



From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

Every once in a while we hit a point in life where we think about what is important. Some clarifying event or moment causes us to think about what is really necessary. Maybe it has come to you through a medical diagnosis, a death in the family, some sort of loss or suffering, a major life change or a prompting from God's Word.

Our lives are extraordinarily full. Some are meaningless things. Others good things. We should prioritize doing the best things. Each week can seem non-stop as schedules are packed with work, appointments, school, events, meetings and on it goes!

Our minds are full of messages from commercials, pundits, telephone calls, e-mails, text messages, junk mail, to-do lists, news outlets and more.

Even church life can be busy. This study, that meeting, a committee, a meal or fill-in-the blank as you please.

Sometimes we are simply overloaded! I believe a meaningful life can get eclipsed by things that don't really matter much at all. So much so that we forget to take a walk, spring comes and we miss the joy of flowers, we may have a fireplace but never a fire. We may have lots going on, but what of it is beneficial to our souls?

Some years ago I ran across the idea of living a simpler life. I think it came through reading about the lives of people like C.S. Lewis, Eugene Peterson, Francis Schaeffer and others. Living simpler means keeping a lighter weekly schedule, not so full that you can't breathe. Work hard but do not get overworked. Do many things the same time, the same way - keep some consistency. Take time to think, reflect, enjoy and savor. Don't always be in a rush or need to be entertained by some noise.

The church needs to de-clutter sometimes as well. I love what I have learned to call "simple church". Worship is at the center. We want to be in God's house on God's day with God's people. Learning from the Word at the feet of our Elders is a must. We can't grow without being fed a steady diet of the Word and God has given us Elders to teach us. Our minds are bent and broken by the fall of man into sin, and we need to have them renewed often (see Romans 12). Fellowship is a vital aspect of the church. There should be sweet relationships, encouragement, forgiveness and service together all the while we worship and learn alongside one another too.

Simple church should focus primarily on Worship and the Word. Yes, there will be mercy needs and stewardship opportunities (such as coming out to the workday this Saturday, April 1st !). If you get the Word and Worship right in your life, God promises to bless - his word does its work, it accomplishes its goal and it does not return void!

In our study of Philippians this week, our passage will teach us about what we should really pray for when we think of one another in the church. "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11 ESV)

I hope this passage will help you think and focus on what is really important in your life. If you're like me, you could stand to declutter!

See you on Sunday,

Church Directory Updates

Gene Parks
343 Baldwin Rd. C-2-6
Burlington, NC 27217

Mae Wilburne
Brookdale Senior Living
3615 South Mebane St
Burlington, NC 27215

Church Workday

Please join us THIS Saturday, April 1,
9 AM for our Spring Workday.

Holy Week Rehearsal

A rehearsal for the Holy Week Service for Palm Sunday (4/9) Evening will be held on Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 PM. A light meal will be served at 6 PM for participants in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Lilies. If you would like to make a contribution for an Easter Lily for the sanctuary this year in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the form that will be in this Sunday's bulletin. Please put the form along with \$12 per plant in the envelope and place in the offering by next Sunday, April 9. Checks may be made payable to First ARP Church. You may take your plant home on Easter Sunday after the morning service.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ask that God that our love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

Praise the Lord for spring, warm weather and the signs of new life in creation!

That God would continue to grow our congregation, enabling us to expose others to Biblically sound teaching, and that we might have a more effective impact on the community-at-large.

Ask the Lord to grant success to Ben Gregory in his CPA examination.

Recovering Health: Lynn Limon (cancer surgery), Cindy Wright (hip replacement), Connie Bennett (foot surgery), Jean McKinnon (mini-stroke).

Upcoming Surgery: George McKinney (cataracts), Chuck Renegar (cataracts).

Health & Strength: Ariel Constable (injured arm). Tom McPherson (blood clot). Ferald Mann (foot & hip). Connie Bennett (Parkinson's).

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: Randall and Libby Cobb.

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.

Local Church: Hillside Presbyterian Church, Rev. Bill Prince.

Local Ministry: Allied Churches.

Regional Ministry: Jesse & Shayna Wesselink (International Students in Triad).

Holy Week Service

Please make plans to join us for our Holy Week Service Sunday night, April 9.

Men's Lunch will next meet on Monday, April 3 at Noon at Southbound Sandwich Works and the next **Men's Evening Gathering** will be April 17 at 7 PM at Panera Bread. Both groups will be discussing chapter 2 of *18 Words*.

Women's Evening Book Study.

Join us on April 4, 7 PM in the Hospitality Room as we continue our study of Melissa Krueger's *Envy of Eve*. We will begin with a study/discussion of Chapter 2. This study is for ladies of all ages and will be taught by Pastor Crofts. Please let him know if you need a copy of the book.

First ARP Calendar of Events

April

- 1 Spring Workday 9 AM
- 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
- 16 Easter Sunday-9:45 Easter Breakfast
- 16 Worship 11 AM
- 17 Men's Evening Gathering 7 PM
- 19 Ladies Bible Study-11 AM
- 25 Young At Heart Luncheon
- 26 Ladies Bible Study-11 AM
- 30 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

Alex Newton	4/3
Kay Moore	4/4
Hannah Roy	4/5
James Constable	4/6
Jim Knox	4/6
Patricia Pack	4/6
Glenn Owens	4/8
Steve Kyaw	4/9
Jessica Sneed	4/10
Stephen Crofts	4/14
Gene Parks	4/14
William Roy	4/15
Rachel Pelone	4/17
Randall Cobb	4/21
Russ Payne	4/21
Jean McKinnon	4/25
Debbie Childrey	4/27

ANNIVERSARIES

Seth & Laura Nicholson (11)	4/15
Harold & Shirley Boswell (24)	4/17

Nursery:

Apr 2: Kathy Isley & Laurie Isley
Apr 9: John Robinson & Jondeen Terry

Counter:

Apr 2: John Robinson
Apr 9: Jay Snow

Deacon Duty:

Apr 2: Stephen Robinson
Apr 9: Glenn Owens

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

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