

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

March 28, 2017

See enclosed birthday list and calendar for April 2017

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

I hope you will join us for worship this Sunday, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Dr. **Brian Blount**, the president of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, will be with us for our Faith and Community class and will preach in worship. Dr. Blount is a New Testament scholar, an insightful teacher, a dynamic preacher, a visionary leader, and an all-around wonderful person. He will be joined by his wife **Sharon**. We are grateful to be able to have them both in our midst and grateful for the McPherson endowment which has made their presence with us possible. Come if you can!

On Sunday we will also share the sacrament of Holy Communion. In preparation for that, I give you this poem on which to meditate as you prepare for Sunday worship. The poem is by Madeleine L'Engle, "At Communion."

*Whether I kneel or stand or sit in prayer
I am not caught in time nor held in space,
But, thrust beyond this posture, I am where
Time and eternity are face to face;
Infinity and space meet in this place
Where crossbar and upright hold the One
In agony and in all Love's embrace.
The power in helplessness which was begun
When all the brilliance of the flaming sun
Contained itself in the small confines of a child
Now comes to me in this strange action done
In mystery. Break time, break space, O wild
and lovely power. Break me: thus am I dead,
Am resurrected now in wine and bread.*

May God be with you as we journey together to Easter.

With love,
Mindy



Added this week:

Ron Smith, husband of Day School director, Katharine Smith

Charles ("Kim") Cummings, father of Drew Cummings (Drew is a regular visitor who sings in the Chancel Choir)

Jera and Joe Fleming, parents of Christyn Klinck

Sarah and Pete Finbow

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): Helen Garrison

Croasdaile Village: Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Betty Jelstrup, Bob Kever, Bob Rankin

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

Family and Friends of FPC Members:

- **Don and Gail Champion**, uncle and aunt of Lenore Champion
- **Doug Fisher**, friend of FPC
- **Mike Gray**, cousin of Linn Lopez
- **Rick Hager**, friend of Celia Dickerson
- **Cherie Haines**, sister of Vernon Neece
- **Paul Martin**, brother of Beth Neece
- **Dell McMillian**, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
- **Shade Mecum**, stepfather of Katherine Higgins
- **Danny Parker**, father of Al and Judy Arrowood's daughter-in-law
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
- **Roberta Post**, friend of Jeanne Hervey
- **Janice Rattray**, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- **Sandra Russell**, frequent visitor to FPC

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

THESE DAYS devotional booklets for April – June 2017 have arrived. Check out **Mindy**

Douglas' introduction, "Faith Tending," in this quarter. Regular and large print editions are FREE and available from the tables in the church's foyer and narthex, while supplies last.

SPECIAL THANKS to *Mickey Velkey* for arranging a delightful gathering for Daytimers at Bennett Pointe Grill today.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS . . .

The following persons were received into membership on Sunday, March 26, 2017:

Adrienne Allison and Bob Pleasants

Oscar Carrasco-Moya

Philip Herndon

Stephanie Pavik

Valerie and Carl von Isenburg

You can read more about them. Their profiles are included with today's newsletter mailing.



April 2 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

Brian K. Blount, preaching

Sermon: "Why Not?"

Dr. Blount is the president and professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, and Charlotte, NC. He was called to this position in 2007, after serving for 15 years as the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary. An M.Div. graduate of Princeton Seminary in 1981, he obtained his B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 1978. After graduating from Princeton Seminary, he went on to become pastor of the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, VA, from 1982-1988. He received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Emory University in 1992 and returned to teach at Princeton Seminary the same year. His primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation and in the area of cultural studies and hermeneutics.

***** Please don't forget *****

As a new way of extending the grace of the Lord's Table in 2017 to others beyond our walls, we are asking the congregation to bring ready-made blessing bags or supplies for blessing bags on the Sundays when communion is celebrated. Bring them into the sanctuary with you (as you do the Hunger for Change

offering), and place them in the baskets as part of the communion liturgy. Blessing bags might contain: granola bars, nuts, non-perishable fruit, small bottles of water, snack crackers or cookies. Thank you for being a good neighbor.

