

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice" *Bi-Weekly Newsletter*

November 27 - December 10, 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Advent.

The season of waiting, hoping, yearning, longing;
of music in minor keys and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel;"

The season of the wild man of the wilderness -

John the Baptist -

clothed in camel's hair,
eating locusts and honey,
and crying "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Advent.

The time of the rejoicing desert
and the blooming crocus;

The time of the Holy Way,

the highway straight in the desert
where the mountains are brought low
and the valleys lifted up,
where the redeemer walk and sing
with everlasting joy and gladness on their heads,
where sorrow and sighing flee away.

Advent.

The season when souls desperately yearn for peace
and hearts cry out with longing for love,
when we wait and hope for the light of the nations
to take us by the hand

and give breath to the people
and spring forth in newness like a stream in the desert,
like a garden freshly showered.

Advent.

The season of contrasts:
The already, the not yet,
our greatest joys, our deepest sorrows.

The time when we unite our voices,
crying out for the long-expected Jesus
to come and set us free,
The time when we cry out for freedom
from our fears and our sins.

The time when we long for rest . . .

for rest...
for rest.

Advent.

When we await the coming of the One
born a child and yet a king
who brings peace,
and promises justice,
and brings light to those who sit in darkness,
and hope for a world where
envy, strife, and discord will cease,
and where we rejoice in Emmanuel,
GOD WITH US.

Advent.

Waiting.

Hoping,

Yearning.

Longing.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*

May Christ, God-with-us, fill your season with hope and may you find Christ present with you each and every day on this journey of life we take together.

With love,

Mindy

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Added this week

Jim Wolfe, husband of Carolyn Wolfe and patient at Duke Regional Hospital

Barbara Gerwe, knee surgery this week at Duke Hospital

Duke Hospital
Joseph Ngumi

Home

Alice Raney

Franzi Rokoske

Carolyn Wolfe

Care Communities

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

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

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

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

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff

Catherine Gitia, friend of Mary Gitata

Heath Huberg, friend of Kathy Parkins

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

Paul Martin, brother of Beth Neece



Care Packages for College Students

Thank you to those of you who so generously donated to this Service and Mission project. More than enough supplies were received and the packages will be mailed out to our college students soon!

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

December marks the first year anniversary of our Prison Ministry Care Team. Last year, the team was provided training by the Criminal Justice Resource Center and the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham concerning needs of individuals who have been justice involved and are transitioning back into the community. The sole focus of the team is to provide friendship and support. Our team (**Libby Gulley, Harold Dunlap, David Lorimer, Kathy Krahnenbuhl, Jane Williams, and Roger Kalthoff**) has worked with two individuals providing them with new relationships outside the justice system.

Congratulations to **Rosemary Seve**, who took the oath to become an American citizen on Friday, November 16. Rosemary now has dual citizenship in Kenya and in the USA. **Shirley Fredrick** and **Marilyn Hedgpeth** were there to celebrate with her.

WORSHIP NOTES and SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to our newest members who joined FPC on Sunday, November 18: **Brandon Hewitt, Rob Parker and Beth Taylor, Cheri Reece, Courtney Trutna, and Tim Bonner and Erin McCann** (in tow with daughter, **Camille**). We are so pleased to have you become part of this community of faith. Click [here](#) to find out more about our newest family members.

It was wonderful to welcome 25 members of the Sikh Gurudwara of NC to worship with us on Sunday, November 18th. A group consisting of youth and advisors sat together in worship, stayed for **Cris Rivera's** wonderful vegetarian lunch, and then remained a little longer to ask questions about FPC, Presbyterianism and Christianity, and to observe **Gordon Campbell** play the organ. Many thanks to the Confirmation Class for hosting our friends and sitting with them, as well as to all who made them feel welcome.

Many thanks to **Sam Henry** and **Maddie Brigman** for this Sunday's beautiful rendition of *All Good Gifts*, from the musical *Godspell*, in which they starred at Durham School of the Arts.

"**God Lifts the Lowly**," an Advent devotional based on Mary's Song of Praise, is now available from the tables in the foyer and narthex. Get your copy while supplies last.



