

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

April 11, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

Last Sunday we experienced a powerful and meaningful beginning to Holy Week. Many of us gathered with our friends in Christ from Trinity United Methodist and St. Philip's Episcopal churches. We waved our palm branches in a parade that stopped at each church to bless the work of the gospel happening in our different, yet united, spaces.

At the beginning of our worship service we told the story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem as the people and children cried "Hosanna!" and spread their cloaks and branches to welcome their king. As worship continued, we moved from the Palm narrative to the Passion narrative as church members enacted the Passion of Christ, interspersed with our own prayers and sung confessions.

Perhaps the most moving moment of all came when the choir, led by **Kathy Parkins** on organ, sang "Were You There," a passionate piece by Raymond Haan and made even more beautiful by the soaring soprano voice of **Lesley Curtis** and the haunting cello of **Fred Raimi**. I was moved beyond words.

To be moved beyond words is exactly what this Holy Week calls for, I believe, as we walk the unspeakable way of the cross with Jesus and remember how he faced betrayal, death, and intense suffering before defeating death and turning the world on its head with love.

On this Tuesday of Holy Week, I share a poem to accompany us as we walk this journey with Christ to the cross. The poem is *Lachrimae Amantis*, by Geoffrey Hill:

What is there in my heart that you should sue
so fiercely for its love? What kind of care
brings you as though a stranger to my door
through the long night and in the icy dew
seeking the heart that will not harbor you,
that keeps itself religiously secure?
At this dark solstice filled with frost and fire
your passion's ancient wounds must bleed anew.

So many nights the angel of my house
has fed such urgent comfort through a dream,
whispered "your lord is coming, he is close"
that I have drowsed half-faithful for a time
bathed in pure tones of promise and remorse:
"tomorrow I shall wake to welcome him."

May we not wait until tomorrow to welcome him. May we welcome our Lord today and every day.

With love,
Mindy



Added this week:

Jeanne Hervey

Katrina Downey, friend of Joanne Harrar

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson, moving to Hillcrest

Traveling mercies for ***Joseph Ngumi*** who is traveling home to

check on his family in Kenya.

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
- ***Charles ("Kim") Cummings***, father of Drew Cummings
- ***Doug Fisher***, friend of FPC
- ***Gera and Joe Fleming***, parents of Christyn Klinck
- ***Mike Gray***, cousin of Linn Lopez
- ***Rick Hager***, friend of Celia Dickerson
- ***Elinor McCorkle***, mother of Mac McCorkle
- ***Dell McMillian***, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian
- ***Shade Mecum***, stepfather of Katherine Higgins
- ***Roberta Post***, friend of Jeanne Hervey
- ***Janice Rattray***, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- ***Ron Smith***, husband of Day School director, Katharine Smith

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

~ NOTES ~

MANY THANKS . . . to the CE Committee for coordinating the many activities for Palm Sunday. Thanks to ***Emily Durham, Delia Kwon, Katharine Whitmore*** and ***Sarah Finbow*** for coming early to help hide Easter Eggs for the 25 children who participated in Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt; as well as to ***Marcia and Bill Lorimer*** and ***Jon Abels*** for making many, many hot cross buns for the congregation. **KUDOS** to ***Cherrie Henry and the SCRATCH group*** for making the palm crosses. It was a great, participatory day for the whole people of God at FPC. It was a great, participatory day for the whole people of God at FPC.

CONGRATULATIONS . . . to ***Margaret Keller*** who was awarded the Joe Becton Human Relations Award at the April 9 meeting of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Neighbor Prayer Brunch held at FPC. She was commended for her "dedicated and committed service, working across lines of diversity and inclusion to make Durham a model city." Margaret was out of town for the presentation, but FPC will present the award to her when she returns.



H O L Y · W E E K

Maundy Thursday (April 13)

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

(The Chancel will be stripped.)

Supper will be served at 6:15 p.m.

Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal.

Good Friday (April 14)

12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross

(Begins at St. Philip's Episcopal Church; ends at First Presbyterian)

The Stations of the Cross is a family-friendly walking liturgical pilgrimage in our downtown Durham context that reenacts Christ's journey to the cross.

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

An ancient service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God.

Sunday, April 16 - Easter / Resurrection of the Lord Sunday

As part of our Easter tradition, everyone is invited to **bring fresh flowers or greenery** to church **THIS Sunday** to decorate a cross outside the Memorial Garden. Eventually the cross will be covered with beautiful flowers in a brilliant array of color, light and lovely fragrance. What was a symbol of death, darkness, pain and hopelessness is transformed into something beautiful, new and alive in celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. Together, we can transform the cross and help make this Easter a celebration of new life.

8:30 a.m. PRAYER SERVICE in the FPC Memorial Garden (no communion)

***** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL *****

No Adult Sunday School or Children's Sunday School classes this Sunday.

