

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

*"Downtown by history and by choice"*

## Newsletter

October 24 - November 6, 2017



### From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

This Sunday we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church in Germany to invite conversation about some things that the Roman Catholic Church was doing that didn't seem to mesh with Scripture. Luther didn't intend to start a new church, but in the end, his words and actions and the words and actions of many others started new communities of worship which spun off into Protestant denominations in the years, decades, and centuries that followed.

The motto of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda* – “The Church reformed, always reforming.” The Reformers did not understand this phrase to mean change for the sake of change, but rather a return to Scripture as the primary basis for understanding God and God's call to the church. Writes Anna Case-Winters:

[O]ne of the serious charges church authorities hurled at the Reformers was that they were “innovating.” John Calvin responded to this and other charges in his treatise “The Necessity of Reforming the Church.” As he put it, “We are accused of rash and impious innovation for having ventured to propose any change at all [in] the former state of the Church.” He then goes on to counter that they were not “innovating,” but restoring the church to its true nature, purified from the “innovations” that riddled the church through centuries of inattention to Scripture and theological laxity.

As members of this church which is reformed but always reforming, we hold fast to that which is theologically sound and guided by the gospel of Jesus Christ. We do not, however, fear change or innovation when it helps us to be true to sharing the Good News of the Gospel in our time and in this place. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit through constant study and prayerful discernment. We worship, serve, and learn together in community, so that we might hear the voices of all God's people as we seek to understand who God would have us be and what God would have us do here in the heart of Durham.

This Sunday is also our Stewardship Dedication Sunday. We are grateful stewards of all that God has given us. We invite you to make your pledge to the work of this church on or before this Sunday and during worship we will have a time for folks to come forward and dedicate their gifts of time, talent, and resources to God. If you have already made your pledge online, in person, or by mail, come forward as a way to spiritually connect with God, giving thanks for all you have been given and dedicating your life to following Jesus.

This Sunday is a day to look back at the formation of our church history and theology and to look forward toward all the ways God will call us to love, live, and grow in this place in the years ahead.

May the God who has guided us this far, guide us in our future together.

With love and gratitude for you all,

**Mindy**



***Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*** - Matt. 5:4

We offer sympathies to ***Chris and Cathy Snell, Sophie and Lily***, on the death of Chris' father. ***Francis Snell*** died October 15<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, IL. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Snell family at 102 Graduate Ct, Durham NC 27713.

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## OUR CONCERNS

### Added this week:

***Danny Parker***, Al and Judy Arrowood's son-in-law's father  
***Rev. J.C. Williams***, friend of Steve and Martha Rimmer, from Augusta, Ga

***Carl Anglin***  
***Bob Breitweiser***  
***Jean Cary***  
***Paul Cornsweet***  
***Dale Gaddis***  
***Charles Hammond***  
***Bill Lorimer***  
***Julie Maxwell***

Let us pray for those impacted by the political crisis in Kenya

***George Bernhardt III***, son of George and Jo Bernhardt and U.S. soldier stationed in South Korea

***Atria Senior Living: Peggy Mordecai***, mother of Beth Eisenson  
***Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell***  
***Croasdaile Village: Bette Conroy, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford***  
***Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): Helen Garrison***  
***The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson***

### Family and Friends of FPC Members and Staff:

***Claiborne Clark***, son of Arthur & Mary Clark  
***Kim Cummings***, father of Drew Cummings  
***Lillie E.***, student of Delia Kwon  
***Lindsay Efland***, friend of Cherrie Henry  
***Vickie Tobey***, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman  
***Asher Wilson***, grandson of Chuck & Jean Wilson  
***Christina Z.***, mother of Franzi Rokoske



It is with sincere thanks that I wish to acknowledge all those who helped with the memorial service and reception after the service for Joanne Harrar. Many thanks to those who ushered, sang in the choir, brought food, and worked in the kitchen serving and cleaning up. Thanks to ***Robert***, to ***Kathy*** for her beautiful music, and ***Marilyn*** and ***Mindy*** for the lovely service. It was truly a memorable afternoon.

Sincerely, ***Carolyn Wolfe***

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## ~ NOTES ~

Many thanks to **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey and the Membership Committee** for hosting this year's Membership Inquiry Classes. The series of six classes, led by **Dewey Lawson, David Smith, Phyllis Supple, Mindy Douglas, Sam Miglarese and Marilyn Hedgpeth**, concluded on October 15 with 14 new members and 2 children joining FPC. Names are listed below. A few more

members will be joining on November 12. Joy abounds when new members come into the life of a church.

