



## *The Congregation at Duke University* **Chapel**

*Fellowship · Education · Mission 12.21.2017*  
**Deepening Connections**

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Dear [% user.gecos %],

According to Luke, the shepherds were the first to know. While minding their own business, that is sheep, some shepherds had a frightening vision of an angel. The heavenly messenger declared that the Messiah had been born in a nearby town. They would find the child wrapped and lying in a manger.

**FROM THE PASTOR**



Unclean peasant shepherds would have had no reason to hope to see the Messiah. Surely, they longed for his arrival as did other Jews of their day, but as unclean, low-ranking citizens, they probably never imagined they would have the opportunity to actually see the Messiah, let alone be the first to do so. They had no reason to think they could witness such an event. The long-awaited One was expected to arrive in some sort of grand style to other people. And yet the angel declares that the shepherds would find the Messiah in circumstances similar to their own, in a peasant home, wrapped the way children were wrapped, looking very much like many babies they had seen. The child came not to unknown people in distant splendor; instead, the child came in a setting familiar to shepherds. Perhaps because it was familiar to them, they felt they could go take a look.

Do we sometimes wonder if Jesus comes for someone else? Maybe Jesus comes for those who are in some way better than us – maybe more pious or devout, maybe kinder or more loving, maybe more worthy or deserving? Or maybe Jesus comes for those who are in some way more in

need than us – maybe those with more economic, health, or spiritual challenges than we. And maybe it is simply for reasons we cannot articulate, but we expect Jesus' arrival is for anyone other than for us.

If the shepherds were invited to go and see Jesus, though they never could have imagined such an invitation, then perhaps that invitation is for us too. Perhaps we, too, should go and see what has taken place. The report is, "all who heard it were amazed." (Luke 2:18)

Jesus is born for us all, each one of us. Let us go, see, and celebrate.

May God bless you with deep joy this Christmas season.

Carol

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## **This Sunday December 24**

### **WORSHIP SERVICES ON DECEMBER 24**

There will be five worship services on Sunday, December 24 as follows:

- **11:00 a.m.** – Service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The Rev. Debra Brazzel will be the guest preacher.
- **2:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Service for Children. This family-friendly worship service includes music and storytellers to announce the birth of Christ. The service lasts approximately 40 minutes.
- **4:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Service of Carols. This afternoon service includes Christmas carols, the Durham Children's Choir, and a sermon from Dean Luke Powery. Note: There will be no Memorial Chapel communion service following the 4:00 p.m. service.
- **6:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Holy Communion. This evening service includes Christmas carols, Holy Communion, the Amalgam brass ensemble, and a sermon from Dean Luke Powery.
- **11:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols. This traditional Lessons and Carols service features a large community choir, scripture, and choral music. Prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.

## **CLASS RECESS**

Sunday morning Christian education classes will not meet on **December 24 or 31**. All classes will resume on **January 7**.

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## **FELLOWSHIP**

### **OPEN HOUSE FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Back on break or off from school? Join Pastor Andrew tomorrow **Friday, December 22** from **11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Chapel Kitchen for free food, a chance to catch up, and an opportunity to make a few sandwiches for our neighbors at Urban Ministries of Durham. No RSVP required and drop-ins welcome; come for as long or as short as you can! Questions? Contact [Andrew Phillips](#) for more information.

### **YOUTH GROUP NEW YEAR'S PARTY**

Students from 6th to 12th grades, along with their families, are invited to a Moravian-styled New Year's Eve at the Barefoot home from **7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, December 31**. Please RSVP to [Robin Barefoot](#) .

### **SNACK-LUCK JANUARY 7**

All are invited to celebrate Epiphany with a Snack Luck on **Sunday, January 7** immediately following worship in the Chapel Lounge, located on the lower level. Drinks will be provided. Please bring finger foods to share such as grapes, cookies, small sandwiches, chips, or nuts. This is a time to gather, converse and get to know one another better.

### **QUILTING MINISTRY**

The Duke Chapel Quilters gather every three or four months for three consecutive Tuesdays to create prayer quilts for the congregation. Those who quilt, or simply sew, are invited to join the warm-hearted group at the home of Ann Recesso on **January 9, 16 and 23** at **9:30 a.m.** The group

also welcomes donations of batting and large pieces of cotton fabric. Please call Ann at 919-929-8218 for further information.

## SECOND WEDNESDAY LUNCH



Informal conversation and fellowship in a local restaurant is the only agenda for the Second Wednesday Lunch. On **January 10 at 12-noon**, participants will gather at [Local 22](#), 2200 W Main St, Durham, with each person purchasing their own meal. Please notify the [Congregation Office](#) of plans to attend by **Monday, January 8**.

