

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

March 21, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

First Presbyterian Church – A beacon of light and hope in the city of Durham

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."*

Dear friends,

This Sunday at our annual congregational meeting, I shared my thoughts about the "state of the church." Here is a condensed version for those who could not be with us:

FPC is a healthy and visionary community of faith equipped with the necessary tools to move us into the next fifty years of witnessing to the gospel message of God's love for the world in Christ and the way the Holy Spirit moves among us to shape and reform us. We have much to celebrate!

- 1) We have a **strong identity**: We know ourselves to be people called to a **life of love** toward God, one another, and our neighbors in need. We are a people of **welcome and hospitality**. We are known to be a **safe place** for all to worship, to marry, and to be active in the community. We rejoice that we are **diverse** in our membership, even as we strive for greater diversity. We foster strong **interfaith relationships** and **ecumenical relationships** with our friends of faith in Durham.
- 2) We **worship** God in spirit and in truth, with word and song, with passion, energy, imagination, joy, faithfulness, and hope for our future.
- 3) We grow together in **study and service**, recognizing that we are on a journey together, that we are stronger together and that we have much to learn about what it means to love God and love neighbor. We honor and celebrate the gifts of children and youth in our midst.
- 4) We work for **social justice** in the city and in the world. We respond to the urgent needs of God's people while also working for systemic change that will benefit those on the margins, the "least of these."
- 5) We have a **gifted and committed staff team** and **dedicated and faithful lay leaders**. Our staff and lay leaders have provided solid, wise, and consistent leadership as we moved through a three-year transition following the retirement of a beloved, long-term pastor and continue to provide leadership as we envision our future together.
- 6) We are **financially stable, but need to be realistic about our finances**. This year, because of many converging factors, our pledges fell short of budgeted needs. The Session responded to the shortfall by approving a realistic 2017 budget which included significant cuts to Property, Personnel, and Service and Mission Committee budgets, in addition to a draw from the reserve fund. Though these cuts were painful in many ways, the Session

believes this budget will enable FPC to move more realistically into the future. We celebrate the generous gifts of FPC members that continue to show faithfulness, gratitude, and excitement about the future.

I am happy to discuss any of the above with you at any time. I am excited to be a part of this community of faith which brings the light and hope of Christ to the world.

Grace and peace to you all,
Mindy

Briefs from the Annual Meeting of the Church: At the congregational meeting on Sunday, March 19, **Karen Romines** presented a report from the Ad Hoc Budget Committee in which she described the process and results of modifying the 2017 operating budget. The details of this effort are contained in a letter from Karen to the congregation last week. **Al Arrowood** followed with a report on the total budget, which includes both the unrestricted operating funds and restricted endowment income. The budget numbers can be found in the enclosed summary file, and an outline of Karen and Al's presentations is also enclosed. Karen and Al are both happy to answer any questions about the 2017 budget and Session's ongoing efforts to reach a sustainable budget in 2018.

– **Karen Romines**



The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the following: The family of **Al Eldridge**, former member of FPC who died March 16 in Durham. Al's funeral is being held today at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. **Carl and Chris Anglin** (and **Madeline**) on the death of Carl's mother, **Alyce Anglin**, who died March 15 in Oregon.

Added this week: Shade Mecum, stepfather of Katherine Higgins
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 Keever, 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
- **Doug Fisher**, friend of FPC
- **Mike Gray**, cousin of Linn Lopez
- **Rick Hager**, friend of Celia Dickerson
- **Cherie Haines**, sister of Vernon Neece
- **Paul Martin**, brother of Beth Neece
- **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

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY CLASS

Those who completed the Membership Inquiry Class and desire to join FPC should plan to **meet with the Session THIS Sunday, March 26 at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor**, and to be welcomed during the 11:00 worship service. If you have any further questions regarding membership, please see one of the FPC clergy.



Sunday, March 26, 2017 - 4th Sunday in Lent

Called Session Meeting

There will be a called Session Meeting **this Sunday, March 26, in the Wilson Parlor at 9:45 a.m.** for the purpose of meeting with those who have completed the Membership Inquiry Class, and who now are seeking membership at FPC. New members will be presented to the congregation during the 11:00 worship service. Those who cannot be present this Sunday will have another opportunity to join the church soon.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

New members will be introduced during worship **and the Hunger for Change offering** will be received.

