



*From the Pastor:*

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! May the Lord richly bless you as you seek his face, walk in his ways and serve him in all the places he sends you!

And Happy 52nd Birthday. Our church was founded on January 1, 1965 and has been at our present facility since 1966. Give thanks to the Lord for granting us these five plus decades as a congregation in Burlington, N.C.

When you read the Gospels and Acts, if you are geographically-minded, you'll notice that the ministry of Jesus and his Disciples and Apostles is recorded for us in terms of geography. Jesus goes from town to town, region to region. Paul's missionary journeys take him up and around the Mediterranean sea.

Their words also speak of specific places. Jesus laments over Jerusalem. He pronounces woes over cities that won't repent as response to his ministry. Our Lord heals the sick in this region or preaches throughout another area. The same for the Apostles as they ministered in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the rest of the Mediterranean region.

Our particular ministry is in Burlington, in Alamance County and in the Triad/Triangle region of our state. Our Lord raises up churches to be faithful witnesses to his word and work.

When the Apostle Paul was first laboring in the Gospel at Corinth, he was "occupied with the word" (Acts 18 ESV), giving testimony to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. His ministry was not well-received. They were not kind to him and so he took his message to the Gentiles and "many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized." Not only did this ministry fruit encourage Paul, the Lord also came to him in the night saying to him, "Go on speaking. Do not be silent. I have many in this city who are my people".

What a wonderful reminder to keep on preaching the message of the Bible. God has his own people who need to hear from him through his word!

Our Confession of Faith teaches us in the passage on Holy Scripture that God gave us the Bible so that we would know Him, know his holy will and be able to know the way of salvation in Jesus. The Word of God, especially preaching and discipleship in the church ministries, is to build up those who are saved already and to save those who are not yet in Christ Jesus.

Think of that - the 52 years of our church's life and the next 52 serve God's purposes in Burlington - to show people God, his ways and his works of salvation. And that Burlington may just be a stopping place for them as they make their way by faith to heaven with Jesus.

Let's pray for our town and the surrounding region - that God might grant people eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts that understand the will of God for their salvation!

See you on the Lord's Day,

P.S. - if the weather over the weekend proves too difficult for our church services, the church officers will be sure to alert you via phone, email and website on Saturday evening.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

### Update

Save your old Christmas cards. The front of the card with the picture can be cut off and a message written on the back.

## MEN'S LUNCH

Join us on January 9 at Southbound Sandwich Works at 12 noon as we continue our book study (chapter 12) and fellowship.

## WORK DAY

Join us at the church on Saturday, January 7 at 11 AM. We will be taking down Christmas decorations.

## MISSIONS TRIP

Connie Bennett will be sent on her seventh trip for medical missions in Trinidad. Her gifts are well-utilized on the trip. You may participate in sending Connie by your prayers and financial support. The Presbyterian Church in America's (P.C.A.) Mission to the World is hosting the trip and provides all necessary administrative support for the trip. If you wish to contribute financially to the mission, please do so by sending your check to: MTW, PO Box 2589, Suwanee, GA 30024-0982. Note in the memo Account #10865 and all proceeds will support our sister's trip. Her financial goal for support is \$2,100. The Congregation will be commissioning Connie this Sunday, January 8.

Pray for Connie Bennett's Upcoming Trip to Trinidad with Medical-Evangelism Team

1. Safety in travel, arrival of all supplies and health for the team. Something seems to happen every year and the prayers keep us safe from Satan's attacks.
2. For financial support needs for every team member to be met!
3. Pray that we will faithfully minister to each person we meet - physically and spiritually - in our travels, medical clinics and in-country interactions.
4. For personal health concerns not to be a hindrance to the mission.
5. For Clay McPherson serving as caretaker of Connie's animals, especially to make friends with Buckwheat.
6. For Pastor Ricky and the local police force who make arrangements for mission work in Trinidad.

## JANUARY

### BIRTHDAYS

Arie Wright	1/1
Steve Walton	1/4
Mark Sanderson	1/9
Janice Ward	1/9
Stephen Dobbins	1/10
Andrew Newton	1/10
Mark Vestal	1/12
Alex Constable	1/14
Jessica Richardson	1/15
Grady Pack	1/19
Julie Snow	1/20
Jennifer Spaulding	1/20
Elizabeth Barber	1/23
Ava Ickes	1/24
Dottie Latta	1/24
Theo Baulding	1/25
Bryan Jones	1/26
Eliana Ickes	1/29

### ANNIVERSARIES

Phillip & Frankie Beaman (17) 1/9

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

### January

- 1 Lord's Supper
- 7 Church Workday - 11 AM
- 8 Install Officers/Commission Connie Bennett to Trinidad
- 8 Choir Rehearsal Resumes
- 9 Joint Officer & Stated Session Meeting
- 9 Men's Lunch
- 11 Ladies Bible Study Resumes - 11 AM
- 15 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- 16 Men's Gathering - 7 PM
- 18 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- \* Young at Heart Luncheon resumes in March
- 24 First Presbytery Meeting
- 25 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 29 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social - 6 PM
- 30 Burlington Woman's Club - Fellowship Hall

## THANK YOU

The family of Helen Parks feels overwhelmed with your love and friendship expressed at her passing. Your gifts of food, phone calls and cards are very much appreciated. Your prayers have sustained us during this time.

-Sincerely with our Love, Gene Parks Family



### Nursery:

Jan 8: John Robinson & Fran Haynes  
Jan 15: Kathy Isley & Laurie Isley

### Counter:

Jan 8: Jay snow  
Jan 15: Glenn Owens

### Deacon Duty:

Jan 8: Glenn Owens  
Jan 15: Stephen Robinson

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