

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

January 22 - February 4, 2019

From the Pastor/Head of Staff

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you all this week. I can hardly believe we are this far into January! We have had a wonderful series of worship services to start this New Year, beginning with our Epiphany service that included the children's pageant, bells, and the Lord's Supper. The next week we celebrated Baptism of the Lord Sunday, affirming our confirmands with the gifts of red scarves knitted by our members and reminding them of God's grace for them through their baptisms. This past Sunday, we rejoiced in the abundance of God's love, as the abundance of good wine at the wedding of Cana. On Monday, we assembled soup mix (for Souper Bowl Sunday) and hosted the MLK Unity Rally with the Durham Children's Choir. What a month it already has been! Thanks to all our musicians, liturgists, volunteers, and staff members who have given so much to make these services powerful, meaningful, and transformational.

This coming Sunday in worship we welcome new members Diane Goff, Dustin Bass and Elizabeth Pritchett Bass and will baptize the Bass' daughter, Bennett Virginia. What joy! We also turn our hearts and minds to the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee (Luke 4:14-21) when he quotes the prophet Isaiah, saying:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Isaiah 61:1, 58:6, 61:2)

What else can we do, friends, but follow Jesus through loving our neighbors and working for peace, reconciliation, and justice in all the world? When the world hands us things we can't do anything about, remember this – this we can do. Thanks be to God.

See you Sunday.

With love,

Mindy

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to **Beth and Howard Eisenson** on the birth of a granddaughter, **Cora Paige Campbell**, born to their daughter and son-in-law, **Heather and Collin Campbell**. Everyone is doing well.

Sympathies: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Lisa, Paul, and Caroline Gabriel** on the death of Lisa's mother, **Nina Bird**, on January 12th. A memorial service was held January 19th in Florida.



Added this week:

Ted Churn, Presbytery of New Hope Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk

Baby Robert and Margaret Gitata, cousins of
Mary Gitata

Heath Huberg, friend of FPC

Joseph Ngumi, in rehab at Duke Regional Hospital (Joseph's son Anthony is here from Kenya.)

Recovering at Home:

Chuck Barenchi

Margaret Mubanga

Franzi Rokoske

Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:

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

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, Ann Prospero, 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:

Paul Dykeman, friend of Steve and Martha Rimmer

Doug Hervey, son of Jeanne Hervey

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Nellie Van Ewyk, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp



SPECIAL THANKS to all who continue to support the Walk-in Ministry with your donations of supplies and financial contributions. Our next call for supplies will be on Communion Sunday, February 3, 2019, but you may bring supplies anytime you come to the church. Make sure you label your donations "For Blessing Bags."

I want to thank you for the generous financial support you have provided. I would also like to thank you for any prayers that you have sent my way. I am deeply grateful for the people of FPC Durham. This gift will help me achieve my goal of becoming an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA. I miss worshipping with you all on a regular basis and hope to see each of you soon.

Grace and peace,

John Curran



Members of FPC,

Thank you for all the ways you supported our work in 2018. We received the generous gift of \$4,000. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** serves on our board so I hope you

know that we will be a good stewards of these funds.

Syretta Hill
StepUp Durham

To all the children of FPC,
I got the Christmas card you sent to me. It was very nice. I really love it! I am wishing you a happy new year. Be nice, good, and sweet; be safe and stay in school. Learn to be all you can be Study hard but stay in Bible study and school, and stay in church. Respect your elders, pray at night before you go to bed and in the morning for God waking you up. . . .

Paul McCombs

(resident of Tabor Correctional Institution and client of FPC's Walk-in Ministry)

Congratulations . . .

- to **Cheryl Barton Henry** and **Beth Brockman** who have been awarded the Certificate in Spiritual Formation from Columbia Theological Seminary;
- to **Margaret Eme**, who has received a much-awaited green card.

Many thanks to all who came to our first MLK service project on Monday, to make packets of dried bean soup to distribute on Souper Bowl Sunday to solicit donations for the Food Bank of Central NC. We had a fabulous group of about 40 members and friends, adults, youth and children, who worked a pretty efficient assembly line of soup-making. Those who participated included: **Noah, Rory, and Amy Dillon; Dot, Ruby, Katie and Walt Barron; Nora, Izzy, and Adrienne Allison-Pleasants and Bob Pleasants; George and Jo Bernhardt and granddaughter, Hannah; David, Vanessa and Laura Armstrong; Ayla, Abby, and Barbara Fish; Harold Dunlap; Graham and Brent Curtis; Eloise and Lucy House; Lucy and John Weicher; Jennie Belle; Cordie, Mattie, and Jeremy Ramont; Vern Neece; and friends to our members, Josh and Amanda Walters and their three daughters; Sandra; and Jeff and his two children** (neighbors of the Barrons). We made 40 packets of soup in about 20 minutes. Wish I had bought more supplies, as we could have easily made 40 more. Next year! Thank you all!

