

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

September 12, 2017



Newsletter going bi-weekly!

Dear friends,

Due to staff reductions over the past year, we are unable to continue to provide the newsletter on a weekly basis. We will be able to provide a comprehensive newsletter bi-weekly, as we have done over the summer. We will also still have a weekly Friday email reminder. We ask your understanding as we make this change.

Please have any information that might need to be included in the newsletter to our Church Administrator **Valerie McMillian** (v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible so that she has time to put the complete newsletter together for publication. Beginning with this edition, the bi-weekly schedule will begin. Thank you for your understanding.

Grace and peace,
Mindy

From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

As we head into this week, we are filled with care and concern for many in our nation and around the world. We recognize the devastation caused by natural disasters all around us. We have been in prayer for our friends and neighbors and family members who live in these affected areas. Many have sent money to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and other agencies helping to rebuild these areas. We have sent a team to help clean up after Hurricane Matthew and no doubt will send other teams. Though we ourselves have not been directly hit by these storms, we recognize the pain and stress of our extended community. We also remember the devastated areas and peoples in Asia, Mexico, Myanmar, and Sierra Leone.

As we lift our prayers up for all those affected, we lean upon God's words of comfort and assurance through the Psalmist:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge (Psalm 46, NRSV).

Friends, our trust is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Let us lean on God who created us, who sustains us through all of life's storms, and who saves us from the darkness and brings us into the everlasting light. May the love of Christ that shines on us be your guide through it all.

With love,
Mindy

OUR CONCERNS

Grace Abels (Peru) and Carter Momsen-Hudson (Ecuador), studying abroad

George Bernhardt III, son of George & Jo Bernhardt and U.S. soldier stationed in South Korea

Individuals and families displaced by the hurricanes in Florida and Georgia.

Bob Breitweiser

Bill Lorimer

Paul Cornsweet

Julie Maxwell

Celia and Matt Dickerson

Atria Senior Living: *Peggy Mordecai*, mother of Beth Eisenson

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): *Julian Boswell*

Croasdaile Village: *Bette Conroy, Bob Kever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford*

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): *Helen Garrison*

The Forest at Duke: *Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson*

Family and Friends of FPC Members and Staff:

Tom Bowen, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Barbara Cooper, friend of FPC

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Louise Dykes, aunt of Will Chambliss

Kendra Harrington, friend of Jeremy Tucker

Dell McMillian, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian

Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

Christina Z., mother of Franzi Rokoske



Sheila and I are so blessed to be part of this caring community! I have been overwhelmed by all of the prayers, expressions of support and cards as I recover from my surgery. Thank you!

With appreciation and love,
Bob Breitweiser



How have you grown in your understanding of Peacemaking?

Have you read our PC(USA) Stated Clerk's letter to President Trump? On Sept. 5, Rev. J. Herbert Nelson condemned the president's decision to end the DACA program. Rev. Nelson was speaking words of Christ's Peace to the power of our president. Read Nelson's letter at the PC(USA) News website: www.pcusa.org/news. Look for the September 5 news item.

When have you spoken Christ's Peace to power? How was the experience? To be better informed about the issues of peace and justice subscribe to PC(USA) E-mail news, either daily or weekly, by registering at www.presbyterianmission.org/newsletter-subscription. Select topics that interest you.

Note that on **THIS Sunday, September 17**, **Tom Bacon** will deliver a Minute for Peace about the Peace and Global Witness Offering that we will receive on October 1, World Communion Sunday.

P.S. Plan ahead for the Monday, October 2 at 7 pm Potluck Dessert when International Peacemaker Doug Baker from Northern Ireland visits FPC.

