



From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

Have you ever flipped through your Bible and noticed the sections that have largely gone unread? The pages are still crisp, there are no notes or coffee stains on the bright white pages.

I go through stages with Bibles. My first copy of the Word was a green leather King James Bible that was given to me by my parents. In our Christian school, it was the required text to have for Bible class and memory work. My second Bible was a New International Version hardback given to me by the elders of the church when I was confirmed and became a communicant member. I could keep listing Bibles to your boredom and my delight. I have my college Bibles, a seminary Bible and two copies I've used largely in my pastoral ministry.

My most recent Bible is the black English Standard Version you see each week in church. It's been my main Bible since 2010. It has been to the hospital when I visit folks, it has been to many funerals and graveside services, it has served me in a handful of weddings and it is with me each week in the pulpit. It's well-travelled and well-used.

It does, however, have some seldom read pages in it. I was taking notice of this several weeks back. The Psalms, Proverbs and New Testament books have significant wear, notes, coffee stains and other such markings. The books of the Bible I've preached through are definitely showing signs of use. If you were to flip back to the left, to the books of the Old Testament, you'll find some pages not often used.

That's a problem, I've noted to myself! It's a problem easily solved.

I like to read a book of the Bible each week. I start with the little books. All twenty-one verses of Obadiah are not hard to get through. I can add a few of the other little books in that week. Leviticus may be a stretch and take an extra week or so. As you can see, it's a problem easily conquerable with a bit of discipline and thirty minutes of my time.

Look through your Bibles and see which pages are not so often turned over. God's Word is amazing, powerful and interesting. If you travel, buy a copy of an audio Bible so that you may listen as you ride. Be sure you have a good study Bible. My favorite is the Reformation Study Bible from RC Sproul and Ligonier Ministries. The notes, articles and other resources help make Bible study deeper. You can even download the Reformation Study Bible app for your smartphone or tablet. It's a great resource for when you are on the go or can't carry along your copy of the Word.

It was 499 years ago this October 31 that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the chapel door in his town. It was half a millennium ago that the Word of God again became central and relevant in the life of the church. And it led to the great Reformation of the Church.

Your copy of the Word, our church's ministry of the Scripture and the many available resources for growth in grace that exist in today's world can lead to continuing that reformation.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

See you Sunday,

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Please remember the family of **Mary Lou McKinney** who passed away on Monday, October 3, 2016. The funeral is tomorrow, October 6 at 2 PM at Lowe Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Tim Robinson and Pastor Crotts will officiate. The family will receive friends from Thursday from 12:30-1:45 PM.

CHURCH WORKDAY

A Church Workday is scheduled for THIS Saturday, October 8 at 9 AM. Projects include indoor and outdoor chores. Speak to Deacons Glenn Owens or Stephen Robinson if you have questions. Weather permitting.

PIEDMONT RESCUE MISSION

Greater Vision Banquet - 6 PM on Thursday, October 13 with special guest speaker Josh McDowell. Please let Glenn Owens know ASAP if you'd like to be a part of the First ARP Church tables.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Invite someone and join us on the church lawn at 4 PM on Saturday, October 15 for BBQ and Music provided by Sue and Jeff Holt and friends

The next 5th Sunday Hymn Sing and Social will be at 6 PM on Sunday, October 30.

MEN'S BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Evening Gathering will meet to discuss chapter 6 of Masculine Mandate on Thursday, October 6 around a fire pit out in the church field - weather permitting & bring a chair!

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.

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

- 5 Women's Bible Study
- 6 Men's Gathering
- 12 Women's Bible Study
- 15 Fall Festival/Pig Pickin
- 18 Evening Women's Book Study
- 19 Women's Bible Study
- 20 Stated Session
- 25 Young at Heart
- 26 Women's Bible Study
- 30 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social

Nursery:

Oct 9: Macon Baird & Carol Erb
Oct 16: Fran Haynes & _____

Counter:

Oct 9: Stephen Robinson
Oct 16: Glenn Owens

Deacon Duty:

Oct 9: Glenn Owens
Oct 16: Stephen Robinson

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

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