## JANUARY PUB THEOLOGY

Join 20 and 30 somethings from the Congregation at Duke Chapel for drinks, discussion, and God. **January 11, 7:00 p.m.** at Pour Taproom, and **January 25, 7:00 p.m.** at Bull City Cider Works. Friends, family, first-timers, and beverage drinkers of all kinds welcome! Email [Andrew Phillips](#) for more information.

## SUNDAY LUNCH

Please plan to attend the second Sunday Lunch at Brodhead Center on **January 14**. Participants will purchase a delicious meal from one of the many vendors, then gather in the Great Hall for conversation. This is a monthly opportunity to connect. Volunteers will direct participants to the Brodhead Center which is a short walk from the Chapel.

## 20s AND 30s DINNER



Join young adults from Duke Chapel for dinner at [Lucky's Deli](#) on **January 19 at 6:30 p.m.** First-timers, along with family and friends warmly welcome! RSVP and more information [here](#).

## GROWING THRU GRIEF

Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a

coalition of area congregation, including the Congregation at Duke Chapel, to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. Meetings are held year-round on **Tuesday** afternoons at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1200 W. Cornwallis. Refreshments begin at **4:00 p.m.**; the meeting runs from **4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** On **January 9**, Congregation member Nell Noonan will discuss "The Myth of Closure," and on **January 23**, Bill Dahl will open discussion on "How Am I Doing?"

## **YOUTH GROUP WINTER RETREAT**

Middle and high school students and families: mark your calendars for the Youth Group Ski/Tubing Trip, **February 16-18, 2018**. Just like last year, we'll be staying, eating, and worshiping at Lake Junaluska and skiing/snow tubing at Cataloochee in western NC. For more information, and to reserve your spot, please contact [Andrew Phillips](#) .

## **YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Nineteen youth, family members, and youth group alumni gathered last Sunday night for the annual Christmas Party. College students shared wisdom with current seniors, and the White Elephant Gift Exchange offered many laughs and unexpected presents.



## ***EDUCATION***

### **LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY**

The monthly lectionary Bible study will meet on **Friday, January 5** at **10:00 a.m.** in the library at The Forest at Duke, 2701 Pickett Rd., Durham. The focus of the study will be Acts 19:1-7. New participants are welcome at any time.

### **CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 7**

Sunday morning Christian Education classes will resume on **January 7**. All classes meet in the lowest level of the Divinity School (across the Chapel quad from Page Auditorium) from **9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.** Refreshments are available at **9:30 a.m.** New participants are welcome at any time.

- **WEE PRAISE:** For children ages 0-3 with parents or caregivers in 0011

Westbrook.

- **GODLY PLAY:** For ages 4 through 5th graders in 0050 Langford.
- **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL:** For youth in 6th-12th grade in 0013 Westbrook.

- **ADULT FORUM:** A variety of presenters prompt thoughtful discussion in 0012 Westbrook.

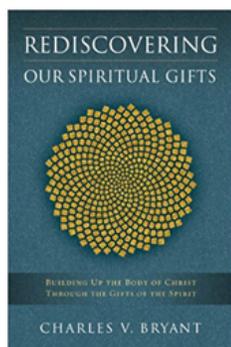
## ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

The Adult Forum provides a wide range of topics and speakers. Coming soon:

**January 7** - The Rev. Breana van Velzen, Community Ministry Outreach Coordinator for Duke University Chapel will discuss “Justice or Just Is?”

**January 21** – The Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath, Dean of Duke Divinity School, will present “Living as a Contemplative in a Frenzied World”.

## JANUARY BOOK GROUPS



Beginning **Wednesday, January 10**, two book groups will meet for five weeks to discuss *Rediscovering our Spiritual Gifts* by Charles Bryant. A morning group will meet at **10:00 a.m.** and the evening group at **7:30 p.m.** Both groups will meet at Carol Gregg’s home. The conversation will enable participants to reflect on their own gifts and appreciate the gifts of others. Participants are to purchase their own book

which is available at [Amazon](#) and [Cokesbury](#) . Please contact the [Congregation Office](#) to indicate plans to attend.

## BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

A Sunday morning Bible study will begin on **January 21** and continue for 10 weeks. This class, on a New Testament book, will be led by Denise Noble, the Congregation’s Divinity School intern. All are welcome to participate.

## READING THE BIBLE WITH FRESH EYES

University students and young adults are invited to a 6-week class

beginning on **Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Chapel Conference Room about learning to read the Bible again. Using the book [Manna and Mercy](#) , this class will take a fresh look at the story of Scripture, and offer participants a way of reading the Bible that brings healing and wholeness instead of violence and judgement. Interested? Email [Andrew Phillips](#) or attend an interest meeting **January 14** in the Chapel Kitchen following worship.

