

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

July 9-22, 2019

From the Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families:

Dear Friends,

I had never heard the term until I went there for the first time – a “thin place.” A thin place is a location where in some strange way, it seems like the boundary between heaven and earth has rubbed thin, and God is so close you could perhaps reach out and touch the Divine with your very own hands. This has been a wonderful way for me to think about the world – a meaningful concept to put to many of meaningful experiences over the years. Perhaps you have a thin place of your own – the beach, a special mountain, a place you volunteer regularly, the sanctuary of your childhood church.

The place in which I first learned about thin places was Massanetta Springs, on the edge of Harrisonburg, Virginia. Eight of our middle schoolers, adult leader Amy Wilson, and I just returned from there after four days of their middle school conference. I have been taking youth to Massanetta for many years, and each conference is special. It remains one of my thin places. But each experience is different of course – different youth, different group dynamics, different conference leadership.

There is a particular joy when there is a mostly new group, like we had this year. FPC has been going to Massanetta for years, but six of our eight were first timers, including five rising 6th graders. So, they heard their first for-MSers-specifically keynote, sang their first theme song, did their first energizers (feel free to ask what that is in person), and were led by their first high school small group leader, or “Advocate.” (Our own **Annabelle Brown** will be one in July, like **James Compton** and **Rosa Ramirez**, before her.)

Our crew threw themselves into the experience. Our soft-spoken graduated 8th grader looked around in his small group when no one was talking and realized that it meant he ought to be breaking the ice. Our newbies made friends from different states. Two of our youngest led the way in evening conversations about faith, prayer, God and going back home again. They flew down the gigantic slip and slide on the back lawn, got their hair don'ted (the opposite of a “hairdo”), and had their face painted. They were able to play, which is one way to get out from under the pressure of middle school, and sing loudly, which is another. They got to dance. And twice a day, they walked up the big hill 30 minutes early to wait in line so they could sit in the front row for worship or keynote. (I invite you to the giant foyer bulletin board to see photos of all of this.)

Massanetta may not be their first thin place, but for many of them, this was their first experience in the thinness of that place, where the Gospel is spoken and embodied as if it were specifically for middle schoolers. Of course, it is specifically

for middle schoolers, just like it is specifically for you and for me. So rarely in a sanctuary setting with grandbabies, grandparents and everyone in between populating the pews, however, do middlers get to hear it in their own words, with their own cultural references, addressing the particular faith challenges of being 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 in the Year of Our Lord, 2019.

Each night, our last activity is “back home group,” when the church from back home (i.e., FPC, for us) gathers to share and reflect on our day and what we’ve heard. The last night, like I often do, I asked them to share where they had felt close to God during the week – or if that language didn’t make sense, what had been the most meaningful thing to them. One said closing vespers. Another said the community. A third said the keynotes. But they all said something – including Amy and me, we all said something about feeling close to God. Because God is right there, all of the time, and sometimes, things are thin enough to notice.

Grace & Peace,
John

Joys/Concerns

JOYS:

Congratulations to Joe Harvard who recently observed the 53rd anniversary of his ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in Columbia, SC.

Kora Esi Aggrey was born to **Gerald Aggrey** and his wife **Tawnee Cain** on Sunday, June 30, 2019. **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey and Kwesi Aggrey** are the proud grandparents.

CONDOLENCES:

We extend our condolences to **Cathy and César Guajardo** and family. César’s sister, **Carmen Guajardo**, died unexpectedly on June 30th in Monterey, Mexico. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:

César and Cathy Guajardo
31 Davisson Dr
Durham NC 27705.

CONCERNS:

Drew Doll, friend of FPC (Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham staff member)

Traveling mercies:

Annabelle Brown (Virginia)
Lenore Champion and Laura McDow (Indiana)
Mindy Douglas and Tim O’Brien (South Africa)
Stephanie Pavik (relocating to California)
Emily Wilkins (Puerto Rico).