Hearing Assistance Devices: Advent Season

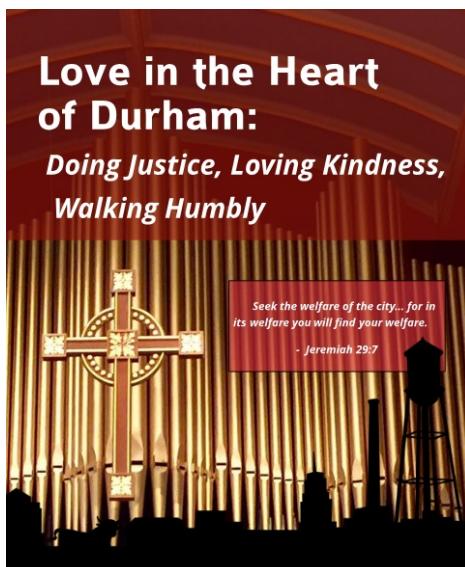
Encourage guests to consider using one of our Sennheiser Hearing Assistance devices. Also, help us keep the devices available, charged, and ready for use. Please don't remove them from the sanctuary. Return the device either to the sound desk or to one of the marked bins near the baptism font, so they can be counted and readied for the next worship service.

FROM THE DIACONATE . . .

Over the last month, the Diaconate has enjoyed serving the congregational needs and promoting fellowship, supporting those celebrating the beginning of life, as well as those in end-of-life circumstances. A few of our efforts:

- On Sunday, November 18, we enjoyed serving more than 80 attendees, including 30 visitors from our local Sikh community, for our monthly fellowship luncheon.
- Be on the lookout for visitors, as we are inviting 2000(!) nearby residents to visit our 2018 Advent services. Postcards are going out the week of 12/2, and FPC members can stop by the foyer to take cards for inviting friends and neighbors.
- We organized a pair of meal trains to support two sets of new parents, the Bennetts and the Diys, and we were honored to oversee the memorial service reception honoring the life of Peaches McPherson.

We are now moving to holiday season initiatives, and we look forward to seeing you at worship this Advent season.



**Love in the Heart
of Durham:
*Doing Justice, Loving Kindness,
Walking Humbly***

questionnaire.

Again, thank you for being the heart of this community and for being witnesses of Christ's love in the city.

Cris Rivera and George Bernhardt
Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

“Christmas Concerns”

During Advent, share Christmas wishes with friends in the congregation by making a donation to Christmas Concerns. This

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Thank you to all of you who have turned in your pledge for 2019. This information allows us to plan our budget for the coming year in a way that is faithful and reflective of your commitment to First Presbyterian Church.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge, you can do so [online](#) or mail it in to the church office. Please also take the opportunity to complete the [Time and Talent Questionnaire](#). Contact **Tom Bloom** (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) if you have questions about the pledging process or need copies of pledge materials including the



year's proceeds will be given to support two people who are in sanctuary in the area: Rosa at the Church of Reconciliation and Jose at the School for Conversion in Durham. Both Rosa and Jose are parents trying to support their children who are staying with friends and family in the area. To participate, write a check to FPC earmarked "Christmas Concerns" and put it in the offering plate on Sunday. Then, visit the Giving Tree in the foyer, write a greeting and/or sign your name on the paper ornament provided and hang the ornament there for all to see. The names of those who shared greetings will be listed in the "Christmas" edition of the church's newsletter. **The deadline to participate is Sunday, December 16.**



Click [here](#) to view

**FPC's Events Schedule for
Advent and Christmas 2018**

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. Advent Festival for Children and Youth in Watts-Hill Hall

Sunday School for adults

11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion

Mindy Douglas, preaching

We will receive supplies for blessing bags during the communion service on December 2nd. Thank you for being such a generous faith community.

***** The Advent Festival continues after worship for adults, with refreshments and the Alternative Giving Fair. Remember to bring along your checkbook to support our local non-profits. *****

ATTENTION PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN: After worship this Sunday, pageant participants and the Children's Choir should go down to the basement to pick up costumes for the Children's Christmas Pageant, and then the Children's Choir should remain in the basement for rehearsal.

Liturgist: Carl Rist

Narthex Greeter: Delia Kwon

After Worship Greeters: Tom Bacon (side/font);

Griffin Momsen-Hudson (rear/narthex)

Ushers: Laurie Williamson (head), **Mary-Jo Keenan**, **Emily Wilkins** (counting), **Stephen Berry**, **Elinor Hess**, **John Mozart**

Communion elders:

Head elder/replenish element: Andy Henry

Bread: Tyler Momsen-Hudson (B1/process), **Barbara Buckley** (B2),
Griffin Momsen-Hudson (B3), **Sharon Hirsch** (B4)

Cup: **Diane Prosser** (C1), **Cris Rivera** (C2/process), **Carol Carson** (C3),
Delia Kwon (C4)
Shepherds: **Alice Raney** (font aisle), **Libby Gulley** (center aisle), **Chris Brown** (pulpit aisle)

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Children's Pageant

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Liturgist: **Amy Dillon**

Narthex Greeters: **Maxie Honeycutt, Elinor Hess**

After Worship Greeters: **Sigfried Fullenkamp** (side/font);

Raymond Mbah (rear/narthex)

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Most of the adult options for learning on Sunday morning will be offered this week and next.

