

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

March 19 - April 1, 2019

Dear friends,

Some elders once came to Abbot Anthony, and there was with them also Abbot Joseph. Wishing to test them, Abbot Anthony brought the conversation around to the Holy Scriptures. And he began from the youngest to ask them the meaning of this or that text. Each one replied as best he could, but Abbot Anthony said to them: "You have not got it yet." After them all he asked Abbot Joseph: "What about you? What do you say the text means?" Abbot Joseph replied: "I know not!" Then Abbot Anthony said: "Truly Abbot Joseph alone has found the way, for he replies that he knows not."^[1]

I once ended a sermon on a difficult text with an open question about its meaning. I had explored the text from many angles but admitted in the end that I did not know, ultimately, what God wanted to say to us through the passage. I had no definitive answers. No clear solutions. No direct advice on Christian living. I acknowledged that some texts just leave us not knowing, and implied that this was okay.

Two days later, a letter arrived in my mailbox. Two pages, typed, and single-spaced, the scholarly church member (a professor at a nearby university and a serious student of scripture) clearly explained the exact meaning of the text which I, in my youth, inexperience, (and ignorance?) had missed. He accused me of leading the congregation astray when I did not provide the clear answers and guidance found in the text. He set me straight. The answers were there. I had just missed them.

Coming out of a week like last week, I find myself wishing that I did have all the answers to the questions that continue to haunt me in situations like the Christchurch shooting of people of faith during their time of prayer. Who would do something like this? Why? How can such hatred exist in the heart of a human being? What have we done wrong as a people? How can we prevent such violence from happening again? How can we Christians live such love and bear such light that hatred is defeated, that darkness is cast out?

While I have plenty of ideas and while I won't give up spreading Christ's gospel of love, I still often find myself in that place of unknown answers. I don't know why such hatred exists in people's hearts. I don't know why people around the world chose violence to solve their problems. And please don't send me a letter of explanation. Because sometimes I think we have to be okay with not knowing. Sometimes I think we have to be okay with moving forward in the darkness because we believe in the light. . . .

Barbara Brown Taylor, in her book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, quotes St. Augustine of the fourth century who says, "If you have understood, then what you have understood is not God" . . . Nicholas of Cusa called this kind of unknowing "'holy ignorance,' a divine gift given to those who are willing to embrace all that they cannot and will never know about the Giver."^[2]

I acknowledge in these dark days that there is a great deal I do not understand about the world, about the human heart, and about who we are to be as people who bear the light in such darkness, even as we bear our own real

pain. And ultimately there is a lot I don't understand about God. I am okay with that. Because I still believe in God, even though I can't understand God fully. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

May God be with you, through the darkness and the mystery, and give you peace.

With love,

Mindy

[1] From *The Wisdom of the Desert*, as quoted by Kathleen Norris in *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, (New York: Riverhead Books, 1998), 333.

[2] Barbara Brown Taylor, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, (New York: Harper One, 2014), 144-145.



SYMPATHIES:

We extend our sympathy to **Mickey Velkey and Beth, Larry, Catie, and Matt Brockman** on the death of **Bob Velkey** on March 14. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection at FPC is being planned for a future time. We also extend heartfelt sympathies to **Deems and Patrick Currie** and their families on the death of their father and FPC member, **William (Bill) Currie**. Bill died last week in Albemarle, NC. Arrangements for a service are pending.

Added:

Fran Alwood, mother of Jennie Alwood

Wayne Thompson, colleague of Li-Chen Chin

Recovering at Home:

Margaret Mubanga

Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett

Joseph Ngumi

Franzi Rokoske

Karen Swope

Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell, Becky Crockett**

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

Rev. Mary McKey, friend of Judy and Al Arrowood

NOTES

Congratulations to **Ricky and Brianna Bennett** on the baptism of their son, **Luke Braxton Bennett**, on Sunday March 10. This Sunday, March 24, we will have the pleasure of baptizing another child of the covenant, **Anna Ruth Diy**,

daughter of *Carlo and Emily Durham Diy*.

