

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

*"Downtown by history and by choice"*

## FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

February 19 - March 4, 2019

### **From the Pastor/Head of Staff**

Dear friends,

On Sunday, we will welcome Mary Louise (Mel) Bringle to First Presbyterian Church as our McPherson Series lecturer. I am thrilled that Mel will be with us, as she brings with her wit and wisdom, light and laughter, insight and inspiration. Many of you know her from her time on the faculty at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg, NC from 1983-2000, where she taught Philosophy and chaired the Religious Studies department. Currently she teaches Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College in Brevard, NC. You can find information about Mel's time with us on Sunday in the newsletter below.

Mel is a theologian, musician, teacher, and poet. I know her best through her teaching at Montreat (our group never missed her classes!) and her beautiful hymn texts. In her hymn lyrics, she draws vivid pictures of the community of faith – in prayer, rejoicing, grief, longing, and discipleship. As we prepare for her visit on Sunday, I want to share with you a text she wrote for the Worship and Music Conference at Montreat in 2005. In this text, she celebrates the different ways we use our voices to pray, praise, chant, cry, and work for peace and justice. In stanza 4, she uses the idea of a discordant set of notes coming together in harmony as a foretaste of the Kingdom of God on earth (note the connection here to my sermon Sunday on Jesus' Sermon on the Plain!).

I hope you will all be able to join us for one or all the times Mel will be leading us on Sunday. May our hearts and our voices be filled with gratitude and praise!

### *God, You Made Our Human Voices*

(sung to the tune *Rustington*, in our hymnal used for a baptismal hymn *Out of Deep Unordered Water*)

God, you made our human voices,  
instruments for praise and prayer,  
tuned to varied keys and accents  
by your Spirit's pulsing air.

### *Refrain:*

So we bring our gifts in chorus,  
hearts that leap with heaven's fire.  
Saints within your courts before us  
lead our voices in your choir!

God, you pray through human voices –  
hymns and praise songs, chants and cries –  
by your Spirit's intercession  
sounding depths in wordless sighs. *Refrain*

God you speak through human voices,  
prophets still by courage stirred,  
calling out for peace and justice,  
bold to shout or sing your word. *Refrain*

Make us, here, your human voices,  
each with fully welcomed worth,  
vibrant notes resolved in concord:  
foretaste of your joy on earth! *Refrain*

I look forward to a weekend of growth and fellowship with you all this weekend!

Grace and peace,  
**Mindy**

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**SYMPATHIES:** We extend our love and concern to **Marie, David and Laura Sappenfield** on the death of Marie's mother, **Millicent Hester**, on February 7th. A memorial service was held February 9th in Hurdle Mills.

**Added this week:**

**Dolly Douglas**, grandmother of Mindy Douglas  
**Rev. Bill Bigger**, pastor at Hope Valley Baptist Church, Durham

**Recovering at Home:**

**Chuck Barenchi**  
**Paul Cornsweet**  
**Margaret Mubanga**  
**Joseph Ngumi**  
**Franzi Rokoske**  
**Karen Swope**  
**Carolyn and Jim Wolfe**

**Care Communities:**

Brookdale 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:**

**Camilla Crampton**, friend of Mal King, recovering (at Hillcrest) from a fall  
**Baby Robert and Margaret Gitata**, cousins of Mary Gitata  
**Rev. Mary McKey**, friend of Judy and Al Arrowood  
**Ann Sanders**, sister of Jane Brawley  
**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss  
**Nellie Van Ewyk**, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

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**Becky Crockett**  
Brookdale Durham (Assisted Living)



4434 Ben Franklin Blvd – Room 112  
Durham NC 27704  
No in-room phone at this time.

Note: **Julian Boswell** resides in room 321.



On **Sunday, February 17, 2019**, we welcomed the following to FPC: **Conrad and Linda Carter**, and **Keith and Franzi Rokoske**.

The **Rev. Dr. Nora Tubbs Tisdale** was also welcomed to First Church as a clergy affiliate. Click to read their **profiles**.

