

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

March 7, 2017

SPRING FORWARD CLOCKS

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12.

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 11.



From the Pastor . . .

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . .” So begins what is probably the best-known Bible passage in the nation, if not the world. John 3:16 is the passage memorized by Christians and non-Christians alike. At football games, baseball games and political rallies we see signs promoting the reading from John’s gospel. For many of us this passage may bring up positive or negative feelings, depending on how it has been used in our history.

This Sunday, we will look at this passage again in its full context as a part of the story of Nicodemus. Nicodemus came to Jesus under the cover of night and found Jesus inviting him into a new life, a life that took him away from his enslavement to the law and brought him into the light of God’s love. Too often, I think, we interpret this passage to be about what is *expected* of us and what we need to believe in order to receive salvation. We ask questions about what we need to *do* to be in God’s good graces (something we tend to do during Lent anyway). This passage, however, is much more about God’s love and the way God has called us into a relationship with God through Jesus. This passage is good news for the world and I invite you to join me on Sunday as we explore it together.

May your Lent be filled with peace and an assurance of God’s deep love for you in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to you all,

Mindy



Added this week:

Wendy McCorkle and **Doug Fisher**, having surgery this week
Mike Gray, cousin of Linn Lopez
Rick Hager, friend of Celia Dickerson

Sarah and Pete Finbow

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

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

Croasdaile Village: **Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Betty Jelstrup, Bob Kever, Bob Rankin**

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

Family and Friends of FPC Members:

- **Don and Gail Champion**, uncle and aunt of Lenore Champion
- **Cherie Haines**, sister of Vernon Neece
- **Paul Martin**, brother of Beth Neece
- **John McKey**, husband of Al and Judy Arrowood's former pastor
- **Dell McMillian**, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
- **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
- **Sandra Russell**, frequent visitor to FPC

CONGRATULATIONS to FPC's purple "Old School" team who received the trophy as the 2017 Regular Season Champion in the **Hope Valley Church Basketball League**. This year's league featured four teams: one from Hope Valley Baptist Church, one from Westminster Presbyterian Church and two from First Presbyterian Church.

MANY THANKS . . . to the **North Durham Masjid** which hosted an interfaith dinner and dialogue on Thursday night. The food was fantastic and the hospitality from their congregation was warm and welcoming. Those who attended from FPC included: **Sophie and Emily Wilkins, Ed and Caroline Pritchett, Bob Yoder, Jane Williams, Mindy Douglas, Andrew and Marilyn Hedgpeth.**

MEETING YOUR PLEDGE: If you are a mature 70 1/2+ years old, remember that you may meet your 2017 financial pledge by donating directly to the church from your IRA. You will not be taxed on the portion of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that you donate. Any of the RMD that you take personally will be subject to tax. Also, the donated portion will not be eligible for itemizing for deductions in 2018. To make a donation directly from your IRA, contact the financial advisor/bank/credit union/broker holding your IRA for how to use this opportunity.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH: The Session has set **next Sunday, March 19** as the date for the Annual Meeting of the church. At this meeting, members will hear a report from the Finance Committee and approve the terms of call for the pastors. **The meeting will take place at the end of worship.**

DURHAM CAN at Work: This past Sunday Durham Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods (CAN), of which First Presbyterian is a member, co-sponsored with the NC Congress of Latino Organizations a forum related to the safety and protection of immigrants and refugees in Durham. It was a remarkable and inspiring event attended by over 1,300 persons. The Durham Police Chief and the Office of the Durham County Sheriff committed to not work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in deportation efforts and to not set up checkpoints which includes not setting up checkpoints at churches and schools. The County Commissioners and the City Council committed to protect the welfare and safety of immigrants and refugees in our city and county and provide them with full county and city services and support. The Durham Public Schools Superintendent declared that the school system will not share citizenship status of students or their families with anyone and to protect that information from outside inquiry. The overwhelming support of our immigrant and refugees neighbors demonstrated that Durham is a city and a county of inclusion.