Sunday, September 17

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: "Life in God" - **Mindy Douglas**, preaching

Worship Texts: Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Liturgist: *to be determined*

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Eric Wiebe** (narthex/rear); **Gray Wilson** (side/font)

Ushers: **Jennie Alwood** (head), **need volunteer** (flowers), **Dale Gaddis, Jane Williams, Carolyn Merritt, Amy Sanchez**

Sunday, September 24

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism

Sermon: "*Jonah's Hissy Fit / No Mercy For You*" – **Marilyn Hedgpeth**, preaching

Worship Texts: Psalm 145:1-8; Matthew 20:1-15

Liturgist: **to be determined**

Narthex Greeter: **Elizabeth High**

After Worship Greeters: **Barbara Buckley** (narthex/rear); **Al Arrowood** (side/font)

Ushers: **need volunteer** (head), **Michael Honeycutt** (flowers), **Mickey Velkey, Amy Sanchez**



NOTES

We welcome **Cherrie Henry** back from her 3-month sabbatical. Cherrie will be sharing the details of her sabbatical and pilgrimage to Spain on **September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.**

First Friends and Families had a lovely beach weekend ahead of Hurricane Irma. Many thanks to **Kathy Conner** and **Deborah Momsen-Hudson** for organizing again this year.

It was great this weekend to welcome **Cecil and Mary Macaully's** daughter, **Cynthia Bangura**, back to the USA, and to see their beautiful granddaughter, **Zuri**, who is almost 2. Among our visitors on Sunday were former members **Mark, Pam and Caroline Stewart**, who were evacuated from Savannah and thus visiting their former home church.

Kudos to **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey** and the **Membership Committee** for hosting the Membership Inquiry Luncheon on Sunday following worship. Classes for those considering membership continue this Sunday at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor, led by **Sam Miglarese**, who will speak about Baptism and Eucharist. All who are interested in exploring membership are invited to attend.

Many thanks also to **Kristin Meade** for hosting the Scratch fellowship group for young adults on Saturday night at her home. **Cherrie Henry** was welcomed back into the fold.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All classes begin at 9:45, and parents are asked to walk your children to their classrooms, and to come back and get them for worship. Thank you!

3rd, 4th and 5th graders, ready to get your hands a little dirty? This Sunday, September 17, **Alec Bethune and Delia Kwon** will lead the class in some cartography (map making) of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus called his first disciples. I wonder what it looked like? I wonder if you could see across it? I wonder if you could sail across it in one day? On September 24, **Li-Chen Chin** will start us off with music, and then **Marilyn Hedgpeth** will take us to the new Spirituality Center, where we can take off shoes, relax, color, build, create, and just rest in the Lord. This month we are reading Mark 1: 16-20, if you want to be prepared for our next two classes. All are welcome!

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 and Community Class: Have you ever wondered how economists think about poverty? How does understanding the economics of poverty help us respond to the issues surrounding poverty in more effective ways? Join us this Sunday as **Tim O'Brien** leads us in a discussion of "The Economics of Poverty." Tim is a health economist at Research Triangle Institute and married to **Pastor Mindy Douglas**. The class meets at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall. All are welcome.

On **Sunday, September 24**, you are invited to hear **Olive Joyner**, Executive Director of Housing for New Hope, who will speak about affordable housing options and plans for Durham County.

Lectionary Class: The story of the escape of the Israelites from Egypt through the Red Sea is one of the most memorable and exciting in the Bible. What is its relevance for us today? Does God intervene miraculously in battles in our time? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

For September 24: What do we deserve? Are we "entitled" to the daily bread that we pray for? Do we deserve a greater reward than others because we have been faithful and obedient for many years?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class: This fall, Journeys and Scratch are combining classes in Room 205 to study the book, *The Road to Character*, by David Brooks. Brooks divides culture according to two paradigms: Adam I, whose members seek after economic success; and Adam II, whose members are more committed to character and the inner life. Then he follows with biographies of some who have aligned their lives more according to the Adam II paradigm: Dwight D. Eisenhower, George Marshall, St. Augustine, Samuel Johnson, Dorothy Day, and George Eliot, to name a few. The class will be team taught by members of both classes. All are welcome.

Spiritual Formation This year-round class for women is led by **Susan Dunlap** and explores the topic of spiritual formation. Join us at 9:45 in **basement classroom B-16**.

