

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM
"Downtown by history and by choice"
Bi-Weekly Newsletter
July 10-23, 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Children, children, children! The news this morning was all about children, and rightly so. I was intrigued by the juxtaposition of two stories:

In one story we heard the wonderful news of the completed and successful rescue of 12 soccer players and their coach from a dark and watery Thailand cave. These boys, once thought dead, were reunited with their parents and given medical care. The whole world had been holding its breath as time passed and the monsoon rains threatened to relood the caves. I could almost hear the collective sound of joyful relief as word of the rescue of the final four boys and their coach came over my radio.

This morning also brought us a contrasting story about children in our own country. Several weeks ago, after learning that the government had separated nearly 3000 migrant minors from their parents at the US/Mexico border (102 of those children being under the age of five), the courts set a deadline of today for the reunification of those children under age five with their parents. This morning we learned that still over half of these families had not yet been reunited. While we certainly celebrate this reunion of many children, we grieve together that so many young children have been torn apart from their parents and no one knows how to bring them back together. This reminds me of Matthew 2:18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted. . . ." That story was about the slaughter of the innocents. Thankfully, these children are alive, but we all know how desperately they need to be reunited with their families and how lost parents and children alike feel when forcefully separated in this way.

While I rejoice in the Thai rescue, I weep at the separation of families and pray that all these children will find a way back to their parents. Our prayers are important, and also our calls and voices and actions that will help demand that they are united and no longer separated.

Today I also read the text of a hymn which spoke to me in light of the above stories. The hymn is by Ruth Duck, "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky":

When bodies shiver in the night
and weary wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labor,
that all may have abundant life,
in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavor
that all might have abundant life
and peace endure forever.

May we be partners in working for peace for our children and for all creation.

With love,

Mindy

CONDOLENCES . . .

to the family of **Florence Shackelford**, FPC member and friend who passed away on July 3 at Croasdaile Village. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at a date and time to be announced by the family. Please keep the family in your prayers.



Added recently:

Family of Rob Hiaasen (*Capital Gazette's* slain editor), friends of Carl Rist

Associate Pastor Sam Miglarese is directing DukeEngage Durham until July 22nd in Durham, UK. Sam can be reached by email at sam.migliarese@duke.edu while he is away.

Carolyn Wolfe

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

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin**

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

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: **Helen Garrison**

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

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

Dan and Mary Banner (home address: 1500 Meadow Ridge Circle, Wilmington OH 45177)

Jay Barron, cousin of Walt Barron

Marc and Polly Crawford, friends of Brianna Bennett

Kyle, grandson of Linda Dobson

Mary Putman Hartman, friend of FPC

Marsha Hussung, sister of Brent Curtis

David Kilpatrick, grandson of Elizabeth High (Air Force, stationed in England)

Patricia Kost, grandmother of Jack Kost

Carolyn Kreuger, former member of FPC

Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece

Dell McMillian, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Rosemary Orphys, aunt of Kerry Holbrook

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

Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost

PARISH NOTES

The **Sacrament of Baptism** was celebrated on Sunday, July 8 during worship for **Juneau David Schultz Wallace**, son of **Heather Wallace and Michael Schultz**.

The **Middle School youth** are safely back from a great time at the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference. Youth who attended were **Chris and Josh Baquedana, Charlie Kelley, and Maeve McClain-Huslage**; chaperones were **Sarah Finbow** and **John Curran**. The keynote speaker for the conference was **Rebekah Hutto**, a former student intern at FPC, and now a minister at Brick Presbyterian Church in New York.

THANK YOU to those of you who graciously answered the call for donations for Urban Ministry of Durham's Food Pantry. Your response was quick and amazing. The urgent need has now been met for food thanks to your generosity. If you still want to help UMD, they have an ongoing need for individually wrapped toothbrushes and new underwear for men, women and children, all sizes.