- *Homer Ashby*



Sunday, March 12, 2017 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism of *Evelyn Elizabeth Brown*, daughter of *Chris and Meredith Brown*, sister to *Logan*

Sermon: "What Shamu Taught Me About Following Jesus," Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm Lesson: Psalm 121

Epistle Lesson: Roman 4:1-5, 13-17

Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-17

Serving this Sunday:

Acolytes: *Maddie Brigman, Lily Brigman*

Crucifer: *Sigfried Fullenkamp*

Liturgist: *Carl Rist*

Narthex Greeters: *Maxie Honeycutt, Carol McKnight*

After Worship Greeters: *Jane Williams* (narthex/rear),
Karen Romines (font/side)

Ushers: *Julie Whiddon* (head), *Michael Honeycutt* (flowers), *Catherine Dumas, Jane Williams, Kathy Krahenbuhl*



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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL . . .

Faith & Community Class (Adults) - We will continue our series on Mental Health and Our Faithful Response as we welcome our guest presenter, *Pamela Mund, MD*, an internal medicine physician at Lincoln Community Health Center. Dr. Mund has expertise in working with people who suffer from what is referred to as "substance abuse disorder," and she will be able to speak to the current opioid addiction crisis in Durham County. She can also address issues of alcohol and substance abuse and how they affect our family systems. Many thanks to *Howard Eisenson* for arranging for Dr. Mund to speak with us. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall**. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults) - How does faith work, and what gives belief its power? Why does someone leave his family and travel to a far country, based only on belief in a promise? How can eternal life come simply from belief? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) - Journeys will continue their reading and discussion of the Book of Ezra in which the Israelites must protect themselves against the dissolution of their culture and religion by being absorbed with the many neighboring tribes. All are welcome to join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) - This week we'll conclude our discussion of wearing 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

The **final class** meeting for this current Membership Inquiry Class is this Sunday, March 12 at 9:45 a.m. in the Wilson Parlor. *Mindy Douglas* will be talking about a life of faith.

New members will be received on Sunday, March 26 during worship. Many thanks to *Michael Honeycutt* and the **Membership Committee** for their help with this class.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class and their mentors will be away this Sunday, March 12, visiting **Hall Wynne Funeral Home**, hosted by *Mark Higgins*. Parents are asked to drop youth at Hall Wynne at 9:15, and we will return to FPC in time for the 11:00 worship service.

We visited the Judea Reform Congregation on Friday night for Shabbat Services. We are grateful to *Rabbi Larry Bach*, and to congregant **Andrew Geller** for graciously hosting the group and answering our questions about worship.



This Sunday, **Chris Karnadi**, our Duke Divinity School ministry intern, will lead each youth group in a Lenten discussion on death and spiritual death. The **Mbah** family will provide the meal. Middle schoolers will meet at 5:00 p.m. High schoolers will meet after supper from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

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

Our Lenten Book Study

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

Wednesdays, through April 5 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. (bring a bag dinner/childcare provided)
Fridays, through April 7 from 10:30 a.m. – noon at FPC

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND MISSION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD: First Presbyterian cooperates with about 30 other faith communities in Durham to provide meals and childcare at Families Moving Forward on a quarterly basis. Our next turn serving dinner at Families Moving Forward is **Thursday, March 16**. We will prepare and eat dinner with the families and provide childcare for the youngest children while their parents attend Mother/Father Reads, a program to encourage families to read together. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Lea Bingham**, leabingham@gmail.com or 919-358-1774.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT HABITAT RESTORE: Do you care about affordable housing issues, but hammering nails and climbing on roofs are not a good fit for you? Not to worry — there are other excellent ways that you can make a tangible difference. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is looking for volunteers, ages 16 and up, to help in a variety of ways. All proceeds from the ReStore go to help build houses in Durham and Orange Counties. For more information and to sign up, please contact <http://www.restoredurhamorange.org/volunteer/>. If you have more questions, contact **Margaret Rubiera** at margaretmr29@gmail.com, or 919-425-1413.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS: Please continue to bring non-perishable food items for Iglesia Emanuel's food pantry and supplies for blessing and toiletry bags.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT FPC: The church office is looking for five to six volunteers to tidy up the foyer, sanctuary, and narthex each week on a rotational basis. If you like things “decent and in order” and live nearby FPC or work downtown, PLEASE consider fulfilling this need. Depending on your schedule, you can volunteer once or more often during the month. The tasks should take one person less than an hour to complete each week. Contact **Valerie McMillian** in the church office if you are interested: 919-682-5511 ext. 215 or v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.



