

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

April 4, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Sunday in worship, we had the wonderful opportunity to hear Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond (my alma mater!). His sermon, based on Revelation 22:1-5 was inspiring, to say the least. If you missed it, or would like to hear it again, it will soon be available by podcast and text through our website, www.firstpre-durham.org.

The power of his sermon is in his pairing of the questions "Why?" and "Why not?" He points out that though many in the early Christian persecuted church cried out "Why?", John of Patmos in the book of Revelation ends not with that question of despair, but with the transformative, inspiring question of hope. Brian said:

It is any wonder, given everything that was happening to John, given everything that John was seeing happen to his people and the churches they worshipped in and the faith they believed in, that John lifted his eyes to the heavens and cried out, "why, Lord? Why?" Rev. 6:9: "How long, Lord, before you stand up for your people?" He is asking, Why? Is it any wonder, given everything that seems to be happening to us today, that even many contemporary Christians lift their eyes to the heavens and cry out, "why, Lord? Why?" But John's book does not end with "why?" John's book ends with "why not?" Despite everything that he sees with his eyes, having been transported in the spirit into God's intent for our world, John perceives with his faith a reality that, given all that was happening in his world, can only be described as a dream.

In our world today, we have a choice. We can face the world and the darkness of the world with despair and cry to God, "Why?" Or, we can face the darkness we see in the world with faith in the light of Christ, which leads to hope, which leads to our actively living out the gospel message in our lives as we share the light of Christ with the world. Brian ended his sermon in this way:

Some people see such darkness in our world, perpetuated by people consumed with hate for themselves and for the people around them, and they ask "Why?" I dream of God's light breaking in so fearlessly and so endlessly that we see each

other as God sees us and we love each other the way God loves us, and I ask “Why not?” Why not? There is no reason why not? Unless we who know better refuse to stand up, demand better, and do better. What that great dreamer, Martin Luther King, Jr. declared about his own time still applies to our time: “we will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.” Good people, do not go gentle into this dark night. Rage. Dream. Of God’s light. Be God’s light.

May we live in to this call as the people of God at First Presbyterian Church:

Stand up!

Demand better!

Do better!

Rage!

DREAM!

Be God’s light, friends. Let us be God’s light.

With deep love for you all and faithful hope for our future,

Mindy



Added this week:

Luke Everett

Elinor McCorkle, mother of Mac McCorkle

Richard Glica, uncle of Jane Brown

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

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
- **Charles ("Kim") Cummings**, father of Drew Cummings
- **Doug Fisher**, friend of FPC
- **Gera and Joe Fleming**, parents of Christyn Klinck
- **Mike Gray**, cousin of Linn Lopez
- **Rick Hager**, friend of Celia Dickerson
- **Shade Mecum**, stepfather of Katherine Higgins
- **Roberta Post**, friend of Jeanne Hervey
- **Janice Rattray**, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- **Ron Smith**, husband of Day School director, Katharine Smith

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

KUDOS to **Peter Fish** for hanging some historical photos in the hallway of the basement space below the sanctuary. What a wonderful way to share and preserve FPC's rich history. Check it out!

SPECIAL THANKS to **Mickey Velkey** for arranging the **Daytimers'** fellowship lunch at Bennett Point Grill for the month of March.

COMMENDATION: The FPC Session approved a commendation for Mary Banner. Please click [here](#) to read the commendation. **Dan and Mary** are moving to Ohio next week. They will provide their new address to us once they get permanently settled in.

Many thanks to all those who participated in Sunday's CROP Walk to end hunger, and especially to our FPC event coordinators, **Jody Maxwell** and **Paul Cornsweet**. Please continue to turn in donations to CROP Walk.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER . . .

The following person was received into membership on **Sunday, April 2, 2017:**

Ricky Bennett, 4101 Iver Johnson Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, 910- 620-2900, rbennett727@gmail.com. Ricky was born in Wilmington, NC, and graduated from NC State University with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering and a minor in philosophy. He currently works as an engineer at Buhler Aeroglide. Ricky and FPC member **Brianna Honea** will be married in May. He enjoys watching and playing sports, biking throughout the Triangle, and fishing on the coast. Ricky is joining FPC by reaffirmation of faith.

