

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

February 21, 2017

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

This past Sunday, you elected another wonderful group of Deacons and Elders. These officers will do specific work as leaders in the church and we are grateful for their many gifts. Our Presbyterian (U.S.A.) *Book of Order* reminds us that:

The *ministry of deacon* as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust polices or structures or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry (G-2.0201).

Ruling elders . . . are chosen by the congregation to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. [They] exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit (G-2.0301).

I commend you for the election of these officers and know that God will do good work through them for God's glory and for the building up of God's kingdom of love, hope, peace, and joy. I also remind you that in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *all members* are called to be active in the work of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. The *Book of Order* reminds us that

Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (1 Cor. 12:27-28).

The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.

The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.

The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.

The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord. (F-1.03)

How wonderful it is for us all to be doing God's work together in this place! May God continue to guide us as we seek to discern how to be God's people in our community, in our nation, and in our world.

With gratitude for you all,

Mindy

New Officers and Nominating Committee Elected

On Sunday, February 19, a Congregational Meeting was held at the end of worship to hear a report from the Nominating Committee and to elect officers.

Congratulations to the following persons who were elected to serve as officers in the Class of 2020:

Ruling Elders:

Carol Carson	Brent Curtis	Andy Henry
Tyler Momsen-Hudson	Alice Raney	Cris Rivera
Jane Wettach	Ellie Dilworth*	Sigfried Fullenkamp*

Deacons:

Stephen Berry	Will Chambliss	Tony Chavez
Christy Gudaitis	Wayne House	Patricia Kennedy
Laurie Williamson	Sam Henry*	Frances Zehmer*

*Youth elected to serve a one year term

The **next training session** for new officers will be **Sunday, March 5**. Mindy will lead this session on history and theology.

The following persons were elected to serve at-large members on the **Nominating Committee for the 2017-2018** church year: **Matthew Dickerson** (youth), **Shirley Frederick**, **Geoffrey Kennedy**, **Jody Maxwell**, and **Jane Rourk**.



Our Sympathies:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Eugene and Signe Brown** on the death of Eugene's mother. **Ruby Brown** (age 99 years, 7 months) died February 20 in Durham.

We also extend our love and concern to the family of **Randall McLeod**. Randall was a member of FPC for over 50 years. He died February 20 at Hillcrest in Durham.

Expressions of sympathy may be expressed to the families as follows:

Eugene and Signe Brown

410 North Buchanan Blvd
Durham NC 27701

Rev. Ed McLeod (nephew) and family

First Presbyterian Church
112 S. Salisbury St.
Raleigh NC 27601

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (Revelation 13:13)



Sarah and Pete Finbow
Nancy Kost
Terry Weaver
Carolyn Wolfe

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell
Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): Helen Garrison
Croasdaile Village: Joanne Harrar, Betty Jelstrup,
Bob Keever, Bob Rankin
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
- **Roberta Post**, friend of Jeanne Hervey
- **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.



McPherson Lectureship 2017 **The McPherson Family**

Dr. Samuel D. McPherson was the organizing founder of McPherson Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital in Durham in 1926. When his son, Dr. S.D. McPherson, Jr. completed his medical training at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, plus serving his country in the military, he joined his father's work in Durham and was part of the hospital leadership.

The Residence Inn Marriott, now located on the McPherson Hospital site at 1108 West Main Street, prominently features a History Room with a complete history of the McPhersons and the hospital that bore their name.

Both Dr. S.D. McPherson, Jr. and his wife Margaret (Peaches) were active members of First Presbyterian Church, and both were elected and served as elders. Dr Sam McPherson, Jr. was chair of the committee that raised the funds for the new Sunday School building. Margaret also served as President of the Women of the Church and was awarded a Life Membership in the Women of the Church.

A lasting legacy of the McPherson family has been the establishment of the McPherson Lectureship at First Presbyterian Church and this year marks the 18th year of this gift to our church and the community.



2017 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.

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School Presentation
 (FPC, Watts-Hill Hall)

11:00 a.m. - Worship (FPC, Sanctuary)

6:00 p.m. - Presentation (Duke Divinity, Durham)

Copies of two of Dr. Volf's books will be available for purchase this Sunday. The book titled "Flourishing" costs \$28. The book, "Public Faith," costs \$20. Payment can be by cash, check, or credit card. The books will be available after Sunday School, after worship, and at the Sunday evening event.



Sunday, February 26, 2017 - Transfiguration of the Lord

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received during worship.

Sermon: "Redemption of Touch" - Miroslav Volf, preaching

Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 99

Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel Lesson: Luke 7:36-50

Acolytes: **Isabel Brown, Frances Zehmer**

Crucifer: **Almirah Mbah**

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

Liturgist: **Michael Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeter: **Miriam Morey** (side); **Jerry Postema** (narthex)

Ushers: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey** (head), **Abi Warmack, Amy Sanchez, Kathy Krahenbuhl, Sigfried Fullenkamp**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School: All adult classes are invited to Watts-Hill Hall this Sunday at 9:45 a.m. to hear our McPherson Lecturer, **Dr. Miroslav Volf**, give a presentation on "*Joy, Desire, and Responsibility*."

