

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

*"Downtown by history and by choice"*

*Bi-Weekly Newsletter*

September 4 - September 17, 2018

## From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Hello! I hope all of you are coming off of a restful (or perhaps adventure-filled) Labor Day weekend. For many, this weekend is the “last hurrah” of summer before the school-year routine kicks in, though I anticipate the summer heat lingering for quite a bit longer. In worship, we heard from the letter of James (1:17-27) and the exhortation to “be doers of the word and not merely hearers.” In the sermon, we considered the “revolutionary labor of love” to which we Christians are called. If you missed it, check out the sermon on podcast, or the manuscript, both of which should be posted on the website and Facebook by the end of the day today.

Many of you expressed your appreciation for the Frequently Asked Questions format of my letter two weeks ago. As promised, I will continue this format and seek to answer other questions of interest to the congregation. This week, I will seek to answer some questions about our newest staff member, Rev. John Weicher, and our youth program.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

### 1) Who is John Weicher?

John is a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Theological Seminary (in Atlanta). He was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on August 15, 2005 and served for twelve years as the Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Youth at Swarthmore Presbyterian Church in Swarthmore, PA. John has directed both the Montreat and Massanetta Youth Conferences and has been a recreation leader at Montreat. He believes in the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church and takes seriously his calling to serve in the denomination as well as in the local church. He currently serves on the Presbytery of New Hope Youth Council. He lives in Raleigh with his wife **Laurie**, who is the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, and their children **Tate** (7) and **Lucy** (5).

### 2) How did we find him?

After **Sarah Finbow** announced her resignation, the FPC Session (our governing body elected by the congregation) approved a search committee to begin the work of finding a strong leader who could be in place by the time school and our youth programming started. The members of the search committee were: **Lenore Champion** (chair), **Brent Curtis**, **Griffin Momsen-Hudson**, **Charlotte Maxwell**, **Leslie McDow**, and **Marilyn Hedgpeth** (staff). The search committee held listening sessions, worked closely with the Personnel and Budget

committees, advertised the position, interviewed candidates, and prayed together and separately over this decision. After interviewing a number of strong candidates over the summer, they believed God was calling John Weicher to FPC. John's passion for youth, inclusion, and social justice matched perfectly with our own. The search committee and the Session voted unanimously to call him to this position and are grateful that the Holy Spirit brought us together.

**3) What is his official title?**

John's official title is "Temporary Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families."

**4) What does "Temporary" mean?**

Temporary means that John was hired by way of a contract between the session and John for a period of one year (renewable), with approval from the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of New Hope. A temporary position is not a permanent, installed position. In the PC (USA), a pastor is, under normal circumstances "called and installed." This means that they are called by the congregation and then installed (through a service of installation) to the position. This happens after a Pastor Nominating Committee writes a "ministry information form" and does a national search for the pastor/associate pastor position. This process, to find a permanent "called and installed" pastor, often takes one or more years. In our case, we wanted to have a strong leader in place in a much shorter period of time. This is why we were able to find John and call him as our "Temporary Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families."

**5) How long can John stay at FPC? Will he ever be able to be "called and installed?"**

John is here on a one-year renewable contract. He can continue with us as long as he and we are interested in renewing the contract for another year. We also plan to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) in the coming months. They will write a "Ministry Information Form," post it nationally, and conduct a full search for a "called and installed" pastor. John will be eligible to apply for this position.

**6) Why is he an associate pastor while Sarah Finbow, our recent staff person for youth, was the youth minister? What is the difference?**

John and Sarah both attended seminary and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. Sarah, however, did not go through the ordination process (usually a three-year process that includes ongoing work with the presbytery and the passing of five ordination exams). Sarah is not an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (or in any denomination), while John is a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA), as are staff members *Marilyn Hedgpeth, Sam Miglarese, Cherrie Henry, Susan Dunlap*, and I.

**7) Where is John's office? How is the best way to get in touch with him?**

John's office is on the second floor of the Church House with most of our other staff offices. His email address is [j.weicher@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:j.weicher@firstpres-durham.org). His office phone number is 919-682-5511, ext. 213.

