

Announcements

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. If you are a visitor, please feel free to pick up a blue informational folder outside the entrances to the sanctuary to learn more about our church. Also, please fill out a visitor card and place in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit. Thank you.

G.I.R.L. Time. March 16th: 6:30-7:30 at the church. We will enjoy snacks and Lynn Limon will lead us in a time of Scripture study and sharing about our lives. We will get prayer partners for the month as a way to get to know and bless one another.

Missions Moment. Pakistan is not a country most of us would choose for a pleasant holiday in the 21st century, but it is a place where ARP Missions have a long history providing hospital care and educational opportunities for needy citizens there. ANDY & NANNETTE HOWARD arrived in 2009 after previously serving ARP outreaches in Russia and Wales. Please pray for the safety of the Howards whom we support, the other ARP missionaries serving there and the Pakistani people who are being reached by these ministries.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study. 10:30 AM on March 11 in the conference room. "What does the book of Proverbs tell us about our work?" Come join us!

InterVarsity. March 16th at 1:30 we will gather at Elon. Please let Christy know if you can provide drinks and/or dessert, and plan to come. We will be talking about having spiritual conversations.

Missions Pot Luck. Today we will gather for a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall after the morning service for Connie's mission trip report. Please plan to join us and hear her report about what God is doing in Trinidad.

Young at Heart. Young At Heart will be collecting candy and plastic eggs for Easter baskets and an Easter egg hunt at the Boys and Girls Club of Alamance County. Collection baskets are in the Fellowship Hall, on the side wall close to the coatrack. Please have your contributions at the church by March 25 when we have our next meeting. Monetary gifts are always welcome. Ann Baker from Meals On Wheels will be our guest speaker. The menu will be chicken, baked beans, green beans and salad. If you are willing to bring a dessert or plan to bring something else please let Margaret or Glenn know. Thanks to everyone that helps to make our YAH successful.

Directory Corrections. It has come to our attention that there are some errors in the directory. An addendum is available outside Gloria's office.

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Myrleann Schwerin and Amy Sanderson
Next Week: Myrleann Schwerin and Mary Jane Glass

Children's Church:

Today: Kristen Carter and Stephen Robinson
Next Week: Stephen Robinson and Betty Bessette

Counter:

Today: Glenn Owens
Next Week: Mark Vestal

Deacon on Duty

Today: Tim Bessette
Next Week: Glenn Owens

Elder Greeter

Today: Bill Haynes
Next Week: Gene Parks

Tithes and Offerings for March 2:

General Fund	\$ 5,480.92
World Witness/Birthday Offering	\$ 1.00

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Bryan Gregory
Vice Moderator: Gene Parks
Clerk: Jim Knox

2015: Jim Knox, Gene Parks
2017: Bill Haynes

The Diaconate

Chairman: Glenn Owens
Vice Chairman: Tim Bessette
Secretary: Doug Glass

2014: Glenn Owens, Mark Vestal
2015: Doug Glass, WD Yarbrough
2016: David Newton, Tim Bessette

Congregational Officers

Trustees: Jim Knox, Steve Kyaw, Gene Parks
Congregational Chairperson: Dot Hutelmyer
Congregational Treasurer: Laurene Howington
Congregational Secretary: Jim Knox

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries Coordinator: Christy Gregory
Morning Bible Study Leader: Lillian Fuller

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Gregory
bryan@firstarpburlington.org

Music Director / Organist: Ed Limon
limonfam6@hotmail.com

Pianist: Julie Snow
jsnowmagic@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Gloria Hendry
gloria@firstarpburlington.org

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First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2014

Preparation

Silent Meditation

Here we see the infinite love of God, that He has been pleased to think of us poor creatures from everlasting and make it His work to reconcile us to Himself. And here is the foundation of the sweetness and comfort of all the mercies of God to those who are reconciled to Him: they are the fruits of the eternal love of God for us.
Jeremiah Burroughs (†1646 A.D.)

Real reconciliation means complete and authentic acceptance of one another, despite sins, offenses, and transgressions: an authentic bond between persons in a spirit of love and humility. There will always be sins and offenses. But if we can live in mature forgiveness and communion with others, in humility accepting one another as God accepts us, then our communities and churches will be transparent—revealing the Kingdom of Heaven, filled with divine grace.
Hieromonk Jonah

It is important to recognize your limits. ... Do all you can to be reconciled to others, but remember that you cannot force others to do what is right. If you have done everything within your power to resolve a conflict, you have fulfilled your responsibility to God and may stop actively trying to solve the problem... It is not necessary or wise to waste time, energy, and resources fretting about someone who stubbornly refuses to be reconciled.
Ken Sande

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

Handbell Choir

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship — 1 Chronicles 16

Minister Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior,
gather and deliver us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name,
that we may glory in your praise.

People **Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.**

Hymn of Preparation
64

All Creatures of Our God and King

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Adoration

Invocation		
Hymn of Adoration 468	The King of Love My Shepherd Is	<i>Dominus Regit Me</i>

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. In Christ you bring light, yet we still prefer our darkness. Your Word offers guidance, but we choose to ignore your counsel. You promise renewal, but we heed not your wisdom. You have reconciled us to yourself but we put up walls between ourselves and others. Pour out your grace to us in Christ, that we may be know your forgiveness once again. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Romans 8:1, 3-4

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Proclamation

Testimony of God’s Grace *Courtney Vereide*

New Testament Reading *Luke 15:11-32*

¹¹ And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.

²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Minister The Word of the Lord
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem Amazing Grace *Handbell Choir*

(Dismissal to Children’s Church)

Old Testament Reading *Genesis 33:1-20*

¹ And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants. ² And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³ He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. ⁴ But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵ And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." ⁶ Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. ⁷ Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸ Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." ⁹ But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." ¹⁰ Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. ¹¹ Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it. ¹² Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you." ¹³ But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the nursing flocks and herds are a care to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die. ¹⁴ Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir." ¹⁵ So Esau said, "Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord." ¹⁶ So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. ¹⁷ But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. ¹⁸ And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. ¹⁹ And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. ²⁰ There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon Rev. Bryan Gregory
God’s Grace to Broken People: Reconciliation Between Brothers

Dedication

Hymn of Response 276	Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation	<i>Regent Square</i>
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Affirmation of Faith — From 1 Peter 3

We confess that Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. He was put to death in the body but was brought to life by the Spirit, in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison. And we confess that our salvation is by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings *Handbell Choir*
Triumphant March

Doxology
*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude