

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

May 9, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

What an incredible day we had on Sunday! Beautiful music, an inspiring service, and a moving service of welcome for the confirmands! Thank you to all those who played a part in leading worship and all those who came to be a part of our worship of our Triune God together. It was truly a transforming day.

Over this past year, I have been fascinated by everything the confirmands have had a chance to learn together about the Bible, the Christian (and particularly Presbyterian) faith, other religions, and what it looks like to serve Christ in our lives as people of faith. I have often thought that I would love to do some of the things they are doing! I imagine many of us would!

The life of faith for those of us in this community (from the confirmands to the oldest in our midst) can often include ebbs and flows, highs and lows. We may have had times when we were riding on a wave of spiritual emotion and certain of God's presence in our lives. We may have also had times of spiritual dryness, when the absence of God felt all but certain. As people on the journey, such ebbs and flows are to be expected. What also can be expected, and even certain, is that God never leaves us. Though we may experience times of doubt and darkness, those in the community around us support us and hold us up until we are able to see light of Christ in our lives again. We have welcomed these confirmands into our midst as members of the church (and other new members as well) and in doing so, we take the vow to hold them in the light, even when they themselves have dark moments of doubt. May we take this vow seriously as we continue to grow in our own lives of faith, through our study and service, our worship and the stewardship of the gifts God has given us.

Grace to you all, and peace,

Mindy



JOYS AND CONCERNS . . .

Congratulations to **Sarah and Peter Finbow** on the birth of a daughter. **Sadie Louise** was born May 7 at 6:01 p.m., weighing 8 pounds and measuring 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great. They request **no visitors** until they are settled in.

Sarah and Pete Finbow
5 Penley Court
Durham NC 27713

We express sympathies to the following who lost loved ones recently:

- the family of **Sarah Cox**, FPC's oldest member who died May 2 at the age of 100 at Croasdaile Village.

David Cox (son)
213 Stanaford Rd
Winston-Salem NC 27104

- **Tom Bloom** on the death of his mother. **Antoinette Bloom** died May 5 in Pennsylvania. A funeral service will be held May 20 in Montrose, PA.

Tom Bloom
4419-B American Dr
Durham NC 27705

- **Julie, Jody, Ben and Charlotte Maxwell** on the death of Julie's grandmother. **Margaret Pfeiler** died May 3.

Julie and Jody Maxwell
602 E. Forest Hills Blvd
Durham NC 27707

- **Charlotte Nelson and Wib Gulley** on the death of Charlotte's mother. **Jane Lewis Nelson** died May 7. A memorial service will be held May 21 at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa, NC.

Charlotte Nelson and Wib Gulley
4803 Montvale Dr
Durham NC 27705

- the family of **Robin Kramer Puckett** who died May 1 in Atlanta, GA.

Leigh Kramer LaFalce (daughter)
2457 Zachery Woods Dr
Marietta, GA 30064

Added this week:

David Smith, recovering at home from surgery

Jennie Bodkin, sister of Mindy Douglas, having back surgery on Thursday in Greensboro

Michael Gilbert, co-worker of Kerry Holbrook

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): *Julian Boswell*
Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): *Helen Garrison*
Croasdaile Village: *Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, 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:

- ***Dot Blyth***, aunt of Libby Gulley
- ***Katrina Downey***, friend of Joanne Harrar
- ***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
- ***Janice Rattray***, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- ***Lisa Short***, cousin of Alissa Miles

~ NOTES ~

Confirmation Concludes: Many thanks to the 8th and 9th grade youth who were confirmed in worship this past Sunday, following a seven-month course of study, conversation, and visits to other faith communities. And special thanks to the mentors who committed to be their faith partners throughout the confirmation process and beyond. Those confirmed and their mentors are: ***Graham Curtis (Cris Rivera), Maryn Leonard (Lisa Rist), Robbie Creadick (Pat Dillon), Charlotte Maxwell (Mary Kay Robinson), Madeline Brigman (Lesley Curtis), Matt Dickerson (Mac McCorkle), Griffin Momsen-Hudson (Rob Everett), Diana Carrasco (Barbara Fish) and Aiden James (Larry Brockman).*** Another group of confirmands who could not be present on Sunday will be confirmed in worship on May 21.