**8) How are our youth groups defined? When and where do they meet?**

Middle school youth includes grades 6-8 and meets at the church from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Sunday nights. High school youth includes grades 9-12 and meets at the church from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Sunday nights. The youth room is in the area beneath the sanctuary.

If you have any questions regarding our youth ministry at FPC, please be in touch with John (contact information above) or with me ([m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org), 919-682-5511, ext. 211).

May your week be filled with the light of Christ and may you bear that light into

the world with your own lives.

With love and gratitude for you all,  
**Mindy**

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## **SYMPATHIES**

The love and concern of the congregation are expressed to **Valerie and Tyrone McMillian** on the death of Valerie's brother-in-law, **Irving Randell (Dell) McMillian**, on August 28th. A funeral service was held August 31 in Sanford NC.

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### **Added recently:**

**Kathy Johnston**, niece of Jeanne Hervey

**Franzi Rokoske**  
**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**

**Fran Alwood**, mother of Jennie Alwood

**Jerry Arrowood**, brother of Al Arrowood

**Marc and Holly Crawford**, friends of Brianna Bennett

**Randy Heffelfinger**, friend of Eric Wiebe

**John Hendrickson**, cousin of Bill Hendrickson

**Marsha Hussung**, sister of Brent Curtis

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

**Carolyn Kreuger**, former member of FPC

**Paul Martin**, brother of Beth Neece

**Rosemary Orphys**, aunt of Kerry Holbrook

**Mary Putman**, friend of FPC

**Vickey Tobey**, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

**Ryan Washington**, infant friend of Adrienne Allison and Bob Pleasants

**Mandy Wooten**, sister of Randy Lang Howard

**James Zehmer**, son of Jennie Alwood

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## **NOTES**

Many thanks to **Brent Curtis** and the **Christian Education Committee** for a windy and wonderful Promotion Sunday on August 26 in Watts-Hill Hall. Wait until you see the windy portraits that participants had taken and painted that day. The winds of change are in the air!

Great article by **Sharon Hirsch**, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse NC. Check it out: [\*\*Op/Ed\*\*](#) .

FPC is offering have **7 options for adult learning on Sunday**

**mornings**, which is pretty amazing! They are listed here:

1. **Adult Lectionary** – unpacking the texts for each Sunday’s worship service. This class meets in the East Parlor.
2. **Faith and Community** – looking at *Love Letters of Faith* from the likes of MLK, Dorothy Day, the Apostle Paul, and Reinhold Niebuhr. The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall.
3. **Journeys & Scratch** – combining their inter-generational forces to examine *Prophetic Voices* from MLK to Flannery O’Connor and the Belhar Confession. The class meets in room 205 of the CE Building.
4. **After Church** - Scratch/Young Adults will gather following worship in the basement parlor to eat together and practice *lectio divina* for 45 minutes on Sept. 9 and 23, and October 7, 14, and 28. All are welcome.
5. **Women’s Spiritual Formation** – a great support system of sharing and prayer for women
6. **Becoming an Anti-Racist Church** – an eight-week course on themes of racism, diversity, white privilege and barriers to inclusivity led by FPC’s Racial Equity Task Force (begins September 16th in the basement conference room below the sanctuary).
7. **The Pleasures of Parenting** – a time of discussion and support for parents who find raising children in today’s world to be an exciting and daunting task. Location: second floor, church house.

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## **STEWARDSHIP SEASON is approaching**

Pastor Becca Ehrlich writes about minimalism as a spiritual discipline in "Simplifying Stewardship, Part 1" [here](#) and "Simplifying Stewardship, Part 2" [here](#). Enjoy!

