

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

May 2, 2017, 2017



From the Associate Pastor . . .

Dear Friends,

On Friday, my husband and I had the unique experience of attending the naturalization ceremony in Durham of our son's mother-in-law, Qiuyi Chi, as she became an American citizen. It was a wonderful ceremony where 56 individuals, representing 28 countries, took the Oath of Allegiance, vowed the Pledge of Allegiance, received their certificates of US citizenship, and registered to vote. I found myself drinking the purple Kool-Aid of patriotism as I sang our National Anthem, clapped along with the John Philips Sousa march, placed my hand on my heart for the pledge, and teared-up while watching the *America the Beautiful* video. But what captured my attention most was the cursive inscription on the wall above our heads that said, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," from Emma Lazarus' sonnet on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, which ends with the phrase, "I lift my lamp beside *the golden door!*"

Jesus was the original Golden Door, *The Gate*, he calls himself in John's Gospel; The Gate to salvation, to green pastures, and to life abundant. Perhaps I should tear-up when I hear these words, too, and see them played out as FPC welcomes our guests, as we welcome our confirmands this Sunday, as we welcome new members, as we greet one another in Christ. I look forward to greeting you at *the door* this Sunday.

Peace,

Marilyn



Added this week:

David Smith, having surgery May 4

Toni Bloom, mother of Tom Bloom, hospitalized in PA

Becky Crockett (daughter is ill)

Robert G. Cope, III, great nephew of Sam Miglarese

Jane Lewis Nelson, mother of Charlotte Nelson

Judy Arrowood

Sarah and Pete Finbow

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): **Julian Boswell**

Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham): **Helen Garrison**

Croasdaile Village: **Sarah Cox** (Pavilion, room 147) **Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Bob Keever** (Pavilion, room 209), **Bob Rankin**

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

Hillcrest: **Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

Family and Friends of FPC Members:

- **Dot Blyth**, aunt of Libby Gulley
- **Sam Burness**, son of Anne Williams and John Burness
- **Katrina Downey**, friend of Joanne Harrar
- **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
- **Linda Momsen**, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- **Jane Lewis Nelson**, mother of Charlotte Nelson
- **Margaret Pfeiler**, grandmother of Julie Maxwell
- **Janice Rattray**, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- **Lisa Short**, cousin of Alissa Miles

~ NOTES and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Muchugia (Kevin and Lydia)** who were married on Friday, April 21 in Wilmington, DE. Kevin is the son of **Mary Gitata** and brother of **Ian Gitata-Njoroge**.

Many thanks to **Lenore Champion and the Christian Education Committee** for the wonderful Fifth Sunday Inter-Generational Sunday School centered around the Road to Emmaus story. It was great to be at table together, to break and share jelly bread, to make cards, to decorate blessing bags for our neighbors, and to make gifts for some of our beloved members.

This past Sunday, **Delia and Talitha Kwon** led the Litany of Dedication for the new Paschal Candle given in memory of FPC's beloved member, **Edward Kwon**. It was a fitting tribute to Ed who loved First Presbyterian Church and considered our members as family.

KUDOS to those who hosted fellowship groups in their home during the month of April: **Cherrie and Andy Henry** hosted the Scratch/Young Adults for brunch; **Susan Seahorn** hosted a First Friends potluck; **Andy and Ginny Widmark** hosted a covered dish supper for Primetimers. Special thanks to the **Seniors Advisory Council** for planning this year's Spring Luncheon: **Maxie Honeycutt, Mickey Velkey, John Kerr** and **Elizabeth High** and to **Mindy Douglas** for her engaging presentation.



Please welcome the following persons who joined First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 30, 2017:

Ken and Mary Jo Schlecht: 708 Derby Ct., Durham 27707; Ken (mobile) 585-857-0798; email: KenSchlecht4@gmail.com; Mary Jo (mobile) 585-259-1754; email: mjschlecht1@gmail.com; came to Durham in October 2012 from Rochester, NY. They have three adult children. **Ken** is a retired college chemistry professor from SUNY College at Brockport, Brockport NY. He was born and raised in Syracuse NY and holds a Ph. D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. His hobbies and interests include walking/hiking, golf and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. **Mary Jo** is a retired clinical social worker. She was born and raised in Des Moines, IA. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa (BS) and Syracuse University (MSW). Her hobbies and interests include golf, mah jongg, refugee resettlement, and volunteering with SEEDS and Urban Ministries. They are joining FPC by transfer from Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY where Mary Jo served as an elder. They are being sponsored by **Bob and Sheila Breitweiser**.

