

Announcements

Missional Lunch. Please join us TODAY, June 29 after church for another missional lunch. We will discuss some practical ways to live out our faith in the community. Please bring a dish to share with others. Hope to see you there!

GIRL Time. We will have a Bible study on July 6; time and place to be announced.

Ladies Bible Study. Just a reminder that the Tuesday morning Bible study does not meet in July. We will resume on the second Tuesday in August (8/12/14).

Young At Heart. We had a wonderful year of food, fellowship, fun, and involvement with several local ministries. We are looking forward to resuming for the 2014-2015 year. See you in September!

Limon Mission Trip. The Limons are still in the process of support raising for their upcoming mission trip to Mexico. Currently they are lacking \$620.00. If you feel led to give, please see Ed or Lynn, or use the form hanging on the Mission bulletin board in the hallway to send gifts directly to Mission to the World. The Limons will be leaving July 12 and they request your continued prayer support.

Mission Moment. Fathers' Day is celebrated each year in our country. Their role in the life of a child is crucial for normal development as the long road to maturity unfolds. Unfortunately in our society today an alarming percentage of men choose to abandon that responsibility once conception has occurred. Here in Alamance County we have an agency that addresses this issue by providing supportive care for the women and children involved. ALAMANCE PREGNANCY CENTER is located in a wing of the Piedmont Rescue Mission on Mebane Street. Counseling is available to prevent abortion, give encouragement during pregnancy, provide equipment and clothing for newborns. Our Mission Budget provides \$500 annually for this. No longer used cribs, clothing and diapers are continually needed. Our prayers will support the staff and clients in this ministry.

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Karen Jones and Isaac Spencer
Next Week: Myrleann Schwerin and Debbie McGrogan

Children's Church:

Today: Jan Burwell and Macon Baird
Next Week: Jan Burwell and Donna Wolff

Counter:

Today: Jim Knox and David Newton
Next Week: None Scheduled

Deacon on Duty

Today: David Newton
Next Week: Doug Glass

Elder Greeter

Today: None Scheduled
Next Week: Gene Parks

Tithes and Offerings for June 22:

General Fund \$4,502.38

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: Mark Vestal
Secretary: Doug Glass

2014: Glenn Owens, Mark Vestal
2015: Doug Glass
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
Evening Bible Study Leader: Dot Hutelmyer

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 Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 29, 2014

Preparation

Silent Meditation

There cannot be a surer rule, nor a stronger exhortation to the observance of it, than when we are taught that all the endowments which we possess are divine deposits entrusted to us for the very purpose of being distributed for the good of our neighbor.
John Calvin (†1564 A.D.)

Charity is, indeed, a great thing, and a gift of God, and when it is rightly ordered likens us to God Himself, as far as that is possible; for it is charity which makes the man.

John Chrysostom (†407 A.D.)

Prelude

Julie Snow

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship—Psalm 108

Minister Our hearts are ready, O Lord,
our hearts are ready!
We will sing and make melody!
We will awaken the dawn!
We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.

People **For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

Hymn of Preparation 2

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration 9

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Austrian Hymn

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer. We confess that it is still all too easy for us to sacrifice our convictions for convenience, your standards for status, your principles for promotion, your absolutes for our ambition, our souls for shallow and unsatisfying success. How easily we are seduced by power, prestige, pleasure, or possessions — seduced into violating our integrity or harming our fellowship with you. From earth’s fullest bliss we turn to you again, unfulfilled. Forgive us our half-hearted devotion and our double-minded spirit. In the name of him who gave himself for us, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Romans 5:1-2

*Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace
in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope
of sharing the glory of God.*

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

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

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

Anthem

*Lynn Limon, Dot Hutelmyer,
Julie Snow, Jessica Richardson*

You Are My All

(Dismissal to Children’s Church)

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 5:1-19

¹ Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. ² For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." ³ There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." ⁴ And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. ⁵ Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards." ⁶ I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. ⁷ I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them ⁸ and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. ⁹ So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? ¹⁰ Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. ¹¹ Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." ¹² Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. ¹³ I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised. ¹⁴ Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. ¹⁵ The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶ I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. ¹⁷ Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. ¹⁸ Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. ¹⁹ Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

The Challenges to Reformation: Internal Strife

Rev. Bryan Gregory

Dedication

Hymn of Response

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The Church’s One Foundation

Aurelia

Affirmation of Faith — The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

Ed Limon

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