

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

May 1-13, 2018

From the Pastor . . .

I am eternally grateful for teachers. I am grateful for my own, who patiently guided me academically and personally – my elementary teachers who honestly named my inability to control my incessant talking as something that could be improved, my second grade teacher who gave me space to grieve the loss of a classmate and later gave me the chance to test my leadership wings, my third grade teacher who forced me to catch up in math after getting behind in second grade, my fourth grade teacher who let me dream and imagine a world of endless possibility, my fifth grade teacher who taught me poetry, my sixth grade teacher who set me on a path of loving science, the school librarian who encouraged my love for reading and let me feel like I owned the library, the music teacher who taught me rhythm, I could go on and on. I am also grateful for my son's teachers, who helped him learn and grow in more ways than I will ever be able to fully understand. I was constantly grateful for his teachers, who taught him what I could not, who had skills I didn't have, and who exhibited patience I could only dream of. I still think of them and hold them in my prayers as they continue to teach others along the way.

On Wednesday, May 16, our public-school teachers (many of whom are members at FPC) are going to advocate for themselves before our legislature in Raleigh and we who support them will advocate for them as well. Our teachers work tirelessly during the school year, up before the sun and working late into the night. They use their own resources to make sure their students have supplies and opportunities to learn. In too many cases they are underpaid, under-supported, and under-appreciated by the powers-that-be. They are taking this day to stand for our children and for the importance of their education. They are taking this day to stand for our future, for they know that a strong educational system (and equally strong for children of all races and cultures) leads to strong and confident children who will be the leaders of our tomorrows.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has always been a strong supporter of education. Across the years, we have started schools (here and in many other countries) and supported public education as a right for all. In that same vein, FPC continues to support public education and the rights of all children to learn and grow in a safe, healthy, and equitable environment. The FPC Day School, housed in our space and started by this congregation in the early 70s, shows our commitment to early education for all. Our commitment to education is long-standing and a mark of our faith and commitment to the education, nurture, and formation of all God's children.

In this month when teachers are standing up for their own rights and for the rights of children across this state, may we support them with our prayers, our verbal encouragement, our presence at PTSAs, our financial support of education, and our physical presence (at marches and rallies, but, more importantly, as

classroom volunteers).

With gratitude for teachers past and present and for all of you who have been shaped by them and continue to support them,

Mindy



Our Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences are with the family of **Rev. Bob Keever**, who died peacefully on April 30th at Croasdaile Village. Bob served many churches in the south, and was a faithful member of New Hope Presbytery, his last call being as Interim Minister/Head of Staff at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill. Services will be scheduled at a later time, when his grandchildren have completed spring exams and can be in attendance.

Added this week: Evelyn McDaniel, mother of Mary Kay Robinson

Carsey Family

Graham/Seawell/Boyle Family

Lorimer Family

Susan Seahorn

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Village: **Bette Conroy** (Friendship Hall)

Croasdaile Pavilion: **John Kerr, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford**

Dubose Center, Chapel Hill: **Mary Clark**

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

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

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

Tom Birchfield, step-father of Wil James

Norma Cardoni, mother of Sheila Breitweiser

Ching-Chang Chin, father of Li-Chen Chin

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Marc Crawford, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett

Linda High, niece- in-law of Elizabeth High

Maria Holland, daughter of Katy and Bruce Loeblich

Huberg family, friends of Kathy Parkins and Mary Kay Robinson

Clara Iedema, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

David Kilpatrick, grandson of Elizabeth High (US Air Force, deployed to Zaragoza, Spain)

Patricia Kost, grandmother of Jack Kost

Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church
Eric Maina, nephew of Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett
Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece
Rosemary Orphys, aunt of Kerry Holbrook
Jonathan Pratt, son of Lanny Pratt
Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman
Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost



Honduras Trip Report

Baby quilts, soccer balls, lots of prayers and well wishes, a generous donation for Habitat Honduras – all these gifts from our beloved church family went with us on our 10-day Habitat for Humanity trip to Honduras. How could it not have been an outstanding experience? We were once again blessed with an extraordinary group of people who went with us to help build a house for a lovely, hard working family. In addition to providing quite a bit of muscle to dig a solid foundation for the home and start raising the walls, we also shared our hearts

with children in a local elementary school, a preschool, a shelter/orphanage for struggling babies and another for girls from ages 3 - 20, a home for the elderly, and new moms in the public hospital. We shed more than a few tears of joy while sharing the baby quilts upon seeing how happy the recipients were with those colorful and cozy gifts. And you cannot imagine how the eyes of young children light up when they are given a new soccer ball. Thank you for all your support and encouragement which gave us even more energy and passion for this work. It was another truly wonderful trip!