**Melinda Clark**  
**Kathy Colville**  
**Stephanie Callaway Ellison**  
**Will and Jenni James**  
**Tom Juhnke and Diane Prosser**  
**Andrew Kim**  
**Karolyn Mangeot**  
**Bruce and Ellie Meade**  
**Kathryn Murchison**  
**Chris Williams and Matthew Cline.**

Click [here](#) to read about our new members. As you have opportunity, please get to know them and invite them to join you at church-sponsored events.

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Congratulations to the **Ellison family, Stephanie and Jason**, upon the baptism of their son, **Colin Jeffrey Ellison**, on Sunday, October 15. Colin is the grandson of **Fred Callaway and Doris Callaway**. It's wonderful to welcome him into the church family.

We are grateful to **Michael Honeycutt and the Pastoral Care Committee** for hosting a beautiful reception for the family of Joanne Harrar, who died on October 7. Copies of that service are available in the foyer, for those who could not attend, or for those who could not hear well during the service.

A debt of gratitude to **Chris and Meredith Brown** for hosting families with young children at their home on Saturday, October 14. A wild and crazy time was had by all.

Sunday, October 22 was FPC's celebration of National Children's Sabbath. Bibles were distributed to the 3rd -5th graders at that service. If your child did not receive his or her bible, please come by the church office and pick it up, or see **Marilyn Hedgpeth**. During the morning, the children assembled education kits and hygiene bags to send to the people of Puerto Rico, and made placemats for Urban Ministries of Durham.

The **Friday morning Bible Study will NOT meet on Friday, October 27**. We will reconvene on November 3 to discuss "Peace" as an attribute of Christian character. People are welcome to join the group each Friday from 10:30 – noon.

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**This Sunday is Pledge Sunday!**  
**Theme: "Love in the Heart of Durham"**  
*Seek the welfare of the city . . .  
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*  
- Jeremiah 29:7

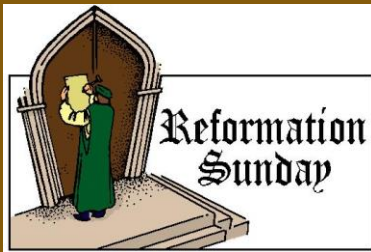
Please give prayerful consideration to how you will support the church in 2018. Please complete financial and Time & Talent pledge forms and bring them to worship for dedication on **THIS Sunday, October 29**. NOTE: we will not distribute the offering plates as usual, but will have them on the communion table, and ask everyone to come forward with their offerings and their pledge cards during the service.

Questions about pledging online may be directed to *Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator, at 919-682-5511 ext. 216 or by email: [t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org).

Click [here](#) to view the Stewardship Brochure.  
Click [here](#) to financially pledge online.

Hear from fellow members about why supporting FPC with your financial pledge and your pledge of time and talent is important (click name to view video):

[Mercy](#)  
[Carlo](#)  
[Tony](#)  
[Sheya](#)



Sunday, October 29  
Observing the 500th Anniversary  
of the Protestant Reformation

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:45 a.m. Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. Worship**

**"Reformed and Always Reforming"**

**Mindy Douglas**, preaching

**Worship Texts:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 90; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

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Acolytes: **Ariel Mbah, Lily Brigman**

Crucifer: **Maddie Brigman**

Narthex Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey**

After Worship Greeters: **Miriam Morey** (narthex/rear);

**Sigfried Fullenkamp** (side/font)

Ushers: **need volunteer** (head), **need volunteer** (flowers), **Miriam Morey**, **need more volunteers for this Sunday.**

**To view the new ushering procedures, click [here](#).**

**To sign up to usher, click [SCHEDULE](#)**

## Honoring Dorothy Graham



There will be a celebration reception **THIS Sunday, October 29** following worship honoring **Dorothy Graham** for her longstanding commitment to the First Presbyterian Day School and high-quality preschool education in the Durham community. **Members are asked to bring letters of affirmation and congratulations to Dorothy, so they can be included in a scrapbook being compiled for her for that occasion.** Letters can be dropped off this week in the church office.

