

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

August 6-19, 2019

From the Parish Associate:

Difficult scriptures. Have you noticed that's what we've had this summer in our worship? Last Sunday our fearless **Mary Berry** (Candidate for PCUSA Ministry of Word and Sacrament and a Ph.D. in-the-making) took on some of St. Paul's hard-to-appreciate understandings of marriage. Two weeks before, **Dr. Jenny Copeland** talked about an obtuse story from the Elisha (not Elijah!) narratives. And earlier in July, Associate Pastor **Marilyn Hedgpeth** dared to wrestle with Jesus' teachings about what defiles us!

All this came as a result of a challenge Marilyn offered to those preaching this summer - to bust out of our usual Common Lectionary A, B, C cycle into some Year D lectionary passages. (Year D for those who don't know, is an added lectionary year for congregations who want to experience some of the scriptures that A, B, and C years leave out. . .most especially some texts that are a bit more "unsavory" than most!)

I want to thank Marilyn for this challenge and every preacher this summer who took it on. I am also thankful for all our "*Just Mercy*" teachers and presenters, as well as those who got on the train with folks from **Covenant** and **Timothy Darling Presbyterian Churches** on their pilgrimage to the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro. Who says summer is only for remediation or simply marching in place?

And if you don't mind me riffing a bit on Mindy's sabbatical theme, I think we've all learned that summer is as good a time as any, to knock on and break down some walls we have come to expect will never yield for us. I feel privileged to be part of a church family that is not afraid of such work. This makes First Presbyterian a unique place in our lives and in the life of our city.

Thank you for being church together this summer! Won't it be fun for us to catch Pastor Mindy up on our wall-breaking time together, even as she tells us stories of her own?

Courage and faith,
Cherrie Barton Henry
Parish Associate

Joys/Concerns

CONDOLENCES:

Our condolences are with **Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett** and her daughters, **Sonia** and **Valentine**, upon the sudden death of Mercy's grandniece, **Tiffany Murage**, in Kenya on August 2. In addition to this loss, Mercy is facing foot surgery again in September, and asks for our prayers and expressions of love and support for her and her family.

CONCERNS:

Doug Neece, brother of Vernon Neece , recovering from surgery

Home:

Harold Dunlap

Margaret Mubanga

Joseph Ngumi

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

Rebecca Aysque, friend of Christy Gudaitis

Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Camilla Crampton, friend of Mal King

Drew Doll, friend of FPC

Ralph Edwards, grandfather of Amy Wilson

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Bob Warren, father of Dawn Carsey



To our church family and friends,
Many thanks for the beautiful cards send and the sympathy expressed with regard to the sudden death of César's sister. They meant a lot to us as well as to our family in Mexico!

- **Cathy and César Guajardo**

First Presbyterian is a very special church family! Thank you so much for your amazing support as I healed from a nasty fall that resulted in fractured ribs. I am grateful for your outpouring of love through prayers, cards, visits, delicious food, telephone calls and email messages.

- **Phyllis Supple**

CARD: Thank You! A Bundle of thanks to you for all of the thoughtfulness you've shown.

NOTE: Words cannot express the gratitude in our hearts! We are so thankful that you and your congregation decided to support Merrick Moore Elementary this year. Our students were very pleased when they were able to go home with a breakfast and lunch provided for an unplanned day out of school. We Thank

You! With grateful hearts,
Matt Hunt, principal
Kathy Conner and **Anissa Hichlen**, counselors
Merrick Moore Elementary, Durham

NOTES and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Two weeks ago, we solicited your help in restoring the **Pastors' Discretionary Fund** in order to help our members who are in need. The response has been considerable, and we are glad to share with you that two families have been assisted who were struggling because of on-going illnesses. So, thank you for extending the love of Christ to those within our own body who have fallen on difficult times. Your generosity is palpable, and your response quite heartfelt.
- The July meeting of the **Durham Branch NAACP** was held on Sunday, July 28, at FPC. Many thanks to those who offered hospitality that afternoon, including **Tyler Momsen-Hudson, John and Sue Fricks, Gordon Campbell**, and others.
- **Great Big Church Family Festival (GBCFF) 2019** is a wrap! We are grateful to Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church for hosting the gang on Sunday, August 4th. Someone commented that it was interesting to note the different "flavors" of each hosting congregation. That was true, in that it felt like vanilla, chocolate and strawberry variations among our Presbyterian neighbors. I suppose we would have to reach farther out to experience the Rocky Road, Blue Moon, Tiger Tail, and Raspberry Ripple variations. Those who attended at Trinity Avenue included: **George and Jo Bernhardt, Carolyn Mangeot, Elizabeth Klinck, Art, Henry, Charlie, Laura and John Kelley**, and **Marilyn Hedgpeth**.
- **July Fellowship Events**: Thanks to **Cherrie and Andy Henry** for arranging a **Scratch/young adults** gathering at Durham's Central Park Farmers' Market on July 20th; to **Deborah and Tyler Momsen-Hudson and family** for hosting the **First Friends and Families Potluck** at their home on July 20th; to **Mickey Velkey** for arranging the **Daytimer's Luncheon** at Neo China on July 23rd. A wonderful time was had by those who attended these fellowship events
- **Laptop Needed**: **George Kafula** recently completed training and now needs a laptop, in good working condition, as he prepares for a new job. You can contact [George](#) or [Marilyn Hedgpeth](#) if you have a laptop to donate.

