

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

February 5 - 18, 2019

From the Pastor/Head of Staff

Dear friends,

I have a celebration I want to share with you. Last year First Presbyterian Church and I were awarded a Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lilly Endowment in the amount of \$49,112! The purpose of this grant is to “strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection” and to “support associated congregational activities.” I am including a [*press release*](#) for you to learn more about this grant (our Durham paper no longer permits this kind of press release, so we were not able to share this broadly with the community). This grant will provide a three-month sabbatical for me this summer, from **May 19, 2019 - August 19, 2019**, as well as funding to support FPC in my absence.

Each grant has a theme. My theme was “**Breaking Down the Dividing Walls: Truth-telling, Reparations, and Racial Equity.**” Here is an excerpt from the grant:

Our hearts ache when we realize the ways the walls of racism and racial inequity divide God's people around the world. Our hearts are restless until we recognize the peace that God desires among God's children. We believe God calls us to participate in breaking down the walls of division. We long to listen for the truth, tell the truth, and make necessary reparations to pave the way for true, lasting reconciliation, and for wholeness. We want to sing the songs of those reunited, rejoined, reconciled, and healed.

As a part of my sabbatical, I will travel to Israel and Palestine on a trip with other Presbyterians as we look at the deep struggle for peace and reconciliation there. Later in the summer, I will travel to South Africa and study the effects of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the end of Apartheid. At the end of the summer, I will visit The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL (and hope to plan a trip for FPC as well!). My husband **Tim O'Brien** will accompany me on all these travels.

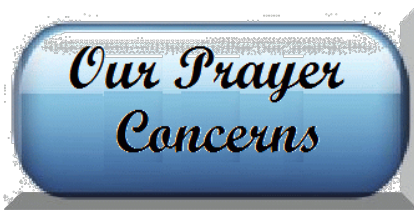
In between the trips, there will be time in Montreat, NC and time in Durham to meet with people working toward racial equity in our local communities. The grant also encourages rest and relaxation (and fun) time, so we will include a visit to a nature preserve while in South Africa, many summer concerts, and much time with friends and family.

While I am away, the grant will provide funding for FPC to have summer staff support and a few guest preachers. You will also have a train trip from Durham to Greensboro on a summer Saturday to visit the International Civil Rights Museum. In addition, there will be a summer book read and panel discussion on the book *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery. I hope many of you will be able to participate in the train trip and the book read to prepare us for a Montgomery, Alabama bus trip!

Many people at First Presbyterian Church helped with the grant-writing process almost a year ago and I am so very grateful for their wisdom, support, and insight in that process. I am particularly grateful to **Jane Williams, Kathy Krahenbuhl**, and others who helped me think through FPC's summer activities, as well as **Cherrie Henry** (a grant recipient in 2017!) for her editorial, visionary, and pastoral support. I feel certain that without her patient guidance, superior editorial skills, ability to dream big, and successful experience with the grant-writing process, Lilly would not have awarded us this grant. My parents and my husband deserve a big thanks, too, for reading through the grant multiple times and providing invaluable feedback.

This sabbatical comes sooner than some of you might expect, I am sure. In 2016 I gave up a sabbatical in order to accept a call to come and be your pastor. After eight years of ongoing pastoral ministry (and a Doctor of Ministry degree), I am looking forward to recharging my batteries so that I can return to serve this congregation with all the "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love" (from the PC (USA) ordination vows) that God has given me. I am so very excited about our work ahead as a congregation and will share more with you about that excitement at our annual congregational meeting following worship on March 10. Grace and peace to you all this week.

With love,
Mindy



Added this week:

Karen Swope, recovering at home from knee surgery

Camilla Crampton, friend of Mal King, recovering (at Hillcrest) from a fall

Ann Sanders, sister of Jane Brawley

Rev. Mary McKey, friend of Judy and Al Arrowood

Heath Huberg, friend of FPC, patient at Duke

Recovering at Home:

Chuck Barenchi

Margaret Mubanga

Joseph Ngumi

Franzi Rokoske

Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:

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

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, 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:

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

Baby Robert and Margaret Gitata, cousins of Mary Gitata

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Nellie Van Ewyk, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp



On **Sunday, January 27**, we received three new members: ***Dustin and Elizabeth Bass*** and ***Diane Goff***. Read about them [*here*](#).

The **Sacrament of Baptism** was celebrated for ***Bennett Virginia Bass*** during worship on January 27, 2019. Bennett is the daughter of ***Dustin and Elizabeth Bass*** and granddaughter of ***Ed and Caroline Pritchett***.

