



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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August 13, 2013

No. 17

From the Pastor:



In the book of Exodus, Moses and the Israelites are making their way through the wilderness. They have just experienced the wonders of the exodus out of Egypt and they are on their way to Sinai. But one of the problems with being in the wilderness is finding food. God, however, has a solution. He sends manna from the heavens. Every day the Israelites were to go out and gather enough for that day. The food for the next day would be provided the next morning. The only exception was on the sixth day. On that day God would rain down bread for two days and the people could gather for two days so that the seventh day, the Sabbath, could be taken off.

Typically, the lesson that is drawn from this part of Exodus is that we need to trust God for his daily provision. God will see to it to meet our needs, one day at a time. We can trust him to sustain us with whatever we need and we do not need to be anxious about tomorrow. And that is certainly true. God is faithful day by day and we need to trust his provision. We need to live in daily dependence upon him.

However, there is another lesson that can be drawn from the story about the manna, one that is not often considered. Part of the rhythm of the provision of the manna was not only that God would provide for his people each day but that the people were to gather only what was given for that day. No more. They could not gather extra. If they did, it would simply rot.

What an important thing for each of us to remember. Each day God has given us a portion of work to do. That might be at the job where we work. It might be in the home. It might be through volunteer work. Or, most likely, it is some combination thereof. And it is very easy, in our quest to be industrious and efficient, to fill up our days and run ourselves ragged. Inevitably, other important things - things like family or our spiritual life - get shoved to the margins. But what if we adopted the perspective of the Israelites in the wilderness? What if we said, 'God, has given me a portion of work to do today and when I finish I'm going to put down my pen, close my laptop... just stop' and be satisfied with a full day's work? What if we lived with the realization that we cannot and should not try to do everything in one day but gather only the manna that we need for that day and let tomorrow's gathering be done tomorrow?

In many Benedictine monasteries, one of the rules that the monks live by (and have for centuries) is that when it is time to stop for prayer, everyone stops what they are doing. The monk in the garden puts down his trowel. The monk in the kitchen stops kneading the bread. The monk at the desk puts down his pen. And they all gather in the chapel for prayer. By doing so, they remind themselves that man does not live by bread alone, nor by the sweat of his own brow. It keeps work in perspective and keeps proper boundaries in place. In our busy lives, we often need to learn the same lesson. There is a time for work and a time for rest, a time for diligence and a time for reflection, a time for getting things done and a time for spending time with family, a time for pushing ahead on a project and a time for worship, a time for gathering manna and a time for stopping to eat it. Otherwise we experience what the Israelites did - rot.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- THIS WEEK!

Vacation Bible School this year will be August 12th - 15th from 6:15-7:30pm. Invite your friends and neighbors! The theme is "Walking in Faith."



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

At the end of August, Kristen Carter has decided to step down from the role of CE Coordinator. We are working to transition her responsibilities, but we would encourage you to offer your appreciation and thanks to Kristen for her service. Thank you Kristen!

FUN FRIDAYS/PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, August 23, 2013, 6-8 PM. Games. Crafts. Bible stories. Snacks for the kids. *Date night* for mom and dad!

FIRST ARP WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY SUMMER SCHEDULE

Women's Morning Bible Study: Will resume today, August 13 at 10:30.

Tuesday Evening Ladies' Bible Study: Please join us tonight, August 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the church foyer, as we continue our study on the facets of a Christian woman. Our topic is: *Sometimes I'm Shy*. All ladies are welcome! Contact: Dot Hutelmyer thehutelmymom@hotmail.com or 584-4654

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

TEDDY BEAR TEAM

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, cut, stitched, and helped with the teddy bears and dolls for the church Festival on the Green last Sunday. The teddy bears were enjoyed by all. Left-over supplies will be made into teddy bear/doll kits and donated to the Bonclarcken Book Store.

ATTENTION LADIES!!

Our church will host a Beth Moore Simulcast on Saturday, September 14th from 8:30-4:30. All-day attendance is not necessary. We welcome those that want to stay for any part of the day. A BBQ lunch will be provided. \$5 per ticket. Contact Britt Causey: 336-266-1685 or bcausey4@triad.rr.com Please join us for a day of encouragement and Bible study!

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!

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

About 18 volunteers are needed for Nursery. If you aren't able to be on the floor and play, you can still be the second person in the room who can rock a baby and help. About 10 people are needed for Children's Worship. If you aren't comfortable teaching, you can also serve as the helper. Volunteers should only serve about once every two months or 6 times a year. If you are willing to serve, contact Gloria at gloria@firstarpburlington.org.

LOST KEYS

Please call the church office 336-584-6929 or email Gloria at gloria@firstarpburlington.org if you found a set of keys on Sunday.

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.

NEW COMMITTEES

The **PAC** (Properties Appearance Committee) is a committee established by the deacons to be the clearinghouse for all property and aesthetics requests or suggestions; the deacon on the committee is Randall Cobb.

The **EMAT** (Event Management Assistance Team) is a team of people that will do setup and takedown and help deal with other details for events at the church; the two deacons who are spearheading it are Doug Glass and Randall Cobb.

NEW BULLETIN BOARDS

If you would like to have something posted on a bulletin board, please email Gloria. There are two Current Events boards, a Missions board, and a Women's Ministries board.

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will resume meeting Tuesday September 24 at 11:45 in the church fellowship hall. Margaret and Myrleann will prepare the lunch consisting of baked chicken, rice pilaf, green salad, rolls and dessert. If you want to bring your own special dish, we will welcome it. Program will be announced later.

ATTENTION SECRET SISTERS!

On Saturday, September 28 from 2 - 4 in the fellowship hall, there will be a dessert fellowship where we will reveal who we had for a SS. We will also draw for our new Secret Sisters. If you cannot attend you should still make sure that your gift for your sister is there. Also, there will be Secret Sister forms in the vestibule that you can fill out ahead of time. Be sure to give the form to Margaret Owens or Christy Gregory if you are unable to attend but want to be a SS for the coming year. If you are willing to make a dessert please contact Margaret Owens at mtowens62@yahoo.com or telephone 336-263-7666.

From the Church Office..

Pink reimbursement forms are on the table in the Library. Please fill out the form, staple the receipts to the form, sign it, and give it to the person coordinating the event who can make sure everything is correct and complete and then turn the form in for reimbursement. Thank you!

Nursery:

Aug 18: Jessie Richardson/Kristen Carter

Children's Church:

Aug 18: Jessie Richardson/Kristen Carter

Aug 25: Kristen Carter/Jan Burwell

Deacon Duty:

Aug 18: Randall Cobb

Aug 25: Mark Vestal

Elder Greeters:

Not available at this time