



The Congregation at Duke University Chapel

Education . Fellowship . Mission

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

07-23-2020

This summer, I have the pleasure of serving as a camp chaplain at Camp Chestnut Ridge. Part of my responsibility as a camp chaplain is preparing and delivering our chapel talks, and this reflection was born in such a talk.

From the
Youth & Young Adult
Pastoral Assistant



In talking about the importance of the Church as a body which God calls together for the purpose of us helping one another bear a more faithful witness to Jesus Christ, I mentioned the family of geese which come to our pond every year to lay their eggs, raise their goslings, and then fly off for a few months, only to return each winter. When geese fly, they fly in a V-formation for the express purpose of reducing wind resistance. The front goose assumes the full force of wind resistance while the geese flanking him or her on either side can fly much easier. As they fly, you've probably heard them chatter and talk a lot, and they're communicating so that when the front goose gets tired, another will assume his or her place, and the tired goose will fall back where he or she can fly more easily. Because they do this, a gaggle of Canada geese can fly up to 1,500 miles in a single day. Because they work together, willing to assume discomfort so that their partners can have a break, they can travel great distances, and arrive at their destination.



The Church at its best serves a similar purpose. We are called to live together, communally bearing witness to the crucified and resurrected Lord who so called us together into the community of faith. When some of us struggle, others step up to take the lead so we can have a break. When some have excess or abundance, they ensure that those who lack are cared and provided for. At its best, we as the Church can hope to care for one another as a team of geese do, so that we can collectively get to the destination to which we have been called.

Grace and Peace,
Matt

This Sunday July 26

Sunday morning classes will meet virtually from **9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**

- **WEE PRAISE:** Children ages 0-3 along with parents or caregivers may utilize the online videos previously shared via email. Watch for a new video this week! If you are not receiving emails with this information, please contact Phyllis Snyder.
- **GODLY PLAY:** Children ages 4-5th graders can find a new video, and re-watch previous videos, on the Congregation's YouTube channel.
- **PSALMS BIBLE STUDY:** This week's class will focus on Psalm 69 and the theme of the weak and the strong. Bruce Puckett will lead the discussion. Zoom link: <https://duke.zoom.us/j/96379488242>

UNIVERSITY WORSHIP 11:00 a.m. Online

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon, Duke Chapel Director of Religious Life

[Worship Online Here](#)

[Lectionary Readings](#)

All are welcome!

MEETINGS AFTER WORSHIP

- The Education Committee will meet at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom.
- All are welcome to enjoy Zoom Fellowship at **1:00 p.m.** Details below.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP BEFORE CLASS

All are invited to come to the Bible study early to visit with other participants. The Zoom link will be open at **9:30 a.m.** on Sunday mornings, so join early and say “hello”.

BIBLE STUDY ON THE PSALMS

All are welcome to join a study of the Psalms on Sunday mornings from **9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.** The class schedule and [suggested reading is here](#). Upcoming classes are

July 26 – Psalm 69 with Bruce Puckett teaching

August 2 – Psalm 80 with Brian Stratton teaching

August 9 – Psalm 132 with Tony Willms teaching

The class will be held by way of Zoom at <https://duke.zoom.us/j/96379488242>. If you would like to join by telephone instead of computer, please contact the Congregation office. New participants are welcome at any time. Past sessions of the Bible study are available on the [Congregation's YouTube channel](#).



GRAD STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual discussion of the wisdom literature in the Bible on **Mondays, July 27** and **August 10** at **6:30 p.m.** All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact Matt Wright for login information.

CHRIST MY COMPANION

Book groups discussing *Christ, My Companion: Meditations on the Prayer of St. Patrick* by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre will continue for two more weeks as follows:

July 29: Chapters 7-9, pages 79 -114

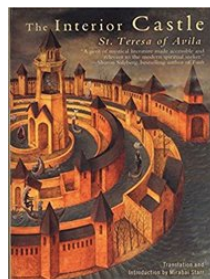
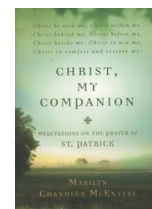
August 5: Chapters 10-13, pages 115- 158

New participants are welcome any time. The book groups meet on

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Zoom links are:

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. <https://duke.zoom.us/j/94213749336>

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. <https://duke.zoom.us/j/95459820661>



SPIRITUAL CLASSIC

The *Interior Castle*, a spiritual classic, will be the focus of a six-week book group starting on **Wednesday, August 26**. The *Interior Castle*, written by Teresa of Avila and translated by Mirabai Starr, describes seven stages of spiritual development leading to the soul's final union with the divine. Teresa, who lived in the 1500's, is still widely read today. The book groups will meet on **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** and **7:00 p.m.** by Zoom. No reservations are necessary.

