



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Newsletter

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IMPACT Devotional (April 2014)

Bob LaTour

Passage: Colossians 2:6-8 “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Quote: Biblical Christianity is far more than a religion; it is a state of being brought about by God’s grace alone through His gift of faith alone in the Person of Christ alone for the glory of God alone.

You are now becoming what you will one day be. While that statement that I shared with my students for years remains true, somewhere along the journey of my own growth in grace, the emphasis changed to *You are now becoming who you will one day be.* Although it is only a one-word change, the difference is significant. The process of “becoming” is shaped by the choices that we make, by the people with whom we interact, and by the trials and temptations that can develop or destroy opportunities, relationships and reputations. *Who* we are impacts *what* we are as a spouse, parent, employer, employee, neighbor, church member.... In one sense, we are who we have always been as a person. In a far more important sense, we have changed in the areas that are most essential—who we are in our character, our beliefs and our ambitions. The critical issue is whether the change has been for the better or for the worse!

Most of us presume that we will see each new year through to its end, and then look back with a mixture of regret for what might have been, as well as gratitude for what was accomplished by the grace of God. James 4:13-17 warns us that we do not know what tomorrow holds, let alone next week, next month, next year. The reality is that *today* may be the last opportunity that you have to make an IMPACT by acknowledging and acclaiming the Lordship of Christ through who you have become (Prov.3:5-7). For others, this may be the last day that you have to be impacted by the Word of God! It may be the last day that you have to place your trust entirely and exclusively in the Lord Jesus Christ for *Who He is* and for *what He accomplished* in His death and resurrection. My heart is grieved over young adults who once sat in my Bible class, and who played the part of being a Christian, only to end up walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the path of sinners, and sitting in the seat of the scornful (Psa.1). Some of them have long since rejected the Christian *religion* altogether, while others continue to “profess to know God, but their works deny Him” (Titus 1:16). May God, in His mercy and grace, take dormant seeds of His Word that were planted in years past and bring forth His chosen harvest in their lives (Isaiah 55:11).

Who are you becoming?

In God’s eternal plan there lies that time when time shall cease-- when that which is shall always be, and justice is released. No time for that which might have been— no other hiding place for those who spurn the gospel call and shun God’s means of grace.

Boast not that you may come someday to kneel before the cross; that you may yield your rebel will, escaping endless loss. The breath that you presume will voice repentant faith in Him may never come, and you will reap the harvest of your sin.

This is the day to flee by faith to Christ Who once atoned for scarlet crimes of all who trust in His shed blood alone. Tis at the cross, there justified with death’s dread wages paid, that you, redeemed and reconciled, will find your plea is made.

No more a bond slave to your flesh, you, too, can know release, and soul-deep consolation through the mighty Prince of Peace. You may invest with gratitude the time that God may give, and know the joy of sonship—if you look to Christ and live.

—Bob LaTour

INTERCESSORY PRAYER NEEDS

ILLNESS: Theo Baulding (*Crushed Vertebrae & Treatment*); Jean Cathey (*Eye Surgery*); Lillian Fuller (*Femur Fractures/Physical Therapy*); The Gregorys (*Hope – Alzheimer’s, Gary – Caregiver*); Catherine Mangum (*Hip Surgery*); Betty Mann (*Collarbone Surgery*); Margie Mann (*Health Issues*); Nicole Newton (*Surgery*); Mae Wilburn (*Now home getting physical therapy*); Glenn & Margaret Owens (*Caring for several family members who are ill*); Donna Wolff (*recovering from a fall, hand injuries*); Pat Pack (*Recovering from eye surgery*); Mary Renegar (*Had skin cancer surgery on her leg, surgery on her arm in a couple of weeks*);

PRAISES: It was so good to see Pat Pack, Lillian Fuller, Betty Mann, and Margie Mann at church this past Sunday. Please continue to pray for them and the others in our church family!

CHURCH NEEDS: Elders, Deacons, Congregational Love & Unity, Pastor Search

MISSIONARIES: Andy & Nannette Howard (Pakistan), Jeff & Lisa King (Chile), Ali & Tara Mitchell (ARP Connect), Jubilee Birthday Ladies – Sheila Osborne & Nannette Howard

OTHER MISSIONS: Doug Arms (Elon), Jesse Wesselink (International Students, Inc), Siloam Missionary Homes, Alamance Pregnancy Center, Allied Churches, Meals on Wheels



Please join us on October 19, 2014 for our Church Homecoming! Tim Robinson will be our speaker. Plan to stay for the covered dish lunch in the fellowship hall. The meat, drinks, and bread will be provided. Please bring a vegetable, salad or a dessert. We look forward to seeing YOU this Sunday!

