

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

August 22 - September 5, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

This summer I have been writing on the Christian life. For me, nothing could be a more important part of Christian living than responding to hatred with love. As Paul says in Romans 12:9ff, *"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another . . . Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."* Therefore, this week, I will suspend this regular series in order to talk about the ground of our being as Christian people - love in Christ.

This past week, the session and pastors of First Presbyterian Church took action approving a statement denouncing racism, hatred, and violence and standing up for the gospel of love. I share it with you here and invite you to share as far and wide as you are able. We stand against hatred. We are a people of love. Here is our statement:

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. . . God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

" . . . There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also" (verses from 1 John 4).

WE BELIEVE that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine. (Excerpt from The Confession of Belhar)

Dear friends,

The events of this past weekend in Charlottesville deserve a clear response from the church. Let there be no confusion. We, the leadership at First Presbyterian Church, denounce racism and any words, acts, or implications that

are intended to raise one group of people over another and/or to cause harm to any person. We denounce hatred and any acts of violence. We believe that God is love and that we are called to love one another. In the human family, no group of people has been created by God to be above another. We are all created in love and called to love one another as we love God. God's image is in all of God's creatures equally and those who love God cannot elevate one group of people over and against another. The hateful rhetoric and actions of white supremacist groups, neo-Nazis, and the KKK have no place in our nation or in our world. We have fought against such hateful, racist, exclusive rhetoric and actions in the past and we will continue to fight against them in the future. Our faith guides us in this, as does our nation's history.

Jesus' clear call to his disciples is that we love God and love one another. We cannot love God, whom we have not seen, if we are unable to love our neighbors (no matter their race, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or economic status), whom we have seen.

Friends, let us love one another, for love is from God.

Signed,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church
and its pastors,
Mindy Douglas
Marilyn Hedgpeth
Sam Miglarese
Cheryl Henry
Susan Dunlap



On Sunday, August 13, **John Mozart** and his wife, **Elinor Hess**, joined FPC. John and Elinor reside at 5715 Jomali Drive, Durham 27705. John's mobile: 919-530-9966; email: jemozart@gmail.com; Elinor's mobile: 919-949-9310; email: Elinor.Hess@gmail.com. **John** is retired from the Durham Police Department. He was born and raised in Durham, is a graduate of Durham Tech and holds a BA degree from Shaw University, Raleigh. His special interest is golf. He joined FPC by Letter of Transfer. **Elinor** is a retired Human Resources Manager. She was born in Rensselaer IN. An Army brat, she grew up mostly in Germany, Oklahoma, and Panama.

Her interests are quilting, walking, gardening and reading. She joined FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. **Jean Wilson** is their congregational guide.

SPECIAL THANKS . . .

. . . to **David Lorimer** for hosting the **Scratch Group** in his home on August 12th. The group bid farewell to **Mark McHugh** who served as a ministry intern in **Cherrie Henry's** absence this summer. **Cherrie** returns from her 3-month sabbatical on September 5th.

. . . to **Shirley Frederick** for arranging the **Day Timers' Luncheon** today at Ruby Tuesday's at Northgate Mall. Everyone enjoyed!

Events in Downtown Durham Last Friday

Friends,

Last Friday, August 18, FPC received a call from the Durham County Offices across the street that they were closing due to a perceived threat of violence from a purported white supremacist rally at The Old Courthouse. We were advised to keep Dayschool children off the playground and away from windows, and to do the same for other groups in the church at that time. With this information, we felt the safest move for all was to make sure our Dayschool children and staff were off the premises, and that the Al-Anon group meeting here also was dispersed. My husband, **Hedge**, came down to stay with **Valerie** and myself until all 100 persons had been cleared from the building. During that time, we ran the bulletin and stuffed the inserts so we would be ready for Sunday. The *Confession of 1967* (9.43, 9.44) that we used as our Affirmation of Faith in worship on Sunday is as timely as ever:

In each time and place, there are particular problems and crises through which God calls the church to act. The church, guided by the Spirit, humbled by its own complicity and instructed by all attainable knowledge, seeks to discern the will of God and learn how to obey in these concrete situations.

God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic differences, real or imaginary.

