

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

January 31, 2017

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First Presbyterian Church 305 East Main Street, Durham NC 27701
919-682-5511 (office) 919-682-0493 (fax) <https://www.firstpres-durham.org>

From the Pastor

Dear friends,

Our friends have been barred from entering our country. Some of our neighbors in the U.S. are fearful to leave, lest they not be able to return. Many refugees in our midst in Durham long to be reunited with family members. We Christians have something to say about this. We have something to do about this.

Many, many years ago, God's people the Israelites were strangers in the foreign land of Egypt. That experience helped them to have empathy with others who were strangers in a foreign land. Deuteronomy 10:19 says, "You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." On Friday, at a rally in Durham to support refugees and immigrants, Rabbi Larry Bach of the Judea Reform congregation, reminded those present of this:

We do this because of our faith. To be a Jew is to be someone who sees his roots in slavery and deprivation. "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt," we recite each year at our Passover meals. To be a Jew is to be someone who sees her freedom from slavery not as a license to forget, but as a compelling call to remember. "Love the stranger, for you know the heart of the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." To be a Jew is to be part of a People who acutely feel a responsibility to repair the world, to shed light in dark places, to bring Redemption just a bit closer each day, through each deed. Caring for refugees is not optional for us. Our faith compels us.

In the same way, our faith compels Christians to care for refugees. In Matthew 25:35c, Jesus reminds us to care for one another as if the other is Jesus, "for I was a stranger and you welcomed me." In his letter to the Romans, Paul exhorts us to "Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers" (Romans 12:13). In Hebrews we are instructed: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). We are called to love our neighbor and Jesus teaches in Luke that our neighbor is anyone in need. Our Muslim sisters and brothers are in need right now. May we hold them in prayer and work to advocate for their welcome to our country, to our city, and as our friends.

Grace and peace to us all,

Mindy

OUR SYMPATHIES:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Debbie** (and **Kwesi**) **Hamlin-Aggrey** on the death of Debbie's mother, **Susan Hamlin** who died January 29. Please keep Debbie and her family in your prayers. Debbie's contact info is:

Kwesi and Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey
5315 Sutteridge Court
Durham, NC 27713

OUR CONCERNS

Added this week:

Mildred Bolen, grandmother of Leslie McDow

Cherie Haines, Vern Neece's sister

Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece

Janice Rattray, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley

Chuck Barenchi Sarah & Pete Finbow Nancy Kost Carolyn Wolfe

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

Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): **Helen Garrison**

Croasdaile Village: Joanne Harrar, Betty Jelstrup, Bob Kever, Bob Rankin

Hillcrest: Randall McLeod

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

- **Doug Hervey**, son of Jeanne Hervey
- **Mike Hugo**, friend of Tom Bloom
- **Jaymen Lourensz**, request from a Walk-in Ministry family
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell

Our January "Senior"

Sarah Cox, the oldest member of First Presbyterian Church, celebrated her 100th birthday on January 26 with family including son, David, and Peggy, wife of deceased son George, a granddaughter and two grandsons. Born in McConnelsville, Ohio, she moved at age three to Northern Illinois where her father, a Presbyterian minister, had been called to ministry. After graduating from Glenbarn High School and Eastern Illinois University, Sarah taught school. While working in a government job during World War II, she met her husband. The family moved to Durham in the early 1950s where their sons attended George Watts Elementary School and graduated from Durham High School. As an active member of First Presbyterian Church, she taught Sunday School, played the piano, and served in many roles in Presbyterian Women. Even though Sarah cannot attend worship now, she remains interested in the life and activities of the church. She moved to Croasdaile Village Retirement Community in 1999, where she organized a "Presbyterian table" in the dining room. Family portraits and other pictures she painted over the years are displayed on her apartment walls.

(Photo of Sarah Cox and Miriam Morey taken January 26, 2017)



YOUTH "SOUPER BOWL" FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 5

We are having our second annual chili cookoff for "Souper Bowl Sunday" on February 5th.