Adult "Faith & Community" – will not meet on December 2, so that we can use Watts-Hill Hall for the Advent Festival and Alternative Giving Fair. However, you are welcome to come and join us in making crafts, or you can attend one of the other adult classes and check it out.

On **Sunday, December 9**, The Faith and Community class will begin a new study for Advent on peace-making, using the PC(USA) resource, *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace*. The five risks adopted by the 2016 Presbyterian General Assembly described in the book were confirmed a few months prior to the divisive 2016 US general election. For just such a time as this, these risks become even more urgent. Faith and Community meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall**, and all are welcome.

Lectionary:

December 2: We plan our lives -- careers, investments, families -- as though everything will continue pretty much as it has in the past. What if that's not true? Would you change your plans if Jesus were returning tomorrow? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

December 9: When the Lord looked favorably on the people, who heard the word of God? The emperor in Rome? The Governor? The rulers or the high priests in Jerusalem? No, the word of God came to a strange man in the wilderness. Who will hear (and respond to) the word of God in our time?

Journeys & Scratch – combining their inter-generational forces to examine Walter Brueggemann's *Prophetic Imagination*. The class meets in **room 205** of the CE Building.

Women's Spiritual Formation – a great support system of sharing and prayer for women. For the next month, they will be joining the class Becoming and Anti-Racist Church at 9:45 in the **Wilson Parlor**.

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 (meets in the **Wilson Parlor** at 9:45). What's next? Members of the class will discuss what steps they need to take once the class concludes.

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. The class will meet in the **apartment classroom**, upstairs in the church house at 9:45, using *The Thoughtful Christian's Advent Study*: "Repentance, Faith, Holiness and Love". Parents of any age are welcome.



for 7th, 8th, 9th graders and up

*(plus youth from Covenant PC
who are joining us)*

We are finished with our visits to other faith communities! Our last visit took place on November 25, when we worshiped with our friends at Covenant

Presbyterian Church. It has been a rich experience to travel each Sunday and sample the wide variety of religious traditions rooted in the Triangle. Over the next few months, we will be reflecting on our visits as we look at our own faith community, which worships in The Reformed Tradition, and see how it compares to others. Many thanks to teachers, mentors and parents who shuttled youth and accompanied us from week to week.

This **Sunday, December 2**, we will be helping the younger children enjoy the Advent Festival. Come to Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45, and we will match each youth with a younger child, to assist them through the craft-making process. Then after worship, you are invited to come back for some wassail and refreshments, and to make your own crafts. No one is ever too old for Christmas crafts! On the following **Sunday, December 9**, we need you to help with the Christmas Pageant. We need people to help paint faces for the pageant, and to dress up as shepherds and angels and help "shepherd" our youngest members to their places during the pageant. We need you, confirmands!!! Please come and help us out! Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you have any questions.

Youth Sunday School

Grades 9-12

*****CORRECTION*****

Sunday, December 2: We're helping out at the Advent Festival! Please go to Watts-Hill Hall.

Sunday, December 9: Join us in the youth classroom at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Class leaders are : **John Weicher, Emily Hansel, and Leslie McDow** (alternate)

YOUTH GROUPS

Sunday, December 2

We're baking cookies for our Collegians (service project)

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. High School Youth

Supper is provided for both groups from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 9

We having our Christmas Party!

Click [view](#) to see the Youth Groups calendar for Fall 2018.



COMING IN JANUARY . . .

Our next segment of Membership Inquiry Classes will be offered **January 13, 20 and 27** in the **Wilson Parlor**. If you are curious about what membership entails at FPC, please join us for these classes, which meet from 9:45 – 10:45 on three Sundays in January.

Bible Study: Isaiah

We are done for 2018. We will resume our study of Isaiah in January, 2019.

Happenings around FPC

First Friends and Families Advent Gathering (adults only)

PRIMETIMERS' ADVENT GATHERING

*****CORRECTION*****

Friday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Covered dish supper at the home of Eugene and Signe Brown

Active retirees and Chancel Choir members are encouraged to attend this festive gathering. Please respond to the EVITE. To be added to the listserve, please contact Valerie in the church office.

Saturday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Potluck at the home of Melinda Ruley & Stewart Fisher

Please respond to the EVITE. To be added to the listserve, please contact Valerie in the church office.



Calling all Paraders and Pageanteers!