**Civil Rights
Museum Tour**
**First, Covenant, and
Timothy Darling
Presbyterian
Churches of Durham**
pilgrimaged together
August 3rd by train to
the International Civil
Rights Museum in
Greensboro as part of
Pastor Mindy Douglas'
Lilly Sabbatical Grant. It



was a wonderful shared experience for all three churches. **KUDOS** to ***Cherrie Henry*** who coordinated the event.

Sabbatical

— refresh | rest | refocus —

**Pastor Mindy returns to the office
from her 3-month sabbatical on August 19th!
Let's welcome her back!**

Sunday, August 11

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Sacrament of Baptism for *Max Austin Jones*, son of *Jordan and Elizabeth Jones* and brother to older sibling, *James*. Jordan and Elizabeth will be welcomed as new members during worship this Sunday. **(NOTE: The Session will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the 2nd floor classroom (church house apartment) to approve the baptism and receive Jordan and Elizabeth into the membership.)**

Sam Miglarese, preaching

Worship Texts: Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-16 ; Luke 12: 32-40

Liturgist: *Jennie Alwood*

Narthex Greeter: *Elinor Hess, Maxie Honeycutt*

After Worship Greeters: *Jon Abels* (font/side door);

Raymond Mbah (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Katy Barron* (flowers), *Dale Gaddis*

Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.



“Hear Ye” “Hear Ye”

Come and hear the **Ready Singers** on **Sunday, August 18** during the worship service at First Presbyterian Church. The group is composed of justice-involved men from Orange County Correctional Center in Hillsborough. Their praise songs are

inspiring and reflect how important spirituality has become in their lives.

Sunday, August 18

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Marilyn Hedgpeth, preaching

Worship Texts: Psalm 105: 1-10; Mark 13: 14- 27

Liturgist: **Jeanne Hervey**

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Brent Curtis** (font/side door);

David Sappenfield (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Julie Whiddon** (head), **Katy Barron**

Please sign up [here](#) to usher.



Summer Sunday School is off and running for children, youth, and adults.

Children 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.

August 11 – *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, by Katherine Paterson, with beautiful illustrations by Pamela Dalton, was donated to FPC in memory of long-time member, **Amelia Thompson**. The book illustrates the 13th Century *Canticle of the Creatures* or *Canticle of the Sun*, written by St. Francis of Assisi in the last years of his life. The hymn, *All Creatures of Our God and King* is a paraphrase of this ancient song of praise. This class will be led by **Celia Dickerson** and **Paul Cornsweet**.

August 18 – *Three Bears in a Boat*, by David Soman, is about three sibling bears who break their mother's favorite blue shell as they sneak a jar of honey off the mantle. Hoping to replace the shell with a look-a-like before their mother returns, they set off in their boat on a search for a similar shell. The class will be led by **Emily Wilkins and Katharine Whitmore**. This will conclude our Summer Storypath, and all the beautiful children's books that we have read will become part of the library collection for the children to enjoy upstairs in the Education Building.

