

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF DURHAM
"Downtown by history and by choice"
Bi-Weekly Newsletter
May 29 - June 11, 2018

From the Associate Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

One of my go-to reference books sitting on the shelf in my FPC office is, *How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook* (edited by Stuart Matlins and Arthur Magida). It is like Miss Manners for those of us who practice hospitality regularly when visitors come through our church doors, but who find ourselves feeling awkward when we are on the receiving end of hospitality as we visit other faith communities and worship with them. A reviewer of the book claims it “enables the stranger to hold fast to the integrity of their own tradition while stepping onto someone else’s holy ground” (Rev. Christopher Leighton, Institute for Christian-Jewish Studies). The book covers the anxieties we all face when we are guests of another religious community: *What do I wear? What’s going to happen? Should I participate, or just observe? When do I stand, sit, or kneel? What are their basic beliefs? Should I bring an offering? When is it okay to leave?*

The reason I mention this is because it is time for us to practice being “the perfect stranger” as we visit other faith communities and participate in this summer’s **GBCFF (Great Big Church Family Festival)**. It’s a skill I want us to hone as carefully as we hone our practice of hospitality when others come here. It’s a skill I want us to teach our children well. All of you are invited: young, old, families, singles, friends, and grandparents. The theme this year is “Serve the Lord with Gladness,” and each evening will feature an intergenerational service project to benefit the Durham community. Each evening’s activities include dinner and activities for everyone from 5:30 – 7:30. **Sunday, June 17 will take place at Mt. Bethel Presbyterian, where they have a beautiful playground, a fire pit, and a prayer path behind the church. Monday, June 18 is at Duke Memorial UMC, another downtown church and a newcomer to our GBCFF team. And Tuesday, June 19 will be at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, which specializes in great mixers and Godly Play.**

A GBCFF Reunion will be held on Sunday, August 5, at Camp New Hope from 4-7 p.m., with swimming, dinner, singing and games. FPC will sponsor that event, and we really need your help for that one, as our friends from Iglesia Emanuel will be our special guests. You may register on-line on the FPC website.

There is nothing more mutually grace-full than to welcome the stranger, and for the stranger to do his or her homework before entering another unfamiliar religious community. I hope that we are up to the challenge of being both host and guest.

Shalom,
Marilyn

Our Condolences . . .

- to **Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett, Sonya and Valentine Ndambiri** on the death of Mercy's brother, **Wilfred Chomba Ndambiri**, May 23rd in Kenya. We pray traveling mercies for Mercy as she travels to Kenya to be with her family.
- to the family of **Anna Jane Jordan**, who died May 25th, just short of her 98th birthday. Her family said to let the congregation know that "she had a heart of love for everyone whom she knew," and they appreciate your prayers. Sympathy can be expressed to her daughter, **Patsy Grable**, at P.O Box 196, Bahama, NC 27503.
- to **Ruth and Russell Roberson** on the death of Ruth's brother, **Zesely Bryan Haislip**, who died May 25th in Tarboro, NC.



Bette Conroy, recovering at Croasdaile Pavilion, room 133

Carsey Family
Graham/Seawell/Boyle Family
Keever Family
Lorimer Family

Susan Seahorn
Margaret Sims

Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: **Julian Boswell**
 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:

Laura Nelson Bailey, cousin of Charlotte Nelson
Tom Birchfield, step-father of Wil James
Ching-Chang Chin, father of Li-Chen Chin
Marc Crawford, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett
Maria Holland, daughter of Katy and Bruce Loebrich
May Juhnke, mother of Tom Juhnke
David Kilpatrick, grandson of Elizabeth High (US Air Force, stationed in England)
Patricia Kost, grandmother of Jack Kost
Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece
Evelyn McDaniel, mother of Mary Kay Robinson
Dell McMillian, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
Rosemary Orphys, aunt of Kerry Holbrook
Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman
Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost
Wally Watson, grandfather of Megan Champion

WE THINK
YOU'RE KIND OF A
BIG DEAL!

Please join the church staff in thanking the Class of 2018 officers for their service as ruling elders and deacons. Most served for three years. These denoted with * will serve one additional year as Class of 2019 officers.