THANKS to those of you who hosted or arranged fellowship events during the month of June and early July:

- **Laura Casteel** - Brunch event at Parker & Otis for Scratch – June 2;
- **Marcia Lorimer, Phyllis Supple and Alice Raney** - Covered Dish Supper at Marcia's home for Primetimers – June 23;
- **Elizabeth High** - Daytimers' Luncheon at Bullock's Barbecue – June 26;
- **Michael Schultz, Heather Wallace, and Juneau Schultz Wallace** for hosting the Scratch group for brunch – July 7.

SESSION BRIEFS

The Session gathered on June 4th for a Stated meeting. The meeting began with celebrations: This was the first meeting with new officers. In addition, **Kirk Huslage and Erin McClain** were received into membership. Finally, two current members, **Rebecca Harvard Barnes** and **John Curran**, have been accepted as Inquirers, to be supported by FPC while they attend seminary. Beginning with the fall semester, Rebecca will attend Union Theological Seminary-Charlotte, and John will attend Chicago Theological Seminary.

The meeting included solemn business, too: The Session learned of **Sarah Finbow's** resignation, and approved the appointment of a Search Committee for a new minister to youth and their families; and discussed briefly the process for determining the best use of the church's apartment, which will be vacated on August 1. Reports from other committees included news from two subcommittees of Service and Mission (Racial Equity and World Mission), communion dates for 2018-19, and insights from the Stewardship Renewal Conference which several members had attended.

Complete minutes are available for viewing; please contact **Christyn Klinck** at clerkofsession@firstpres-durham.org.

Strategic Planning Team Update

The Strategic Planning Team spent March and April conducting small targeted listening sessions in order to discern significant areas of interest and passion of church members. In May and June they collated information from those meetings and are now in the process of preparing a survey for the entire congregation. Stay tuned for your opportunity to contribute to this process!

Search for Minister to Youth and their Families

The discernment for someone to lead our FPC youth and their families is well underway. Members of the Search Committee include **Lenore Champion** (chair), **Brent Curtis**, **Leslie McDow**, **Griffin Momsen-Hudson**, **Charlotte Maxwell**, and **Marilyn Hedgpeth** (staff liaison). The first thing the committee did was to meet with both youth and parents to hear their needs, desires, and aspirations for youth leadership. We clearly heard the youth wanting someone who values welcome, inclusion, and community building, both inside and outside the FPC context. The adults want someone who can connect and engage the youth, encouraging an open-minded and safe atmosphere for expression. They also thought inclusion was important, as well as community building and outreach through service. This person should also be able to respond to both youth and parental input, and work to prepare younger children for entry into youth activities. The committee tried to reflect these concerns as a job description was crafted.

The position has been advertised, and already we have numerous very strong candidates for the job. The committee is in the process of interviewing and vetting those candidates, and working to discern the best fit for FPC's unique context. Please be in prayer for the Search Committee as we listen with our hearts to all involved.

Myrtle Fest - Sunday, July 15

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship with an old-fashioned hymn sing

Following worship this Sunday, we will fellowship over a picnic potluck lunch and enjoy music by bluegrass duo, *High Clouds*. A main meat and beverages will be available. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. You are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy this time of fellowship under our beautiful crepe myrtles.

Liturgist: **Bob Yoder**

Greeter: **Alice Raney**

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

Ushers: **Dale Gaddis, Laurie Williamson, Christy Gudaitis**

(Need three more ushers)

Sunday, July 22, 2018 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Mindy Douglas, preaching

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

Liturgist: **TBD**

Greeter: **Chris Williams**

After Worship Greeters: **Andy Henry** (side/font); **Libby Gulley** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Stephen Berry** (head), **Julie Whiddon** (counting)

(Need four more ushers)

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children and Youth

Summer Theme: *Rock Around the Liturgical Clock*

Lea Bingham, Celia Dickerson and Clarabelle Brown will lead us on **July 15** in celebrating Epiphany with drama, stars and snacks; **Katharine Whitmore, Kathy Colville and Karl Sims** will help on **July 22** when we do maps and water play associated with Baptism of the Lord Sunday. This great rock around the church's liturgical year meets in room 208.

Adults Summer Study

Faith and Community Class: What's up for the summer months in Faith and Community?

