

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

January 9, 2018

From the Pastor

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and starting off this new year with hope and vision (and maybe a resolution or two!). As I envision the new year, my hopes are for deeper relationships with you all, vibrant and meaningful worship that speaks to my life (and to yours!), and the opportunity to discern what spiritual growth, community building, ministries of hospitality, and outreach to the community God will call us to this year. I hope you will join me in visioning who God is calling you to be as a part of the ministry and worship life of First Presbyterian Church!

This Sunday we have an opportunity to reconnect with our friend ***Jimmie Hawkins***, who will be here to teach the Faith and Community Class (9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall) and to preach a message that will stir us on this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend (11 a.m. in the Sanctuary). A Durham native, Jimmie is the former pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham, and now serves as the Director of the Office of Public Witness for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in Washington, DC. Jimmie is an old friend of the congregation and we are excited that on Sunday we will also be joined by his former congregation, Covenant, in class and in worship. It will be good to be together as God's Beloved Community as we learn more and more about what God intends for us as people of faith who are called to reflect the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

On MLK Day, we are excited to host again the Rally at the end of the Unity March. The March begins at 411 West Chapel Hill Street (NC Mutual building) and ends at First Presbyterian with the Rally beginning around noon. We hope you can join us for this, too!

In this New Year, may God provide us with more opportunities to grow in faith, hope, and love as we care for one another and serve the needs of the community around us. I am excited to be partnering with you in these opportunities ahead.

With love,
Mindy

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Rabbi John and Nan Friedman on the birth of their first grandchild. ***Ziva Dalia Friedman*** was born December 19 to ***Abigail and Scott Friedman*** in New Haven, CT. All are well.

Caroline and Ed Pritchett on the birth of a new granddaughter. ***Bennett Virginia Bass*** was born January 5 at Duke Regional Hospital to ***Elizabeth Pritchett Bass and Dustin Bass***. All are well.

SYMPATHIES to:

Alec and Rachel Bethune, Colin and Juliet, upon the recent death of Alec's father and former FPC member, **Stuart Burney Bethune** on December 30, 2017. Contact the church office for info on service arrangements.

Address:

Alec and Rachel Bethune
1019 Laurel Hill Road
Chapel Hill NC 27517

Matthew Dickerson on the death of his maternal grandfather, **Allan Plymale**, on January 2, 2018.

Address:

Matthew Dickerson
c/o Celia Dickerson
4412 Sunny Court
Durham NC 27705

Ellen and Tom Bacon, upon the death of Ellen's brother, **Bill Hedrick**, on January 8, 2018 in Albuquerque, NM. A service is planned on January 15th in Albuquerque.

Address:

Ellen and Tom Bacon
4201 Swarthmore Road
Durham NC 27707

CONCERNS:

Added this week:

Paul Cornsweet, recovering at home following surgery

Elinor Hess, undergoing hand surgery today

Caroline Rourk, recovering from shoulder surgery

Julie Maxwell

Ruth and Russell Roberson, both recovering at home in Croasdaile Village

Atria Senior Living: Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Croasdaile Village: Bette Conroy, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): Helen Garrison

The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

George Bernhardt III, son of George and Jo Bernhardt

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Marc Crawford, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Lindsay Efland, friend of Cherrie Henry

Heath, Rebecca, and Julia Huberg, family from South Dakota
(Heath is receiving care at Duke)

Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church

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

Wagner family, friends of Kerry Holbrook

Jerry Walter, friend of Brian and Jeanette Castle

Wintermute/Littles families, friends of Kerry Holbrook

Christina Z., mother of Franz Rokoske



On Sunday, January 7, we welcomed new member **John Philip Curran** to FPC. John is a May 2017 graduate of Hood College in Frederick, MD (B.A. in Communication Arts) and also earned an A.A. in Teaching from Frederick Community College. He is the Community Engagement Coordinator with Advance Community Health in Raleigh. His parents are ordained ministers serving with Disciples of Christ churches in Maryland. John is joining by transfer of letter.

PARISH NOTES

Many thanks to **Emily, Kennedy and Sophie Wilkins** for sponsoring the First Friends for a game night on Friday, January 5 at the church.

