

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

June 13 - June 26, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

I teach a class for new members called “The Christian Life.” In this class, we ask the question, “How does our faith in Christ affect the way we live our lives?” We begin to form an answer by exploring six areas of Christian living: corporate worship, private devotion, service to the world, stewardship of gifts, fellowship with others, and biblical and theological study. Over the summer, we will look at each of these six areas and examine ways we can learn and grow in our spiritual lives as individuals and as a community of faith. This week, we consider **corporate worship**.

Our Presbyterian (U.S.A.) *Directory for Worship* begins:

Worship is at the very heart of the church's life. All that the church is and does is rooted in its worship. The community of faith, gathered in response to God's call, is formed in its worship. Worship is the principal influence that shapes our faith, and is the most visible way we express the faith.

In worship, we gather to give thanks to God for all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do. Writes John Burkhart, “Worship is response, and the God to be responded to in worship is the God whose grace deserves gratitude. . . . Christian worship is a response to God's grace.” In worship God calls and gathers us into one people who are ready to hear the promises and challenges of the gospel. We gather to be comforted in our grief, guided in our confusion, and directed in our paths in the ways of grace and peace. We come to acknowledge that God's love has been poured out for us in ways we cannot fully comprehend. We come to hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to have our spirits filled and renewed so that we might go into the world and share the message of Christ's light-filled justice and love-filled hospitality in and through our lives, wherever we go and whatever we do.

In worship we come together, a rag-tag and thirsty bunch of sinners in need of God's grace, and we lose ourselves in the one single goal of attaching ourselves to the will of God through faith, hope, and love. In our worship, we acknowledge the ways God clings with unconditional grace to us, and seek to discern the ways we might together cling more closely to God.

With love,

Mindy



THANK YOU to the Class of 2017 Officers for your service. You have served well.

Class of 2017 Ruling Elders

Bob Breitweiser
Kate Busa
Emily Durham
Almira Mbah (youth)
Will McDow
Carter Momsen-Hudson (Youth)
Joseph Ngumi
Alice Raney
Phyllis Verhey

Class of 2017 Deacons

Grace Abels (youth)
Abi Bissette
Dick Boulden
George Danser
Celia Dickerson
Sherry Everett
Sigfried Fullenkamp (youth)
Lucie House
Jacqueline Mbah

CONGRATULATIONS ...

to the new officers who were ordained and installed on Sunday, June 4:

Class of 2018 Youth Ruling Elders: *Sigfried Fullenkamp, Eleanor Dilworth*

Class of 2018 Youth Deacons: *Sam Henry, Frances Zehmer*

Class of 2020 Ruling Elders:

Carol Carson
Brent Curtis
Andy Henry
Tyler Momsen-Hudson
Alice Raney
Cris Rivera
Jane Wettach

Class of 2020 Deacons:

Stephen Berry
Will Chambliss
Tony Chavez
Christy Gudaitis
Wayne House
Laurie Williamson

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to *Lucie and Wayne* on the birth of a daughter. **Eloise** was born June 7.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tony Lopez, husband of Linn Lopez
Beth Eisenson, recovering from knee surgery
Linda Satchell, Walk-in Ministry client, recovering from surgery at UNC Hospital
Barbara Gerwe, recovering at home following back surgery

Atria: *Peggy Mordecai*, mother of *Beth Eisenson*
Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): *Julian Boswell*
Croasdaile Village: *Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford*
Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): *Helen Garrison*

Forest at Duke: *Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches McPherson*

Family and Friends of FPC Members:

- ***Katrina Downey***, friend of Joanne Harrar
- ***Michael Gilbert***, co-worker of Kerry Holbrook
- ***Cherie Haines***, sister of Vernon Neece
- ***Paul Martin***, brother of Beth Neece
- ***Dell McMillian***, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
- ***Linda Momsen***, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- ***Janice Rattray***, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- ***Lisa Short***, cousin of Alissa Miles

NOTES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, June 11 was “Wills Emphasis” Sunday. Estate planning is important. See the enclosed information.

Copies of ***Peter Fish’s*** history of FPC book can be purchased through the church for \$25, at the Regulator Bookshop for \$30, or through Amazon.com for \$65. Peter will be available this Sunday **following worship** to inscribe books. When purchasing books from the church, checks should be made payable to FPC.

THANKS to ***Laura Casteel*** for hosting the **Scratch group (young adults)** in her home on June 3rd, and to ***Bill and Marcia*** for hosting **PrimeTimers** in their home on June 9th.