With much gratitude,

Margaret and Miguel Rubiera

PARISH NOTES

- Many thanks to the congregation for their contributions to the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering**, the PC(USA)'s Special Offering for Lent which supports the PC(USA) Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Self Development of People. **To-date, we have received \$5,781.48**
- Congratulations to **Kerry Holbrook**, who is celebrating 5 years of being cancer-free at this year's Triangle Race for the Cure on Saturday, May 5.
- Kudos to high school seniors **Frances Zehmer and Ellie Dilworth**, who were honored by the youth group at the Sunday night Seniors' Banquet. And job-well-done to **Maryn Leonard**, who was recently inducted into the National Honor Society.

- Baby on the way for **Brianna and Ricky Bennett**, who are expecting their first child in September!
- So happy to report that **Megan Champion** passed both parts of her CNA certification exam, and is actively looking for work. Congratulations, Megan!
- Many thanks to **Lenore Champion** and the **Christian Education Committee** for a fabulous Fifth Sunday Intergenerational Sunday School this past weekend. With an emphasis on Earth Day, everyone had the opportunity to help plant a Pinwheel Garden for Child Abuse Prevention; to make a chia-head flower pot; to paint rocks for the Kindness Rocks project; to hand-print and sign a poster for the Red Hands Project against child trafficking; and to eat some yummy fruits of God's good earth. It was a wonderful mixing and mingling of all ages!
- Many thanks to **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey** and the **Membership Committee** for sponsoring this spring's offering of Membership Inquiry Classes. We are deeply grateful for our class presenters, **Mindy Douglas, David Smith, Phyllis Supple and Marilyn Hedgpeth**, who spent time explaining Presbyterian history, polity, worship, ministry and mission to our participants. If any are interested in membership at FPC, please let the pastors know, and we'll convene the Session of the church to arrange for receiving you into membership. We honor each person's discernment process and are glad to entertain your questions and hear your stories.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
FPC will be a polling place

On **Tuesday, May 8**, FPC will serve as a polling place for city of Durham residents (due to the Durham Public Library still being closed for renovations). We recommend that you contact the staff by phone or e-mail that day as there will be very little, if any, parking available at FPC during regular hours. The **DaySchool** will operate on its normal schedule. **Meetings** that are not affected by parking restrictions will meet as scheduled. Please contact **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator, at t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org if you have questions.



NEW MEMBER RECEIVED

Graeme Peterson, 2211 Hillsborough Rd, Apt 2055, Durham, 27705; 919-630-4870; peterson.graeme@gmail.com; joined FPC in 2009 at the age of 8 and participated in youth group and served as a deacon (Class of 2012). In 2013, he transferred his membership to White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh. Graeme was received back into the membership of FPC by

the Session on April 23, 2018. Graeme is the son of **Rev. Judy Pidcock** and **Jim Peterson**. He has a younger brother, **Neil Peterson**. Graeme graduated from Duke University with a BA in Public Policy Studies in 2017 and currently works with RTI International. He is an avid basketball fan and reader. Please welcome Graeme back to FPC.

