



From the Pastor:

Dear Saints of God,

This is a week for giving thanks. And how much the Lord has given us that we might bow our knees in gratitude!

Our church family was blessed Sunday to witness the baptism of three children. Two generations of family stood with them, as well as three generations of Elders. I can't help but think what a sign of how rich a heritage we have in our homes and in the church.

Another blessing is to see the many Bible-learning activities of the church full each week: Sunday schools, Wednesday Ladies Bible Study, morning preaching and the evening service.

This Sunday our chancel was piled with shoeboxes full of gifts to be given to children across the world. How full of joy will so many be when these gifts are received. I'm grateful to see your investment and sacrifice in such a visible way. Don't forget to pray those boxes across the world!

This Sunday in worship we will have a special report from the Gideon's Alamance West Camp. Over lunch a few weeks ago, I had the joy of meeting with one of the local men who gave testimony to the distribution of copies of the English Standard Version (ESV) in local universities and other places. God's Word is powerful and we can't help but give thanks to a world-wide group of men dedicated to placing copies of the Scriptures in all sorts of places.

In our worship service, you will begin to see an emphasis on the coming of Christ. Our scripture readings and hymns will look forward to the coming or advent of Christ Jesus. My prayer is that our eyes will be focused on Jesus - his first coming as one of us and his second coming as King of Glory! Our sermon will be from Psalm 113, which looks back at Hannah's childlessness and the birth of Samuel. It also points to Mary, who not yet ready for a child, will bear the Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let me encourage you this week to make sure you lay out your calendar for the next five or six weeks. Before we know it, 2016 will be here. Don't miss Thanksgiving and Christmas in all the rush of the weeks ahead.

The Young at Heart Christmas luncheon will be Tuesday, December 1 at 11:45 AM. Tim and Lynn Robinson will lead us in word and song - don't forget to bring a canned good for donation to the local food pantry.

I hope that all may come (and bring others with you) to the Friday, December 4 Christmas Lessons and Carols at 7 PM. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to bring a vegetable, fruit, salty or sweet plate for the reception, please plan to do so and drop it by the kitchen at 6:30 that evening. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

We have a very special thanks to offer the Lord this week - James Constable will be returning home in early January after over a year of working in Hawaii. I know his family will be happy to have him home and so we celebrate the Lord's goodness in this way.

This is a time for giving thanks - don't let it slip by!

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). This will be a wonderful event to involve the whole body and to get our minds centered on the Christ of Christmas! There will be a reception following. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring a finger food treat: *Vegetable, Fruit, Salty, or Sweet!*

GIDEON SUNDAY

This Sunday is Gideon's Sunday. Members of Alamance West Gideon Camp will present the ministry and will be prepared to accept your contributions at the end of the Worship Service. Checks may be made payable to Gideon's International.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Tim and Betty Bessette
1606 W. Kelley Dr.
Rogers, AR 72756

YOUNG AT HEART

Plan to join us for our Christmas luncheon on December 1 at 11:45 AM. A wonderful program and menu are planned. Tim and Lynn Robinson will provide the program. Bring a canned good to share with our local food pantry.

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 information and envelopes at the narthex entrances to the Sanctuary. This offering will be collected through Sunday, December 6.

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 and brownies will be served.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

November

- 28 Decorate the church for Christmas - 9 AM
- 28 Handbell Practice & Pizza Supper - 4 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
- 2 Pizza Supper & Dress Rehearsal for Lessons & Carols - 6:30 PM
- 3 Hospitality Team to set up for Lessons & Carols Reception - 6:30 PM
- 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 - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- 9 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM - Luncheon
- 10 Session Meeting - 7 PM
- 13 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 20 Christmas Caroling and hot chocolate & cookies afterwards - 6 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - 5 PM

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

John Young	12/5
Breten Chrismon	12/7
Mary Renegar	12/9
Carol Erb	12/13
Rick Erb	12/14
Jimmy Smith	12/14
Donna Wolff	12/15
Cynthia Ward	12/16
Shauneen Roy	12/19
Andre White	12/24
Caroline Baird	12/27
Kathryn Crotts	12/27
Maggie Constable	12/28
Dot Hutelmyer	12/28
Mandy Crotts	12/30
June Little	12/30
Matt Erb	12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Bennett & Janice Richardson (37)	12/16
Graig & Carolyn Pulley (54)	12/17
Margaret & Glenn Owens (52)	12/20
Lonnie & Catherine Mangum	12/21
Larry & Kathy Isley (52)	12/22
Ben & Natalie Wright (12)	12/27

Nursery:

Nov 29: Nicole Newton & Sarah Ickes
Dec 6: Nicole Newton & Carol Erb

Counter:

Nov 29: John Robinson
Dec 6: Doug Glass

Deacon Duty:

Nov 29: Doug Glass
Dec 6: Stephen Robinson

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

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