The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights. Therefore the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it.

I am very proud of our city, and the united front that was displayed in the face of threat. I also am very grateful to my husband for his help, as well as to all who called or emailed to see how we were doing. And I am thankful for the many prayers that day which went up around the city, which resulted in the peace of our community. Keep praying.

Marilyn

OUR SYMPATHIES:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Brian and Jeannette Castle (and little Zeke)** on the death of Jeannette's niece **Katie** who died in Charlotte from an apparent drug overdose.

OUR CONCERNS:

Added this week:

Bill Lorimer, recovering at home

Julie Maxwell, at Duke Hospital (no visitors, please, until she returns home)

Barbara Cooper, friend of FPC

Please remember our **friends in Sierra Leone** where mudslides there have killed more than 450 people. This comes on the heels of the terrible Ebola epidemic there.

Torrell Armstrong

Paul Cornsweet

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

Family and Friends of FPC Members and Staff:

Tom Bowen, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood
Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss
Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark
Louise Dykes, aunt of Will Chambliss
Kendra Harrington, friend of Jeremy Tucker
Dell McMillian, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

Protecting our Children and Youth . . .

Child and Youth Protection Policy Available on the FPC Website

As you probably know, our Christian Education Committee has created a Child and Youth Protection Policy for FPC that all teachers, advisors, care-givers, and volunteers who work with children and youth will follow. Volunteers are required to read and sign appropriate forms, and have a background check, before being allowed to work with children at FPC. Training was held on Sunday to insure that all of our volunteers have had this training for the upcoming Church school year. We feel that it is important for parents and grandparents to know that their children are safe when they are on the grounds of First Presbyterian Church. **Copies of this policy can be found on the FPC website homepage, and on the table in the foyer outside the sanctuary.**

As the new Church School year begins, ***we ask that volunteers be on time*** for Sunday School, worship, and youth activities, to make sure our children and youth have adequate supervision. We also ask that ***parents escort all children to and from Sunday School*** to insure maximum security. ***Parents should also be on time*** in bringing children and youth to activities, and in picking them up. We thank you for your cooperation as we begin this new year. And for your information, we will have Sunday School in full swing on September 3, Labor Day Weekend.

Sunday, August 27

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Promotion Sunday is THIS SUNDAY. All Sunday School classes will meet together in Watts-Hill Hall for our fall kickoff!

Our theme this year is ***Walking with Jesus***. We will be collecting gently used footwear to be donated to our neighbors in downtown Durham.

You are invited to a Congregational Breakfast (eggs, bacon, pancakes, etc.) lovingly prepared by *Cris Rivera* and *Beth Stringfield* to

kick-off our new Sunday School year! Come meet your teachers, your classmates, your friends, and enjoy the fellowship of the Beloved Community. All are welcome!

11:00 a.m. Worship

Teachers will be dedicated and the Hunger for Change Offering will be received during worship.

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts: Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Serving August 27:

Liturgist: **Ruth Roberson**

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

After Worship Greeters: **Cris Rivera** (narthex/rear); **Jerry Postema** (side/font)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Celia Dickerson** (flowers), **Jane Williams**

(Click [FPC Ushers](#) to sign up to usher on August 27.)



**A Season of Peace is coming SOON . . .
from September 1, 2017 through October 3, 2017**

Presbyterians are encouraged to consider the meaning of "Peace."

What is Peace?

Are you a Peacemaker?

Why and How? Why not?

What does Jesus teach us about Peace?

Sunday, September 3

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Serving September 3:

Liturgist: **Cris Rivera**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Caroline Rourk** (narthex/rear); **Karen Romines** (side/font)

Ushers needed: Sign up to usher at [Fall Ushering 2017](#)

Extending Communion to The Forest at Duke residents
Sunday, September 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel at The Forest at Duke
Contact **Steve Rimmer** if you would like to participate or assist with the service:
rsrimmer@gmail.com.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3 . . .

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 and Community Class: On Sunday, September 3, all of our regular Sunday School classes begin, and Faith and Community will begin a series focused on issues of Poverty for the month of September. **Mindy Douglas** will kick off the series with a video series looking at effecting social change. The class meets in **Watts-Hill Hall** at 9:45, and all are invited.