The church staff received a lovely box of chocolates over the holidays from our Muslim friends at the **Divan Center, Institution of Islamic and Turkish Studies in Cary**. The accompanying card contained a quote by Rumi: "Let the beauty of what you love, be what you do." FPC values having a diversity of faith friends all around us.

The **Friday morning Bible Study** continues its study of Cultivating Christian Character: the Fruits of the Spirit! Everyone is invited to join us on Fridays from 10:30 – noon at the church. We studied love, joy, peace and patience in 2017, and we have begun 2018 with *kindness*. Don't you think we need more of these qualities in our world? **Marilyn Hedgpeth** leads the class and would love to have you join us. We will miss **Bill Lorimer**, who has been one of our faithful members this past year.

The **Chancel Choir** has been on a Christmas holiday break. We will resume our Wednesday night rehearsing on **January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time *Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Sermon:

"A Durham Drum Major for Justice"

The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, preaching

Rev. Hawkins will also lead the Faith and Community Class discussion at 9:45 a.m.

Former pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Durham, Rev. Hawkins is the director of the PC (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C.

Worship Texts: Hebrew Scripture: Amos 5:18-24 / New Testament: Luke 13:10-17

Liturgist: **Jennie Alwood**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Carol Carson** (side/font):

Ellie Dilworth (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **Karen Swope, Dale Gaddis, Stephen Berry**

From the Associate Pastor . . .

Friends,

I have a magnet on my refrigerator with the quote by Mahatma Gandhi, “Be the change that you wish to see in the world”. But how does one little person affect change in the world; or one little church or organization, for that matter? I want to invite you to think deeply together about this at an interfaith workshop in Durham, on January 20th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Judea Reform Congregation, featuring singer, song-writer, speaker **David LaMotte** on *Worldchanging: Challenging the Myth of Powerlessness*. LaMotte questions narratives about how the world changes and how it does not. He encourages us to engage with the world and to address the problems we see, and builds a case for our responsibility to make a difference by examining the dynamics of large-scale change.

The workshop is for persons of any age who wish to think seriously about call and vocation, to communicate in non-violent ways, and to prepare and look for opportunities to engage the world in life-giving ways. It’s a sandwich event: two workshops, with lunch provided in between. Durham is the perfect place for us to discuss this issue in an environment of collegial cultural, racial, ethnic and ecclesial diversity. We can model the process that reflects the world we’d wish to see. First Presbyterian Church hopes you will join us for this workshop, as we continue to work together to build the Beloved Community in Durham. **Sarah Finbow (Sadie)** and I are going, and would love for you to join us there.

Do you have some time to watch this video for more information? If you think this is something that you would like to attend, please let me know! Both Sarah and I are really excited to bring David’s message to the Triangle. I look forward to hearing from you,

Marilyn Hedgpeth

David LaMotte
Musician Speaker Author

**Worldchanging 101
Workshop**

Saturday January 20
Judea Reform Congregation
1933 W Cornwallis Rd
Durham, NC
10am - 3pm
*Lunch provided
Tickets - \$15

worldchanging.brownpapertickets.com

<https://youtu.be/562VZ3vOU84>

<http://worldchanging.brownpapertickets.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2159166440977712/>

SUNDAY, January 21 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: *"Fishing for Purpose"*

Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching

Worship Texts: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Liturgist: **Jeanne Hervey, Joseph Ngumi**

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Lenore Champion** (side/font):

Libby Gulley (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **Christy Gudaitis**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship - Mindy Douglas, preaching

The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received during worship. Please give generously!

Liturgist: **Bob Yoder**

Narthex Greeter: **Elizabeth High**

After Worship Greeters: **Barbara Buckley** (side/font); **Sigfried Fullenkamp** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **Amy Sanchez**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Children's and Youth Sunday School is up and running for all ages. The 3-5th graders are looking at the story of Jesus being presented to God in the Temple from Luke 2: 22-38. You might want to read it at home as a family. On **January 14**, **Alec Bethune and Delia Kwon** will look at maps and models of the Temple in Jerusalem. And on **January 21**, **Li-Chen Chin and Marilyn Hedgpeth** will meet the class in the Spirituality Room down the hall for some singing and some spiritual doodling and puzzling. Friends are always welcome to join any of the Sunday School classes.

Middle and high school youth meet in their designated classrooms in the basement (below the sanctuary) at 9:45.