Sermon: "We Want to See Jesus " - Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts:

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-41

Serving this Sunday:

Acolytes: **Noah Rokoske, Webb Cummings**

Crucifer: **Peter Compton**

Liturgist: **Michael Honeycutt**

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

After Worship Greeters: **Barbara Buckley** (side/font);

Bob Breitweiser (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Chris Brown** (head), **Mary-Jo Keenan** (flowers), **Abi Warmack, Dale Gaddis, Sherry Everett, Amy Sanchez**



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) - We will wrap up our series on Mental Health and Our Faithful Response with sharing and discussion about how religion and society can be helpful or harmful for those dealing with or caring for someone with a mental health issues. **Homer Ashby, Jane Williams** and **Sue Fricks** have agreed to lead a discussion to broaden our understanding of those dealing with mental health dilemmas, and how the church might provide support, encouragement, and connection for those who feel isolated during times of mental imbalance. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall** and all are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults) - Jesus provoked controversy by restoring sight to a man who was born blind. The healed man's faith and understanding continued to grow as he was questioned, but others refused to see or accept the truth. "The Lord does not see as mortals see." Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) - All are welcome to join Journeys to read and discuss the Book of Nehemiah. It concerns the dedication of Jerusalem and its people to God's laws. Join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) - This week we continue our discussion on wearing God as flame, using Lauren Winner's book, **Wearing God**. 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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS to Visit Sikh Gurudwara

Our visits to other faith communities will continue this Sunday, as we head up Roxboro Street to the Sikh Gurudwara of North Carolina. Their service begins later than ours, so confirmands and mentors will meet in the FPC foyer at 11:00 (as our worship begins) to carpool to the Gurudwara. Once there, they will greet and orient us before we join their worship service at 11:30, followed by a time for questions and lunch. We will return to the church by 2:30, and parents should pick up youth at FPC at that time. **Female youth and mentors should bring a head scarf to wear during worship, and dress appropriately for sitting on the floor.** Male youth and mentors should not wear caps. **Please let Marilyn know if you will not be going.**



This Sunday, the youth will engage in the "Sole Hope" service project of making shoes.

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

CONCERTS - Sunday, March 26

It's "MARCH GLADNESS" at FPC at 3:00 p.m. 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 (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 sing with Vox are: **Brent Curtis, Sam Henry, and Parker Klinck.**

30th Anniversary of Brombaugh Organ
New Hope Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill
featuring Kathy Parkins in Concert
Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the installation of their Brombaugh organ, New Hope Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill is hosting a series of organ concerts. The first concert, on March 26, will feature Kathy Parkins. Kathy was the director of music at New Hope in 1987 and helped that church procure the organ. Kathy currently serves as the Minister of Music at FPC.



I recently read a wonderful book by Jon Gordon titled "Life Word - Discover Your One Word to Leave a Legacy." Though the book is small, its message is powerful: *"within the heart of every person is a passion and desire to live a life that truly matters; to make a positive contribution and make a difference; to live in such a way that the world is better because we are here. Ultimately, we want to leave a positive legacy that lives on long after we're gone."* We are blessed to have the FPC Legacy Society to ensure that FPC will be here long after we are gone. I invite you to join me in this Legacy of faith. *Perhaps Jesus's "life word" was his legacy of Love.* - **Lisa M. Gabriel**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND MISSION

WOODWIND PLAYER(S) NEEDED: The First Presbyterian Wind Ensemble has been playing together and providing music for occasional worship services for almost five years. During that time, our numbers have varied (sometimes a quintet, sometimes more) and so has our instrumentation. Now as **Aurelia Klinck** is about to go off to college, we're looking for a new member or two or three. If you play (or played) a woodwind instrument, such as flute, oboe, clarinet, sax, bassoon, or French horn, please contact **David Smith** by email: (davidjudysmith@frontier.com) or any of the other members of the group for more information.

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.

FLOC needs drivers: The Farm Labor Organizing Committee's (FLOC's) farmworker members in three regions of NC (Eastern, Piedmont and Western) need rides to their regional meetings in July and August. If you have interest in driving farmworkers to the July 2 Regional membership meeting in Dudley NC, please contact **Dave Austin** at daustin@mindspring.com.

STEPUP MINISTRY: Beginning April 4, StepUp Durham will begin Step2 of its Employment Program. Step2 is a weekly program that will wrap nine months of life-skills, stability, and support around those who have become newly-employed and working at least 30 hours per week. Phase one of Step2 will focus on personal development; phase two will focus on financial coaching; and phase three, on career growth. “StepUp Durham’s vision for Step2 is that it will be a place where people grow and thrive, create and accomplish goals and build a deeper sense of community, stronger self-awareness, greater financial stability, and clarity for how to obtain the type of joy they could call a career.”