Doug Fisher: 409 E. Lavender St, Durham 27704; 919-923-1020; email: dfisher@hillsboroughlaw.com; is an attorney who has been practicing law in Hillsborough NC for more than 36 years. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University (BS) and North Carolina Central University (Juris Doctor Law). He is active with FPC's First Friends. Doug is joining FPC by reaffirmation of faith. He is being sponsored by **Susan Seahorn**.



May 7 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship with Confirmation and Holy Communion
Sermon: "Walls, Gates and Doors" - **Marilyn Hedgpeth**, preaching

Worship Texts:

Acts of the Apostles Lesson: Acts 2:42-47;

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25;

Gospel Lesson: John 10:1-10

The **Children's Choir** will sing during worship. Parents, please note that there will be a quick rehearsal with the children at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. After the rehearsal, the children should go to their Sunday School class.

There will be a **reception** for the Confirmands in Watts-Hill Hall following worship on Sunday.

***** 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.

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: **Ruth Roberson**

Acolytes: **Lily Brigman, Maddie Brigman**

Crucifer: **Frances Zehmer**

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

After Worship Greeters: **Miriam Morey** (side/font);

Carter Momsen-Hudson (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Michael Honeycutt** (head), **Karen Swope, Sherry Everett, Celia Dickerson, Amy Sanchez**

Communion Elders:

Bread: **Barbara Buckley** (B1, process), **Will McDow** (B2), **Carter Momsen-Hudson** (B3), **Joseph Ngumi** (B4)

Cup: **Bob Breitweiser** (C1), **Libby Gulley** (C2), **Miriam Morey** (C3), **Almira Mbah** (C4)

Shepherds: **Jerry Postema** (center aisle), **Alice Raney** (font aisle), **Karen Romines** (pulpit aisle)

Head, replenish elements: **Lenore Champion**



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 **Sam Miglarese**, who will discuss the significance of 2017 as the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, beginning with an exploration of Luther the man and the reform movement that changed the Church and Western Civilization. Being a former Catholic priest, Sam gives a unique perspective of the Protestant Reformation from both branches of Christendom. The class meets at 9:45 in **Watts-Hill Hall** and all are welcome.

Lectionary Class (Adults) - As Easter people, we expect to enjoy the good things that have been promised: abundant life, fellowship, and so on. But what's all this about suffering? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

Journeys Class (Adults) - Journeys will read and discuss chapters 1 and 2 from Will Willimon's book "***Fear of the Other***" in which we are to consider loving others without their needing to become like us. Join us for this new discussion at 9:45 in **basement classroom B-17**.

Scratch Class (Young Adults) - We are winding down our study of Lauren Winner's book, "***Images of God***." For these next two Sundays, we'll be exploring and sharing our own images of 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

This is it! Sunday, May 7 is the conclusion of our confirmation journey; the beginning of your adult life in the church. Confirmands and mentors will meet for one last time in our classroom in the Education Building at 9:45, to go over plans for worship. Confirmation will take place in the worship service, and will be followed by a celebration reception in Watts-Hill Hall for all. Many thanks to the teachers who assisted with Confirmation: ***Sarah Finbow, Christyn Klinck, and Rob Everett***. And certainly, KUDOS to the mentors who walked with the confirmands throughout the process, and who will continue to provide guidance for our eighth and ninth graders from this day forward. It has been a great experience of cross-generational learning, faith and fellowship.



Our **End-of-Year Celebration** will be held **this Sunday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the church. All youth are invited!** This is our last youth groups event before we take a break and begin our summer conferences!

