

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

January 23, 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

I hope you are enjoying our typical North Carolina January, with snow and frigid temperatures one week and warm, sunny days the next week! As we move through January, I want to update you on a few things going on at FPC:

Your generosity: The Stewardship Committee worked hard in 2017 to share the vision and goals of the Session with the congregation. Through a stewardship meal after worship, an informative and inviting brochure, and personal calls and visits to those who were unable to attend the meal, the Stewardship Committee and trained members who made visits, celebrated four components of FPC's **identity**:

- inclusion and welcome
- social justice outreach
- worship/Christian education
- community,

and the three **goals** of the stewardship campaign:

- pay equity for associate pastor and director of music
- increase service and mission funding (restore to previous levels)
- long-term financial stability.

The Stewardship Committee challenged you to meet these three goals through a 10% increase in the total gifts pledged in 2017. **To date, we celebrate the fact that you all stepped up in a generous and visionary response to this call and have brought us to 99.73% of the goal!** This is outstanding! It shows your excitement and energy about where FPC is going as a congregation.

Because of your timely generosity, the Session is in the process of putting together a budget for 2018 that will reflect significant progress on all three of our stewardship goals. Stay tuned for more news about how your generosity is helping FPC reach these goals.

Your involvement: I am thrilled to see so many of you involved in mission and ministry in so many ways. You are active and present in worship, you are participating in our education programs and small group ministries, and you are serving on the committees that do the work of the church. In the community, you are on non-profit boards, you are supporting ministries of justice (hunger, racial equity, prison justice, mental illness, poverty, and environmental programs and ministries), you are making Jesus' message of love heard in every corner of Durham. You inspire me and I believe you inspire one another to find the ways that God is calling you to use your gifts to bear the light of Christ into the world in many different ways.

Our future: FPC is positioned in the middle of a vibrant and growing city. We are also positioned to respond to a large number of significant social justice issues that grow out of our belief that we are called to love God and love our neighbor (and that we are all created in God's image). As we face our future, we are looking intentionally at who God wants us to be in this particular location at this particular time. The Session has approved a **Strategic Planning Team** and they have begun their work already (you will be hearing more from them very soon!). This team will be listening to you closely as we seek to envision our future together as God's people who actively seek to follow Christ in the heart of Durham.

My excitement is significant as I consider all of the above, as I continue to share the

depth and joy of worship with you each week, and as I continue to grow in relationship with you all. May God guide us in the months and years ahead as we journey together in faith.

With deep love and gratitude for you all,

Mindy

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONGRATULATIONS to *Heather Wallace and Michael Schultz* on the birth of their first child. *Juneau David Schultz Wallace* was born January 14, 2018. Mom and baby are doing well.

We extend **CONDOLENCES** to the family of *George Bernhardt III and his wife Kelly* upon the death of her father, *Mike Reinhardt*, following a car accident on January 13. Please keep these families in your prayers.

CONCERNS

Florence Shackelford – recovering from hip replacement surgery at Duke Hospital

Beth Eisenson – recovering from knee surgery at home

Paul Cornsweet – recovering at home following surgery

Julie Maxwell

Russell and Ruth Roberson – both recovering at home in Croasdaile Village

Mariah Wilson – granddaughter of Chuck and Jean Wilson, undergoing tests at Duke Hospital

Atria Senior Living: *Peggy Mordecai*, mother of Beth Eisenson

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): *Julian Boswell*

Croasdaile Village: *Bette Conroy, Bob Kever, Bob Rankin*

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): *Helen Garrison*

The Forest at Duke: *Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson*

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Marc Crawford, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Heath, Rebecca, and Julia Huberg, family from South Dakota
(Heath is receiving care at Duke)

Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church

Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

Wagner family, friends of Kerry Holbrook

Jerry Walter, friend of Brian and Jeanette Castle

Wintermute/Littles families, friends of Kerry Holbrook

Christina Z., mother of Franzi Rokoske

PARISH NOTES

Many thanks to **Tom Bloom** and **Robert Day** for taking care of the church property during last week's snow storm. The inclement weather caused the church to be closed for three work days, during which time the roof leaked, the phone system failed, the boiler broke, the internet went down, and the parking lot needed to be scraped. Old buildings require a lot of attention! Kudos to **Kate Busa** (and Valerie in absentia) for making sure we had bulletins on Sunday morning, and to **Sarah Finbow** for keeping us informed about conditions via social media!

On MLK Sunday, January 14, the **FPC youth groups** met with the youth from Community Midrasha, Sikh Gurudwara, and Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church to package goods for the diaper bank of NC and Urban Ministries. Together we collected 270 bottles of water, 300 pieces of fruit, 108 bags of powdered milk, wrapped 150 packs of diapers (with 10-18 diapers in each pack), 62 packs of menstrual supplies, made 345 sandwiches and wrote over 100 cards for Urban Ministries. This was our 5th year participating in this important interfaith service project and we are so thankful for all of the hard work our youth did to help our neighbors.

Special thanks to **Harriett Mitchell** for arranging the **Daytimers** lunch out at Neo China today!

The **Friday morning Bible Study** continues its study of "Cultivating Christian Character: the Fruits of the Spirit." Everyone is invited to join us on Fridays from 10:30 – noon at the church. We have studied love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and now we're looking into goodness. Don't you think we need more of these qualities in our world? **Marilyn Hedgpeth** leads the class and would love to have you join us. During Lent, (February 16 – March 30) we'll transition from virtues and embrace sinfulness, discussing "What's Nice About Vice: A Positive Look at the Seven Deadly Sins". Same time, same place.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Carol Wills** whose poem PAPA was published in the January 2018 Friends Journal. Read the poem which is printed on the back cover of this week's newsletter.

Due to last week's snow, the **David LaMotte workshop**, *Worldchanging: Challenging the Myth of Powerlessness*, has been postponed until April. Stay tuned for an updated invitation to participate in this workshop after Easter.



My reasons for becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church Legacy Society are simple and heartfelt. I joined the FPC Legacy Society because I have benefitted spiritually and socially from this community of faith. Now, it is my wish to continue to give back. I don't know what the future will bring, but I do know FPC will use my gifts to continue "to be generous in hospitality

and in faithful ministry." As First Presbyterian Church has loved and cared for me, I want to return the church's generosity — now and in the years to come. - **Mary-Jo Keeman**

Members of FPC's Legacy Society

Al and Judy Arrowood
Bob and Sheila Breitweiser
Chris and Meredith Brown
Arthur Clark

Celia Dickerson
Mindy Douglas and Tim O'Brien
Lisa Gabriel
Charles and Peggy Hammond
Joe and Carlisle Harvard
Mark Higgins
Dan Hudgins
Mary-Jo Keenan
Mal King
Sam and Sheila Miglarese
Miriam Morey
Alice Raney
Caroline Rourk
Henderson and Jane Rourk
David and Marie Sappenfield
Jim Seitzer
Jane Williams
Chuck and Jean Wilson
Bob and Lina Yoder

FPC's Legacy Society will hold its second annual Appreciation Luncheon for Society members on February 7, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at Croasdaile Country Club.

Sunday, January 28 - the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship - Mindy Douglas, preaching

The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received during worship. Please give generously!

Worship Texts: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Liturgist: **Bob Yoder**

Narthex Greeter: **Harriett Mitchell**

After Worship Greeters: **Barbara Buckley** (side/font);

Sigfried Fullenkamp (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **Amy Sanchez**

Upcoming Evening for Families with Young Children

This **Sunday, January 28, from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m.** we will gather in the church foyer, and send parents down the street to Bull City Burger for a quick time of fellowship. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** and **Brent Curtis** will stay with the children to talk about the Old Testament roots of the Lord's Supper in the story of the Passover and the subsequent Sedar Meal. We'll have a chance to taste the Sedar foods and ask the Sedar questions. We'll even play the Sedar game: find the missing piece of bread. Then we'll gather for our own dinner before parents return at 6:15. We'll continue with the Lord's Table topic on February 18. **Please let Marilyn know if you will be attending this Sunday.**

Sunday, February 4 - the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion - Mindy Douglas, preaching
(Remember to bring items for blessing bags)

The Session of FPC has called a **Congregational Meeting** at the end of worship to vote on changes in the terms of call for installed pastors. Your presence at this meeting is appreciated.

