

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Christmas Newsletter

December 20, 2018



The following persons participated in Christmas Concerns this year and send greetings to the congregation:

Tom and Ellen Bacon

Paul Baldasare/Jane Wettach

Mary Banner

Bob and Sheila Breitweiser

Mindy Douglas & Tim O'Brien

Will and Jamie Chambliss

Susan Buck and Lenore Champion

The Comptons (Will, Mary Ann, James, Peter and Anna)

Linda Dobson

Peter and Barbara Fish

Shirley Frederick

John and Sue Fricks

Dale Gaddis

Wib and Libby Gulley

Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey and Kwesi Aggrey

Joe and Carlisle Harvard

Marilyn and Hedge Hedgpeth

Philip Herndon

Maxie Honeycutt

Dan Hudgins and Ann McKown

Mary-Jo Keenan

Tom and Margaret Keller

Dewey and Bet Lawson

David Lorimer

Marcia Lorimer

Carolyn McAllaster and Coin Page

Valerie and Tyrone McMillian

Laura H. McNab

Miriam and Robin Morey

Parker and BJ Morton

Vern and Beth Neece

Presbyterian Women

Ed and Caroline Pritchett

Mary E. Putman

Rod and Sara Radtke

Mary Jane Rivers

Ruth and Russell Roberson

Joe and Mary Kay Robinson

Margaret and Miguel Rubiera

David and Marie Sappenfield

Jim Seitzer

David and Judy Smith

Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield

Marila Stone

Phyllis Supple

Bob and Lina Yoder

AND . . . Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to each of you from the entire Church Staff!

From the Associate Pastor . . .

God's Saving Love in Jesus Christ

The Christmas season is upon us with the renewed awareness that our God desires to save all people. This desire is personified in the figures of the Magi, the Wise Men from the East, who represent all who appear different from ourselves. The truth—that God desires the salvation of all (1 Tim. 2:4) appears so obvious to us that we forget how remarkable such news would have been in the ancient world of the Scriptures where tribalism was strong. Of course even today with such anti immigration rhetoric and the rise of white supremacist movements we often struggle to communicate this truth in its practical implications in how we live our day-to-day lives. In our divided nation, where the cancers of racism and ethnocentrism are still deeply embedded, we continue to struggle with how to translate the Gospel message of universal salvation into practical reality.

Over the years, I have witnessed our pursuit and commitment to be more welcoming and inclusive as a congregation. We have moved beyond the charge of “political correctness” to the discovery of how central our focus on diversity is to the core message of the Gospel.

It is an ongoing challenge as we look for taking even more steps to be an embodiment of our core value as an inclusive and diverse community. But most of all in this Advent/Christmas season I pray that our membership efforts will help us return time and time again to the Good News of Christmas —that God loves us all, without exception, and wishes for us to love one another with the same unconditional love that we ourselves have experienced.

It is our new life in Christ that we Presbyterians are called to celebrate, deepen, and share with the world. Let us join together, brothers and sisters, to proclaim the Gospel of God's saving love in Jesus Christ. (***Hope in the Lord Jesus, # 235-239***)

Sam Miglares



SYMPATHIES: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Mickey Velkey** and **Beth and Larry Brockman** on the death of Mickey's niece, **Vicki Tobey**, who died December 4th in Virginia Beach; and to **Dale Gaddis** on the death of her former husband, **Steven Earl Gaddis**, who died December 12th in Durham.

Added this week

Robin, friend of Mary-Jo Keenan (three-years old, attacked by a rooster)
Margaret Mubanga, recovering at home from surgery
Ann Prospero, recovering at Croasdaile Village (Pavilion)
Joseph Ngumi, a patient at Duke Hospital

Home

Barbara Gerwe
Franzi Rokoske
Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities

Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: **Julian Boswell**
Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, Lee Courtland, Bob Rankin**
Durham Regent: **John Kerr**
Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: **Helen Garrison**
The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff

Doug Hervey, son of Jeanne Hervey
Shirla Hudson, mother of Tyler Momsen-Hudson
Jim Mau, father of Shirley Frederick's daughter-in-law, Sharon
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss
Nellie Van Ewyk, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

Please update your address book for the Brawleys who have moved to Croasdaile Village retirement community:

**CORRECTION on the home (landline) number:
919-384-2202 (no voicemail)**

PARISH NOTES . . .