Home:

Judy Arrowood
Doug Butler
Diana Carrasco
Harold Dunlap
Margaret Mubanga
Joseph Ngumi
Phyllis Supple
Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:

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

Fran Alwood, mother of Jennie Alwood
Rebecca Aysque, friend of Christy Gudaitis
Boyce Brawley, twin brother of Robert Brawley
Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss
Camilla Crampton, friend of Mal King
Dennis Hill, friend of FPC
Heath Huberg, friend of Kathy Parkins
Ngugi Mbugua, brother of Mary Gitata
Doug Neece, brother of Vernon Neece
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss
Bob Warren, father of Dawn Carsey

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR MARILYN HEDGPETH

Dear friends,

I need to ask a favor of you. Usually when our church reaches out to provide financial assistance to our neighbors, we typically use either budgeted monies from Service and Mission, or from the Walk-in Ministry budget. However, when we need to provide assistance to our own church members for rent, medical care, or food, we use money from the unrestricted **Pastors' Discretionary Fund**. That fund is now depleted, and we have some members who desperately need our help! These are not unknown members; these are people we see in worship and around the church regularly, who are having difficulty making ends meet. Housing is an issue; medical supplies and pharmaceuticals are an issue; food and transportation are on-going needs.

If you would like to contribute to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund, so we can continue to provide the on-going support of our fellow members, please make a donation to FPC, with Pastors' Discretionary indicated on the memo line. The church would greatly appreciate your help to embrace our ministry to our inner-neighbors.

Gratefully,
Marilyn

NOTES

- Many thanks to **Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield** for the “hat-trick” of serving three wonderful meals for the congregation during the month of June. They prepared the Father’s Day lunch on June 16th, the Officer’s Dinner on June 24, and the Myrtlefest Potluck on June 30th. Time to rest on their laurels, so they are taking July off for a well-deserved break. (No congregational lunch on July 21.)
- Congratulations to **Fred Callaway**, who has re-activated his membership at FPC. Fred is a native Durhamite and cradle-roll member of the church. It’s great to have him back as an active member.
- **John Weicher, Lenore Champion, Brent Curtis** and eleven high schoolers will be leaving for the Montreat Youth Conference on Sunday, July 21. Please be in prayer for them as they travel to Montreat and back for the five-day event. Youth attending: **Lily Brigman, Maddie Brigman, Kayla Champion, Charlie Kelley, Chris Baquedano, Joshua Baquedano, Diana Carrasco, Griffin Momsen-Hudson, Maryn Leonard, Sam Henry, and Matt Dickerson.**

SESSION BRIEFS from June 24, 2019 meeting

- **Peter Fish**, who serves as the church historian, brought selections of archived bulletins and other records. While Session members browsed the materials, Peter discussed some of their history, as well as the need to find appropriate and safe storage for archived records due to the susceptibility of flooding in the basement. **The Session passed a motion from the Worship and the Arts Committee to donate duplicate materials to several different institutions.**
- The **Long Range Planning Team** brought its final report to the Session, presenting their findings followed by a question-and-answer session. The Session looks forward to discussing next steps after Mindy’s return from sabbatical.
- The Session also heard reports from staff and committees; reviewed, discussed, **approved the Annual Statistical Report for 2018**; and elected **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** and **Carol Carson** to serve as delegates to the July 23, 2019 meeting of New Hope Presbytery.
- The baptism of **Brynn Leigh Ellison**, daughter of **Stephanie and Jason Ellison**, was approved for July 21, 2019, and the membership of **Fred Callaway** was reactivated. In addition, the membership of **Jamie Zehmer** was transferred to First UMC, Conover, NC; and that of **Lanny Pratt**, to First Luther Church, Alberta, MN.

Respectfully submitted,
Christyn Klinck, Clerk of Session



We’ll keep this short, being summer and all. Our committee is one of the few meeting through the summer along with Service and Mission, and anyone interested in hearing what we have planned should feel free to stop us on a Sunday and ask. For now, we’ll leave you with this from the Center of Stewardship

Leaders - “Fundraising is part of financial stewardship, yet faith formation around being a steward shapes how we acquire, regard, manage and spend what God has

entrusted to us.” This faith formation around being a steward, coupled with gratitude and the importance of relationships, is what we plan to focus on in our Sunday School classes in September. We hope you’ll join us. For more from the Center, click [here](#). - **Cris Rivera and George Bernhardt**



Sunday, July 14
15th Sunday Ordinary Time
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

As **John Weicher** spoke to so eloquently in his sermon on June 23 from Luke 9: 37-45, all of us

know what it is like to be a parent in anguish over a child who is sick in body, mind or spirit; or to be a child who is worried about a parent or sibling who is likewise broken. All of us seek the individual healing that Jesus so freely offers.