The **Confirmation Class will NOT meet this Sunday**, as there are two services of Easter worship in lieu of Sunday School. However, we WILL meet with mentors on Sunday, April 23 to talk about final plans for confirmation, and to prepare for our lunch and meeting with the FPC Session after worship that day. We would like for everyone to be prepared for that meeting. Happy Easter, and I'll see you back in class on April 23 . . . and at lunch that day!

***** Two EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES with HOLY COMMUNION *****

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Sermon: "Love Wins" – *Mindy Douglas*, preaching

The **Fellowship Committee** is providing a **BRUNCH at 10:00 a.m.** in Watts-Hill Hall. Finger foods, coffee, and juice will be available

Be sure to check out the awesome “**Peeps Scenes**” on display in Watts-Hill Hall. These were created by our youth groups on Palm Sunday and depict various Bible stories.

Communion Elders are still needed for Easter Sunday morning services.

Email **Alice Raney** (araney1@nc.rr.com or alice.raney@duke.edu) or call **Valerie McMillian** in the church office (919-682-5511) if you are available to serve at the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service.

Easter Sunday Worship Texts: Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

Serving this Sunday:

Acolytes: **Charlie Kelley, Jack Williamson**

Crucifer: **Parker Klinck**

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

Ushers:

9:00 a.m. **Celia Dickerson** (head), **Alissa Miles, Chris Brown, Barbara Fish**

11:00 a.m. **Mary-Jo Keenan, Karen Swope, Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey, Mickey Velkey, Miriam Morey, Jo Bernhardt**

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

THIS 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.** Please give generously!

**The Church Office will be closed Monday, April 17
in observance of the Easter holiday.**



Journeys Sunday School Class

In the coming weeks, Journeys will read and discuss Will Willimon’s book “Fear of the Other” in which we are to consider loving others without their needing to become like us. If you plan to join that discussion, contact **Emily Wilkins** to purchase a copy of the book.

We will resume our study of the book of Nehemiah on April 23.



We will not meet for youth groups this Sunday (Easter). All balances and paper work for summer trips to Montreat and Massanetta Springs were due this past Sunday. Please get them to Sarah ASAP if you have not already done so. Contact Sarah Finbow (s.finbow@firstpresdurham.org or 919-682-5511) for info on youth activities at FPC!

Saturday, April 15, 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon



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. 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

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS: Please continue to bring non-perishable food items for Iglesia Emanuel's food pantry and supplies for blessing and toiletry bags.

HELPerS Wanted at the **Health Equipment Loan Program** in Durham serving anyone in the county with a need for durable medical equipment, e.g. wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, tub benches, bedside commodes, etc. Training is provided on assessing, cleaning, and sanitizing donated equipment. HELPerS (volunteers) may choose the assignments that best fit their skill and comfort level, choose their monthly schedule, and generally are asked to make a commitment of 8 hours per month. Every HELPer has the opportunity to interact with the community at our storefront or during community events and to immediately see the benefit of their hard work. Contact Catrina Lloyd, Manager, for more information at 919-470-7281 or HELP@projectaccessdurham.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

First Friends Garden Party (Adults only, please.)

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

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!

Primetimers' Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Home of Andy and Ginny Widmark

809 Hermitage Court Drive in the Forest Hills community – off University Drive

Hosts providing beverages. Bring a main dish, salad, sides or dessert.

The Things That Matter Book Group

Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Home of Sue Fricks (3319 Pinafore Dr, sdfricks@gmail.com)

Join us for a discussion of Vanessa Diffenbaugh's *"The language of Flowers."*

Dorothy Graham will lead the discussion.

GREAT BIG CHURCH FAMILY FESTIVAL “Surprising Friends”

Save the date: June 11-14 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Join us at a different sponsoring church each evening!

Read more about this newly formatted Vacation Church School event on FPC’s website!

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Iglesia Hispana Emanuel celebrates First Anniversary

You are invited to join Iglesia Hispana Emanuel on **Easter Sunday, April 16** as they celebrate their First Year Anniversary. The celebration will include a **1:30 p.m. Worship service and a 3:00 p.m. Fellowship and luncheon** (food and beverages to be provided by the church). Pictures and testimonies will be on display. Members of FPC are especially invited to join them in praising the Lord for all that He has done and is going to do in the future at Iglesia Hispana Emanuel. Iglesia Hispana Emanuel is located at 2504 N Roxboro St. Durham NC, 27704. **Rev. Julio Ramirez-Eve** serves as pastor. Please come!

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

WHAT: The Lincoln Community Health Center Foundation Luncheon

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 must RSVP to Diane Faricy at 919-956-4004 or diane.faricy@duke.edu.

Resource Center for Women & Ministry in the South, Inc. (RCWMS) presents:

Coming Out of the Shadows:

Connection & Spirituality Among LGBTQ Communities

An interfaith festival featuring workshops and talking circles with skilled facilitators, as well as ritual and music from various traditions. Recommended for ages 16 and up.

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park, Durham

Lunch provided. Free, with suggested donation of \$10 for those who are able. For more information and to register, visit: www.lgbtqspirituality.wordpress.com or <http://www.rcwms.org>

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter Celebration!