Faith and Community Class: This Sunday, January 14, Faith and Community welcomes The **Rev. Jimmie Hawkins**, director of the Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC, and former pastor of Durham's Covenant Presbyterian Church. Jimmie will inform us about his new calling, and enlighten us as to how we might use our words and our power to serve as advocates in the changing and challenging cultural landscape of our nation. Come with questions you would like to discuss with Jimmie. The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45, and all are welcome.

Beginning Sunday, January 21, we will start a month-long look at issues surrounding dementia/Alzheimer's disease, and discuss how best to minister and care for those who suffer from these conditions. We will begin by viewing a touching documentary about singer/song-writer Glen Campbell. *I'll Be Me*, follows Campbell's farewell tour after he is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and he and his family navigate the unpredictable nature of the disease

through love, laughter and music. We'll watch part of it January 21, and the remainder on January 28. All are welcome to join us in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45.

Lectionary Class: We meet at 9:45 in the East Parlor

January 14: When Nathanael was called, he was skeptical. When Samuel was called, he was confused. How will you respond when God calls you?

January 21: "The end is near. Repent!" Jonah brought that message to the Ninevites, and Paul to the Corinthians, and Jesus to the Galileans. How did they respond? How would you?

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class

Did you know that there was a Puritan Revolution? If not, you'll need to join Journeys and Scratch to discuss chapters 18 and 19 of the "The Story of Christianity" by Justo Gonzalez. All are welcome. We meet in the corner room of the 2nd floor of the education building.

In the coming weeks, we'll discuss chapters on this proposed schedule:

January 21: Chapters 20-21

January 28: Chapters 22-23

February 4: Chapter 24

February 11: Chapter 25.

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.



This **Sunday, January 14**, we will participate in a service project honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with area youth at Judea Reform. Make sure you have registered for this event.

On **Sunday, January 21**, we will meet at FPC for regular youth group around the topic: "What does it mean to be a servant?" Middle Schoolers begins at 5:00; supper for all youth at 6:00; High Schoolers begins at 6:30. Please come and bring a friend. **Parents of Youth should get lunch and then meet following worship on January 21 in the East Parlor.**

2017 SPECIAL OFFERINGS UPDATE

When we receive these offerings throughout the year, we are supporting ministries working to provide food, shelter, and hope for the "least of these" among us, to educate and guide today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders, and advance justice, peace, and equality for everyone.

Christmas Concerns - \$3,794

Funds to support *Meals on Wheels and Partners for Youth Opportunity*

Christmas Eve - \$ 3,575

Funds to support *Durham's Welcome Baby* organization, the **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina**, and **Senior PharmAssist**.

Christmas Joy - \$2,225

Funds support the Assistance Program of the PC(USA) Board of Pensions and student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Hunger for Change – \$5,193

Funds help combat hunger in our community and around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$6,304

Funds support hunger relief, disaster assistance and self-development of people through PC(USA) special programs.

Peace & Global Witness - \$3,667

Funds are used to support peacemaking efforts locally and around the world.

Pentecost - \$1,458

Funds support local and PC(USA) programs for at-risk children, youth and young adults.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$7,580

FPC Walk-In Ministry – \$1,945

Thank you so very much for your generous giving in 2017!



*Seek the welfare of the city . . .
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

- Jeremiah 29:7

Stewardship 2018

Love in the Heart of Durham

The Stewardship Committee is grateful to those who responded with generous support for our mission and ministries. **As of December 31, 2017, we have received 197 pledges, reaching 99.6% of our 2018 pledges goal.** Please get your pledge in. We're counting on your support in 2018!

Contact **Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator, if you have questions about the pledging process: 919-682-5511 ext. 216 or t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org.

With gratitude,

Miriam Morey, Chair

George Bernhardt, Co-Chair

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

The flower ministry of FPC offers a meaningful way to donate flowers for the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion. Each Sunday the flower arrangements bring the colors and beauty of nature to our worship service. Following worship, our deacons divide the flowers and deliver smaller arrangements to members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend church, as a way of sharing with them a part of our worship service. Ninth Street Flowers provides the beautiful arrangements each Sunday.

If you would like to reserve an upcoming Sunday to give flowers for worship, please sign up on the 2018 calendar in the foyer.