Volunteers are needed every Tuesday night from 5:45-8:30 at CityWell Church, 2317 Chapel Hill Road, in the following areas:

- ***Co-Partner/Mentor** - Be trained to walk alongside and support a StepUp participant weekly as they set and accomplish their personal, professional, and financial goals. (Training will be Tuesday, March 21 from 6-8 at CityWell Church)
- ***Childcare and Homework Buddies** – Provide supervision and homework help for children (ages 0-16) of StepUp adults.
- ***Meal Donation** – Help StepUp provide a nutritious dinner to the 10 families participating in Step2 pilot program (*Marie Sappenfield* and *Marilyn Hedgpeth* are providing a meal the first Tuesday of every month. They would love to have others on their meal team; or establish another meal time to cover other Tuesdays.)
- ***Instruction** – Offer to teach or coach participants on a skill in which you have expertise (i.e. setting S.M.A.R.T. goals, leaning into personality strengths, credit repair, career development, budgeting, etc.)

StepUp Durham partners with adults seeking to transform their lives through employment and life skills training. Classes are designed specifically for individuals facing barriers to finding employment, such as a criminal background or gaps in employment history. FPC is proud to be a sponsor of StepUp Durham. If you are interested in joining the StepUp Durham team, please contact *Marilyn Hedgpeth* or *Bob Yoder*.

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

SPRING NIA CLASS

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. through April 25 in Watts-Hill Hall

****No class TODAY, March 21****

Free for FPC members, donations accepted

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

Tuesday, March 28 at 11:30 a.m. at Bennett Pointe Grill

4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham

RSVP to Mickey at 919-864-9823 or marilyn.velkey@usa.net by Sunday, March 26 if you plan to join us.

SCRATCH Monthly Fellowship Brunch and Palm-Cross Folding

Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m.

at Cherrie Henry's home (1407 Arbor St., Durham, NC 27701)

Please respond to the EVITE.

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.

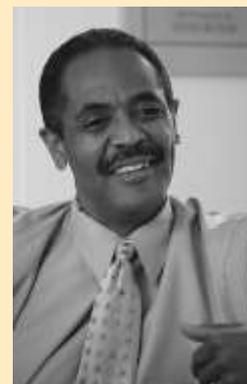
April 2 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Brian K. Blount, preaching

Blount is the president and professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, and Charlotte, NC. An M.Div. graduate of Princeton Seminary in 1981, he obtained his B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 1978. He received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Emory University in 1992 and returned to teach at Princeton Seminary the same year. His primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation and in the area of cultural studies and hermeneutics. He is an associate editor of the *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* for Abingdon Press and the General Editor for *True To Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary* by Fortress Press. He preaches and directs adult education classes in local congregations. He and his wife Sharon have two children, Joshua and Kaylin.



INVITATIONS

Sunday, April 2, 2017

A Community Celebration

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. Their youth 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

Sunday, April 2

Organ Recital

Robert Parkins, University Organist at Duke and husband of **Kathy Parkins**, will play a recital at **5:00 pm at Duke Chapel**. The event is free and open to the public

Durham's Annual Crop HUNGER Walk

It's time to get FPC's team together to walk in this year's Durham Crop Walk for hunger relief.

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

Sign up on Sundays following worship in the foyer or go online to: FPC Crop Walk Team. Not able to walk this year? Support FPC's team by sponsoring a walker.

Please remember to 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, go to DURHAM CROP WALK.

This year's FPC goal is \$5000. We can reach it with your help!



**Monday, April 3, 2017
10:30 a.m. Circle and Bible Study in the East Parlor**

**Monday, May 8, 2017 (NOTE date change)
10:30 a.m. Circle and Bible Study in the East Parlor following by
the annual Spring Social in Watts-Hill Hall**

Honoring the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Joseph S. Harvard, III

WHAT: The Lincoln Community Health Center Foundation Luncheon to honor the legacy of Joe Harvard

WHEN: Friday, April 21, 2017

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club, 3001 Cameron Blvd, Durham

The cost is \$50.00 per person. You can RSVP to Diane Faricy at 919-956-4004 or diane.faricy@duke.edu by April 7, 2017.

These Days devotional booklets for April – June 2017 have arrived. Check out ***Mindy Douglas***' introduction, "Faith Tending," in this quarter. Regular and large print editions are available in the church foyer and narthex, while supplies last.

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