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

God spoke words of command to Moses from the burning bush, and Moses argued. Jesus told the disciples some things they didn't want to hear, and Peter argued. Do we have the right to argue with a divine message? Do we have the nerve?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class

Beginning on September 3, at 9:45, Journeys and Scratch will combine classes in **Room 205** to begin a study of the book, *Finding Your Voice: How to Speak Your Heart's True Faith*, by Jim Dant. "This book will indeed help you speak about your faith, with integrity and transparency, from your heart and your head," according to credits found on the book cover. The class will be team taught by members of both classes. All are welcome.

Spiritual Formation Class: 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**.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY

Membership Inquiry Breakfast and Classes

Do you have questions about membership at FPC? Do you want to meet others who are new to the FPC community? Have you already joined, but want to catch up on the ins and outs of FPC life? **We will begin a new series of Membership Inquiry Classes on Sunday, September 10, beginning with a lunch in Watts-Hill Hall following worship.** At that time, we'll make introductions, give an overview of the classes, and get to know each other a little better. Please RSVP to **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you would like to attend the luncheon. Adults, youth and children are welcome.

The **schedule** for the other classes (which are FYI, but not mandatory) is as follows:

9/17 – 9:45 Wilson Parlor, Baptism and Eucharist

Sam Miglarese

9/24 – 9:45 Wilson Parlor, The Liturgical Year

Dewey Lawson/David Smith

10/1 – 9:45 Wilson Parlor History and Theology
10/8 – 9:45 Wilson Parlor, Polity and Theology
10/15 – 9:45 Wilson Parlor, The Christian Life

Marilyn Hedgpeth
Phyllis Supple
Mindy Douglas

At this last class on October 15, those who wish to join will meet with the Session prior to worship, and will be introduced during worship that day. However, you may join at any point in the process, provided you have a conversation with one of the clergy so that the Session can be notified about your desire to join. All are welcome.

Pastoral Care Committee News

Attention all our new and returning college students, those giving a year of service, and our military men and women . . . As you head off for these new adventures, please make sure that we have your address. Your First Presbyterian Church family wants to keep in touch with you. Please send your address to **Valerie McMillian** at v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org or call her at 919- 682-5511.

Need a ride to worship?

If you would like to have a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings, please send a request to **Valerie McMillian** at v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org or call her at 919 682-5511.



We will begin our evening YOUTH GROUP gatherings on **September 10th** with our annual kick-off party!

Parents of Middle School Youth should look for an email from Sarah about the Presbytery retreat to

Camp Don Lee, October 6-8, 2017. **The registration deadline is September 3** (the week before youth group starts for the year!) The cost is \$95 per youth. And we are looking for 2-4 adults to join our fabulous group!



Do you like to read? Have books you would like to share with others (and do not want returned)? FPC has begun a **LENDING LIBRARY**, located in the church house on the middle bottom shelf across from the restrooms (first floor). The only rule: **bring one, take one and enjoy**. Questions: contact **BJ Morton** (bjmorton1954@aol.com)

SATURDAY WORKDAY AT FPC

Join us for another workday at the church. We'll be working outside this **Saturday, August 27 from 8 a.m. - 11 .am.** Contact **Barbara Buckley** for details: bjbuckley@frontier.com.
New faces welcome!



LET THE PARTY BEGIN!



The **Handbell Choir** and the **Adult Singing (Chancel) Choir** will kick off the choir year with a potluck on **Wednesday, August 30, at 6:30**. The party will be hosted by **Kathy Parkins** (6 MacGregor Ct.), and all who are interested in joining or checking out the choir are welcome. Please email Kathy at k.parkins@firstpresdurham.org if you have any questions regarding the choir!

~ MEETINGS / FELLOWSHIP / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ~

Monday, August 28

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m. in the Wilson Parlor
Joint Officers' Supper at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall
Session at 7:00 p.m. - East Parlor

Wednesday, September 6

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Adult Mental Health First Aid

WakeMed Cary Hospital

1900 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary

Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour training course designed to give members of the public important skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. \$30 early registration fee. Register by clicking [here](#).