Worship Texts:

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 130
New Testament Lesson: Revelation 22:1-8

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: **Ruth Roberson**
Acolytes: **Juliana Miglares, Maryn Leonard**
Crucifer: **Carter Momsen-Hudson**
Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**
After Worship Greeters: **George Bernhardt** (side/font);
Al Arrowood (rear/narthex)
Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Michael Honeycutt, Karen Swope, George Danser, Sigfried Fullenkamp, Miriam Morey**
Communion Elders: **Gray Wilson** (head, replenish elements)
Bread: **Karen Romines** (B1, process), **George Bernhardt** (B2), **Joseph Ngumi** (B3), **Alice Raney** (B4)
Cup: **Carter Momsen-Hudson** (C1), **Almira Mbah** (C2, process), **Emily Diy** (C3), **Kate Busa** (C4)
Shepherds: **Delia Kwon** (font aisle), **Eric Wiebe** (center aisle), **Phyllis Verhey** (pulpit aisle)



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) - This Sunday we welcome **Brian K. Blount**, President, and Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, and Charlotte, NC. Blount will teach and preach from the book of Revelation, having recently authored *Revelation: A Commentary in the New Testament Library Series* (2014). Blount has served as President at UPC since 2007 and has many friends among the membership of FPC. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall** and all are welcome.

Lectioary Class (Adults) - Does death have the last word? Does death have the power to end our relationships and dry up our hopes? "He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies." Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) - All are welcome to join Journeys to read and discuss the Book of Nehemiah. It concerns the dedication of Jerusalem and its people to God's laws. Join the

discussion in **basement classroom B-17** at 9:45.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) - This week we continue our discussion on wearing God as flame, using Lauren Winner's book, ***Wearing God***. See you around 9:45 on the **second floor of the CE building, room 205**. New faces are always welcome.

Women's Spiritual Formation - Susan Dunlap leads our discussion. This class meets in **basement classroom B-16**, at 9:45.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our last scheduled visit to another faith community takes place this Sunday, April 2, when we will visit nearby **Farm Church**, a new PC(USA) congregation that meets at Seeds, 706 Gilbert Street. **We will gather at FPC at 9:30**, and carpool to Seeds, where we will garden a little, and worship a little. So **wear clothes suitable for gardening**. We will return to the church by 11:30, to meet parents here following worship. Confirmands and mentors are invited to join us. If you will not be going, please let Marilyn know.



This Sunday, the youth will participate in Durham's annual Crop Hunger Walk at 2:30 p.m. We will not have evening youth groups. NOTE: This Sunday, April 2, is the deadline to have all balances paid for summer youth trips.

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

Durham's Annual Crop HUNGER Walk

The 43rd Durham Crop HUNGER Walk is THIS Sunday, April 2, 2017 beginning at 2:30 p.m. from Duke Chapel.

Have you signed up to walk? Click [FPC Crop Walk Team](#) to add your name to the list.

Not able to walk this year? Support FPC's team by sponsoring a walker.

Please remember to make checks payable to Durham Crop Walk and give to the person you are sponsoring by the day of the race or you can donate online.

For more information about this event and how the funds are used, go to [DURHAM CROP WALK](#). Our goal is \$3000. We can reach it with your help!



I recently read a wonderful book by Jon Gordon titled "Life Word - Discover Your One Word to Leave a Legacy." Though the book is small, its message is powerful: *"within the heart of every person is a passion and desire to live a life that truly matters; to make a positive contribution and make a difference; to live in such a way that the world is better because we are here. Ultimately, we want to leave a positive legacy that lives on long after we're gone."*

We are blessed to have the FPC Legacy Society to ensure that FPC will be here long after we are gone. I invite you to join me in this Legacy of faith. *Perhaps Jesus' "life word" was his legacy of Love. - Lisa M. Gabriel*

Saturdays, April 8 and April 15



We'll be pruning and mulching in the Memorial Garden, and weeding all over the grounds. Come join us beginning at 9:00 a.m. if you like to garden, pull weeds or spread mulch. We'll call it a day about noon.

