

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

December 6, 2016

ADVENT CAROLING AND EVENING WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

All are welcome to gather on the Main Street steps for candlelight caroling at 5:45 p.m., followed by worship with Holy Communion at 6:00 in the sanctuary. **Chris Karnadi, Duke student ministry intern**, will give the meditation. Donations will be received to support restoration efforts for Hurricane Matthew victims in Eastern North Carolina.

A light supper will be provided at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

As we stand on the edge of our Christmas celebrations, we remember Jesus who comes to us as the Prince of Peace. The letter to the Ephesians captures this theme so well: "...now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; ...he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near for through him both of us have access in the one Spirit to the Father." (Ephesians 2: 13, 14, 17). The kind of peace that Jesus, The Prince of Peace, offers is nothing that we can earn, deserve, or merit. It is pure gift. And our recognition of the gift is a humble act of gratitude. This Sunday we praise and thank God in song and scripture who has come among us as the Prince of Peace. Although we recognize that peace is a gift, we are called upon in the beatitudes (Matthew 5:9) to be peacemakers. Peace is God's gift but also our responsibility.

Christmas time invites us to take up our calling to be peacemakers and so to follow in the

footsteps of the Prince of Peace. We do not have to travel far to be good peacemakers. Right here, right now are the possibilities open for us to be makers of peace in our church and community. It begins with our prayer for peace each Sunday at worship; it remembers people who suffer from lack of peace in war-torn parts of the world— Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Israel; it recalls are neighbors in East Durham who live with the threat of gang violence. It does not forget the families that are divided among themselves. It will not ignore the harm we inflict on each other with our prejudices and fears of difference.

Each of us, each in our own way, can make peace. We can extend ourselves in the family and community or workplace to help build bridges. We can try to resolve differences with those who have hurt us or those whom we have hurt. As citizens after a bitter and divisive election we can encourage our legislators and government leaders to direct our nation in the way of peace. As believers we can give witness to God's gift of peace by what we say and how we act.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests! (Luke 2: 14)

*Grace and peace,
Sam Miglarese*



Our Sympathies:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Doug and Marsha Butler, and Torrell and Laura**

Armstrong and their children, on the death of Marsha's sister, **Becky Smith**, who died unexpectedly Thanksgiving weekend in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Joanne Harrar, recovering at Croasdaile Village Pavilion (room 110)

Bob Kever, receiving hospice care

Sarah and Pete Finbow

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): Helen Garrison

Croasdaile Village: Jean Moore, Bob Rankin, Jerry Tyren

Hillcrest: Randall McLeod

Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches McPherson

- **Doug Fisher** and his mother, **Mary Frances Fisher**,
- **Ellie Johnson**, niece of Jim Johnson, receiving hospice care
- **Helene Johnson**, mother of Jim Johnson, receiving hospice care
- **Charlotte Klein**, friend of Carol Carson
- **Paul McCombs**, friend of the Walk-in Ministry
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
- **Desiré Volkwijn**, wife of Kay-Robert Volkwijn

Please keep the pastoral staff updated on the progress of your friends and loved ones. Thank you.

THANK AND KUDOS . . .

Many thanks to **Lenore Champion** and the Christian Education Committee for this year's wonderful Advent Festival and Alternative Giving Fair. **Katherine Whitmore** is the brains behind the Advent Festival; **Jon Abels, Marcia and Bill Lorimer, Dawn Carsey, Sarah Finbow and Marilyn Hedgpeth** provided snacks; **David Lorimer** made table signs; **Elizabeth High** provided decorations; **Emily Diy** coordinated the Alternative Giving guests, and **Valerie McMillian** published the brochure about our non-profit friends; **Robert Daye** helped with set up and clean up; and the youth were guides to help the children with crafts. Friends, it was a lovely day of inter-generational fun. Thank you. Leftover food was taken across the street to the Board of Elections Office, to support our neighbors working to recount votes from the recent election. They were so thrilled and grateful for the support.

