



*From the Pastor:*

Dear Congregation,

How does the saying go? "Nothing in life is sure except death and taxes."

For a Presbyterian minister it goes like this, "Nothing in life is sure except death and taxes and going to Presbytery meetings."

All joking aside this is the week of both for me. Thankfully my taxes were dealt with weeks ago. But yesterday was Presbytery.

One can look at Presbytery day in one of two ways.

The usual grumpy, half-empty way goes like this: up an hour earlier, rushed breakfast, miss seeing the family, four hours in the car, six hours plus of meeting, mediocre food, a few intramural theological fights and a migraine to boot.

Though some of the above can be true of the day, here is the biblical way to look at Presbytery: it is a meeting of the regional church to do the business of Christ's church in this world to make his invisible kingdom visible.

It does entail meetings: we must examine pastors for fitness for office, ordain ministers to the ministry of word and sacrament, sort through sin problems, set budgets, establish new churches, count our money for ministry and other duties.

It does require driving: our church is part of a Presbytery that includes the entire state of North Carolina, as well as a portions of Tennessee and Kentucky. Generally, meetings are in the greater Charlotte region.

There are positives: we see friends, sing hymns, hear sermons, watch a rising generation of ministers grow, and we guard the church's orthodoxy so that there is a faithful witness to Christ in the 21st century.

Yesterday was a good day. The drive was a long distance, however when you get to fellowship with an elder, it flies by! The meeting was lengthy, but not contentious and it was productive. We established a Reformed University Fellowship ministry at Queens College in Charlotte, sent a man to pastor a church where another man retired. Good business!

And so, yes, death, taxes and Presbytery - all things ordained by God - for our good and his glory. In the case of the church, especially so!

*Bryson*

## HOMEBOUND VISITATION

Please make plans to join the Elders and Women's Ministry Team members for a wonderful time of fellowship as we visit the homebound members of our church. You may bring goodies for bags to give them that day or give them to one of the Women's Ministry Team members. See you at 2:30 Saturday, April 16.

### YOUNG AT HEART

Tuesday April 26 we will have Lasagna, salad and rolls. Contributions of other pasta dishes, vegetables and desserts will be appreciated. After the meal, we look forward to Bryan and Sarah Ickes making a presentation on their family life of foster parenting and adoption.

### SHORT-TERM MISSIONS & JUBILEE BIRTHDAY REPORT

On May 22, Sheila Osborne, a representative from World Witness, will be here during the Sunday School hour to speak about short-term missions opportunities through the denomination. She will also speak about the Jubilee Birthday Celebration Offering that we collect each year. Additionally, Ed and Lynn Limon will share about their summer missions opportunity in Mexico.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

##### April

- 14 Stated Session Meeting
- 16 Homebound Basket Delivery
- 20 WM morning Bible Study
- 26 Young at Heart
- 27 WM morning Bible Study

##### May

- 1 Lord's Supper
- 2 Men's Lunch Book Study
- 3 Women's Ministry Leadership Training
- 4 WM morning Bible Study
- 5 Men's Evening Study
- 8 MOTHER'S DAY
- 10 WM evening book study
- 11 WM morning Bible Study
- 19 Stated Session Meeting
- 22 Sunday School with missionary, Sheila Osborne
- 24 Young at Heart
- 29 5th Sunday Hymn Sing

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

#### 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
Gene Parks	4/14
William Roy	4/15
Rachel Pelone	4/17
Randall Cobb	4/21
Russ Payne	4/21
Mary Peppo	4/22
Jean McKinnon	4/25
Debbie Childrey	4/27
Sophia Ickes	4/29

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Seth & Laura Nicholson (10)	4/15
Harold & Shirley Boswell (23)	4/17

### MISSIONS SUNDAY & CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 5. Drew and Lauren Goodman will be with us for Sunday School, Worship, and Lunch. Pastor Goodman will share in the Sunday School hour, preach in our morning service, and be available during lunch to tell us about their pastoral ministry in Wales. They serve through the denomination's World Witness agency and serve the evangelical church in Wales.

#### Nursery:

April 17: Dot Hutelmyer & \_\_\_\_\_  
 April 24: Nicole Newton & Sarah Ickes

#### Counter:

April 17: Ferald Mann  
 April 24: Stephen Robinson

#### Deacon Duty:

April 17: Stephen Robinson  
 April 24: Glenn Owens