On last Sunday, July 8, we began discussing Jimmie Carter's 34th and latest book, *Faith*. We will continue to talk about faith and how it evolves and is manifested throughout the month of July. **This Sunday, July 15**, we will do an exercise of mapping our own faith journey on a timeline, and share some of our results. Now more than ever, we need to be putting our faith into words and action!

In August, we'll present Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove's book *Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion*. The Racial Equity Group will lead that discussion. Faith and Community meets on Sunday morning in **Watts-Hill Hall** at 9:45. All are welcome, including youth!

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

July 15: Sunday's readings present two contrasting examples of exuberant dancing: David dances before the Lord as he leads the ark into Jerusalem, and Herod's daughter dances before her father's guests at a banquet. In each case the celebration has unexpected consequences, as old grudges are exposed.

July 22: God forms people into community in many ways: by raising up strong leaders; by breaking down walls of hostility between groups; and by enabling works of compassion. Is God still forming communities in our time?

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. Please join one of the other adult classes for the summer, or help with the children.

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.



Children's Sunday School in the Fall

Coming in September. . . Like a Hurricane, the winds of the Spirit will rotate and swirl activities around each month's story for children and youth. We'll start with the foundational Hebrew Scripture stories of Creation, the Flood, the 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.



Youth groups are currently on summer break!

Watch your e-mailbox for final details if you registered to attend the conference at Montreat. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

FAREWELL EVENT: Sunday, July 29 will be our Youth Minister **Sarah Finbow's** last Sunday with us, before she and her family move to New Jersey. Youth especially are invited to join us that Sunday, to recognize and thank Sarah in worship, and to celebrate with **Sarah, Pete and Sadie** at a reception immediately following worship in Watts-Hill Hall.

Happenings around FPC . . .

OFFICER MEETINGS

Monday, July 23

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m.

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!

July 14, hosted by the **Wettach/Baldasares** (adults only) - Respond to the EVITE

August 11, hosted by the **Momsen-Hudsons** - details forthcoming

September 7 - 9, ANNUAL BEACH TRIP

Please let Valerie know if you would like to be added to this group's EVITE list.

Day Timers' Luncheon

Tuesday, July 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Bennett Pointe Grill

4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham

Parker and BJ Morton, hosting

RSVP to Parker and BJ: 919-383-3855



Namibia Bird Show

Namibia is a country in southwestern Africa that consists mostly of deserts and dry rocky mountains. But even so, there are some remarkable birds and other animals that live there. In March of this year, **David and Judy Smith** visited Namibia, as well as neighboring Botswana. Join them on Wednesday, **July 25, at 7:00 in Watts-Hill Hall** for a photographic exploration of the wildlife of Namibia.

Our **GBCFF reunion at Camp New Hope** is on the horizon. Young and old, children and adults are invited to "Serve the Lord with Gladness" on August 5 from 4:00 -7:00 p.m. at Camp New Hope. Our special guests for the afternoon will be friends from Iglesia Emanuel, as well as our GBCFF family from Mt. Bethel Presbyterian, Duke Memorial UMC, and Trinity Avenue Presbyterian. FPC will need ALL HANDS ON DECK as we will serve as the hosts for this final event. Our reunion will include a picnic dinner provided by **Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield**, swimming, crafts, playground time, gaga ball, a service project, music, and worship. Our Iglesia guests come for free: others pay \$10 per family or \$5 for an individual at Camp New Hope. If you have not already registered, or if you would like to help lead one of the activities, please contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth**.

Attention Committee Chairs and Ministry Staff:

Annual Report summaries for the 2017-2018 church year are due to Valerie in the church office by July 31, 2018.

Contact Valerie (v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org) if you need help.

Copies of past year summaries are available.

NEWS FROM THE RACIAL EQUITY TASK FORCE

FPC will be hosting the July monthly meeting for the local branch of the **NAACP**. The meeting is on **Sunday, July 22 at 4pm**. All are invited to attend. Learn more about the NAACP and welcome our visitors.