Thank you, **Katherine Higgins**, for a lovely Advent Meditation last Wednesday evening.

Session Briefs

The Session met in its last Stated Meeting for 2016 on **Monday, November 28**. During the meeting, the Session:

- Approved the selection of US Trust as Investment Manager. **Al Arrowood**, chair of the Finance and Investment Committee, thanked **Bob Breitweiser** for his excellent work as chair of the subcommittee for investments, which designed the formal investment policy and selected the investment manager.
- Heard a report from the Personnel committee about raising the hourly pay for the childcare staff. The new rate brings the pay in line with current liveable wage pay for Durham.
- Approved an updated wedding policy. The new policy is available upon request.

The Session and church staff also thanked **Sarah Finbow** and the youth group for the Youth Sunday Worship service, which was thoughtfully planned and deeply moving; and expressed condolences to the NCCU community upon the death of former Chancellor Debra Saunders-White.

Submitted by Clerk of Session, **Christyn Klinck**



Sunday, December 11, 2016
Third Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday's worship is patterned after the King's College Service of Lessons and Carols: a reading of texts from the Old Testament prophecies, to the birth of Jesus Christ, with hymns and anthems commemorating the Incarnation. **Sam Miglarese** will give a homily.



The **PC(USA) Joy Gift Offering** will be received during worship. This annual offering supports financial assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian racial and ethnic schools and colleges.

Serving this Sunday:

Acolytes: **Annie Brown, Clarabelle Brown**

Crucifer: **Peter Compton**

Croasdaile Driver: **Paul Cornsweet**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters:

Barbara Buckley (Side/Font)

Emily Diy (Rear/Narthex)

Ushers: **Alissa Miles** (head), **Celia Dickerson**,

Amy Dillon, Kathy Krahenbuhl,

Dale Gaddis, David Lorimer



Don't miss this!

Join us **THIS Sunday, evening, December 11 at 5:30 p.m.** for our annual Christmas Potluck Supper. **The church will provide a main meat and beverages.** Please bring a favorite vegetable side dish or a dessert, enough to share.

After the meal, we'll gather around the tree and sing songs of the season. If you play a musical instrument, bring it along (with a music stand) and join the improvised orchestra. All are welcome.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes for children (through 5th grade) are held on the second floor of the Christian Education building at 9:45. Middle and high school youth meet in their designated classrooms in the basement (below the sanctuary) at 9:45.

Faith & Community Class (Adults)

One of our biblical scholars-in-residence, **Robert Brawley**, will introduce the birth narrative of Jesus, as told in the Gospel of Matthew, our lectionary Gospel for this year. Bring your bibles, and come prepared to dig deep and ask questions about Matthew's telling of the Jesus story. The class meets at **9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall**. All are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults)

There are reports of amazing things: miraculous healings, plentiful food for the hungry, streams in the desert, safety in dangerous places.... Does this mean that the one we have been waiting for is almost here? How much longer do we have to wait? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults)

This Sunday, Journeys will discuss chapter 14, "Northing," of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. All are welcome to join the discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Scratch Class (Young Adults)

We continue our study of Laurie Winner's book, **Wearing God**, with an activity related to God as "Bread and Vine." Join us on the second floor of the **CE building, room 205** at 9:45 a.m. New faces are always welcome.

Women's Spiritual Formation

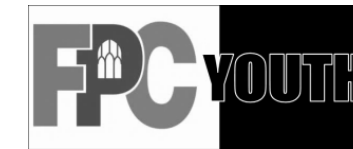
Susan Dunlap will lead our discussion. This class meets in **basement classroom B-16**, at 9:45.

Family Matters (for parents with young children)

This parent-led class is not meeting at this time. Parents are encouraged to join another class' discussion.

Confirmation Class

Confirmands and mentors will meet upstairs in the Education Building to watch the video "Deal With It (Election and Predestination)." We will break bread together and express joys and concerns from the group as we continue to journey together.