Parents' Night Out was a great success Sunday night, as parents left their children at the church to enjoy some Lenten activities and a light dinner, while they walked down to Bull City Burger for some St. Patrick's Day fellowship together. Many thanks to CE members *Brent Curtis, Marcia Lorimer and Delia Kwon* for shepherding the children for the evening. Those who joined us on Sunday night included the *Admays, Armstrongs, Browns, and Walters* and their eight children. **Upcoming family activities in April will include the Easter Egg Hunt on April 14 at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Palm Parade at 10:15.**

Playroom Surprise! It's here: the new gingerbread playhouse built by Habitat for Humanity for our upstairs playroom. If you haven't had a chance to see it, stop by the playroom upstairs in the Education Building and see how lovely and how popular it is with the children. Many thanks to our Habitat neighbors and to those who have contributed to the Christian Education unrestricted fund so that we could purchase the playhouse.

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

NEW OFFICERS: The following persons were elected to serve as officers or at-large on the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee at the March 10, 2019 Annual Meeting of the Church.

Elders - Class of 2022

Dawn Carsey

Luke Everett

Sharon Hirsch

Michael Honeycutt

Wendy McCorkle

David Sappenfield

Amy Wilson

Elder - Class of 2021

Griffin Momsen-Hudson

Elder - Class of 2022

Laura McDow

Deacons - Class of 2022

Kristen Brigman

Oscar Carrasco-Moya

Bert Clere

George Kafula

Ellie Meade

Charlotte Nelson

Melinda Ruley

Deacons - Class of 2022

Aiden James

Minna Fullenkamp

At-large Members of the Nominating Committee (2019-2020)

Walt Barron

Carlo Diy

Catherine Dumas

Mal King

Sophie Wilkins.

We wish to thank the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee for their good work:

Tyler Momsen-Hudson, Chairperson

Carol Carson (Ruling Elder) ***Catherine Dumas*** (Deacon)

Walt Barron (at-large) ***Shirley Frederick*** (at-large)

Jane Rourk (at-large) ***Michael Schultz*** (at-large)

Sophie Wilkins (at-large)



NEW MEMBER: The following person was received into membership on Sunday, March 17, 2019:

Katherine (Katie) Michaela Becker,

212 N. Duke Street, #121, Durham 27701;

425-518-2459(cell); 919-962-2873 (work);

[*katiebeckerwa@gmail.com*](mailto:katiebeckerwa@gmail.com). Katie was raised in Bellevue, WA. She is a graduate of Duke University (BA Psychology) and is a Bilingual Program Assistant at UNC School of Law Clinical Programs. She currently sings in the FPC Chancel Choir. She enjoys traveling and studying languages, and is interested in politics and social justice, particularly immigration policy and the environment. She lived in Mexico for a year after graduating college. She speaks fluent Spanish and a bit of French. Katie joined by Letter of Transfer.

Long Range Planning Team Report - Building Connections

At the end of January, the Long Range Planning Team (formerly the Strategic Planning Team) met with the members of the Session and the staff for an overnight retreat to discuss priorities of the church. During this time together, we referred to our Mission Study from 2014 and our Core Values. We celebrated our strengths, acknowledged how far we had come since 2014, and acknowledged the areas of growth before us. We did some of our work in a large group and some in small groups. We discussed many important priorities, but in the end, narrowed the list down to four primary areas. Below are the four areas with some examples of the questions the Long Range Planning Team will explore as we begin to set goals and objectives that will help us move forward.

· ***External connections*** – How do we build and enhance the connections we make with people outside of the church – Walk-in ministry, Day School, non-profit partners (like Urban Ministries of Durham, Habitat for Humanity, Housing for New Hope, Families Moving Forward, Step-Up Ministries, to name a few), residential and retail neighbors, visitors in worship/fellowship, inter-faith friends, support groups, choirs, NAACP, MLK Prayer Service, etc.

