

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

May 16, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

As many of you know, our staff has decreased by two positions over the past year. Our Membership Coordinator, **Shirley Frederick**, retired in June 2016, and our Administrative Assistant, **Lyn Francisco**, finished her work in April 2017, when the budget could no longer support her position. As you may imagine, many of the responsibilities formerly managed by these two staff members have fallen on the shoulders of other staff members, particularly our Parish Administrator, **Valerie McMillian**, and our Business Administrator, **Tom Bloom**. Considering this, we have made some adjustments so that our administrative staff can complete the most important tasks of the church on a timely basis and in a manageable and sustainable way.

Beginning this week and throughout the summer, we will have a bi-weekly newsletter. Each newsletter will contain information about worship for the next two Sundays and activities planned for the coming weeks. Weekly newsletters will resume on September 5, 2017.

We would also like to hire a student (youth or young adult) for 5-10 hours of clerical work during the summer. This student should have skills in the use of technology and social media. The job will include clerical work, such as helping with mailings, data entry, and filing, but will also include preparing our weekly sermon podcast and working with our social media. To apply, please send a brief resume to **Valerie McMillian** at v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

Thank you for your understanding as we make necessary adjustments to the workload of our staff. We are grateful to be a part of such a wonderful congregation!

Grace and peace to you all,

Mindy



JOYS AND CONCERNS . . .

Congratulations to . . .

- **Mindy Douglas**, who received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Duke Divinity School this weekend. We are proud of our Pastor/Head of Staff, Rev. Dr. Douglas.

- **Brianna Honea and Ricky Bennett** who were married on Friday, May 12 at Bald Head Island, NC.

- **Ed and Caroline Pritchett** on gaining a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter in the same week! Son **Poston Pritchett** married **Kelly Lohmeyer** on May 9, 2017 in Ravello, Italy. The couple will live in Houston. Daughter **Leslie Harper Pritchett Smith** had a baby daughter (**Harper Bailey Smith**) May 13 at Duke Regional Hospital.

- **Diane Standaert** who is the new Chair of the Durham Human Relations Commission for the upcoming year.

- **Geoffrey Kennedy** who has been offered a new job as Head Brewer at a brewery in Knoxville, TN. We will say farewell to Geoffrey and Patricia on Sunday, June 25.

Added this week: **Barbara Gerwe**, having back surgery this week

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): **Julian Boswell**
Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): **Helen Garrison**
Croasdaile Village: **Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Bob Kever, Bob Rankin**
Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches McPherson**
Hillcrest: **Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

Family and Friends of FPC Members:

- **Jennie Bodkin**, sister of Mindy Douglas
- **Dot Blyth**, aunt of Libby Gulley
- **Katrina Downey**, friend of Joanne Harrar
- **Michael Gilbert**, co-worker of Kerry Holbrook
- **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

Called Session Meeting: There is a Called Session meeting this **Sunday, May 21** for the purpose of receiving new members. The meeting will take place at 9:45 a.m. in the Wilson Parlor.

Sam Miglarese will be preaching at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Durham on Sundays, May 21 and May 28. From May 30 - June 2, Sam will be attending a conference celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the ninety-five theses: Luther and the Shaping of the Catholic Tradition at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

It was great having **Joe and Carlisle Harvard** back in worship with us on Sunday. Joe has completed his tenure as Transitional Minister at the First Scots Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC, and he and Carlisle have moved back to Durham.

What a great Sunday it was, with **Peter Fish** introducing his new book, *Downtown By History and Choice: First Presbyterian Church of Durham, NC, 1871-2013*. A member of Peter's publishing team, **Scott Sipe** of Carolina Academic Press, was present at the gala book signing in Watts-Hill Hall on Sunday morning. Copies of Peter's book can be purchased through the church for \$25, or through Amazon.com for \$65. Peter will continue to be available to inscribe books for personal copies, or as gifts to former members. Think who might love to receive a copy of this book, and send it to them as a gift. All checks should be made out to FPC.

**New Address . . .
Florence Shackelford
2600 Croasdaile Farm Pkwy
Friendship Hall D-128
Durham NC 27705**



The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.



May 21, 6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

New members and confirmands will be introduced during worship.

