



From the Pastor:

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we become followers of Jesus Christ, the Bible teaches that we have so many benefits and blessings.

Our consciences are clear as all our sins are forgiven. We have peace with God, when prior to salvation we were at odds with him. He now loves us! Our lives are full of the joy of salvation. On and on the list could go. Salvation benefits us now and in the ever after!

Sometimes when reveling in the good blessings that come to us we forget the hard things that Jesus has said about following Him in this world:

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-11)

If we follow Jesus, the world will not understand it or like it. We face all sorts of oppositions ranging from unkindness to intellectual persecution to banishment to imprisonment to martyrdom.

Christians are to face the hardships that come our way with faith and a sense of privilege, knowing that our sufferings received are attacks meant for Christ himself (see Colossians 1:24). Since Christ has ascended to the throne of God and is not present to receive the attacks launched at his name, his followers receive those sufferings.

How are Christians to respond when our suffering is minimal and others fall under greater attacks?

We can pray! “Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.” Hebrews 13:3 We can also feel ourselves a part of the hardship as another member of the body of Christ is in a difficult place.

Many of you have heard by now through prayer time on Sunday evening and in our announcements at other church events that an American missionary is in prison in Turkey. Andrew Brunson was arrested in October and has remained in prison since. He has longtime connections to our denomination and was once sent by our missions agency.

As part of the church body, let’s remember him in our prayers, his family also. Our prayers should regularly include those mistreated for the sake of Christ Jesus.

There is something else that we can do to participate in this matter. Go to the website listed below and let your voice be heard in the matter:

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/forgotten-american-turkey>

This next Sunday morning our study in the little series we are now in will be fellowship. What does that mean? Is it eating fried chicken a few times a year or does it mean something deeper? Come find out! Our evening study and prayer time at 6 is a wonderful time to fellowship with the church in prayer, as well as well as end the Lord’s Day with his people in his world. Psalm 31 is our topic for the night. If you haven’t made it out to Sunday night yet, give it a try. You’ll be glad you did!

See you Sunday,

Congregational Luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 19 after Worship. 19 Connie Bennett will be giving a report on her Mission Trip to Trinidad. The Church will provide the meal of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, and bread. The Congregation is requested to bring desserts.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Lynn Limon will be having surgery on February 13 to remove cancer.

Cindy Wright will be having hip replacement surgery on February 22.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Booklets are available at the piano narthex entrance with information that will help you shop year round.

January:

- Fishing hooks & line for kits. Small 2 inch plastic boxes from Dollar Tree are great for the kits.
- Tools (Hammer & nails, Screwdriver & screws, measuring tapes)
- Carabiner clips

February:

- 1 1/2 yards of fabric
- Sewing kits. WalMart has \$1 kits or donate packs of needles, matching thread, small scissors
- Utility candles: Dollar Trees sells 6 pack for \$1

First ARP Calendar of Events

February

- 8 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 13 Stated Session Meeting 7 PM
- 13 Deacons Meeting 6 PM
- 15 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 19 Congregational Luncheon & Short-Term Missions Report
- 20 Men's Gathering - 7 PM
- * Young at Heart Luncheon resumes in March
- 22 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

March

- 1 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 5 Lord's Supper
- 6 Men's Lunch
- 7 Women's Envy of Eve Book Study - 7 PM
- 8 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 9-11 Embers to A Flame Conference, Charlotte
- 13 Men's Evening Gathering
- 15 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 18 Women's Ministry at Two for Tea 3 PM
- 20 Stated Session Meeting
- 22 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 28 Young at Heart Luncheon
- 29 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Ickes	2/1
Don Childrey	2/2
Dylan Jones	2/2
Harold Boswell	2/4
Janice Richardson	2/4
John Robinson	2/7
Stephanie Dobbins	2/9
George McKinney	2/10
Margaret Owens	2/10
Abigail Newton	2/13
Jan Burwell	2/15
Karen Hoke	2/17
Lynn Limon	2/18
Al Wright	2/18
Alex Jones	2/22
John Greeson	2/23
Karen Jones	2/27
Jim Christopher	2/28

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Cathy Young (38)	2/3
Stephen & Ann Dobbins (23)	2/12
Ossie & Jennifer Spaulding (21)	2/14
Michael & Mary Peppo (25)	2/21



Nursery:

Feb 12: John Robinson & Carol Erb
Feb 19: Kathy & Laurie Isley

Counter:

Feb 12: Larry Isley
Feb 19: Jay Snow

Deacon Duty:

Feb 12: Larry Isley
Feb 19: Stephen Robinson

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

Online: firstarpburlington.org | www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington | Office Phone: 336-584-6929
Admin Office: gloria@firstarpburlington.org | Finance Office: finance@firstarpburlington.org | Pastor: pastor@firstarpburlington.org