- **Internal connections** – How do we welcome new members, how do we care for one another, and how do we build community among our members – new member classes and programs of welcome, care teams, small groups, visitation to those who can't get to worship anymore, fellowship groups, etc.
- **Inter-racial connections** – How do we expand our welcome to all races and peoples? How do we increase our own understanding of systemic racism, white privilege, and unconscious bias? How do we build diversity in our membership and in our programming? How do we expand our relationship and build community with our sister churches, Covenant Presbyterian and Iglesia Emanuel, as well as other churches like Fisher Memorial we have had connections with in the past?
- **Christian formation** – How do we provide deep and meaningful opportunities and spaces for Christian formation and education, as well as spiritual growth and development?

These additional questions will also be explored by the Long-Range Planning Team (LRPT):

- How does our space need to be enhanced/improved/changed in order to better serve the needs named above?
- How does our staffing need to be enhanced/changed in order to better serve the needs of our ministries?

The LRPT meets every other week. Questions? Ask one of the LRPT members listed here:

Jon Abels

Jennie Alwood

Tom Bacon

Walt Barron

Jane Brown

Graham Curtis

Sharron Johnson

Leslie McDow

Carl Rist

Karen Romines

[**Emily Diy** is also on the team but has been on maternity leave. She will be returning soon.]

Stewardship highlights:

- Over 4% increase in pledge total!
- 180 pledges received, average pledge was \$4,938.
- 110 people increased their pledge this year.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship of God's gifts. We believe that everything we have is a gift from God and our gratitude overflows. We give back our time, talents, and resources as a response of gratitude for what we have been given and a desire to be the church – in our worship, our education, and our love of God and neighbor. **Thank you** for your generosity and faithfulness which support the ministries God has called us to provide to this faith community as well as the downtown Durham and global community around us.

