

## Announcements

**2014 Offering Envelopes.** Don't forget to get your 2014 contribution envelopes.

**Deacon's Meeting.** The next Deacon's meeting will be on January 12, 2014 at 4 PM in the Conference Room.

**Connie Bennett's Mission Trip.** I would appreciate prayer partners as I need to raise funds since I do not currently have a job. I also ask for prayer for the safety of the team, and our spiritual growth. Anyone interested in helping financially can send a check to: MTW, PO Box 116284 Atlanta, Ga 30368-6284. In the line FOR put "Acct #10865." I appreciate the support I receive in prayer and finances every year. There is a need for the following children's medications: Claritin (loratadine generic) 5 mg Chewables. Mucus Relief (guaifenesin generic) 100 mg Meltaways. Pediatric electrolyte replacement 8 pkts per box. Thanks, Connie.

**Baby Shower.** 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, Burlington). The family is registered at Target, Amazon and Babies R Us. They need diapers, girl pacifiers and blankets, dresses, skirts. Please contact Christy Gregory if you have any questions. Hope to see you at the celebration! This is a family shower; men and women are welcome. If you are not able to attend the shower, there will be a table in the Fellowship Hall the next two Sundays where people can drop off gifts.

**Ladies Bible Study.** Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets January 14, 2014 at 10:30 AM in the conference room. Our study this year is the book of Proverbs. Newcomers are always welcome!

**Young at Heart.** January 28, 2014. Ann Baker from Meals On Wheels will be the speaker in January. We are having baked spaghetti, salad, and plain and garlic bread. Don't miss this great time of fellowship!

## Ministry Information

### Nursery

Today: Mary Jane Glass and John Robinson  
Next Week: Jessica Richardson and Joyce Payne

### Children's Church:

Today: Christy Gregory and Myrleann Schwerin  
Next Week: Stephen Robinson and Gene Parks

### Deacon on Duty

Today: Doug Glass  
Next Week: Tim Bessette

### Elder Greeter

Today: Jim Knox  
Next Week: None Scheduled

### Tithes and Offerings for December 29:

General Fund \$ 3,809.22

## The Session

Moderator: Rev. Bryan Gregory  
Vice Moderator: Gene Parks  
Clerk: Jim Knox

2015: Jim Knox, Gene Parks  
2017: Bill Haynes

## The Diaconate

Chairman: Glenn Owens  
Vice Chairman: Mark Vestal  
Secretary: Doug Glass

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: Jim Knox

## 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

Epiphany Sunday

January 5, 2014

## Preparation

Silent Meditation

Trust the past to God's mercy,  
the present to God's love  
and the future to God's providence.

St. Augustine (†430 A.D.)

I ask You neither for health nor for sickness, for life nor for death; but that You may dispose of my health and my sickness, my life and my death, for Your glory... You alone know what is expedient for me; You are the sovereign master, do with me according to Your will. Give to me, or take away from me, only conform my will to Yours. I know but one thing, Lord, that it is good to follow You, and bad to offend You. Apart from that, I know not what is good or bad in anything. I know not which is most profitable to me, health or sickness, wealth or poverty, nor anything else in the world. That discernment is beyond the power of men or angels, and is hidden among the secrets of Your providence, which I adore, but so not seek to fathom.

Blaise Pascal (†1662 A.D.)

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship—Psalm 84

*Minister* How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.  
Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

*People* **Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!**

Hymn of Preparation  
10

O Worship the King

Lyons

## Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration

God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory

*Ode to Joy*

God, all nature sings thy glory, and thy works proclaim thy might;  
ordered vastness in the heavens, ordered course of day and night;  
beauty in the changing seasons, beauty in the storming sea;  
all the changing moods of nature praise the changeless Trinity.

Clearer still we see thy hand in man whom thou hast made for thee;  
ruler of creation's glory, image of thy majesty.  
Music, art, the fruitful garden, all the labor of his days,  
are the calling of his Maker to the harvest feast of praise.

But our sins have spoiled thine image; nature, conscience only serve  
as unceasing, grim reminders of the wrath which we deserve.  
Yet thy grace and saving mercy in thy Word of truth revealed  
claim the praise of all who know thee, in the blood of Jesus sealed.

God of glory, power, mercy, all creation praises thee;  
we, thy creatures, would adore thee now and through eternity.  
Saved to magnify thy goodness, grant us strength to do thy will;  
with our acts as with our voices thy commandments to fulfill.

## Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

***Our gracious and merciful God, we confess to you and to each other that time after time we have entered your presence with countless prayers but with hearts that have been closed to your grace. We have lifted up our thoughts to you in praise, but we have still entertained thoughts of evil in our own minds. We have rehearsed your commandments but have refused to see your face in the needs of our neighbors. We have talked of faith but have tried to control the world around us to get what we want. Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse us once again, for the sake of Christ and for your glory. Amen.***

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Micah 7:18-20

*Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over the transgression  
of the remnant of your possession?  
He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in showing clemency.  
He will again have compassion on us;  
he will tread our iniquities under foot.  
You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.  
You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our ancestors  
from the days of old.*

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

New Testament Reading

*Romans 9:1-16*

<sup>1</sup> I am speaking the truth in Christ--I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit-- <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. <sup>6</sup> But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, <sup>7</sup> and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>8</sup> This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. <sup>9</sup> For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>10</sup> And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, <sup>11</sup> though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad--in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls-- <sup>12</sup> she was told, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! <sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." <sup>16</sup> So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

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

Anthem

Come Let Us Worship the King

*Choir*

(Dismissal to Children's Church)

Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 25:19-34*

<sup>19</sup> These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, <sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. <sup>21</sup> And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup> The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger." <sup>24</sup> When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. <sup>27</sup> When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. <sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. <sup>30</sup> And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." <sup>32</sup> Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Bryan Gregory

God's Grace to Broken People: Grasping at the Birthright

## Celebration

Hymn of Response

125

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*CWM Rhondda*

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