Scripture Readers' Class

If you expressed interest on your *Time and Talent Sheet* in serving as a liturgist/scripture reader for worship, please consider attending the scripture readers' training class being held **this Sunday, May 7 and Sunday, May 21. We will meet in room 209 - Bell Choir Room - at 9:45**. Contact ***Steve Rimmer*** (csrimmer@nc.rr.com) for more information about the training and serving as a liturgist for worship. **Current readers and new readers welcome!**

Calling all graduates!

FPC will be recognizing graduates during worship on **June 4**. 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** (if a college graduate) and to **Sarah Finbow** (if a high school graduate).



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Grounds Workday - Saturday, May 6

We'll be pruning and mulching and weeding again. Come join us 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.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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.

The Things That Matter Book Group

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

***** Location has changed*****

Join us for a discussion of Vanessa Diffenbaugh's "The Language of Flowers." **Barbara Gerwe** will be hosting the group at her home (2704 Trailwood Drive in the Croasdaile Village community). **Dorothy Graham** will lead the discussion. Dorothy is asking that attendees **bring a favorite flower**.



A Parent's Day Service of Healing and Wholeness Saturday, May 13 at 5:00 p.m.

We are entering a season of Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations and weddings, when not everyone is able to celebrate. We will pause for reflection and prayer in the beautiful outdoor setting of FPC's Memorial Garden (weather permitting). Some of us will pray for children, some for parents, some for siblings; all are invited to stand together and seek God's comfort for those who mourn. Guests are welcome, as are children, as we celebrate God's presence and love at all times of our lives.

Annual Mother's Day Luncheon

Sunday, May 14

Give mom a break, avoid long restaurant lines and join us on Mother's Day for worship followed by a delicious meal served in Watts-Hill Hall. Complete a meal reservation card or call the church office (919-682-5511) to make a reservation for your family! Donations will be accepted to offset the cost of the meal: \$8 per person; \$24 max per family.



Great Big Church Family Festival



Registration Deadline is May 5

This summer, FPC is co-sponsoring an event called the Great Big Church Family Festival (GBCFF), June 11-14, from 5:30 – 7:30. This year's theme is **Surprising Friends**, and sometimes we will host our surprising friends, and sometimes we will be the surprising friends who visit other churches. In either case, FPC will be hosting on **Sunday, June 11** and **Wednesday, June 14** – and we need YOU (families, singles, grandparents, children, parents and young adults) to gather around tables and practice our hospitality skills. Dinner is provided each night at 5:30, and t-shirts are provided for those who register by May 5. Registration forms are in the foyer, and can be found on our FPC website, too. Sign up now, and join the GBCFF, which includes Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, Mt. Bethel Presbyterian, Iglesia Hispana Emanuel, and Duke Memorial Methodist. Now, more than ever, we need to practice welcoming the stranger.

Schedule for New Officers

May 22 New Officers meet with the Session

June 4 Ordination and Installation of New Officers during worship

June 26 First regular meeting - Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.; Elders meet at 7:00 p.m.
Supper for all officers at 6:30 p.m.

Service and Mission Opportunities

Fellowship Committee Needs Volunteers

For May, our lunch will be held following worship next Sunday, Mother's Day, May 14. Please volunteer to help!

Do you love helping out in the kitchen? Do you have a passion for loading the dishwasher just right? Are you looking for a great way to serve your church community? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, the Fellowship Committee would love your help! We are always looking for volunteers to help out with FPC's monthly lunches. Email **Abi Warmack** (abi.bissette@gmail.com) or **Julie Whiddon** (foxylady3542@yahoo.com) to be added to our email list!

Urban Ministries of Durham

Margaret Rubiera is now coordinating FPC's monthly volunteer opportunities at Urban Ministries of Durham.

Volunteers are needed in the coming weeks as follows:

- **Friday, May 19, breakfast and lunch shifts**
- **Thursday, May 25, lunch shift**
- **Friday, June 16, breakfast and lunch**
- **Thursday, June 22, lunch**
- **Friday, June 30, breakfast and lunch**
- **Friday, July 21, breakfast and lunch**
- **Thursday, July 27, lunch**

If you have been, or would like to begin, volunteering to serve breakfast or prepare lunch bags, please contact Margaret: margaretmr29@gmail.com. This is a great way to serve the downtown community.