Communion at Croasdaile Village:

Bob Yoder and Jerry Postema served held a brief service and celebrated communion with ***Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar and Bob Rankin*** in the Pavilion at Croasdaile Village on June 11. Many thanks to ***Ruth Roberson*** for helping with the coordination.

Hat’s off to Rosa Ramirez, for the wonderful voice recital she presented at FPC on Sunday, June 11. Rosa is graduating from Durham School of the Arts this week, and will be attending Queens University in Charlotte next year to study music therapy. Rosa is the daughter of **Rev. Julio Ramirez-Eve and Marty Gensemer-Ramirez** of Iglesia Emanuel, FPC’s sister church.

GBCFF – Surprising Friendships

We are off to an awesome start with our new multi-church initiative, **Great Big Family Church Festival**. Close to 100 friends gathered on Monday night at FPC to enjoy a wonderful, kid-friendly meal prepared by **Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield**. After a presentation of the story of Zacchaeus and his surprising friendship with Jesus, we sang a few songs and then dispersed outside for some crafts and play, and for snow cones provided by Kona Ice. It was a great, low-key evening of fellowship with other families of faith, including those from Iglesia Emanuel and Duke Memorial UMC. **There is still room, if you would like to join us on Wednesday, June 14, from 5:30 – 7:30, when our surprising friends will be our guests from the Sikh Gurdwara in Durham.** We are especially grateful to those from FPC who have helped extend hospitality to our guests: ***Lenore Champion, Emily and Carlo Diy, Stephanie Pavik, Marcia and Bill Lorimer, Katharine Whitmore, Cathy***

Colville, George and Jo Bernhardt, Phyllis Verhey, Amy and Pat Dillon, Eric Wiebe, Jon, Kim and Grace Abels, Celia, Matt and DeAnna Dickerson, Mindy Douglas, Robert Daye, Kerry Holbrook, Jane Williams, Michael Honeycutt, Jennie Alwood and Frances Zehmer, and Libby Gulley.

Step-Up Durham

Congratulations to Step-Up Durham, which received a Wells Fargo Local Initiatives Non-Profit Grant for **\$100,000** for Small Business Economic Development, Workforce Development and Job Programs! Step-Up Durham is an organization supported by FPC that works to transform lives of adults and children through employment and life-skills training. Approximately 60% of those trained and placed in employment are coming out of incarceration. Step-Up Durham's Executive Director is **Syretta Hill**.



Say Hello to Mark McHugh!

Mark McHugh is filling in for Cherrie Henry this summer while she is on her sabbatical. As a brief introduction, Mark is married to **Jody**, and he hails from Washington state. They moved here in 2014 so that Mark could attend Duke Divinity school, where he graduated from this past month. Sadly, Jody won't be around too much this summer as she is starting a Nurse Practitioner program back in Seattle and is headed back that way before Mark joins her in a couple short months. Being from the PNW, Mark enjoys the outdoors, coffee, craft beer, and sports. Mark's contact info: markemchugh@gmail.com or mobile: 360-789-6585.



Joseph S. Harvard to be honored

We hope you will be able to join us for worship **THIS Sunday, June 18**. As a part of our worship, we will celebrate a recent action by the Session to make the **Rev. Dr. Joseph S. Harvard, III** the Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church. Joe retired in 2013 after 33 years of ministry here, along with his wife Carlisle.

This title recognizes the long and loving, mutually caring pastoral relationship Joe has had with this congregation. Through this title, we claim to the world that Joe Harvard, along with **Carlisle Harvard**, has left a mark of love on this congregation through his preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, his teaching the way of Christ through love and justice to the world, his care for those who are sick, grieving, or suffering in any way, and his leadership in the areas of community building, racial justice, hospitality, and peacemaking. On June 18, we will celebrate this action of our Session through a litany in worship and a time of fellowship and dining together after worship. All are welcome to join us for worship and lunch as we celebrate this wonderful occasion for the Harvards and for First Presbyterian Church!

Sunday, June 18

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism

New members Eric and Kelly Boggs will be introduced, and their child baptized during worship.

Following worship, everyone is invited to a fellowship lunch in Watts-Hill Hall. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal.



