FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice" FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

April 30 - May 13, 2019

From the Pastor/Head of Staff:

Dear friends,

As the beginning of my sabbatical approaches, I want to make sure you are all informed about how things will work while I am away. To begin with, the sabbatical will be from May 19, 2019 to August 19, 2019. The theme of our Lily clergy renewal grant is "Breaking Down the Dividing Walls: Truth-telling, Reparations, and Racial Equity." While I am away, you will also explore this theme as a part of your summer together (see below).

My schedule:

- May 12 kickoff after church at Mother's Day luncheon
- **May 19-28** Israel/Palestine trip with NEXT Church (a PC(USA) grassroots organization)
- June 8-25 Montreat/Black Mountain/Cullowhee (for rest, reading, interviews, and research)
- July 1-20 South Africa/Zambia
- August 8-12 Montgomery, AL (dates tentative)

All unspecified time will be spent in Durham visiting churches of color, reading, writing, researching, and meeting with scholars, colleagues, and those working in the area of racial reconciliation in Durham.

Your schedule:

- June 22 (tentative date) A **trip to the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro**. This trip will be by train and will include a meal together and conversation around our shared history and our future together.
- June 9-August 18 Congregational book read and weekly Sunday School class *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. The class will end with a panel discussion on August 18.

Additional staffing (paid for by grant funds)

• **Cheryl Henry** – increase in staff time of 10 hours/week Cherrie will plan and implement the trip to the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro; coordinate with **Jane Williams, Kathy Krahenbuhl, Jon Abels** and others for the summer book read and Sunday School class on Just *Mercy*; plan for end of summer panel discussion leaders for Just Mercy class; attend to administrative tasks and meetings as required; give pastoral care as needed.

• **Mary Berry** – Mary will give 3-5 hours of pastoral care/week when she is available

• Administrative/Clerical (actively interviewing)– 10-20 weeks This person will assist Tom and Valerie with administrative work throughout the summer. While I am away, Associate Pastor *Marilyn Hedgpeth* will act as head of staff. She will moderate the session and the staff will report to her. She will take the lead in pastoral care of the congregation and coordinate this care with **Sam Miglarese, Cherrie Henry, and Mary Berry**. Worship leadership and newsletter article responsibilities will be shared among the pastoral staff. This is not a new role for her, as she served as acting head of staff twice during the three-year interim period between the time Joe retired and I was called to be your pastor. She knows you and loves you and I am grateful for her leadership during this sabbatical season.

Guest preachers (also provided through the grant):

June 30—**Nora Tisdale**. Nora recently retired as Professor of Homiletics at Yale Divinity School and moved with her husband Alfred to Durham, NC to be near family. She also served on the faculty of Princeton Seminary, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary in NYC. She is the author or editor of numerous books on preaching. This past year, she joined FPC as an active participant in worship, fellowship events, and the Prime Timers fellowship group;

July 7 –**Joe Harvard** – I think you might know this guy! He was the Pastor/Head of Staff at FPC from 1980-2013 and is now Pastor Emeritus. He is a known leader fighting poverty and injustice in Durham (and beyond). He is a friend, colleague, and mentor to many.

July 21 – Jimmie Hawkins – Many of you know him, too! He is the Director of the Presbyterian Office for Public Witness in Washington, DC. He is the former pastor (for 15 years) at our sister church, Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham. He is also a friend, colleague, and mentor to many.

July 28 – Jennifer Copeland – Jennifer is the Executive Director of the NC Council of Churches (I serve as board president with her) and an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. She has her Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke.

August 4 – Mary Berry – Mary is an active member in worship and the Scratch group at FPC and preached for our Advent series in 2017. She graduated from Duke Divinity School in May 2017 and is working on her Ph.D. in Hebrew Scripture at Duke.

Associate Pastors Marilyn Hedgpeth, John Weicher, and Sam Miglarese will preach on the remaining Sundays.

Upon my return, we will plan a **dinner and presentation** based on our combined sabbatical experiences.

