

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

July 11 - July 24, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends

In our summer newsletters, we are examining six areas of Christian living: corporate worship, personal devotion, service to the world, stewardship of gifts, fellowship with others, and biblical and theological study. In the last newsletter, we looked at personal devotion. This week, we look at **service to the world**.

One of the core values of First Presbyterian Church is **Social Mission**. FPC advocates for social justice and responds to the “cries of the poor,” remembering Jesus’ promise to be found among the hungry, homeless, sick and imprisoned. We follow the prophet Micah’s call to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). We follow Jesus’ direction in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, visit the sick and imprisoned, welcome the stranger, and clothe the naked. We remember the way Luke writes of Jesus who proclaimed, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. . . .to bring good news to the poor, . . . release to the captives, . . . sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. . .” (Luke 4:18).

At First Presbyterian, we recognize the needs of the people around us in Durham and beyond us in NC and the world as we support hunger ministries (such as Urban Ministries of Durham, the food pantry at Iglesia Emanuel, Hunger for Change, and our own blessing bag program), national and worldwide mission projects (including disaster relief, Appalachia service project, and mission personnel, mental illness support and programming (including Threshold), prison ministries and post-prison job training (including Step-Up), clothing closets (Urban Ministries of Durham), housing programs (Habitat, UMD, and Housing for New Hope). We support our FPC Day School which provides scholarships to those who would not normally be able to afford such a high-quality program (allowing family members to work or go to school). We support Iglesia Emanuel and their community worship, soccer program and music ministry to children. We welcome our neighbors on Monday and Thursday mornings to our Walk-in Ministry as we seek to help them in times of crisis. We do all of this and much more because we believe that we are called to respond to the gospel message of Christ as we go into the world to love and serve the world and to bear the light of Christ to the world through our actions of love, peace, and hope.

If you have not yet found a place where you can serve the needs of the world, think about what gifts you have (time, talents, resources) and what inspires you. Then talk to me, Marilyn, Sam, or a member of our Service and Mission Committee (chaired by Jane Williams) and we will help you find a way you might live into this calling we all have as followers of Jesus.

What a blessing it is to be called to bear the light of Christ into the world! May God continue to lead us in the way we should go as we respond to the needs around us.

Grace and peace to you all,
Mindy

NOTES:

On Sunday, July 9, a **Congregational Meeting** was held to hear a report from the Nominating Committee. The report was received and **Emily Wilkins** was elected to serve as a deacon (Class of 2020) and **Madeline Anglin** was elected to serve at-large on the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee.

Special thanks to **Chuck and Linda Barenchi** for arranging the June Daytimers' luncheon at El Rodeo where 24 people gathered for a good meal and a wonderful time of fellowship.

Members of the **Scratch/Young Adults group** enjoyed a morning hike at Occoneechee Mountain State Park in Hillsborough and a fellowship meal this past Saturday morning. Many thanks to **Stephen and Mary Berry** for what is becoming an annual event for this group.

Congratulations to **Brian and Jeanette Castle**, who are in Florida this month securing the adoption of their new son, **Ezekiel “Zeke” Boone Castle**, born June 25, at 5 lbs., 12 oz. His name, Ezekiel, means God strengthens, and Boone, means good, a blessing. Please pray for this new little family, that all goes well with Zeke's health and the pending adoption.

A group of middle schoolers and their chaperones have returned from a great experience at the Massanetta Middle School Conference, July 6-9. Those who attended include **Clarabelle Brown, Charlie Kelley, Sophie Wilkins, Joshua Padilla, Chris Baquedano, Griffin Momsen-Hudson, Laura McDow**, and chaperones **Will McDow and Marilyn Hedgpeth**.

Our High School youth and their chaperones will be leaving for Montreat on Sunday, July 23 for the Montreat Youth Conference. Those attending include: **Peter Compton, Jack Kost, Matthew Brockman, Sam Henry, Alan Carrasco, Diana Carrasco, Matthew Dickerson, Ellie Dilworth, Aurelia Klinck, Parker Klinck, Jenna Leonard, Maryn Leonard, Charlotte Maxwell, Almira Mbah, Carter Momsen-Hudson, Maggie Price, Sharron Johnson, Lenore Champion and Brent Curtis**. Please pray for safe travels and a great experience for our youth and their chaperones.