SESSION BRIEFS (from January 28, 2019)

The Session began its first meeting of the year by learning about the work done by the Criminal Justice Resource Center and the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham to assist people coming out of the criminal justice system and re-entering society. In addition...

- The Session also **approved a budget for 2019** which achieves two of the three goals set by the Stewardship Committee, and approved a request to the Committee on Ministry to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Both of these will be presented to the congregation at a later congregational meeting.
- The Session was pleased to **approve a request to honor *Dorothy Burns Graham*** by formally naming our playground after her.
- Many thank you notes were read during the meeting--from several non-profit organizations for donations from FPC, from our two seminary students (***Rebecca Harvard Barnes*** and ***John Curran***) for donations to their education costs, and from Columbia Theological Seminary regarding the awarding of a Certificate in Spiritual Formation to ***Cherrie Henry*** and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction to ***Beth Brockman***.
- The Session called **two congregational meetings: Sunday, February 10**, to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to find a candidate to fill the Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families position, and **Sunday, March 10, Annual Meeting of the Church** to hear a report from the Finance Committee; to vote on changes to terms of call for the pastors; and to elect church officers and persons to serve at-large on the Nominating Committee. The meetings will take place at the end of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Christyn Klinck, Clerk of Session

KUDOS to the children and youth of FPC who netted \$650 from the **Souper Bowl** donations this past Sunday, which will benefit the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC.

Membership Inquiry Classes

We have completed our Membership Inquiry Classes for the winter, but will be offering a new three-session cohort again in May. Many thanks to ***Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey*** and the Membership Committee for their hospitality, and to ***Sam Miglarese and David Smith*** for leading this latest round of classes. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of FPC, please speak with one of the pastors, so we can schedule for you to meet with the Session. We'd love to make

this happen for you.



As we head down to Honduras on a Habitat for Humanity building trip, **Carl Rist, Karolyn Mangeot, Miguel Rubiera** and I want to express our abundant thanks for all the prayers and good wishes from our wonderful congregation. It means the world to us to know that we go with the support and encouragement of our church. We will be building

beautiful, strong walls — the best kind of walls — alongside a hard working family so that they can achieve their dream of living in a decent and stable home. In addition, we are taking with us 35 gorgeous baby quilts made with love by **BJ Morton** and several other women from our church. Just think of the joy and comfort these quilts will bring to the babies who receive them!

Most gratefully,
Margaret Rubiera

CORRECTION . . . from the January 8, 2019 Newsletter

Congratulations to **Cheryl Barton Henry** who has been awarded the Certificate in Spiritual Formation from Columbia Theological Seminary, and to **Beth Brockman** who has been awarded the Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Columbia Theological Seminary. We look forward to both of them sharing their newly acquired training with the FPC congregation.



The deadline is approaching!

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. **The deadline is February 13, 2019.**

Sunday, February 10

5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

Remember to bring supplies for the blessing bags.



***** The Membership Committee will meet**

following worship this Sunday, February 10 at 12:30 p.m. in the East Parlor. ***

Liturgist: **Cris Rivera**

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

After Worship Greeters: **Griffin Momsen-Hudson** (narthex/rear);

Kim Abels (side/font)

Ushers: *John Mozart* (head), *Elinor Hess* (flowers), *Laurie Williamson*
Click here to sign up to usher.

Communion Elders:

Head elder/replenish elements: *Jane Wettach*

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

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

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

Sunday, February 17
6th Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting to receive members
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship



Following worship, everyone is invited to Watts-Hill Hall for lunch. Donations will be received to help offset the cost of the meal.

Liturgist: *Jennie Alwood*

Narthex Greeter: *Alice Raney*

After Worship Greeters: *Cris Rivera* (narthex/rear);
Alice Raney (side/font)

Ushers: *John Mozart* (head), *Amy Dillon* (flowers), *Dale Gaddis*
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)

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 through drama, art, games, LEGOS, music, cooking, gardening, etc. It has been great fun for the students and for the teaching teams! **February brings a new story for us: *The Ten Best Ways!*** The class meets in room 201 of the education building at 9:45. (Bring friends and join us!)

Adult "Faith & Community" -

We are in for a treat on February 10 and February 17, thanks to *Dan Hudgins*. On Sunday, February 10, we welcome *Anthony Scott*, CEO of the Durham Housing Authority, who will update us on progress concerning affordable

housing in downtown Durham. If you're interested in the status of the parking lot between FPC and St. Phillips, Anthony will be able to provide details about the plan for that property use and the timing of construction. Then on **Sunday, February 17**, our guest presenter will be **John Tallmadge**, Project Manager of the Durham/Orange Light Rail. He will enlighten us on concerns about the project, and update us on its current funding and status. Faith and Community meets in **Watts-Hill Hall** at 9:45 and all are welcome.

