18** during the 11:00 worship service. It will feature a procession of children in costumes, and a children's litany called "Who Is Coming to Our House?" **We will practice and pick up costumes twice before the pageant: on Sunday, December 11 immediately following worship in the sanctuary, and on Saturday, December 17 at 2 p.m.** Those with speaking parts

**must attend.** Any child is welcome to participate, as we have plenty of angel, shepherd, wise people, and animal costumes. If you have questions, see *Marilyn Hedgpeth*.

The **Children's Choir** will rehearse following worship on Sundays, December 4 and 11. They will sing Christmas carols for the pageant on December 18. New voices are welcome. Contact **Samantha Arten** for more information about FPC's Children's Choir: [samantha.arten@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.arten@gmail.com).

## THE 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.



## CONCERT: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**

Join **Lesley Curtis**, soprano, **Deborah Coclanis**, piano, and **Ann Harrison**, reader, for a program of Christmas offerings and poetry featuring Morten Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium, poems by Dorothy Parker and Langston Hughes, and Christmas Hymns.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study

**Monday, December 5  
10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon in the East Parlor**

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### SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS

#### BRUNCH POTLUCK

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

Hosted by *Carlo and Emily Diy*

Please respond to the EVITE. If you would like to receive the EVITE, please contact Valerie in the church office.

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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! If you would like to receive the EVITE, please contact Valerie in the church office.

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### PRIMETIMERS' COVERED DISH SUPPER

**Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

Home of **Rod and Barbara Gerwe**

More details forthcoming! If you would like to receive the EVITE, please contact Valerie in the church office.

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### DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, December 20 at 11:30 a.m.**

**Croasdaile Village Dining Hall**

RSVP to **Maxie Honeycutt** at 919-286-4680.

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### FAITH CONNECTIONS ON MENTAL ILLNESS

#### 2017 Annual Conference

**Friday, March 31, 2017**

St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Chapel Hill

**Registration opens on December 5, 2016.**

For more info, [www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org](http://www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org)

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### Family-to-Family Free Education provided by

#### National Alliance on Mental Illness

A free series of 12 weekly classes is being offered by trained NAMI members for individuals and families who have family members suffering with mental illness: PTSD, Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Panic Disorder, Obsessive

Compulsive Disorder, or Borderline Personality Disorder.

**Chapel Hill Area:** Sundays, January 6 through March 20  
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library  
100 Library Drive

Contact Nancy Brickman at 919-818-8065 or  
[nbrickman@nc.rr.com](mailto:nbrickman@nc.rr.com)

**Durham Area:** Tuesdays, January 24 - April 11, 2017

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

3639 Old Chapel Hill Rd

Contact Violette Blumenthal at 919-358-6788 or

[f2fdurham@yahoo.com](mailto:f2fdurham@yahoo.com)

## ENCLOSURES

Advent and Christmas Brochure

December 2016 Birthdays

December 2016 Calendar



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
305 EAST MAIN STREET  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701  
919-682-5511**

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