Your Stewardship Committee chairs,  
**Cris Rivera** and **George Bernhardt**

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## **SESSION NOTES**

The Session met on **Monday, August 23**, following a delicious dinner prepared by elder **Cris Rivera** and enjoyed together with the Diaconate. After prayer, sharing joys and concerns, and learning about the theology of baptism, the meeting proceeded with business. Of note:

- The **Board of Trustees meeting**, at which officers were elected for the coming year;
- A **report from delegates** who attended the **July Presbytery meeting** in Winterville;
- An **update from the Strategic Planning Team**, and a request for representatives from Session to join the team. **Karen Romines** and **Tom Bacon** volunteered.
- An **update from the Budget Committee**, in preparation for considering "baseline" and "goals" budgets for 2019;
- The adoption of **two motions from the Property Committee** - to approve a one-year lease between the Day School and FPC, and to continue to work with law enforcement to move people sleeping on church property at night.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Christyn Klinck, Clerk**

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Copies of the full minutes may be requested from **Christyn Klinck**, Clerk or Session ([clerkofsession@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:clerkofsession@firstpres-durham.org)), **Rev. Mindy Douglas**, Moderator ([m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org)), or any pastor (contact information is on the website, [www.firstpres-durham.org](http://www.firstpres-durham.org)) or a Session member. Past minutes of 2018 Session meetings are now available on the church website, [www.firstpres-durham.org](http://www.firstpres-durham.org).

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## September 2 - October 7

*A Season*

*Now may the Lord of peace . . .  
give you peace at all times in all ways.  
— 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

The church of every time and place wrestles with the distance between our timeframe and expectations and God's. In God's time, even the small seeds we plant can grow into sturdy trees. In God's time, the fears we carry can be transformed into new partnership and hope. In God's time, our expectations can be expanded and surpassed by God's faithfulness.

The 2018 Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers. It bursts through the shackles of time and expectation. It quiets the anxiety of each believer by joining us together, as we offer our prayer, Now, may the Lord grant us peace at all times in all ways.

Sign up on line to receive Daily Reflections on Peace at ([www.pcusa.org/subscribe](http://www.pcusa.org/subscribe)) — Path of Peace (under Advocacy and Social Justice)

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YOU'RE INVITED TO...

**youth  
Groups**

**KICK-OFF @ FIRST PRES.**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL: 4:30-6:30 PM • HIGH SCHOOL: 6-8 PM  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 9  
PLAY • CONNECTION • FAITH • DINNER

**FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

### **Middle Schoolers**

Sunday evenings 4:30 -  
6:30 p.m.

### **High Schoolers**

Sunday evenings 6:00 -  
8:00 p.m.

**Click [here](#) to view the  
Youth Groups  
calendar for 2018-  
2019.**

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**Sunday, September 9**



## 23rd day in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

Sermon: "What Does It Mean to Be a Downtown Church? "

Mindy Douglas, preaching

**This communion Sunday, remember to bring supplies for our Walk-in Ministry blessing bags!**

Liturgist: *Jeanne Hervey*

Greeter: *Maxie Honeycutt*

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

Ushers: *Katy Barron* (head), *El Hess* (flowers), *Laurie Williamson* (counting), *Amy Dillon*, *John Mozart*, **need one more**  
Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Communion Elders:

Head/ replenish elements: *Jane Wettach*

Bread: *Tyler Momsen-Hudson* (B1/process), *Libby Gulley* (B2), *Barbara Buckley* (B3), *Brent Curtis* (B4)

Cup: *George Bernhardt* (C1), *Griffin Momsen-Hudson* (C2/process), *Jane Williams* (C3), *Sigfried Fullenkamp* (C4)

Shepherds: *Leah Graves* (font aisle), *Tom Bacon* (center aisle), *Dewey Lawson* (pulpit aisle)

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## Sunday, September 16

### 24th day in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching

Liturgist: *Bob Yoder*

Greeter: *Alice Raney*

After Worship Greeters: *George Bernhardt* (side/font);  
*Kim Abels* (rear/narthex)

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

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Click [here](#) to see full list of class offerings)

### Children's Sunday School, Grades 3-6

We will be trying out a new rotation model of Sunday School, which will allow our

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders opportunities to experience the foundational stories of the Old Testament in many different ways through drama, art, games, LEGOS, music, cooking, gardening, etc. Should be great fun for the students and for the teaching teams! We're up to our elbows in the Creation Story from Genesis this month. The class meets in room 201 of the CE Building at 9:45. Bring friends and join us!

