

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.

Matt Causey's Shepherd Group. We will have lunch together on December 29 immediately following the service. Please RSVP as soon as possible. Matt's cell phone number is 336-266-0453.

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.

Christmas Treat Bags. You may pick up your Christmas treat bags today after the Cantata service.

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

Baby Shower for The Spencers. Sunday, January 12th from 3-5 PM. Please join us for this drop-in shower as we celebrate the baby girl who will be joining the family of our new members Isaac, Chelle and William. The Sandersons will host this event at their home (601 Fountain Place). The family is registered at Target, Amazon and Babies R Us. They need diapers, girl pacifiers and blankets, dresses, skirts or money toward a crib and mattress set. Please contact Christy Gregory if you have any questions. Hope to see you at the celebration!

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Kristen Carter and Myrleann Schwerin
Next Week: Nicole Newton and Kristen Carter

Children's Church:

Today: No Children's Church - Christmas Cantata
Next Week: Jan Burwell and Karen Jones

Deacon on Duty

Today: Doug Glass
Next Week: Glenn Owens

Elder Greeter

Today: Matt Causey
Next Week: Gene Parks

Tithes and Offerings for December 15:

General Fund \$ 9,523.97
Fall Denominational Offering: \$ 110.00
Total Fall Denominational Offering: \$ 963.00

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Bryan Gregory
Vice Moderator: Gene Parks
Clerk: Matt Causey

2013: Doug Cobb, Matt Causey
2015: Jim Knox, Gene Parks
2017: Bill Haynes

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
2016: David Newton, Tim Bessette

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2013

Preparation

Silent Meditation

This Gospel anticipates a world far different from C.S. Lewis's Narnia, where it is "always winter, and never Christmas." The promise of the Gospel is that it is "always Christmas." To be "in Christ" is to enjoy each morning as a Christmas morning with the family of God, celebrating the gift of God around the tree of life.

Kevin Vanhoozer

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose 'Ere Blooming

Ed Limon

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship — Based on Psalm 85

Minister Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,
and grant us your salvation.

Listen to what the Lord our God says:
He promises peace to his people,
who are his beloved saints.

The Lord will indeed give what is good.
Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

People **May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us
that we may see His face and know His peace.**

Hymn of Preparation
145

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration
136

The First Noel

The First Noel

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy into your kingdom. But we confess that often we try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have in Christ. Forgive us, in his name, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

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 Gregory Family

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-2:12

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. ^{2:1} Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship

him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Julie Snow

(No Children's Church today)

Choral Cantata

Wonderful Name

For Unto Us
For Unto Us
Joy to the World
Angels We Have Heard on High

Light of the World
with O Come, All Ye Faithful

Worship the King

Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

Prince of Peace
with Silent Night

Everlasting Father

Born is the King
The First Noel
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
The Birthday of a King

The Name of Jesus
with For Unto Us

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Sopranos

Karen Hayes

Jean McKinnon

Emily Orr

Lauren Orr

Donna Vestal

Altos

Dot Hutelmyer

Kelly Limon

Lynn Limon

Julie Snow

Tenors

David Newton

Jay Snow

John Snow

Bass

Mark Vestal

Child Solo

Abigail Newton