New Bible/Book Study: Cultivating Christian Character

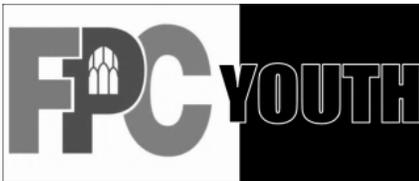
It's not too late to join the Friday morning Bible/Book Study group. We will be studying the content of our character as Christians. Have we been created to compete successfully on the economic playing field, or have we been created to practice a life of self-restraint, self-erasure, and self-suspicion, as author David Brooks suggests in his book, *The Road to Character*? Or are we called to embrace the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as enumerated in Galatians 5: 22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? We'll start with these Christians virtues, and then during Lent, we'll veer over into the classic Christian vices (virtues gone wild!) to see where we stand. Part book study, part Bible study, the class will meet on Friday mornings from 10:30 – noon in Room 205 of the Education Building. On **September 15, we'll look at Galatians 5 as an introduction to the study**; and on Friday, September 22, we'll tackle the topic of love. All are welcome and invited to participate.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY CLASSES

Do you have questions about membership at FPC? Do you want to meet others who are new to the FPC community? Have you already joined, but want to catch up on the ins and outs of FPC life? **We continue the series of Membership Inquiry Classes this Sunday at 9:45 in the Wilson Parlor.** The schedule for the remaining classes in the series (which are FYI, but not mandatory) is as follows:

9/17 – Baptism and Eucharist **Sam Miglarese**
9/24 – The Liturgical Year **Dewey Lawson/David Smith**
10/1 – History and Theology **Mindy Douglas**
10/8 – Polity and Theology **Phyllis Supple**
10/15 – Meet with the Session/The Christian Life **Mindy Douglas**

At this class on October 15, those who wish to join will meet with the Session at 9:45, and will be introduced during worship that day. However, you may join at any point in the process by letting one of the clergy know so that the Session can be notified about your desire to join. All are welcome to jump in at any point. If you have any questions, contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth**.



Youth groups will meet at regular times this week! Middle school (grades 6-8) from 5-6:30, high school (grades 9-12) from 6-8 with dinner together from 6-6:30. This Sunday, we'll be doing "getting to know you" activities. **Parents**, we will meet this coming Sunday after worship! Just grab lunch from Watts-Hill Hall and head to the Wilson Parlor!

~ MEETINGS / FELLOWSHIP / MISSION OPPORTUNITIES ~

From the Minister of Music

Children's Choir rehearsals begin **this Sunday, September 17**. Children who are interested (age 5 and up) should come to worship, and following "A Time with the Children," go to the choir room (second floor, CE building) for rehearsal. Parents should pick their child(ren) up from the choir room at the end of worship. NOTE: there is no Children's Choir rehearsal on Communion Sundays. Questions can be directed to **Samantha Arten** (samantha.arten@gmail.com) or **Kathy Parkins** (k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org).

The **Handbell Choir** has a new practice schedule. Practice will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Bell Choir room (second floor, CE building). NOTE: on the second week of the month, bells will practice on Monday at 5:00 p.m. New ringers are welcome to join us.

The **Chancel (adult) Choir** rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room (second floor, CE building). New singers are welcome to join us. Email **Kathy Parkins** if you will need childcare (k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org).

Wheels4Hope Fundraiser – Monday, September 18



City Barbeque will be supporting Wheels4Hope at all 4 Triangle dining locations. All you have to do is eat BBQ, and we will get 25% of the sales back! For Wheels4Hope to receive credit for a sale, the guest must turn in a copy of the flyer or show the cashier your online fundraiser barcode from your mobile device when making a purchase. The event is posted on the Wheels4Hope Facebook page, so you can share with your friends and invite them to join you for lunch or dinner!

Remember to sign up following worship!

All-Church Gathering

Sunday, September 24, 2017

3:00 p.m. til 8:00 p.m.

New Hope Camp and Conference Center

Schedule

3:00-5:00 p.m. Time to hang out, play games, hike, walk labyrinth, Gaga ball, volleyball, hand crafts

5:00 p.m. Vespers Worship

5:45 p.m. Potluck Supper
(Main dish provided. Bring sides.)