OUR CONCERNS:

Atria Senior Living: Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson
Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell
Croasdaile: Joanne Harrar, Bob Kever,
Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford
The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches McPherson

Family and Friends of FPC Members and Staff:

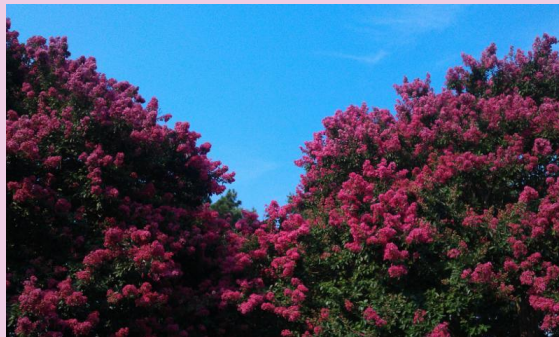
Tom Bowen, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood
Claiborn Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark
Louise Dykes, aunt of Will Chambliss
Dell McMillian, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian

Sunday, July 16

HYMN SING AND MYRTLE FEST PICNIC

Join us this **Sunday, July 16 at 11:00 a.m.** for worship as the congregation engages in an old fashioned hymn sing. Music will be provided by a bluegrass duo.

Following worship, we will picnic outside under our crepe myrtles and enjoy more bluegrass music. A main meat, a vegetarian alternative and beverages will be provided by the church. **All are welcome to bring sides, and a blanket or lawn chairs!**



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship with Hymn Sing

Serving July 16:

Liturgist: **Lisa and Carl Rist**

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Carol Carson** (narthex/rear);
Barbara Buckley (side/font)

Ushers: **Mary-Jo Keenan** (head), **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers), **Dale Gaddis, Alissa Miles, Amy Sanchez, need one more**

Sunday, July 23

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship (new officers will be ordained and installed)
The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received.

Worship texts: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon: "**Solutions: Part 1**" - **Marilyn Hedgpeth**, preaching

Serving on July 23:

Liturgist: **to be determined**

Narthex Greeter: **Elizabeth High**

After Worship Greeters: **Libby Gulley** (narthex/rear); **Alice Raney** (side/font)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Amy Dillon** (flowers), **Jennie Alwood, Jane Williams, Kathy Krahenbuhl, Amy Sanchez**



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children (and youth) Sunday School at 9:45 in room 205

During the month of June at 9:45 in **Room 205** we watched *Zootopia* (PG), which uses animals to address some of the ways we tend to stereotype others and repeat harmful assumptions. During July, we are making paper maché animals like those featured in the movie, for some hands-on fun. If you don't mind getting your hands messy, plan to join us for a month of goopy fun.

Leaders for July 16 are **Lea Bingham and Amy Sanchez**, and for July 23 are **Marilyn Hedgpeth and Katharine Whitmore**.

Adults (aka Faith and Community Class):

This class meets at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall, and all are invited to join us.

It's transition time for Faith and Community, as we finalize our study of *Fear of the Other*, and look forward to our next book study for August, *Waking Up White, And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debbie Irving. But in the meantime, on **THIS SUNDAY**, July 16, **Emily Wilkins** will present a video, *Le Grand Voyage*, which is about a devout Muslim father of Moroccan descent making his hajj with his son. While traveling together, the two learn about each other while living the faith. Emily will show clips from the video, and leave time for discussion at the end.

"*Waking Up White* is a wake-up call for white people who want to consciously contribute to racial justice rather than unconsciously perpetuate patterns of racism," says Terry Keleher, Thought Leadership and Practice Specialist, Race Forward. A few copies (6) of the book are available for \$15 for those who want to purchase them before August. The book is more like a workbook, suggesting that you journal as you read.

On July 23, **Jane Williams** will read from her new book, *Mysterious Moments: Thoughts That Transform Grief*. Jane held a previous reading at **The Regulator** on June 28, which attracted a crowd of 75 (35 of them from FPC!). Jane is a clinical psychologist and pastoral care clinician who uses grief narratives to speak about unexpected healing.

Lectinary Class (meets year-round at 9:45 in the East Parlor):

July 16: Our roots give us strength and sustenance in difficult times. Where are we rooted? In our families? In our own wealth and abilities?

July 23: When Jacob woke from his dream, he realized that God was in the very place he chose to sleep. Is God in the place where you are? Are you aware of God's presence?

Journeys Class and the Scratch/Young Adults Class are on summer break. We'll resume in the fall. You are encouraged to join another class that is meeting.

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**.

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***.

Annual Report Summary Deadline: July 31, 2017

Contact Valerie in the church office if you need assistance in completing the annual report summary for your committee or ministry area.



Youth groups are currently on break for the summer. For those of you who signed up for the Montreat (July 23-29) Conference, watch for reminders by email.

FPC History Books still available...

Peter Fish will be available this Sunday, July 16 following worship in the foyer if you would like to purchase a book and have it inscribed.

There are **four methods** by which the book may be purchased:

- 1 - At FPC for \$25 cash or check made out to the First Presbyterian Church
- 2 - At the **Regulator Bookshop** (Durham) for \$30
- 3 - **From Carolina Academic Press** via its website using the Discount Code FPCBOOK; a shipped copy for \$38.44 (includes shipping and sales tax) or call CAP at 919-489-7486 and give the discount code.
- 4 - **From Amazon**; a shipped copy for \$65.