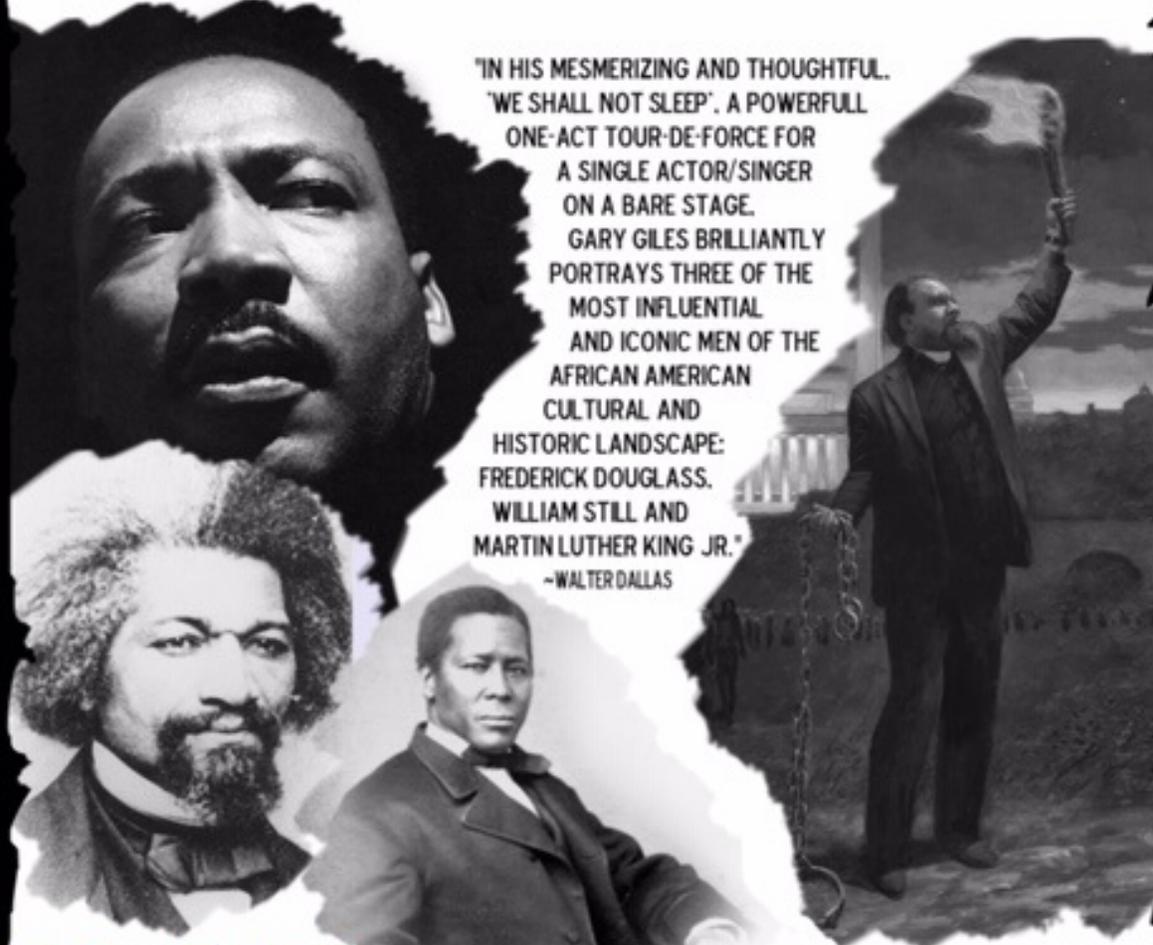
THE MODERN GRIOT PRODUCTIONS

PRODUCED, CREATED, AND PERFORMED BY GARY GILES

We Shall

NOT SLEEP

THE VOICES OF OUR ANCESTORS



"IN HIS MESMERIZING AND THOUGHTFUL, 'WE SHALL NOT SLEEP', A POWERFULL ONE-ACT TOUR-DE-FORCE FOR A SINGLE ACTOR/SINGER ON A BARE STAGE. GARY GILES BRILLIANTLY PORTRAYS THREE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND ICONIC MEN OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE: FREDERICK DOUGLASS, WILLIAM STILL AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR." -WALTER DALLAS

Sunday, March 24
3 PM - First Presbyterian Church
A love offering will be received.

Gary Giles
267-307-4927
garygiles20@gmail.com

From the Associate Pastor

Dear Friends,

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the thoughtful daily meditations for Lent contributed by a variety of our church members this year. And I am thankful to **John Weicher** for assembling those for us. I have been challenged by some, surprised by some, moved and comforted by some. It has been a wonderful way to expand our Sunday "liturgy", which means "work of the people", past Sunday and into the week. It helps open our eyes to the many Lenten moments where God is at work in our world.

I happened to notice one such moment when I was exiting the sanctuary during

the week. I stopped to read the names of the random people who have signed the registry just outside the door in the foyer. One name on the list was: **David Bryant**. And the address that he listed was: Street. I'm so glad that David comes in his wheelchair to worship with us on so many Sunday mornings. His presence challenges me, surprises me, and moves me in ways that I expect Jesus would approve.

Continued Blessings for a Meaningful Lent,
Marilyn



The sanctuary is open on Tuesdays from 12 noon - 12:30 p.m during Lent for anyone who wishes to come and engage with others in prayer and guided meditation.

Sunday, March 24 **3rd Sunday in Lent**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship, Baptism, and Communion
John Weicher, preaching

Remember to bring your blessing bags or supplies on Sundays during Lent.

Liturgist: **Amy Wilson**

Narthex Greeter: **Chris Williams**

After Worship Greeters: **Kim Abels** (narthex/rear);

George Bernhardt (side/font)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **TBD** (flowers), **Mary-Jo Keenan** (counter),

John Mozart, El Hess

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

Communion Elders:

Alice Raney (head, replenish elements)

Bread: **Cris Rivera** (B1/process), **Dewey Lawson** (B2), **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** (B3), **George Bernhardt** (B4)

Cup: **Jane Wettach** (C1), **Sigfried Fullenkamp** (C2/process), **Diane Prosser** (C3), **Leah Graves** (C4)

Shepherds: **Brent Curtis** (font aisle), **Gray Wilson** (center aisle), **Libby Gulley** (pulpit aisle)

Sunday, March 31

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Confirmation Sunday

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching

Remember to bring blessing bags or supplies on Sundays during Lent.