Ruling Elders

Al Arrowood

*Lenore Champion**

Eleanor Dilworth

*Sigfried Fullenkamp**

Miriam Morey

Gerald Postema

Caroline Rourk

Eric Wiebe

Jane Williams

Deacons

Jennie Alwood

*Chris Brown**

*Amy Dillon**

*Deborah Hamlin-Aggrey**

*Sam Henry**

Michael Honeycutt

Karen Swope

Julie Whiddon

Frances Zehmer

We welcome aboard new officers in the Class of 2021:

Ruling Elders - Class of 2021

Kim Abels

Tom Bacon

Chris Brown

Lenore Champion

Leah Graves

Raymond Mbah

Diane Prosser

Deacons - Class of 2021

Katy Barron

Brian Castle

Matt Cline

Kathy Conner

Grace Mbugua

John Mozart

Bob Pleasants

Elected to serve one year: **Griffin Momsen-Hudson** (ruling elder) and **Minna Fullenkamp** (deacon).

PARISH NOTES

- **Lanny Pratt** stopped by the church office on May 23 with his daughter, Lydia, to “check on the building,” and to express his continued love to the congregation. He says his son, Jon, continues to improve from injuries incurred last fall. Lanny currently calls Albert Lea, Minnesota home.
 - It was great to have **Anna and Kirsten Santos Rutschman** in worship with us on May 13. Kirsten was in town to pick up her PhD in Musicology from Duke. **Samantha Arten**, our Children’s Choir Director, also earned a PhD in Musicology.
 - Many thanks to **Lenore Champion and Marcia Lorimer** for helping with the last Parents’ Night Out of the school year held on May 20. The children had fun engaging in water play in the church yard, and a picnic on the grounds.
 - The **Daytimers Group** met May 22 at El Rodeo, and had a wonderful time together, hosted by **Maxie Honeycutt and Sydnor Patrick**. As people come and go over the summer, it is important to stay connected with church friends.
 - Many thanks to **Dawn Carsey** who hosted lunch on May 19 for the **First Friends** group. About a dozen folks gathered at Dawn’s for lunch. (The walk was rained out!)
 - **Holy Listening**, a group of those who love to read, discuss and write poetry, has concluded their sessions for this year, but will convene again in the fall. If you are interested in sharing poems that give meaning to your life, and express your spirituality, contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth**. Topics for next year might include: joy, pets and animals, gratitude, night, laughter, friends, etc.
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Calling Summer Choir Members

If you have ever been interested in trying out the choir, this is a great time to do it. The choir will sing as usual until we take our summer break in mid-July. On these next three Wednesdays (May 30, June 6, and June 13) we will be rehearsing our music for the summer. Rehearsals are from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Please call **Kathy Parkins** or email her at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org for more information.

[Click here for the June Birthdays List](#)

Sunday, June 3, 2018 9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **Prayer Shawl Group** will meet this Sunday, June 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the chapel.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School End of Year Celebration and Teacher Appreciation (Read more in the Sunday School section of the newsletter)

11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Liturgist: **Carl Rist**

Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** (side/font);
TBD (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Emily Wilkins** (count), **Laurie Williamson**
Three ushers needed. Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Communion Elders:

Head elder / replenish elements: **Andy Henry**

Bread: **TBD** (B1, process), **Jane Wettach** (B2), **Brent Curtis** (B3), **Carol Carson** (B4)

Cup: **Gray Wilson** (C1), **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** (C2/process), **Ellie Dilworth** (C3),
Sigfried Fullenkamp (C4)

Shepherds: **Libby Gulley** (font aisle), **Cris Rivera** (center aisle), **Dewey Lawson** (pulpit aisle)

On **Sunday, June 3**, the **Racial Equity Task Force** will meet right after worship in the Wilson Parlor. Please join those who are already active in this group in you have interest in learning more or have suggestions/ideas. Our regular meetings are the first Sunday of the month right after church.