This is a great deal of information, but you still might have questions. Feel free to contact me by phone, email, or in person if you would like to know more. I will write one more newsletter article before I leave, so I will try to share with you any additional information at that time.

Friends in Christ, I am excited about the ways we will grow and be challenged this summer. May God be with us all! Grace and peace,

Mindy

P.S. When I accepted the call to come to FPC, I gave up a sabbatical I had scheduled for the summer of 2016. I started here in May 2016 and therefore lost that planned sabbatical. The search committee agreed to move my sabbatical at FPC up so that it would occur after 3 years rather than after 5.



Memorial Service: A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held for *Bob Velkey*, husband of *Mickey Velkey* and father of *Beth Brockman*, on **Saturday, May 18 at 11:00 a.m. at FPC.** The family will receive friends at a reception in Watts-Hill Hall following the service.

Added this week:

Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams **Bob Warren**, father of Dawn Carsey **Heath Huberg**, friend of Kathy Parkins

Recovering at Home:

Margaret Mubanga Joseph Ngumi Franzi Rokoske (and her mother) 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 the Congregation:

Tia Allen, friend of the Walk-in Ministry Fran Alwood, mother of Jennie Alwood Bill Bigger, pastor of Hope Valley Baptist Church, Durham, in hospice care Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss Camilla Crampton, friend of Mal King Patrick Kimiti, friend of Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett in Kenya Don Smith, recovering from the recent gas explosion near Brightleaf Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

> Cathy and César Guajardo 31 Davisson Dr Durham NC 27705 Landline: 919-384-2131 (in the Croasdaile Village retirement community)

Lanny Pratt 306 S 9th Ave W



Lake Mills, IA 50450 Mobile: 919-730-8074 <u>lwpratt2@gmail.com</u>

Click <u>here</u> for instructions on loading the ChurchLife App (online directory & calendar for member access only) to your smart phone.



NOTES

Many **thanks to all the deacons**, **elders, and others** who brought bagged lunches on Monday to feed our public school children May 1st while their teachers join the Rally for Education in Raleigh. FPC's bagged lunches will be going to feed students at Merrick-Moore Elementary and Watts Elementary in Durham. *Katy Barron* organized this year's food drive, and she says: "The social workers at both schools were very grateful for the food bags. They said the "babies" and their parents would also be grateful ... Please convey my gratitude to the elders and deacons for making it so easy to support

our public schools this year."

Many thanks to the following who hosted fellowship events during the month of April:

- *Cherrie and Andy Henry*, who hosted a **Scratch (Young Adults)** Brunch and Palm Cross Folding event in their home on April 13;
- Andy and Ginny Widmark, who hosted a **Primetimers'** Covered Dish Supper in their home on April 13;
- *Libby and Dub Gulley*, who hosted a screening and discussion of *Slavery by Another Name* in their home on April 20.

Our **heartfelt thanks to the Scratch Fellowship group** who lead as liturgist in worship on Sunday. We are especially thankful to: *Bert Clere, Matt Cline, Kristin Meade, Michael Schultz, Heather Wallace, Chris Williams, and Amy Wilson*. Thank you to Scratch who enlivened our worship last week and enlivens our community every week.

Letter of Support from Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center

With Allah's Name, the Merciful Benefactor, the Merciful Redeemer As Salaamu' Alaikum (Peace be Upon You),

Dear Friend of Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center,

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, we are sadden and our hearts are heavy as we continue to witness the hate and evil in our Country today, most recently the hate crime near San Diego on our Jewish Brothers and Sisters, and the barbaric terrorist attack that took place in Sri Lanka on our Christian Brothers and Sisters at their sacred places of worship during their most sacred day of worship.

The Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center condemns in the strongest terms these vicious, hateful, and barbaric attacks on our fellow brothers and sisters in faith. We also condemn the murder of the innocent civilians who were killed at the hotels in Sri Lanka during that horrific attack on human life.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an, Chapter 5, Verse 32: "Whoever kills a soul, except for justice, it is as if you have killed all of humanity, and whoever saves a soul it is as if you have saved all of humanity."

