

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

June 25 - July 8, 2019

From the Associate Pastor:

Dear friends,

It was with great sadness that we said good-bye to sweet **Bette Conroy** this week. Bette was one of the most positive, up-beat women that I have ever met. She and her husband, Bob, were great supporters of the church. Yet when Bob died in 2009, life became more difficult for Bette. She gave up her home, moved to Croasdaile Village, and over the years suffered through several falls, as well as a gradual loss of memory. But the amazing grace was this: the more that Bette lost, physically and mentally; the more her faith increased, and the more her faith and the church meant to her. **Michael Honeycutt**, who would often give Bette and others at Croasdaile rides to church, said in an email, *"Even on her 'less than better' days, Bette would talk about how much FPC, the people, the ministers, and especially the music mean to her. Coming to church at FPC was a happy occasion for her. Many times on the way home, Bette would sing one of the hymns from the day's service. I feel blessed that I got to know her in this way."*

The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12: 9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Almost to her dying day, Bette sang her faith, using the hymns that had been so formative to her faith. Bette sang her way to heaven, surrounded by those who loved her, beckoned by those saints who preceded her. Hers was a good death, I have to say.

The reason I'm telling you this is because singing hymns is vital to our health and well-being. We sing them to praise God. We sing them to pray twice, in both word and melody. But we also sing them to fill up our inner reservoir with songs of God's love which will sustain us when times are tough. Bette was a beautiful example of the sustaining and redemptive power of an inner reserve of hymns.

This Sunday, June 30, is our summer **Myrtlefest**, a time when we pull out our oldie-goldie favorite hymns and sing them with vigor, to the accompaniment of a mandolin this year. It's something fun that we do every year. But it is more than just fun; it is good medicine! It is the best medicine there is, to fill our souls with God-songs. You might not like every hymn we sing, but there will be something there for everyone. The hymn that you dismiss might be just the one that carries your friend through "the valley of the shadow" and beyond. So come and sing for yourselves, and come and sing for the well-being of the beloved community. Accompany them with singing, all the saints on earth and in heaven. I hope to see you Sunday, if not before.

Shalom,
Marilyn



The church office will be closed Thursday, July 4 in observance of nation's Independence Day! Please have a safe holiday celebration.

Joys/Concerns

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

- to the **First Presbyterian Day School** which maintained its 5-Star rating for another year. They scored 5.13 which is above the 5.0 required for a 5-star rating. Let's congratulate the staff for a job well done!
- to **Emily Wilkins** who has been selected to represent New Hope Presbytery with a nationwide delegation traveling to San Juan, Puerto Rico in July. Fossil Free PCUSA and the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship have been invited to bring a delegation to learn from our neighbors how and why we need to be better stewards of our one earth. Emily welcomes your support, be it moral, emotional, prayerful, playful, physical (take a walk with her to get in shape), and/or financial. She leaves for San Juan on July 2st.
- In 2010, **Carolyn McAllaster** founded the North Carolina AIDS Action Network to increase visibility and support of people living with HIV and AIDS throughout the state. She also founded the Health Justice Clinic at Duke, and is the director of the Southern HIV/Aids Initiative. At the end of this month, Carolyn will be retiring. To honor Carolyn's work, the AIDS Action Network is funding a scholarship in her name and setting up an endowment at the NC Community Foundation to create long-term sustainability for the AIDS Action Network. As we observed the PC(USA) World AIDS Sunday in worship on June 23, we congratulate Carolyn on her long history of advocating for the dignity and healing of all of the individuals and families affected by this disease. FPC is proud to make a donation to the scholarship honoring Carolyn's wonderful work. (Read the full article: Melinek, Jacquelyn. "Elton John AIDS Foundation honors Duke law professor". *The New and Observer*, June 21, 2019)

JOYS:

- **John and Sue Fricks** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21. They are in Maine with family this month to mark that celebration.
- **Neal and Emily Wilkins** will celebrate their 25th anniversary July 1, 2019. It was great to have so many of you greet Neal for Father's Day at the luncheon. For those who were members in 1994, you may remember an August 27th date, planned following Emily's return from most of a year away. That was a service at First Pres. to celebrate our marriage which had taken place on July 1st, 1994, in Judge Napoleon Sanchez' office in Managua, Nicaragua, in SPANISH. Emily had to translate what the judge made us promise, which included that Neal was responsible for washing the dishes for the rest of our lives.