## RETREAT ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Adults and youth are invited to explore spiritual gifts; participants will gain a greater understanding of their own gifts and a deeper appreciation of their neighbor's gifts. The retreat entitled "Interior Movements and Holy Desires: Discerning What is Mine To Do", led by [Ms. Mary Grace McCoy](#) , a spiritual director and co-founder of [The Listening Place](#) , will be held at [Pilgrim United Church of Christ](#) , 3011 Academy Rd, Durham on Saturday, **February 10** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The \$10 participation fee will cover the cost of a catered lunch. Please [email the Congregation Office](#) or call 919-684-3917 to RSVP by **Monday, February 5.**

## CONFIRMATION CLASS STARTING IN LENT

Seven youth from the Congregation will participate in Confirmation Class starting in Lent. Please be in prayer for these students as they prepare to claim for themselves the faith into which they were baptized, and grow in their knowledge and love of God with the help of mentors from the Congregation. Additional participants are welcome. Please contact [Andrew Phillips](#) with questions.

## OVERNIGHT RETREAT COMING

The annual Overnight Retreat will be held **Saturday, June 2 to Sunday, June 3** at [Caraway Conference Center](#) near Asheboro. [The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapman](#) , Associate Professor of Old Testament at Duke Divinity school, will lead the retreat on the theme of covenant community.

Please mark your calendars now.

## MISSION

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE

Once again, the Congregation is sponsoring a Habitat House... and it is almost finished! [Click here](#) to sign up to help complete the house at 1200 Cornell Street on **January 13** from **8:30 a. m. to 11:30 am.** Thanks to all who have worked on this house, and our partners at First Calvary Baptism and the Duke Student Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Contact [Andrew Phillips](#) with questions.



### JANUARY PARTNER AGENCY



Partners for  
Youth Opportunity

Have you heard of PYO? Partners for Youth Opportunity is an organization that partners with youth in our Durham community to provide opportunities to connect, develop and contribute through mentoring, employment and educational support. In January, the Congregation will partner with the youth in giving back to our community by participating in two service projects on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, **January 15**, at Durham Threshold Center and Durham HUB Farm. Please see sign up information below! Our Back Pew collection will also benefit PYO; see below.

### JANUARY BACK PEW COLLECTION

On **January 14 and 21**, the Congregation will be collecting warm soft blankets, hats, socks, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, and movie passes (to Northgate's Stadium 10 Theater) for students and families connected to Partners for Youth Opportunity. Thank you in advance for your support.

### URBAN MINISTRIES DINNERS



Upcoming Urban Ministries shelter dinners in 2018: **Sunday, January 14 at 5:15** and **Wednesday, February 28 at 6:15**. Please let [Cricket Scovil](#) know if you can help.

## MLK SERVICE PROJECT

On **January 15**, the Congregation will join students and mentors from Partners for Youth Opportunity in a day of service to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Two times and service sites are available; please [RSVP here](#) by **January 2**. Questions? Email [Andrew Phillips](#).

## REALITY MINISTRIES FORUM

On **January 20, 2018** Reality Ministries will host *The Reality Forum*, a one-day conference for people of all denominations and walks of life to come together around the intersection of theology and practice. Participants will consider how knowing the reality of God's grace rooted in the love of the Holy Trinity influences understanding of self, our neighbor, and every single person. All are welcome! Go to [www.realityministriesinc.org](http://www.realityministriesinc.org) for more information and registration. Reality Ministries, a Congregation mission partner, creates opportunities for adults with and without disabilities to experience belonging, kinship and the life-changing reality of Christ's love.



## FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD DINNER AND CHILDCARE



Our next dates of service with Families Moving Forward are **Monday, January 22** and **Tuesday, January 23**. Volunteers will be needed for both Monday and Tuesday evenings; from **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** to bring, serve, and clean up dinner, and from **6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

for childcare. Please contact [Jane Fellows](#) or [Elaine DeAlmeida](#) to volunteer or for additional information.

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## ***GOOD TO KNOW***

### **MONTHLY “BIG” ENEWS**

Starting with this issue, the third eNews of the month will be bigger than usual. To reduce duplication of Congregation communications, the final issue of the monthly newsletter was published for December 2017. To offer a preview of the coming month and to accommodate readers without email access, the eNews on the third week of the month will be longer than other weeks and mailed in hard copy to those without access to email. Please be sure that the office has current email addresses for all members of the household.