Contact **Barbara Buckley** (bjbuckley1@frontier.com or 919-402-8551) if you have questions or plan to help.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND MISSION

WOODWIND PLAYER(S) NEEDED: The First Presbyterian Wind Ensemble has been playing together and providing music for occasional worship services for almost five years. During that time, our numbers have varied (sometimes a quintet, sometimes more) and so has our instrumentation. Now as **Aurelia Klinck** is about to go off to college, we're looking for a new member or two or three. If you play (or played) a woodwind instrument, such as flute, oboe, clarinet, sax, bassoon, or French horn, please contact **David Smith by email:** (davidjudysmith@frontier.com) or any of the other members of the group for more information.

AT FPC: The church office is looking for five to six volunteers to tidy up the foyer, sanctuary, and narthex each week on a rotational basis. If you like things "decent and in order" and live nearby FPC or work downtown, we would love for you to consider fulfilling this need. Depending on your schedule, you can volunteer once or more often during the month. The tasks should take one person less than an hour to complete each week. Contact **Valerie McMillian** in the church office if you are interested: 919-682-5511 ext. 215 or v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org.

FLOC needs drivers: The Farm Labor Organizing Committee's (FLOC's) farmworker members in three regions of NC (Eastern, Piedmont and Western) need rides to their regional meetings in July and August. If you have interest in driving farmworkers to the July 2 Regional membership meeting in Dudley NC, please contact **Dave Austin** at daustin@mindspring.com.

STEPUP MINISTRY: Beginning Tuesday, April 4, StepUp Durham will begin Step2 of its Employment Program. Step2 is a weekly program that will wrap nine months of life-skills, stability, and support around those who have become newly-employed and working at least 30 hours per week. Phase one of Step2 will focus on personal development; phase two will focus on financial coaching; and phase three, on career growth. "StepUp Durham's vision for Step2 is that it will be a place where people grow and thrive, create and accomplish goals and build a deeper sense of community, stronger self-awareness, greater financial stability, and clarity for how to obtain the type of joy they could call a career."

Volunteers are needed every Tuesday night from 5:45-8:30 at CityWell Church, 2317 Chapel Hill Road, in the following areas:

***Co-Partner/Mentor** - Be trained to walk alongside and support a StepUp participant weekly as they set and accomplish their personal, professional, and financial goals. (Training will be Tuesday, March 21 from 6-8 at CityWell Church)

***Childcare and Homework Buddies** – Provide supervision and homework help for children (ages 0-16) of StepUp adults.

***Meal Donation** – Help StepUp provide a nutritious dinner to the 10 families participating in Step2 pilot program (*Marie Sappenfield* and *Marilyn Hedgpeth* are providing a meal the first Tuesday of every month. They would love to have others on their meal team; or establish another meal time to cover other Tuesdays.)

***Instruction** – Offer to teach or coach participants on a skill in which you have expertise (i.e. setting S.M.A.R.T. goals, leaning into personality strengths, credit repair, career development, budgeting, etc.)

StepUp Durham partners with adults seeking to transform their lives through employment and life skills training. Classes are designed specifically for individuals facing barriers to finding employment, such as a criminal background or gaps in employment history. FPC is proud to be a sponsor of StepUp Durham. If you are interested in joining the StepUp Durham team, please contact *Marilyn Hedgpeth* or *Bob Yoder*.

Faith Connections on Mental Illness - 7th Annual Conference *"Transforming Lives: Overcoming Stigma in Mental Illness"*

Friday, March 31

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

St. Thomas More Catholic School - 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill

Conference includes a keynote speaker, plenary lecture, and breakout sessions. **Registration is required.** For more information and to register, go online to:

www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org.



