

Announcements

Deacon's Meeting. There will be a deacon's meeting in the conference room this afternoon at 4 PM.

Young At Heart. We give thanks: For the 37 people who came to lunch; for Tim and Lynn Robinson and Ann Garner for their poignant, timely messages; for Ellen Huffman knitting the dish cloths; for the 60 new towels donated to Allied Churches and to all of the wonderful cooks who contributed special dishes. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises to thy name, O most High." Psalm 92:1.

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.

Extra Cantata Practice! There will be two *extra* Christmas Cantata practices. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30 PM and Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 PM.

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. Next Sunday, December 15 will be the deadline for contributions to the fall denominational offering.

Christmas Eve Service. Please make plans to join us for our Christmas Eve communion candlelight service at 4:30 PM.

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Matt Causey and Jessica Richardson
Next Week: Macon Baird and Karen Jones

Children's Church:

Today: Joyce Payne and Doug Cobb
Next Week: Kristen Carter and Nicole Newton

Deacon on Duty

Today: Mark Vestal
Next Week: Randall Cobb

Elder Greeter

Today: Gene Parks
Next Week: Doug Cobb

Tithes and Offerings for December 1:

General Fund	\$ 2,257.37
Denominational Offering	\$ 335.00
Total Denominational Offering to date:	\$ 853.00

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

Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2013

Preparation

Silent Meditation

Light of lights! All gloom dispelling,
Thou didst come to make thy dwelling
Here within our world of sight.
Lord, in pity and in power,
Thou didst in our darkest hour
Rend the clouds and show thy light.

Praise to thee in earth and heaven
Now and evermore be given,
Christ, who art our sun and shield.
Lord, for us thy life thou gavest,
Those who trust in thee thou savest,
All thy mercy stands revealed.

Thomas Aquinas (†1274 A.D)

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Elon Students

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship - Romans 13

Minister You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep.
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.
The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

People **So then let us cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light!**

Hymn of Preparation
131

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration
135

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Christmas

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed. You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark. You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Isaiah 40:1-2

*Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.*

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 Newton Family

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples
--of him shall the nations inquire,
and his resting place shall be glorious.

Minister The Word of the Lord

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

Anthem

Mighty God

Choir

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Mary, Did You Know

John and Jane Fraser

(Dismissal to Children's Church)

New Testament Reading

John 1:3-13

³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.) ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

The Illuminating Word

Rev. Bryan Gregory

Dedication

Hymn of Response

141

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Affirmation of Faith — Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 35, 36

Minister What does it mean that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?

People ***That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might become David's true descendent, in all things like us except for sin.***

Minister How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

People ***He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God's sight my sin - mine since I was conceived.***

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.***