If you are 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. Our next cluster of Membership Inquiry classes are scheduled for **May 5, 12 and 19**, but you may join the church at any time.



It is with much appreciation and gratitude that I thank all those at FPC for the notes, phone calls, and especially the prayers that I've received over the past several months while recovering from surgery. By sharing my load, you have lightened it immeasurably.

In Christian love,  
**Barbara Gerwe**

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Dear First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you so much for being a part of Housing for New Hope's work to prevent and end homelessness, one valuable person at a time. In 2018, you made a tax-deductible contribution of **\$9,000**. Your support in 2018 helped us change the lives of 643 men, women, and children who were unstably housed or displaced. . . . We know there are a lot of worthy causes in Durham and we are grateful that you chose to support Housing for New Hope! Thank you again for your continued support.

**E Chip Dudney**, Co-Interim Executive Director  
Housing for New Hope

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Dear FPC,  
Your most recent generous gift of **\$1,755** provided 8,775 meals to families stretching budgets, seniors choosing between medicine and food, and children doing their best to learn on an empty stomach. In a time where so many of our neighbors throughout central and eastern NC are struggling to get back on their feet, in the wake of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, your gift provided so much hope. Thank you for all you do for this community.

**Chandler Rock**, Community Giving Specialist,  
Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of our mission. Because of donors like you we are able to Feed, Teach and Grow in communities across the Triangle.

(Donation amount: **\$376.50**.) Please know we could not do this important work without partners like you.

Sincerely,

**David Koch**, President/CEO

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Raleigh NC

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**KUDOS to all those who hosted fellowship groups and activities in January and February:**

**January 5 - *Emily Wilkins, Kennedy & Sophie*** - First Friends & Families POTLUCK and GAME NIGHT at FPC

**January 22 - *Shirley Frederick*** - Daytimers LUNCHEON at Ruby Tuesdays

**February 2 - *Mary & Stephen Berry*** - Scratch POTLUCK BRUNCH at their home

**February 9 - *The Momsen-Hudsons*** - First Friends POTLUCK at their home

**February 9 - *Chuck & Jean Wilson*** - Primetimers COVERED DISH SUPPER at their home

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# MARY LOUISE BRINGLE THE 20TH ANNUAL MCPHERSON LECTURESHIP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH, DURHAM

**SCHEDULE - February 24 & 25**

**Adult Sunday School - What's Behind the Curtain? A Hymnal Expose. - Sunday, 2/24, 9:45 am**

**Sermon - Lift Up Your Hearts - Sunday, 2/24, 11 am**

**A Conversation with Mel - Praying Our Way Through Lent - Sunday, 2/24, 4 pm**

**A Conversation over Breakfast - Multi-Sensory Hymn-Based Practices - Monday, 2/25, 8 am**

Mel Bringle is a Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College and an award-winning hymn writer.



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**Sunday, February 24**  
**7th Sunday after Epiphany**

**9:45 a.m. - Sunday School**

**\*\*\* All adult classes are invited to Watts-Hill Hall to hear the McPherson Lectureship presentation by Mel Bringle.\*\*\***

**11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion**

**Sermon: "Lift Up Your Hearts" - *Mel Bringle*, preaching**

**Remember to bring your Hunger for Change Offering this Sunday!**

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Liturgist(s): **Lectureship Committee (TBA)**

Narthex Greeter: **Chris Williams**

After Worship Greeters: **Raymond Mbah** (narthex/rear);

**Karen Romines** (side/font)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers), **Stephen Berry** (counter), **Wayne House**

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

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**Sunday, March 3**

**Transfiguration of the Lord**

**9:45 a.m. - Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion**

**Special Guest: The St. Andrews**

**University Choir from Laurinburg NC**

**Remember to bring blessing bags or supplies on Communion Sundays.**

Liturgist: **Jeanne Hervey**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Jane Wettach** (narthex/rear);

**Diane Prosser** (side/font)

Ushers: **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers), **Mickey Velkey**

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

Communion Elders:

Head elder/replenish elements: **Chris Brown**

Bread: **Peter Fish** (B1, process), **Tom Bacon** (B2), **Raymond Mbah** (B3), **Karen Romines** (B4)

Cup: **Lenoir Champion** (C1), **Gray Wilson** (C2, process), **Jane Wettach** (C3), **Andy Henry** (C4)

Shepherds: **Delia Kwon** (center aisle), **Leah Graves** (font aisle), **Libby Gulley** (pulpit aisle)

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 story: *The Ten Best Ways!***

On **March 10**, we will begin to look at Lent and Lenten practices leading up to Easter. The class meets in room 201 of the CE Building at 9:45. Bring friends and join us!

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## **Adult "Faith & Community" -**

This **Sunday, February 24** we welcome our McPherson Lecturer, **Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Bringle**. All of the adult Sunday School classes are invited to attend her lecture at 9:45: "*What's Behind the Curtain? A Hymnal Expose.*" Bringle is going to share the inside scoop as to what goes into compiling an anthology of hymns: what to include, and what to exclude. It should be an enlightening presentation. Faith and Community meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45, and all are welcome.

On **Sunday, March 3**, after hearing a word from FPC's Legacy Society, we will receive a report from our Walk-in Ministry facilitators concerning the nature of that ministry. How many people are served through FPC's Walk-in Ministry? What kinds of help are we able to give? How much money do we spend each month helping our neighbors? To whom do we refer those whom we are unable to help? What have we learned from our Walk-in friends? How many blessing bags are we giving away each week/month/year? How can each of us help the Walk-in Ministry? Come with questions you would like to ask **Marie Sappenfield, Mary-Jo Keenan, Judy Arrowood, John Mozart, and Phyllis Verhey**.

**The Lectionary, Journeys/Scratch, Women's Spiritual Formation, and The Thoughtful Christian (parenting) classes will resume their regular studies on Sunday, March 3 at 9:45 a.m.**

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**Friday Bible Study** – The Friday Bible Study will continue our weekly study of First Isaiah from noon - 1 p.m. in room 205 of the education Building. We will conclude that study on March 1.

On **March 8**, all are invited to join us in a study of Howard Thurman, African American author, philosopher, theologian, mystic, and social justice leader, whose theology of radical nonviolence shaped, and still shapes, many civil rights leaders. We will view a documentary on Thurman's life, and then study his classic work together: ***Jesus and the Disinherited***. Says Vincent Harding in the forward to Thurman's book, *this richly endowed, seminal work can be more accurately and helpfully described as a profound quest for a liberating spirituality, a way of exploring and experiencing those crucial life points where personal and societal transformation are creatively joined...Ultimately Thurman's goal was to offer this humanizing combination as the basis for an emancipator way of being, moving toward a fundamentally unchained life that is available to all the women and men everywhere who hunger and thirst for righteousness, especially those 'who stand with their backs against the wall'*. Copies of Thurman's book will be made available for those who wish to read along. An additional opportunity to read and discuss his book will be on **Fridays, room 205, from noon – 1:00 p.m.**

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We have finished with our visits to other faith communities, and are now 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. Each member of the class has picked a "faith word"

# Confirmation Class



which they want to explore, and we each made a t-shirt with our faith word written on the front (thanks, **Lenore!**). We'll continue to study our faith words, as a way of "speaking God", and we hope to wear our t-shirts in worship for the confirmation service on March 31. But in the meantime, we'll talk about God's

Providence on **February 24**, and then Election and Predestination on **March 3**. Those words are not among our faith words, but they might help us understand our faith words a little better. Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you have any questions. Also, it's great to have **Sheya Wehrman** in our class since she has returned from China!



Judith  
(Guess what she did...)

High School Sunday School  
9:45 am, February & March



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

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

## **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)

**Final regular season game TONIGHT at 6:30 p.m.**

**Tournament play begin Saturday, February 23.**

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### **Birds of Brazil Slide Presentation**

**Tuesday, February 26**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall**

*David and Judy Smith* invite you to view a slide presentation of birds and other lovely creatures from a recent trip to Brazil. All are welcome.

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### **FIRST FRIENDS AND FAMILIES- Save these dates!**

- **March 16/17 - We are the Fellowship Lunch Crew.** *Details and sign up genius coming soon.*
  - **March 30 - Potluck Gathering: Buckley/Randell** home. More information forthcoming.
  - **April 27 - Potluck Gathering: Wettach/Baldasare** home
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### **SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS - Save the dates!**

- **March 9 - 10:30 a.m. (Saturday)** -- hosted by Amy and Gray Wilson
  - **April 13 - 10:30 a.m. (Saturday)** – Henry home (Palm Cross folding)
  - **April 26-27 – (Easy) Camp out at Camp New Hope.**  
Starts at 6 p.m. on Friday. Ends at noon on Saturday
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### **BOOK GROUP**

**Tuesday, March 12**

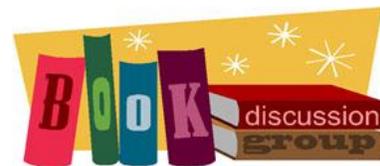
at *Hendrika Vande Kemp's* home

(5511 Grand Mesa Drive, Durham)

**Join us in a discussion of the Book:**

*"At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance - A new History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power by Danielle McGuire.* **Emily Wilkins** will lead the discussion. Contact Hendrika if you will join us: [hendrika@earthlink.net](mailto:hendrika@earthlink.net)

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# RACIAL EQUITY

## Task Force

**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

**Organizing Against Racism**

Racial Equity Institute (REI) Groundwater Presentation

*An Introduction to Racial Equity*

**from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

**in the Carolina Theatre**

**located at 309 West Morgan Street, Durham**

**Event is free.**

**Pre-registration is required:**

<https://www.oaralliance.org/schedule/groundwater-feb2019>

This is a great introduction to the racial inequality in the US at the structural level.  
It is not the same information being presented in the Phase I REI workshop.

**Sunday, March 3**

**5:00 p.m. at FPC**

**DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

*“Slavery by Another Name”*

The Racial Equity Task Force invites all to a screening of *Slavery by Another Name*, a documentary based on Douglas A. Blackmon's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, which illuminates how in the years following the Civil War, insidious new forms of forced labor emerged in the American South, persisting until the onset of World War II. Following the screening of this 2012 Official Selection at the Sundance Film Festival, we will discuss the film together. A light dinner will be served. Future screenings are also being scheduled in members' homes in March and April if you cannot make this date. If you have questions or are interested in hosting a screening, please contact Sharon Hirsch by email at [hirschnc@earthlink.net](mailto:hirschnc@earthlink.net) or ask any member of the Racial Equity Task Force.

**Sunday, March 24**

**Time (TBA) at FPC**

**A ONE-MAN DRAMATIC PRESENTATION**

*“We Shall Not Sleep”*

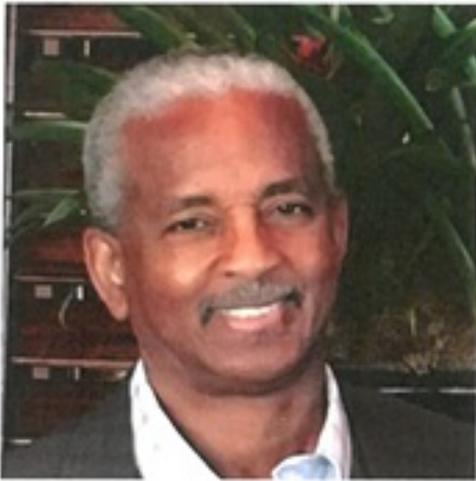
Produced, created, and performed by Gary Giles, in this one-act tour-de-force for a single actor/singer on a bare stage, Giles portrays three of the most influential and iconic men of the African American culture and historic landscape: *Frederick Douglas*, *William Still*, and *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

# MOVING BEYOND ANGER AND REVENGE TOWARDS THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

*How does a community respond to a tragic event like the murders at Mother Emanuel AME?*

**First Presbyterian Church  
305 E Main St., Durham  
Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 7:30 am**



The **Reverend Anthony Thompson**, whose words of forgiveness began the healing after the murder of Nine at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, on June 17, 2015, will speak at a **meal** for clergy and community leaders.