Sunday, November 5



### 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. **Sunday School**

11:00 a.m. **Worship and Communion**

**Sermon: "Invisible Saints"**

**Marilyn Hedgpeth**, preaching

**Worship Texts:** Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Matthew 5:1-12

Acolytes: **Sheya Wehrman, Laura McDow**

Crucifer: **Minna Fullenkamp**

**Liturgists: Jeanne Hervey, Bob Yoder**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Ellie Dilworth** (narthex/rear);

**Brent Curtis** (side/font)

Ushers: Julie Whiddon (head), Mary-Jo Keenan (flowers), **Karen Swope,**

**Alissa Miles, Jane Williams, need one more**

Communion Elders: **Al Arrowood**, head elder / replenish elements

BREAD: **Ellie Dilworth** (B1, process), **Delia Kwon** (B2), **Gray Wilson** (B3),

**Alice Raney** (B4)

CUP: **Cris Rivera** (C1), **Sigfried Fullenkamp**(C2, process), **Lenore**

**Champion** (C3), **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** (C4)

SHEPHERDS: **Eric Wiebe** (pulpit aisle), **Barbara Buckley** (center aisle),

**Gerald Postema** (font aisle)

## Vespers Service, Mindy Douglas preaching

**Sunday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, in partnership with The Inter-Faith Council, offers a service of VESPERS for ALL SOULS and in Remembrance of the homeless. Music by The Binkley Chancel Choir and the NC Boys Choir.

Binkley Memorial Baptist Church is located at 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill

[Please share](#)



**FINAL CALL:** The Christian Education Committee has designated this month “SOCKTOBER.” Remember to bring new socks, all sizes, which will be donated to Urban Ministries of Durham. Place your donations in the bin provided in the foyer THIS Sunday, October 29.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*All classes begin at 9:45, and parents are asked to walk your children to their classrooms, and to come back and get them for worship.* Thank you!

**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.

### Children’s Sunday School – Grades 3-5

It’s time to review our story of the Parable of the Farmer and the Growing Seed on Sunday, and to enjoy a little feast time together. Then beginning in November, we start a new story: the Gift of the Poor Widow from Mark 12: 41-44. All are welcome!

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**Faith and Community Class:** We meet at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall. Faith and Community will conclude its study of the Protestant Reformation on **Sunday, October 29**, when guest presenter, **Scott Hendrix**, Professor Emeritus of Reformation History and Theology at Princeton Seminary, joins us to speak about his newest book, *Martin Luther: Visionary Reformer*. His presentation is entitled: "Reformation Then and Now." This year marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral on October 31, 1517. All are welcome.

On the following **Sunday, November 5**, **Sam Miglarese** returns to lead a discussion around History and Monuments: a very timely topic.

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**Lectionary Class:** Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor. **This Sunday, October 29:** What is greatness, and what are its rewards? Moses was unequaled as a prophet, but he did not live to enter the promised land. Paul was unsurpassed as an apostle, but he endured mistreatment, torture, and false accusations from his opponents. Are you ready for greatness?

**Sunday, November 5:** Do leaders have a responsibility to "practice what they preach"? Is their message more believable if they live with integrity?

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### Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class

This Sunday, we will wrap up discussion of David Brooks’ book “The Road to Character,” using chapter 10 of the book, “The Big Me.” We will also discuss topics for forthcoming Sunday School classes. All are welcome to join the discussion. We meet in **room 205 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the education building.**

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**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**.

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## Children's Choir Schedule

Click [here](#) to view the Children's Choir schedule for the remainder of 2017. Contact Kathy Parkins by email if you would like to know more about Children's Choir: [k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org).

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Youth Groups are in full swing!  
**Youth Sunday will be observed on November 19. Planning the service will continue this Sunday evening.** Middle Schooler meet from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. High schooler meet from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Supper is provided for both groups from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Friday, October 27**

**FPC MEN OF FAITH**

**Breakfast / Conversations**

**8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Nosh's Cafe - 2812 Erwin Road**

Come by and stay as long as you can.

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## Grounds and Landscaping Workday



New faces are welcome to join **Barbara Buckley** and her dedicated team of volunteers who love to get down and dirty to make our grounds look great!

**Saturday, October 28**

**9:00 a.m. - Noon**

Contact Barbara Buckley at 919-210-0482 or [bjbuckley1@frontier.com](mailto:bjbuckley1@frontier.com) if you want to know more about the work to be performed.

