

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: Our annual congregational meeting to elect officers and vote on a proposed budget for 2014 will be held immediately following the worship service. Members are encouraged to stay for the meeting.

Denominational Offering. Each year at Thanksgiving time the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. You will find extra brochures and envelopes at each entrance to the sanctuary.

Christmas Memorial and Honorarium Poinsettias. An insert will be in next week's bulletin for the poinsettia memorials and honorariums.

Young at Heart. Tim and Lynn Robinson and Ann Garner will be on the program for our next meeting on Tuesday, **December 3**, which will be a Thanksgiving/Christmas theme and menu. There will be plenty of food, but if you have a special dish you'd like to share, we will eat it! Rumor has it that there will be door prizes too!!

Allied Churches. There is an immediate need for bath towels. We are asking the Young at Heart members and members of the congregation to purchase bath towels for Allied Churches. The towels may be placed in the Allied collection baskets or brought to the luncheon on December 3. Also, if you want to participate but cannot get out, you may give your monetary contribution to Margaret or Glenn Owens who will shop for you.

Siloam Missionary Homes. "Catch the Spirit of Christmas," Fri. and Sat., Dec. 6 and 7 from 5:30-8:00. Siloam Missionary Homes will be beautifully decorated. There will be fun for the entire family. The Christmas story will be told, accompanied with a chalk drawing under black lights. Admission: Cars \$5, Vans \$10, Church vans \$15. See the flyers on the bulletin boards! You can also find more info on their website, <http://www.siloamhomes.org>

Ladies Morning Bible Study. Our final meeting for the year is Tuesday, December 10 at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room. This will be the final look at the pictures in Revelation 17-22. Our study for 2014 will be Proverbs. Newcomers or old-timers are always welcome!

Ladies Evening Bible Study. To be announced. Please contact Dot Hutelmyer for information.

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Stephen Robinson and Tammy Cobb
Next Week: Matt Causey and Jessica Richardson

Children's Church:

Today: John Robinson and Matt Causey
Next Week: Joyce Payne and Doug Cobb

Deacon on Duty

Today: Glenn Owens
Next Week: Mark Vestal

Elder Greeter

Today: Matt Causey
Next Week: Gene Parks

Tithes and Offerings for November 24:

General Fund	\$ 3,262.53
Memorials:	\$10.00 for Mildred Wright from Ladies Bible Class
Women's Ministry:	\$30.00 for Make and Take Event
Denominational Offering:	\$518.00

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

First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2013

Preparation

Silent Meditation

There were only a few shepherds at the first Bethlehem. The ox and the donkey understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem. And it is the same today.

Thomas Merton (†1968 A.D.)

The spirit of Christmas needs to be superseded by the Spirit of Christ. The spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal. The spirit of Christmas is sentimental; the Spirit of Christ is supernatural. The spirit of Christmas is a human product; the Spirit of Christ is a divine person. That makes all the difference in the world.

Stuart Briscoe

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship—Luke 1:68-75

Minister Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of
salvation for us in the house of his servant David!

People **He has spoken by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.**

Minister He has shown us the mercy he promised to our fathers
and has remembered his holy covenant,
that we might be delivered from the hand of our enemies.

People **Therefore, we will serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

Hymn of Preparation
124

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration
133

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us and help us to wait for you. Help us to look out for the needs of others. And help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Zephaniah 3:14-18

*Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!*

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

*The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.*

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

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

Lighting of Advent Candle

The Bessette Family

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it.

³ And many peoples shall come, and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Minister The Word of the Lord
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem

O Lord Most Holy

Choir

(Dismissal to Children's Church)

New Testament Reading

John 1:1-2

¹ In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

The Divine Word

Rev. Bryan Gregory

Celebration

Hymn of Response

125

Joy to the World

Antioch

Affirmation of Faith — The Nicene Creed

***We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.***

***And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all worlds,***

***God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father by Whom all things were made;***

Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,

and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried,

and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,

Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,

Who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dedication

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

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