



## *From the Pastor:*

Dear Church Family,

Some of you probably won't believe this, but I have actually said, "Theology does not matter." I said this twenty years ago. I was in college, I was a believer and yet I did not realize what I was saying. I believe the reason that I said this was because I did not know theology and I wanted to justify my ignorance.

I would never say this now! My job is theology. My life is theology. My worldview is theology! Theology drives my methodology for my job, my family, my inner thoughts. Not to seem ridiculous, but I cut my grass for theological reasons! (Think I'm weird? Read Genesis 1:28) The word theology essentially means, "the study of God and his relationship to the world." The Greek word for God is theos. An ology is usually a suffix added to mean "the study of" something described in the prefix. Theology is the study of God! One cannot say, "I believe in God, yet theology is of no import to me!" Read John's three epistles and he'll say you're no Christian (especially 1 John 5:13).

John Calvin, our hero of the reformed faith who was a pastor/theologian in the mid-16th century, wrote a sort of primer for the Christian. In his primer, called *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, he begins by saying that one cannot properly know God without knowing himself. Conversely, he also held that one cannot know himself without knowing God! We simply can't get away with saying, "Theology doesn't matter." Further, our Shorter Catechism tells us that, "the Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man." Knowledge and duty are for sure the thrust of the Scriptures for our lives. We also like to say that theology is good for faith and practice.

There are many aspects of God to get to know. There is his character: he is, as our Shorter Catechism so well says, "infinite, eternal and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth." We see best God's character in reading the whole of the Bible – God is dealing with humanity according to his perfect character, and so we know him through his actions. Whether he is acting mercifully or in justice to a particular group, he is acting based on his character. We indeed know God through his character, his actions and also his promises. God promises much to the believer! And all of these promises are no doubt true in Christ Jesus.

We are told in Genesis that we are made in God's image. This is the theological root for knowing God and self and the great interconnectedness of the two! We are finitely what God infinitely is, that is, we are little limited reflections of all that he is. We are able to be merciful, holy, patient, wise, just – but simply in very small ways in comparison.

Another important reason to know God, or to know theology, is so that your worship might be more meaningful! Psalm 100 is a great passage on our approach to the worship of God. Knowing God is key in verse 3, in fact, it is a command. We fill up on info before the Super Bowl or during March Madness, but we sure do easily slip into the pew with but a little knowledge of who God is and what he has done. Notice the difference in hymnody over the generations. Today's songs usually center on self and repeat several lines as, "I just wanna \_\_\_\_\_." Hymns of old that have been handed down the generations usually spend at least four verses reflecting on the very character of God! And as one wise woman has said, "What will Christians sing when persecution descends upon our culture?" Knowledge of God will never leave us!

The summation of the law in the Gospels is to love God with our minds, our hearts and our hands. Idle minds do not love God in the first of this three-fold command. Hosea speaks of this well. (Hosea 6:3) When we truly love God with our minds, we will love him deeply in our hearts and serve others with our hands. You see, theology drives our affections & our service!

So friends, let us "press on to know the LORD!"

See you on Sunday,

**Visiting Homebound.** Saturday, March 18th, at 2 PM, please meet in the Fellowship Hall to gather gifts & depart.

**Sunday Simple Supper** after the Evening Service on March 26: real Christians eat Quiche!

## Young at Heart

On Tuesday, March 28, Mark McKinney of Christian Adventurers will be our speaker. Located in Graham, Christian Adventurers reaches out to youth through sports evangelism, missions trips, retreats, campus ministries, and partnerships with local churches. Our meal will be potluck! We will provide a salad and a soup/meat.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Give thanks for the privilege of being partners in the Gospel...to know the truth, share the truth and to assist Jesus in making his kingdom know in the world.

That we would continue to be a congregation characterized by harmony and love towards one another.

Lift up our Elders and Deacons as each body meets on Monday, March 20.

Pray for Connie Bennett as she has recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's.

Surgery recovery & further treatment: Lynn Limon, Cindy Wright

Surgery: Connie Bennett, foot, March 22.

Health & Strength: Ariel Constable (injured arm). Tom McPherson (blood clot). Ferald Mann (foot & hip).

For Andrew and Norene Brunson suffering persecution in Turkey. Pray for his release from prison and that our nation's leaders would intervene effectively.

Family of the Week: Jan Burwell.

College Students: Isaac Sasser, Jack Snow, David & Seth Spaulding.

Military: Josh Limon, Qatar and Steven Mendiola, Middle East.

Homebound Members: Elizabeth Barber, Theo Baulding, Jean Cathey, Foy Evans, Doris Haywood, June Little, George McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery, Gene Parks and Mae Wilburn (Edgewood 3).

Local Church: Northside Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jim Mitchell.

Local Ministry: Siloam Missionary Homes.

Regional Ministry: Jeff & Shelia Osborne (Stateside/Short-Term Missions Coordinator).

Foreign Missions: Jeff & Lisa King, Spain..

Please take a brief few minutes to call Senator Burr's Winston-Salem and Washington, D.C. offices to express your desire for Senator Burr to work towards Andrew Brunson's release!

Winston-Salem office  
(800) 685-8916

Washington, D.C.  
(202) 225-3154

Share that you would like Senator Burr to be made aware of fellow North Carolinian Andrew Brunson who has served as a missionary to the people of Turkey and has been held as a prisoner for almost 200 days! His wife was released and is still there. He has a daughter graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill and is to be married this summer!

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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

#### March:

- Soft items. All ages need something soft. See directions for making your own blankets.

- Fork & Spoon
- Small plate, cup, bowl

**April:** Toys (Any toys. These are just suggestions)

- Dolls
- Stuffed toys
- Small cars
- Small box puzzles
- Small coloring books

### First ARP Calendar of Events

#### March

18 Homebound Visitation 2 PM  
20 Stated Session Meeting  
22 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM  
26 Sunday Simple Supper  
28 Young at Heart Luncheon  
29 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

#### April

2 Lord's Supper  
3 Men's Lunch  
4 Women's Envy of Eve Book Study - 7 PM  
5 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM  
5 Rehearsal for Holy Week Service  
9 Palm Sunday & 6 PM Holy Week Service  
10 Stated Session Meeting  
11 First Presbytery Meeting at First ARP Church  
12 No Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

## MARCH

### BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Constable	3/1
David Turner	3/2
Bryan Crofts	3/5
Kaitlyn Moore	3/6
Donna Vestal	3/6
Katherine Baird	3/10
Sarah Wright	3/10
Cathy Young	3/15
Larry Causey	3/18
Denise Hummer	3/23
Gary Gregory	3/24
Kelly Limon	3/24
Carolyn Christopher	3/26

### ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Tammy Cobb (29)	3/12
------------------------	------

#### Nursery:

Mar 19: Jimmy Smith & Carol Erb  
Mar 26: Macon Baird & Fran Haynes

#### Counter:

Mar 19: Glenn Owens  
Mar 26: Stephen Robinson

#### Deacon Duty:

Mar 19: Glenn Owens  
Mar 26: Larry Isley

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

Online: [firstarpburlington.org](http://firstarpburlington.org) | [www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington](http://www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington) | Office Phone: 336-584-6929

Admin Office: [gloria@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:gloria@firstarpburlington.org) | Finance Office: [finance@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:finance@firstarpburlington.org) | Pastor: [pastor@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:pastor@firstarpburlington.org)