## Adult Studies

**Faith and Community Class:** The series on *Love Letters of Faith* has begun. We're excited about a new series this September focusing on *Love Letter of Faith* by some of our favorite leaders. **Sam Miglares** led the kick-off class this past Sunday, featuring the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. This Sunday, **September 9**, we welcome **Mac McCorkle** who will present some of Reinhold Niebuhr's letters expressing his faith. And on **September 16**, **Beth Brockman** will be our guest presenter, looking at several of Dorothy Day's letters. The art of letter-writing is not dead. Please join us in Watts-Hill Hall on Sunday at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome!

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### Lectionary Class:

**September 9:** Rich people: have they been justly rewarded for a righteous life? or are they blasphemous oppressors? You can find both attitudes in our readings this week (and possibly in our political discourse).

**September 16:** Where does wisdom come from? From a great teacher, or from years of experience, or from ancient authority, or maybe from unexpected insight?

Join us for these discussions at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

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**Journeys and Scratch Class:** This hybrid class of seasoned and younger members will explore **Prophetic Voices** this year. We began last week with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. Join us in **room 205** of the education building at 9:45.

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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.



**for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> graders and up**

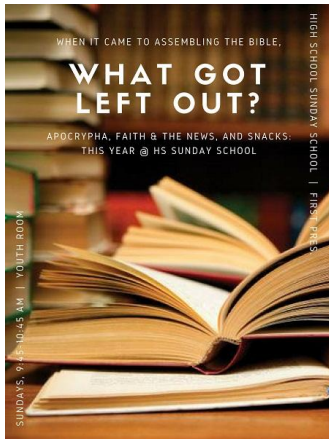
*(plus several youth from Covenant Presbyterian who will be joining us)*  
Welcome students and mentors to our first/introductory/party/class on

**Class Begins September 9**

Perhaps you have been visiting First Presbyterian Church for a while and want to know more about the theology, the mission, the polity and the shape of active membership at FPC. The

**Sunday, September 9** in the youth room beneath the sanctuary! We'll start work on a few projects, get acquainted with each other, and learn about the year at a glance on this first Sunday. Our first visit to a faith community will take place on **Sunday, September 16**, when we will attend worship at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. We will gather in the FPC parking lot at 9:00 and carpool to Mass, which begins at 9:30. We should be back at FPC by 11:00, for those needing to be here for worship. Learning to be good guests is part of our agenda for the semester as we visit 9 different faith communities in the Triangle. Then, in the winter we will spend some time in the classroom articulating what it means to be a Christian in the Reformed Tradition. Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you have any questions.

opportunity to dig a little deeper and ask those pertinent questions is available during the month of September. On three consecutive **Sundays, September 9, 16, and 23**, we will be hosting a Membership Inquiry Class from 9:45 – 10:45 in the Wilson Parlor for those who are interested. Leaders of these initial classes will be **Sam Miglarese** and **David Smith**. If you have babies or children in tow, you are welcome to bring them to Sunday School or the nursery, or you can keep them with you during the class. We hope you will meet some like-minded people, make new friends, and explore membership at FPC as part of the journey of your own (and your family's) Christian nurture and faith development. Hope to see you there!



### **Youth Sunday School - Grades 9-12**

Join us in the youth classroom, below the sanctuary at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

Class leader: **John Weicher**, along with **Emily Hansel**, **Sharron Johnson**, **Sarah Beaverson**, **Leah Graves** (sub) and **Leslie McDow** (sub)

## **Happenings around FPC**



### **First Friends and Families ANNUAL BEACH TRIP**

**September 7 - 9, 2018**

Contact **Kathy Conner** if you have questions:  
kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com.

## **SCRATCH (Young Adults) "AfterChurch"**



Scratch/Young Adults lunch and *lectio divina* for 45 minutes. If you want to become good at anything, you have to practice!

