

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

February 14, 2017

Happy Valentine's Day

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session of FPC has called a Congregational Meeting for this Sunday, February 19 at the end of worship for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee and electing officers (deacons and ruling elders) for the Class of 2020.

From the Pastor

Dear friends,

This Sunday we have the wonderful opportunity to welcome back into our midst Joe and Carlisle Harvard! Though they are not yet permanently back in the community, we are glad that they can be with us this weekend. It will be a joy to have Joe back in the pulpit again! As many of you know, Joe was the pastor here at First Presbyterian Church from 1980-2013. He had a long and wonderful tenure in this place and is known and loved all around Durham, particularly for his leadership in bringing different races and religions together to work as one to respond to the needs of the community!

Joe and Carlisle spend most of their time these days in Charleston, SC, where Joe serves as the Interim Pastor at First Scots Presbyterian Church. They are back regularly, though, to see family and to attend Duke games! We are grateful to be able to reconnect with them this weekend. I know they are looking forward to seeing you all!

On another note, I want to thank the 70+ FPC members and friends who came out to walk at the HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) March organized by the NC NAACP. We had a great group of folks spanning eight decades in age, experience, and passion for the gospel! In marching, we exhibited our pledge as Christians to follow Jesus' example and respond to Jesus' calling to work for justice, for the poor, marginalized, and outcast. I was exhausted at the end of the day, but it was a good exhaustion and I was proud and happy to stand (and walk!) with you all.

May we continue in all we do to love God and love one another.

Grace and peace to you all this week,

Mindy

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Added this week:

Roberta Post, friend of Jeanne Hervey

Dr. Charles Kimball, friend of FPC

Terry Weaver, recovering at Duke Hospital from back surgery

Traveling mercies for Miguel and Margaret Rubiera, Carl and Lisa Rist, and Laura Sappenfield who are away on a Habitat for Humanity mission trip to Honduras.

Bette Conroy has moved to the Friendship Unit at Croasdaile Village, Room B124, and would love to have visitors there.

Chuck Barenchi

Sarah and 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 Fisher, frequent visitor
Cherie Haines, sister of Vernon Neece
Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece
John McKey, husband of Al and Judy Arrowood's former pastor
Danny Parker, father of Al and Judy Arrowood's daughter-in-law
Margaret Pfeiler, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
Janice Rattray, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley

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



Sunday, February 19, 2017 - Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time

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

11:00 a.m. Worship and Congregational Meeting

Everyone is invited to a fellowship lunch following worship this Sunday. Families are encouraged to go through the line together. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal which is being prepared by Cris Rivera and the Fellowship Committee.

Sermon: "Love Your Enemies: The Impossible Possibility"

Joe Harvard, preaching

Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 50:13-21

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:38-48

Serving this Sunday:

Acolytes: **Sam Henry, Matt Brockman**

Crucifer: **Nathaniel Cole**

Liturgist: **Bob Breitweiser**

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeter: **Carter Momsen-Hudson** (side/font);
Caroline Rourk (narthex/rear)

Ushers: **Amy Dillon** (head), **Michael Honeycutt** (flowers), **Sharon Hirsch, Dale Gaddis, Chris Anglin, Carl Anglin**

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) - In preparation for the Lectureship with Dr. Volf on February 26, **Sam Miglarese** will lead us as we continue our discussion on the role of religion in a globalized world. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall**. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults) - Parts of the Bible contain many laws and commandments, but some of them seem irrelevant to us thousands of years later, and others seem impossibly difficult. Where does the authority for those commandments come from? Do they still have meaning for our lives today? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) - This Sunday, we will begin a new study of the **book of Nehemiah**: how do God's people stay faithful when in exile? All are welcome to join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

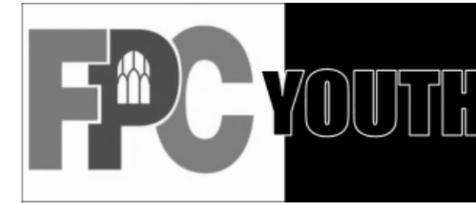
Scratch Class (Young Adults) - This week we'll continue our study of Lauren Winner's book, *Wearing God*, with new conversations around the topic of **God as laughter**. See you around 9:45 on the second floor of the **CE building, room 205**. New faces are always welcome.

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

Membership Inquiry Class - Those interested in exploring membership at First Presbyterian Church are invited to the Wilson Parlor at 9:45 where this Sunday we will discuss **Presbyterian Polity**. All are welcome, even if you have not attended previous classes.

Scripture Readers' Class - The Scripture Reader's Class will meet **again this Sunday morning, February 19 in the chapel during the Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45**. If you indicated an interest in reading Scripture on Sunday mornings as part of your stewardship commitment, you are urged to attend this training class. Looking forward to seeing you there.
- **Steve Rimmer**

CONFIRMATION CLASS - The Confirmation Class and their mentors will meet upstairs this week to discuss "All Good Gifts: Faithful Stewardship." Since we have lunch following worship on Sunday, mentors are encouraged to share a meal with their confirmands and get to know them a little better.



Got Game? This Sunday we'll play board games! Do you have a favorite? Middle Schoolers will meet from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. and High Schooler will meet from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The **Mbah family** will provide supper from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Coming Next Month: Lenten Book Study

Book: *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life*, by Rowan Williams.