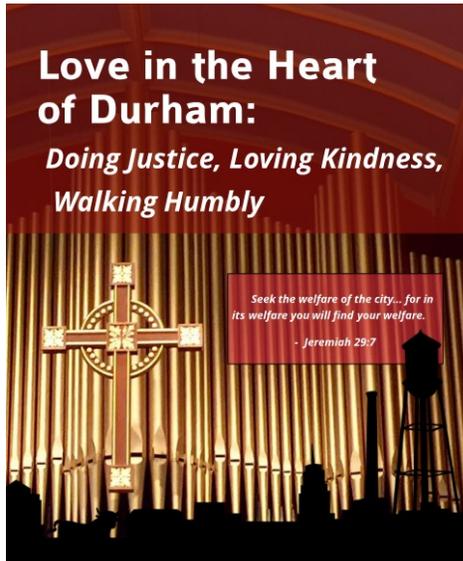
The Session of FPC approved this **commendation** for Day School director **Katharine Smith** who is leaving her position as director of the Day School at the end of the year after 15 years of service.

These Days devotional books for January - March 2019 have arrived. Pick up a copy (regular or large print) from the tables in the foyer and narthex while supplies last.



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.



Love in the Heart of Durham:

*Doing Justice, Loving Kindness,
Walking Humbly*

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

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

Year-End Giving

Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by **12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24, 2018**; or placed in the offering plate at a service through **Sunday, December 30, 2018**; or the gift must be postmarked by **December 31, 2018**, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2018 taxes.

If you wish to make a contribution by credit card, this may be done through the parish's website (www.firstpres-durham.org) at any time. To be deductible on your 2018 taxes, please initiate the gift by Friday, December 28.

If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify Tom Bloom, Business Administrator (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) **as soon as possible**. Members aged 70 1/2 + who own an IRA may be able to make a tax-excludable gift directly to First Presbyterian and have that gift satisfy any required minimum distribution for this year. Please contact your IRA administrator ASAP if you wish to consider this giving option for tax year 2018.

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching

Come prepare for a silent night/holy night. The Children's Choir will be singing. The ***Hunger for Change Offering*** will be received during worship. Last opportunity to give to this offering for 2018.

The **PC(USA) Joy Gift Offering** will be received, supporting financial assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. A specially-marked "**Joy Gift**" envelope will be in the bulletin for this offering.

Liturgist: **Bob Yoder**

Narthex Greeters: **Chris Williams**

After Worship Greeters: **Andy Henry** (side/font); **Alice Raney** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **Dale Gaddis**, **Wayne House**, **Amy Sanchez** - **Need two more ushers. Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.**



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Monday, December 24

The livestream radio broadcast of the King's College Lessons and Carols event at FPC has been **cancelled**.

3:00 p.m. - Worship with communion and candles (in the sanctuary)
A simple 45-minute service featuring carols from around the world.
Childcare provided for younger children.

5:00 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight Service (in the sanctuary)
The birth of the Christ Child is celebrated in word and song with
Communion by candlelight. Childcare provided for younger children.

An offering will be received to support Welcome Baby and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC at both services.



Sunday, December 30

First Sunday after Christmas

No Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sam Miglarese, preaching

Liturgist: **Jeanne Hervey**

Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey**

After Worship Greeters:

Lenore Champion (narthex/rear),

Chris Brown (foyer/side door)

Ushers: **John Mozart** (head)

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL and other study opportunities

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

Children's Sunday School (grades 3-6)

It's Advent, and we will spend time this Sunday talking about what Advent and Christmas mean to us as Christians. We will pray about things that concern us, and prepare our hearts for Christmas. **There will not be children's Sunday School on December 30**, but we will reconvene on January 6 to get ready for the Children's Pageant (presented during the 11:00 worship service). Everyone is invited to wear a costume and participate.

Most of the adult options for learning on Sunday morning will be offered this Sunday (December 23). **There is no Sunday School for adults on Sunday, December 30.**

Adult "Faith & Community" -

This class has begun a new unit of study using the PCUSA resource by Chris Iosso, *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace*. On **December 23, Robert Brawley** will lead us in looking at chapter 3, *Reclaim Christ the Peacemaker*. **We will not have Sunday School on December 30**. When we return on **January 6, 2019, Sue Fricks** will give us an overview of the book as we continue our study. Faith and Community meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall**, and all are welcome.