CONDOLENCES:

Long-time member **Bette Conroy** died on Friday, June 21 at the Hock Family Pavilion. A service of Witness to the Resurrection for Bette will be held at FPC on Saturday, June 29 at 4 p.m., with a reception following. Our heartfelt condolences

and prayers are with her family and friends as they mourn her death and celebrate her resurrection to new life.

We also extend condolences to the family of **Sue Coon**, a friend of the congregation who died recently.

Concerns this week:

Judy Arrowood, recovering at home from knee replacement surgery

Rebecca Aysque, friend of Christy Gudaitis

Boyce Brawley, twin brother of Robert Brawley

Doug Butler, recovering at home from surgery

Diana Carrasco, undergoing tests

Camilla Crampton, friend of Mal King, recovering at her home

Harold Dunlap, preparing for spinal neck surgery on June 28th in Raleigh

Dennis Hill, recovering from knee replacement surgery at Duke General Hospital

John Weicher, Amy Wilson, and eight middle schoolers (**Vanessa Armstrong, Joshua Baquedano, David Carrasco, Isa Cummings, Charlie Kelley, Lawrence Mbugua, Gretchen Sims, Cora Williamson**) will be leaving today for the Massanetta Middle School Conference. Please be in prayer for them as they travel to Virginia and back for the four-day event.

Home:

Margaret Mubanga

Joseph Ngumi

Franzi Rokoske (and her mother)

Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell, Becky Crockett**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: **Helen Garrison**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Fran Alwood, mother of Jennie Alwood

Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Heath Huberg, friend of Kathy Parkins

Doug Neece, brother of Vernon Neece

Charlie Ramos, great-nephew of Nora Tubbs Tisdale

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Bob Warren, father of Dawn Carsey

Thank you to the following who hosted fellowship events in June:

- **June 22 - Marcia Lorimer, with the help of David Lorimer, Phyllis Supple and Alice Raney**, hosted Primetimers and the Scratch group for a covered dish supper in her home;
 - **June 25 - Dennis Hill and Jim Adams** arranged the Daytimers' gathering at Bullocks Barbecue today.
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KUDOS to **Cris Rivera, Beth Stringfield** and their team of volunteers for making the Father's Day "Dine with Dad" luncheon a memorable event. This picture and caption were posted on the EVITE by **Katherine Admay**: "Two happy fathers and a daughter and granddaughter. Thank you for making this feast and all that goes with it possible!"



I would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to my First Presbyterian Church family for all their love and support with the cards, calls, visits, meals, flowers, books, rides, etc. as I have been recovering from hip replacement surgery. I am so grateful for your love and kindness during this very difficult time.- **Caroline Davis Rourk**

Sunday, June 30
Hymn Sing & Myrtlefest

You are invited to come hear Tony Williamson sing and play (and sing along with him) at our own Hymn Sing & Myrtlefest, Sunday, June 30 at 11 am. Then stay for a potluck picnic on the grounds under our crepe myrtles. Remember to bring a dish to share and a blanket or lawn chair. The church is providing a main meat and beverages.



Tony Williamson, mandolin virtuoso of worldwide fame, returned to his home in the Piedmont of North Carolina to a farm in Pittsboro. Born into a family of woodworkers and musicians, he learned to love the folk and bluegrass music of the South, and with his brother Gary, began recording music as far back as the 1970's. Last year, he was the recipient of the North Carolina Heritage award and prior to that, in 1994, earned the International Bluegrass Music Award.

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship with Hymn Sing
Nora Tubbs Tisdale, preaching

Nora is an ordained PC(USA) minister, retired as a homiletics professor at Yale Divinity School. She previously taught at Princeton Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary (where she was **Mindy Douglas**' preaching professor). In addition, she has served a number churches including Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. She now resides in Durham with her husband, Alfred Tisdale.