But our healing also has social dimensions: the healing of divided communities and nations; the healing of the earth; the healing of relationships; the healing of the Church; all have their place alongside the healing of our broken bodies, hurt minds and wounded hearts. Realizing our mutual brokenness, part of the worship service on **THIS SUNDAY, July 14** will be a ritual of blessing for our mutual healing. We rarely do this ritual in worship, but perhaps we should do it more often in this City of Medicine. The disciples could not heal the boy who is seized by an evil spirit, but Jesus does heal him. God’s desire is for our shalom, and God’s power is beyond our best medicines. If you have a desire for restoration to wholeness, join us in worship on July 14!

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching

Texts: Isaiah 29: 13-20 ; Mark 7: 1-20

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt, El Hess**

After Worship Greeters: **Tom Bacon** ((font/side door); **Luke Everett** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **John Mozart** (head), **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers)

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

Sunday, July 21
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism of Brynn Leigh Ellison, daughter of **Jason and Stephanie Callaway Ellison**

Jimmie Hawkins, preaching

For the past two years, Jimmie has served as Director of the PC(USA)’s Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he served as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham for 21 years. Jimmie is known as a strong advocate for justice and for speaking truth to power wherever he serves. In

addition to preaching for us on July 21, Jimmie will also lead a discussion on chapters 9 and 10 of *Just Mercy* in the Faith and Community Class at 9:45.

Texts: Jeremiah 31: 31-24; Matthew 4: 23-25 & 9: 35-38

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Alice Raney** (font/side door); **Michael Honeycutt** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **John Mozart** (head), **Katy Barron**

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



SUMMER

Sunday School

Summer Sunday School is off and running for children, youth, and adults. Children will meet upstairs in **room 208** for Storypath, an exploration of some of the best new books in children's literature with theological implications for young and old alike.

July 14 – *The Chickens Build a Wall*, by Jean-Francois Dumont. When a little hedgehog appears in the barnyard, the suspicious farm animals quickly let rumors and rhetoric overrule common sense. Heeding the bluster of the rooster, the hens build a huge wall around the henhouse, only to discover, months later, that they have walled the hedgehog in with them. Oh no! **Walt and Katy Barron** and **Thilo Fullencamp** will be facilitating this fascinating class.

July 21 – *The Visitor*, by Antja Damm. An older woman lives alone as a recluse, scared of everything outside her house. Then a little boy named Emil begins playing on her doorstep. A bond of friendship forms between the older woman and the little boy, and things begin to change. Surprise, surprise! The class will be led by **Danny Creadick** and **Celia Dickerson**.



Summer Sunday School for Adults

The Faith and Community Class - Over the summer, the Faith and Community class has been reading

Adult Lectionary Class - This summer, the Lectionary Class is taking on the challenge of stepping into Year D and exploring

and discussing together Bryan Stevenson's book, *Just Mercy*, as part of Mindy's sabbatical on "Breaking Down the Dividing Walls: Truth-telling, Reparations, and Racial Equity." Many thanks to our guest speaker on July 7th, **JaQuan McGhee**, for sharing his incredible story and showing clips from the documentary about his life, *Leaving Anacostia*.

On **July 14**, **Susan Dunlap** will facilitate a discussion of chapters 6, 7, and 8, and on **July 21**, our guest preacher, **Jimmie Hawkins**, will talk about the social witness of the PC(USA) and our stance and actions in response to issues like mass incarceration.

So keep reading! The study will conclude with a panel discussion that will include panelists from the community with knowledge of and experience with mass incarceration and the redemptive potential of justice and mercy.

Adult Journeys/Scratch and The Thoughtful Christian classes are taking a break this summer. These classes will resume in the fall.

some of the difficult texts in scripture omitted from the Revised Common Lectionary. Please join them in the East Parlor at 9:45.

July 14: A familiar tradition can be comforting and reassuring, but what if it loses its original meaning? "Why are we still doing this?" Isaiah condemned the people's empty worship as "a human commandment learned by rote," and Jesus said of the religious leaders, "for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God."

July 21: What is the foundation of our faith? Do we believe because of the words of a powerful teacher or preacher, or because of an inspiring message in scripture, or because we have seen good things happen to those who believe?

Women's Spiritual Formation Class -

The Women's Spiritual Formation (Sunday School) class will be on pause this summer as we join the Faith and Community class through August 18 for the discussion of the book, *Just Mercy*. The class will resume its regular study on August 25th at 9:45 in the **basement parlor**.

