



# First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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No. 14

## *From the Pastor:*

Recently, ESPN asked a number of athletes to write letters of advice to themselves when they were younger. It was fascinating to see what some of the world's best athletes said to their younger selves. Perhaps the most well-done and interesting letters were by Andy Murray (professional tennis player and defending U.S. Open champion), Aaron Rodgers (quarterback of the Green Bay Packers), and Jeff Gordon (NASCAR driver). Andy chose to write to his 12 year old self because that year he made it to the finals of the junior championships in Scotland. When he lost his temper and threw his racket, he was thrown out of the tournament. Perhaps surprising to us, the older Andy told the 12 year old Andy, "Even if I could stop you, I wouldn't. You need to see that racket fly through the air ... You need to feel sick about getting thrown out of a Scottish junior championship that you should've won." The reason? Because Andy discovered that the pain of that experience actually produced change in him. He is still passionate but through that experience he learned something that changed him and helped him to control his temper and channel his passion into on-court success.



Aaron Rodgers' letter was similar. Overlooked by every Division I college football program, he ended up attending Butte College, just so he could play. At the time, he was angry at being overlooked and even thought about giving up football. But, Butte College proved to be just what he needed. From there, he transferred to Cal and then eventually was drafted in the first round by the Green Bay Packers. Looking back, he realized that Butte was the perfect environment to gain confidence and develop his craft. What looked like a slight and a detour proved to be the perfect path for his long-term success.

Finally, Jeff Gordon chose to write his 7 year old self because that is when he had just won a quarter-midget race but did so by running over another kid's tires and pushing him out of the way. He won, but he won because he played dirty. After the race, his stepfather made him give the trophy back – actually he made him go and give it to the kid he had pushed out of the way – because, in his stepfather's words, "that's not how we race people." At the time, 7 year old Jeff was furious. But, looking back he was able to see that it was a moment that changed his character. Thirty-five years later, he sees that his stepfather's actions shaped certain values in him: race people with respect, understand the consequences of your actions, work hard and don't cut corners, on or off the track.

What all three letters have in common is that something that was incredibly difficult at the time actually proved in the end to be something that shaped them and formed their character for the better. The Apostles Paul says something very similar: we know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Romans 5). What difficult things are you going through? Whatever they are, God is using them to shape who you are and form your character. It's just that sometimes it takes faith to see that in the midst of it.



## CHOIR PRACTICE BREAK

Due to the Limon's mission trip to Mexico, the choir will not practice until July 24, at 7 pm.

## MISSIONS and OUTREACH LUNCH

Another potluck lunch to talk about the ministry role our church can play in the community will be on July 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the worship service. You can bring any dish you like. As you prepare to come, please give some thought to two questions: 1) what are things that people in our community value? 2) where are places that people in our community gather? We are excited for a great discussion. Please join us and invite someone else to come along with you!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School this year will be August 12th—15th from 6:15-7:30pm. The theme will be "Walking in Faith." If you have an interest in serving or participating, please contact Kristen Carter



## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Heather Hayes  
2310 Whitehall Estates Drive, Apt E  
Charlotte, NC 28273

Travis and Kristen Carter  
1630 Majesty Dr.  
Burlington, NC 27217

Daren and Cindy Melson  
5706 Chanberry Lane  
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Daren's cell phone: 336-266-7792  
Cindy's email: [mathprincess100@gmail.com](mailto:mathprincess100@gmail.com)  
Cindy's cell phone: 336-404-3097

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### DENOMINATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:

#### Important Dates:

July 29 – August 1, 2013: Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken. God's Wisdom and our Decisions; Connections; How to Teach the Bible Study.

July 29, 2013: ARPWM Annual Meeting at Bonclarken.

October 19, 2013: First Presbyterial Annual Meeting, Boyce Memorial, Kings Mountain, NC.

**Theme Verse:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.  
- Proverbs 3:5

**Study Book 2013-14:** (recommended by denominational women's ministries) *A Proverbs Driven Life* by Anthony Selvaggio; *A Father's Gift* by Kenneth B. Wingate.

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### FIRST ARP WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY SUMMER SCHEDULE

**Women's Morning Bible Study.**  
Will resume in August.

**Women's Evening Bible Studies:**  
Will resume in August.

**Women's Fellowship Group:**  
Will resume in the fall.

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### SEMINARY CLASS ON APOLOGETICS

Reformed Theological Seminary is offering a course this fall at Community Bible Church in High Point. It is entitled "Apologetics: How to Defend Your Faith in a Hostile World" and will be taught by Dr. James Anderson. It will be on Thursday evenings from 6:00-9:15, from September 5—October 24, and can be taken for credit or audited. For more information, contact the pastor.

#### *First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*

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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.*

# JULY

### Birthdays

7/1 Christy Gregory  
7/2 Tom Childrey  
7/5 Lynne Causey  
7/11 Josh Gregory  
Liam Hutelmyer  
7/13 Owen Constable  
7/14 McKenna Constable  
Chris Hutelmyer  
7/15 Kathryn Richardson  
7/16 Caroline Bailey  
Jondeen Terry  
7/18 Ferald Mann  
7/27 Charlie Melson  
7/30 Laurie Isley  
Clay McPherson  
7/31 Kevin Limon



### Anniversaries

7/1 Tim & Betty Bessette (41)  
Dick & Lillian Fuller (63)  
7/23 Bill & Ellen Huffman (64)  
7/26 George & Mary Lou McKinney (49)  
7/29 Donald & Sandy Childrey (24)

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### THANK YOU!

This year's Rock-A-Thon To End Alzheimers was incredible! We exceeded our goal of \$3500 by collecting a total of \$4220! Thank you so much for your donations and for getting out there and rocking. We had a lot of great fun and fellowship. You have truly helped to make a difference in people's lives. God bless you!

-Gary Gregory  
2013 Rock-A-Thon Co-Chairman

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### 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.

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### 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:

July 7: Not available  
July 14: Not available

#### Children's Church:

July 7: Not available  
July 14: Not available

#### Deacon Duty:

July 7: Mark Vestal  
July 14: Randall Cobb

#### Elder Greeters:

July 7: Not available  
July 14: Gene Parks