

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

April 18, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

The Lord is risen!!

What a powerful Holy Week we journeyed through together last week, ending with a celebration of the empty tomb and the Risen Lord in our midst.

In my sermon on Sunday, I talked about the choice we have as to whether we will live in the pre-resurrection world of fear and despair, where the women were when they came to visit the tomb of their Lord who had been tortured and executed on the cross, or in the post-resurrection world of life, security, hope, and joy, where followers of Christ live in peace.

With everything that is going on in our world, we are all tempted to fall into fear and despair. But in this new and transformational resurrection world, we cannot live in fear and despair if we believe that Jesus is risen. In Jesus' resurrection, we see that even death cannot contain God's Kingdom of love which has broken into the world to bring peace in every nation and every land.

We also cannot live passively in this new and transformational resurrection world. As followers of Christ, we live out our faith actively as people convinced that God's Kingdom of love is at hand. We live our lives in love for all God's people and work for peace in every area of our lives.

Where, friends, will you live in this new and transformational resurrection world? In the old world of fear and despair, or in the new world of life and love?

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed.

Thanks be to God.

With love for you all,

Mindy



Our Sympathies:

Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi Joseph, General Secretary and Legal National representative of the 31th CPC, passed away March 30, 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Mulumba visited FPC in the summer of 2006 as part of an east coast choir tour

organized by the PCUSA Congo Mission Network. **John and Sue Fricks** hosted Mulumba and several Congolese Presbyterians in their home that year and following years.

Added this week:

Sarah Cox, recovering from a broken hip in the Pavilion (room 147) at Croasdaile Village

Lisa Short, cousin of Alissa Miles

Katrina Downey, friend of Joanne Harrar

Judy Arrowood, recovering at home following surgery

Traveling mercies for **Joseph Ngumi** who is in Kenya to check on family

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

Hillcrest: Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Family and Friends of FPC Members:

- **Don and Gail Champion**, uncle and aunt of Lenore Champion
- **Charles ("Kim") Cummings**, father of Drew Cummings
- **Gera and Joe Fleming**, parents of Christyn Klinck
- **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
- **Shade Mecum**, stepfather of Katherine Higgins
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
- **Janice Rattray**, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- **Ron Smith**, husband of Day School Director Katharine Smith

MANY THANKS to the members of the Worship and the Arts Committee for helping with the numerous Holy Week services last week. Each service was unique, faithful, and hopefully meaningful to all who participated. We are especially awed by those who stayed to help with all three services on Easter Sunday, and for those who served communion. Kudos as well to the Deacons who ushered and extended hospitality to our many guests. And many thanks to **Alice Raney, Phyllis Verhey, and Jean Wilson** for the lovely Easter lilies; as well as to **Barbara Buckley** and the grounds committee who made the church environs especially beautiful for Easter Sunday.

Check out this article in the Daily Kos by **Bill Busa** reflecting his experience at FPC's Maundy Thursday service: <http://www.dailykos.com/stories/2017/4/14/1653068/-In-a-darkening-age-the-question-of-the-Maundy>.

Congratulations . . . It is with joy that we congratulate our FPC sponsored Candidates for Ordained Ministry in their latest milestones! Candidate **I Sil Yoon** was approved "Ready to Receive a Call" with the New Hope Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry at its last meeting. I Sil continues work on her PhD. at Graduate Theological Union in California and is working with a youth group at a Korean church in her area. Candidate **Mary Berry** will graduate from Duke Divinity School with her M.Div. this May. To God be the glory!

Volunteer in the Spotlight

FPC's **Jane Williams** was featured on WRAL TV.

Check it out! *Women's roofing group helps cap Triangle-area Habitat homes*

<http://www.wral.com/women-s-roofing-group-helps-cap-triangle-area-habitat-homes/16631848/>



Congratulations to Margaret Keller

Margaret Keller was awarded the Joe Becton Human Relations Award at the Fourth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Good Neighbor Brunch" held at FPC on April 8, 2017. Margaret was recognized for her dedicated and committed service, working across lines of diversity and inclusion, to make Durham a Model City.



April 23 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts:

Psalm Lesson: Psalm 19

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: **Bob Yoder**

Acolytes: **Sam Henry, Graham Curtis**

Crucifer: **Matt Brockman**

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

After Worship Greeters: **Barbara Buckley** (side/font); **Emily Diy** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **TBA** (head), **Alissa Miles, Abi Warmack, Amy Dillon, Miriam Morey**



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) -

Who is our neighbor? Are the Sikhs our neighbor? And how much do we know about them? Where did they originate? In what country? What year? One of our Sikh neighbors, **Kulpreet Singh**, a member at the Sikh Gurwara of North Carolina, will be our guest presenter this Sunday, to help us understand one of our faith friends in God's peaceable kingdom. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall** and all are invited.

