



## *From the Pastor:*

Dear Congregation,

In our studies of Paul's prison epistle to the Philippians church, we have noted that a special phrase, "gospel partnership", is employed by the great Apostle. It is the word from which we get our idea of fellowship or partnership. We have noted that we fellowship in many ways - in suffering, in ministry, in sending others to minister and so on. (Remember our little saying from a sermon in January, fellowship does not always involve fried chicken?)

Paul is grateful that the Philippians church are his partners in his missionary and church planting endeavors. They are deeply connected to him and his labors in heart, finances and prayer.

Our church has the opportunity to partner with four of our members for summer missions opportunities.

Each year, Ed and Lynn Limon go to Mexico to teach music to church leaders who then return to their local churches with greater skills, encouragement and a sense of refreshment in their service to God.

This July, Ed Limon (not Lynn this year) will again parter with Ellen Barnett, a longtime Mission to the World (MTW) servant in Acapulco, Mexico and Maranatha Presbyterian Church to assist in summer music camp for church leaders and musicians in Mexico.

Also in July, Karen Hoke, Lynn Limon and Joyce Payne plan to make a trip through World Witness (our denomination's sending agency) to Scotland and Wales. They will be assisting the Goodman family in Wales and the Olson family in Scotland with various ministry projects.

Your prayers for travel, safety and success in ministry will be appreciated. We will plan to send these folks off in July and hear a report after their return. Additionally, you may contribute financially to the cost of their trips. The total cost for Ed's trip is approximately \$800 and for the three ladies, \$2,000 each. Funds are already committed to each from the church's missions budget and your additional donations will help encourage each participant and make their trips possible.

If you'd like to support these missions financially, please make your check payable to First ARP Church and note in the memo "Short-Term Mission Trip". You may drop your check in the offering plate or mail to the church address. All funds are tax-deductible and will be used to facilitate the trip by air and ground travel, food, lodging, insurance and other travel necessities.

We will have an opportunity for these folks to tell the congregation about their upcoming trips on April 30 and May 7 during Missions Moments at our 11 AM services.

See you on Sunday,

### **Easter Denominational Offering**

Each year at Easter time the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. You will find a brochure and contribution envelope at the Sanctuary entrances. This offering will be collected Sunday, April 30, 2017.

## MISSIONS SUNDAY & CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 4. Rev. Josh Grimm, along with his wife Ashely and son Isaac will be with us for Sunday School, Worship, and Lunch. Pastor Grimm will share in the Sunday School hour, preach in our morning service, and be available during lunch to tell us about campus ministry at Queens University in Charlotte, NC. They serve through Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's (ARP) partnership with the Presbyterian Church in America's (PCA) Reformed University Fellowship (RUF).

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise the Lord for many answered prayers in our lives, families and church.

Pray for mercies for Vicki McPherson's family as her mother recently passed away and her father is quite ill.

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

Upcoming Surgery: George McKinney (cataracts).

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

Military: Josh Limon, Stateside and Steven Mendiola, Middle East (Maggie & Baby Girl due August).

Homebound Members: Elizabeth Barber, Theo Baulding, Jean Cathey, Foy Evans, Doris Haywood, June Little, George McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery, Gene Parks, Mae Wilburn and Al Wright (Memory Care/Hospice).

For the Church of God to grow through the work of First Presbytery Church Extension and Synod's Outreach North America.

For those in our congregation who are sent on short-term missions: Summer 2017 - Wales & Scotland - Karen Hoke, Lynn Limon & Joyce Payne. Mexico Music Camp - Ed Limon.

That we'd be salt and light in our spheres of influence as we go about our daily lives in our community.

### Young at Heart

Our next Young at Heart Luncheon will be April 25 at 11:45 AM. Shannon Pointer, MSN, RN, Community Educator with Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell will be our speaker. This education session will offer a glimpse into all of the programs and services available through Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell. We will cover hospice, but so much more. Education will be provided on all available programs and services for the community, including grief counseling for adults and children, dementia support services, advance care planning and more. Please take the time to attend the presentation to learn more about resources that are available so that no one ever says "I wish we would have known about these resources sooner. Our menu will be assorted salads and desserts. If able, please bring a favorite salad or dessert.

### First ARP Calendar of Events

#### April

25 Young At Heart Luncheon  
26 Ladies Bible Study-11 AM  
30 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social

#### May

1 Men's Lunch  
1 WHS Class of 1955 Set-Up in Fellowship Hall  
2 WHS Class of 1955 "80th Birthday Lunch"  
2 Women's Envy of Eve Book Study - 7 PM  
3 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM  
7 Lord's Supper  
10 Ladies Bible Study Luncheon  
15 Joint Officer & Stated Session Meeting  
22 Men's Evening Gathering - 7 PM  
23 Young at Heart Luncheon

## MAY

### BIRTHDAYS

Bill Haynes	5/1
Graig Pulley	5/1
Connie Bennett	5/4
Tom McPherson	5/6
Vicki McPherson	5/6
Lauren Childrey	5/9
Pat Kinney	5/10
Frances Vanderford	5/10
Wendell Turner	5/11
Ben Gregory	5/12
Ian Constable	5/14
Zoey Ensley	5/18
Ben Wright	5/18
David Spaulding	5/20
Shirley Boswell	5/21
Cindy Wright	5/21
Michael Peppo	5/24
Jacob Christopher	5/26
Jason Massey	5/28
Esther Roy	5/28
Kathy Isley	5/30
Mae Wilburn	5/31

### ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Fran Haynes (56)	5/14
David & Nicole Newton (13)	5/15
Larry & Lynn Causey (45)	5/20
Ferald & Betty Mann (50)	5/28

#### Nursery:

Apr 23: Vicki McPherson & Carol Erb  
Apr 30: Macon Baird & Donna Wolff

#### Counter:

Apr 23: Stephen Robinson  
Apr 30: Larry Isley

#### Deacon Duty:

Apr 23: Stephen Robinson  
Apr 30: Glenn Owens

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