7:00 p.m. Campfire with s'mores, skits, poems, jokes, music and more!

This is an intergenerational event. All ages welcomed!

Officers' Meetings - Monday, September 25, 2017

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m. - East Parlor

Joint Officers' Supper at 6:30 p.m. - Watts-Hill Hall

Session at 7:00 p.m. - East Parlor



First Friends and Families Blessing Bags BBQ

The *Abels family* will host a blessing bag BBQ on **Saturday, October 7!** Hosts will provide dinner on the deck and we'll ask folks to bring stuff to fill blessing bags. We'll assemble bags while we're together. Hoping to assemble 200-300 bags. Watch for more details.

Anti-Racism Education Corner

If you haven't had a chance yet, please try to visit the Race Exhibit at the Natural Sciences Museum in Raleigh. This exhibit runs through October 22.

Go to <http://www.oarnc.org/events/> to see upcoming Racial Equity Institute workshop dates and locations.

Any questions about the Task Force can be addressed to *Kathy Krahenbuhl, Jon Abels, Diane Standaert, Emily Wilkins, or Sharon Hirsch.*

Durham/ NC Pride Night

The **Durham Pride** event is right around the corner - **Saturday, September 30, 4:00 pm til October 1, 4:00 a.m.** **FPC's Scratch** is helping to lead the church's representation in the event. If you're interested in getting involved, mark your calendars for the date, and be in contact with either *Claire Tipton (clairectipton@gmail.com)* or *Andrew Kim (adkim12@yahoo.com)*, both of whom have graciously volunteered to take the lead for FPC.

BREAKFAST with REV. BRIAN BLOUNT, PhD

Thursday, October 5

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Durham

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

TOPIC: *The Future of the African-American Minister: An "Interventionist" Agenda*
\$20 per ticket. Contact **Laura Armstrong** (larmstr6@nccu.edu) for reservations. All proceeds go to Presbyterian Campus Ministry at NCCU.

Peace Volunteers Needed at NC State Fair

In keeping with FPC's Season of Peace, FPC has been invited to help man the Peace Booth at this year's NC State Fair. Volunteers are needed on **Sunday, October 15, Tuesday, October 17, and Thursday, October 19 for half a day.** A sign in the Peace Booth will include the names of each group working that day's shifts. **All volunteers will receive a free ticket into the Fair (a \$10 savings).** The orientation and training sessions for all 2017 volunteers are Monday, October 9 or Tuesday, October 10 at 7-8:30 p.m. at Community United Church of Christ, 814 Dixie Trail, Raleigh. **Brianna Honea Bennett** has agreed to coordinate our volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Brianna at briannahonea@gmail.com.

Fundraiser for Iglesia Emanuel

This event was rescheduled to September 30.

Iglesia Emanuel, 2504 N. Roxboro St., Durham, NC will be holding a **Pupusa Sale fundraiser** on **Saturday, September 30 from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Please come out and enjoy some delicious pupusas and help to support their many programs, through which they provide healthy food to families in need, as well as music, art, and athletic programs for low-income children and youth. Iglesia Emanuel appreciates our on-going support of their ministry!

Habitat in Honduras - 2018 Mission Trip

If you are looking for an unforgettable, challenging way to "Love Thy (International) Neighbor," consider joining Habitat for Humanity for a 10-day building trip in Honduras. While there, we will provide tangible, hands-on help for our Honduran brothers and sisters, while developing amazing relationships that transcend cultural and language barriers. As you labor and serve, you may just find that the life being changed is yours.

Dates of 2018 trips: January 26 – February 4 (led by **Margaret & Miguel Rubiera**), and February 9 – 18 (led by **Blake Strayhorn**). All-inclusive cost: \$2,000. Contact Margaret at margaretmr29@gmail.com, or Blake at bstrayhorn@durhamhabitat.org for more information.

The 2016-2017 FPC Annual Report is now available. Contact Valerie in the church office if you want a copy. It can be viewed electronically from the church's website homepage. Just click on the report title.

The church newsletter will be issued again on Tuesday, September 26.

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