Monday, September 11

(Date changed due to Labor Day holiday)

Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study

10:30 a.m. - East Parlor

Wednesday, September 13

FPC's Budget Working Group

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - East Parlor

SCRATCH / Young Adults Potluck

Saturday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m.

at the home of Kristin Meade.

Watch for the EVITE with details.

LAST CALL for First Friends Annual Beach Trip

Date: September 8-10

Do you plan to attend? If yes, please confirm with Kathy Conner (919 451-5445 or kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com) by THIS FRIDAY, August 25.

Anti-Racism Education Corner

If you haven't had a chance yet, please try to visit the Race Exhibit at the Natural Sciences Museum in Raleigh. Interactive exhibit components, historical artifacts, iconic objects, compelling photographs, multimedia presentations, and attractive graphic displays offer visitors to RACE an eye-opening look at its important subject matter. RACE tells the stories of race from the biological, cultural, and historical points of view offering an unprecedented look at race and racism in the United States." (<http://naturalsciences.org/exhibits/featured-exhibitions/race>) This exhibit runs through October 22. Maybe some of us can go as groups.

Other Racial Equity Institute training dates:

September 8-9, 2017 REI Phase 1, Durham;

September 21-22, REI Phase 1, Raleigh.

Please register early as these workshops fill up fairly quickly. Go

to <http://www.oarnc.org/events/> and click on *Register Here* to see if there are any openings.

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

Book Group

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of **Jane Williams** to discuss Trevor Noah's book, ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood.*** **Mary-Jo Keenan** will lead the discussion. New faces welcome.

Durham/ NC Pride Night

The **Durham Pride event** is right around the corner - **Saturday, September 30, 4:00 pm til October 1, 4:00 a.m.** **FPC's Scratch** is helping to lead the church's representation in the event. If you're interested in getting involved, mark your calendars for the date, and be in contact with either **Claire Tipton (clairectipton@gmail.com)** or **Andrew Kim (adkim12@yahoo.com)**, both of whom have graciously volunteered to lead the charge for FPC.

Service and Mission Opportunities

Supplies Needed Now!



Our regular stock of items for blessing bags is nearly depleted. Our next regularly scheduled collection of supplies will be Sunday, September 10. Unfortunately, we'll be completely out of supplies by then. **We need packages of snack crackers, fruit, granola bars, nutrition bars, cookies, and bottled water. . . NOW!** On your next trip to the grocery store, consider picking up something for our blessing bags. Don't forget to bring them with you on your next trip to FPC. Thank you for keeping this ministry going for our neighbors in need.

FPC is organizing a Faith Team

Faith Teams of The Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham

Do you feel a call to serve those who live on the edges, the least among us? Is the opportunity to work at the intersection of evidence-based practice and social justice intriguing to you? First Presbyterian is forming a Faith Team to support someone returning from prison to the Durham community. The team will include six volunteers and meet for approximately one year, two times per month. Faith Team training will be on **September 9 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the church**. Please email **Libby Gulley** if you'd like to attend or want more information gulley@nc.rr.com.

Supporting Urban Ministries of Durham

The opportunities for serving our neighbors in need in a wonderful and tangible way at Urban Ministries are ongoing. Many volunteers will be needed in September — **Friday, Sept 15** (breakfast and lunch), **Thursday, Sept 28** (lunch), and **Friday, Sept 29** (breakfast and lunch). Join the fun and make a difference in our community!

CONCERT

Saturday September 9, 2017
7:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary

EL FUEGO Early Music Ensemble presents "Spanish Devotions," a selection of Secular and Sacred Spanish Baroque cantatas by Jose de Nebra and Juan Manuel de la Puente: Salomé Sandoval, soprano, baroque guitar, archlute and artistic direction; Matvey Lapin, baroque violin; Chris Nunnally, baroque cello; Jennifer Streeter, harpsichord.

ADMISSION: General Audience: \$15; Seniors and Students with ID: \$10; FPC members: \$10.
Email: elfuegofire@gmail.com **for more information.**



The Church Office will be closed **Monday, September 4** in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

© 2017 **First Presbyterian Church**

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Website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>