Thanks also to the teachers, ***Sarah Finbow, Christyn Klinck, and Rob Everett***, and to all the other youth and their mentors who completed the course of study. All who participated will receive a Certificate of Completion. And special thanks to the parents who hosted the celebratory reception for the whole class following this past Sunday's worship.

Thanks to ***Mary and Stephen Berry*** for hosting the **Scratch** group in their home this Saturday (May 6) evening!

CONGRATULATIONS

... to ***Mindy Douglas*** who graduates from Duke Divinity School this weekend with a Doctor of Ministry degree! Way to go, Mindy!

... to ***Sam Miglarese*** on a job promotion at Duke University. Sam has been serving as Director, Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership. He has now been promoted and adds the new title of Assistant Vice President of Durham and Regional Affairs.

... to ***Margaret and Miguel Rubiera*** who were recipients of the 2017 Governor's Volunteer Service Award on April 25, 2017. The Rubieras were nominated in the Family category and were recognized for their significant contribution through volunteer service with Habitat for Humanity of Durham. The event is sponsored annually by the NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.



A Parent's Day Service of Healing and Wholeness Saturday, May 13 at 5:00 p.m.

We are entering a season of Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations and weddings, when not everyone is able to celebrate. We will pause for reflection and prayer in the beautiful outdoor setting of FPC's Memorial Garden (weather permitting). Some of us will pray for children, some for parents, some for siblings; all are invited to stand together and seek God's comfort for those who mourn. Guests are welcome, as are children, as we celebrate God's presence and love at all times of our lives.



May 14 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

We welcome to the pulpit **Peter Hausmann**, an ordained Presbyterian minister. Peter is a graduate of Clemson University (BS - Architectural Design) and Princeton Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity). He is employed with C. T. Wilson Construction Company as a Construction Manager. Peter is engaged in local community development, has served on the Durham Central Park Board of Directors, and on the board of Housing for New Hope. He is married to **Rocky Golding**.



Give mom a break, avoid long restaurant lines and join us on Mother's Day for worship, followed by a delicious meal served in Watts-Hill Hall. Donations will be accepted to offset the cost of the meal: \$8 per person; \$24 max per family.

Sermon: *"Even to Them"* - **Peter Hausmann**, preaching

Worship Texts:

Acts of the Apostles Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Gospel Lesson: John 13:31-35

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist **Bob Breitweiser**

Acolytes: **Aiden James, Webb Cummings**

Crucifer: **Almira Mbah**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Karen Romines** (side/font);
Joseph Ngumi (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Celia Dickerson** (flowers), **David Lorimer, Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey, Sigfried Fullenkamp, Jane Williams**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith & Community Class (Adults) - It's finally here: the magnum opus of **Peter Fish**, *Downtown by History and by Choice: First Presbyterian Church of Durham, NC, 1871-2013*. Peter and his publishers will be at the Faith and Community Class on Sunday to talk about the process of researching, verifying, writing, and publishing such a tome. And as time permits, Peter will autograph and sell books to those who wish to purchase them. It's a great day for Peter and for the church. Please come and celebrate with us this magnificent accomplishment. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall** and all are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults) - The exhilaration of Easter is fading into memory, and we are left with more mundane matters. Will our faith help us grow in holiness and do great works? Will it preserve us in times of uncertainty and suffering? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) - Journeys is reading and discussing chapters from Will Willimon's book "**Fear of the Other**" in which we are to consider loving others without their needing to become like us. Join us at 9:45 in **basement classroom B-17**.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) - We are winding down our study of Lauren Winner's book, "**Images of God**." This Sunday, we will again explore and share our own images of God. See you at 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**.

