



From the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

Those who have gone before us are said to have planted trees, the shade of which they may never enjoy.

Our congregation is 61 years old this month.

Many who labored in the Lord's vineyard at First ARP Church are no longer with us, however, the shade provided by the tree they planted is ours to enjoy.

Think beyond our church in history to the Pilgrims, the Separatists who journeyed to America to establish a place for life and religious freedom. We enjoy the shade of the ideals they established centuries ago.

What a blessing is ours to live in a country with freedom to live our convictions. We can honestly say that the Bible is our only rule of faith and practice, and literally nothing hinders our ability to live as God expects.

Worship is unhindered. We can lift high the cross, sing our hymns of faith and unashamedly proclaim the Word in its fullness.

The Christian ethic established by the Word is ours to live. Our thoughts, speech and behavior shows the mind of Christ in our hearts as we live for our King daily.

Family life, marriage and other values established by the Scriptures can be enjoyed to their fullest potential.

We can work for the glory of God, establish markets, and enjoy a comfortable way of life.

We can thrive in all areas of life because of freedom.

Don't forget what it took for others to provide this for us. They had to leave something behind, to do without. There was grit, gumption and a lot of God's grace.

Their loss is our gain. It is also ours to steward well.

Yes, many of our freedoms are slipping away. Some are being taken from us.

But mark this well: some are being given up by us as we relinquish our worship, Scriptures, and way of life according to God's law and choose to live as the world would lead us.

So, let's consider our present enjoyment of shade provided by trees planted by others. And let's be thankful and stewardly!

See you on the Lord's Day,

**MUSIC MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITY**

Any member who would like to serve the Lord in the music ministry of the church, contact Ed Limon.

Handbell practice resumes on January 27 at 6:15 PM.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Please plan to attend a women's fellowship luncheon Saturday, March 19 at Two for Tea at 11:30! More details to come.

YOUNG AT HEART

Young At Heart will meet Tuesday, January 26 at 11:45. The menu is tomato Basil soup and Beef and Vegetable soup, salad and sandwiches and desserts. The program is fire safety and medical safety tips from the Fire Department. Any food contributions are always welcome.

MEN'S LUNCH

Join us for lunch at Southbound Sandwich Works on S. Church St at Noon on Monday, February 1 to discuss Chapter 1 of Masculine Mandate. No prior reading is necessary! If you would like a copy of the book, please see Pastor Crotts.

**STATED SESSION MEETING/
JOINT OFFICER MEETING**
(Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Treasurer)

Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 7 PM.

LADIES MONTHLY BOOK STUDY

Please join us on Tuesday evening, February 9 at 7 PM as we resume our book study.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES**

BIRTHDAYS

Steve Walton	1/4
Mark Sanderson	1/9
Janice Ward	1/9
Andrew Newton	1/10
Mark Vestal	1/12
Alex Constable	1/14
Jessica Richardson	1/15
Anna Spencer	1/18
Grady Pack	1/19
Julie Snow	1/20
Jennifer Spaulding	1/20
Elizabeth Barber	1/23
Ava Grace Ickes	1/24
Dottie Latta	1/24
Theo Baulding	1/25
Bryan Jones	1/26

ANNIVERSARIES

Phillip & Frankie Beaman (16)	1/9
Bryan & Sarah Ickes (12)	1/24

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

January

- 20 Ladies Weekly Bible Study
- 21 Stated Session Meeting/Joint Officer Meeting
- 26 Young at Heart
- 26 First Presbytery Meeting - Gastonia, NC
- 27 Ladies Weekly Bible Study
- 31 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social

February

- 3 Ladies Weekly Bible Study
- 7 Lord's Supper
- 9 Ladies Monthly Book Study
- 14 Congregational Luncheon
- 17 Ladies Weekly Bible Study
- 21 Stated Session Meeting
- 23 Young at Heart



Nursery:

Jan 24: Dot Hutelmyer / _____
Jan 31: Nicole Newton / Bryan Ickes

Counter:

Jan 24: Bennett Richardson
Jan 31: John Robinson

Deacon Duty:

Jan 24: Stephen Robinson
Jan 31: Glenn Owens

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