PELICAN'S SNOBALLS HANGOUT:

TUESDAYS, 5-6 PM, ALL SUMMER LONG

RIISING 6TH GRADERS THRU GRADUATED SENIORS

3217 N. FOXBORO ST., DURHAM

JUNE 18 & 25



JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 (TBD) & 30

AUGUST 6, 13, 20 & 27 (TBD)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM YOUTH MINISTRIES
FRIENDS WELCOME - JESUS LOVES YOU - SUGAR ICE IS YUMMY

GREAT BIG
CHURCH
FAMILY
FESTIVAL

6/9, 7/7, 8/4
5:30-7:30 PM

SUMMER '19

YOUTH MINISTRIES CALENDAR FOR
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM
ALL NON-TRIPS FOR 5TH-12TH GRADE

MASSANETTA
JUNE 25-28

TRIENNIAL
JULY 15-20

MONTREAT
JULY 21-27



HANGING OUT @ PELICAN'S SNOBALLS)
TUESDAYS, 5-6 PM, 3217 N. ROXBORO ST.

JUNE 18 & 25

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 (TBD) & 30

AUGUST 6, 13, 20 & 27 (TBD)

SERVING AT THE CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - LOOK FOR DETAILS



YOUTH ROOM CREATIVE MASTERPIECE
& PARLOUR ICE CREAM, JULY 11, 6:30-9 PM

ENO RIVER STATE PARK HIKE & SWIM
AUGUST 11, 12:15-5 PM



FRIENDS WELCOME, JESUS LOVES YOU, DINNER PROVIDED



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM & SNAPCHAT.





Feeling
creative?

Or just
hungry?

The
Parlour

Summer Youth Group: Making a Creative Masterpiece in the Youth Room. Followed by a trip to The Parlor for ice cream.

Thursday, July 11
6:30-9 pm

Rising 6th-grad. 12th
Friends welcome



Landscaping and Grounds Workday
Saturday, July 20

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Contact Barbara Buckley (919-210-0482) for information on the work to be done.



Scratch/Young Adults July Event

We are hanging out at the Farmers' Market on **Saturday, July 20**. If you'd like to walk the mile from **Cherrie and Andy Henry's house**, meet at 9:00 a.m. (1407 Arbor St. Durham 27701). If you'd rather not combine exercise with fun, meet us at the Central Park Durham Farmers' Market at 9:30 a.m. We will hang out under the trees near the kid's area. Folks can purchase or bring some brunchy things to eat and we'll enjoy the morning. We'll be there for an hour or more. It's Saturday, no one has to be exactly on time! Do come!



First Friends and Families Potluck Saturday, July 20

at the home of *Tyler and Deborah Momsen-Hudson*
1339 Holden Roberts Farm Road, Hillsborough
Let's gather at 5:30 p.m. We will eat at 6:00 p.m.
Bring a favorite summer dish to share and lawn chairs.

Please respond to the EVITE so we'll know how many to plan for!

SAVE THE DATE: September 13-15 First Friends & Families Beach Weekend

Volunteers Needed:

Cookie/Brownie Bakers needed: Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church is hosting the stated meeting of New Hope Presbytery on Tuesday, July 23, and they would like volunteers from all of the Durham Presbyterian churches to provide hospitality. They would like FPC's volunteers to bake two dozen cookies or brownies for the event (which will include about 125 people). Please let *Marilyn Hedgpeth* know if you can help. You may drop the cookies / brownies at FPC, and Marilyn will deliver them to the Presbytery meeting.

Greeters/Ushers needed: FPC is hosting the regular monthly business meeting of the Durham Branch NAACP on Sunday, July 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you would like to help provide hospitality and greet, usher, or lead the short devotion, please contact *Tyler Momsen-Hudson* or *Tom Bacon*. The Durham branch NAACP and its meetings are open to anyone who wishes to participate.



PROPOSED TRIP TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

**The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and
The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration**

A group of First Presbyterians is planning a trip to the Memorial and Museum in Montgomery this October, either the weekend of October 11-13 or 18-20. Details regarding transportation and lodging to be determined. If you are interested in learning more please contact *Kathy Conner* 919-451-5445 or *Eric Wiebe* 919-656-0886. Information about the museum: [Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#)

The registration pages for the **Racial Equity Institute's (REI)** upcoming trainings are on the new OAR Alliance web page. Please attend if you can: [schedule](#). This link also gives you access to information about caucuses and other REI presentations, such as Groundwater.