From your Finance and Investment Committee

We had some very good questions asked at the Congregational Meeting on March 19. Here are two questions on which we promised some follow-up.

1. What are the **fees for the Investment Portfolio** now managed by U.S. Trust?

The U.S. Trust fee is all-inclusive and bundled, providing FPC with a transparent pricing structure. U.S. Trust's fee to the First Presbyterian Church is the discounted annual fee of 0.60% based on assets under management. This fee includes investment management, strategic advice, manager selection & monitoring, custody services, and sub-fund accounting services.

2. Why did "**Earnings from Investments**" go down from \$10,769 in 2015 to \$198 in 2016?

Earnings from Investments come from Designated Fund contributions (contributions with donor restrictions for the use of those funds). In 2015 those balances were managed by our previous Investment Manager. During 2016 we were in the transition period between investment managers and the funds were deposited in a money market account. During that period and currently money market accounts pay only a nominal interest rate.

Again, we thank all the persons who ask questions and made comments during the Congregational Meeting. Any further questions can be directed to the Finance and Investment Committee. - **Al Arrowood**



Honor someone on Easter!

LILIES will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please fill out the lily card (in Sunday's bulletin) and return it to the Church office (in the envelope provided) with your donation (any amount) by Palm Sunday, April 9. Additional details are provided on the lily donor card. Contact the church office if you need a donor card.





Sunday, April 9 - Palm/Passion Sunday

***** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL *****

Confirmation Class

Our class WILL NOT MEET this Sunday (Palm Sunday) or next Sunday (Easter Sunday), but we ask that all members come for Hot Cross Buns this Sunday, and participate in the Palm Parade at 10:15 before worship at 11 a.m. Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 23, when we will prepare for our lunch meeting with the Session after worship that day.

Adult Sunday School Classes . . .

We will take to the streets this Sunday, to join our historic neighbors at Trinity United Methodist and St. Phillip's Episcopal in the Palm Parade at 10:15. Come early for Hot Cross Buns and coffee in Watts-Hill Hall before the parade.

No Children's Sunday School This Sunday or Next...

We will gather for an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45, followed by Hot Cross Buns and the Palm Parade at 10:15. Nursery care will be provided, but there will be no Sunday School classes for the children. Please plan to accompany your children on the Egg Hunt and the Palm Parade.

10:15 a.m. Palm Parade through downtown Durham

We will join with our neighbors from Trinity UMC and St. Philip's Episcopal, parading, waving palms, and blessing each congregation's ministries, then returning to our sanctuaries for worship.

11:00 a.m. Worship using lessons and songs about Christ's passion.

Rebecca Reyes, who serves with the Self Development of People program, will share a Minute for Mission with us.

The **Children's Choir** will also sing during worship this Sunday. There will be a quick rehearsal in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. The children can then participate in the Easter egg hunt and the Palm Parade. Following the parade, the choir children should come to the front of the sanctuary and sit with **Samantha Arten** until it is time to sing. **There is no Children's Choir rehearsal following "A Time with the Children" this Sunday.**

Worship Texts:

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9
Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2: 5-11
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: **Torrell Armstrong**
Acolytes: **Charlotte Maxwell, Aurelia Klinck**
Crucifer: **Grace Abels**
Narthex Greeters: **Maxie Honeycutt, Carol McKnight**
After Worship Greeters: **Lenore Champion** (side/font);
Gray Wilson (rear/narthex)
Ushers: **Kathy Krahenbuhl** (head), **Lucie House** (flowers), **Karen Swope, Alissa Miles, Kathy Krahenbuhl, Jane Williams**



New Officers' Training

New officers' training will be held again on **Sunday, April 9 in the East Parlor following worship this Sunday.** **Sam Miglarese** will lead the class. The topic will be "Worship and Sacraments." We will have a light lunch together then move into our training. Plan to stay until about 2:00 p.m.

