



From the Pastor:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

About once a year I try to read a book on church leadership. One read in recent years was a book that described the labors of church leaders in two categories: the trellis and the vine.

A trellis is needed in order for a vine to grow, be supported and give structure to the plant.

Vines are living plants, which need to be fed, pruned and cultivated toward bearing fruit.

Our church has a trellis. We see it in our annual budget, leadership boards, ministry team structure, facility and church handbook. These and other things provide structure for our ministry of vine dressing and fruit cultivation.

Our church is part of a vine. Jesus tells us in John 15:5 that he is the vine and we are the branches. Our Heavenly Father is the vine dresser. He uses the ministry of the word, sacraments, prayer, fellowship and suffering to grow, prune and bear fruit in us.

A trellis makes the growth of the vine possible. Without administration, planning, cleaning, bill payment and other such things, we could not do the work of the vineyard. We thank the Lord for those who serve in "trellis work".

If you want to get down to the bottom line, we must do the work of the vineyard keeper. We teach, preach, pray, counsel, visit, exhort, encourage and help one another make our way to heaven safely.

Both kinds of the the work of the church are important. We can't let our trellis fall into disrepair. We also cannot neglect the vine. Jesus warns that any branch not producing fruit is bound for the fire, to be burned as waste.

So, let me encourage you to some important labor in the church!

On Saturday, November 7, there will be a workday at church. Come at 9 AM to serve with our Deacons as we care for our facility.

The Session, following Chapter 8 of our Form of Government, is seeking your recommendations for Elder and Deacon. A brochure will be available this Sunday in the common areas of the church. Included is information regarding our Form of Government procedure, biblical standards for office and a form for you to use in recommending someone to an office. Boxes for your completed forms will be in the Narthexes and the Session requests all forms to be turned in by 6 PM on Thursday, November 19, 2015. Additionally, according to Chapter 3 of our Form of Government, the congregation has the privilege of electing for one-year terms each a Congregational Chair and at least one Congregational Treasurer. We historically have had only one Treasurer, however, more than one is allowed. Finally, according to our Church By-Laws, we must elect one Trustee to serve the congregation for a four-year term. Our Session has called a Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, December 13 for the purpose of holding elections and adopting a 2016 Budget.

Copies of the proposed 2016 Church Budget will be distributed in advance of the meeting. You may review the budget, ask questions in advance, pray over the matter and be prepared to support, amend or not support the proposed budget at the Congregational Meeting.

A Men's Ministry, Lord-willing, will begin in January with a monthly lunch and discussion to be held on the first Monday of each month. Stay tuned for more news regarding this ministry that we pray will help our men grow in the faith, stay on course in the Christian life, strengthen homes and provide a forum for growing more leadership in the church body. For those who can't make it to lunch, we also hope to have a monthly fireside gathering and discussion.

Be sure to join the church body, assisted by our Women's Ministry, in preparing and delivering goody bags to our homebound members. These folk are a vital part of the congregation, have served us many years and are unable to be present in worship due to infirmity. What a blessing your gifts and presence will be to them. Let's serve them well as we meet in the Fellowship Hall at 2 PM on Saturday, November 14 and then spread out to make our visits and deliveries.

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.



DENOMINATIONAL OFFERING

Each year at Thanksgiving time the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. You will find an insert and envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, November 15. This offering will be collected through Sunday, December 6.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our congregation has the privilege of participating in Samaritan's Purse Operation

Christmas Child this season. Brochures are available at the narthex entrances or visit www.samaritanpurse.org to find instructions on preparing a shoebox. All boxes must be delivered to the church building by Sunday *morning*, November 22. A wonderful video of this ministry is available on the ministry website. If you are unable to fill a box, please speak to Connie Bennett, Lynn Limon, or Joyce Payne.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

November

- 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
- 18 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
- 19 Session Meeting - 7 PM
- 29 Hymn Sing and Social - 6 PM
- 30 Called Session Meeting - 7 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
- 10 Session Meeting - 7 PM
- 13 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 20 Christmas Caroling after Evening Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - 5 PM (tentative time)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Caleb Sneed	11/1
Phillip Beaman	11/3
Natalie Wright	11/3
Fran Haynes	11/4
Jean Cathey	11/5
Chip Wright	11/8
Pat Montgomery	11/10
Jack Snow	11/10
David Newton	11/12
Rucker Turner	11/12
Martha Ann Crotts	11/13
Stephanie Payne	11/14
Sandy Childrey	11/15
Doris Haywood	11/19
Laurene Howington	11/20
Chelle Spencer	11/20
Martha Alexander	11/22
Ellen Huffman	11/24
Audrey Turner	11/24
Annie Michael	11/26
Laura Nicholson	11/27
Joe Murray	11/28



ANNIVERSARIES

Russ & Joyce Payne (36)	11/3
William & Jill Roy (34)	11/7
Randall & Libby Cobb (29)	11/8
Jim & Carolyn Christopher (45)	11/21
Chuck & Mary Renegar (63)	11/22
Steve & Sue Walton	11/27
Rick & Carol Erb (23)	11/28

Nursery:

Nov 8: John Robinson and Carol Erb
Nov 15: Fran Haynes and Vicki McPherson

Counter:

Nov 8: Jay Snow
Nov 15: David Newton

Deacon Duty:

Nov 8: Stephen Robinson
Nov 15: 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