Sunday School Wrap Up: June 4

Our **Grand Finale and Teacher Appreciation** event will be Sunday, June 4 at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall. We will be asking the adult classes to talk about what they have learned this study year, as we honor all teachers. Light refreshments will be served. Teachers are requested to clean up their classrooms prior to June 4, sending art and projects home with their students. **Summer Sunday School will begin on June 11.**

Scripture Readers' Class

If you expressed interest in serving as a liturgist/scripture reader for worship, please consider attending the scripture readers' training next **Sunday, May 21. We will meet in room 209 - Bell Choir Room - at 9:45.** Contact **Steve Rimmer** (csrimmer@nc.rr.com) for more information. **Current readers and new readers welcome!**



Congratulations to *Sarah and Pete Finbow* on the birth of *Sadie Louise!*

Youth groups are currently on break for the summer. For those of you who signed up for Massanetta and Montreat, watch for reminders by email.

Calling all graduates!

FPC will be recognizing graduates during worship on **Sunday, June 4**. 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* (v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org).



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Great Big Church Family Festival "Surprising Friends"

Don't forget to register!

The deadline for ordering a t-shirt has passed, but we are still taking registrations for the GBCFF, **June 11-14 from 5:30 – 7:30**. FPC will be hosting on **Sunday, June 11** and **Wednesday, June 14**, and we need YOU (families, singles, grandparents, children, parents and young adults) to gather around tables and practice our hospitality skills with our Surprising Friends. Dinner is provided each night at 5:30, and following dinner we will travel in inter-generational groups to stations for crafts, games and play, and for snow-cones, which will be provided to all for free. GBCFF includes Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, Mt. Bethel Presbyterian, Iglesia Hispana Emanuel, and Duke Memorial Methodist. Registration forms can be found online, or in the church foyer. Now more than ever, we need to practice welcoming the stranger.

A Conversation with Lauren Winner

An invitation to people who have read Lauren Winner's book "Wearing God"

You are invited join Dr. Lauren Winner in her home (908 Vickers St) to talk about her book "Wearing God" on **Tuesday, May 23** at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Winner is excited to share with us around the writing of her book and her experiences teaching it to prisoners. All are invited, but space is limited to 15 persons. Reserve a place by emailing *Cherrie Henry* at: cheryl.barton.henry@gmail.com.

Schedule for New Officers

May 22 New Officers meet with the Session at 6:30 p.m. over supper.

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 officers at 6:30 p.m.

Service and Mission Opportunities

Fellowship Committee Needs Volunteers

Do you love helping out in the kitchen? Do you have a passion for loading the dishwasher just right? Are you looking for a great way to serve your church community? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, the Fellowship Committee would love your help! We are always looking for volunteers to help out with FPC's monthly lunches. Email **Abi Warmack** (abi.bissette@gmail.com) or **Julie Whiddon** (foxylady3542@yahoo.com) to be added to our email list! **For May, our lunch will be held following worship this Sunday, Mother's Day, May 14. Hope you'll volunteer to help!**

Urban Ministries of Durham

Margaret Rubiera is now coordinating FPC's monthly volunteer opportunities at Urban Ministries of Durham.

Volunteers are needed in the coming weeks as follows:

- **Friday, May 19, breakfast and lunch shifts**
- **Thursday, May 25, lunch shift**
- **Friday, June 16, breakfast and lunch**
- **Thursday, June 22, lunch**
- **Friday, June 30, breakfast and lunch**
- **Friday, July 21, breakfast and lunch**
- **Thursday, July 27, lunch**

If you have been, or would like to begin, volunteering to serve breakfast or prepare lunch bags, please contact Margaret: margaretmr29@gmail.com. This is a great way to serve the downtown community.

Girl Scouts say THANK YOU to FPC!

For many years (maybe 6?) FPC, as part of their community outreach, has hosted GS Troop #49 for its meetings. This image is a screen shot from the NC Girl Scout web site of some of the troop including **Aurelia, Grace and Juliana**.

The photo is a wonderful testimonial of how Girl Scouts and FPC have nurtured our girls! Not enough can be said about troop leader Cindy Sortisio's mentorship of these girls into young women and the opportunities she has provided them - for over 10 years. Thanks to FPC for providing a home for Girl Scout troop 49!