Those responsible for the Sri Lanka attack are falsely claiming to be Muslims. Nothing in Al Islam supports such vicious and barbaric acts of violence. There is absolutely nothing in the life of Prophet Muhammed that advocates the killing of innocent people.

Our prayers today are with the souls of the deceased and our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of the victims in both San Diego and Sri Lanka. We join with you in prayer for all the victims and their families. We ask G-d to envelop the love ones left behind with his mercy and comfort in this time of extreme difficulty and heighten stress. And as one of our Sunday school students, age 12 voiced today, "I pray that we can live and worship in peace together." We ask our friends and neighbors to pray for all communities of faith to be protected from the evil and hate we are witnessing in the world today. We join with you in the stand against hate and for peace, and we ask that all right minded Muslims condemn such terrorism and all forms of hatred we are witnessing in the world today. And, I thank you in advance for keeping us in your prayers as we enter our most sacred month, the month of Ramadan.

Sending prayers, peace and love to our fellow Brothers and Sisters in faith. Imam Rashad & the Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center Community 1009 West Chapel Hill Street

Durham NC 27701 grashad@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

George and I have both been reading *Beyond the Offering Plate*, a compilation of essays edited by Mindy's friend Adam Copeland at the Center for Stewardship Leaders. We had the pleasure of meeting Adam at Montreat's Stewardship Retreat last year, and since then we have intentionally widened our focus as a committee to include a more holistic view of stewardship, one beyond finances, and even beyond time and talent. But baby steps. We plan to include links to blog posts from the *Center for Stewardship Leaders* here in the newsletter, and we invite you to engage with them, discuss with us, see how they speak or don't speak to you. This recent one from



Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia resonated with me as a student of non-extractive economies and intersectionality: "As long as we continue to engage in the offering as merely a financial ask for the church's vitality, we disregard the call to discipleship that requires us to see money and possessions as a disruptive force for change in ourselves and the world." - *Follow link to more.*

(The site also has lots of traditional stewardship articles on tithing as well.)

A little housekeeping: If you are remitting your pledge via automatic payment (e,g, credit card, bank draft, or billpay), please check to make sure your payment information is current. We encourage you to check your quarterly statement to make certain that all is as you planned.

-Cris Rivera and George Bernhardt, Stewardship Committee



BEGINNING this Sunday, May 5... A series of three **Membership Inquiry Classes** begin this Sunday, May 5, from 9:45 – 10:45 in the Wilson Parlor. If you have been visiting for some time or are actively searching for a church home, the class will address your questions and curiosity about

First Presbyterian Church. It is our hope that you will learn a few things about the history, ministry and mission of FPC, and make some friends along the way. We do not require anyone to take these classes before joining; rather you are welcome to join at any time. Just let one of the pastors know, and we will make that happen. Sunday School and a nursery are available for your children while you are in class, or you may bring them with you. Teachers for this series will be *Marilyn Hedgpeth, Sam Miglarese*, and *David Smith*.



Wills Sunday, May 5, 2019

How can you express faithful stewardship for your family and others? By preparing an estate plan

that protects your wishes and provides for those you love. If you are like the majority of American families, you have probably postponed the important step of planning your estate. Let Sunday, May 5th be a reminder to prepare, so that your final act on earth is one of good stewardship. What Christian legacy do you wish to leave to the world? **Olanda Carr**, the Presbyterian Foundation's Ministry Relations Officer who serves the East Region, will be with us. in worship. He will give a Minute for Mission on including the Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.

Sunday, May 5 Third Sunday of Easter

9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Membership Inquiry Class 11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion *Mindy Douglas*, preaching Remember to bring your blessing bag supplies or ready-made bags on this communion Sunday.