Please sign up to bring a crock pot of your favorite chili by clicking on this [link](#) or you can call **Sarah Finbow** at the church: 919-682-5511 ext 213 or email Sarah at s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org



Chili will be available for purchase after worship. **All proceeds from the sale of the chili will go to combat hunger right here in Durham!**

The FPC Youth Council will announce a winner that morning.

You can drop off your pot of chili starting during the Sunday School hour.

Your participation and support are very much appreciated!

FPC Session Briefs

Stated Meeting, January 23, 2017

The Session met in its first stated meeting of the year on January 23, 2017. Elders were glad to be back together after a 2-month break, and the meeting was full of lively and productive discussion. During the meeting, the Session:

- *Received a report from the Stewardship Committee, and discussed using additional statistical methods to better understand giving patterns.*
- *Approved the creation of an ad hoc committee named by Finance and Investment to study the budgeting process and make recommendations. The ad hoc committee will include members from the Personnel, Property, and Service and Mission committees.*
- *Heard a report from the Assessment Team, which was appointed by the Session to review the transition between pastors. **Homer Ashby, Caroline Pritchett, and Kate Busa** represented the team at the Session meeting. The team drafted a letter which summarized our experience and made recommendations to the Presbytery. It is hoped that the Presbytery will use these suggestions to better help other congregations going through this same process. The Session voted to send the letter to the Presbytery of New Hope's Executive Presbyter **Ted Churn** and the Commission on Ministry. Hard copies of the letter are available on the table in the foyer, and an electronic copy is available from **Valerie McMillian** or **Lyn Francisco**.*



Sunday, February 5, 2017 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School (See class details below)

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

Sermon: "Salt & Light" - Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:13-20

Acolytes: **Griffin Momsen-Hudson, Maryn Leonard**

Crucifer: **Graham Curtis**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeter: **Dewey Lawson** (side/font);
Emily Diy (narthex/rear)

Ushers: **TBA** (head), **Karen Swope, Catherine Dumas, Mickey Velkey**

Communion Elders:

Bread: **Eric Wiebe** (B1, process), **Jane Rourk** (B2), **Will McDow** (B3), **Libby Gulley** (B4)

Cup: Phyllis Verhey (C1), **Jane Williams** (C2, process), **Carter Momsen-Hudson** (C3), **Lenore Champion** (C4)

Shepherds: Gray Wilson (font aisle), **Michael Schultz** (center aisle), **Karen Romines** (pulpit aisle)

Head / Replenish Elements: **Caroline Rourk**

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 will begin a series of discussions on Mental Health and Faithful Response, with a focus on mood and anxiety disorders. Jay and Elinor Williams from University Presbyterian Church will lead the discussion using clips from popular movies and pertinent information. Jay and Elinor are both clinical social workers, recently retired from their private psychotherapy practice in Chapel Hill. Jay also served as Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Social Work at UNC. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall** and all are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults) Are you ready to take it to the next level? Are you ready to learn the secrets that are reserved for the advanced? The things you learned in the past, and the things you did in the past, aren't good enough now. "We speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden." Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) This Sunday, Journeys continues reading and discussing the Book of Esther. All are welcome to join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) This week we'll continue our study of Lauren Winner's book, *Wearing God*, with more "images of God" conversation on the "Laboring Woman" chapter, reading pages 156-178. See you around 9:45 on the second floor of the **CE building, room 205**. New faces are always welcome.

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

Membership Inquiry Class

Are you wondering what membership at FPC looks like? Join us for a series of Membership Inquiry Classes, Sundays from 9:45 – 10:45 in the Wilson Parlor. The class format is as follows:

2/5 – Church History and Theology – *Mindy Douglas*

2/12 – Baptism and Eucharist – *Sam Miglarese*

2/19 – Presbyterian Polity and Theology – *Phyllis Supple*

2/26 – No class, come and here our guest lecturer, Miroslav Volf in Watts-Hill Hall

3/5 – Worship and the Liturgical Year – *Dewey Lawson, David Smith*

3/12 – The Christian Life and Discipleship at FPC – *Mindy Douglas*

It will not be boring – we promise! Would love to have you join us!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation and mentors will continue their studies upstairs in the Education Building this Sunday, discussing the topic: "Decent and in Order: Covenant: An Ordered Life."