Many thanks to all those who helped organize and teach our summer classes for children: **Amy Sanchez, Katharine Whitmore, Linda Dobson, Joe and Carlisle Harvard, Josh and Amanda Walters, Bob Pleasants, Catherine and Tom Admay, Jean Wilson, Walt and Katy Barron, Thilo Fullenkamp, Celia Dickerson, Lenore Champion, Susan Buck, Paul Cornsweet, Brent Curtis, Kim Abels, and Marilyn Hedgpeth.**



Summer Sunday School for Adults

The Faith and Community Class

- Over the summer, the Faith and Community class has been reading and discussing together Bryan Stevenson's book, *Just Mercy*, as part of Mindy's sabbatical on "Breaking Down the Dividing Walls: Truth-telling, Reparations, and Racial Equity". The attendance for the class each Sunday has been exceptional! We are almost at the end of our journey, so let's finish strong! On **August 11**, our own **Jane Williams** will conclude our study with a review of chapters 15 and 16. The study will conclude on **August 18** with a panel discussion that will include **Drew Doll** from the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham; **James Stanley**, Office of the Public Defender, **Gudrun Parmer**, from the Criminal Justice Resource Center, and **William**

Adult Lectionary Class -

August 11: Here's the bad news: the prophet Micah says that there are no righteous people left in the land. Corrupt officials and judges, powerful people who do whatever they want, even our friends and closest family members can't be trusted. Jesus seems to agree, telling his disciples that they will be imprisoned and beaten, betrayed by family and hated by everyone. Is there any good news? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the **East Parlor**.

August 18: Some members of the church in Corinth wrote to Paul: "Anything we want to do should be lawful for us." Paul replied, "Yes, but.... Do everything with thankfulness to God and with consideration for others." Does that standard work in all situations?

Elmore, from the School for Conversion. **Jane** will host the panel discussion. Many thanks to **Cherrie Henry** for organizing our summer leaders, and for all those who engaged in the study and conversation with our community partners. As an addendum to the study, FPC is glad to welcome and host the **Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry Ready Singers** in worship as well, on **August 18th**. The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45.

Women's Spiritual Formation Class -

The Women's Spiritual Formation (Sunday School) class is meeting with the Faith and Community class through **August 18**. The class will resume its regular study on **August 25th** at 9:45 in the basement parlor.

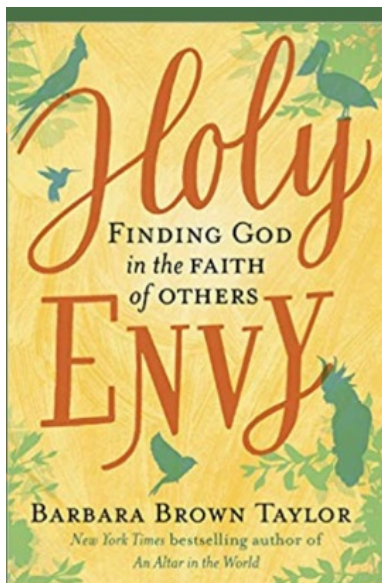
Adult Journeys/Scratch and The Thoughtful Christian classes will resume in the fall.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES



**Sunday School
Teacher Preparation
"Building Connections"**
Sunday, August 18
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
in your classrooms

It's time to get our Sunday School rooms ready as places of welcome and discipleship training, as we look to welcome our charges on Promotion Sunday (which will be on August 25). So, those who have agreed to teach this year, please bring your calendars with you and come for a pep talk, and time to look over your curriculum and prepare your classrooms before the new school year begins in earnest. The Christian Education Committee will provide snacks for everyone, and materials will be available to refresh and decorate your classrooms and to make plans for the fall. The theme for this year is "Building Connections," and we are looking forward to many ways we might strengthen connections with God, between teachers and students, between classmates, and between our church and



Who Is My Faith Neighbor?

Sunday Evenings

September 8 - November 24

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at FPC

This will be an experiential learning class for adults who may or may not have children or youth in programs on Sunday evenings. Using Barbara Brown Taylor's latest book, *Holy Envy*, we will read and discuss religious plurality in the Durham area, and observe how others express their faith. Says Taylor: *Contrary to popular opinion, all religions are not alike. Their followers see the world in very distinct ways. Their understandings of the human condition proceed from different assumptions, leading them to propose different remedies. ... I found things to envy*

in all of the traditions I taught. Some were compatible with Christian faith, like the Jewish Sabbath or the Buddhist focus on compassion. Others forced a choice, like the Muslim understanding that God has no offspring or the Hindu view that humans create their own destiny through many lifetimes. This left some important questions on the table. Is there a sovereign God? Can someone else die on a cross for my sins? Could my faith be improved by the faith of others? (Taylor, p. 10, 11) Visits are planned this fall to the Sikh Gurudwara, Judea Reform, Ar Razzaq Masjid and The Durham Friends Congregation. Those visits will take place at various times, but our discussions will be on Sunday evenings, running September 8 – November 24. To register and get a book, contact [Marilyn Hedgpeth](#).