Sunday, May 6

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Liturgist: **TBA**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Delia Kwon** (side/font); **Andy Henry** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **John Mozart, El Hess**

Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Communion Elders:

Head Elder/Replenish elements: **Ellie Dilworth**

Bread: **Lenore Champion** (B1/process), **Bob Breitweiser** (B2), **Jerry Postema** (B3), **Cris Rivera** (B4)

Cup: **Brent Curtis** (C1), **Al Arrowood** (C2/process), **Dewey Lawson** (C3), **Karen Romines** (C4)

Shepherds: **Eric Wiebe** (center aisle), **Caroline Rourk** (font aisle), **Gray Wilson** (pulpit aisle)



Sunday, May 13

Seventh Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day

9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Classes for all ages)

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

Cherrie Henry, preaching

Following worship, families who made a meal reservation will take part in our **annual Mother's Day Luncheon**. **Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal.**

Liturgist: **TBA**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Alice Raney** (side/font); **Sigfried Fullenkamp** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head) Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Communion Elders:

Head/replenish elements: **Tyler Momsen-Hudson**

Bread: **Barbara Buckley** (B1/process), **Sigfried Fullenkamp** (B2), **Brent Curtis** (B3), **Dewey Lawson** (B4)
Cup: **Andy Henry** (C1), **Carol Carson**(C2/process), **Delia Kwon** (C3), **George Bernhardt** (C4)
Shepherds: **Jane Williams** (center aisle), **Alice Raney** (font aisle), **Eric Wiebe** (pulpit aisle)

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Day of Pentecost



Remember to wear **red, orange or yellow** for Pentecost!

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
Mindy Douglas, preaching

The **PC(USA) Pentecost Offering** will be received during worship. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you help to enrich the lives and deepen the faith of youth in the Presbyterian Church and around the world. **Special envelopes will be available for this offering. Click [here](#) for online giving.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The **Scriptures Readers Class** will meet in the Wilson Parlor during the Sunday School hour (9:45 - 10:45) on **Sundays, May 6, 13, 20, and 27**. Anyone who has any interest in this very important ministry please join us. We welcome you and will do our best to make it an interesting challenge. Look forward to seeing there. For more information, contact **Steve Rimmer**: csrimmer@nc.rr.com or 919-529-2235.

Children's Sunday School (grades 3-5)

May 6 is a feast day for the class! "Feed my sheep," Jesus tells Peter three times after the resurrection. The sheep will be fed on Sunday.

On **May 13**, we'll begin our final story for the year, Peter Heals a Lame Man In Jerusalem, from Acts 3: 1-16. The end of the year is coming soon, so stay tuned for end-of-the year instructions, and notification about our summer plans for everyone.

Middle and high school youth classes meet at 9:45 a.m. in their lower level classrooms.

Faith and Community Class:

May 6 and May 13:

Can we talk about guns, really? Why is it so hard, and so fraught with heightened emotion? Can we speak about the tragedy of mass shootings? Can we admit our fear of fire-arms in the wrong hands? Can we hear our youth speak about their experience of school as a sanctuary from violence? Can we talk theologically about violence, peace, and sin? *The Christian Century* has published a study guide for churches composed of articles about various facets of the gun issue, which will guide our conversation together for the next two Sundays in the Faith and Community Class. To access the study guide, [click here](#) or you can pick up a printed copy in the church foyer. The class meets on Sunday morning in **Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45**. All are welcome.

“Understanding Islam” will be our topic on **May 20** and **May 27**, led by local Imam, *Abdul Waheed*.

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

May 6: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Can love be commanded, especially love as profound as that?

May 13: Do you belong to the world? Which is more real for you, the world of work and shopping and politics and daily concerns, or the world of God's truth? Or is there a difference?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class:

This **Sunday, May 6**, Journeys and Scratch will read and discuss a recent article concerning evangelicals. The article can be found here: <https://www.politicalorphans.com/the-article-removed-from-forbes-why-white-evangelicalism-is-so-cruel/>. All are welcome to join the conversation. We meet in the corner room of the 2nd floor of the education building.

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.



Sunday, May 6

Youth Groups End-of-Year Party at the Momsen-Hudson home. Check your email for details. It will be fun to look back and celebrate our year together!

Children's Choir Schedule

May 6 - rehearsal during Sunday School (9:45 - 10:10 a.m.)

May 13 (Mother's Day) - Children's Choir sings during worship (rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary)

After May 13, we take a break for the summer!

Happenings around FPC . . .



Scratch (Young Adults) Camp Out

at New Hope Camp, Hillsborough

Friday, May 4 (5:30 p.m.) through

Saturday, May 5 (12 noon). Please respond to the EVITE or contact **Cherrie Henry** for more information on what to bring and how to prepare your hobo meal: cheryl.barton.henry@gmail.com or

919-599-9406.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study followed by a Spring Social

Monday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Circle and Bible study will be held in the East Parlor. The study is led by **Susan Dunlap**. The Spring Social will follow in Watts-Hill Hall. This is our last meeting until the fall. Please come!

