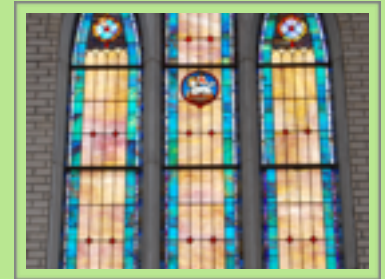


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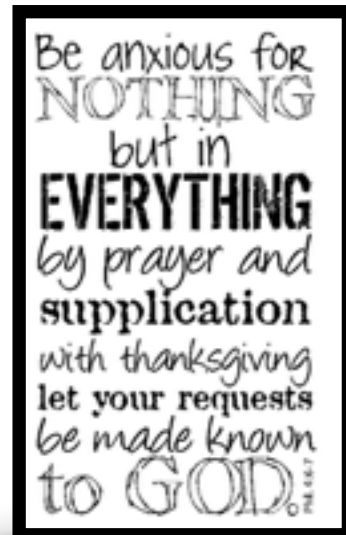
From the Pastor

In a sermon on Psalm 23, Charles Haddon Spurgeon once remarked, “The worst evils of life are those which do not exist except in our imagination. If we had no troubles but real troubles, we should not have a tenth part of our present sorrows. We feel a thousand deaths in fearing one.” Most of us know exactly what he means. How easy it is to lie in bed and play the ‘what if’ game with our health, our relationships, our jobs, our finances? Our imagination runs wild with all the future possibilities and we seem to have a knack for dreaming up some of the worst possible scenarios. Of course, some of them play out according to our worst imaginings, but the vast majority do not. Nevertheless, it is like playing the slots in Vegas; it’s the one ‘pull’ in a hundred that keeps people pulling the slot machine over and over. In the same way, the one time things do go really badly keeps our imaginations pulling the ‘what if’ lever over and over again.

However, Jesus gives us a different perspective in the Sermon on the Mount: “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

In other words, Jesus encourages us to shift our focus in two ways. First, we should focus on today, not tomorrow. There is enough to worry about each day and that is all we can deal with anyways. It is better to leave tomorrow for tomorrow - to cross that bridge when we come to it. Second, we should

seek God and his kingdom and let him worry about all the ‘what ifs’. That is, we should place ourselves and our lives in his hands and learn to trust him. And when we do we’ll find that our imaginations can not possibly keep up with his faithfulness.



YOUNG AT HEART

We had 26 in attendance for our April Young at Heart meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 27. Mark Mckinney from Christian Adventures Youth Ministry in Graham, North Carolina will be our speaker. Christian Adventurers’ motto is “Declaring God’s power to the next generation.” Psalm 71:18. The purpose of this organization is to communicate a Christian world view to the unchurched youth and the casual follower of Christ through Bible study every Monday night for kids 8-18. The night also consists of basketball games, Bible study and times for kids to hang out with each other. Our menu will consist of sandwiches, salad, fruit and dessert. Any food contributions will be gratefully accepted. Please let Margaret or Glenn know if you plan to bring something.

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MISSION MOMENTS

Does the word "missionary" bring to mind someone who travels overseas to share the gospel or our local outreaches to people who need food, shelter or clothing? Our giving here at First ARP also reaches a different but equally needy population: college and university students. Christy Gregory and Doug Arms do this at Elon University. Jesse Wesselink ministers to international students in Greensboro. Pray for them!

ARP WOMEN'S MINISTRY SUMMER SCHEDULE

Save the Date: July 27-28. There will be a women's gathering and concert at Bonclarken to kick off the Family Bible Conference. We would like to take a group of women. Please contact Jessie Richardson if you are interested in attending. Her new email address is: richardson.jessica83@gmail.com.

WORLD FOCUS 2014

June 12-13

World Focus is a two-day event immediately following Synod at Bonclarken. Come join us in worship, varying activities, and breakout sessions that will cover topics like "Be a Part of a Church Plant," "Why we chose Erskine," and "Summer Mission & Service Opportunities." Discover how God is using the ARP Church in the work of the Kingdom.

This is an event for the whole family!

- *Kids' Breakout Sessions
- *Bluegrass Psalm Singing
- *Children's Worship
- *Sr High Lock-In
- *Ice Cream Party
- *Bonfire and Worship - Jr & Sr High

And more to come!

View the Video: <http://youtu.be/4c4WzIDDyiU>

CAMP JOY

Camp Joy is a ministry of Christian Education Ministries. As a week long summer camp, Camp Joy is designed especially for those with special needs. Each camper is accompanied by a "special friend" providing a 1:1 camper/counselor ratio. Every camper will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities including worship, Bible study, and recreation. All activities are geared toward their abilities. The need for this ministry is both enormous and nationwide. Our goal is now to build a firm financial foundation that will not only allow us to secure the future of Camp Joy, but to set the stage for an expansion of the ministry to new areas. Please join us with a gift at this time. Visit our website and see how you can support this ministry. http://www.campjoycem.com/Camp_Joy/Home.html

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Heather Hayes	6/6
Kevin Hutelmyer	6/8
Dick Fuller	6/10
Lillian Fuller	6/11
Steven Cobb	6/16
Kelton Christopher	6/17
Audrey Sneed	6/17
Judy Bernhardt	6/18
Kasey Burwell	6/23
Kristen Carter	6/23
Lainey Childrey	6/23
Lauren Orr	6/23
Bryan Gregory	6/26
Helen Parks	6/30

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Travis & Kristen Carter (1)	6/1
Jim & Lola Knox (58)	6/8
Bryan & Christy Gregory (14)	6/10
Grady & Pat Pack (59)	6/19
Bryan & Karen Jones (27)	6/20
Doug & Mary Jane Glass (34)	6/28



MINISTRY REMINDERS

Nursery:

May 25: Karen Jones
Mark Sanderson
June 1: Nicole Newton
Donna Wolff

Children's Church:

May 25: Kristen Carter
Christy Gregory
June 1: Dot Hutelmyer
Doug Cobb

Counter:

May 25: Glenn Owens
June 1: Jim Knox

Deacon Duty:

May 25: Mark Vestal
June 1: Doug Glass

Elder Greeter:

May 25: Jim Knox
June 1: None Scheduled