Psalm 66:8-12, 16-20; John 14:15-21; Acts 17: 22-31

Sermon: "Searching for God" - Mindy Douglas, preaching

May 28, Ascension of the Lord

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

We will receive the **Hunger for Change Offering** during worship.

Ephesians 1:15-23; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53

Sermon: "Is It Time Yet?" - Mindy Douglas, preaching

	May 21	May 28
Liturgist:	Jane Williams	Cris Rivera
Acolytes:	Charlie Kelley, Jack Kost	Volunteers needed
Crucifer:	Sigfried Fullenkamp	Volunteer needed
Narthex Greeter(s):	Alice Raney	Linn Lopez, Elizabeth High
After Worship Greeters (side/font)	Jane Williams	Phyllis Verhey
(rear/narthex)	Caroline Rourk	Eric Wiebe

Ushers:

Chris Brown (head)
Michael Honeycutt (flowers)
Mary-Jo Keenan
Amy Dillon
Amy Sanchez

Julie Whiddon (head)
Volunteer needed (flowers)
Abi Warmack
Dale Gaddis
Jo Bernhardt



SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

Faith & Community Class (Adults) - The class meets at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall and all are welcome.

Sunday, May 21 - This Sunday we welcome **Drew Doll**, from the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham, and **Gudrun Parmer**, from the Durham Criminal Justice Resource Center, to talk about reintegration into society for those coming out of prison. Several members have expressed interest in a training program for working with those formerly incarcerated, and **Jane Williams** and **Ann McKown** will take names of those interested in this type of ministry.

Sunday, May 28 - What does sanctuary mean? Is it solely a sacred place? Does it imply welcome? Does it mean safe-keeping or refuge? Does it mean a nature reserve? Our guest this day will be **Jennie Belle**, from the NC Council of Churches, who will address the *verboten* topic with us as it applies to our neighbors, and especially to undocumented immigrants who are being targeted for deportation. She plans to discuss not only sanctuary congregations, but also sanctuary cities, streets, and schools. The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45, and ALL are welcome. (Coming in June: *Fear of the Other; No Fear in Love*, by Will Willimon. Purchase books on your own and read ahead for the four-week discussion.)

Lectionary Class (Adults) - Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Sunday, May 21 - Are we alone? Must we, as Paul said, "search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him"? Or do we have a better way?

Sunday, May 28 - Something is about to happen. We have heard the Easter messages and the Easter reassurances, but now the words are more disturbing: "The hour has come." "You will receive power." "Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal." What is it that is about to happen? How can we prepare ourselves for it?

Journeys Class (Adults) - Join us at 9:45 in basement classroom B-17. We are currently 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.

Scratch Class (Young Adults)

Sunday, May 21 - We are ending 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**.

Tuesday, May 23

Scratch Class has been invited to 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. Space is limited to 15 persons. Reserve a place by emailing **Cherrie Henry** at: cheryl.barton.henry@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 28 - We will meet for brunch during the Sunday School hour (9:45 - 10:45) at **Scratch Bakery**. Then we'll take a break for the summer. You are welcomed to attend the Faith and Community Class during the summer months.

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. This year, 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.

Confirmation - Sunday, May 21

This Sunday, we will be confirming two more confirmands during the worship service: **Minna Fullenkamp and Riley Pienkowski**. We will conduct the service in much the same way that we did with the previous group, except that we will also take in a new member, **Hailey Reid**. In addition to Minna and Riley's mentors, **Beth Stringfield and Lenore Champion**, we will call other mentors forward to lay on hands and pray for our confirming youth. And following worship, Minna, Riley, and Hailey will stand with the pastors in the foyer to accept congratulations from members and visitors as they exit the sanctuary.

Scripture Readers' Class - If you expressed interest in serving as a liturgist/scripture reader for worship, please consider attending the scripture readers' training **THIS 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!**



Youth groups are currently on break for the summer. For those of you who signed up for Massanetta and Montreat Conferences, 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) by May 25.



Families with Children Fellowship Event

Sunday, May 21 from 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.

Sarah Graham and her assistant Isaiah will engage with the children with art and share a meal together. Parents will walk to Bull City Burgers and enjoy some "adult time" together. Please join us!

Day Timers' Luncheon

Tuesday, May 23 at 11:30 a.m.