Journeys Sunday School Class

In the coming weeks, Journeys will read and discuss Will Willimon's book "Fear of the Other" in which we are to consider loving others without their needing to become like us. If you plan to join that discussion, contact **Emily Wilkins** to purchase a copy of the book.

We will resume our study of the book of Nehemiah on April 23.



This week the youth will be making "Peeps scenes," taking well known biblical stories and recreating them out of the sweet Easter-time treat.

All balances and paper work for summer trips to Montreat and Massanetta Springs were due this past Sunday. Please get them to Sarah ASAP if you have not already done so.

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

Saturdays, April 8 and April 15



We'll be pruning and mulching in the Memorial Garden, and weeding all over the grounds. Come join us beginning at 9:00 a.m. We'll call it a day about noon. Contact **Barbara Buckley** (bjbuckley1@frontier.com or 919-402-8551) if you have questions or plan to help.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND MISSION

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

Washer needed: Do you plan to upgrade your washer in the near future? A local family is in need of an electric washer that is in good working order. Contact the church office if you have one or know someone with one available.

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

Ushers and communion servers are needed for the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday morning services. Email or call **Valerie McMillian** in the church office if you are available to serve at any or all of these worship events. Thank you!



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 17 in observance of the Easter holiday.

Flowering the Cross

As part of our Easter tradition, everyone is invited to **bring fresh flowers or greenery** to church on **Easter Sunday** to decorate a cross outside the Memorial Garden.

Eventually the cross will be covered with beautiful flowers in a brilliant array of color, light and lovely fragrance. What was a symbol of death, darkness, pain and hopelessness is transformed into something beautiful, new and alive in celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

Together, we can transform the cross and help make this Easter a celebration of new life.



The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

On **Easter Sunday, April 16**, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering 1) provides relief to those affected by natural or human-caused disasters, 2) supports initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed, and 3) provides resources and education toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities. **Special envelopes will be provided for this offering.** Please give generously!

Spring NIA Fitness Class

***** NO CLASS TODAY (April 4)*****

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. through April 25
Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall
Free for FPC members, donations accepted

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.

First Friends Garden Party (Adults only, please.)

Saturday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m.

at the home of **Susan Seahorn** (2812 State Street, Durham)

Host is providing a main meat, some appetizers and some wine. Please bring salads, sides, or desserts, and your favorite beverage. We'll spend time outdoors so bring a folding chair, too. In case of rain, the gathering will be rescheduled. Please call Susan if you have questions: 919-220-2893. Remember to respond to the EVITE!

SAVE THE DATE . . .

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, April 22 at the home of Andy and Ginny Widmark

More details forthcoming! Watch for the EVITE!

GREAT BIG CHURCH FAMILY FESTIVAL

Save the date: June 11-14 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us at a different sponsoring church each evening!

Read more about this newly formatted Vacation Church School event on FPC's website!



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Monday, May 8, 2017

(NOTE this is a date change for May)

10:30 a.m. Circle and Bible Study in the East Parlor following by the annual Spring Social in Watts-Hill Hall

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

CHORAL SOCIETY OF DURHAM

Chamber Choir Concert

Schubert Serenade: A Concert of Chamber Music
with Ciompi Quartet

First Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 7, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

Ticket required for admission.

MLK Steering Committee "Good Neighbor Brunch"

Recognizing individuals and organizations serving in the Research Triangle Communities and working to create "The Beloved Community."

Margaret Keller is being honored (*in absentia*) at this event.

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$8.00 contribution for the meal

Please RSVP to: revherndon@hotmail.com

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

WHAT: The Lincoln Community Health Center Foundation Luncheon

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.

Resource Center for Women & Ministry in the South, Inc. (RCWMS) is pleased to present:

Coming Out of the Shadows:

Connection & Spirituality Among LGBTQ Communities

An interfaith festival featuring workshops and talking circles with skilled facilitators, as well as ritual and music from various traditions.

Recommended for ages 16 and up.

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park, Durham

Lunch provided. Free, with suggested donation of \$10 for those who are able. For more information and to register, visit:

www.lgbtqspirituality.wordpress.com or <http://www.rcwms.org>

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<https://www.firstpres-durham.org>