



From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

Have you ever listened to a report or watched a nature special on television about an endangered species of animals? It goes something like this, "The world is at risk of losing a particular fox in the arctic, a rare fish in the ocean or some sort of bird like a bald eagle."

The narrator speaks with sadness in their voice and their pleas for human intervention are filled with passion and urgency. "We must do all that we can to stop the extinction of these rare animals." Funds are raised, government grants are doled out and universities spend countless hours of research on these matters.

The church is facing an endangered species of sorts. The rare species? People!

Look at Europe and its post-Christian culture. Churches are empty. Former houses of worship are repurposed for other uses. The continent that saw the reformation and sent missionaries around the world is now in need of missionaries and church planters being sent to them. Some say that it won't be long before America is a mission field.

And so with passion and urgency, we must think of how God may use us to fill his church. A couple of suggestions for you:

1-Love the Lord who saved you. As you live life as a saved person, one whom Jesus has brought from death to life, love him as you live for him. Show that love by worship on Sundays, obedience in all of life and by loving your neighbors in real, God-like ways.

2-Let the word of God take over your life. Be captive to the Scripture, allowing it to be your only guide for loving God, loving neighbor, living life and serving the Lord in his church.

3-As you go about your week, let your character shine before men. If you are truly saved by Jesus, you are a new creation and you are not like the world. Sure, you sin and aspects of your life may display a lack of goodness. But you repent and the fruit of the Spirit shines brighter! People will see this in you. They will want to know who you are and how you came to be at peace and full of grace. Think of all the places you go as mission fields - work, school, neighborhood, restaurants, doctors offices, class reunions, civic clubs and so the list can go on.

4-Tell people about Christ. You can keep it simple. "I believe Jesus saves sinners. He saved me!"

5-Bring folks to church with you. There is no greater place on earth where the realities of heaven and the word of God dwells more plentifully! Invite someone to church with you. Make it easy for them. I'll pick you up or meet you in the parking lot. Walk in with them - a new place is often hard for some to enter alone. Offer a lunch date afterwards. Let them see others, who like you, worship the living God.

God will always have his church. We need not fear its extinction. It may get small before our eyes and seem endangered. We are, however, commanded to be fruitful and multiply. Yes, that's a family command for married folks. But it's also a church family command. God uses people like you to fill his church.

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth with those who love the Lord and bow their knee to King Jesus!

See you on Sunday as we worship the One who has saved us to reconcile men to God,

OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

- Invite someone and join us on the church lawn at 4 PM *THIS* Saturday, October 15 for BBQ and Music provided by Sue and Jeff Holt and friends.
- Plan to join us Sunday night, October 23 at 6 PM for a Potato Bar supper and great fellowship!
- The next 5th Sunday Hymn Sing and Social will be at 6 PM on Sunday, October 30.

WOMEN'S BIBLE/BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Ladies *Weekly Bible Study* meets in the Conference Room at 11 AM to study Galatians for You by Timothy Keller.

Evening Book Study for all ladies in the church will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesdays, October 18, November 8 and December 13 - the study book will be *The Envy of Eve* by Melissa Kruger.

YOUNG AT HEART

Plan to join us on October 25 at 11:45 for our next Young at Heart luncheon. Jo Ely, Exercise Physical Therapist from Kernodle Center will be our speaker. The meal will be a covered dish with fried chicken provided.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child Boxes: Things to remember:

- * \$7 postage is necessary for all boxes. If you would like to have postage paid, please let Joyce Payne know by **October 15**
- * Boxes (plastic or cardboard) Standard size only 5qt.
- * Boxes are due no later than Sunday morning, Nov. 20

More Suggestions:

- * Utility candles
- * Thick, 40 gal. garbage bag (used to sleep on)
- * Older girls: sewing kit, needles & thread, 1 1/2 yds. of fabric
- * Older boys: hammer & nails, screw driver & screws

Any questions, please contact Joyce Payne 222-1133

Want to serve folks in our community?

We participate in Meals on Wheels locally and are in need of volunteers. Please consider partnering with Glenn & Margaret Owens and Gary Gregory in monthly deliveries. Our upcoming commitments are: **October 24, 25**; November 21, 22; December 19, 20. Speak to the Owens about serving - 336-269-3055.

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

Kelli Ensley	10/2
Becky Sneed	10/7
Margaret Mann	10/8
Macon Baird	10/11
Ed Limon	10/11
John Harris	10/13
Anne Garner	10/14
Len Sneed	10/17
Jay Snow	10/19
Tammy Cobb	10/20
Matt Causey	10/22
Jay Christopher	10/24
Chuck Renegar	10/25

ANNIVERSARIES

Macon & Katherine Baird (20)	10/12
Mark & Donna Vestal (22)	10/22

NURSERY WORKERS

We are in need of volunteers for our Nursery ministry. Please contact Vicki McPherson for more details. Vicki's email address is: vickimac@triad.rr.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

October

- 12 Women's Bible Study
- 15 Fall Festival/Pig Pickin
- 18 Evening Women's Book Study
- 19 Women's Bible Study
- 20 Stated Session
- 23 Sunday night supper - Potato Bar
- 25 Young at Heart
- 26 Women's Bible Study
- 30 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social

Nursery:

Oct 16: Donna Wolff & Vicki McPherson
Oct 23: Dot Hutelmyer & Jimmy Smith

Counter:

Oct 16: Glenn Owens
Oct 23: Ferald Mann

Deacon Duty:

Oct 16: Stephen Robinson
Oct 23: Glenn Owens

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

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