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. <https://duke.zoom.us/j/94213749336>

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. <https://duke.zoom.us/j/95459820661>

FALL EDUCATION SCHEDULE

The Sunday morning classes will begin their fall schedule on **August 30**. These classes are part of a year-round education ministry for all ages and are held on Sunday mornings from **9:45 a.m -10:45 a.m.** All classes are provided virtually until further notice.

- Wee Praise – A class of music and movement for infants – 3-year-olds led by Kate DeAlmeida
 - Godly Play – A class of spiritual formation for children age 4 – 5th grade led by Phyllis Snyder
 - Youth Bible Study – A study of Ezekiel-Malachi led by Matt Wright
 - Adult Forum – A variety of speakers presenting on diverse topics coordinated by Nelson Strother
 - Adult Bible Study – A study of Ecclesiastes starting September 13 led by Nathaniel Metz
 - A study of Ezekiel – Malachi for students in 6th - 12th grade led by Matt Wright
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FELLOWSHIP

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

During this time of anxiety and uncertainty, it is important to be able to connect with one another. To this end, the Fellowship Committee has scheduled two virtual events. Please join us for fun and fellowship as we play games and chat. Past Zoom Games were greatly enjoyed by attendees of all ages. Games are casual, noncompetitive and family friendly.

- Sunday, **July 26, 1:00 p.m.** Zoom link: <https://duke.zoom.us/j/98855759143>
- Sunday **August 9, 1:00 p.m.** <https://duke.zoom.us/j/91027068396>

If you have not used Zoom before, please [watch this short video](#) for instructions. If you are attempting to join but are having difficulties, feel free to call for assistance: (919) 270-6183 or (919) 830-0964.

MISSION

DONATIONS FOR COVID RESPONSE

Members of the Congregation have generously given \$14,725 above and beyond their regular giving to reduce the impact of COVID in the Durham community. The Mission and Outreach Committee has allocated funds to local nonprofits to support these agencies as they support residents in need. Grants have been given to Families Moving Forward, Meals on Wheels, Reality Ministries, Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham, Ronald McDonald House, Society of St. Andrew, and Urban Ministries. Additional donations are welcomed and may be mailed to the Congregation office; please mark as “Extra Mission Giving – COVID” in the memo.

GOOD TO KNOW

OUTDOOR COMMUNION

The Council has discussed and approved offering outdoor communion; this will be a brief service similar to that offered after worship in Memorial Chapel. Outdoor communion is offered on the first and third Sunday evenings of the month, **August 2 and 16 at 7:00 p.m.** and **7:30 p.m.** at the labyrinth located on the property of Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Rd, Durham. All CDC and city safety precautions will be observed including wearing masking, social distancing, and hand sanitation. Masks will be available for those who need them. Group size will be limited to 10 people; [please sign up here](#) to indicate your plans to attend. Participants are welcome to come early or stay late to walk the labyrinth. Please know that the Council and pastors encourage caution and safety and trust that staying home is the right decision for many people. For individual home/outdoor communion or other concerns, please contact the [Congregation office](#).





LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Thank you to the 30 people who attended the Congregation Leadership Retreat on July 18. In addition to volunteering to provide leadership to the council, committees, and service groups, these individuals also participated in the two-hour retreat in which they prayerfully reflected on the past, reviewed the strategic plan, and planned for the future. Dedicated volunteers of all sorts are essential to the Congregation. Thank you!



SUGGESTION BOX

One of the simple ideas mentioned at the Leadership Retreat was to offer a “Suggestion Box” in which members and friends of the Congregation could submit ideas to the staff and council. Ideas on how to improve, expand, or enhance our ministries are always welcome. Ideas and inspiration may be directed to any staff or council member, or submitted in this [Suggestion Box](#).