Liturgists: **Confirmands**

Narthex Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey**

After Worship Greeters: **Barbara Buckley** (narthex/rear);

Carol Carson (side/font)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (Head), **TBD** (flowers), **TBD** (counter), **Katy Barron**
Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Communion Elders:

Head elder/replenish elements: **Kim Abels**

Bread: **Karen Romines** (B1, process), **Tom Bacon** (B2), **Delia Kwon**
(B3), **Jane Wettach** (B4)

Cup: Chris Brown(C1), **Lenore Champion** (C2, process), **Alice Raney** (C3),
Andy Henry (C4)

Shepherds: **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** (center aisle), **Carol Carson** (pulpit
aisle), **Griffin Momsen-Hudson** (font aisle)

SUNDAY SCHOOL and other study opportunities

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! March is upon us and so is Lent. So, beginning in March, we will begin to look at Lenten practices leading up to Easter, including making Ukranian Easter Eggs, which is an intensive (but beautiful) three-week process. The class meets in **room 201** of the education building at 9:45. (Bring friends and join us!)

Adult "Faith & Community" -

After watching the fabulous PBS documentary, *Howard Thurman: Backs Against the Wall*, we are continuing our Lenten study of Thurman's seminal work, *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Howard Thurman (1900 -1981) was an African American author, philosopher, theologian, mystic, and social justice leader, whose theology of radical nonviolence shaped, and still shapes, many civil rights leaders. On **March 24**, **Steve Rimmer** will lead a discussion of chapter 2, which begins to address what Thurman has labeled the "three hounds of hell": fear, deception, and hate. Then on **March 31** our guest presenter will be **Joe Harvard**, who will wrap up the three obstacles and focus on love. In writing his book to provide succor and strength from Jesus to those who needed it most, Thurman says, "Armed resistance is apt to be a tragic last resort in the life of the disinherited. ... Jesus chose another alternative: The kingdom of heaven is in us." (p. 15) All are welcome to join this class discussion. We meet on Sunday mornings in Watts-Hill

Hall at 9:45.

Adult Lectionary Class -

March 24: The Lord is a God of justice, so it is urgent that we repent. The Lord is a God of mercy, so our repentance will bring forgiveness. Is there a conflict between the threat and the promise? "Let the unrighteous return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them." Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

March 31: It is hard enough for us to forgive one another. How is it possible that God, whom we have offended much more seriously, will forgive us? That kind of extravagant forgiveness seems almost unfair.

Adult Journeys & Scratch - This weekend Journeys/Scratch will discuss the Flannery O'Connor story "Good Country People" and will discuss "Revelations" the following weekend. Both stories are available in PDF format on the internet. Many O'Connor stories have been referenced as examples of Walter Brueggemann's Prophetic Imagination. Although not required for engaging in this discussion, some people might find the following article instructive on relating O'Connor and Brueggemann: "Flannery O'Connor's Prophetic Imagination," by Karl Martin (Religion & Literature, Vol. 26, No. 3 (Autumn, 1994), pp. 33-58): https://www.jstor.org/stable/40059594?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents (you can read 4 articles from JSTOR without subscribing). All are welcome to join this class which meets on Sunday mornings 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 Thoughtful Christian - This class uses *The Thoughtful Christian* study guides. It meets in the **apartment classroom**, upstairs in the church house at 9:45. It is designed for parents of children and youth. **Mindy Douglas** leads this class. New faces are welcome.

Friday Book Study – The Friday Book Study welcomes all who want to journey through Lent using Howard Thurman's classic work, *Jesus and the Disinherited*. This Friday, March 22, we take a look at chapter 2, *Fear*; and next Friday, March 29, we'll talk about chapter 3, *Deception*. We will also take a look at some of Thurman's beautiful devotional writings. The class meets from noon - 1 p.m. in room 205 of the education building, and all are welcome.