~ MEETINGS ~

Wednesday, July 12 - Budget Working Group 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 18 - Finance Committee 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 24 (new date) - Investment Sub-Committee 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11

Things That Matter Book Group

7:00 p.m. at the home of **Beth Eisenson**

Dale Gaddis will lead a discussion on "Becoming Wise" by Krista Tippett

Needlepoint Project

Do you do needlepoint (also called canvas embroidery)? Would you like to add your talents to a new project for the beautification of the sanctuary? **Jane Rourk** and **Barbara Fish** are beginning work on a needlepoint banner to be displayed in the sanctuary on the Sundays when Communion is served. If you are interested, please contact Jane or Barbara:

Jane: jrourk@nc.rr.com or 919-489-5820;

Barbara: barb2fish@yahoo.com or 919-688-9125.

Calling All Quilters

If you are not into knitting or needlepoint try quilting. Presbyterian quilters need your help making baptism and mission baby quilts. All supplies are in quilt packets. If you need a packet or have any questions, contact **BJ Morton**: BJMorton1954@aol.com or or **Linn Lopez**: tonylinn@netzero.com

Anti-Racism Education Corner

FPC's Task Force will be featuring regular opportunities for Anti-Racism education here in the newsletter.

Coming up for REI training dates, there are

July 14-15, 2017, Youth REI Phase 1, Raleigh;

Aug. 10-11, 2017, REI Phase 1, Durham;

Sept. 8-9, 2017 REI Phase 1, Durham;

Sept. 21-22, REI Phase 1, Raleigh.

Please register early as these workshops fill up fairly quickly. You can see all the dates (click on Register Here to see if there are any openings) at <http://www.oarnc.org/events/>

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, July 18** for a "Conversation on Equity" at the Chapel Hill Public Library from 6:30 til 8:00. The conversation on the 18th is called, "Why White Students Need Race Equity in the Curriculum." The presenter is Tema Okum who was one of the founders and leaders of Dismantling Racism Works in Durham.

Montreat is offering an event from August 18-20, an anti-racism training that will provide capacity-building tools and resources to work anti-transformation. This will be held at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat. For more information please check the Montreat Conference Center website and contact **Emily Wilkins** if you would like to arrange to have a place to stay during the conference.

Any questions about the Task Force can be addressed to **Kathy Krahenbuhl, Jon Abels, Diane Standaert, Emily Wilkins, or Sharon Hirsch.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Durham Habitat is all about **partnerships** – Habitat simply doesn't exist without them – and Habitat has no longer-running partnerships than its partnership with First Pres.

We were founded in 1985, and Habitat lore has it that as a group was debating whether Durham needed Habitat and whether Habitat's model could work in Durham, **Joe Harvard** said "the

Habitat train is leaving the station. It's time to get on, or get out of the way."

Since those early days, Durham Habitat has built and sold more than 370 homes in Durham. And we've repaired homes for more than 400 low-income families.

First Pres contributes directly to all aspects of Habitat:

- First Pres and its members have volunteered as builders and as donors who help sponsor Habitat builds.
- First Pres members have served as Habitat Committee members and as board members.
- First Pres's prayer shawl ministry knit shawls that they present to each homebuyer at their dedication.
- First Pres's own **Mr. Robert Daye** has partnered with Habitat by buying his home.
- First Pres members have fully sponsored Habitat homes, providing the funds needed to buy building materials for a Habitat home.
- And First Pres has helped lead Interfaith Builds, inviting those from different faiths to work together to build homes and hope and community.

Habitat builds partnerships that include all parts of the community, all coming together to address a common problem, that there is not enough affordable housing in Durham. There are 15,000 families in Durham who are housing cost-burdened, and who need more affordable housing. Habitat's goal for 2017 is to build 27 homes and repair homes for 50 families. We welcome your help. Thank you, First Pres, for our long partnership working with Habitat!

Blake Strayhorn, Executive Director, Durham Habitat for Humanity
(presented in FPC worship, Sunday, July 9, 2017)



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our hearts are filled with profound gratitude for all your prayers, cards and expressions of concern/support during Beth's recent surgery. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We are truly blessed to be members of the FPC family.

- **Beth and Vernon Neece**

Job Opportunities with Families Moving Forward

Join a great team! Families Moving Forward, Durham's primary emergency shelter for families with children, is recruiting for two Americorps VISTA intern positions to begin in August. One is a **Volunteer Engagement Associate** and the other is a **Workforce Development Associate**. These are full time positions working from 12:00pm-8:00pm M-Th and 9:00am-5:00pm on Friday. VISTA interns receive a stipend of about \$950/month, and Americorps also offers other benefits. Go to <https://fmfnc.org/internships> to link to the Americorps applications or contact catherine@fmfnc.org for more information.

The next newsletter will be issued July 25, 2017.

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