

Announcements

2014 Offering Envelopes. You may pick up your 2014 Offering Envelope packet in the front entrance of the sanctuary. If you do not find yours please contact Gloria Hendry.

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.

Choir Practice. TODAY at 4:00 PM and on Wednesday, 12/18/2013 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. TODAY is the deadline for contributions to the fall denominational offering.

All Ladies. Please join us on Saturday morning December 21, 2013 from 9:30-10:15 AM in the new church foyer for Christmas breakfast cake, tea and the study, "Mary, Elizabeth and Us - Waiting and Preparing" hosted by the Evening Circle. Contact: Dot Hutelmyer.

Christmas Treat Bags. You may pick up your Christmas treat bags after the Cantata service on December 22.

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

Year-End Giving. All offerings to be included in your 2013 giving statement must be given by Sunday, December 29, 2013. The law does allow for you to mail a gift for credit in 2013 **if it is postmarked by midnight December 31, 2013.** Please contact Gloria if you would like a statement of your YEAR-TO-DATE giving.

Handbell Choir. "To my marvelous Handbell Choir! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! for all your hard work and dedication. Have a blessed Christmas! See you in late January/February."
-Blessings! Ed Limon

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Macon Baird and Karen Jones
Next Week: Kristen Carter and Myrleann Schwerin

Children's Church:

Today: Kristen Carter and Nicole Newton
Next Week: No Children's church (Christmas Cantata)

Deacon on Duty

Today: Randall Cobb
Next Week: Doug Glass

Elder Greeter

Today: Doug Cobb
Next Week: Matt Causey

Tithes and Offerings for December 8:

General Fund \$ 9,776.67

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

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2013

Preparation

Silent Meditation

God comes into the very midst of evil and of death, and judges the evil in us and in the world. And by judging us, God cleanses and sanctifies us, comes to us with grace and love. God makes us happy as only children can be happy. God wants to always be with us, wherever we may be - in our sin, in our suffering and death. We are no longer alone; God is with us. We are no longer homeless; a bit of the eternal home itself has moved into us. Therefore we adults can rejoice deeply within our hearts under the Christmas tree, perhaps much more than the children are able. We know that God's goodness will once again draw near.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (†1945 A.D)

Prelude Infant Holy, Infant Lowly *Handbell Choir*

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship — Based on Psalm 126

Minister The Lord has done great things for us!
And we are filled with joy!
Our God has turned our weeping into singing,
our tears into songs of joy!

People **O Christ, come anew in our hearts this day,
and remain in us forever.**

Hymn of Preparation 123 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration 132 Angels We Have Heard on High *Gloria*

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

O promised Christ: we are a world at war; our peace depends upon your coming. We are a sinful people; our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. O Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Psalm 85:9-13

*Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.
In Christ, God's salvation is at hand,
and righteousness has come.*

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 Carter Family

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Bill Haynes (Elder)
Jim Knox (Elder)
Tim Bessette (Deacon)
David Newton (Deacon)

Reception of New Members

Grady and Pat Pack

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 33:1-23

¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your offspring I will give it.' ² I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people." ⁴ When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. ⁵ For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.'" ⁶ Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward. ⁷ Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. ⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ And when all the people

saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. ¹² Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" ¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Minister The Word of the Lord

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

Anthem

Angels and Shepherds

Handbell Choir

(Dismissal to Children's Church)

New Testament Reading

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

The Incarnate Word

Rev. Bryan Gregory

Dedication

Hymn of Response

137

What Child Is This?

Greensleeves

Affirmation of Faith

***In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem
to become one with us.
In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea
to teach us how to live.
In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary
to bear way our sin.
In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden
to defeat death's power over us.
In love you ascended beyond the clouds
to be our reigning Lord.***

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

Silent Night

Handbell Choir

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