Additional thanks to all who came to usher for the service on MLK Day, and to those who served lunch at Urban Ministries of Durham that day! It was great to see our congregation giving back to the community in the spirit of Dr. King.



Writers Needed!

FPC is journeying through Lent with a new guide this year – a Lenten devotional written entirely by FPC members and friends. Folks of all ages are encouraged to sign up to write one, based on one of a few assigned texts they'll be given. Read [here](#) for more information and a few examples. Be in touch with **John Weicher** if you are interested, j.weicher@firstpres-durham.org.

Some of you have been visiting FPC for quite some time; some of you have already joined (or



are former members); and some of you are actively searching for a church home. To address your questions and curiosity, and to introduce you to like-minded (open-minded) people who want to know more about First Presbyterian Church, we have been offering a Membership Inquiry Class this winter. **The**

class meets from 9:45 – 10:45 in the Wilson Parlor. One session remains on this Sunday, January 27. *David Smith* will lead this class. Sunday School and nursery care are available for your children while you are in class, or you may bring them with you. If you wish to join, we will receive new members on Sunday, January 27. Please let one of the pastors know if you are ready to join.

Sunday, January 27

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism

Bennett Virginia Bass will be baptized during worship. Her parents, *Dustin and Elizabeth Pritchett Bass* are also being introduced as new members, along with *Diane Goff*.

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Liturgist: *Bob Yoder*

Narthex Greeter: *Chris Williams*

After Worship Greeters: *Libby Gulley* (narthex/rear);

Andy Henry (side/font)

Ushers: *Stephen Berry* (head), *Christy Gudaitis*, *Michael Honeycutt*, *John Mozart*. **Two ushers needed. [Click here to sign up to usher.](#)**

Sunday, February 3

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

FPC youth will lead worship. Following worship, the children invite you to support their Souper Bowl fundraiser.



Liturgists: *FPC Youth*

Narthex Greeters: *Delia Kwon*

After Worship Greeters: *Delia Kwon* (narthex/rear);

Dewey Lawson (side/font)

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

Communion Elders:

Head elder/replenish elements: *Jane Wettach*

Bread: *Tyler Momsen-Hudson* (B1, process), *Cris Rivera* (B2), *Barbara Buckley* (B3), *Brent Curtis* (B4)

Cup: *George Bernhardt* (C1), *Griffin Momsen-Hudson* (C2, process), *Kim Abels* (C3), *Sigfried Fullenkamp* (C4)

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL and other study opportunities

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

Children's Sunday School (grades 3-6)

We have been trying out a new rotation model of Sunday School, which allows our 3rd – 6th graders opportunities to experience the foundational stories of the Old Testament in many different ways through drama, art, games, LEGOS, music, cooking, gardening, etc. It has been great fun for the students and for the teaching teams! January's story has been: *The Exodus!* The class meets in room 201 of the education building at 9:45. (Bring friends and join us!)

Adult "Faith & Community" -

As a continuation of our discussion of risks that Presbyterians must take for peace, on **Sunday, January 27**, members **Bob and Sheila Breitweiser**, and **Mary Ann Compton** will share their experience of making a pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL, with Dr. Tim Tyson to visit the new Lynching Memorial there in the heart of civil rights country. On **February 3**, we welcome our artist-in-residence, **Hendrika Vande Kemp**, who will explain how she creates the beautiful paper folded art that graces Watts-Hill Hall. She'll show us how to make a "valentine", since that comes up quickly on the calendar. The Faith and Community class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall** and all are welcome.

Adult Lectionary Class -

- **For January 27:** What makes the words of the Bible different from those of any other book? Is there some great power in the reading and hearing -- and understanding -- of God's word? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.
- **For February 3:** Some of the greatest figures in the Bible were called prophets. Does the prophetic call guarantee prestige and honor? Do prophetic powers bring security and success?

Adult Journeys & Scratch - We are reading and discussing the second part of Isaiah and will continue our exploration of the prophets during January. **Eric Wiebe** has introduced to the group a new translation of the Hebrew Bible by Biblical Scholar Robert Alter which attempts to keep the cadence and rhythm of the original language. All are welcome to join this class which 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. This class is a great support system of sharing and prayer for women.

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. We are discussing "Angels" from *The Thoughtful Christian*. The class meets in the **apartment classroom**, upstairs in the church house at 9:45. Parents of any age are welcome.

Confirmation Class



the youth room. This **Sunday, January 27**, we will hear from our confirmands who traveled to Washington, DC last weekend to participate in the Women's March. And we'll talk about **Bling!** (Shunning Ostentation).