Liturgist: *Carl Rist* Narthex Greeter: *Delia Kwon* After Worship Greeters: *Leah Graves* (narthex/rear); *Delia Kwon* (side/font) *Click <u>here</u> to sign up to usher.* **Communion elders: TBD**

Sunday, May 12 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Membership Inquiry Class 11:00 a.m. Worship

Following worship, families who made a meal reservation will take part in our **annual Mother's Day Luncheon**. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal. All are welcome.

Liturgist: TBD Narthex Greeter: *Maxie Honeycutt, El Hess* After Worship Greeters: **TBD** *Click <u>here</u> to sign up to usher.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL and other study opportunities

Children's Sunday School (grades 3-6)

After Easter, we will continue our new rotation model of Sunday School, which will allow our $3^{rd} - 6^{th}$ graders opportunities to experience the foundational stories from the Old Testament about the prophets, exile and return through drama, art, games, LEGOS, music, cooking, gardening, etc. Should be great fun for the students and for the teaching teams! The class meets in room 201 of the CE Building at 9:45. (Bring friends and join us!)

What's next for the confirmands? High schoolers will join the on-going Sunday School class taught by *John Weicher and Emily Hansel*, and middle schoolers (and 5th graders) will meet in the youth room with *Lucie and Wayne House (and Eloise), Lenore Champion* and *Kim Abels.* Let's keep a good thing going!

Adult "Faith & Community" -

We will be wrapping up the school year the way that we started: with *Love Letters* of *Faith*. For the four Sundays in May we will share epistles and stories from Flannery O'Connor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (from prison), and poet Mary Oliver, who recently died in January. This Sunday, **May 5**, we welcome the Journeys/Scratch class, who will lead us in a discussion of some of the works of Flannery O'Connor. Then on **May 12**, *Mac McCorkle* will begin a series of two on the letters of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, which *Robert Brawley* will conclude on **May 19**. The New Testament is mostly letters, so it is important that we pay attention to this medium as a vehicle of the holy. The class meets at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall, and all are welcome.

Adult Lectionary Class -

May 5: A voice speaks with authority, and whether its message is mundane ("Cast your nets on the other side of the boat") or accusing ("Why do you persecute me?"), something in the voice makes us listen and obey. Have you ever heard that voice? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

May 12: Last week Peter was commanded to "tend my sheep." What kind of care and protection do the sheep need? Have you experienced the care of a good shepherd?

Adult Journeys & Scratch -

Journeys and Scratch will lead the Faith and Community Sunday school class on **May 5th** on the Christian themes of Flannery O'Connor short stories, especially as they relate to Walter Brueggemann's concept of the prophetic imagination. Participants are encouraged to read the O'Connor short story "Revelation" -- a PDF version of this story is available on the internet.

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 (and now Eastertide) using Howard Thurman's classic work, *Jesus and the Disinherited*. This **Friday, May 3**, we will meet from **noon** – **1 p.m.** to complete the last chapter of the book on *Love*. Then we will discuss plans for the summer and suggestions for study in the fall. All are welcome to join us. We meet on the second floor of the education building.





HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL Sundays in April & May, 9:45-10:45 am Snacks Provided, Former Confirmands Welcome

Updated Sprin<mark>g 2019</mark> Youth Group C<mark>alenda</mark>r

First Presbyterian Church, Durham

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP Crop Walk (All-Church)

Cookie Baking for Collegians Happy Easter! (No Youth Group) **Prayer Walk Farm Church** Mystery Adventure & Welcome 5th Graders

4:30-6:30P, usually April 7, 1:30-4:15 pm April 14 April 21 April 28 May 5

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Crop Walk (All-Church) **Cookie Baking for Collegians** Happy Easter! (No Youth Group) **Prayer Walk** Senior Banquet **Kickball vs. Young Adults** & Welcome 8th Graders 24-Hour Sabbath Beach Retreat 6-8 pm, usually April 7, 1:30-4:15 pm

May 12

April 14 April 21 April 28 May 5 May 12 @ Momsen-Hudsons May 18, Noon to May 19, Noon

MIDWEEK MORNING MEAL (HS) Starbucks, 3801 Guess Rd. Holy Week (No MMM) Joe Van Gogh, 4711 Hope VIIy Rd. Parker & Otis, 112 S. Duke St.