Worship texts: Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-38

Sermon: “Grace for the Journey” - Mindy Douglas, preaching

Serving June 18:

Liturgist: **Carl Rist**

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Emily Diy** (narthex/rear); **Bob Breitweiser** (side/font)

Ushers: **Brianna Honea Bennett** (head), **Dale Gaddis** (flowers), **Lea Bingham**, **Sharon Hirsch**, **Stephen Berry**

Sunday, June 25

From the Associate Pastor

The Mighty Voice of Paul

I recently attended a conference at Catholic University on the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther’s posting of the ninety-five theses. It was a scholarly gathering of international academic and church leaders of mainly Lutheran and Roman Catholic participants. There were many references to the Lutheran/Catholic joint declaration on the doctrine of justification (1999) as a milestone to achieve a common understanding. Yet no reference to that teaching can be made without Paul’s Letter to the Romans. The three fathers of the Protestant Reformation, Luther, Calvin, and Melancthon, drew much of their doctrine from this letter. Modern Christian thinking has been profoundly influenced not just by the continued scholarship on Romans, but by such a great theological work as Karl Barth’s momentous commentary in 1918. Barth in his 1919 preface reveals something of the spirit of discovery in his work: “The reader will detect for himself that the Commentary has been written with a joyful sense of discovery. The mighty voice of Paul was new to me: and if to me, no doubt to many others as well.”

Our Sunday lectionary is making sure that this mighty voice of Paul is heard anew, giving us the opportunity to experience the power of the Good News of Jesus Christ through the Apostle Paul. The epistle readings of this year’s cycle A are practically overwhelmed by selections from this letter. There are readings from Romans for 16 consecutive Sundays (9-24) available for hearing, teaching, study and preaching. To those who have not been touched by the depth and power of Romans, there is now the opportunity to hear the beauty of God’s plan of salvation with the same awe that has touched commentators, saints, reformers, and theologians of the

past. May our liturgy of the Word these weeks be a stimulus for us to hear and read that letter seeking understanding from its message that the Gospel is “the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith...” (Romans 1:16).

Sam Miglarese

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

The Hunger for Change Offering will be received during worship.

Worship texts: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon: "*The Demands of Discipleship*" - **Sam Miglarese**, preaching

Serving June 25:

Liturgist: **Parker Klinck**

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

After Worship Greeters: **Delia Kwon** (narthex/rear); **Alice Raney** (side/font)

Ushers: **Amy Dillon** (head), **Brianna Honea Bennett, Laurie Williamson, Kathy Krahenbuhl, Sharon Hirsch**



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children (and youth): During the month of June, at 9:45 in room 205, we will be showing the movie *Zootopia* (PG), which depicts the unlikely partnership between a rabbit police officer and a red fox con artist to uncover a conspiracy involving the disappearance of savage predator inhabitants of the mammalian metropolis. “*Zootopia* is constantly asking its characters to look past species stereotypes, and not use species-ist language or repeat hurtful assumptions,” says film critic Matt Zoller Seitz. The movie dovetails nicely with our adult study of *Fear of the Other*, by Will Willimon, and could make for some interesting dinner conversations! Our helper on June 18 will be **Jean Wilson**, and on June 25 will be **Kerry Holbrook**.

Adults (aka Faith and Community Class) will meet in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 to continue a discussion of the book, *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love*, by Will Willimon. In the introduction, Willimon notes that Xenophobia, fear of the stranger, was last year’s “word of the year.” “This gutys, biblically rich, theologically searing book by Willimon gigs everybody’s sacred cow. Not only is the one whom Christ loves Other, but God is Other. The ground beneath us shakes the walls that divide us. If you holed-up happy with people who look like you, don’t read this thing. I will screw up your world,” says Tex Sample. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** will lead the discussion for the next two Sundays.

Some questions to consider during this summer study:

- Is the one you fear truly a threat to you or are you simply fearful because this one is different from you?
- How is God leading you, and what does God expect of you in relationship with this Other?

- How is our church identified with people who are the same in race, ethnicity, economic class or cultural affinity? How are these markers a barrier to others?
- Think of a person who is or was your enemy. What changed or would need to change for you to love your enemy?

Lectionary Class (meets year-round):

June 18: As we enter the Ordinary Season, we are confronted immediately with the rewards, the responsibilities, and the costs of a covenant relationship with God. Sarah and Abraham are promised an amazing gift of a son; Jesus' disciples are given unpaid tasks to do; and most disturbingly, Paul boasts of his suffering. What have we signed up for? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

June 25: Sometimes we find the words of scripture to be harsh or even cruel, as when Jesus promises divisions within families, or when Abraham sends away his son Ishmael. Where can we find the God of grace and love in these stories? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class and the Scratch/Young Adults Class are on summer break. We'll resume in the fall.

Spiritual Formation: This year-round class for women is led by *Susan Dunlap* and explores the topic of spiritual formation. Join us at 9:45 in **basement classroom B-16**.

