



First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Newsletter



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No. 46

From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

Many thanks to all who made our 2nd Lessons and Carols service and reception such a wonderful blessing to God's people and our guests who attended. Big cheers and gratitude to our choir, musicians, bell ringers, Scripture readers and sound technician who all made the service so beautiful! And what a spread of food!

Young at Heart was certainly a blessing on Tuesday. On a cold, rainy day, it was good to see many faces and red sweaters in our Fellowship Hall. Don't forget the 2017 schedule change - no Young at Heart in January or February. The next event will be in March.

As a congregation that is part of a denomination, we sometimes are called upon to play our part in the larger church arena. On April 11, 2017, our church will host the Spring Meeting of First Presbytery. If you are interested in assisting with that event, please speak to me. We will provide meeting space, hospitality and support for 100 ruling elders and pastors from across the state of North Carolina. Additionally, pastors are called upon from time to time to serve churches without ministers. Adams Farm Community Church in Jamestown has been without a pastor for the majority of 2016. I was recently asked to assist them in their transition time. Please pray for them as they work their way through a period without a pastor and as they search for God's man for their congregation.

Early yesterday morning, I had the privilege to speak to Burlington Christian Academy's elementary school chapel services. It's a joy to speak to them - and a challenge! I'm hardly awake that early and neither are they, but it is a wonderful Gospel opportunity to help the parents and school reinforce the word of God in a specific way. And I enjoy going in my old stomping grounds - I graduated 5th grade there in 1988.

Remember that our annual business meeting of the church will take place this Sunday, December 11 after worship at our planned Congregational Meeting. If you are a member of the church and did not receive a letter from your Session along with a copy of the proposed 2017 budget, please let me know. As you participate in the life of the church in this Sunday's meeting, please be in prayer for our church's needs to be met richly by Christ through his people - through our support of the budget for ministry, as well as by serving the church in various capacities. God uses us to accomplish his kingdom goals!

Each year, some in our congregation are called to go on a short-term mission trip for various needs around the world. We've sent folks to Mexico, Dearborn, Appalachia and Trinidad, among other places of need and service. Back in May, we heard from our denomination's short-term trip coordinator and hope that inspired others of you to consider such service to the church.

In January 2017, Connie Bennett will be sent on her seventh trip for medical missions in Trinidad. Her gifts are well-utilized on the trip. You may participate in sending Connie by your prayers and financial support. The Presbyterian Church in America's (P.C.A.) Mission to the World is hosting the trip and provides all necessary administrative support for the trip. If you wish to contribute financially to the mission, please do so by sending your check to: MTW, PO Box 2589, Suwanee, GA 30024-0982. Note in the memo Account #10865 and all proceeds will support our sister's trip. Her financial goal for support is approximately \$2,000.

Watch future newsletters for ways you can pray for Connie's trip and for list of needed items we might send with her to bless the folks in Trinidad. Also, please be sure to speak to Connie and ask her details about her mission!

If any of you have participated in various trips in the past or believe that the Lord may call you to some mission in the future, please be sure to speak to Elder Jay Snow and he will get our Missions Team to help you work through such a calling. The Session desires to send and bless those who are called, qualified and gifted to serve in these ways. Let's rally behind Connie and help her to be a blessing in Trinidad this January.

On Sunday morning, I hope you will make plans to participate in a Sunday School Class. The Westminster Confession of Faith Class meets in the hallway classroom and the Elective Class studying "What is a Healthy Church?", meets in the Fellowship Hall Classroom. During morning worship, we will consider God's creation command to mankind to rule over the earth. God uses us, our creative minds, our governing skills and our work ethic to make things go well in the world. How do we rule the earth? We are living in the most innovative 150 years of the world's history - electricity, running water, automobiles, mobile telephones, internet, medical advances, education and more! These come from image bearers working and ruling in God's world!

We will pick back up in our study of the Psalms on Sunday evenings. We left off in the summer at Psalm 25 in order to consider the Fruit of the Holy Spirit from Galatians 5. Join us at 6 PM on Sunday evening for Psalm 26. In both services, we will continue to sing our way through the Christmas carols in our hymnal.

See you on the Lord's Day,

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Session has called the annual business meeting of the congregation for THIS Sunday, December 11, 2016 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the 2017 Budget and hold elections for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Congregational Chair and Treasurer.

THANK YOU

'Thank you' feels so inadequate a response for your love and friendship expressed after my recent hospitalization. Your gifts of food, phone calls, and beautiful cards were very much appreciated but most especially your prayers were so helpful. Thank you for your ever-present ministry of love and mercy!

-Lola Knox

DECEMBER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Evening Gathering. December 15

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

December

- 11 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 15 Men's Evening Gathering
- 18 Treat Bags and Christmas Caroling
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day

DECEMBER

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 Mendiola	12/28
Dot Hutelmyer	12/28
Mandy Crotts	12/30
June Little	12/30
Matt Erb	12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Bennett & Janice Richardson (38)	12/16
Graig & Carolyn Pulley (55)	12/17
Glenn & Margaret Owens (53)	12/20
Lonnie & Catherine Mangum	12/21
Larry & Kathy Isley (53)	12/22
Ben & Natalie Wright (13)	12/27



Nursery:

Dec 11: Fran Haynes & Macon Baird
Dec 18: Kathy Isley & Laurie Isley

Counter:

Dec 11: Glenn Owens
Dec 18: Ferald Mann

Deacon Duty:

Dec 11: Glenn Owens
Dec 18: Stephen Robinson

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