Worship Texts: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Liturgist: **Peter Hausmann**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Andy Henry** (side/font);

Miriam Morey (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers), **Jane Williams**

Communion Elders:

Head / Replenish elements: **Alice Raney**

Bread: **Cris Rivera (B1, process)**, **Miriam Morey (B2)**, **Carol Carson (B3)**, **Jane Wettach (B4)**

Cup: **Andy Henry (C1)**, **Caroline Rourk (C2, process)**, **Brent Curtis (C3)**, **Ellie Dilworth (C4)**

Shepherds: **Sigfried Fullenkamp (pulpit aisle)**, **Jerry Postema (font aisle)**, **Jane Williams (center aisle)**

Catch FPC's Youth in Action on "Soup"er Bowl Sunday!



The FPC Youth groups will be having their Annual Chili and Soup Cook-off on **Sunday, February 4, 2018**. All are welcome to cook chili or soup to be sold after worship with all proceeds going to combat hunger right here in Durham! Please contact **Sarah Finbow** (s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org) or sign up via SignUpGenius at

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094EA5AE29A57-souper1>

if you would like to make soup or chili to help our fundraising efforts!



Steve Rimmer will lead a Communion Service at The Forest at Duke at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 4. Contact Steve at 919-529-2235 or cstrimmer@nc.rr.com if you would like to participate.

Sunday, February 11 - Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship - Mindy Douglas, preaching

Worship Texts: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Brent Curtis** (side/font);

Carol Carson (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Karen Swope**, **Amy Sanchez**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Children's and Youth Sunday School is back up and running for all ages.

The **3-5th graders** will review the story of Jesus being presented to God in the Temple from Luke 2: 22-38 and enjoy a feast on **January 28th**. Then on **February 4**, they will talk about the healing power of Jesus, as he heals a young boy in Mark 9: 14-29. Our prayers are with two of our teachers: **Alec Bethune**, over the recent death of his father, **Stuart Bethune**; and **Li-Chen Chin**, who is traveling to Taiwan to visit her parents.

Middle and high school youth meet in their designated classrooms in the basement (below the sanctuary) at 9:45.

Faith and Community Class:

The class meets at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall, and all are welcome.

We have begun a month-long look at pastoral issues surrounding dementia / Alzheimer's disease, discussing how best to minister and care for those who suffer from these conditions. Last Sunday we began viewing a touching documentary about singer/song-writer Glen Campbell. *I'll Be Me*, follows Campbell's farewell tour after he is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and he and his family navigate the unpredictable nature of the disease through love, laughter and music. We'll watch the remainder of the documentary this **Sunday, January 28**, beginning promptly at 9:45, so we have time to complete the showing.

Upcoming classes in February will look into how to become a dementia-friendly congregation and community. On **February 11** we will welcome **Dr. Warren Kinghorn**, Associate Research Professor of Psychiatry and Pastoral and Moral Theology at Duke Divinity School, who will lead a discussion of the theology of dementia.

Lectionary Class:

Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

January 28: Where does knowledge come from? Is it simply the accumulation of learned facts? Does knowledge give you authority?

February 4: Jesus said that proclaiming the message is what he came to do. Paul put it even more strongly: "an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!" Do we have an obligation to proclaim the gospel?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class:

We meet in the corner room of the 2nd floor of the education building.

January 28: Puritans, Baptists, Catholics, the Great Awakening. Find out what they all have in common when you join Journeys and Scratch to discuss Christianity in the thirteen colonies -- chapters 24 and 25 of the "The Story of Christianity" by Justo Gonzalez. All are welcome.

February 4: Come discuss the shifting landscape of Christianity through the early 20th century in the U.S. -- chapter 27 of the "The Story of Christianity" by Justo Gonzalez. All are welcome.