Scripture Readers' Class - We will meet again this Sunday, June 18 at 9:45 a.m. in the Bell Choir Room (room 209, second floor of the Christian Education building). Come learn techniques for reading scripture and serving as a worship liturgist. If you signed up to serve as a liturgist, you are especially encouraged to attend. *Steve Rimmer* leads the class.

Making Disciples: Called to Teach

Do you feel called to join the teaching and spiritual formation ministry of FPC? We always have openings for new teachers in our Sunday morning program. Teacher recruitment is currently underway for the 2017-2018 year, and we are looking for four teachers for each class, so that adults can be on for two Sundays, and off for two Sundays. We currently need teachers for the 2-4's class, for the 3rd-5th grade Godly Play class (we will provide training), for the Middle School Class, and for the High School Class. We have a good core of veteran teachers in each group, but need some new voices in these very important formative areas. If you feel so called to "make disciples" and influence young lives, please contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth**.



Youth groups are currently on break for the summer.

For those of you who signed up for Massanetta (July 6-9) and Montreat (July 23-29) Conferences, watch for reminders by email.

Flower Ministry

The flower ministry of FPC offers a meaningful way to donate flowers for the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion. Each Sunday the flower arrangements bring the colors and beauty of nature to our worship service. Following worship, our deacons divide the flowers and deliver smaller arrangements to members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend church, as a way of sharing with them a part of our worship service. **Ninth Street Flowers** (700 Ninth Street, Tel. [919 286-5640](tel:9192865640)) has provided the beautiful arrangements over the past few Sundays. If you would like to reserve an upcoming Sunday to provide flowers for worship, please sign up on the calendar in the foyer. **Ruth Roberson** (RuthHRoberson@gmail.com, 919-949-2106) or **Jean Wilson** (JeanJWilson@gmail.com, 919 403-7333) will be glad to provide more details about ordering flowers and the discount offered to FPC by Ninth Street Flowers. **These dates are available for next month: July 2, 9, 23, and 30.** Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

In an effort to understand the many expenses involved in running FPC, the **Stewardship Committee** will be sharing with you some of our on-going operating costs. As an example, in May we spent the following:

\$190 for banking services, including sale of stock and on-line giving fees

\$970 for ongoing hard- and software services.

Your pledges support these and many other unseen but mission-critical items essential to our ministry at home and in the community.

Organizations financially supported by FPC (Service and Mission Committee 2017)

The dollar amounts below include all of the organizations supported from the FPC Operating Budget, Human Needs Endowment and special offerings collected throughout the year. These figures do not represent the personal donations or volunteered time from the countless FPC members who support these and many other organizations serving our local and global community.

Day School Subsidy	\$66,000
Iglesia Emanuel	\$23,700
Presbytery/Synod/GA	\$20,000
FPC Walk-in Assistance	\$12,000
Housing for New Hope	\$9,000
Durham Social Service Walk-in Assistance	\$8,000
Duke Campus Ministry	\$5,000
Urban Ministries of Durham	\$5,000

Habitat for Humanity	\$4,000
Step-up Durham	\$4,000
Missionary Support	\$3,550
Durham Congregations in Action	\$3,500
Families Moving Forward	\$3,500
NCCU Presbyterian Campus Ministry	\$2,500
Meals on Wheels	\$2,000
Welcome Baby	\$1,800
Food Bank	\$1,300
Durham CAN	\$1,000
Partners for Youth Opportunity	\$1,000
Theological Education	\$1,000
Threshold	\$1,000
Achievement Academy of Durham	\$600
Higher Education: St. Andrew's	\$500
Senior PharmAssist	\$500
Peacemaking/International Concerns	\$450
NAACP	\$250

*[*Peacemaking offering donations are estimated and have not been assigned]*

Volunteering at Urban Ministries of Durham

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

- **Thursday, June 22, lunch**
- **Friday, June 30, breakfast and lunch**
- **Friday, July 21, breakfast and lunch**
- **Thursday, July 27, lunch.**

Summer is a great time for child(ren) to volunteer with an adult parent. Children must be at least 10 years old. 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.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING YOUR WILL

Did you know that 6 out of every 10 North Carolinians do not have wills? For those who pass away without a will, the opportunity to ensure one's legacy is lost and one's final wishes may not be carried out ... for their families, their favorite charities and their faith communities.

This past Sunday we heard from one of our fellow FPC members, **Dan Hudgins**, who spoke during the Minute for Stewardship about the importance of having a will that protects one's final wishes.

