



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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No. 15

From the Pastor:



Last Sunday we had our second missions and outreach potluck lunch. Almost forty people stayed for the lunch and we had a great discussion about all the things that have changed in our society in the last ten or twenty years and what lessons the church might learn from that. One of the changes that, in my opinion, provides a useful analogy for ministry in the twenty-first century is the changing of the guard from Blockbuster to Netflix. It used to be that if you wanted to rent a movie to watch you went to the video store, picked out what you wanted, and then took it home to watch it. When that's the way it was, Blockbuster was a widely successful business. But then, Netflix came along. They figured out that there was a better way to engage movie-watchers. Instead of sitting back and expecting movie-watchers to show up at a store, they began taking the movies to where people were. All of a sudden people could select their movies on the internet and they would arrive in the mail within a day or so. Then, Netflix improved on their idea when they figured out that they could eliminate the lag time and start streaming it straight into people's homes. Part of the genius was even looking around and figuring out how to work with things that people already like, such as gaming systems and DVD players.

The analogy to ministry is poignant. Fifty or seventy-five years ago, a church could set up shop in an area and they wouldn't have to do anything. People would simply show up... because for most people it was just assumed that you would go to church. In that sense, the church was much like a Blockbuster. If you build it, they will come. But, the world has changed. Culture has changed. Society has changed. Fewer and fewer people are going to show up at a church simply because it is there. If people are going to hear the good news of Christ, if they are going to come to know him personally, we will – like Netflix – have to move out into their world and not just sit back expecting them to show up in our world. We will have to reach out towards them. We will have to take some of the initiative to get to know them. Of course, the message itself never changes. The gospel never changes. And it should never be watered down, diluted, or compromised in any way. But, if people are going to see the glories of it, the church (i.e., the people) will have to lovingly go to them where they are, not sit back and hope they will magically become interested.

It's a lot to think about. What people are around me every day, people God has providentially put in my world, that I can cultivate a meaningful relationship with? Do you see the same people all the time at the gym? At sporting events? At the dry cleaners? At the grocery store? In your neighborhood? What would be a small way to cultivate a friendship that is just a little more than the passing hello's? Our next lunch will be in early September. If you haven't made it to the first two lunches, you are still very welcome to come to the upcoming ones. The discussion is great and so is the food. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S VACATION

The pastor will be on vacation July 18-31. If you have a need during this time, please contact one of the elders or the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date: Sunday, August 11th from 2-5 p.m. Please join the church family for an afternoon of music, food, games, and fun. Everyone is welcome! This will be a special time to enjoy one another and invite others to join in the fun. Please bring a friend and a lawn chair and join us for the afternoon. Be on the lookout for postcards in the bulletin and foyer that you can use to invite a friend.

Ways you can help:

- 1) Invite a friend to join our church family for the day.
- 2) **TEDDY BEAR TEAM!** Please join us and help prepare teddy bears for folks to stuff and stitch at the church picnic in August. We need: **volunteers** to cut out fabric at home; **volunteers** to do simple machine stitching at home; **donations** of washable fabric (at least 1/2 yard), polyfill (stuffing), fabric glue, 1" - 2" quality ribbon (at least 2 ft lengths), buttons, trim, rick-rack, needles and thread. There will be a basket in the church foyer for donations. Thank you - this will be a fun project! Contact: Dot Hutelmyer at email: thehutelmyermom@hotmail.com or phone: 336-584-4654.
- 3) Lend us dress-up clothes for the picture station. Any funny hats, masks, boas, shoes, costumes, etc. are welcome. Please drop your items in the bin by the sanctuary during the week before the event. (Please label them so we can return them to you.)
- 4) We will have many games and activities. If you can help with one of these, please contact Christy Gregory.

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.



MISSIONS and OUTREACH LUNCH

Please join us for the next Missional Living potluck and discussion on Sunday, September 8th following the service. If you have or have not attended in the past, please mark your calendar and join the discussion. Hope to see you there!

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Daren and Cindy Melson
5706 Chanberry Lane
Rogers, AR 72758
Daren's email: thedigitalbloodhound@gmail.com
Daren's cell phone: 336-266-7792
Cindy's email: mathprincess100@gmail.com
Cindy's cell phone: 336-404-3097



CHOIR PRACTICE BREAK

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

BLAKEY HALL VISIT

July 28, 2013. We will meet there at 6:30 on the 2nd floor. We typically sing hymns or just visit with the residents. Please contact Britt Causey at 336-266-1685 if you plan to attend or have questions. If you can't make it this time, please join us in the future (the last Sunday of every month).

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

We will start Sunday School assembly again on August 4, 2013. We would encourage everyone who attends Sunday School be present in the assembly for devotions, singing, prayer, announcements, etc.

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.

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
2250 Saddle Club Road
Burlington, NC 27215
WEBSITE: www.FirstARPBurlington.org
Office Email: gloria@firstarpburlington.org
Office Phone: 336-584-6929

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.

August

Birthdays

8/1 Jo McKinnon
8/4 WD Yarbrough
Roy Gage
8/11 Josh Limon
8/13 Catherine Mangum
Stephen Robinson
8/14 Lorene Childrey
8/18 Myrleann Schwerin
8/19 Hannah Baird
Betty Mann
Carolyn Pulley
8/21 Lola Knox
8/22 David Robinson
8/24 Freeman Baulding
8/25 Kaye Murray
8/26 Kalli Gilmore
8/28 Beadie Sumner
8/29 Erin Cobb
Doug Glass
8/30 Foy Evans
8/31 Joyce Payne



Anniversaries

8/2 Jay & Julie Snow (27)
8/9 Kevin & Elizabeth Hutelmyer (9)
8/10 Ed & Lynn Limon (33)
8/11 Joe & Kaye Murray (59)
8/23 James & Carolyn Constable (26)
8/24 Chip & Sarah Wright (45)
8/26 Foy & Geneva Evans (65)
8/30 Chris & Emily Hutelmyer (5)

THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,
I just wanted to thank the members of this congregation for your prayers, financial contributions and continued concern during this journey to wholeness. God has so blessed me with your support and His favor as I have continued to recover. I so appreciate all that this church family has done over the past year. I thank God in all remembrance of you! God bless you.
In His Love,
Glenda Owens Yount

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.

Deacon Duty:

July 21: Glenn Owens
July 28: Mark Vestal

Elder Greeters:

July 21: Matt Causey
July 28: Doug Cobb