Adult Lectionary Class -

February 10: A voice of authority. A voice that speaks, and you know it is true. A voice that commands, and you obey. Where does that authority come from? Do we recognize it when we hear it? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

February 17: Life is good. We are financially comfortable, we have plenty to eat, and we enjoy the company of friends and family. So what are these harsh words from Jesus: "woe to you"? Surely he doesn't mean us, does he?

Adult Journeys & Scratch - We are reading and discussing the second part of Isaiah and will continue our exploration of the prophets. **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. **Mindy Douglas** leads this class.



We have finished with our visits to other faith communities, and are settling in for several weeks of conversation and study with our mentors. 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. **This Sunday, February 10, Lenore Champion** will lead us in decorating t-shirts with our faith words on them. **Be sure you know your faith word, and bring a bright, plain t-shirt to class with you that day to decorate.** Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you have any questions.

High School Youth Sunday School



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



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

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

Friday Bible Study – The Friday Bible Study will NOT meet this Friday, February 8, but will resume to complete our study of Isaiah on February 15 from noon – 1 p.m. in room 205 of the CE Building. Stay tuned for upcoming information about a delightful short-term Lenten Study which will take place March 8 – April 12.

FIRST FRIENDS AND FAMILIES- Save these dates!

- **February 9 Workday:** Painting and Scraping, morning and afternoon shifts. Please see EVITE..
- **February 9 Potluck Gathering:** Momsen-Hudson home. 6:00 p.m. Please see EVITE..
- **March 16/17 We are the Fellowship Lunch Crew.** Details and

signupgenius coming soon.

- **March 30 Potluck Gathering:** Buckley/Randell home. *More information soon.*
- **April 27 Potluck Gathering:** Wettach/Baldasare home

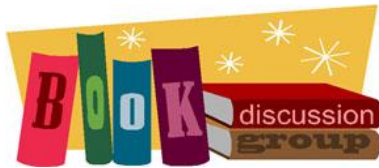
Saturday, February 9

Primetimers Covered Dish Supper

6:30 p.m. 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

Midwinter Potluck and Sing-Along

6:30 p.m. 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

Grey Stone Church's Family Life Center

2601 Hillsborough Road, Durham

Come cheer on FPC's team!

(Click [here](#) to view full schedule)

TONIGHT - 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.



First Presbyterian Church presents the 20th Annual McPherson Lectureship

Guest Lecturer: Mary Louise Bringle

Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies
at Brevard College in Brevard, NC.

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.

More details on the presentations forthcoming!

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

HKonJ PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY COALITION MORAL MARCH ON RALEIGH

**"NO TIME TO STAND DOWN:
WE MUST STAND STRONG & ENDURE"**

February 9, 2019

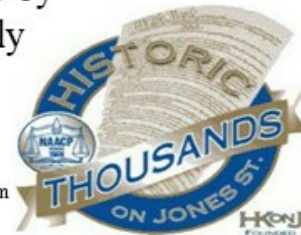
Raleigh, NC

- 8:30 a.m.** Begin Gathering
- 9:00 a.m.** Pre Rally/People's Assembly
Corner of Wilmington and South Streets
near Shaw University
- 10:00 a.m.** March Begins followed by
Rally/People's Assembly



#MORALMARCH2019

For more information visit our website at naacpnc.org or hkonj.com



Forward Together, Not One Step Back!

On **Saturday February 9, 2019**, thousands of people from all over the State of North Carolina will come to Raleigh to participate in the 13 Annual HKonJ Moral March, including members of the presbytery. The Davie Street Presbyterian Church has made its parking lot available for all members of presbytery, who are going to be a part of this historic march, to park their cars there. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Davie Street Church and walk to the march's gathering point on the corner of South and Wilmington Street. Come and join members of the Peacemaking Network of the New Hope Presbytery on Saturday February 9, 2019.

What Will You Do With the Rest of Your Life?

A Retreat for Women in the Second Half of Life
March 23, 2019, 9:30 am-4:00 pm
Location: A comfortable house in Durham with a cat.
Cost: \$75. Click [here](#) to register.

Contact: RCWMS, 919-683-1236, events@rcwms.org

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



The next church newsletter will be issued on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office by Sunday, February 17.

February 2019 Birthdays

Online Church Calendar



[Visit our website](#)