No youth groups this Sunday evening, BUT ... we'll meet at the potluck supper and carols sing-a-long at 5:30 p.m.

Contact **Sarah Finbow** (s.finbow@firstpres-durham.org or 919-682-5511) for info on youth activities at FPC!

Stewardship Season

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." - Luke 12:34

As of December 5, we have received 141 pledges, totaling \$648,356 which represents 71% of our goal.



If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card, please do so as soon as you are able so that we can finalize our mission spending for 2017. Every pledge counts.

Lost your pledge card? No worries! You can pledge online at our website <http://firstpres-durham.org/stewardship-pledge/>, call Valerie McMillian at the church to have one mailed to you (919-682-5511) or email Tom Bloom with your pledge information (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org). Thanks, again.

YEAR-END GIVING

Contribution statements for 2016 are being mailed this week to all those who had pledge balances as of November 30.

Timely payment of 2016 pledges by December 31 will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2016.

Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday December 23, 2016. You may also put your offering in the collection plate on Sunday, December 25. Gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2016, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2016 taxes.

If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible.

Members aged 70½ + who own an IRA may be able to make a qualified charitable distribution directly to First Presbyterian from your IRA and have that gift satisfy any required minimum distribution for this year. Please contact your IRA administrator ASAP if you wish to consider this giving option for tax year 2016 (the gift must be delivered directly to FPC by the IRA plan administrator, postmarked on or before December 31, 2016). **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator, can provide information needed by the plan administrator.

Children's Christmas Pageant AND Choir

This year's Children's Christmas Pageant will take place on **Sunday, December 18** during the 11:00 worship service. It will feature a procession of children in costumes, and a children's litany called "Who Is Coming to Our House?" **We will practice and pick up costumes twice before the pageant: on THIS Sunday, December 11 immediately following worship in the sanctuary, and on Saturday, December 17 at 2 p.m. Those with speaking parts must attend.** Any child is welcome to participate, as we have plenty of angel, shepherd, wise people, and animal costumes. If you have questions, see *Marilyn Hedgpeth*.

The Children's Choir will rehearse following worship this Sunday, December 11. They will sing Christmas carols for the pageant on December 18. New voices are welcome. Contact **Samantha Arten** for more information about FPC's Children's Choir: samantha.arten@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CONCERNS

As an alternative to sending Christmas cards to your First Presbyterian friends, we invite you to make a donation to our **Christmas Concerns** fund and then write your Christmas wishes on a card here at church during Advent for display on the Giving Tree in the foyer. Donations will be allocated to the **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina**. The names of those who share greetings in this way will be listed in the December 20th church newsletter.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

It is time to nominate persons to serve as ruling elders and deacons for the Class of 2020. The form for submitting nominations is available at the church and included as link with today's newsletter. You may also use this same form to nominate persons to serve in the at-large positions on the Nominating Committee.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD DINNER

On Thursday, December 16, FPC will be providing dinner for a small group of families at Families Moving Forward (the newly named combination of Genesis Home and Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network). After dinner we will divide into teams to watch the younger children while the parents attend a meeting or to prepare rooms for new guests.

If you would like to help out, please sign up using this link: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C054AACAE2FA31-families1 or call or e-mail Lea Bingham, leabingham@gmail.com or 919-358-1774. We do this four times a year, sharing the job with other faith communities around Durham. If you can't help this time, but would like to join us in the future, please just let **Lea Bingham** know.

CALLING ALL BASKETBALL PLAYERS!

It's time for another season of adult men's basketball in the Hope Valley Baptist Church league. First Presbyterian Church is the defending champion, and we're getting ready to defend last year's title. All adults (over 16 years of age) are welcome to play. If you're interested in participating, please come to an organizational meeting after church on Sunday, Dec. 11. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact **Carl Rist** at rist@frontier.com.

CAFE JUSTO is still available!