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GIDEON SUNDAY - October 26, 2014

Sharing God's love means sharing His Word. Imagine what it would be like if you didn't have God's Word. What if you wanted a copy, but couldn't afford or find one? What if you didn't even know it existed? Millions of people are living their lives with no access to God's Word. With your help we can ensure that they have a copy of their own. The Gideons International serves as a missionary arm of the church - every Scripture we distribute is provided through the support of local churches and individual Christians, including committed Gideons who contribute generously.

We typically set our Scripture placement goal far beyond our known resources. We then trust God that as Gideons and our wives - along with friends like you - prayerfully examine our hearts, by faith we will reach our goal. Over the years, we have continually expanded and are now distributing more than two copies of God's Word every second. Together, we have the ability to truly reach the world for Christ.

Each Bible provided by the donor will be placed by The Gideons and has the potential of reaching 2,300 readers in its estimated six-year life in a hotel or motel room. Bibles and New Testaments are placed and distributed by The Gideons in over 180 countries worldwide.

Our Speaker will be Alfred Whitlow. Please pray about what your part in this ministry will be. You will have an opportunity to contribute to this ministry at the close of the service. The Gideons will be available at the exit doors of the sanctuary.

****Checks should be made payable to Gideons International****

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's that time again!! It's time to start filling the shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Children overseas will receive these boxes, bringing joy through our simple gifts. Every child who receives a box will also have the opportunity to hear about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Would you consider helping?

You can help by:

1. Filling a shoebox and bringing it to church by Nov. 9, 2014.
2. Buying supplies and dropping them off at church so others can help fix the boxes.
3. Donating money (\$7.00 per box) to help cover the cost of shipping.

Thank you so much! Brochures will soon be available as well as collection boxes for items to include. If you have questions, please see Lynn Limon.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Gene Parks convened the Pastoral Search Committee this past Wednesday, October 8th. Bill Haynes was elected Chairman and John Robinson Secretary. The committee will be aggressively moving forward in its responsibility to secure a Pastor at First ARP Church. In doing so, the Committee earnestly seeks the prayers of the congregation that our Sovereign God will lead this committee to the man of His choice.

UPCOMING BUSINESS ITEMS

Please submit your nominations for church officers, which includes elders, deacons, trustees, treasurer and congregational chairperson to one of the elders.

Please pray as we consider the following important events in the life of our church. The dates will be announced soon.

Officer Elections
Budget Approval

NEW ADDRESS

Tim and Betty Bessette
54 Swange Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72715

YOUNG AT HEART

Our next meeting will be October 28th with the meal being a covered dish, due to conflicts with Meals on Wheels. We will hear from Tammy Honeycutt and Christina Gile from Alamance Pregnancy Services. They will tell us about this vital ministry in our community. Foy Evans will coordinate the meetings for December and January.

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



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Macon & Katherine Baird (18)	10/12
Mark & Donna Vestal (20)	10/22
Mark & Amy Sanderson (29)	10/26

FIRST PRESBYTERIAL ARP WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT

November 7-8, 2014
Bonclarken Conference Center

Our very own Dot Hutelmyer will be the speaker. This will be a great time to get away and relax while getting to know each other better. Please plan to join us! If you RSVP we can work on room arrangements and travel together. Please let Jessica Richardson know at 336-437-4388 or richardson.jessica83@gmail.com.

FIRST ARP LADIES!

Thank you so much for your participation in Secret Sisters. We had a great reveal lunch on September 28. Our new activity will be "Sister Love." We have partnered up again for 3 months, knowing who our sister is this time. The purpose of this ministry is to pray and encourage our sisters by calls, email, text, mail, and talking at church. You may also use the table in the narthex to put cards, notes, and prayer requests. If you would like to join us please contact Jessica Richardson.

On October 22 at 7 pm we will meet at Panara Bread for dinner. Janice Richardson will do a personal story.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm at Mosca's downtown Burlington. It will be a treat for us. Please bring a wrapped \$15 gift for a game. (If you can't bring a gift but want to come please let me know.) Please RSVP to Jessica Richardson by Sunday, December 5, 2014 at 336-437-4388 or richardson.jessica83@gmail.com.

MINISTRY

Nursery:
Oct 19: Chelle Spencer
Donna Wolff
Oct 26: Karen Jones
TBA

Counter:
Oct 19: Glenn Owens
Oct 26: Jim Knox

Deacon Duty:
Oct 19: Glenn Owens
Oct 26: David Newton