BOOK GROUP

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss Christina Baker Kline's *A Piece of the World*. **Caroline Pritchett** will host the group in her home (202 Villa Drive, Durham). **Hendrika Vande Kemp** will lead the discussion. Please let Caroline know your plans to attend (caropritch@gmail.com; 919-479-8218 or cell: 919-491-4490).



Sunday, May 6

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at **Trinity Ave PC**
Training for all newly elected officers;
Class will be led by **Art Ross**

Sunday, May 20

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion at FPC with a Service of Ordination and

Installation for newly elected officers

Monday, June 4

First meeting for Class of 2021 officers and for those joining the Class of 2019

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m.

Officers' Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Session at 7:00 p.m.

TIMEOUT RADIO SHOW

Monday, May 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Vera Cecelski will be *Bill Hendrickson's* guest. She will discuss life on historic Stagville Plantation. The show is broadcast live on WCOM, FM 103.5 locally and elsewhere on wcomfm.org.

POETRY WORKSHOP

The Lenten elective, *Holy Listening: Poetry Reading and Writing*, which used poetry as a lens for focusing our attention on God, has ended. But members of the class have requested that we continue on a monthly basis, bringing poems to share, writing poems to share, looking at Biblical poetry, and considering how metaphor and image form us spiritually. We will meet again on **Sunday, May 20 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in room 205**, to discuss and share poems that deal with loss. Anyone is welcome to bring interesting poems to share, and to join us around the table. *Marilyn Hedgpeth* is the facilitator.

Families with Youth Children . . .

- Our next **"Parents Night Out"** gathering will be **Sunday, May 20 from 5:00 – 6:15p.m.**, when parents will step out for a bite to eat at Bull City Brewery, while children experience the Holy Spirit of Pentecost in many ways, shapes and forms. Should be a very windy time together! Bring friends and join us for this important time of fellowship and making friends. Remember, you are the "holding families" so crucial to the health of our church.
- Registration has begun for this summer's **GBCFF (Great Big Church Family Festival), June 17, 18, and 19** at participating churches, from 5:30 – 7:30. This year's theme is "*Serve the Lord with Gladness*" and each evening will involve dinner, crafts, and a service project that all can participate in together. GBCFF is for children of God young and old. Click [here](#) to register your family.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** You are also invited to a **Reunion at Camp**



New Hope on **August 5**, with swimming, potluck, singing, and games. More details forthcoming.



LANDSCAPING & GROUNDS WORKDAY

Saturday, May 12 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

The work coordinator is **Barbara Buckley**
(bjbuckley1@frontier.com or 919-402-8551), so

please contact her to find out more about the work to be performed. The workday will be postponed to Saturday, May 26 in the case of rain.



Calling all graduates!

FPC will recognize graduates again this year with a special bulletin insert in June. If you or someone in your family or household is graduating from college or high school this spring, help us share the good news. Please submit your graduate's information to **Valerie**

McMillian in the church office by email: v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org or leave in Valerie's mailbox at the church. **The deadline is May 27.**



Blessing Bags

The demand for blessing bags has increased with the coming of springtime. **Please continue to bring snack crackers, individually packaged fruit, and nutrition bars, as well as small bottles of water on Communion Sundays through Pentecost, May 20.**

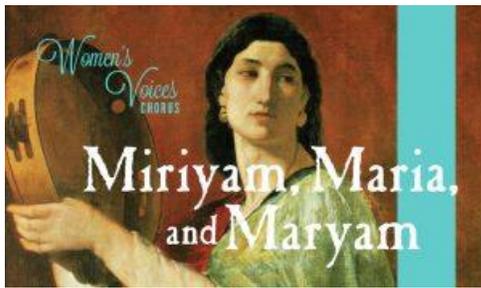


Smart Devices Needed for Dementia sufferers

Do you have an old iPod, iPhone, or iPad? Please bring it to church to donate! Your device will be donated to Music and Memory (www.musicandmemory.org) to provide "personalized music" for people suffering from dementia. Look for the plastic box with the Music and Memory logo in the volunteer's office, or contact **Christyn Klinck** for

more information (cfklinck@gmail.com). **Donations accepted through Sunday, May 27.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS



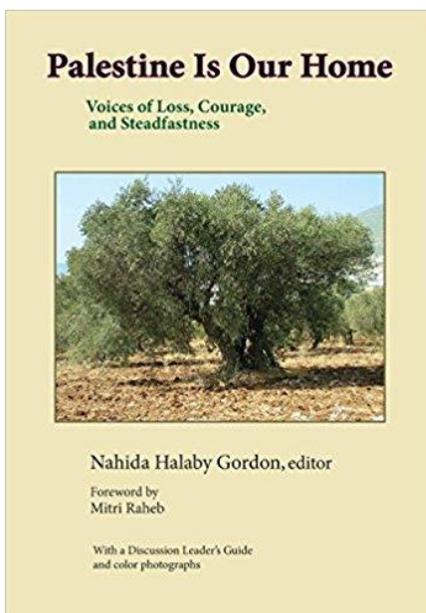
CONCERT: Women's Voices Chorus

Sunday, May 6, 2018

3:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

This concert will feature Artistic Director Allan Friedman's new refugee song, *Miriyam, Maria, and Maryam*, a

dramatic piece written in response to the present reality of millions of displaced people around the globe. Accompanied by guitars, oud, percussion, and interpretive dance, with text from Psalms, Rumi, and Hafez, Friedman imagines three women of different faiths as they are swept up in tragic historical events. The spring program will also include modern and Renaissance choral works by women on the Virgin Mary; Ariel Ramirez's romping and lively South American folk mass, *Misa Criolla*; and international songs of peace, including an Iraqi lullaby and a Palestinian-American's song on the longing to be free. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$7 for students. To purchase advance tickets online, please visit [our Square store](#). All tickets purchased online will be available for pickup at the ticket table in the lobby on the day of the concert.



Lunch & Learn:

PALESTINE IS OUR HOME - A

presentation and book signing event featuring *Nahida Halaby Gordon, PhD*, organized around the 70th anniversary of the Nakba: **Monday, May 14, @12:30 p.m. at FPC.**

Bring your lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

Dr. Gordon was born the youngest of four children into a Presbyterian (Church of Scotland) family in Jerusalem, Palestine. She is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wooster, Ohio, and is active in the Israel-Palestine Mission Network of Presbyterian

Church (USA), and on the steering committee of the Christian ecumenical organization, the Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA). Her book is a compilation of interviews she conducted with survivors and refugees of the 1948 Palestinian Nakba, and, also, her own family's experience. Books will be available for purchase. Read more [here](#). Event is sponsored by The Coalition for Peace with Justice and hosted by FPC.

III O O G
F E S +
2 0 1 8

Durham is hosting **MOOGFEST (May 17-21)** and FPC will again be a performance and workshop venues. For information about this year's music festival, schedule, and ticket information, click [*here*](#).



Ready the Ground Nonviolence Training

Clergy Training:

May 17, 2018

9am-3pm

St. Phillip's Episcopal
403 E. Main St., Durham

Following the confrontations in Charlottesville and the threat of a Klan march in Durham last fall, a group of clergy gathered together to discuss ways we might ready ourselves and our worshipping communities for nonviolent public action.

Please extend an invitation to the congregational training to interested members. Space is limited. Lunch will be provided.

RSVP by sending an email to heather@dukememorial.org or fill out an electronic registration form by [clicking here](#).

Congregation

Training:

June 9, 2018

9am-3pm

Nehemiah Christian Center
514 N. Mangum St., Durham

You are invited to a clergy training on promoting and maintaining a non-violent witness in contentious contexts from public rallies to interpersonal conflict.

Durham Arts Council Fundraiser

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, June 8, 2018

An exclusive **evening event** showcasing the music and architecture of three

Durham churches of historical significance, paired with three courses of fine food and drinks. For more information, click [here](#).

**The next church newsletter will be issued May 15, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, May 13, 2018.**

[May 2018 Birthdays](#)

[Online Church Calendar](#)



[Visit our website](#)