Sunday, June 10, 2018

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Liturgist: **TBD**

Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Jane Wettach** (side/font);
Jane Williams (rear/narthex)

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



E-O-Y Celebration and Teacher Appreciation

What's coming up on **June 3**, our last regular Sunday of this school year? While teachers and students are packing up the classroom and preparing crafts for taking home, visitors from the Christian Education Committee will come around to **every classroom** with thank-you gifts for the teachers and surprise gifts for the class . . . and snacks! Wonder what it will be? Come on June 3rd and find out what the visitors will bring for you and your teachers – and you can express thanks to your teachers!

Middle and high school youth will enjoy a visit from the Christian Education Committee in their classroom this Sunday. On the following **Sunday, June 10**, these youth will begin helping with children's summer Sunday School.

Faith and Community Class:

We have a gap in our discussions with **Imam Abdul Waheed**, so on **June 3**, our own **Bill Hendrickson** has agreed to lead a discussion on faith, with highlights and insights from his interviews as reflected in his blog article "And the Word was God." The class will be very familiar with some of his subjects, including Abdul Waheed, among other notables.

On **June 10** we will conclude our discussion on Islam with **Imam Abdul Waheed**, Interim Muslim Chaplain at Duke University. Waheed has served on the Religious Life Staff at Duke for 18+ years, and has made it his business to advocate for an ecumenical understanding between Muslims, Christians and Jews. Bring questions that you want to ask this wonderful resource and gift to our community. Come and welcome the guests from the Muslim community who will join us for these classes. Don't forget to wish them "Ramadan Mubarak" (blessed Ramadan) when you meet them. Faith and Community meets on Sunday morning in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class: This year-round class meets at **9:45 in the East Parlor.**

June 3: We have heard the story of the Lord speaking to the boy Samuel, but if we stop at the point where Samuel is ready to hear -- "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" -- then we miss the point. The Lord had a message, a hard message, for Samuel to deliver. Does the Lord have a difficult task for you?

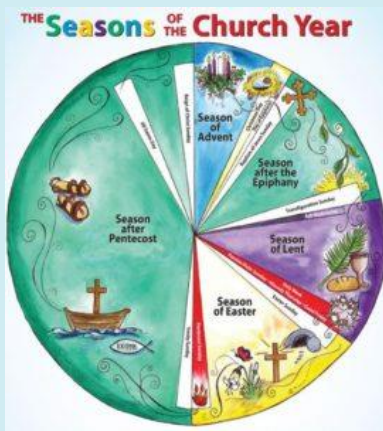
June 10: In an ancient version of a negative campaign ad, the prophet Samuel tells the people all of the bad things that a king will do to them. Why doesn't it convince them? Have kings and rulers changed in the past 3000 years?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class: Journeys and Scratch **will not meet during the summer.** We will reconvene in early August to decide if we want to continue as a joint group and what subject matter we want to cover next fall.

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.

Summer Sunday School



Will we have Sunday School this summer for children and youth? You bet!

We'll *Rock around the Liturgical Clock*, and observe Advent in June, Christmas in July, and Lent, Easter and Pentecost in August. We'll celebrate each season with drama, music, presents, crafts, water play, maps, tie-dye, Easter egg hunts, cooking, and seasonal foods. Adults and youth can sign up to facilitate the classes beginning this Sunday, following worship. **Summer Sunday school begins Sunday, June 10.**

Coming in September for children and youth . . . *like a hurricane*, the winds of the Spirit will rotate and swirl activities

around each month's story. We'll start with the foundational Hebrew Testament stories of Creation, Flood, Exodus, and the Giving of the Law, in addition to the seasonal stories about Jesus, and then enhance the stories by cooking, making lego models, doing drama, singing, playing games, drawing maps, all to deepen our understanding of each story . . . and to have fun while we're doing it! It's called the Rotation Model, and the Christian Education Committee is excited to be introducing a new wave of energy into the spiritual nurture of our community. Stay tuned for more details.

