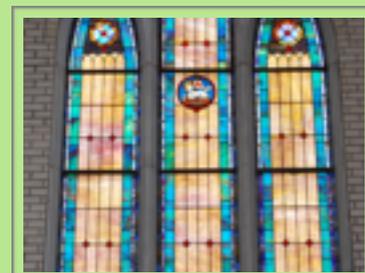


# First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Newsletter



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No. 14

## *From the Pastor:*

Since this is my last newsletter article, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all, as the congregation, for many of the kindnesses and encouragements that you have shown us over the last several years. Some of my fondest memories are sitting in your living rooms, spending time together around the dinner table, sharing life with you, praying for you through good times and bad, celebrating Christmases and Easters with you, and so many other things.

But most of all, I want to thank you for the ways that God has used you in my life. As I reflect back on my time here, I can see that God has used First ARP to make me more dependent upon him, less concerned with myself and what others might or might not think of me, a little more patient, and a little more sensitive to the sometimes subtle ways in which God is at work in the messiness of life. A former pastor of mine once said to me, "Other people cannot justify you, but they can always sanctify you." By that he meant that our justification (or right standing before God) is not dependent upon other people, what they do to us, what they say about us, how they treat us, or anything else; our justification is completely dependent upon what Christ has done for us. But other people can always be used by God to sanctify us. That is, God uses other people in our lives to sand away the rough edges in us, to smash idols that we carry in our hearts, and to reflect back to us the sin in our own hearts for which we need to repent, so that he might do his sanctifying work in us to make us more like Jesus. For that I am thankful, for my time here - both the wonderful times and the challenging times - has been used by God to sanctify me.

And perhaps by God's mysterious grace, God has used me in many of the same ways in your life as well. At least that is my humble hope. I, of course, have many flaws, imperfections, and foibles. I continue to be a sinner saved by grace just like everyone else. For the ways in which I have

disappointed you or failed you I am grieved. But I go, hoping that my weaknesses as well as my strengths have been used by God, in his grace, to help sanctify you as well, whether corporately or individually, whether using me to encourage you or to give you opportunities to forgive and forbear.

Last week when I was at the church to which we are moving, a member of the congregation asked me if there is a particular book, passage, or verse that has shaped the way I think about ministry. My response was that the book that has shaped me most in that regard is 2 Corinthians, and within 2 Corinthians the passage would be chapters 4-5, and within that passage the verse would be 4:7. "For we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." At the end of my time here, I am more fully aware than I ever have been that I am merely a jar of clay. But my hope is that whatever good has come out of my years of ministry here it is because God has graciously let the glory of his treasure shine through those cracks in my jar and that in this way or that God's power may have nevertheless been seen despite my own weaknesses. That was my hope when I came. It has been my hope during my time here. And it continues to be my hope as I leave. So thank you for being a part of our lives and may the Lord bless you and keep you.



## **LIMONS MISSION TRIP**

The Limons would appreciate your prayer support while they are in Mexico these next few weeks.

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## NEW NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The First ARP newsletter will be on a monthly basis. You can expect your newsletter on the **third Tuesday of each month.**

A special Farewell Luncheon for the Gregory family has been planned for Sunday, July 27, 2014, following the Worship Service.

*You are cordially invited to attend this catered event to be held in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Please respond by July 21, 2014, to Gloria Hendry at [gloria@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:gloria@firstarpburlington.org) or Mary Jane Glass at 336.584.3684 to advise of your intention to attend.*

*You may wish to express your appreciation to Bryan and Christy for nearly five years of faithful service to our church.*

### LOST AND FOUND

Jean McKinnon is looking for the the Christian books Twelve Ordinary Men and Twelve Extraordinary Women. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact her at 336-228-1228.

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday morning ladies Bible study will not meet in July. We will resume our study on August 12, 2014. Mark your calendar!

### 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!

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jo McKinnon	8/1
Gage Roy	8/4
Josh Limon	8/11
Catherine Mangum	8/13
Stephen Robinson	8/13
Lorene Childrey	8/14
Myrleann Schwerin	8/18
Hannah Baird	8/19
Betty Mann	8/19
Carolyn Pulley	8/19
Deborah McGrogan	8/20
Lola Knox	8/21
Freeman Baulding	8/24
William Spencer	8/24
Kaye Murray	8/25
Erin Cobb	8/29
Doug Glass	8/29
Charles Seay	8/29
Foy Evans	8/30
Joyce Payne	8/31

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jay and July Snow (28)	8/2
Kevin and Elizabeth Hutelmyer (10)	8/9
Ed and Lynn Limon (34)	8/10
Joe and Kaye Murray (60)	8/11
Erik and Kelli Ensley (9)	8/13
James and Carolyn Constable (27)	8/23
Chip and Sarah Wright (46)	8/24
Foy and Geneva Evans (66)	8/26
Chris and Emily Hutelmyer (6)	8/30

### MINISTRY REMINDERS

#### Nursery:

July 20: Karen Jones  
Stephen Robinson  
July 27: Myrleann Schwerin  
Amy Sanderson  
Aug 3: Nicole Newton  
Isaac Spencer  
Aug 10: Myrleann Schwerin  
Fran Haynes  
Aug 17: Nicole Newton  
Donna Wolff

#### Children's Church:

July 20: Dot Hutelmyer  
Christy Gregory  
July 27: Kristen Carter  
Jan Burwell  
Aug 3: Chelle Spencer  
Doug Cobb  
Aug 10: Dot Hutelmyer  
Chelle Spencer  
Aug 17: Stephen Robinson  
Lynn Limon

#### Counter:

July 20: Gene Parks  
July 27: Bill Haynes  
Aug 3: None Scheduled  
Aug 10: None Scheduled  
Aug 17: Gene Parks

#### Deacon Duty:

July 20: Doug Glass  
July 27: Mark Vestal  
Aug 3: Glenn Owens  
Aug 10: Mark Vestal  
Aug 17: Doug Glass

#### Elder Greeter:

July 20: Jim Knox  
July 27: Gene Parks  
Aug 3: None Scheduled  
Aug 10: Bill Haynes  
Aug 17: None Scheduled