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**Monday, November 5**

**Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study**

**10:30 a.m. in the East Parlor**

**Susan Dunlap** will lead the Bible study

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## First Friends and Families

**SAVE THESE DATES . . .**

**Saturday, November 4**

**Hike the Eno and Potluck**

**Hosted by Kathy Conner**

We'll do Dunnagan Trail and the strong of heart can add another mile by connecting to the Pea Creek Trail. Hanging out on the screened porch while the others walk is also a fine option. Start gathering at Kathy Conner's house at 3:45 so we can get off the trail before dark! Potluck to follow back at Kathy's house. Drinks provided. **Please respond to the EVITE.**

**Saturday, December 9**

**Advent Potluck (adults only)**

6:30 p.m at the home of **Melinda Ruley/Stewart Fisher**

**Friday, January 5**

**Game Night and Potluck**

hosted by the *Wilkins family*

5:30 p.m. at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall

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## Scratch/Young Adults

**November Gathering: "SOUP NIGHT"**

**Friday, November 10**

**6:30 p.m. at the home of Andy and Cherrie Henry**

The Henrys are excited to host the November potluck which will be a soup night. They are providing the soup and bread. Please bring salad and dessert. Lots of activity potential: some board games, or movie fun (with Netflix), or you can look at some sabbatical photos! As always, new faces are welcome! Watch for the EVITE.

**December Fellowship Event**

**Saturday, December 2**

Walk in the Durham Christmas parade then go locally for lunch!

**Annual Scratch/Young Adults Planning Retreat**

**Sunday, January 7**

Noon - 3:00 p.m. at the church

Lunch will be provided.

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## BOOK GROUP - November Discussion

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, November 14** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of *Mary-Jo Keenan* (2407 Tryon Rd, Durham) to discuss Viet Thanh Nguyen's book, *The Sympathizer*. *Celia Dickerson* will be the discussion leader. Let Mary-Jo know you will attend by emailing her at: [mjkeenan39@gmail.com](mailto:mjkeenan39@gmail.com).

## Activities for Families with Young Children

**Sunday, November 19**

**Parents Eat Out /  
Christmas Pageant Work Day  
for the Children  
5:00 - 6:15 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 2**

**2017 Durham Christmas Parade**  
(time TBD)

**THEME: The Friendly Beasts**  
FPC's children and youth are invited to dress as animals and march in the morning parade.

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**Sunday, December 3**

**Advent Festival**  
9:45 - 10:45 for children and youth

**Alternative Giving Fair**  
After worship, food, vendors  
and activities for all ages

**Sunday, December 10**

**Christmas Pageant**  
9:45 a.m. Dress rehearsal  
and face painting  
11:00 Pageant during worship



# Service and Mission Opportunities

## CARE TEAM OPPORTUNITY

A new Care Team is forming to wrap a circle of care around one of our members, **Phillip Herndon**. Phillip joined the church last winter and many of you have had the chance to meet him in Sunday school, worship, or fellowship meals. He is a special guy and already has lots of folks who have become good friends with him. He has recently moved into his own apartment and is doing well. However, we need a few more folks on his team to help make sure he can be as independent as he wants and needs to be. As a reminder, being on a Care Team means doing as much or as little as you are willing, able, or have time to do. Serving on such a team is an incredibly rewarding experience and a way to show God's love to our neighbors in tangible and meaningful ways. If you are interested in being on this new Care Team, contact Susan Dunlap, [sjd4@duke.edu](mailto:sjd4@duke.edu).

## Habitat Honduras Trip

The needs for decent, safe housing are great, both here and beyond our borders. There are still a few spots left on the January 26 – February 4 Habitat for Humanity trip to Honduras, the second poorest country in the western hemisphere. Join **Margaret and Miguel Rubiera**, trip leaders since 2001, to experience this powerful way to “Love Thy (International) Neighbor.” Contact Margaret at [margaretmr29@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmr29@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Thanksgiving at Urban Ministries of Durham

Are you looking for a truly gratifying way to spend part of Thanksgiving Day? Consider gathering your family or friends to serve lunch that day, **November 23, from 11 - 1:30**. Please contact **Margaret Rubiera** at [margaretmr29@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmr29@gmail.com) to sign up to serve.

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## Volunteer Opportunity: Music library database

The church music library contains hundreds of pieces of sheet music, and all of them are catalogued in a database. Unfortunately, that database has a few quirks and bugs. If you have experience with Microsoft Access and would be willing to help (probably no more than a few hours), please contact **Kate Busa** ([katebusa@gmail.com](mailto:katebusa@gmail.com)) or **David Smith** ([davidjudysmith@frontier.com](mailto:davidjudysmith@frontier.com)) for more information.