This Fall on **Sundays - Sept 9, 23, and Oct 7, 14, 28** (those are all the Sundays in September and October that do not have an all-church lunch happening after worship) the Scratch/Young Adult group will meet **AFTER CHURCH** (that is after Church School at 9:45 a.m. and Worship at 11 a.m.) in the parlor room down under our sanctuary for a cheap (\$3!) lunch, time to catch up with one another, and a bit of time to practice the old spiritual discipline of slow reading sacred texts (*lectio divina*).

Our plan is to stay not more than 30-45 minutes once everyone is gathered. Please talk with our leaders **Mary Berry, Alex Stayer-Brewington, and Rev. Cherrie Henry**, if you have questions. Childcare available upon request. Anyone interested is welcome to join us.

## Scratch September Brunch

**Saturday, September 15**

**10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the home of Tim and Kate Bonner**

920 9th Street, Durham - 646-238-1764

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

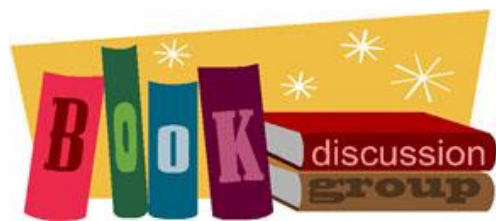


A landscaping and gardening workday has been set for **Saturday, September 8 from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.** at the church. Contact **Barbara Buckley** for details on the work to be performed: [bjbuckely1@frontier.com](mailto:bjbuckely1@frontier.com).



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

**Presbyterian Women** will resume their monthly circle meetings and Bible study on **Monday, September 10**. We'll meet at **10:30 a.m. in the East Parlor**. New faces are welcome to join us.



*Zeitoun*. New faces welcome.

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet Tuesday evening, **September 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jane Williams** (2804 Ashland Drive). **Marsha Butler** will lead a discussion of Dave Eggers'



## **Day of Service Saturday, October 6**

FPC supports a number of ministries through its budget and through the work of individual members. The **Service and Mission Committee** is offering volunteer opportunities at several ministries on Saturday, October 6. Possible sites include the

**Foodbank of NC, Habitat for Humanity, Gleaning, Families Moving Forward and others.** Volunteers of all ages will have opportunities to serve. Signup information, waiver forms, and other information will be available later in September. To suggest additional organizations or to help lead a worksite, please contact **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** at [tylermmh@embarqmail.com](mailto:tylermmh@embarqmail.com).

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## **Souls Ajar - An Emily Dickinson Festival**

**Saturday, September 15**

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

**Chapel in the Pine PC**

**314 Great Ridge Parkway, Chapel Hill**

**3:00 p.m.** Lecture by **Dr. Eliza Richards**, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill

**4:15 p.m. Poetry Reading** of selected poems by Emily Dickinson

**5:00 p.m. Art-Song Craft Talk** by **Deborah Coclans** on how a composer sets an extant text to music

**6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner** with desserts made using Emily Dickinson's recipes. Dinner will be served in the fellowship hall where an **art exhibition** by congregational artists will be on display.

**7:30 p.m. Concert** featuring **Deborah Coclans** (piano), **Lesley Curtis** (Soprano), and **Ann Harrison** (reader)

**8:30 p.m.** A **reception** featuring a buffet of desserts from Emily Dickinson's recipes and opportunity to view the exhibition of visual works.

**Event is free with a suggested \$10 donation.** For more information, click [here](#).

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## **Friends of Christ School for Christian Spirituality 2018 Fall Enrollment begins**

Friends of Christ School for Christian Spirituality is an ecumenical school for spiritual seekers who want to explore a deeper relationship with God within an open, inviting community. Its purpose is to contribute to the spiritual formation and transformation of participants and to supplement what is already offered within their own faith communities.

An informational session for new or interested participants will be held **Monday,**

September 17 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 800 Market Street, Chapel Hill.

[Read more here](#)



**"Strange Armor"** cartoon illustration by Thilo Fullenkamp from Marilyn Hedgpeth's sermon by the same title.

## September Birthdays

The next church newsletter will be issued September 18  
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office  
by Sunday, September 16

Online Church Calendar



Visit our website