Registration is open for both Racial Equity Institute Youth Phase I workshops in July and August.

July 16-17, 2018 (Monday/Tuesday)

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=kuoqakuab&oeidk=a07efgjovw542af82a5>

August 13-14, 2018 (Monday/Tuesday)

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=kuoqakuab&oeidk=a07efgonm2yoedeb80c>

Here are a few guidelines for when you register your youth for these REI workshops:

- Register each one individually. This takes more time on your part but it is important that we get each person's email address so that we can follow up with them about debrief and caucus meetings.
- For the mailing address, you can simply enter in your organization's address instead of looking up each person's address.
- Please include your organization name under "Organization" (this will help OAR Durham keep track of where the money comes from and how much each institution owes)
- It is important that we know if a person has any dietary restriction so please talk with the participant about this before registering
- Under "Tickets," enter 1 under the quantity for the "New Registrant--Organization Option" price that you can agree to pay
- Under "Payment" select "Pay at the Door" if you want to pay by check at the door or after OAR Durham sends your organization an invoice, which will be after the workshop is completed.
- If you have any other questions regarding registration, please contact **Kathy Krahenbuhl**.

If you have attended the REI two-day training and have more questions, there are two Caucuses that meet regularly to help folks continue the conversation, dive deeper. The next **OAR-Durham White Caucus** is on Tuesday, July 10 at 6:30 at McMannen Methodist Church on Neal Road. Contact Kathy Krahenbuhl if you have questions about this or need more information about the **People of Color Caucus**.

HELP FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. Following the presentation, we break into small group discussions. **Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1200 W. Cornwallis. We gather at 4:00 pm for coffee and cookies, and the meeting starts at 4:30 and ends by 6:00 p.m.**

"Reconnecting with Life and Love in a Time of Loss," led by Rob Womack on **July 24**. In her **August 7** presentation, Donna Kaye will cover "Befriending Your Unexpected Grief Waves," and on **August 21**, Arti Hendricks will discuss "Helping Yourself After the Death of a Loved One."

CONCERT FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Friends and FPC choir members are welcome to join other local musicians in a concert planned for **this Thursday, July 12 at Judea Reform Congregation** (1933 West Cornwallis Road, Durham) at **7:30 p.m.** The concert will take the form of a revue, with vocal and instrumental music from a wide variety of styles, all on themes of refuge, justice, and peace. The rehearsal is from 6:45-7:15 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30, and ends at 9:00. You' will be singing four

songs. Contact **Kathy Parkins** (k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org) if you would like a copy of the music. As this is a fundraiser, each performer is asked to contribute \$5 (or more if you would like) to these non-profits: JusticeMattersNC (<https://www.justicemattersnc.org>) and KIND (<https://supportkind.org>).

ART EXHIBIT- Now through August 12, 2018

West Raleigh Presbyterian Church is pleased to host a unique photography exhibit by young Palestinian artists and media students from Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture. **Prints** will be available for sale at the exhibit that support the artists and scholarships at Dar al-Kalima University. For more information: www.brightstarsbethlehem.org. West Raleigh PC is located at 27 Horne Street, Raleigh - 919-828-5468. To schedule a tour, email: huffstetler.k@gmail.com

Choral Society Summer Sing (with a social afterwards)

Sunday, July 29

7:30 p.m. at Mt Bethel Presbyterian Church

3541 Rose of Sharon Road, Durham

This event is open to anyone who likes to sing and is quite informal.

Durham Interfaith Trip to Israel

October 29 – November 7, 2018

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church and Beth El Synagogue of Durham are joining together to explore the Holy Land. Join them as they travel from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from Tiberias to Tel Aviv, visiting some of the most archeological, historically and spiritually compelling areas of Israel. If you have questions, email: libbyv@gmail.com. **For registration information and a full itinerary of the trip, visit this website: <http://www.Israelmaven.com/minisite/durham-interfaith/>**

**The next church newsletter will be issued July 24, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, July 22, 2018.**

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
305 E. Main Street, Durham NC 27701 919-682-5511
<https://firstpres-durham.org>