



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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June 4, 2013

No. 12

From the Pastor:



On the last Sunday of May, we had a lunch after church to begin having a conversation among church family members about what difference our church might make within the larger community. We had a number of people stay for the lunch and it was a lot of fun. The food was great (as always) and the conversation better. We talked about what God calls the church to be, why we come to church, why fewer and fewer people in our society are attending church regularly, and began briefly to talk about what the solution to that might be. Of course, the solution is not just to get people "to go to church" as if church attendance is all that matters. No, the solution is for people to come to Jesus Christ personally and, as a result, to become worshipping, serving, and involved church members.

One of the key things we talked about was that introducing people to Jesus is unlikely to happen through impersonal programs, but only through personal relationships. Programs are only as good as they facilitate lasting relationships in which people can see Christ at work in our own lives. So, as we think about things like "outreach" or "mission" we must think about how to cultivate relationships with other people.

We'll be having another lunch on July 14th and would love to have more of you join us for the good food, fun fellowship, and important discussion. If you missed the first lunch at the end of May, you won't have to "catch up" at all. You'll be able to jump right in. I hope you'll be able to join us.

As part of this, we all want to be committed to prayer. We're praying that God would begin showing us as a church family how we can reach out to those in our community, build relationships with them, and give them a chance to see Jesus at work in our own lives in a very natural, non-confrontational, and relational way. Specifically, will you pray:

- 1) that God would help us see ways that we can get to know or care for people around us
- 2) that God would direct us to areas in the community where we can be involved.

And will you consider joining us for the next lunch? I am excited to see what God will do in our church and through us in the lives of others. I hope you are too!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to:

The family of Linda Feree Howington, Laurene Howington's sister-in-law.

The family of Jimmy Walker, brother to Ellen Huffman.

IN THE NEWS: Congratulations to Tammy Cobb!

"**The Phoenix Community Engagement Award** is presented to a member of the Elon staff who has demonstrated exemplary service to the university, local or global community through his or her engagement in volunteer organizations. The award went to Tammy Cobb, assistant director for community partnerships in the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement."

ON THE CALENDAR AT FIRST ARP!

JUNE

- 6 Women's Evening Bible Study at Vickie McPherson's—6:30.
- 11 Women's Morning Bible Study 10:30 in Conference Room
- Women's Evening Bible Study 6:30—New Narthex with Dot Hutelmyer.
- 16 Graduate Recognition Sunday
- FATHER'S DAY**
- 19 Women's Fellowship at Myrleann Schwerin 10 am.
- 22 **BABY SHOWER**— Laura Limon Nicholson. (See details on back)

JULY

- 14 Potluck Lunch and Discussion of the book, "Missional."
- 29 - Aug1 Family Bible Conference



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Please let us know by calling the church office or by email if you know of any graduates at First ARP. We will recognize their accomplishments on Sunday, June 16.

BABY SHOWER!



For: Laura Limon Nicholson
Date & Time: Sat., June 22, 2013
Where: Dot Hutelmyer's Home
812 Kimberly Road
Burlington, NC 27215
Hosted by: Dot H. and Jessie R
RSVP: Floating 2:00—4:00 pm

When God asks you to wait, what happens to your spiritual muscles? While you wait, do your spiritual muscles grow bigger and stronger or do they grow flaccid and atrophied? Waiting for the Lord isn't about God forgetting you, forsaking you, or being unfaithful to his promises. It's actually God giving you time to consider his glory and to grow stronger in faith. Remember, waiting isn't just about what you are hoping for at the end of the wait, but also about what you will become as you wait.

Waiting always presents me with a spiritual choice-point. Will I allow myself to question God's goodness and progressively grow weaker in faith, or will I embrace the opportunity of faith that God is giving me and build my spiritual muscles?

It's so easy to question your belief system when you are not sure what God is doing. It's so easy to give way to doubt when you are being called to wait. It's so easy to forsake good habits and to take up habits of unfaith that weaken the muscles of the heart.

—Paul David Tripp, *A Shelter in the Time of Storm*

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For God's glory, First ARP Church is a group of believers united in Christ endeavoring to make disciples and proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in the Burlington area and throughout the world.

JUNE

Birthdays

- 6/6 Heather Hayes
- 6/8 Kevin Hutelmyer
- 6/10 Dick Fuller
- 6/11 Lillian Fuller
- 6/16 Steven Cobb
- 6/17 Kelton Christopher
Audrey Sneed
- 6/18 Judy Bernhardt
- 6/23 Lainey Childrey
Kristen Carter
- 6/30 Helen Parks



Anniversaries

- 6/6 Tommy and Amy Gilmore (27)
- 6/8 Jim and Lola Knox (57)
- 6/10 Bryan and Christy Gregory (13)
- 6/20 Bryan and Karen Jones (26)
- 6/20 Daren and Cindy Melson (15)
- 6/28 Doug and Mary Jane Glass (33)

LIMON'S MEXICO MISSION TRIP

The Limons are seeking prayer partners and financial support for their trip this July. Estimated expenses should be about \$2,600 for Ed, Lynn, and Kelly. The cost covers airfare, meals, local transportation, and accommodations. If you would like to help, donations may be mailed to: Mission to the World; c/o Angela Floyd; 1600 N. Brown Rd.; Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8141. Please note "EV5468" on the memo line of your check.

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE

Our denomination's annual Family Bible Conference will be July 29– August 1st. The speakers will be Dr. Boyce Wilson, senior pastor of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC, and Rev. Paul Patrick, RUF Campus Minister at Erskine College. The theme will be "Words of Wisdom." If you would like more information, please contact the pastor.

Nursery: June 9: Not available
June 16: Not available

Children's Church:
June 9: Not available
June 16: Not available

Deacon Duty:
June 9: Glenn Owens
June 16: Mark Vestal

Elder Greeters:
June 9: Doug Cobb
June 16: Gene Parks