

# First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Newsletter



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No. 6

## *From The Pastor:*

Perhaps you've heard about Warren Buffett's offer. This year he was offering one billion dollars to anyone who could fill out a perfect bracket for March Madness, the 68 team national championship tournament in college basketball. Not surprisingly, of the millions and millions of brackets filled out across the nation, not a single one had a perfect bracket after the first weekend of games. There are simply too many unforeseen upsets and Cinderella stories that predicting all 67 games correctly is virtually impossible. But what is especially amusing is the inevitable story that comes out every year about a person who does not follow college basketball at all, picks the winners of each game according to her favorite colors or which mascot she likes better, and ends up with more correct picks than a college basketball pundit who meticulously analyzes every team and every matchup. At the end of the day, America's obsession with "bracketology" (and I have my own bracket) reveals a very simple truth about life - things rarely if ever turn out exactly how we think they will. We can spend so much time making our plans and analyzing things in our lives, but life has a way of throwing too many surprising upsets at us and unforeseen events to make it all that predictable.

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand," says Proverbs 19:21. As we think about our lives, that is both a sobering realization and a liberating truth. It is a sobering realization because we must come to grips with the fact that we make plans for things but many times our plans never come to fruition - too many surprising upsets and unforeseen events. But it is a liberating truth if we realize that behind all the surprises in life is the sovereign hand of the Lord, working out his purposes which will stand. Knowing that means that we can loosen our grip and set aside our frustrations because we know that he is in control. And spiritually speaking, that is even more valuable than Warren Buffett's one billion dollars.

## SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Eunice Baulding who passed away on March 11, 2014 and the family of Carol Little (Marion Angel's daughter) who passed away on March 21, 2014. Please uphold these families in prayer during this time.

## G.I.R.L. Time (*Getting Into Real Life*)

**Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 at Dot Hutelmyer's house.** We will gather at the church at 6:20 to carpool together to Dot's house for a time of fellowship and making yarn dolls for sick children. We will get to hear someone's story and will have a tropical theme - so wear your floral prints and come and enjoy tropical snacks and drinks.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Sunday 4/27 (Easter is the 20th). Time and theme TBA.

## INTERVARSITY

### INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP/ USA

Thank you for helping at the last Intersarsity Fellowship training time. Please join us for the FINAL one of the semester on Sunday, April 27th at 1:30 at Elon in the Numen Lumen Pavilion. Bryan will be answering tough questions. Again, we need snacks, drinks, and would love for you to come!

## MISSION MOMENTS

Did you know that in Alamance County we have more than 60 gangs? Does anyone care? Is there any way we can demonstrate our concern? YES! The SALVATION ARMY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB has three full-time staff who daily bless over 100 youth in our county with programs designed to address a wide variety of needs. Volunteers are always welcome and currently contributions to fill 125 Easter baskets is another way we can support this ministry. Use the container provided in the Fellowship Hall for chocolate candy and plastic eggs or give money to Glenn or Margaret Owens.

### BOB JONES UNIVERSITY TUBA-EUPHONIUM CHOIR

The BJU Tuba-Euphonium Choir will minister at Beacon Baptist Church on Sunday evening, April 6, 2014 at 6 PM. The choir will present a musical concert followed by a message from Pastor Barkman. Beacon Baptist Church is located at 1622 Kirkpatrick Road, Burlington, NC 27215.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

July 27-28, 2014 - Bonclarken. Visit the website below for more information about registration.

<http://arpwm.org/womens-ministries-annual-meeting-turns-100/>

### DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Please note the following:

Becky Sneed's correct email address: snee3536@att.net

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Hannah Roy	4/5
James Constable	4/6
Jim Knox	4/6
Patricia Pack	4/6
Geneva Evans	4/8
Glenn Owens	4/8
Steve Kyaw	4/9
Jessica Sneed	4/10
Gene Parks	4/14
Bill Roy	4/15
Hope Gregory	4/19
Randall Cobb	4/21
Russ Payne	4/21
Noah Gregory	4/25
Jean McKinnon	4/25
Debbie Childrey	4/27
Bill Huffman	4/30

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Seth & Laura Nicholson (8) 4/15

### PITT HOPKINS SYNDROME

May 3rd will be Liz's 16th birthday. To celebrate, she and Judy are participating in the Million Dollar Bike Ride in Philly. We will do the 11 mile ride. This ride is to raise awareness and research funding for rare diseases. Liz has Pitt Hopkins Syndrome, which affects less than 300 people in the entire world. Below is a link to her page. It explains her syndrome and has a place for donating. Please consider supporting Liz and Judy in this effort to raise funding and awareness. Thank you.

-Judy, Hugh, Liz, Will, and Wes Jennings

<https://socialfundraising.apps.upenn.edu/socialFundraising/jsp/fast.do?&fastStart=customTemplateByNameOrId&customApplicationNameOrId=LizSweet16ForPTHS>

### MINISTRY REMINDERS

#### Nursery:

Mar 30: Stephen Robinson  
Connie Bennett  
Apr 6: Karen Jones  
Macon Baird

#### Children's Church:

Mar 30 Dot Hutelmyer  
Christy Gregory  
Apr 6: Christy Gregory  
Donna Wolff

#### Counter:

Mar 30: Glenn Owens  
Apr 6: Bill Haynes

#### Elder Greeter:

Mar 30: Bill Haynes  
Apr 6: None Scheduled

#### Deacon Duty:

Mar 30: David Newton  
Apr 6: Doug Glass