



From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

An older man I used to spend time around always gave the greeting, "Have you got the joy?"

His question was getting at the heart of thanksgiving. Have you got the joy? Is your heart full of thanks? Are you grateful?

The opposite spirit is one of grumbling, of murmuring. It's what the people of God did in the wilderness and it earned them judgment. They wore out the Lord (and Moses) with their complaining and he let a generation die in the wilderness.

The stories of the Old Testament were written for our instruction, says the Apostle Paul. And so we take note as notice is given: do not desire evil as did that generation.

We worship Christ, the Rock of our Salvation. Our redemption and daily blessings ought to lead us to thankful, joyful hearts. God is our provider.

Is there something you don't have? Are you bitter? Is your glass half-empty?

That's how the Israelites felt. Though God gave water from the rock, bread from heaven, deliverance from enemies and was leading them to a blessed land, they still wanted more. They even decided that returning to Egypt would be better!

Our murmuring and grumbling is done in the context of greater redemption. God has given us water from a spring that will let us thirst no more. He has given us Himself, the bread of life. He has led us out of a greater bondage than Egypt - sin. He has freed from a greater taskmaster than Pharaoh - Satan. Our march is toward a promised land that will last - the new heavens and the new earth.

As we live as strangers and exiles, pilgrims not yet at home but marching there - may God give us grace to be thankful, grateful and joyful!

Have you got this joy?

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Mark your calendars for 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 Pastor Crofts. There will be nine 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!

THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for your many kindnesses in the home-going of Bill. Your cards, visits, food, love and prayers were appreciated by our entire family.

Love in HIM,
Ellen Huffman



Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

You will find order forms at each narthex entrance to the Sanctuary. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia and due when you turn in your order form. The last day to order is 11/22.

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 this Sunday, November 22. This offering will be collected through Sunday, December 6.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

All boxes must be delivered to the church building by **this Sunday morning**, November 22.

THANK YOU!

Many of us were blessed to visit 12 of our homebound members Saturday. Thank you for your gracious donations of items and time to deliver overflowing baskets to each home. Remember to pray for these wonderful members.

HYMN SING AND SOCIAL

Join us on November 29 at 6 PM for our Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social. Enjoy a time of fellowshiping in God's Word, song, and food! Chili will be served.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

November

- 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 and hot chocolate
- 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 22: Mary Jane Glass & Dot Hutelmyer
Nov 29: Nicole Newton & Sarah Ickes

Counter:

Nov 22: Stephen Robinson
Nov 29: John Robinson

Deacon Duty:

Nov 22: Stephen Robinson
Nov 29: 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