

Announcements

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. If you are a visitor, please feel free to pick up a blue informational folder outside the entrances to the sanctuary to learn more about our church. Also, please fill out a visitor card and place in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit. Thank you.

Handbell Choir. We will meet at 4 PM today.

Adult Choir. We will meet from 5 to 6 PM today. We are rehearsing for the **Easter Cantata**, “Man of Sorrows, King of Glory.”

Shepherding Lists. You will be receiving a letter soon to let you know who your shepherding elder and deacons are for 2014.

Missions Moment. If you were a senior citizen in Alamance County this year and found yourself increasingly disinterested in preparing nutritionally adequate meals for yourself or unable to purchase necessary ingredients to do so, possibly were housebound or dealing with a number of physical challenges, is there any resource available that addresses these issues? The answer is MEALS ON WHEELS, a program that was started in Philadelphia as early as the 1940's and has spread across the country. It arrived in Alamance County 41 years ago. First ARP has participated in this ministry for a number of years by providing volunteers willing to deliver hot meals and a personal caring touch to over 300 clients five days a week. Currently Glenn & Margaret Owens invest their time this way twice monthly, serving an average of 19 people each trip. Our church budget for 2014 includes a financial contribution to the local agency as well. Consider adding this worthy cause to your prayers and giving habits. Volunteers to serve are also always welcome!

Young at Heart. Unfortunately we had to cancel YAH in January due to the weather, but we have rescheduled Ann Baker from Meals on Wheels to speak on March 25. Sheri Henderson from the Boys and Girls Club will be speaking on February 25. The menu will still be baked spaghetti, salad, rolls and dessert. Plan to come!

From Connie Bennett. I want to thank all those who prayed for me and helped me financially! It made a tremendous difference in this trip. All went smoothly, and we had a good team with many wonderful experiences where God is working in Trinidad. Thank You.

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Kristen Carter and Mary Jane Glass
Next Week: Christy Gregory and Jessica Richardson

Children's Church:

Today: Dot Hutelmyer and Karen Jones
Next Week: Jan Burwell and Betty Bessette

Elder/Deacon Counter:

Today: Doug Glass
Next Week: Tim Bessette

Deacon on Duty

Today: Tim Bessette
Next Week: Glenn Owens

Elder Greeter

Today: Gene Parks
Next Week: Bill Haynes

Tithes and Offerings for February 2:

General Fund	\$ 6,939.04
World Witness/Bday Offering:	\$ 31.60

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: Tim Bessette
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 Chairperson: Dot Hutelmyer
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

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 9, 2014

Preparation

Silent Meditation

The community of faith is fortunate in having a God who does not insist on perfection before choosing to work in and through it... [He] places the birth of Israel as a community of faith within an admixture of familial conflict, human love and service, and ongoing divine blessing in the midst of failure.

Terence Fretheim

Learn this lesson: not to trust Christ because you repent, but trust Christ to make you repent; not to come to Christ because you have a broken heart, but to come to Him that He may give you a broken heart; not to come to Him because you are fit to come, but to come to Him because you are unfit to come. Your fitness is your unfitness. Your qualification is your lack of qualification.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (†1892 A.D.)

Prelude

Nothing I Hold Onto

Brooke Winters

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship — 1 Kings 8

Minister O Lord, God of Israel,
there is no God like you
in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants
who walk before you with all their heart.

Blessed be the Lord,
who has given rest to his people
according to all that he promised;
not one word has failed of all his good promise,
which he spoke through his servant Moses.

The Lord our God be with us,
as he was with our ancestors;
may he not leave us or abandon us,
but incline our hearts to him,
to walk in his ways.

People **The Lord is our God;
there is no other.
May our hearts be wholly true toward him.**

Hymn of Preparation

O Great Three in One

Lyons

O Ancient of Days, in glory enthroned
To thee be all praise, and honor alone.
Majestic, all holy, and sov’ reign o’er all,
With earth as thy footstool, before whom we fall.

O Incarnate Word, the Light before light,
who shines in the dark, dispelling our night,
Life-giving Redeemer, our Emmanuel,
God with us, to save us, his mercy forth tell.

O Spirit of God, proceeding in pow’r,
anointing as oil, enflaming as fire,
Our Witness, our Comfort, renewing within,
And sealing upon us, thy grace to the end.

O great Three in One, Triune God of grace,
who binds us to thee, with endless embrace.
The Father decreeing, the Son who atones,
The Spirit applying; thy heart now our home.

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration
43

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Our merciful Father, there are many times we think we love you well, but upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our strength, we confess that our love for you is a fickle love, compromised daily by lesser loyalties and a divided heart. Our love seems pure only for brief moments, but soon our affections are drawn away. How easily our devotion cools and we fall back into our old ways. Forgive us for the sake of Christ. Spare us according to your great mercy. And rekindle within us a purer love for you, according to your grace. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — From Psalm 46

*Come, behold the works of the LORD...
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

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

Hebrews 12:1-11

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

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

Anthem

The Heavens Are Telling

Choir

(Dismissal to Children’s Church)

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 30:1-24

¹ When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!" ² Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" ³ Then she said, "Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her." ⁴ So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. ⁵ And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. ⁶ Then Rachel said, "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan. ⁷ Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. ⁸ Then Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali. ⁹ When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. ¹⁰ Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. ¹¹ And Leah said, "Good fortune has come!" so she called his name Gad. ¹² Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. ¹³ And Leah said, "Happy am I! For women have called me happy." So she called his name Asher. ¹⁴ In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." ¹⁵ But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes." ¹⁶ When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to

me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night. ¹⁷ And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸ Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar. ¹⁹ And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. ²¹ Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah. ²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." ²⁴ And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Bryan Gregory
God’s Grace to Broken People: The Maternal Arms Race

Dedication

Hymn of Response

435

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Converse

Affirmation of Faith — The Westminster Larger Catechism, Q&A18

Minister What are God’s works of providence?

All ***God’s works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures; ordering them, and all their actions, to his own glory.***

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

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