The days are surely coming (soon) when we will complete our Confirmation journey together! Our meeting with the Session over dinner is tonight from 6-7:00 p.m., and Confirmation in worship takes place on **March 31** with a reception to

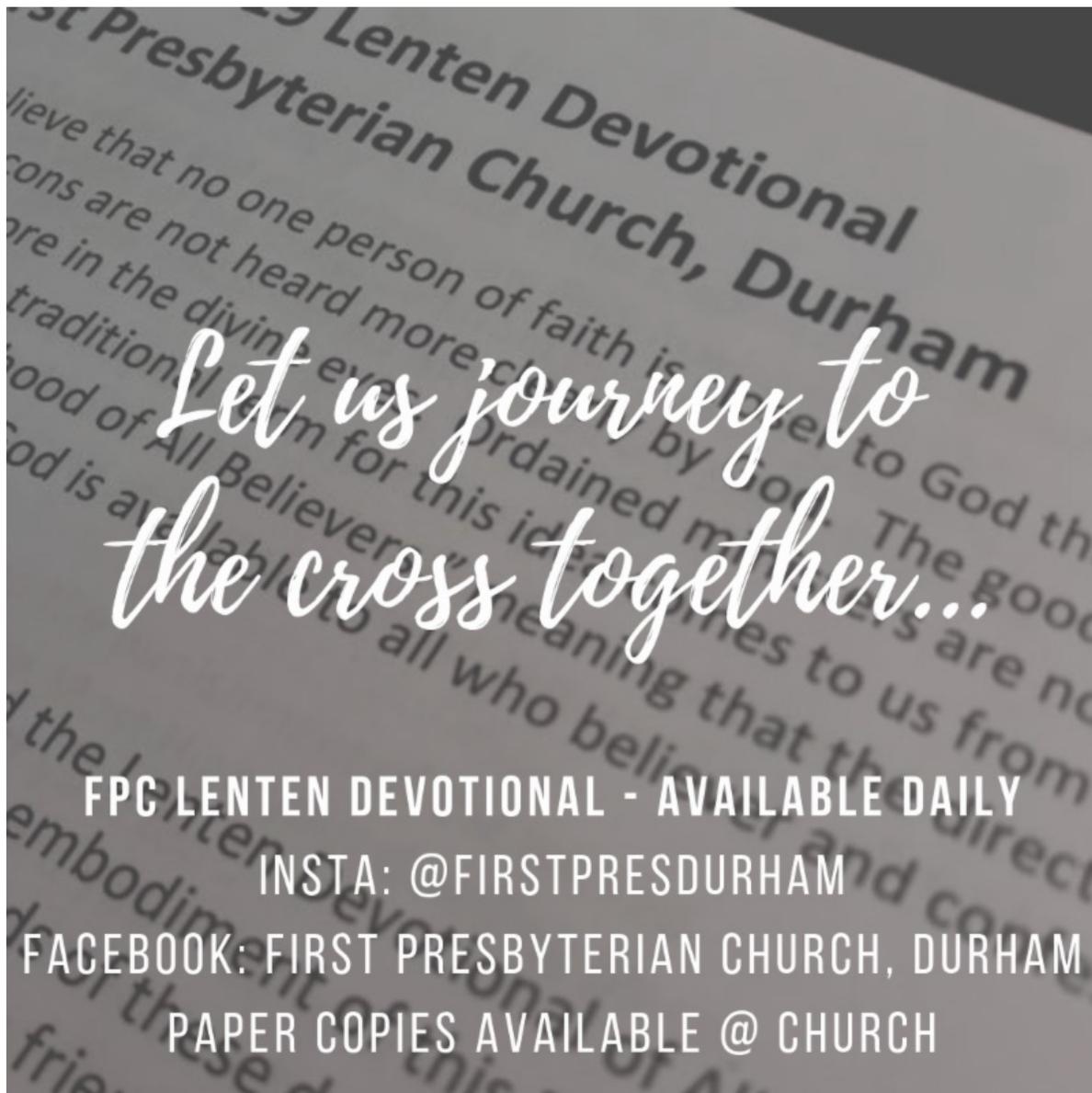
welcome these new members following worship. Confirmands and mentors are invited to wear their “faith word t-shirts” to both the dinner meeting and for confirmation Sunday.