Lectionary - We will not meet on this Sunday, December 23, and there is no Sunday School on December 30. We will meet again on January 6th.

Journeys & Scratch – We will read and discuss the second part of Isaiah and continue our exploration of the prophets. All are welcome to join the discussion. The class meets at 9:45 in **room 205** of the education building.

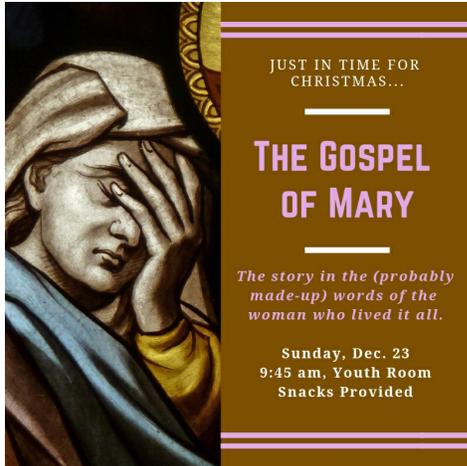
Women's Spiritual Formation – *Susan Dunlap* leads this class for women in the basement parlor at 9:45. Contact Susan (sjd4@duke.edu) for class schedule and topics under discussion.

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.



On **Sunday, December 23** we will meet in our classroom to reflect on our last few visits, to project forward as to what's coming up in the new year, and to celebrate our time together as confirmands and mentors. **We will not have class on December 30**, but will return on **January 6** to help with the

children's pageant and to forge ahead into our study of where we as Presbyterians stand on issues of faith. Contact *Marilyn Hedgpeth* if you have any questions about the confirmation process.



JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS...

THE GOSPEL OF MARY

The story in the (probably made-up) words of the woman who lived it all.

Sunday, Dec. 23
9:45 am, Youth Room
Snacks Provided

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, December 23

9:45 a.m.. in the basement classroom

No class on December 30.



Christmas Lunch after worship this Sunday, December 23!

No evening Youth Groups this Sunday or next Sunday!

Click [here](#) to view the Middle School calendar for Winter/Spring 2019

Click [here](#) to view the High School calendar for Winter/Spring 2019



membership
CLASS
YOU'RE INVITED

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. Contact *Marilyn Hedgpeth* for more information about these classes: m.hedgpeth@firstpres-durham.org or 919-682-5511 ext. 220.

Friday Bible Study: Isaiah

We will resume our study of Isaiah on January 4, 2019. Join us on the second floor of the Christian Education building from 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

First Friends and Families



Potluck
Dinner &
Game Night

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday January 4

FPC - Watts-Hill Hall

6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Kids welcome! Bring a dish to share.

Hosted by *Emily, Kennedy, and Sophie*

Wilkins



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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Rescheduled for Sunday, January 6

Because the weather outside was frightful on Sunday, December 9, we have rescheduled our children's Christmas pageant for the last Sunday of the Christmas season, January 6, which happens to be Epiphany this year, a celebration of the manifestation of God in Christ. **ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH** are welcome to be in the pageant. Wear your costumes to church that Sunday, and we will run through it once during the Sunday School hour, and do a little face painting before we perform at 11 a.m. Following the pageant, children can either sit with their parents in the pew, or go upstairs to the playroom for the remainder of the service.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Circle and Bible Study

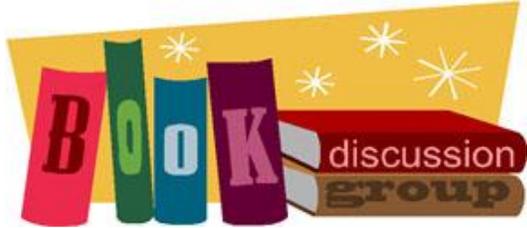
Monday, January 7

10:30 a.m. in the East Parlor

New faces are welcome!

***** DATE CORRECTION *****

The Things That Matter Book Group will discuss *The Tortilla Curtain* by T. C. Boyle



on **Tuesday, January 8**. We will meet at the home of **Valerie von Isenburg** at 7:00 p.m. and **Marila Cordeiro-Stone** will lead the discussion.