Stewardship Corner

Donating your loose change for the Hunger for Change Offering each month, serving meals at Urban Ministries, supporting families at Families Moving Forward, Emergency Walk-in Assistance, Habitat for Humanity support,

Durham CAN, Prayer Shawl Ministry, our Youth Programs, fellowships gatherings, Sunday School for children and adults: what do all these things have in common besides being ways we steward our funds in our congregational budget? You may be surprised, but they are all ways that we build connections that matter within our congregation, in Durham, and beyond. Why talk about connections? Because not only does the Bible tell us that our relationships with one another and with God are foundational, brain science research tells us the same thing! Relationships are the biggest builder of babies' brains and the greatest way we build health and well-being into our elder years. And connections matter for preventing child abuse and neglect, crime and a host of bad health, criminal justice, and social outcomes. So the next time you think about why we invest our time and talents in economic assistance, advocacy for family support, building housing, or building relationships among our members, remember it is not just about that event or line item in our budget: it's about building connections that create safe, stable, nurturing relationships for children - and all of us. - **Sharon Hirsch**, Stewardship Committee



**Scratch(Young Adults) Potluck Brunch
Saturday, August 10 at 11:00 a.m.**

Hosted by Laura Casteel

1104 N. Elizabeth St., Apt. B, Durham

Bring a brunchie munchie to share.

Remember, you don't have to respond to the EVITE to join us.

**First Friends and Families August Potluck
Friday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m.**

Hosted by Mac and Wendy McCorkle

4811 Montvale Dr, Durham

A main meat (probably BBQ) and beverages will be provided by the hosts. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please respond to the EVITE with your intentions so the hosts will know how many to plan for.

Contact [Valerie](#) in the church office if you are not getting the EVITES for FPC fellowship activities. She'll be happy to add you to the listservs.



**SAVE THE DATE:
September 13-15**

First Friends & Families Beach Weekend

Contact [Kathy Conner](#) for more information



Volunteers needed for Walk-in Ministry

Do you have some free time and need something worthwhile to do? Do you enjoy interacting with people from all walks of life? If so, the **Service & Mission Committee** has an opportunity for members to consider: join our Walk-in Ministry team of volunteers. Click [HERE](#) to see the job description. The hours are good and the time spent with clients will be rewarding.

Orientation is provided and you will be paired with an experienced volunteer as you get comfortable with the process.

Days and times volunteers are needed:

Mondays: 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Sundays: After Worship till about 1:00 p.m.

Contact [Marie Sappenfield](#) if you are interested in joining the team.

Your Café Justo is on the way. Orders were roasted and shipped last Thursday, and are due in on Wednesday (8/7). All bags will be labeled, making it easy for you to pick up your order this Sunday.

Next order will be placed Sunday night, September 1,



for distribution on Sunday, September 15. Contact [John Fricks](#) for more information.



Deadline's approaching!

You are invited to purchase most needed school supplies for the [Crayons2Calculators](#) organization again this year. The list of needed supplies is provided below. Bring your supplies to the church and place them in the specially marked containers through this **Sunday, August 11.**

***** We have received a special request from Merrick Moore school for two items which we hope you will especially donate this year for their Latinx students: colored dry erase markers and 3-hole punched zippered pencil pouches. There will be a container for Merrick Moore School supplies in the foyer through this Sunday, August 11. *****

Top Needed School Supplies

Hand sanitizer
Clip Boards
Tissues
Sharpies
Colored Markers
Scissors (student & adult)
Colored Pencils
No. 2 Pencils
Dry Erase markers
Mechanical Pencils
Construction Paper
Tape (clear, masking, duct)



The Transformation of the Bull City

Reverend Joe Harvard is teaching a class through the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)** at Duke that offers a behind the scenes look at the transformation of Durham, from his perspective of 33 years as pastor of a congregation in Downtown Durham. Former Mayors **Wib Gulley, Bill Bell**, current Mayor **Steve Schewel, Andy Widmark** and other change makers, are among the special guests who will share their insights about the events and personalities behind the transformation and the

challenges the city faces moving forward. **Registration begins today. A Community Membership is available for \$25. Call 919-684-6259 or go**

to: LEARNMORE.DUKE.EDU/OLLI.

**The next church newsletter will be issued Tuesday,
August 20.**

**Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, August 18.**

August Birthdays

Online Church Calendar



Visit our website