Narthex Greeter: **Debbie Hamlin Aggrey**

Ushers: *Kathy Conner* (counter), *Bob Pleasants, John Mozart, El Hess*
Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Sunday, July 7
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Joe Harvard, preaching

Joe is well-known at FPC, having served as Pastor/Head of Staff from 1980-2013. He holds degrees from Yale Divinity School, the University of Basel in Switzerland, and Columbia Theological Seminary. As a passionate advocate for social justice and racial reconciliation, Joe has been awarded numerous honors including the Freedom Award from the Durham Branch of the NAACP, the Keeper of the Dream Award from the Martin Luther King Steering Committee of Durham, and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from the state of North Carolina. Joe's family members at FPC include wife **Carlisle Harvard**, daughter **Rebecca Harvard Barnes**, and granddaughters **Jenna and Maryn Leonard**.

Narthex Greeter: **Delia Kwon**

Ushers: *Please sign up to usher.*



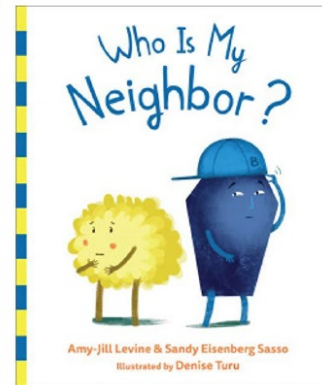
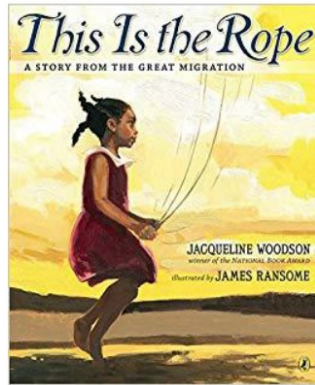
FPC's hosting duties are over, so now it is time for us to return the favor by being good guests. **Mt. Bethel Presbyterian of Durham is hosting the second festival night on Sunday, July 7 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Service projects for this event will be focused on helping our veterans. The cost of the meal is \$5 per individual; \$10 per family. **Rebecca Harvard Barnes** will be coordinating the event, so please come and support her ministry there! If youth need summer service hours, they can

acquire those by helping prepare for the evening and participating in the event (perhaps hours of service per event). Community Service volunteer forms will be available for youth at registration. So, plan to join us for dinner and community service at this next GBCFF. Mt. Bethel is located at 3541 Rose of Sharon Rd., Durham, NC 27712. For more information, call Mt. Bethel at 919-383-3854.



Summer Sunday School is off and running for children, youth and adults. Children will meet upstairs in room 208 for Storypath, an exploration of some of the best new books in children's literature with theological implications for young and old alike.

June 30 – *This is the Rope: The Great Migration*, by Jacqueline Woodson. The Great Migration, between 1010 – 1970 took 6 million black Americans from the south to cities in the north. Come and hear about this journey through the eyes of a child as she jumps rope. **Bob Pleasants**, and **Tom and Catherine Admay** will be leading the class.



July 7 – *Who is My Neighbor*, by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. A retelling of the parable of the Good Samaritan, where one neighbor is yellow and the other is blue. Come and discuss how our differences can drive a wedge between us – or not! **Jean Wilson**, and **Tom and Catherine Admay** will be facilitators on July 7. All are welcome!



Summer Sunday School for Adults

The Faith and Community Class continues its discussion of the book, *Just Mercy*, an honest and moving look at mass incarceration in America. On **June 30**, **Sam Miglarese** will lead a discussion of chapter 1, 2 and 3. Then on **July 7**, we welcome guest presenter, **JaQuan McGhee**, who will show part of the documentary about his life, *Leaving Anacostia*, and answer questions from the class. **Marilyn Hedgpeth** will conclude with a synopsis of chapters 4 & 5 of the book. And on **July 14**, **Susan Dunlap** will facilitate a discussion of chapters 6, 7, and 8. So keep reading! The study will conclude with a panel

Adult Lectionary Class - The Lectionary Class continues to meet during the summer to study the texts being used in worship each Sunday. This summer they are taking the challenge of stepping into Year D, and exploring some of the difficult texts in scripture omitted from the Revised Common Lectionary. If you're up to a challenge for the summer, please join them in the East Parlor at 9:45. **David Smith, Tyler Momsen-Hudson, Robert Brawley** and others lead that class.