Thanks to all who purchased Café Justo at the Alternative Gift Fair. There's more available if you missed last Sunday - \$10 per pound for Arabica medium or dark roast, ground or whole bean. Decaf coffee is available on special order: \$12 per pound. Specify medium or dark roast, ground or whole bean, and let **John Fricks** know this week (jhfsound@gmail.com). Café Justo is an outgrowth of Frontera de Cristo (fronteradecristo.org), one of the partnership ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico. Learn more at www.presbyterianmission.org.

CONCERT: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.
FPC sanctuary

Join **Lesley Curtis**, soprano, **Deborah Coclanis**, piano, and **Ann Harrison**, reader, for a program of Christmas offerings and poetry featuring Morten Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium, poems by Dorothy Parker and Langston Hughes, and Christmas Hymns.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH

Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Hosted by **Carlo and Emily Diy**
Remember to bring a dish to share!

FIRST FRIENDS ADVENT POTLUC (ADULTS ONLY)

Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Home of **Melinda Ruley and Stewart Fisher**
Remember to bring a dish to share!

CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING FOR INMATES

Tuesday, December 13, from 7:00 p.m. - until

Home of **Cherrie and Andy Henry**
(1407 Arbor St. 27701)
This is always a good and meaningful time together! All are invited!

PRIMETIMERS' CHRISTMAS GATHERING AND COVERED DISH SUPPER

Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Home of **Rod and Barbara Gerwe**
Remember to bring a dish to share!

DAYTIMERS' LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 20 at 11:30 a.m.

Crosdaile Village Dining Hall
RSVP to **Maxie Honeycutt** at 919-286-4680.

Family-to-Family Free Education Classes provided by National Alliance on Mental Illness

A free series of 12 weekly classes is being offered by trained NAMI members for individuals and families who have family members suffering with mental illness: PTSD, Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Panic Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, or Borderline Personality Disorder.

Chapel Hill Area:

Sundays, January 6 - March 20, 2017
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Library
100 Library Drive
Contact Nancy Brickman at 919-818-8065 or
nbrickman@nc.rr.com

Durham Area:

Tuesdays, January 24 - April 11, 2017
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church
3639 Old Chapel Hill Rd
Contact Violette Blumenthal at 919-358-6788 or
f2fdurham@yahoo.com



The FPC Legacy Society welcomes all who have provided a gift to the church in their estate plan. The opportunity for membership in the society will continue through the coming years. Charter memberships are still available through the end of this year. We now have 22 families and individuals who have become Charter Members of the FPC Legacy Society! We encourage you to consider joining this group who have recognized the importance of the church in their lives and in our community. Please contact FPC Business Administrator **Tom Bloom** at 919-682-5511 or **Sheila Breitweiser** at 919-797-2717 to learn more.

THE POET'S CORNER

We are blessed to have a number of poets and writers in our midst. Beginning January 2017, we will add "The Poet's Corner" feature to the weekly newsletter. If you would like to share your poetry with our faith community via the church's newsletter, please send submissions for consideration to Valerie in the church office:
v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

SERVICE AND MISSION

Please continue to bring items for Blessing Bags, Toiletry Kits and Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry. Donations are needed year round!

DCIA (Durham Congregations in Action) invites local congregations to help those in need during the holidays. For details on donating school supplies, food bank items, or supporting fair wage employment initiatives, go to www.dcia.org.

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULES AND DEADLINES . . .

The church office will be closed December 26-30, 2016 for Christmas, and Monday, January 2, 2017 for the New Year's Day holiday. Pastoral and administrative staff will be available and on-call during the holidays. If you have a need, please call the church office. Leave a message if no one is available to take your call.

The **final edition of the church's newsletter for 2016** will be issued on December 20th. Please submit all news articles to Valerie in the church office by Friday, December 16th. The first newsletter issue for 2017 will be released January 3, 2017.

Worship bulletin information for Sundays, December 25 and January 1 should be submitted to Valerie in the church office by Friday, December 16.

Your cooperation is appreciated.



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