Ruth Roberson (RuthHRoberson@gmail.com, 919-949-2106) or

Jean Wilson (JeanJWilson@gmail.com, 919 403-7333) will be glad to provide more details.

Upcoming FPC Events . . .

Book Group - January 16 (new date and new location)

The Things That Matter Book Group will discuss "*Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*" by Isabel Wilkerson on **Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of *Dale Gaddis* (912 Urban Ave). *Mary Jo Schlecht* will lead the discussion. New faces are welcome to join this faithful group of readers.

Nominating Committee

Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. - East Parlor

Daytimers' Luncheon

Tuesday, January 23 at 11:30 a.m.

Neo China Restaurant

4015 University Drive, Durham

Arranged by *Harriett Mitchell*

RSVP to Harriett at: 919-489-3839

Officer Meetings - Monday, January 29 (new date)

Diaconate at 6:00 p.m.

Joint Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Session at 7:00 p.m.

Youth "Soup"er Bowl

Sunday, February 4

Support this youth fundraiser to combat hunger locally and around the world!

McPherson Lectureship 2018

February 25-26

Guest Lecturer: Starsky Wilson,

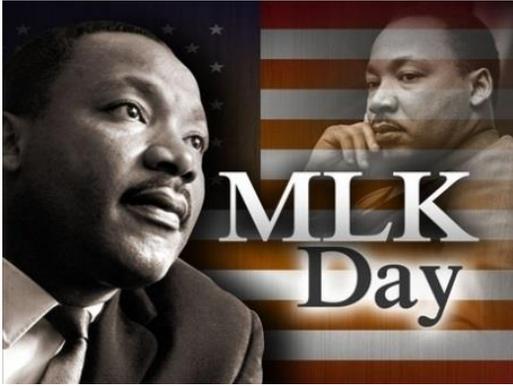
President and CEO of Deaconess Foundation and member of the Ferguson Commission;
Senior Pastor of St. John's Church, St. Louis, MO

Congregational Meetings

The FPC Session has set the following two dates for Congregational Meetings to be held at the end of worship:

Sunday, February 4 - to vote on changes in terms of call for installed pastors

Sunday, February 18 - to elect new officers



Durham City/County Employees Annual Civic Celebration

Thursday, January 11 at 12 Noon
(FPC sanctuary)

The keynote speaker will be **Pierce Freelon**, a local community leader, musician, entrepreneur, and former candidate in the 2017 Durham mayoral race. The program includes remarks from local leaders and elected officials along with songs from the employees' choir. The event is free and open to the public.

The National Dr. King Day Unity March and Rally **Monday, January 15**

Gather at 10:30 a.m. at N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company, 411 W. Chapel Hill Street, then march to First Presbyterian Church for the rally which will begin around 12 noon and feature The Durham Children's Choir. The event is free and open to the public. **FPC members are encouraged to participate in the march. Unable to march this year? Consider coming to FPC and serving as a greeter, or just attend the rally. Remember to bring children's books to donate to the annual Book Harvest Book Drive!**

Anti-Racism Education Corner

FPC's Racial Equity Task Force invites you to another screening of "13th," an award-winning documentary that explores the history of institutional racism and the mass incarceration of African-American males. **Libby and Dub Gulley** have graciously offered to host this new screening and discussion of the documentary in their home (1313 Woodburn Rd, Durham) on **MLK Day, Monday, January 15 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** There are 8 seats available. If you wish to attend this screening, please contact Libby directly: gulley@nc.rr.com. **Emily Wilkins** will lead the discussion.

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



CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

First Presbyterian Church is once again fielding teams to compete in the annual Hope Valley Baptist Church basketball league. **Play has begun!**

Games are played on Mondays and Thursdays through the end of February in the Hope Valley Baptist church gym, located at the corner of Garrett and Hope Valley Roads. FPC fan support is very much appreciated.

Affordable Housing in Downtown Durham - Planning Update

In 2015, the Session of First Presbyterian Church and the Vestry of St. Philip's approved a resolution to the Durham Board of County Commissioners supporting the inclusion of affordable housing as a wrap around the parking deck that the County plans to construct in the lot between the churches. The County Commissioners are now committed to make a decision on the lot by the end of May of this year. There will be joint meeting on **Sunday, January 14, at 12:30 at St. Phillip's** to inform both congregations about the current status of the planning process and see drawings by a local architect working with us on a proposed structure. We will discuss what features we would like to have included in the project and identify the actions we should take to promote this proposal.