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY CLASS

This Sunday, we invite you to join the other adult Sunday School classes in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 to hear Dr. Volf's presentation. We will resume the Membership Inquiry Class on the following Sunday, March 5, at 9:45 a.m. in the Wilson Parlor.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are coming to the end of our classroom time together, and this Sunday we will meet to talk about "Very Good (Proper Use of Creation)". We will also prepare for our upcoming visit to Judea Reform in March, and begin talking about our Christian roots in Judaism. Confirmands and mentors are invited to our upstairs classroom for conversation and fellowship, beginning at 9:45.



GRADE DINNERS: This Sunday evening, we'll enjoy a time of fellowship over dinner: middle schoolers and high schoolers will enjoy meals by grade in member homes. Check your email for details.

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

Two services to mark Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is the gateway into Lent, a season for Christians traditionally to prepare for baptism and to be restored to wholeness by penitence and forgiveness. Lent begins on March 1 this year, and continues for 40 days until it culminates in Holy Week and Easter Sunday on April 16.

Here at FPC, we will begin with the imposition of ashes in the Memorial Garden with a brief Ash

Wednesday Service on March 1 at noon, and a longer service including Holy Communion at 6 p.m. followed by a light dinner. These services invite us to remember that the whole Christian community, world-wide, stands in need of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and in the need to renew our faith. They also remind us that we are never alone; that we are joined by the company of believers, past, present and future, as we journey together towards Resurrection Day/Easter Sunday. Come, let us walk with Jesus through the wilderness days towards hope and resurrection.

Announcing Our Lenten Book Study

Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life by Rowan Williams

During Lent, FPC is offering an opportunity to read and discuss the core values of our Christian Faith. Williams writes, 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**. Classes will meet on **Wednesdays, March 8 – April 5 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** (bring a bag dinner/childcare provided); and on **Friday mornings, March 3- April 7 from 10:30 a.m. – noon at FPC.**

CHECK THIS OUT!

Finally, it's here! **The church's calendar is now available electronically on the church's website.** You can click on the website button below and from the site's front page, on the right, about midway down, you will see Calendar. Click to view (in table format) what's happening at FPC on a daily basis. If you see errors on the calendar listing, or need help with navigation, contact **Lyn Francisco** in the church office: 919-682-5511 or l.francisco@firstpres-durham.org.



UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

Raleigh Camerata

Triangle's Premier Baroque Ensemble

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

featuring music by Beethoven, Clementi, Dussek, Dittersdorf, JC Bach, Telemann

Tickets available at the door:

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

FPC members' admission at the door: \$15.

TIME OUT Radio Show

Bill Hendrickson, host

Monday, February 27 - 5:00 p.m.

The guest will be **Robert Brawley** discussing "The Bible Today."

Time Out can be heard locally in Chapel Hill and Carrboro on WCOM at FM103.5

and worldwide on the web at wcomfm.org.

Officers Meetings

Monday, February 27

6:00 p.m. - Diaconate

6:30 p.m. - Joint Officers' Supper

7:00 p.m. - Session

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.

SCRATCH / Young Adults Potluck Gathering

Saturday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m.

at the home of Ian and Jennie Belle

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). **Only four games remain! Thursday, February 23**, our two teams will play each other at 8 PM. **Come cheer on FPC!**

FLORENCE FORTH RACE – Saturday, March 4



The race honoring our little *Florence McDow* is less than two weeks away. Please help the McDows and 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; make a donation. For more information, go to the Florence Forth Road Race website: <http://florenceforth.org/>.



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. On **Monday, March 6 at 7:00 pm**, Rev. David Morton will provide education and training for Yokefellow Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. 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 led 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.

Durham's Annual Crop HUNGER Walk – Sunday, April 2

It's time to get our team together to walk in this year's Durham Crop Walk for hunger relief. The 43rd Durham Crop HUNGER Walk will begin at 2:30 p.m. from Duke Chapel. Not able to walk this year? Support FPC's team by making a donation. To sign up to walk or to make a donation, go online to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/durhamnc/Team/View/33229/First-Presbyterian-Church>. This year's goal is \$5000. We can reach it with your help!

Faith Connections on Mental Illness - 7th Annual Conference

Friday, March 31

St. Thomas More Catholic School
940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill

Conference includes a keynote speaker, plenary lecture, and breakout sessions. Registration is required. For more information and to register, go online to: www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org.

INVITATION: The Gurudwara Day - A Community Celebration

Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Sikh Gurudwara of North Carolina (3214 E. Banner Street, Durham) invites the community to their annual program designed to introduce the North Carolina Sikh community to their neighbors. The Youth Representatives of Gurudwara will present speeches in English, hymns in traditional Sikh music, and a hearty Punjabi lunch at the conclusion. They would be honored by your presence.

For more details and to RSVP, email: darasjot.singh@gmail.com or darsev.kaur@gmail.com or go online to: sgncweb.org.

Chuck Barenchi would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, emails and prayers during his recent illness. Both Chuck and Linda are grateful to their FPC family.



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