Many thanks to those who attended Saturday's Peaceful Assembly with our Muslim friends and neighbors. See you back upstairs on Sunday!



This Sunday is 'Soup'er Bowl Sunday! While the Falcons and the Packers will be battling it out for the NFL Super Bowl title, we will be raising funds to battle hunger in our community! All hands on deck for this annual FUNdraiser!

We will not have regular youth groups on Sunday evening so hopefully you can enjoy some homemade chili during the Super Bowl game.

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

Bible Study: Parables

The Friday morning Bible Study will continue this week at 10:30 with its study of the Parables. This week looking at Parables of Preparation: The Parable of the Ten Maidens (Matthew 25: 1-13) and the Parable of the Two Builders (Matthew 6: 24-27). All are welcome to join us.

Opportunities

Please continue to bring non-perishable food for Iglesia Emanuel's food pantry and supplies for blessing and toiletry bags. **We especially need bottled water, fruit snacks, and also travel sizes of soap, shampoo, deodorant, and body lotion for the toiletry bags.**

Pastoral Care is looking for volunteers!

Specifically members interested in assisting with flower delivery, reading to home-bound members, and members with sewing, knitting, crochet, or quilting skills. Interested members can email **Chris Brown** (jamesbro@gmail.com).

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

Membership Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 5 after worship in the East Parlor. Lunch will be provided. Any church member may attend Membership Committee meetings.

FPC Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session for **Sunday, February 19** at the end of worship to elect officers for the Class of 2020.

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL BEGINS THURSDAY, FEB. 2

FPC has two teams playing in the Hope Valley Baptist Church Men's Basketball League this winter.

Games are played on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the Hope Valley Baptist Church gym (corner of Hope Valley and Garrett Roads).

UP-COMING BASKETBALL GAMES:

Thursday, February 2 at 8:00 p.m.

Westminster PC and Hope Valley BC will face off in the early game at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 6 & Thursday, February 9 our teams play at 7 PM & 8 PM.

SCRATCH/Young Adults February Potluck

Saturday, February 4

6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the home of Kristin Meade

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE AND BIBLE STUDY

Monday, February 6 at 10:30 a.m.

FPC's East Parlor

TIME OUT RADIO SHOW (with Bill Hendrickson)

Monday, February 6 at 5:00 PM

Margot Johnson will be the guest discussing Nurse Care of North Carolina. It can be heard on WCOM FM at 103.5 locally or on wcomfm.org at 5:00 PM.

El Fuego Early Music Ensemble in Concert

Friday, February 10

7:00 p.m. in FPC's sanctuary; Admission required

Travel to Northern Spain through music and beautiful poetry in Galician-Portuguese to get an insight of the minds of praying souls of the 13th – 14th centuries. General admission is \$15; seniors, FPC members, and students with ID: \$10. Check El Fuego's website for more information: <http://www.elfuegofire.com/>

THE THINGS THAT MATTER BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m.

at the home of **Lee Courtland**

915 Monmouth Ave, Durham

We will have dinner together (food will be provided)

and discuss *Gratitude* by Oliver Sacks.

Barbara Gerwe will lead the discussion.

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m.

at the home of Chuck and Jean Wilson

More details forthcoming

The 11th annual HKonJ

(Historic Thousands on Jones Street)

Saturday, February 11

Gathering starts at 8:30 a.m. on the corner of South St. and Wilmington St in downtown Raleigh. Come and join members of the NHP Peacemaking Network that day. You can park at the Davie Street Presbyterian Church (Corner of Person and Davie Streets) and walk to South Street. For more info you may contact **Rev. Willem Bodisco Massink**: wjbodisco@embarqmail.com, 919-753-7266.