Lectionary Class (Adults) -

The disciples saw the risen Jesus with their own eyes, and they believed. But now the gospel story is our story. Can our faith, received through the testimony of others, be as strong as theirs? And can we pass that faith on to those who come after us? "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) -

All are welcome to join Journeys as they continue their reading and discussion of the Book of Nehemiah. Join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45. 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 this discussion, contact **Emily Wilkins** to purchase a copy of the book.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) -

This Sunday (4/23) we will discuss the Epilogue of Lauren Winner's book "*Wearing God*," and have some wrap-up conversation. We will do the all-church school activity on April 30th. On May 7th and 14th we will explore our own images of 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

We are coming towards the end of our Confirmation process, and it is very necessary that confirmands and mentors meet Sunday at 9:45 in the Education Building, to prepare for our meeting with **The Session over lunch on Sunday, April 23 immediately following worship**. I want the members of Session to share with us why God, and why church, in the many choices we make in our lives. And I want confirmands to have time to ask questions of the Session members about their faith journeys. We should be finished by 1:30, when parents can pick up their youth. - **Marilyn Hedgpeth**

BIBLE STUDY returns

The Friday morning Bible Study will continue this Friday at 10:30 in the Education Building, resuming their study of Parables, looking at Parables of Treasure in Chapter 6.



Regular youth groups this Sunday! Middle School youth meet at 5:00 p.m. High School youth meet at 6:30. Supper for both groups provided from 6:00 - 6:30 by the **Maxwell family**.

Our Senior High Banquet is April 30th! Our End-of-Year party is also in sight!

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

Calling all graduates!

FPC will be recognizing graduates during worship in June. If you or someone in your family or household is graduating from college or high school this spring, help us share the good news. Please submit your graduate's information to Valerie McMillian (if a college graduate) and to Sarah Finbow (if a high school graduate).



FPC Children's Choir Schedule

Sunday, April 23 - rehearsal following "A Time with the Children"

Sunday, April 30 - rehearsal following "A Time with the Children"

Sunday, May 7 - rehearse at 9:30 in the sanctuary; sing during 11:00 worship

For more information about Children's Choir, contact **Samantha Arten** at samantha.arten@gmail.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

Family Time Out

Families with young children are invited to another "Family Time Out" at FPC this **Sunday, April 23 from 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.** **Sarah Graham** (artist and former member of FPC) and her assistant **Isaiah** will lead the children in singing and an art event. Pizza will be provided.

While the kids enjoy their time with Sarah and Isaiah, parents will join **Mindy Douglas** in a walk to Bull City Burger and Brewery for a time of food, drink, laughter, and fellowship. This will be a lot of fun for everyone! Please come!

Spring NIA Fitness Class

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. through April 25

Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall

Free for FPC members, donations accepted

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)

Susan 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!

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Andy and Ginny Widmark

809 Hermitage Court Drive in the Forest Hills Community - off University Drive

Bring a main dish, salad, sides or dessert. Hosts are providing beverages. A small donation is appreciated to cover the cost of beer and wine. Please reply via the EVITE.

The Things That Matter Book Group

Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

***** Location has changed*****

Join us for a discussion of Vanessa Diffenbaugh's "The Language of Flowers." **Barbara Gerwe** will be hosting the group at her home (2704 Trailwood Drive in the Croasdaile Village community). **Dorothy Graham** will lead the discussion. Dorothy is asking that attendees **bring a favorite flower.**

GREAT BIG CHURCH FAMILY FESTIVAL "Surprising Friends"

June 11-14 from 5:30 p.m. to 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! **Registration is open and due now! Find registration forms online.**



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

Schedule for New Officers

May 22 New Officer Examination by the Session

June 4 Ordination and Installation of New Officers during worship

June 26 First meeting - Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.; Elders meet at 7:00 p.m. Supper for all officers at 6:30 p.m.

Community Invitations

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.

Durham CAN Rally for the Hayti Community

On **Monday April 24th** Durham CAN is hosting a rally regarding the disposition of a 19 acre abandoned, vacant lot in Hayti known as Fayette Place. Campus Apartments which purchased the land from the Durham Housing Authority nearly ten years ago for the purpose of providing housing for North Carolina Central Students has left the property undeveloped and an eyesore to the community. The Durham Housing Authority has the right after ten years of neglect to re-acquire the site. At the rally we will join with other member organizations of Durham CAN to support the residents of Hayti in their efforts to urge Campus Apartments to relinquish its claim on the property, to support the Durham Housing Authority in its intent to acquire the site, and to encourage the City Council to financially support this effort. The action on Monday night will be a crucial step in getting this abandoned, vacant lot developed into affordable housing. **The rally will be held at Monument of Faith Church, 900 Simmons St. in Durham. The rally will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end promptly at 8:30 p.m. We need as many members of First Presbyterian Church as possible to attend this rally so that we can give maximum support to our neighbors in this Hayti community.**