Because Lent is a season for examining our baptismal commitment to faithful discipleship, FPC is offering an opportunity to read together and discuss together the core values of our Christian Faith. Rowan Williams says in his introduction, discipleship is "about how we as Church go on being a learning community, and how we grow in depth of relation with each other and God." Books are available for \$6 from **Marilyn Hedgpeth**. Class leadership will be shared by clergy and lay-persons. Classes will meet on **Wednesdays, March 8 – April 5 from 6-7 p.m.** (bring a bag dinner/childcare provided); and on **Friday mornings, March 3- April 7 from 10:30 – noon at FPC**.

Volunteers Spotlight: A Sustaining Love

Miguel and Margaret Rubiera are featured in Durham's Habitat for Humanity Blog from February 13, 2017. Read about their sustaining love by going online to: <http://www.durhamhabitat.org/blog/a-sustaining-love>

McPherson Lectureship 2017 – Sunday, February 26

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Miroslav Volf, the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School and the Founder and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture.

9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School Presentation: **"Joy, Desire, and Responsibility"**

11:00 a.m. Worship Sermon: **"Redemption of Touch"** -(Text: Luke 7:36–50)

6:00 p.m. Presentation: **"What Will Save the World? Flourishing in a World We Cannot Save"**

at Duke Divinity School / Presbyterian Reformed House of Studies, Durham
(Gathering and reception begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Alumni Memorial Common Room)

Opportunities for Service and Mission

Fellowship Committee Needs Volunteers Do you love helping out in the kitchen? Do you have a passion for loading the dishwasher just right? Are you looking for a great way to serve your church community? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, the Fellowship Committee would love your help! We are always looking for volunteers to help out with FPC's monthly Fellowship Lunch on the **third Sunday of every month**. Email **Abi Warmack** (abi.bissette@gmail.com) or **Julie Whiddon** (foxylady3542@yahoo.com) to be added to our email list!

Feeding our Neighbors! Please continue to bring non-perishable food items for Iglesia Emanuel's food pantry and supplies for blessing and toiletry bags. Not sure what to bring for Iglesia's food pantry? Call the church: 919-682-5511.

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

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper Saturday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Chuck and Jean Wilson

Please respond to the EVITE. Not getting the EVITE?
Contact Valerie in the church office to be added to
(or removed from) the listserv for Primitimer events.

Indonesia Birds Slide Show Monday, February 20

Indonesia is made up of thousands of islands, large and small, and many of them are home to special birds. **David and Judy Smith** are avid birders who visited some of those islands recently. Join them for a tour of eastern Indonesia through their photos and videos on Monday, February 20 at 7:00 in Watts-Hill Hall.

FPC Finance Committee Tuesday, February 21 6:00 p.m. in the East Parlor

Raleigh Camerata

Triangle's Premier Baroque Ensemble with Kelly Nivison Roudabush, Director

Sunday, February 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Featuring music by Beethoven, Clementi, Dussek, Dittersdorf, JC Bach, and Telemann

Tickets available online and at the door:

\$20 general admission/ \$15 seniors / \$5 student / 12 and under free

Daytimers' Luncheon
Tuesday, February 28 at
11:30 a.m. at Bullock's Barbecue
3330 Quebec St., Durham
Elizabeth High, hosting

RSVP to Elizabeth at 919-489-2780 or the church office: 919-682-5511.

CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

FPC has two teams playing in the Hope Valley Baptist Church Men's Basketball League this winter: Old School (team 1) and Young Guns (Team 2). **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).

CURTAIN CALL for the Johnsons . . .

Carrie Johnson and Jim Johnson are performing in *Brigid: The Legend Begins*, an original musical being performed Friday and Saturday at E.K. Powe Elementary School. For more information on this musical, go to DurhamRegionalTheatre.com/drt-shows. Their shows are **Friday, February 17 at 7 pm** and **Saturday, February 18 at 2 pm**.

FLORENCE FORTH RACE – Saturday, March 5

The race honoring our little **Florence McDow** is less than a month away now. Please help the McDows get ready to support the Durham-based, global non-profit 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 information, go to the Florence Forth Road Race website: <http://florenceforth.org/>.

YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY



During the recent Listening Sessions members of the congregation expressed an interest in prison ministry. On **Monday, March 6 at 7:00 pm**, Rev. David Morton will provide education and training for Yokefellow Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina is an inter-denominational Christian ministry of reconciliation begun in 1969. Its focus is on a ministry of listening, encouragement, and support from volunteers to those in prison in the form of small group meetings. This session will last one and a half hours. After the informational session on Monday, those interested in volunteering as a Yokefellow at Orange County Correctional, a minimum prison facility near Hillsborough, will complete paperwork and training at the Peace Center at OCC on **Thursday, March 9 at 6:00 pm**. This training is lead by Chaplain Jerry Love. The training is required to volunteer at the prison. If you think that you might have an interest in this new ministry, please come to the Yokefellow session to learn more about this approach. Attendance does not commit you to become a volunteer. If you would like to commit to the training at OCC, please contact **Jane Williams** (336-577-8240) or janepsych1@mac.com for further details and registration information.

