

Announcements

Handbell Choir

There will be a reorganizational meeting of the Handbell Choir today at 4 PM.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals have already begun. We are praying for committed people to share their talents in this ministry. We will rehearse from 5-6 PM on Sunday evenings. Pray to God about your part in this ministry.

Next Missional Lunch

Please join us today for our missional living lunch immediately after the worship service. We will discuss the following questions: What makes someone a good listener? What does it mean for a church family to be a community of grace? What kinds of things would tell a newcomer that a church is a community of grace? Hope to see you there!

Ladies Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study will meet in the conference room September 10 at 10:30 AM. We are beginning a speedy look at God's picture book (Revelation) and welcome all interested women to join us. Chapters 1-3 are the focus this month.

Service for the Day of Prayer

September 11 has been designated as a national day of prayer and repentance. We will have a prayer service in the choir room that evening from 7:00-8:00 that will be a time of singing, fellowship, and prayer.

Attention Ladies!

Our church will host a Beth Moore Simulcast on Saturday, September 14 8:30-4:30. All-day attendance is not necessary. We welcome those that want to stay for any part of the day. A BBQ lunch will be provided. \$5 per ticket. Contact Britt Causey: 336-266-1685 or bcausey4@triad.rr.com Please join us for a day of encouragement and Bible study!

InterVarsity Lunch

The first InterVarsity lunch for the fall semester will be September 22. This is a great chance to spend time with college students from Elon and begin to build a relationship with them. If you would like to help with the lunch we would welcome desserts or drinks or help in setting up and taking down the room. Contact Christy Gregory for more information. Hope you can join us!

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will resume meeting Tuesday September 24 at 11:45 in the church fellowship hall. Margaret and Myrleann will prepare the lunch consisting of baked chicken, rice pilaf, green salad, rolls and dessert. If you want to bring your own special dish, we will welcome it. Ed Limon will share about their trip to music camp in Mexico.

Attention Secret Sisters!

There will be a dessert fellowship on Saturday, September 28 from 2-4 in the fellowship hall. We will reveal who we had for a Secret Sister and draw names for our new Secret Sisters. If you cannot attend, please be sure to have your gift for your sister there. Secret Sister forms can be found at each entrance, which you can fill out ahead of time. Give the form to Margaret Owens or Christy Gregory if you are unable to attend but want to participate in the coming year. Please contact Margaret Owens if you are willing to make a dessert. Email mtowens62@yahoo.com or telephone 336-263-7666.

Officer Nominations

Between now and October 1 the session will receive nominations for the following positions: Elder, Deacon, Congregational Chairman, Congregational Treasurer, and Trustee. Nomination forms for elder can be found outside the sanctuary.

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Kristen Carter and Gene Parks

Next Week: Kathy Isley and Laurie Isley

Children's Church:

Today: Christy Gregory and Britt Causey

Next Week: Jan Burwell and Nicole Newton

Deacon on Duty

Today: Mark Vestal

Next Week: Glenn Owens

Elder Greeter

Today: Gene Parks

Tithes and Offerings for September 1: General Fund \$7,425.76

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Bryan Gregory

Vice Moderator: Gene Parks

Clerk: Matt Causey

2013: Doug Cobb, Matt Causey

2015: Dick Fuller, Gene Parks

The Diaconate

Chairman: Glenn Owens

Vice Chairman: Mark Vestal

Secretary: Doug Glass

2013: Randall Cobb

2014: Glenn Owens, Mark Vestal

2015: Doug Glass, WD Yarbrough

Congregational Officers

Trustees: Jim Knox, Steve Kyaw, Gene Parks

Congregational Treasurer: Laurene Howington

Congregational Secretary: Matt Causey

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries Coordinator: Christy Gregory

Morning Bible Study Leader: Lillian Fuller

Evening Bible Study Leader: Dot Hutelmyer

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Gregory

bryan@firstarpburlington.org

Music Director / Organist: Ed Limon

limonfam6@hotmail.com

Pianist: Julie Snow

jsnowmagic@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Gloria Hendry

gloria@firstarpburlington.org

www.firstarpburlington.org



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2013

Preparation

Silent Meditation

God is all that beauty and perfection that can be represented to us by light. He is a self-active uncompounded spirituality, purity, wisdom, holiness, and glory. And then the absoluteness and fulness of that excellency and perfection. There is no defect or imperfection, no mixture of any thing alien or contrary to absolute excellency, no mutability nor capacity of any decay in him.

Matthew Henry (†1898 A.D.)

God is light; that is, as light is opposed to the darkness of sin; he is pure and holy in his nature and works, and of such pure eyes as not to behold iniquity; and so perfectly holy, that angels cover their times before him, when they speak of his holiness: and as light is opposed to the darkness of ignorance, he is wise and knowing; he is clothed with light, and dwells in it; and, like the light, he illuminates others; he is the Father of lights, the author and giver of all light; of the light of reason to men in general; and of grace here, and glory hereafter, to his own people, which are both signified by light; in whose light they see light; and he refreshes and delights their souls with the light of his countenance now, and with his glorious presence in the other world.

John Gill (†1771 A.D.)

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship—Psalm 43

Minister You, O God, are the God in whom I take refuge.
Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

People **Then we will go to the altar of God,
to God our exceeding joy,
and we will praise you, O God, our God.**

Hymn of Preparation

8

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration

1

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Our Father in heaven, we thank you that you have led us into the light of your truth and your holiness. Yet we are also aware of the many ways we continue to walk in darkness. We confess the many private sins that only you see. We confess the evil in our hearts that sometimes comes out but more often stays hidden. And we confess the things in our hearts we do not even realize are there. So search us and know our hearts, try us and know our thoughts, and see if there is any wicked way in us. As you bring it to our minds in these moments of silence we lay it before you with repentance.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Isaiah 53:4-6

*Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

*Because Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for you,
God has forgiven your sin and made you whole.*

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

Proclamation

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 104:1-9, 24-35

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, you are very great!

You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

² covering yourself with light as with a garment,
stretching out the heavens like a tent.

³ He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;

he makes the clouds his chariot;

he rides on the wings of the wind;

⁴ he makes his messengers winds,

his ministers a flaming fire.

⁵ He set the earth on its foundations,

so that it should never be moved.

⁶ You covered it with the deep as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ At your rebuke they fled;

at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.

⁸ The mountains rose,

the valleys sank down to the place that you appointed for them.

⁹ You set a boundary that they may not pass,

so that they might not again cover the earth. ...

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom have you made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships, and Leviathan,

which you formed to play in it.

²⁷ These all look to you,

to give them their food in due season.

²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰ When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in his works,

³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,

who touches the mountains and they smoke!

³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,

for I rejoice in the LORD.

³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!

Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

Minister The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem

More Precious Than Silver

Choir

(Dismissal to Children's Church)

New Testament Reading

1 John 1:5-2:2

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1} My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Walking in the Light

Rev. Bryan Gregory

Dedication

Hymn of Response

196

There Is a Fountain

Cleansing Fountain

Affirmation of Faith — From 1 Peter 3

***We confess that Christ died for sins once for all,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might bring us to God.***

***He was put to death in the body but was brought to life by the Spirit,
in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison.***

***And we confess that our salvation is by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand –
with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him. Amen.***

Prayer of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.***

Give us this day our daily bread,

forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,

and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Julie Snow

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude