

## Announcements

**2014 Offering Envelopes.** Don't forget to get your 2014 contribution envelopes. After today, they will be in the Fellowship Hall for your convenience.

**Deacon's Meeting.** Today at 4 PM in the Conference Room.

**Alamance County Right to Life.** You're invited to light candles to remember the unborn babies who have died by abortion. Please consider meeting at Courthouse Square, Graham on January 22, 2014, from 6:00-6:30 PM. For more information, call 336-213-5085 or email [abhuffman@gmail.com](mailto:abhuffman@gmail.com).

**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.** Today 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 is a table in the Fellowship Hall where you may 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: Jessica Richardson and Joyce Payne  
Next Week: Stephen Robinson and Doug Cobb

### Children's Church:

Today: Stephen Robinson and Gene Parks  
Next Week: John Robinson and Tammy Cobb

### Deacon on Duty

Today: Tim Bessette  
Next Week: Glenn Owens

### Elder Greeter

Today: None Scheduled  
Next Week: Jim Knox

### Tithes and Offerings for January 12:

General Fund	\$ 3,691.85
Memorials: Bobby Garner:	\$ 25.00
2013 Year-End Giving by 12/31:	\$ 2,291.02

## 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](mailto:bryan@firstarpburlington.org)

Music Director / Organist: Ed Limon  
[limonfam6@hotmail.com](mailto:limonfam6@hotmail.com)

Pianist: Julie Snow  
[jsnowmagic@aol.com](mailto:jsnowmagic@aol.com)

Administrative Assistant: Gloria Hendry  
[gloria@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:gloria@firstarpburlington.org)

[www.firstarpburlington.org](http://www.firstarpburlington.org)



## First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday after Epiphany

January 12, 2014

## Preparation

Silent Meditation

The ultimate test of our spirituality is the measure of our amazement at the grace of God.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (†1981 A.D.)

Prelude

Julie Snow

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship — Based on Psalm 95

*Minister* Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

*People* **Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.**

Hymn of Preparation  
61

Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty

Hyfrydol

## Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration  
268

God, Our Father, We Adore Thee

Beecher

## Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Heavenly Father, we are sorry for the many times we have left you and chosen to satisfy our own selfish desires. We are sorry for the times when we have hurt others with our actions, words, or thoughts. We are sorry for the times we have excused ourselves by thinking we were justified for what we have done or have blamed others instead of looking at ourselves. We repent for all the ways we have failed you and others and cast ourselves on your mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

### Assurance of Pardon — Romans 5:8-9

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Since we have now been justified by his blood,  
how much more shall we be saved  
from God's wrath through him!*

### 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

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

Anthem He Is Born

*Choir*

(Dismissal to Children's Church)

### Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 27:1-40*

<sup>1</sup> When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup> Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, <sup>4</sup> and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." <sup>5</sup> Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, <sup>6</sup> Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, <sup>7</sup> 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the LORD before I die.' <sup>8</sup> Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. <sup>9</sup> Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. <sup>10</sup> And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." <sup>11</sup> But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. <sup>12</sup> Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing." <sup>13</sup> His mother said to

him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me." <sup>14</sup> So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. <sup>15</sup> Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. <sup>16</sup> And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. <sup>17</sup> And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. <sup>18</sup> So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" <sup>19</sup> Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." <sup>20</sup> But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success." <sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." <sup>22</sup> So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." <sup>23</sup> And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. <sup>24</sup> He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." <sup>25</sup> Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. <sup>26</sup> Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." <sup>27</sup> So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

"See, the smell of my son  
is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed!

<sup>28</sup> May God give you of the dew of heaven  
and of the fatness of the earth  
and plenty of grain and wine.

<sup>29</sup> Let peoples serve you,  
and nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers,  
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you,  
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

<sup>30</sup> As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. <sup>31</sup> He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." <sup>32</sup> His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." <sup>33</sup> Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." <sup>34</sup> As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" <sup>35</sup> But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." <sup>36</sup> Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" <sup>37</sup> Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" <sup>38</sup> Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. <sup>39</sup> Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

"Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,  
and away from the dew of heaven on high.

<sup>40</sup> By your sword you shall live,  
and you shall serve your brother;

but when you grow restless  
you shall break his yoke from your neck."

### Prayer for Illumination

### Sermon

Rev. Bryan Gregory

God's Grace to Broken People: Seeking a Father's Blessing

## Dedication

### Hymn of Response

2 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Nettleton*

### Affirmation of Faith — From 1 Corinthians 15

***We believe that Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
that he was buried;  
that he was raised on the third day  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
that he appeared to Peter,  
and then to the Twelve.  
After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at the same time.  
After that he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles.  
Amen.***

### 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

*Julie Snow*

### 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