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.



Join us on Sunday evenings . . .
Middle Schoolers at 5:00;
Supper for all youth at 6:00;
High Schoolers at 6:30.

All youth are welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

Upcoming FPC Events . . .

Officer Meetings - Monday, January 29

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m.

Joint Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Session at 7:00 p.m.

Congregational Meetings

The FPC Session has set the following dates for Congregational Meetings:

Sunday, February 4 - vote on changes in terms of call for installed pastors

Sunday, February 18 - elect new officers

McPherson Lectureship 2018

February 25-26

Guest Lecturer: Starsky Wilson,

See the enclosed flyer for more information about this year's Lectureship



CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Play has begun! Games are played on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. through the end of February in the Hope Valley Baptist church gym, located at the corner of Garrett and Hope Valley Roads. Contact the FPC office for schedule information.

Fundraiser for Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase – THIS WEEKEND!!!



Friday, January 26, 2018

Saturday, January 27, 2018

7:30 p.m. at the Hayti Heritage Center, Durham

Pump Boys and Dinettes is a musical that tells the story of four males and two females who work at a gas station/dinette somewhere between Frog Level and Smyrna, North Carolina.

You can get tickets and make donations by visiting: PumpBoysForBen.org.

SCRATCH/Young Adults Activities for February

Thursday, February 1

Scratch will represent FPC at the Triangle Pride Resource Fair at UNC-Chapel Hill
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - in Great Hall at the Frank Porter Graham Student Union

Saturday, February 3

Scratch Young Adults Potluck

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the home of *Mindy Douglas / Tim O'Brien*

Please respond to the EVITE.

Habitat for Humanity Mission Trips 2018

Our well laid plans for the Habitat for Humanity trips to Honduras have taken a bit of a turn. Due to political unrest following the presidential elections in late November, we have made some adjustments to our plans. The trip led by **Margaret and Miguel Rubiera** will still go to Honduras, but has been rescheduled to **April 6 – 15**. The other trip, led by **Blake Strayhorn**, will take place as planned from **February 9 – 17**, but will go instead to Guatemala. **Carl and Lisa Rist** will be representing First Presbyterian on the Guatemala trip. In both countries, we will be building houses as well as beautiful friendships beyond our borders. It seems that politics have a way of complicating life the world over! Please join us as we pray for a restoration of peace and hope in Honduras.

TERRY SANFORD DISTINGUISHED LECTURE AND
BOYARSKY LECTURE IN LAW, MEDICINE & ETHICS



Poverty, Health and Social Justice
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II

Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 5:30 pm
Page Auditorium, Duke University

Free and Open to the Public
Event Tickets Required - Available January 23
tickets.duke.edu or 919.684.4444
Parking at Bryan Center Deck on Science Drive

Supporting "Sanctuary"

The Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill made a decision to become a sanctuary church. The Session approved FPC to be a partner in this effort as part of an **interfaith network of volunteers**. **Individuals who are interested in volunteering can sign up at: <http://eepurl.com/c77iRn>.**

Volunteer activities include everything from prayer support to providing a meal, paying a visit, doing laundry, advocating to change inhumane immigration laws, or providing medical care.

**The next church newsletter will be issued February 6, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Monday, February 5, 2018.**

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PAPAW

I remember him as a child remembers:
He was my Papaw.
He rocked me to sleep in his arms, singing
“Precious memories, how they linger.”

I remember him in his uniform.
He as a conductor for the Southern Railway.
A farm boy, he had grown up learning
To love chickens and mules.

At 16 he went to work for the railroad.
Later on, he lent his two boys to the U.S. Army
and one came back wounded, and
both came back with PTSD.

Papaw grew old very quickly. Was it
the worry? Was it the odd hours?
The soot he inhaled in the railyards?
At 55, he lost his life to cancer.

I have only a picture of him to remember
him by, the grandfather who loved me,
who sang to me, who brought me candy.
His life went by like a train passing,

too fast, in the nighttime hours,
the lonely whistle fading in the wind.

Carol Wills
Durham, N.C.