Monday, April 3, 2017

10:30 a.m. Circle and Bible Study in the East Parlor

Monday, May 8, 2017 (NOTE the date change)

10:30 a.m. Circle and Bible Study in the East Parlor following by the annual Spring Social in Watts-Hill Hall



LILIES will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please fill out the lily card and return it to the Church office (in the envelope provided) with your donation (any amount) by Palm Sunday, April 9. Additional details are provided on the lily donor card. Contact the church office if you need a lily donor card mailed to you.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is one of four church-wide Special Offerings collected by Presbyterian congregations to support ministries of compassion, justice, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, and global witness.

On **Easter Sunday, April 16**, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering 1) provides relief to those affected by natural or human-caused disasters, 2) supports initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed, and 3) provides resources and education toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities. **Special envelopes will be provided for this offering.**

On Sunday, April 9, **Rebecca Reyes** who serves with the Self Development of People program, will share a Minute for Mission with us. You'll want to hear what she has to say.

Spring NIA Fitness Class
Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. through April 25
Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall
Free for FPC members, donations accepted

Monthly Fellowship Brunch and Palm-Cross Folding
Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m.
at **Cherrie Henry's** home (1407 Arbor St., Durham, NC 27701)
Please respond to the EVITE.

First Friends Garden Party (Adults only, please.)

Saturday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m.

at the home of **Susan Seahorn** (2812 State Street, Durham)

Host is providing a main meat, some appetizers and some wine. Please bring salads, sides, or desserts, and your favorite beverage. We'll spend time outdoors so bring a folding chair, too. In case of rain, the gathering will be rescheduled. Please call Susan if you have questions: 919-220-2893. Remember to respond to the EVITE!

SAVE THE DATE . . .

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, April 22 at the home of Andy and Ginny Widmark

More details forthcoming! Watch for the EVITE!

From Wendy McCorkle . . .

I am grateful to so many people for their calls, cards, emails, and food deliveries over the last three weeks. (I'm well on my way to recovery.)

And I love the prayer shawl that **Barbara Fish** delivered to me. Thank you, oh wonderful church family!



From Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey . . .

Thank you all for the prayers, hugs, and cards and other gestures of love and caring you extended to me and **Kwesi** after the recent passing of my mother. You all helped ease our pain and lift our spirits. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness!

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Sunday, April 2, 2017

A Community Celebration

11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Sikh Gurudwara of North Carolina (**3214 E. Banner Street, Durham**) invites the community to their annual program designed to introduce the North Carolina Sikh community to their neighbors. The Youth Representatives of Gurudwara will present speeches in English, hymns in traditional Sikh music, and a hearty Punjabi lunch at the conclusion. They would be honored by your presence.

To RSVP, please send an email to: darasjot.singh@gmail.com or darsev.kaur@gmail.com

For more information, go online to: sgncweb.org

April 2 - Organ Recital

Robert Parkins, University Organist at Duke and husband of **Kathy Parkins**, will play a recital at **5:00 pm at Duke Chapel**. The event is free and open to the public.

CHORAL SOCIETY OF DURHAM

Chamber Choir Concert

Schubert Serenade: A Concert of Chamber Music
with Ciompi Quartet

First Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 7, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

FPC members will receive a discount on tickets.

Contact the church office to receive the discount code for use
when ordering tickets online and at the door.

MLK Steering Committee "Good Neighbor Brunch"

Recognizing individuals and organizations serving in the Research Triangle Communities and working to create "The Beloved Community."

Margaret Keller is being honored (in absentia) at this event.

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$8.00 contribution for the meal

Please RSVP to: revherndon@hotmail.com

Honoring the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Joseph S. Harvard, III

WHAT: The Lincoln Community Health Center Foundation Luncheon to honor the legacy of Joe Harvard

WHEN: Friday, April 21, 2017

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club,
3001 Cameron Blvd, Durham



The cost is \$50.00 per person. You can RSVP to Diane Faricy at 919-956-4004 or diane.faricy@duke.edu by April 7, 2017.

© 2017 First Presbyterian Church

305 East Main Street, Durham NC 27701 919-682-5511