Bennett Pointe Grill

4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham

RSVP to **Maxie Honeycutt** by May 21: 919-286-4680

Great Big Church Family Festival - "Surprising Friends"

Registration forms are still available in the church foyer. The collaborative gathering of five congregations will be hosted by FPC on Sunday, June 11, and Wednesday, June 14 from 5:30 – 7:30. All are invited to join the fun: parents, youth, children, adults, grandparents. Come and meet some Surprising Friends!

Summer Soccer Camp

Iglesia Hispana Emanuel is once again sponsoring a "Summer Soccer Camp"

DATE: **June 12 - 23** (with the possibility to extend one more week).

Registration is open.

Call **Guillermo** (919-451-6626) or **Pastor Julio Ramirez-eve** (919-672-4333).

Attention FPC Officers:

May 22 Diaconate at 6:30 p.m.

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

Session at 7:00 p.m.

June 4 Ordination and Installation of New Officers during worship

June 19 First meeting for new officers - Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.;

Elders meet at 7:00 p.m. Supper for all officers at 6:30 p.m.



Saturday, May 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It does not matter if you come to taste Turkish food for the first time or you just come back for more, the most important thing is to be together and have a good time. As the Turkish proverb says: "Neither coffee nor the coffeehouse is the heart's behest. The heart seeks friendship; coffee is the pretext."

Where: 1391 SE Maynard Rd. Cary, NC 27511 (Next to DMV)

This year's proceeds will be used for operational costs of Divan Center.

Sunday, September 24

*** NEW EVENT ***

FPC All-Church Gathering
New Hope Camp and Conference Center
3:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 30

Durham Gay Pride Parade
1:00 p.m.



FPC will be participating. More details forthcoming!

SERVICE AND MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering at Urban Ministries of Durham

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

- **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.

Let's Support Families Moving Forward

Families Moving Forward (FMF), the organization formed by the merger of Genesis Home and Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network, is celebrating its first year and wants to share some of the results with the faith communities that support their efforts to provide transitional housing for Durham families in need. In 2016 they served 67 families, 79% of whom exited to permanent housing. As a result of their participation in FMF, 46% of households increased their job-related income between entering and exiting the program. FMF has also provided many new programs to support for young children, and 74% of children ages 0-5 in their programs receive developmental screening. Additionally, seven families received mentoring through Circles of Support, including one group from First Presbyterian Church.

Families Moving Forward is also the first organization in the state to be certified by Points of Light as a Service Enterprise. A Service Enterprise organization engages in a process of self-study and reorganization to increase the number of volunteers in their program administration. This means that more of the organization's operating expenses can go to serve families in need. FMF currently works with 22 partner organizations and 36 faith communities throughout Durham, logging 7,222 volunteer hours last year. First Presbyterian Church volunteers have been an important part of this accomplishment.

FPC continues to provide meals for families participating in evening programming at FMF four times a year. FMF is also looking for mentors to “walk with” guests for the duration of their stay, Circles of Support volunteers, and help with transportation of both guests and furniture. They can always use donations of new twin- and full/queen-sized sheet sets or gently used blankets or quilts. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with FMF, contact **Lea Bingham** (919) 358-1774 or leabingham@gmail.com.

An Invitation to Ramadan Celebrations

Address: 1391 SE Maynard Rd, Cary (Next Door to the DMV)

Dates: May 27th to June 25th

Participation is free of charge.

Institute of Islamic and Turkish Studies (www.iitsnc.org) is a non-profit organization located in Cary. One of our goals is to bring together different communities in order to promote compassion, cooperation, partnership, and community service through interfaith activities.

We would like to invite you, members of your congregation and your colleagues to break bread together with our community members in the month of Ramadan. We will gather around the same table to enjoy delicious Turkish meals and to share a spiritual, interfaith atmosphere in this sacred month. Please register through https://docs.google.com/a/firstpres-durham.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9rNMMCsRRPIg2_H3SIEEuyrnHwC1Losd1OwL6Vk-ExfRzgA/viewform. You will receive a confirmation email once dinners are scheduled. We can accommodate 5 guests per night per group. However, your organization can also join us on different nights.

This year we will first have a short presentation on our faith and organizational background. This will be followed by a question and answer session. You can interact with our community members while waiting for the dinner at sunset (around 8:30 PM).

Program:

7:30 pm: Presentation by IITS

8:15 pm: Question and Answer

8:30 pm: Iftar Dinner (Fast Break)

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