Satrbucks Joe Van Gogh Parker & Otis Starbucks

8-8:45 am

April 9 April 16 April 23 April 30 May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28

Friends Welcome Jesus Loves You Dinner Provided



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM

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Middle School Sunday School is starting! Teachers: Lucie & Wayne House, Lenore Champion & Kim Abels Sundays this spring - April 7-June 2 In the Youth Room, 9:45-10:45 am









GROUNDS WORKDAY Saturday, May 11 from 9:00 a.m. -Noon

The work coordinator is *Barbara Buckley* (bjbuckley1@frontier.com or 919-402-8551), so please contact her to find out more about the work to be performed.



WOMEN

Circle, Bible Study, and Spring Social *** **Date Changed to Monday, May 13** *** Circle and Bible study will be held in the East Parlor followed by lunch in Watts-Hill Hall. This is our last meeting until the fall. Please come!

> **BOOK GROUP** Tuesday, May 14



7:00 p.m. at the home of Marila Stone 111 Westside Drive (Southern Village), Chapel Hill

Mary Kay Robinson will lead a discussion on How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression and Transcendence by Michael Pollan. Please RSVP to Marila so she will know how many to plan for.



FIRST FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

May 18 Potluck at *Jancy Johnstone's* home on Lake Orange in Hillsborough Watch for the EVITE with details!

The next **Parents' Night Out** will take place **Sunday, May 19**, from 4:45 – 6:15 p.m. Children

will get to meet "the robot" and the brains behind it, *Sigfried Fullenkamp*. We will eat a light dinner and play outside if the weather is good. Parents will slip away down the street for some burgers, refreshments and fellowship together. Let *Marilyn Hedgpeth* know if you are able to join us.

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. The \$10/\$30 cost covers dinner, plus supplies for the projects. On FPC's night to host, we will have 25 guests joining us from the Light House Raleigh Muslim community joining us in service. During these days of sectarian violence, this is a great time to practice and model neighbor love as we serve together. I know well that you will greet them warmly and weave them into the activities of the evening with great hospitality. So, please mark these dates on your calendars, and plan to join us for dinner and service at this summer's GBCFF. Stay tuned for registration information, which will be on-line. -Marilyn Hedgpeth

Sunday Worship Host Volunteers

In coordination with the Session, the Emergency Management Team is looking for volunteers to serve as a Sunday Worship Host in the Main Street entrance (narthex) of the church on Sunday mornings **<u>during worship</u>**.

The primary responsibility of these volunteers will be to direct any

latecomers entering the Main Street doors into worship and to serve as a host during worship for visitors that may need help locating the water fountain and additional restrooms. Training will be provided for volunteers in how to address different questions and situations that may come up while in the narthex and also how to assist visitors that may not wish to participate in worship.

The volunteer commitment would be six-to-nine Sundays during the year and the volunteer training.

If you would like to volunteer for this position or have questions, please contact Chris Brown by phone (919-972-1358) or e-mail (*jamesbro@gmail.com*).



Calling all graduates!

FPC will recognize graduates again this year with a special bulletin insert in June. If you or someone in your family or household is graduating from **college or high school** this spring, help us share the good news. Please submit your graduate's information to *Valerie McMillian* in the church office by email:

v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org or leave the details in Valerie's mailbox at the church. **The deadline for graduate information is May 24.**

New Monthly Social Event: Winesdays at the Co-op!

A few of us FPC fellowshippers have been gathering at the Durham Co-op Market for their regular wine tasting events at the kind invitation of *Cris Rivera*. We've been having so much fun hanging out together that we want to make it a monthly "thing," open to any and all! Join us in sharing wine and breaking bread in a more casual setting!