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## Pastoral Care reminders . . .

**Attention parents of new and returning college students**, please make sure that we have your student's new address. Your FPC family wants to keep in touch with students, those in active military service and those in mission or studying abroad. Please email your address to **Valerie McMillan** at [v.mcmillan@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:v.mcmillan@firstpres-durham.org) or call her at 919 682-5511 ext. 215.

**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 McMillan** at [v.mcmillan@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:v.mcmillan@firstpres-durham.org) or call her at 919 682-5511 ext. 215.

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## Anti-Racism Education Corner

Organizing Against Racism (OAR) Durham invites you to attend the **Racial Equity Institute's Groundwater Presentation** at Maureen Joy Charter School on **Saturday, October 28 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** [Register here](#)

### **Housing Inequality in Durham**

BullCity150 Exhibit: "Uneven Ground: Foundations of Housing Inequality in Durham" (<https://www.bullcity150.org>). The exhibit is open on the following dates: November 14 with a Housing Policy Discussion - 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and November 17 - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Location: MDC Building - 307 E. Main St.

**Racial Equity Institute (REI) workshops:** 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/>

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

## **~ COMMUNITY INVITATIONS ~**

### **Durham CAN Public Delegates Assembly**

FPC has pledged 30 individuals to the next CAN delegates' assembly. This is an important meeting as it will focus on clear commitments from Mayoral and City Council candidates concerning racial and economic equity in Durham. The agenda includes jobs and affordable housing.

**Thursday, October 26, 2017**

**7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church  
316 Hebron Road, Durham, NC 27705**

### **FPC youth in DSA Musical**

**Maddie Brigman** and **Sam Henry** have roles in the DSA musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Maddie has a major role as "Marcy." Sam has a cameo role as "Olive's Dad." **The performances will be November 2-4 at 7:30 and November 4 at 3 p.m. in the Blackbox at DSA. Let's support our youth!**

### **Presence is Power: Learn how to diffuse a volatile situation**

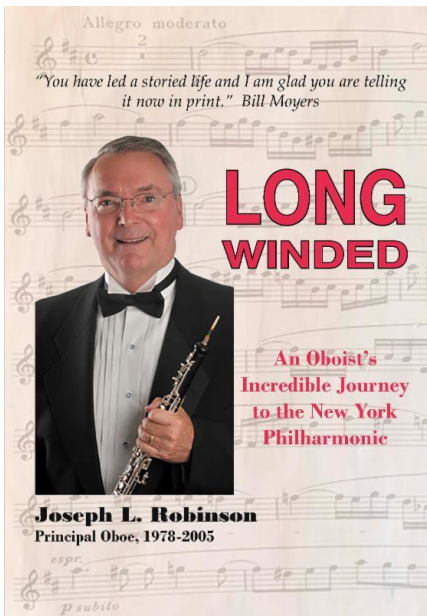
**Saturday, November 11**

**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church, Durham**

Registration required. A donation of \$20 is appreciated to help offset expenses.

[Read more here](#)



Our own **Joe Robinson** has written a book, **LONG wined**, about his journey to the New York Philharmonic.

Copies are \$39.00 (includes shipping) if purchased before January 1, 2018.

For a limited time, a bonus CD will be included for free.

Use PayPal or send a personal check to:

**Joseph Robinson**  
10011 Hammock Bend  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517 .

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### November is National Adoption Awareness Month

Durham County DSS celebrates our adoptive families. They also recognize the role each of us plays in the lives of youth in foster care and those who need a permanent home. If you or anyone you know is interested in more information on becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please call: 919-560-8092 or email: [fosterdreams@dconc.gov](mailto:fosterdreams@dconc.gov).

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### Request from Iglesia Emanuel

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We are beginning to plan for our annual Thanksgiving celebration on Wednesday November 22, and are in need of donations of turkeys (or monetary donations with which to purchase turkeys) for the community dinner. If you have time to cook a turkey at home and bring it to the church, that would be even better! Folks are also welcome to sign up to help serve and clean up after the hot meal, as well as helping to distribute a large amount of food for food bank recipients to take home. As usual, we will have a children's performance preceding the dinner, and all are welcome to join us for both the performance and the dinner. We always have a large turn-out for this special annual event, and always appreciate the help and support of our sister churches.



-- **Julio Ramirez**, Iglesia Emanuel

**The next newsletter will be issued November 7, 2017.**