Race, Gender, and Jim Crow Lecture Series - Dr. Sarah Thuesen

Thursday, July 11, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum State Historic Site

6136 Burlington Rd., Gibsonville, NC 27249 (about 1 hour from Durham). Tickets: [here](#)

Lights for Liberty: A Vigil to End Human Concentration Camps

Friday July 12, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

201 Corcoran Street Downtown, Durham Plaza

This vigil and action to end human detention camps will bring thousands of people to locations worldwide as well as to concentration camps across country, into the streets and into their own front yards, to protest the inhumane conditions faced by migrants. **Mission Statement** (from their webpage:

<https://www.lightsforliberty.org/>): We are a coalition of people, many of whom are mothers, dedicated to human rights, and the fundamental principle behind democracy that all human beings have a right to life, liberty and dignity. We are partnering with international, national, regional and local communities and organizations who believe that these fundamental rights are not negotiable and are willing to protect them.

Women of Stagville Tour

Saturday, July 13 from 11:00 a.m. til 3:15 p.m.

Stagville Historic Site is located at 5828 Old Oxford Highway, Durham 27712.

For tickets, click [here](#)

For those who have interest in prison ministry, training is available through **YOKEFELLOW Ministry**. The next training is **Saturday, July 13**. Click [here](#) for local training opportunities and information on signing up. **Jane Williams, Roger Kalthoff** (Jane's husband), and **Kathy Krahenbuhl** are already certified for the Yokefellow ministry and would be glad to talk to anyone who might be interested in knowing more.

COME SERVE WITH US!



Great Big Church Family Festival
love God, love your neighbor
a collaborative, intergenerational fellowship and service adventure of Durham churches

When & Where: 5:30 to 7:30pm

- Sun June 9 at First Presbyterian Church
- Sun July 7 at Mt. Beth El Presbyterian
- Sun Aug 4 at Trinity Ave Presbyterian

Great Big Church Family Festival August 4, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church

FPC's hosting duties are over, so now it is time for us to return the favor by being good guests. Many thanks to Mt. Bethel Presbyterian of Durham for hosting our second gathering on July 7th, and calling us to focus on service to our veterans. **Rebecca Harvard Barnes** did a great job of coordinating the event. Those representing

FPC on Sunday evening included: **Michael Honeycutt; Jo and George Bernhardt; Gray, Amy, Julia, and James Wilson; Josh, Amanda, Evelyn, Penny and Willow Walters, Joe and Carlisle Harvard, Maryn**

Leonard, and Marilyn Hedgpeth. The final GBCFF of the summer (can you believe it) will be held on August 4 at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian. The cost of the meal is \$5 per individual; \$10 per family. If youth need summer service hours, they can acquire those by helping prepare for the evening and participating in the event (perhaps three hours of service per event). Community Service volunteer forms will be available for youth at registration. Trinity Avenue Presbyterian is located at 927 W. Trinity Avenue, Durham, NC 27701. For more information, call Trinity Avenue at 919-682-3865.

FPC Members . . .

Do you want 24/7 access to the church's membership directory and/or want to view the church calendar on the go? If so, you need the Church Life App on your smart device. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to add this great App to your smart device.

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Benefit Concert

Thursday, July 11

7:30 p.m. Judea Reform Congregation

1933 Cornwallis Rd, Durham

Musicians from all around the triangle will gather to sing or play a song or two with all proceeds from the concert going to CWS-Durham and their work helping vulnerable immigrants in our community.

"Time Out" Radio Show with Bill Hendrickson

Tony Williamson and his mandolin were our guests at FPC on June 30th for our hymn sing and Myrtlefest picnic. Tony will be Bill's guest on **Monday, July 15 at 5:00 p.m.** You can listen to the interview and hear more music by Tony live on FM103.5 (Carrboro and Chapel Hill areas) and elsewhere on the web at wcomfm.org.

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:

- **July 9** *Joan Eastman* will speak about "Impermanence: The Sorrows and the Blessings"
- **July 16** *Nell Noonan* will speak on "Befriending Grief? R U Kidding?"
- **July 23** *Janet Stolp's* topic is "What is Self-Compassion?"

During weeks without a formal speaker, one of our facilitators will start the 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 4:00 pm for registration, coffee, and cookies; the meeting, a presentation plus small group discussion, starts at 4:30 and ends by 6:00 p.m.

The next church newsletter will be issued on Tuesday,

July 23.

**Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, July 21.**

[July Birthdays](#)

[Online Church Calendar](#)



[Visit our website](#)