Sign up to Donate Flowers for 2019 Worship

Please click [*here*](#) for information on *how to donate flowers* for worship. You can sign up on the **FLOWER CHART** which is posted in the foyer near the elevator.



RACIAL EQUITY

Task Force

ORGANIZING AGAINST RACISM / RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE

Register now and return as an alum

in 2019! Phase I Trainings in Durham and Raleigh, led by the talented team at the Racial Equity Institute, are now posted for January through August 2019 on REI'S [*website*](#). As a reminder: All individuals who have already attended Phase I are invited to return to the training, for a minimal cost of food only - around \$35. If you prefer to bring your own meals, please indicate so on your registration and there will be no fee. You are also welcome to attend for part of the day or only one day, as your schedule allows. Please register in advance to ensure we have sufficient seating and food; on-site registration may be available. As alumni, you will be asked to sit outside of the main circle and listen only, unless prompted to participate by the trainers. Contact us with any questions: [*oaralliance.org*](http://oaralliance.org)

FAMOUS AMOS from a Kindergartener's point of view!



Amos 5:24: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

Our lively class of Kindergarten, first and second graders are curious, knowledgeable, and full of energy and personal stories. Each Sunday is unique in this class but we always make time to sit in our

circle for a story and sit at our long banquet table for snack time. We have been studying a few of the minor prophets during the last month and today the story was about Amos.

Our story was that the shepherd, Amos noticed that there was a gracious plenty of food and wealth but that some people had more than enough while others were starving, lacked shelter and were over-taxed and Amos was persistent in attempting to deliver God's messages of justice. We were missing several friends but had a nice big group with John, Cordie, Millie, Tate, Art, Henry, Dot, Rhys, Lily, Doran, Karl, Ms. Nancy, Ms. Katharine, Ms. Kathy and myself. We shared stories and ideas that may or may not have been related to our lesson.

At snack time I asked everyone to please sit on their hands. I only half expected that this would fly and was tickled that they played along with the old-school instruction. Everyone had a blank white napkin and I started the delivery rounds which are often a little crazy with requests, stories, and ideas. This time they were voluntarily quiet as I dumped a huge pile of little chocolate chip cookies on Rhys' napkin, skipped Dot, tossed down 2 for Doran, skipped Tate and John, dumped an overflowing pile at Millie's place, somebody else got one, most were skipped and Art scored an entire unopened box.

I had serious doubts that we would be able to discuss the situation and was prepared for the crumbs and complaints to fly. Instead, they were somber, quiet, and confused as every one of them continued to sit on their hands staring at their napkin. They seemed sad. Art looked away from his box.

I asked Rhys how he felt about his big pile of cookies and suggested that he had enough to save for later. He said that he didn't want them. I then checked with Millie and insisted that it was ok to have different feelings about the nice big serving. I said that it is ok to be excited about having the cookies and also feel that it might not be fair. She had a somber look on her face and said that she couldn't eat them. Everyone with a blank napkin agreed that it made them feel hungry. Finally, I put Doran on the spot. He had 2 cookies and didn't seem upset. I asked if he felt ok about his serving since 2 was a fair amount. He confidently suggested that all he needed to do was break them into smaller pieces, give everyone a piece, and then they could all eat together.

Everyone agreed that this was a great idea. We decided to redistribute the snack and everyone gobbled cookies, gulped apple juice and the happy wild rumpus was restored. Thankfully, Parker Klinck appeared right on cue to whisk them away to choir practice and off they went.

Julie Maxwell

Help for those who mourn . . .

Growing thru Grief 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.

In January, ***Debbie Davis***' cello and piano performance has been rescheduled for the 8th; on the 15th, ***Scott Anderson's*** topic is "A Christian's View of Death and Grief." ***Ann Ritter*** will be the presenter on January 29. On weeks without a formal presenter, our facilitation team offers various discussion-starters.

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 pm for registration, coffee, and cookies; the meeting starts at 4:30 and ends by 6.

**The next church newsletter will be issued on Tuesday, January 8,
2019. Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office by
Sunday, January 6.**

[December Birthdays](#)

[January 2019 Birthdays](#)

[Online Church Calendar](#)



[Visit our website](#)