This past Sunday we talked about being elected for service and salvation, and what that looks like. Some of the class members penned condolence notes to our friends at Masjid Ar Razzaq (where we visited in the fall), following last week’s terrible shooting at two Mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. We also talked about the dynamite youth from Sweden, Greta Thunberg, who at age 16, is unabashedly bold in confronting the world about global warming and climate change. **For our last two Sunday’s we’ll continue to flesh out our New Creed for worship on March 31, and expand our vocabulary of faith-words as we watch a few more of the thought-provoking *Theoacademy* videos.** Please contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you have any questions.



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

Click [here](#) to view the High School



Scratch / Young Adults Lenten Study
Sundays, March 10 - April 7

Scratchers and young adults are invited to come enjoy tea and study the Gospel of Matthew during this Lenten season. This study is hosted by **Elizabeth Klinck and Matthew Eggleston** (2210 Sparger Road, Durham) from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Contact Elizabeth for more information: elizabeth.klinck@gmail.com or 919-530-0664.

FPC Officers - Monday, March 25

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m

Officers' Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Session at 7:00 p.m.

Committee chairs are reminded to post your reports to the Google drive and get your agenda items to **Christyn Klinck** as soon as possible. Thank you.



Supplies Needed for College Care Packages

The Pastoral Care Committee is assembling care packages for our college students for the spring semester exam period. You are invited to support this project by bringing in items for the packages: **gum, hot chocolate, microwave popcorn, hard candy, granola bars, fruit snacks, puzzles or joke books etc.** Please place your donations in the basket provided at the Mission Collection Center in the foyer by Palm Sunday.

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

Tuesday, March 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Neo-China Restaurant

4015 University Drive

(919-489-2828)

Make reservations with *Harriett Mitchell*: 919-489-3839.

FIRST FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

- Fellowship gathering (just for fun): **March 30** at *Barbara Buckley* and *Scott Randell's* home - watch for the EVITE
- **April 27** at the home of *Jane Wettach and Paul Baldasare*
- **May 18** at *Jancy Johnstone's* home on the lake

PRIMETIMERS COVERED DISH SUPPER

Save the Date: Saturday, April 13

6:30 p.m. at the Widmark's home

SENIORS SPRING LUNCHEON

Save the Date: Wednesday, April 17

12 Noon (gather at 11:30 a.m.)

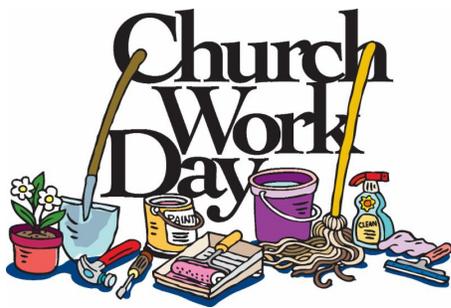
More details forthcoming!

SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS - Save the dates!

- **April 13** - 10:30 a.m. (Saturday) - **Henry** home (Palm Cross folding)
- **April 26-27** - (Easy) Campout at Camp New Hope. Click [here](#) for the camping details. Remember to respond to the EVITE.



Landscaping and grounds workdays for March and April: **Saturdays, March 30 and April 6.** You can show up to help anytime between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Please contact **Barbara Buckley** if you want to know about the work to be done: bjbuckley1@frontier.com.