On **February 3**, we'll talk about Not the Boss of Me (Sovereignty of God). We'll watch our cartoon videos featuring Jerrod, and break up into small groups to talk, using our faith words. See you Sunday, friends!



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN A
BIRD POOPS IN YOUR EYES,
BLINDING YOU, & MAKING
YOU WANT TO DIE...

TOBIT

*A story of love, killer
demons, undercover
angels, and bird feces.*

**Sunday this Winter
9:45 am, Youth Room
Snacks Provided**

Kaffeinate:
This Upcoming Tuesday, 1/22

Starbucks: Next Tuesday, 1/29

kaffeinate



115A N. Duke St.
Durham

3801 Guess Rd.
Durham

**FPC HS
Midweek
Morning Meal
(coffee optional)**

TUESDAY MORNINGS
8-8:45 AM

Join other FPC
High Schoolers,
John & Lenore /
Courtney / Laurie.



Joe Van Gogh:
The Tuesday After, 2/5



Stop by to hang out over coffee or
breakfast, or just for a moment.
We'll rotate through these 3 spots.
(Advisors can drive you to a
nearby school if needed.)



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

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



Young Adults (SCRATCH)
***** Saturday, February 2 *****

10:30 a.m. Brunch

at the home of *Mary and Stephen Berry*
RSVP via the EVITE. Bring a dish to share.
You are welcome to come even if you don't RSVP.

Saturday, February 9

6:00 p.m.

First Friends (Adults only)

POTLUCK

at the home of

Tyler and Deborah

Momsen-Hudson

RSVP via the EVITE.

Bring a side, salad or dessert
to share. Come at 6:00 p.m.

We will eat at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 9

6:30 p.m.

Primetimers

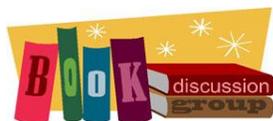
Covered Dish Supper

at the home of

Chuck and Jean Wilson

RSVP via the EVITE.

Remember to comment on the
dish you will bring. Info regarding
parking can also be found on the
EVITE.

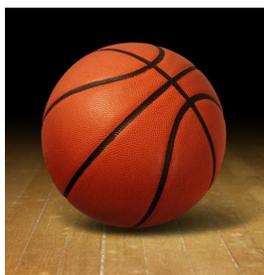


THINGS THAT MATTER BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, February 12

6:30 p.m. Midwinter Potluck and Sing-Along
at the home of *Dale Gaddis*

Celia Dickerson will lead a discussion on Rodgers & Hammerstein, based on a new book entitled *Something Wonderful: Rodgers & Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution & including a sing-along*. Group will also remember Lee Courtland. A salad and sides appreciated.



Durham Church Recreational Basketball League

Games are played Tuesdays and Saturdays at
Grey Stone Church's Family Life Center,
2601 Hillsborough Road, Durham

Come cheer on FPC's team!

REMAINING SCHEDULE

TONIGHT - Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 2, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 9, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

A Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

Area congregations are invited to attend **Durham's annual ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity at Pilgrim United Church of Christ** (3011 Academy Rd., Durham) on **Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m.** The Rev. *Mark-Anthony Middleton*, Senior Pastor of Abundant Hope Christian Church, member of the Durham City Council, and clergy leader in Durham CAN, will preach. Pilgrim UCC musicians will be leading music. The theme

for the evening will be “Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20). The offering will go to the NC Sanctuary Coalition to support immigrant families in sanctuary in Durham and the Triangle.

2019 Faith Summit ON Racism & Child Poverty

**Thursday, March 7, 2019
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Union Baptist Church
904 N Roxboro Street
Durham, NC 27701**



A convening of interfaith groups and community members to increase collaboration towards dismantling racism and ending child poverty in Durham.

COST IS FREE. \$10 DONATION SUGGESTED.
Meals and child care provided. Everyone is welcome.

REGISTER ONLINE BY FEBRUARY 28, 2019
WEBSITE: EUARofNC.org/FaithSummit

For more information, email: EUARofNC@gmail.com
Co-Hosted by Episcopalians United Against Racism (EUAR)
and End Poverty Durham



Annual McPherson Lectureship
Guest Lecturer: Mary Louise Bringle
Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies
at Brevard College in Brevard, NC.

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, February 24
9:45 a.m. - Adult Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
4:00 p.m. - Tea Time



Monday, February 25

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast and Conversation
Breakfast is free to clergy and seminarians
Childcare will be available for Sunday and
Monday events.
More details forthcoming!

**The next church newsletter will be issued on Tuesday, February 5,
2019. Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, February 3.**

January 2019 Birthdays

February 2019 Birthdays

Online Church Calendar



Visit our website