The Durham Holiday Parade takes place on Saturday, December 8, and we line up at 9 a.m. to march down Main Street to Duke's East Campus (stay tuned for meet-up details). Our theme this year is "Light to the World", and we have neon glow necklaces for everyone to wear as we march. In addition, you may wear as many lights around your hat or your waist or your coat as you want. We want

to sparkle, blink, and bring Jesus' light to the world as we march. All ages are invited to parade with us! More info about the parade and fun fest [here](#).

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be the next day, **Sunday, December 9** during the 11:00 a.m. worship. The pageant involves a simple story that requires a narrator, an angel, two shepherds, and a star. Other children and youth can join in as shepherds, angels, and animals. Come one, come all! We will be using handbells for the sound effects. It would be great if parents could help with face painting on that Sunday morning, and with costuming. **This Sunday, December 2, after worship**, pageant participants and Children's Choir are asked to go down to the basement to pick up costumes, and then the Children's Choir should remain in the basement for rehearsal.

Time Out Radio with Bill Hendrickson

On Monday, December 3, Bill will be talking with **Paul Crews**, Director of the **Durham Veterans Health Care System**, and on December 10, he will welcome back **Jennie Belle** of the **NC Council of Churches** who will explain the complications of immigration as well as sanctuary opportunities and obligations. **Time Out is live on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. on FM 103.5 locally and elsewhere on wcomfm.org.**

Daytimers' at Croasdaile Village

2600 Croasdaile Farm Parkway

Wednesday, December 12

Gather at 11:30 a.m. in the Great Room. A Christmas menu is planned. Lunch will be served in the Commons Dining Hall. Suggested donation: \$12.25 (exact amount appreciated). Please RSVP to **Maxie Honeycutt** (919-286-4680) or the church office (919-682-5511) by Monday, December 10.

Service and Mission Opportunities

Growing thru Grief

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. **Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays (except for holidays) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis. We gather at 4:00 pm for registration, coffee, and cookies; the meeting starts at 4:30 and ends by 6:00 p.m.** This program offers year-round support for those who have lost a loved one. The meetings begin with a short presentation about one aspect of grief and then we break into small groups for discussion.

TONIGHT, Debbie Davis will perform on her cello. On weeks without a formal presenter, our facilitation team offers some discussion-starters.

Human Kindness Foundation invites you to a reception on **Saturday, December 1, from 11:00 to 12:30, at the Rubenstein Art Center, 2020 Campus Drive (on Duke's campus).** "Serving Life: Re-Visioning Justice," an art show produced by hiddenvoices.org in collaboration with men living on death row, allows you to

meet these men through stories of their childhoods, their lives in prison, and their faith journeys. FPC member **Catherine Dumas**, who leads a meditation group in a death row unit, will be available to discuss the art.

<https://artscenter.duke.edu/event/serving-life-re-visioning-justice/>

Standing in the GAP for Eastern NC and Paradise, CA

Eastern NC was hit hard by Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Many of these families have exhausted their FEMA and insurance resources, yet their homes are still unlivable. Winter is coming! The Presbytery of New Hope is asking for gift cards from Lowes, Home Depot, Ace, or 84 Lumber. Cards to purchase desperately needed building supplies. Gift card should be mailed to Presbytery. Please note the value of the card on its face with a sharpie and let Presbytery know if you would like a receipt.

Presbytery of New Hope

2022 McDonald Lane

Raleigh NC 27608

Attn: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team.

If you desire to help those displaced by the wildfires in Paradise, CA, you may send donations by mail directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at the address below. Info about this disaster is in the foyer and narthex.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P. O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Memo: DR000165 California Wildfires

You can also give online via this [**link**](#).

FUNDRAISER FOR SENIOR PHARMASSIST

You are invited to a celebration of the Durham nonprofit Senior PharmAssist on Thursday, December 6, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Our hosts, **Morgan Imports**, 113 S. Gregson St, Durham, will donate 10% of all sales between 6 and 9 p.m. to Senior PharmAssist. There will be light refreshments, holiday music and door prizes to celebrate the end of this year's Medicare Open Enrollment period and to thank the community, including FPC, for its support of Senior PharmAssist and older adults. Senior PharmAssist helps Durham seniors remain as healthy and engaged as possible - for as long as possible - by focusing on medication access and safety, health education, community referral and Medicare insurance counseling.



SONAM presents Winter Concert Saturday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary

Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM) will present a concert of lullabies and dreams music from composers of the Baltic Basin. They will sing works by Byrd, Pärt, Bach Rautavaara, and more. All proceeds will benefit **Book Harvest**, a nonprofit organization that provides books to children in central North Carolina and works with families and communities to promote children's

literacy and academic success.

December Birthdays

The next church newsletter will be issued December 11.

Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, December 9.

Online Church Calendar



[Visit our website](#)