Spring Nia Class led by Heather
Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall
March 7 - April 25 (No class on March 21**)**
Free for FPC members, donations accepted

BREAD FOR THE WORLD CONVENTION

"Raising Our Voices to End Hunger: Training Successful Advocates"

Saturday, March 11 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church (403 E. Main Street)

Convention features a keynote speaker and a number of other speakers and workshops led by local advocates to end hunger. Attendees should register at:

<https://www.2017ncbreadfortheworldconvention.eventbrite.com>

FIRST FRIENDS Potluck Gathering at the Carsey's home

Saturday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Adults only; hosts providing ham biscuits

(Please respond to the EVITE)

BOOK GROUP

The next scheduled meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of **Mary-Jo Keenan**. **Caroline Pritchett** will be leading a discussion of *The Secret Chord* by Gwendolyn Brooks. Please let Mary-Jo know if you will be coming (mjkeenan39@gmail.com) Her address is 2407 Tryon Road, Durham.

SCRATCH / Young Adults Potluck Gathering

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

at the home of Ian and Jennie Belle

(Please respond to the EVITE)

NEW OFFICERS' TRAINING

Sunday, March 19 following worship

Cherrie Henry will lead a discussion on Presbyterian Polity. Plan to stay until 2:00 p.m. Contact Cherrie about making up this class if you are unable to attend.

ATTENTION QUILTERS!

FREE Quilting books and magazines: **Georgia Bonesteel** quilting project books, some with patterns and templates. If interested, call **Cathy Guajardo** at 919-477-3425.

CONCERT - Sunday, March 26 at 3:00 p.m.



It's "MARCH GLADNESS" at FPC!

Vox Virorum presents its first joint concert with the **UNC Men's Glee Club** and the **NCSU Singing Statesmen Men's Choir**. The three groups will join together on stage (**FPC sanctuary**) for some truly stunning choral singing, including Franz Biebl's 'Ave Maria' and 'Swing Down, Chariot'. **Free admission, \$10 suggested donation.** FPC members who participate with Vox are **Brent Curtis, Parker Klinck, and Sam Henry.**

Durham's Annual Crop HUNGER Walk

The 43rd Durham Crop HUNGER Walk will be **Sunday, April 2, 2017 beginning at 2:30 p.m. from Duke Chapel.**

To sign up to walk with FPC and/or make a donation online, go to our page: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/durhamnc/Team/View/33229/First-Presbyterian-church>

Not able to walk this year? Support FPC's team by sponsoring a walker. Please make checks payable to Durham Crop Walk and give to the person you are sponsoring by the day of the race, or you can donate online.

For more information about this event and how the funds are used for hunger relief, go to <http://durhamcropwalk.org/the-walk/>



Faith Connections on Mental Illness - 7th Annual Conference
"Transforming Lives: Overcoming Stigma in Mental Illness"

Friday, March 31
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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: 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**, please send an email to: darasjot.singh@gmail.com or darsev.kaur@gmail.com or go online to: sgncweb.org



March 19 - Third Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching
Annual Meeting at the end of worship
Fellowship Lunch following worship

March 26 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Mindy Douglas, preaching
New members received during worship

April 2 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Brian Blount, preaching

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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