



From the Pastor:

Dear Saints,

We have heard much about history lately in our congregation. Our ministry is fifty years old in 2015.

In light of other world events, that is a relatively short time. Our father Abraham lived nearly five thousand years ago. King David would be celebrating his three-thousandth birthday about now. Jesus was born a bit more than two millennia ago.

Four hundred ninety-eight years ago on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, continuing in the strain of the Reformers before him, posted his desired debate points on the chapel door in his town of Wittenberg, Germany. He, as others had done before him to only some fruit, desired to see the church shaped by the Scriptures. Little did he know that his and others' efforts would spark a world-wide and lasting effect on the church, culture, politics and the Christian life.

Our church, though quite young in comparison to other institutions, is part of the Reformation heritage. Let me explain.

From the reformation came Protestants, those who no longer wished to unite with what was seen as a corrupt Roman Catholic Church. Protestants "protested" as they stood for a true church and against a false one.

It is a reference to our historical link to the Reformation of the 16th century and intends to describe us as the heirs of that tradition which comes from Luther, Calvin, Knox and other Reformers.

The word reformed is used most commonly to refer to certain theological distinctives, which have marked reformation believers, particularly those in the Calvinist tradition. We believe that the Bible is our only "rule of faith and practice," therefore it "reforms" all of our life to conform to God's standards.

We are connected in history to the Reformed Presbytery, a group that left the Church of Scotland in 1743, because the King of Scotland would not sign the Solemn League and Covenant, which affirmed that Christ alone was head and king of the church, not the civil magistrate. After immigrating to the United States, they would later unite with the Associate Presbytery, also from Scotland, in Philadelphia in 1783 forming the ARP Church.

This Sunday our worship service will reflect various themes from the Reformation. We will read Psalm 46, Luther's "A

Mighty Fortress is Our God" will be our opening hymn and the sermon is entitled "Reformed and Always Reforming" from Nehemiah 13. On Sunday evening, we will continue our study of the Christian Life, examining the subject of sanctification, a lifelong process of God shaping our lives after the image of Christ, in which, by his grace, we hate our sin and love righteousness more and more.

On Tuesday, October 27 at 11:30, our Young at Heart luncheon has a special guest: Martin Luther. A dramatic monologue will be presented and give a wonderful glimpse into the life of the great German Reformer whom the Lord used to re-shape the church in the world. This is an event not to miss and one to bring your friends, family and neighbors - they will hear history and the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ. Mark your calendars for NEXT Tuesday and be sure to invite someone along! If you work nearby and get a lunch break, grab a co-worker and come!

At this point in the year, time begins to slip past us quickly - a season change, time change, holidays approaching and more. Be sure to take note of the calendar in the newsletter so that you can match your calendar with church events. Particularly note the Friday, December 4 Lessons and Carols event. This event is one to mark, invite your friends to it and dig out your festive wear (plaid pants and sweaters!). The service will be the read Word of God and the best of sacred Christmas music. There will be readings from the Bible that show God's wonderful plan of redemption (the Lessons) and wonderful selections of Christmas songs (the Carols).

Please speak to Ed Limon if you are interested in participating with your voice and musical talents. We want our entire congregation involved. The choir, handbell ensemble, instrumentalists, vocalists and the congregation will all participate in this event in various ways. Also, if you are interested in being a reader, please speak to me. There will be at least a dozen portions of Scripture to be read and all ages are welcome to participate. For sure, this will be a wonderful event to involve the whole body and to get our minds centered on the Christ of Christmas!

A wonderful reception is planned for afterwards and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars for December 4 at 7 PM at First ARP Church.

See you Sunday!

Women of First ARP. You are invited to the home of Kay Moore on Saturday, November 7 from 5-8 PM for a Hobo Meal Cookout. Join us for fellowship, fire, food and a devotional. Please RSVP to Kay Moore by October 31 to find out what vegetable to bring for the meal at 336-263-3254 (text or call) or ktmoore@bellsouth.net.



Attention Congregation! On Saturday, November 14 at 2:00 PM, the Women's Ministry will be putting together goodie bags for our homebound members and will deliver these gifts afterwards. Please join with us in this fun project to bless those who can't be with us each Lord's Day.

YOUNG AT HEART

Our next luncheon will be October 27 at 11:45. Our special guest speaker is Stephen Crofts representing Martin Luther in celebration of Reformation Day. Bring a friend. Our menu will include chicken casserole, salad and rolls, which will be provided. Vegetables and desserts are welcome.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

October

- 27 Young at Heart Luncheon - 11:45 AM
- 28 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM

November

- 1 The Lord's Supper
- 4 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 7 First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon
- 7 WM Cookout, bonfire, etc. 5-8 PM
- 10 WM Book Study - *Extravagant Grace* - 7:00 PM
- 11 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 14 WM Goodie bags for homebound. 2 PM
- 15 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 18 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 29 Hymn Sing and Social - 6 PM

December

- 1 Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon - 11:45 AM
- 2 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 4 Christmas Lessons & Carols with reception to follow - 7 PM
- 5 First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon
- 6 The Lord's Supper
- 8 WM Book Study - *Extravagant Grace* - 7:00 PM
- 9 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM - Luncheon
- 20 Christmas Caroling after Evening Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - 5 PM (tentative time)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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 and Katherine Baird (19)	10/12
Mark and Donna Vestal (21)	10/22
Mark and Amy Sanderson (30)	10/26



Nursery:

Oct 25: Fran Haynes and Mary Jane Glass
Nov 1: _____

Counter:

Oct 25: Doug Glass
Nov 1: Jay Snow

Deacon Duty:

Oct 25: Stephen Robinson
Nov 1: Doug Glass

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

Online: firstarpburlington.org | www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington
Office Email: gloria@firstarpburlington.org | Office Phone: 336-584-6929