Summer Sunday School for ADULTS

What's up for the summer months in Faith and Community? We will study three books that have something to do with **Faith and Resistance**. We begin **June 17 – July 1** with *Everything Happens for a Reason, and Other Lies I've Loved*, by Kate Bowler. Kate tells it straight: the good, the bad, the ugly, and the endearing about wrestling with stage 4 colon cancer as a young person, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Kate is Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School, with expertise in the American Prosperity Gospel. In 2015, she was unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer at age 35. For those struggling to make sense of illness, hers is an honest and refreshing read. If you would like to help lead some of the discussions on these Sundays, contact Marilyn. Down the road, we'll look at Jimmie Carter's latest book, *Faith*, and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove's book *Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion*.



Youth groups are currently on summer break! Youth conferences are just around the corner! In July, middle schoolers will go to Massanetta Springs and high schoolers will go to Montreat! Watch your e-mailbox for final details if you registered to attend. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Happenings around FPC . . .

SCRATCH/Young Adults Potluck Brunch

Saturday, June 2, 11:00 a.m.

at the home of Laura Casteel

Please respond to the EVITE. Let Valerie know if you wish to be added to this group's EVITE list. Remember to bring a dish to share!



Officers' Meetings

Monday, June 4

This will be the first meeting for Class of 2021 officers and for those joining the Class of 2019.

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m.

Joint Officers' Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Session at 7:00 p.m.

First Friends and Families

Please note and save the dates below for our summer gatherings!

June 8, hosted by the Henrys - please respond to the EVITE.

July 14, hosted by the Wettach/Baldasares

August 11, hosted by the Momsen-Hudsons

We're planning our **annual beach trip for September**; date TBD.

Stay tuned for more information and EVITEs, and we hope to see you there! Please let Valerie know if you would like to be added to this group's EVITE list.

Book Group

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of **Barbara Gerwe** (2704 Trailwood Dr), at which time we will enjoy a potluck supper (remember to bring something to share) and offer suggestions for our next season of book discussions. Enjoy reading books? You are welcome to come!



Saturday, June 16

Another landscaping and grounds workday has been scheduled for Saturday, June 16 from 9:00 to noon. Contact **Barbara Buckley** to find out the work to be done: bjbuckley1@frontier.com.

Families with Youth Children

Registration is open for this summer's GBCFF (Great Big Church Family Festival), **June 17** (Mt. Bethel Presbyterian), **June 18** (Duke Memorial UMC), and **June 19** (Trinity Avenue Presbyterian), from 5:30 – 7:30, and an **August 5** reunion at Camp New Hope from 4:00-7:00 p.m., with swimming, a potluck, singing, and games. This year's theme is "**Serve the Lord with Gladness,**" and each evening we will be joining in an inter-generational service project together to serve our Durham community, in addition to dinner, crafts, and singing. GBCFF is for children of God young and old. Last year we had great participation from FPC: from our Session, from our youth, from our families, from our singles, and from our children. We hope everyone turns out to be good guests and good hosts for this multi-church event. Click [here](#) to register yourself or your entire family.



Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by *Marcia Lorimer, Alice Raney and Phyllis Supple*

at the home of Marcia Lorimer - 661 Lipford Dr , Cary

Please respond to the EVITE and remember to indicate the type of dish you will bring. Not getting the EVITE? Contact Valerie in the church office to be added to the EVITE list:

v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

Service and Mission Opportunities . . .



Listening Sessions

Presbyterian World Mission:

Share your thoughts, ask questions . . .

Join others in exploring ways First Presbyterian can increase its participation in World Mission. There are 70 countries with

Presbyterian partnerships, which are facilitated by 130 mission co-workers. The aims are to address the root causes of poverty, work for reconciliation, and share the love of Christ. What parts of the world and what types of programs should we consider? Please bring your ideas to an organizational meeting **Sunday June 3**, after worship in the East Parlor.



Please continue to bring **snack crackers, individually packaged fruit, nutrition bars, and regular-sized bottles of water for the Walk-in Ministry blessing bags.** We also need **new toothbrushes** for the toiletry bags. **All donations are very much appreciated.**

Helping Feed our Neighbors

If you are looking for a fun and meaningful way to get engaged with our neighbors in need, join

the amazing group of volunteers who help prepare and serve breakfast at Urban Ministries on the 3rd and 5th Fridays of every month, and also those who prepare lunch bags on the 3rd Mondays and 4th Thursdays. We are always happy to add new names to our volunteer list. That way, you would be the first to hear about openings. Children over the age of 10 are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult. Contact **Margaret Rubiera** at margaretmr29@gmail.com to get started!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The VisionWalk Mission - *Changing Lives One Step at a Time* **Triangle VisionWalk**

Saturday, June 2

Brier Creek Park, 9:00 a.m.