June 30: In one of today's passages, Isaiah harshly condemns many of those around him: those who sarcastically doubt the work

discussion that will include panelists from the community with knowledge of and experience with mass incarceration and the redemptive potential of justice and mercy. The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45, and members and guests are all welcome. Click [here](#) for the complete class discussion schedule.

Women's Spiritual Formation Class -

The Women's Spiritual Formation (Sunday School) class will be on pause this summer as we join the Faith and Community class through August 18 for the discussion of the book, *Just Mercy*. The class will resume its regular study on August 25th at 9:45 in the **basement parlor**.

of the Lord; those who call evil good and good evil; those who are wise in their own eyes; those who acquit the guilty for a bribe. What would a modern-day Isaiah find to condemn in today's world? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

July 7: We have read and heard the parables of Jesus so often that we think we understand their true meaning. But Jesus told his disciples that he taught in parables so that only those who are prepared by their faith will grasp his teachings. Are our ears open?

Adult Journeys/Scratch and The Thoughtful Christian classes are taking a break this summer. These classes will resume in the fall.

PELICAN'S SNOBALLS HANGOUT:

TUESDAYS, 5-6 PM, ALL SUMMER LONG

RIISING 6TH GRADERS THRU GRADUATED SENIORS

3217 N. FOXBORO ST., DURHAM

JUNE 18 & 25



JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 (TBD) & 30

AUGUST 6, 13, 20 & 27 (TBD)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM YOUTH MINISTRIES
FRIENDS WELCOME - JESUS LOVES YOU - SUGAR ICE IS YUMMY

GREAT BIG
CHURCH
FAMILY
FESTIVAL
6/9, 7/7, 8/4
5:30-7:30 PM

SUMMER '19

YOUTH MINISTRIES CALENDAR FOR
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM
ALL NON-TRIPS FOR 5TH-12TH GRADE

MASSANETTA
JUNE 25-28
TRIENNium
JULY 15-20
MONTREAT
JULY 21-27



HANGING OUT @ PELICAN'S SNOBALLS)
TUESDAYS, 5-6 PM, 3217 N. ROXBORO ST.
JUNE 18 & 25
JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 (TBD) & 30
AUGUST 6, 13, 20 & 27 (TBD)

SERVING AT THE CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - LOOK FOR DETAILS



YOUTH ROOM CREATIVE MASTERPIECE
& PARLOUR ICE CREAM, JULY 11, 6:30-9 PM

ENO RIVER STATE PARK HIKE & SWIM
AUGUST 11, 12:15-5 PM



FRIENDS WELCOME, JESUS LOVES YOU, DINNER PROVIDED



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM & SNAPCHAT.



Sunday, July 14 A Service of Healing and Wholeness

As *John Weicher* spoke to so eloquently in his sermon on June 23 from Luke 9: 37-45, all of us know what it is like to be a parent in anguish over a child who is sick in body, mind or spirit; or to be a child who is worried about a parent or sibling who

is likewise broken. All of us seek the healing that Jesus so freely offers. Realizing our mutual brokenness, part of the worship service on July 14 will be a ritual of blessing for those who are sick themselves, or who wish a blessing on behalf of someone else who is sick. We rarely do this ritual in worship, but perhaps we

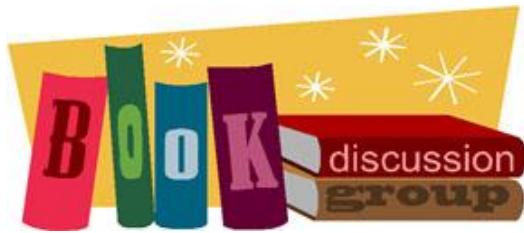
should do it more often in this City of Medicine. The disciples cannot heal the boy who is seized by an evil spirit, but Jesus does heal him. God's desire is for our shalom, and God's power is beyond our best medicines. If you have a desire for restoration, come!