McPherson Lectureship 2017 – Sunday, February 26

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Miroslav Volf

Dr. Miroslav Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School and the Founder and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. His most recent book is *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World*.

On Sunday morning, Dr. Volf will lead the Faith and Community class and preach in worship. On Sunday evening, he will give a lecture at Duke Divinity School.



FLORENCE FORTH RACE – Saturday, March 5

The race honoring our little **Florence McDow** is just over one month away now. Please help **Will, Leslie and Laura McDow** get ready to support the Durham-based, global non-profit (named for Florence) that benefits Autoimmune Encephalitis research: share a personal email about Florence Forth with your friends; post information about the race on your neighborhood listserv; include it on your social media site; create a running / walking team and invite others to join; help distribute Florence Forth postcards, stickers and fliers. For more info, go to the Florence Forth Road Race website: <http://florenceforth.org/>.



The Poet's Corner: "Simple Words" by Carol Wills

In simple words, "I give my heart."
How long has it been since I committed to anything?
Instead, I've kept open the possibility of leaving,
Not pledging, "I'm here for this person or this community."
How long since I've committed to anyone?
This is what I need to be asking.
Just saying, "I'm here for this person or this community,"
That's how the heart begins to build a home.
This is what I need to be saying
Instead of keeping open the possibility of leaving.
This is how the heart begins to build a home.
In simple words, to you, O God,
now and forever, I give my heart.

(May 17, 2012)

THANK YOU NOTES . . .

Many thanks to those who attended Saturday's **Peaceful Assembly** with our Muslim friends and neighbors. We are especially grateful to **Sue Fricks**, who made the beautiful peace cards at Christmas time, which initiated our time together, as well as to those who offered a "feast of rich food" for our guests. Several of our confirmands participated in Saturday's gathering! We had rich food and rich discussion about how we might move forward together and support one another, as partners in faith. Never has this been a more timely issue and opportunity to stand in solidarity with our friends. One of our new friends, **Abdul Malik**, came back on Sunday and attended worship, and **Julia Law** gave a beautiful Minute for Mission at Sunday's service. What a great witness to interfaith friendship! Look for more opportunities to meet and serve together in the near future.

Kudos to Lenore Champion and the Christian Education Committee for a creative, meaningful and fun **Fifth Sunday Inter-generational Sunday School event** on Sunday. The hubbub was beautiful as children, youth and adults celebrated Epiphany. They made stars from paper and from wire, made lanterns with messages of hope, created cards for our home-bound members, and wrote secret words of encouragement and strength on their hands and made them "shine in the darkness" before they left for worship. It was a joy to watch the whole people of God come together in the "light" of God's love.

2016 SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christmas Concerns - \$1,880.00

Funds sent to the **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina**

Christmas Eve - \$ 2,946.57

Funds sent to **Durham's Welcome Baby**

Christmas Joy - \$1,638.25

Funds support the Assistance Program of the PC(USA) Board of Pensions and student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Hunger for Change – \$5,884.28

Funds help combat hunger in our community and around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$3,037.48

Funds support hunger relief, disaster assistance and self-development of people through PC(USA) special programs.

Peace & Global Witness - \$1,203.00

Funds are used to support peacemaking efforts locally and around the world.

Pentecost - \$1,383.00

Funds support local and PC(USA) programs for at-risk children, youth and young adults.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$3,895.00

FPC Walk-In Ministry – \$10,331.00

Hurricane Matthew Relief – \$193.39

Thank you so very much for your generous giving in 2016!

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Presbyterian Church receives plaque of gratitude



Submitted photo

Michael Becketts, Durham County Department of Social Services director, attended a meeting at First Presbyterian Church's Service and Mission Committee to thank them for their generous donations to the agency. Their donations to DSS have aided 211 families in Durham in various agency programs. These funds are utilized after all government funds per agency programs have been exhausted, and targeted for those families who still have a need, as these funds are available. From left, the Rev. Marilyn Hedgpeth, the Rev. Mindy Douglas, Michael Becketts and Elder Marie Sappenfield receive the plaque of gratitude from DSS.