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

The Congregation Office will be closed **December 22, 25, and 29** as well as **January 1** in recognition of the Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

### **YEAR-END GIVING**

The Congregation welcomes year-end giving. Ways to give are [listed online](#). Donors may also call the office at 919-684-3917 for more information.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

With the New Year comes, for many people, the initiative to do more to make things better. Common resolutions are to make things better for oneself—exercise more, waste less time online, take time to meditate or pray each day. Why not add resolutions to do more to make things better for others as well? Many Congregation activities are just that—feeding the homeless, sharing your own reflection of God’s word, or simply talking to someone who feels alone and scared. Supporting the Congregation

financially supports this and more—consider this in your giving. The Congregation Giving page can be found at <http://congregation.chapel.duke.edu/giving> .

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

<i>July 2017-June 2018 fiscal year</i>	Actual to November 30	Annual Budget
Contributions	\$120,228	\$350,000
Other Income	\$983	\$1,800
Restricted Assets Released	\$960	\$0
Expenses	\$184,066	\$387,185
Difference	-\$61,894	-\$35,385

[Monthly Finance Graph](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 24 and 31 – Recess for Sunday Morning Classes
- February 10 – Winter Retreat on Spiritual Gifts
- March 3 – Saturday Service Project
- June 2-3 – Annual Overnight Retreat
- June 10 – Annual Business Meeting

## COMING IN JANUARY

### January Birthdays

- 1 Marcy Hansen  
San Ksor
- 2 Drew Slawter
- 3 Christine O'Keefe  
Ernie Ruckert
- 4 Samuel Gass  
Kendall Manuel  
Darla Miller

- 5 Mary Anderson  
Patrick Butler
- 6 Michael Young
- 7 Mel Snyder
- 8 Karen Cochran  
Johanna Collins-Wood  
Lois Klauder
- 9 Katerina Kucera
- 10 Lisa Smith
- 12 Levi Crocker  
Elizabeth Schnople  
Bill Youngblood
- 13 David Jessen  
Cameron VanSant
- 14 Scot Woodrum
- 16 Franca Alphin  
Larry Teague
- 17 Lauren Bullamore
- 18 Nicholas Wisner  
Kyle Woodrum
- 19 Gina Harrison
- 20 Ed Harlow  
Harold Layton
- 21 Ray Briggs  
Melissa Grosso  
Harrison Johnson  
Jane Phillips
- 23 Jan Gwyer  
Pat Murray  
Terry Yuschok
- 24 Kate DeAlmeida  
Diane Hummelbrunner  
Joseph Krenicky
- 26 Steve Cochran

Phillip Martin

Janis Parker

Carolyn Penny

Mak Siu

27 Shaun Pack

28 Wade Penny

Whitney Sandor

Hayley Skye

29 Peggy Ray

Carlynn Winters

30 Judy Arneson

Placide Barada

Kristen Blackman Hohenstein

Lee Lawrence

Julian Recio-Garcia

31 Michael Vandenberg

## **January Worship Services**

**January 7:** Worship Service with Baptism and Holy Communion

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke

Chapel

**January 14:** Worship Service

Preacher: Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Professor of Sociology at

Georgetown

University, New York Times contributing opinion editor,

contributing editor of The

New Republic, and of ESPN's The Undeclared website.

**12:15 p.m.** Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing in

Memorial Chapel

**January 21:** Worship Service with Holy Communion

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

**January 28:** Worship Service

Preaching: Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp, Associate Dean for

Religious Life at Duke

Chapel  
12:15 p.m. Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing in  
Memorial Chapel

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[DECEMBER NEWSLETTER PDF](#) · CONGREGATION  
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## CONGREGATION JOYS & CONCERNS

- *Kristen Blackman Hohenstein* – Kristen will be moving to Virginia over the holidays to join her husband.
- *Willie Mae Jones* – Willie Mae is recovering from a lumpectomy.
- *Ann Sanders* – Ann is at Hillcrest Convalescent Center for rehabilitation following a stroke.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS IN THE eNEWS:** Do you have a prayer concern or a joy you would like included in the eNews and/or posted on our website? You can do this by calling the Congregation office ([919-684-3917](tel:919-684-3917)) or by emailing the office at [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) . Please include a name and a description. If you want to include a concern or joy for someone who is not in your family, please ask the person/family prior to notifying the Congregation office, confirming the details they are comfortable sharing. In order to be added to the eNews, the request must be received before 5 pm on Tuesdays.

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

**PLEASE NOTE: *New e-News Submissions.*** All e-News articles and

announcements are to be submitted to the following e-mail address:  
[congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) by 5:00 p.m. each Tuesday.

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*The Congregation at Duke University Chapel Staff*



**Carol  
Gregg**

Senior Pastor



**Andrew  
Phillips**

Assistant Pastor



**Phyllis Snyder**

Children's  
Pastor  
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Communications  
Specialist



**Nelson  
Strother**

Financial and  
IT Administrator

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[The Congregation at Duke Chapel](http://www.duke.edu/chapel) Phone: 919-684-3917

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[congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu)

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