Vox Virorum Men's Chorus Winter Concert at FPC

Sunday, January 21 at 3:00 p.m.

All are welcome. (FPC sanctuary)

For this hour-long concert, the men's chorus will explore the commonalities of musical expression across the globe with "*The Universal Language of Arts.*" In a world that too often sees unfamiliar groups of people as "other" or the "enemy," we forget that different nations, religions, races, and even genders do not conform to one way of thinking. **Free admission: \$10 suggested donation.** For more information, go to: <http://www.trianglesings.org/vox-virorum-mens-chorus-2/>

Women's Voices Chorus

"Song of the Universal"

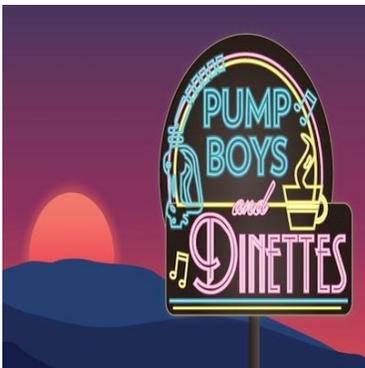
Sunday, January 21 at 3:00 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

150 E. Franklin St, Chapel Hill

Tickets: \$17 adult, \$7 student, available at the door **or** via their website: womensvoiceschorus.org

Fundraiser for Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase



**Friday, January 26 and Saturday, 27, 2018
7:30 p.m. at the Hayti Heritage Center, Durham**

Pump Boys and Dinettes is a musical that tells the story of four males and two females who work at a gas station/dinette somewhere between Frog Level and Smyrna, North Carolina.

You can get tickets and make donations by visiting:

PumpBoysForBen.org. You can also mail a check made payable to "Farm Church" with "Live into Hope" in the subject line. Include your email address and the number of tickets you need and send to:

**Farm Church
c/o Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
927 West Trinity Avenue
Durham, NC 27701**

Supporting "Sanctuary"

The Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill made a decision to become a sanctuary church. The Session approved FPC to be a partner in this effort as part of an **interfaith network of volunteers**. **Individuals who are interested in volunteering can sign up at: <http://eepurl.com/c77iRn>**. Volunteer activities include everything from prayer support to providing a meal, paying a visit, doing laundry, advocating to change inhumane immigration laws, or providing medical care.

ESSAY CONTEST

sponsored by the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South

THEME: "Roots and Branches"

Submissions should consider this theme in creative ways. What grounds you? What helps you reach out? What sustains you in your personal or professional life? How does spiritual community help to nourish you? Where might you need pruning in order to thrive?

DETAILS: Women 18 years of age or older may submit up to 2 nonfiction essays, 1,400 words or less. Please, no sermons. **Do not put your name on the essays(s)**. **Fill out the online cover letter form and submit your entry by **January 15, 2018**** to: <https://rcwms.submittal.com/submit>.

PRIZES: \$300 for first place, \$200 second, and \$100 third. The winning essay will be published in the RCWMS newsletter, South of the Garden, March 2018.

Volunteering at Urban Ministries

Our wonderful work at Urban Ministries continues, and we are so grateful for the enthusiastic and faithful volunteers who give of their time month after month to help prepare and serve meals to our neighbors in need. The best part is that we have lots of fun with other members of our congregation while we prepare the food. The shifts generally fill up quickly, so please get in touch with Margaret Rubiera soon if you want your name added to any of the open spots.

For January: **Monday, January 15 - MLK Day** (Holiday, so preparing and serving lunch from 11 - 1:30), **January 19** (breakfast prep and serving, 7 - 9 am) and **January 25** (lunch prep, 9:30 - 11 am).

Join us to experience the special joy of feeding those whose resources are very slim! For more details, contact **Margaret Rubiera** at margaretmr29@gmail.com.

Growing Thru Grief

Growing Thru Grief is a free, open-ended, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. It involves an initial presentation followed by breaking into small group discussions. Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1200 W. Cornwallis, at 4 pm for coffee and cookies. The meeting starts at 4:30 and ends by 6 pm.

The next church newsletter will be issued January 23, 2018.
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Monday, January 22, 2018.

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