MEET A CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBER

Staff-Parish Relations Council Representative: **Regina Ford**

What a gift, the Congregation at Duke University Chapel has been to my family and me. Along with my husband, Dan, and daughter, Kirsten, I became a member of the Congregation in Spring, 2015. I was excited about the various community outreach opportunities afforded and immediately put my hands to the plow. My other passion is reading, a hoarder of knowledge. Now that I have retired from my former life as an Employee Health Nursing Manager at Duke Raleigh, I am enjoying another phase of life, which are my jewels-grandchildren.

JULY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

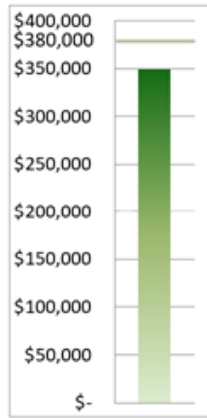
The Council held its annual training session covering the duty to provide spiritual leadership, the duties of non-profit board members in NC, and the duty to care.

Reports from committees, which had been submitted prior to the meeting, were approved, except for the financial report which was not complete due to the early date of the meeting.

No membership changes were reported.

The Council discussed when and how to begin to re-open ministries, specifically, where is the most value vs the least risk. The decision to offer communion out-of-doors to members who feel safe participating, and following all state regulations, came out of this discussion.

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT



<i>July 2019-June 2020 fiscal year</i>	Actual to May 31	Annual Budget
Contributions	\$349,205	\$380,000
Other Income	\$3,039	\$3,000
Restricted Assets Released	\$24,128	\$0
Expenses	\$351,185	\$381,473
Difference	\$25,187	\$1,527

COMING IN AUGUST

August Birthdays

- 2 Wade Henderson
- 3 Bill Ray
- 4 Adair Mueller
- 5 David Bottjen; Sam Marcom
- 6 Donald Van Dyke
- 7 Laura Nye
- 8 Mary Donaie
- 10 Helen Silver; Dave Vos
- 12 Eileen Mitchell
- 15 Patrick Cacchio; Shawn Proffitt
- 16 Lesley Allin; Susan VanSant; Judith Wager
- 17 Kaye Broos
- 20 Mark Gass; Roy Upchurch; Michele Van Dyke
- 21 Regina Ford
- 22 Brittany Birch; Gary Patterson; Lila Siu
- 23 Freda Chesson
- 24 Billie Bauer
- 25 Tom Allin; Ruth Boone; Guy Hickey
- 27 Diane Haithcock
- 28 Amy Manchester
- 29 Bill Manning; Karolyn Pratt; Molly Simes; Monica Wilfong
- 30 Melissa Jessen
- 31 Barbara Carman; Sean Chang; JP Cumming; Margy Takacs

August Communion at the Forest at Duke retirement Community – CANCELED

August Worship Services at Duke Chapel – ONLINE

Worship Services will continue to be broadcast live on **Sundays at 11:00 a.m.**
 From the Duke Chapel website: [Tune in live to Sunday morning services on the Duke Chapel YouTube Channel](#), channel 12 of the Duke Hospital TV System, channel 110 of the Duke Campus Vision TV system, and WDNC Radio (620 AM). Listen to rebroadcasts of services on **Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** on WPTF Radio (680 AM), as well as on The People's Channel on Spectrum Cable in Durham and Chapel Hill.

Preaching Schedule

- August 2** – The Rev. Bruce Puckett, Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel
- August 9** – The Rev. Bruce Puckett, Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel
- August 16** – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

CONGREGATION JOYS AND CONCERNS

- *Ed Karolak*: Ed is in hospice care at home.
- *Leroy McRae*: Leroy is recovering from abdominal surgery.
- *Ginnie Ruckert*: Ginnie is recuperating at home.
- *Steve Winters*: Steve is continuing his medical mission work in Kenya and expected to return to the U.S. in early August.

PRAYER REQUESTS: To request confidential prayer from members of the Prayer Ministry, please send your confidential request to the [Prayer Ministry](#) .

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: All e-News articles and announcements are to be submitted to the following e-mail address: congregation@duke.edu by 5:00 p.m. each Monday.

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT: Please send corrected email addresses or requests to be unsubscribed to congregation@duke.edu .

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Visit our Website](#) | [Visit our Calendar](#)

[Email](#) | Phone: 919-684-3917 | Mailing address: Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974



The Congregation at Duke University Chapel Staff



The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg
Senior Pastor



Phyllis Snyder
Children's Pastor and
Communications



Kirsten Ford
Communications Assistant



Matt Wright
Pastoral Assistant



The Rev. Ken Moland
Pastoral Assistant