Through the Presbyterian Foundation, FPC has an excellent booklet that is very helpful in explaining how we, as people of faith, can manage our estate planning in ways that fully reflect our final wishes. The free booklet, entitled "Composing a Legacy: A Guide to Charitable Estate Planning," is available at the tables where you will find our worship service bulletins each Sunday. This booklet is highly recommended for anyone wishing to learn more about how to plan a will that reflects one's faith and legacy. We hope that each member of FPC will pick up a

copy of this booklet to learn more about ways to ensure the legacies we wish to leave behind.
- FPC Planned Giving Subcommittee

Read the back sheet about ways to include FPC in your estate planning.

Saturday, June 17



The Landscaping and Grounds Committee will be working the grounds again from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Contact **Barbara Buckley** if you would like to join in: bjbuckley1@frontier.com.

JUNE OFFICERS MEETINGS

Monday, June 19 First meeting for new officers
Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m. - Wilson Parlor
Elders meet at 7:00 p.m. - East Parlor
Supper for all current officers at 6:30 p.m. - Watts-Hill Hall

Finance Committee

Tuesday, June 20, 6:00 p.m. - East Parlor

Budget Working Group

Monday, June 26, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. - East Parlor

An Invitation to a Book Reading

Wednesday, June 28

7:00 p.m. The Regulator Bookshop, Durham

You are invited to a reading by Jane Williams from her recently published book, *Mysterious Moments: Thoughts That Transform Grief*

Things That Matter Book Group

Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Beth Eisenson

Join us for a discussion of Krista Tippett's, "Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living." Dale Gaddis will lead the discussion.

Sunday, September 24

*** NEW EVENT ***

FPC All-Church Gathering

New Hope Camp and Conference Center

3:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 30 – 1:00 p.m.

Durham Gay Pride Parade

FPC plans to participate in the parade. More details forthcoming!

Community Invitations

Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope

Do you love your city? Are you looking for ways to connect your faith with the place you live? The Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope is an opportunity to connect your story, God's story, and Durham's story. Through a weekend of visiting important places and hearing the stories of leaders who have shaped the city, participants reckon with the challenges Durham has faced and witness the hope in our community. There are also discussion gatherings that meet beforehand and afterwards to help us see all of life as a pilgrim journey. The next weekend immersion is the afternoon of **July 9 at 4 pm through July 11 at 4 pm**. **Space is limited and the registration deadline is June 16**. This opportunity is sponsored by DurhamCares and the Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation. To register, and for more information, visit www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage. **If you have questions, contact Reynolds Chapman at rchapman@durhamcares.org, or 919-638-6062.**

From Emily Durham Diy and Carlo Diy . . .

Thank you to the members of the congregation who sent cards and kept us in prayers as we mourned the passing of Emily's dad, **Rodger Durham**. Your love brought comfort during this time.



From Valerie and Tyrone McMillian . . .

Thank you to the members and friends of FPC who prayed, visited at the hospital, and sent cards during Tyrone's recent health crisis. He has returned to work and is doing well. Your expressed concern meant so much to both of us. It is a real joy and blessing to be connected to such a warm and caring congregation.

During the summer we will publish bi-weekly newsletters: June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22. Weekly newsletters begin again on September 5.



<https://firstpres-durham.org>

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The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and those who live in it ... Psalm 24:1



Your church family has been a blessing to you throughout your lifetime, an integral part of your spiritual journey. But, when it comes time to update your estate plans, will you consider including your church family in your plans?

During her service on the endowment committee of Bon Air Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia, Nikki Morris encouraged others to give to the church through their estate plans, so she felt she could lead by example. Nikki and her husband, Harvey, included the church in their will some time ago and she feels, "it's a no-brainer and the right thing to do."

Jerry and Lorraine Quigg are also members of Bon Air PC who have included a bequest to the church. Jerry, former Vice

President for Development and University Relations at the University of Richmond, understands the impact charitable bequests can have for the church. In Jerry's words, people can be reserved and therefore uncomfortable talking about estate planning; however, it's vital to discuss your plans for the future. It's your way of leaving a legacy and making a real impact.

As members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in Durham, we have an opportunity to support and form generations of Christians when we include the church in our will and as a part of our planned giving. FPC can be a percentage beneficiary in your will and in your retirement savings plans. Please remember FPC and those who will follow us in the years and decades ahead so that we might continue to grow God's kingdom of love, peace, and justice here on earth.



For more information about how to include First Presbyterian Church in your estate planning, please contact Sheila Breitweiser (ssbreitweiser@gmail.com) or Lisa Gabriel (lgabriel@pinaforewealth.com) of the FPC Legacy Committee.