Friends,

My husband **Tim O'Brien** and I would love to have you join us as we walk in the Triangle VisionWalk on Saturday, June 2, at Brier Creek Park (9:00 a.m.). We do this walk every year to raise money for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. So much incredible progress is being made on eye diseases such as *Retinitis Pigmentosa* (this is the eye disease Dorothy Graham had) and Macular Degeneration, and there is hope that one day gene therapy and stem cell replacement could repair the damage done to Tim's eyesight by Stargardt Disease.

If you are interested in being on our team (Soles4Sight) by way of donating or walking, please click the link below. We also appreciate your prayers as well as your heightened awareness of the challenges caused by many eye diseases and experienced by many in our congregation and community.

http://www.fightblindness.org/site/TR/VISIONWALK/VisionWalktr?pg=entry&fr_id=5954

Thanks for your prayers and support!

Mindy

Durham Arts Council Organ Crawl (Fundraiser)

Friday, June 8

5:30-9:00 p.m.

An exclusive event showcasing thrilling organ music and architecture of three Durham churches of historical significance, paired with three courses of fine food and drinks.

Event is designed for a short stroll from church to church. Golf cart shuttle provided for those with limited mobility.

STOP 1: Trinity United Methodist Church, 215 N. Church Street in downtown Durham - Enjoy hors d'oeuvres then a private performance by organist **Tom Bloom**.

STOP 2: St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 403 E. Main Street in downtown Durham - Enjoy

dinner along with a performance by organist *Paula Harrell*.

STOP 3: First Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Main Street in downtown Durham - Enjoy dessert, coffee and a performance by organist *Kathy Cain Parkins*.

Click **HERE** to Purchase tickets.

Tickets: \$60 include

- Delicious three course meal with wine
- Private organ performances and architectural highlights of three Downtown Durham churches
- Architecture expert and church renovator Terry Byrd Eason will share insight on each church

This event benefits the Durham Arts Council. Read more [here](#).



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. 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 [register](#). More information about this training can be found [here](#).

Congregational Training

Saturday, June 9, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Nehemiah Christian Center - 514 N. Mangum St., Durham

WRITING WORKSHOP

The Art of the Condolence Note

Tuesday, July 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Resource Center for Women

1202 Watts St, Durham

In this workshop we will discuss the history of condolence notes and their value for both the recipient and the writer. *Carol Henderson* will demonstrate what makes a note successful and show examples of do's and don'ts. Each participant will practice writing a note and leave knowing how to tackle this difficult task.

Carol is a writer, editor, and workshop leader who has taught in the US, Europe, and the Middle East. She is the author of *Losing Malcolm* and *Farther Along: The Writing Journey of Thirteen Bereaved Mothers*, and edited, among other titles, *Wide Open Spaces: Call Stories*. Learn more about Carol at www.carolhenderson.com.

Cost: \$10 donation to RCWMS appreciated. Click [HERE](#) to register.
Contact: RCWMS, 919-683-1236, rcwmsnc@aol.com

Spiritual Direction Training

The **Listening Place Spiritual Center** (1803 Chapel Hill Rd) is currently accepting applications for its two year training program in the art and ministry of spiritual direction. Classes meet ten hours per month (one Saturday, one Monday) for ten months each year. Topics covered include the history of Christian spirituality, the mystics, prayer traditions and practices, discernment, use of the arts in spiritual direction, and guidelines for ethical conduct. A certificate is awarded upon the successful completion of the program. **Application deadline is June 15, 2018.** For more information contact **Mary Grace McCoy**, Director, at 919-417-6279. Website: listeningplacespiritualcenter.org

**The next church newsletter will be issued June 12, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, June 10, 2018.**

Online Church Calendar



Visit our website