- Cost is \$3 for wine tasting and then we each usually pitch in on an assortment of bread, cheese and other light dinner snacks to share.
- We usually eat outside which is lovely, weather permitting.
- Email or text *Laurie Williamson* if you have interest in joining us: *laurie@laurieandmatt.com*, 919-724-1682

<u>Co-op website and info here</u> <u>Get directions here</u>

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

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

Wonderful things are happening at our sister church, **Iglesia Emanuel**! Come join us for a very special dinner celebration and learn about ways you can be involved and help support their unique and impactful ministry in our community. See *flyer*. Questions or to RSVP contact *Margaret Rubiera* - *margaretmr29@gmail.com*

Babysitting Event - Saturday, May 4 sponsored by a local Girl Scout Troop

Take time for yourself to relax, do errands, exercise or go out to dinner!

Girl Scout Troop 450 (10th graders, including FPC's own *Eleanor Cole* and *Annabelle Brown*) is raising money for a camping trip in the North Carolina Mountains this June.

Location: **Pilgrim United Church of Christ on Academy Road** Time slots: **12:30 - 3:30 p.m.** <u>or</u> **4:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Ages: **6 months to 8 years. Max of 10 children per session**.

The troop has 6 Red Cross Babysitting and First Aid certified babysitters ready to watch your children! They have planned activities appropriate for each age group.

They will be supervised throughout by FPC's *MargEva Cole* and her co-leader, *Kim Wheaton*.

Cost is \$30 for 3 hours, only adding \$5 for each additional child in the family.

Please email MargEva at *margevacole@gmail.com* or call 919-971-4717 if interested or if you have more questions!



Please join us for SONAM's Late Spring Concert benefiting LEAP! Sunday, May 5 3:00 p.m. in FPC's sanctuary

All proceeds benefit *LEAP*, which seeks to advance dual-language literacy for Latino children in the Triangle community. The concert will feature music of great Spanish-speaking poets and composers from the Renaissance to modern times. You'll hear works by Victoria, Lauridsen, Whitacre, de Silva, and more! To see

the full program, *visit our upcoming concert page*. We hope you'll join us!



elsewhere online at wcomfm.org.

TIME OUT RADIO SHOW with Bill Hendrickson Monday, May 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Luke Everett will be the guest and the subject will be "The law as an Institution." Time Out can be heard "live" in the Carrboro/Chapel Hill area on FM103.5 and

HELP FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:

Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who have lost a loved one.

Here is the schedule of speakers for the next few weeks:

May 7 Mitzi Quinn will open the small group conversations

May 14 Betsy Barton, "The Five Invitations: Thoughts on Living Fully

May 21 Amy Onstead will open the small group conversations

Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays (except for holidays) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis. We gather at 4 pm for registration, coffee, and cookies; the meeting starts at 4:30 and ends by 6.

DSA Theatre Troupe 5765 presents PETER AND THE 577 REPERENCE

by Rick Elice Music and lyrics by Wayne Barker

May 15, 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 ^{\$12} online at WWW.seatyourself.biz/dsa or \$15 at the door

Sam Henry's last Durham School of the Arts High School play,"*Peter and the Starcatcher*," is coming **May 15-18**. Sam plays a bearded nanny who is "Tight in the lips, loose in the hips, and good on a ship!" It should be fun! You can get tickets to the shows <u>here</u>.

Faith Connections on Mental Illness would like to have a representative from FPC at their monthly meetings, the second Monday of each month at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church in Chapel Hill from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. The next

meeting will be on **Monday**, **May 13**. Please contact the church office if you might be interested.

Families Moving Forward, our neighbor and partner in helping families move through homelessness to self-sufficiency, has asked First Presbyterian to sponsor our fourth Circle of Support. A Circle is about 4-8 people who agree to spend a year working with a family that is leaving FMF for permanent housing. Circle partners meet regularly with the family, helping them connect to resources and offering support as they seek to become stable and retain housing. The time commitment varies over the year, depending on the family and the number of partners. If you are interested in participating or just learning more, please contact *Lea Bingham*, *leabingham@gmail.com* or 919-358-1774.

