



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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From the Pastor:

Having finished up the Ten Commandments, we're going to begin looking at the book of 1 John during the fall months of September, October, and November. The book itself falls into two halves: the first half of the book is organized around the theme "God is light" (1:5), while the second half is organized around the theme "God is love" (4:8).

Both themes were important for the community to which the book was written because the community had recently undergone a schism. The dividing issue was primarily one of theology, though there were plenty of moral and ethical implications that went along with it. Essentially, the secessionist group had denied that Jesus was the Christ. By that they didn't mean that Jesus wasn't the Messiah expected by the Old Testament; they meant that Jesus hadn't really come in the flesh. They were subscribers to an early form of an ancient heresy called gnosticism. Gnosticism believed that there were two realms, the material or physical world which was evil, and the spiritual world which was good. Salvation was leaving behind the material world and ascending into the spiritual world through special knowledge and enlightenment. Even though such a belief is completely against the biblical narrative, the gnostics did not believe that Jesus actually came in human flesh.

In light of this, John is trying to encourage the beleaguered group still in the church. They have just gone through the painful process of seeing a group break off from them and leave. They feel hurt and discouraged. They are beginning to question. And John writes to them to encourage them in the biblical teaching that God is light; that is, God is the source of truth. Look to him and continue to walk in the fellowship of his light. And he writes to reassure them that God is love. He loves them and he desires for them to express that love to one another in visible and tangible ways. Perhaps that is why the book has been such a favorite for so many people through the ages. We all go through times in which we are tired, hurt, and discouraged. Sometimes we can begin to question what God is doing in our midst. And in those times how refreshing it can be to our souls to rest in the truth that God is light and in the reality that God is love. My prayer is that your soul, and our souls, will be refreshed this fall as we rest in these wonderful truths.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ed and Lynn Limon would like to praise God for 2 new granddaughters. Eleanor "Nora" Adams Nicholson was born to Capt Seth and Laura (Limon) Nicholson on Aug 3 in Yucca Valley, CA. She was 7 lb 11 oz. AND ... Ada Maria Limon was born to Spec. Kevin and Amy Limon on Aug 15 in Ft. Bragg, NC. She was 6 lb 2 oz.

SERVICE FOR DAY OF PRAYER

September 11 has been designated as a national day of prayer and repentance. We will have a prayer service that evening from 7:00-8:00 that will be a time of singing, fellowship, and prayer.

ATTENTION LADIES!!

Our church will host a Beth Moore Simulcast on Saturday, September 14 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!

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.

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.

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

Women's Morning Bible Study: Will resume September 10 at 10:30.

Tuesday Evening Ladies' Bible Study: Please join us September 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the church foyer, as we continue our study on the facets of a Christian woman. All ladies are welcome! Contact: Dot Hutelmyer thehutelmyermom@hotmail.com or 584-4654

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

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Presbyterianism (as its name indicates) is a church government which operates according to the rule and leadership of elders. Obviously, the whole system and the health of the churches depend, then, on congregations doing two things: 1) electing officers they trust, and 2) trusting the officers they elect. When that happens, Presbyterianism is beautiful and harmonious. When it doesn't, it is difficult and painful for everyone. As we enter the autumn, please take time to consider and pray about who should be nominated and elected as officers in our church.

Between now and October 1, the session will receive nominations for the following positions:

- Elder (no specified number)
- Deacon (no specified number)
- Congregational Chairman (1)
- Congregational Treasurer (1)
- Trustee (2)

For the treasurer and trustee positions, those already serving can succeed themselves if they are willing to be nominated again. Please consider doing so!

If you would like to nominate an elder, please fill out a nomination form, which can be found outside the sanctuary. If you would like to nominate someone for any of the other positions, simply submit their name to any member of the session. Thank you for prayerfully considering these important roles in the life of our church!

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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bennett Richardson	9/1
Gwen Hilton	9/4
Libby Cobb	9/6
Karen Hayes	9/6
Jill Roy	9/6
Doug Cobb	9/15
Ariel Constable	9/19
Larry Isley	9/20
Jim Little	9/20
Peggy Mitchell	9/20
Betty Bessette	9/22
Jillian Roy	9/29
John Snow	9/30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby and Anne Garner (49)	9/4
Tom and Vickie McPherson (37)	9/4
Tim and Lynn Robinson (41)	9/9
Len and Jessica Sneed (14)	9/17
Tom and Lorene Childrey (53)	9/25

INTERVARSITY LUNCH

The first InterVarsity lunch for the fall semester will be September 22. This is a great chance to spend time with college students from Elon and begin to build a relationship with them. If you would like to help with the lunch, we would welcome desserts or drinks or help in setting up and taking down the room. For more information or to help, please contact Christy Gregory. Hope you can join us!

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!

Nursery:

- Sept 1: Jessica Richardson and Christy Gregory
- Sept 8: Kristen Carter and Gene Parks

Children's Church:

- Sept 1: Stephen Robinson and Myrleann Schwerin
- Sept 8: Christy Gregory and Britt Causey

Deacon Duty:

- Sept 1: Doug Glass
- Sept 8: Mark Vestal

Elder Greeters:

- Sept 1: Doug Cobb
- Sept 8: Gene Parks