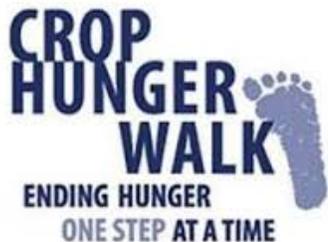


Spring Day of Service Saturday, April 6

The **Service and Mission Committee** is planning several opportunities to serve with other FPC folks during a planned day of service

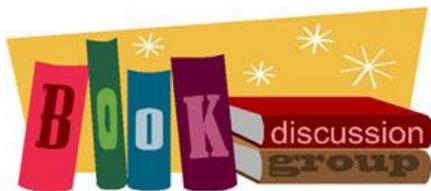
- Landscaping Workday on FPC Grounds led by **Barbara Buckley**
- Cleaning/Organizing FPC Building Interior led by **Andy Henry**
- Dallas Street Home repair and painting workday led by **Tyler Momsen-Hudson**
- Blessing Bag and Toiletry Kit Assembly led by Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- Other opportunities TBA

Additional information and sign up details are available after church on Sunday mornings. To help organize contact Tyler at tylermmh@embarqmail.com



**The 45th Durham
CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, April 7**
Step off at 2:30 p.m.
from Duke Chapel
Activities begin at 1:30
on the Chapel lawn

Not able to walk this year? Support FPC's team by sponsoring a walker. Please make checks payable to Durham Crop Walk and give to the person you are sponsoring. For more information about this event, go to: <http://durhamcropwalk.org/the-walk/>. To sign up to walk and/or make a donation to an FPC walker, go online to: <https://goo.gl/6S4VcN>. You can also sign up in the foyer on Sundays after worship. Contact **Jody Maxwell**, FPC's coordinator, if you have questions: jodymaxwell3@hotmail.com or 919-640-6126.



BOOK GROUP

***** Rescheduled to Tuesday, April 9*****

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.

Coming This Summer: GBCFF



(Great Big Church Family Festival)

Sunday evenings from 5:30 – 7:30, June 9th, July 7th and August 4th. FPC will host the June event; Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, July; and Mt. Bethel Presbyterian, August. **GBCFF this year will be geared towards service projects that we can do together as a family, young and old.** So, if

your youth needs summer service hours, they can acquire those by helping prepare for the evening and participating in the event (perhaps 3 hours of service per event). We will eat dinner together, as is our custom, and we'll share a Bible story and sing some songs. But most of the time we will be working on an array of service projects, like: preparing hurricane kits; making and packing lunches for Urban Ministries and Open Table; making blessing bags; gathering supplies for our Armed Forces; packing backpacks with school supplies; etc. So the \$10/\$30 cost covers dinner, plus supplies for the projects.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS



CAN Delegates' Assembly
Thursday, March 21
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Monument of Faith

(900 Simmons Street, Durham)
The focus will be on jobs and living wages. There will be testimonies from listening sessions of those who need jobs

or who need a living wage, an introduction of our vision of shared prosperity through local hiring and living wages, ratification of commitments from various local employers and government officials (Mayor/City Council, GoTriangle, DHA, Durham Tech, Duke) to increase hiring, training, and/or paying of living wages, and a celebration of employers who pay a living wage in Durham. **We hope to have 25 people from FPC attend this meeting.**

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

INVITATION FROM THE NC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Registration is now open for our 2019 Legislative Seminar to be held at North Raleigh UMC on Thursday, March 28. Our legislative seminar occurs every other year as the General Assembly begins their legislative long session. It offers the opportunity to hear updates on issues being discussed at the General Assembly, network with others who share your concerns, and learn how you can make a difference. More information about the seminar, as well as registration information can be [found here](#) and on the NC Council of Church's website (nccchurches.org/2019seminar).

Open Table Ministry's Free Store needs volunteers!

Would you like to help give away clothing and other practical items to Durham's homeless community? Open Table Ministry's Free Store needs volunteers to do just that. Shifts run from 9:15-11:45 Tuesday and Thursday mornings--commit to as many or as few shifts as you'd like. Training will be provided. Contact Deb Rentfrow at dero813@aol.com to learn more.

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.**

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 or margaretmr29@gmail.com.

The next church newsletter will be issued on Tuesday, April 2.

Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office

by Sunday, March 31.

[March 2019 Birthdays](#)

[April 2019 Birthdays](#)

[Online Church Calendar](#)



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