Service & Mission Opportunity

Furniture needed: A young mother with 4 children (ages 11-2) associated with our congregation is in need of the following items by early August:

- 2 twin beds (mattress, box springs, and frame if possible)
- 1 twin mattress and box springs (no frame needed)
- 1-2 children's dressers
- Washer and dryer (Willing to purchase used for a modest price)

Please contact [Cherrie Henry](#) if you can donate any of these or have questions.



The **Things That Matter Book group** will meet on **Tuesday, July 9** at the home of **Caroline Pritchett** (202 Villa Drive) to discuss David Grann's *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. **Barbara Gerwe** will

lead the discussion. Let Caroline know you will attend by emailing her at caropritch@gmail.com.



RACIAL EQUITY Task Force

The next meeting of the FPC Racial Equity Task Force is on **Sunday, July 7, right after worship, in the Wilson Parlor**. If you have ideas

you'd like to share or would just like to join us in planning ways to share education with our fellow church members, please do. If you have any questions, just drop **Kathy Krahenbuhl** an email (kat.krahenbuhl@gmail.com).

The registration pages for the Racial Equity Institute (REI) upcoming trainings are on the new OAR Alliance web page. Please attend if you can:

<https://www.oaralliance.org/schedule/> This link also gives you access to information about Caucuses and other REI presentations, such as Groundwater.

In the **Faith and Community Class** we are studying *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson this summer. As part of this class series we are looking closely at mass incarceration, and including how it looks in Durham. **Diane Standaert** led the first two classes with a basic overview of the system and in the second week she was joined by **Muffin Hudson** who is the director of the NC Community Bail Fund and serves on the Human Relations Commission. Many of those who are in our Durham County Jail are only there because they cannot afford their bail. Wealthy people who are arrested can bond out quite easily, but when you are already living in poverty, finding the money for your freedom can be quite difficult. The result is that people are incarcerated for their poverty without yet having an opportunity to prove their innocence.

This past Sunday **Jane Williams** gave us an introduction to Bryan Stevenson, the author of *Just Mercy* and the Founder/Director of the Equal Justice Initiative. If you missed this class, here is the clip that Jane shared as part of the class : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYkNurU8i1w> . In discussion afterward we talked some about the things that FPC is doing in regard to mass incarceration issues. As a church and as individuals there are many ways we can become more involved. In regard to Money Bail Bonding, SONG (Southerners on New Ground): <http://southernersonnewground.org/> has had a huge effect on reducing the number of people incarcerated at the Durham County Jail just because they did not have enough money to pay their bail. **Beth Brockman and Diane Standaert** are both active with Southerners On New Ground (SONG), and are part of a team navigating Black Mamas against cash bail in Durham County.

The organization mentioned with Muffin Hudson is NC Community Bail Fund of Durham, and they always welcome more support: <https://www.nccbailfund.org/> Poverty plays a huge role in mass incarceration, so these bail funding issues are very important.

See the FPC website or the OPTIONS Sunday School section of this newsletter for a link to the Faith and Community summer class discussion schedule.

For those who have interest in prison ministry, training is available through **YOKEFELLOW Ministry**. Click [here](#) for local training opportunities. **Jane Williams, Roger Kalthoff** (Jane's husband), and **Kathy Krahenbuhl** are already certified for the Yokefellow ministry and would be glad to talk to anyone who might be interested.

Benefit Concert - Thursday, July 11 7:30 p.m. Judea Reform Congregation 1933 Cornwallis Rd, Durham

Musicians from all around the triangle are invited to come and sing or play a song or two with all proceeds from the concert going to CWS-Durham and their work helping vulnerable immigrants in our community. Singers will come at 6:30 pm to rehearse some group numbers with all the other musicians in attendance. These will be a combination of songs from the Jewish tradition like *Hinei Mah Tov* and *Gesher Tzar M'od*, as well as songs in English supporting civil rights. If you are interested in joining this benefit concert, email [Allan Friedman](#) and he will email additional details to you.

FPC Members . . .

Do you want 24/7 access to the church's membership directory and/or want to view the church calendar on the go? If so, you need the Church Life App on your smart device. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to add this great App to your smart device.



**The next church newsletter will be issued on Tuesday,
July 9.**

**Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, July 7.**

[June 2019 Birthdays](#)

[July Birthdays](#)

[Online Church Calendar](#)



[Visit our website](#)