The ~~lunch~~<sup>meal</sup> is sponsored by the Martin Luther King Steering Committee of Durham and Durham Congregations in Action. Cost for the breakfast is \$8.00. Please RSVP to Spencer Bradford at [dcia@dcia.org](mailto:dcia@dcia.org).



## The **Florence Forth Road Race** **Saturday, March 2**

Please consider participating by running/walking or volunteering at the event. The **McDows** are also grateful for your financial support. You can find registration and volunteering information online at

<http://florenceforth.org>. **The deadline to register is February 27, 2019.**

# 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](http://EUARofNC.org/FaithSummit)

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



Durham's story. Your story. God's story.

## The Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope

**March 15-17, 2019**

Register: [www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage](http://www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage)

 DurhamCares

 DUKE  
DIVINITY  
SCHOOL  
CENTER FOR  
RECONCILIATION



Do you love your city? Are you looking for ways to connect your faith with the place you live? The Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope is an opportunity to connect Durham's story, your own story, and God's story. Through a weekend of

visiting important places and hearing the stories of leaders who have shaped the city, participants reckon with the challenges Durham has faced and witness the hope in our community. There are also discussion gatherings that meet beforehand and afterwards to help us see all of life as a pilgrim journey. **The next weekend immersion is March 15 at 3:00 p.m. through March 17 at 4:00 p.m. The registration deadline is March 1.** This opportunity is sponsored by DurhamCares and the Center for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity School. To register, and for more information, visit [www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage](http://www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage). If you have questions, contact **Tammy Rodman** at [trodman@durhamcares.org](mailto:trodman@durhamcares.org).

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**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 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Location: A comfortable house in Durham with a cat.**

Cost: \$75. Click [here](#) to register.

Contact: RCWMS, 919-683-1236, [events@rcwms.org](mailto:events@rcwms.org)

**FRIDAY  
4.5.19**

8:30 am - 4:15 pm  
St. Thomas More  
Catholic Church  
940 Carmichael Street  
Chapel Hill, NC

HOPE AND HEALING:

**Faith Communities  
and the Suicide Crisis**

Faith Connections on Mental Illness is sponsoring the 9th annual conference about our faith communities' responses to the suicide crisis.

- This conversation will be initiated by **The Rev. Rachel Keefe**, who will present how faith communities can respond morally and ethically to this mental health challenge. Rev. Keefe's book, "The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention" will be featured.
- **Betsy Rhodes** will highlight how faith communities can offer hope to those living with suicidal thoughts.
- **Dr. Joseph Williams** will discuss the mental health issues facing those incarcerated in our local jails and prisons, including suicide.
- **Rev. John P. Oliver** will present methods and challenges for engaging clergy to foster mental health resiliency for our faith communities.
- The last session of the conference will consist of a panel discussion based on the experiences of the four main speakers.

For more information check out the conference [brochure](#). **Space is limited. Pre-registration ends March 22.**

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**SAVE THE DATE  
FUNDRAISER FOR IGLESIA EMANUEL  
Saturday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.  
Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, Durham**

Iglesia Emanuel is planning another special fundraising Dinner and Celebration of their ministries, in the fellowship hall of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Please plan to come and show your support to our sister church as they expand the many ways they are impacting the Hispanic community. Want to help with the planning process? Contact **Miguel or Margaret Rubiera** at [miguelrubiera1@gmail.com](mailto:miguelrubiera1@gmail.com) or [margaretmr29@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmr29@gmail.com).

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

**February 2019 Birthdays**

**March 2019 Birthdays**

**Online Church Calendar**



**Visit our website**