

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Vol. 43

April 28, 2015

No. 8

From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

We have landed, sort of!

Our family is all in North Carolina and we have set up camp at my parents' home in Hillsborough.

The Lord has been so gracious to make every step of the way clear.

Your pulpit committee has been led by the Lord to choose a minister. The Session has guided the church while without a pastor. You have been graciously served by a Presbytery-appointed moderator of your Session, Bob Wilson. Many miles have been driven as guest ministers have come to labor in the word and worship in your midst.

Our family has considered the call and accepted. Many folks have helped us with making the transition - parents, realtors, bankers, movers and more.

It takes an army to find a pastor, move him into the field and set up shop.

Even more, it takes a great God. My mind and heart rejoice in the words of Psalm 98: "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!" For sure, this is the work of our great God.

When Noah emerged from the ark after a year at sea, he built an altar. Abraham did the same when arriving in the Promised Land. How fitting it will be for us to worship together this Sunday as the congregation of First ARP Church and our family unite together for service and ministry.

I am excited about this Sunday. It will be a full day as we worship the Lord together and forge a pastoral relationship.

During the morning service, I'll be preaching a sermon titled, "Our Lamb Has Conquered, Let Us Follow Him!" We will be looking at various aspects of Christ as the leader of his church. I thought this to be a fitting start as we seek to follow Christ. It is also the theme and background of a piece of the stained glass in the back of the sanctuary.

In the evening, First Presbytery will be conducting a worship service where I will be installed as your pastor. During that time, I'll be preaching a sermon titled, "What the Church Needs in a Minister." Various guest ministers and ruling elders will participate in the service as we make vows before God and one another.



I hope that all of you will make it to both services. I also look forward to the fellowship to follow the evening service. It should be an exciting time for us all!

Exciting and busy days are ahead. God's church is an exciting place to be and I can't wait to begin ministry in your midst. I look forward to serving with you in the Kingdom.

Lord willing, we will move our household items in mid-May. Our things have been packed up for nearly a year, so we will enjoy a Christmas-like experience as we open up boxes!

Our family looks forward to a long, healthy and fruitful ministry in your midst.

As we get to know the congregation, please be sure to tell us your names (over and over for me - I'm slow to remember!).

With joyful anticipation for good things to come,

Bryan Crotts

UPCOMING EVENTS TO WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR

Join us as we welcome Pastor Bryan Crotts and his family.

- May 3 Morning Worship Service: First Sermon as Pastor
May 3 Installation Service 6 PM. Catered reception following in the Fellowship Hall
May 24 Catered Lunch in honor of Rev. Crotts and family in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, *Bill Huffman!*

Happy 86th Birthday to our wonderful father and father-in-law, Bill Huffman. A gift to First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has been given in your honor by John and Anne Huffman! *"We love you!"*

LADIES EVENT

Ladies we will be taking a day trip to Seagrove Pottery Saturday, May 2, 2015. We will be taking the church van. Please meet at the church at 9 AM.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study **date change!** Due to the 2nd Sunday in May being Mother's Day and due to May having so many events, our next Bible study will be the second Sunday in June which is June 14. Meanwhile let's continue to pray for one another and for our church.

A NOTE FROM YOUR DEACONS

If you are aware of any maintenance issues here is a list of who you may contact:

Doug Glass for issues regarding the exterior buildings
Macon Baird for any issues regarding the new narthex, classrooms, and hallway.
Stephen Robinson for any issues regarding the Fellowship Hall.
David Newton for any issues regarding the Sanctuary and Choir Room.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER NEEDS

ILLNESS: Please be in prayer for the following -- Tim Bessette, Shirley Boswell, Jean Cathey, Owen Constable, Gary, Hope, & Ben Gregory; Karen Hoke; Ellen Huffman; Peggy Mitchell; Kay Moore; Margaret Owens; Margaret Owens' sister, Carolyn Turbyfill; Mary Renegar; Kathryn Richardson; Jondeen Terry.
Remember all our shut-ins.

CHURCH NEEDS: Pray for Rev. Bryan Crotts as he assumes pastorate of our church.

MISSIONARIES: Andy & Nannette Howard (Pakistan), Jeff & Lisa King (Chile), Ali & Tara Mitchell (ARP Connect), Jubilee Birthday Ladies – Sheila Osborne & Nannette Howard

OTHER MISSIONS: Jesse Wesselink (International Students, Inc), Siloam Missionary Homes, Alamance Pregnancy Center, Allied Churches, Meals on Wheels

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Bill Haynes	5/1
Graig Pulley	5/1
Connie Bennett	5/4
Tom McPherson	5/6
Vicki McPherson	5/6
Sue Walton	5/8
Lauren Childrey	5/9
Pat Kinney	5/10
Frances Vanderford	5/10
Wendell Turner	5/11
Ben Gregory	5/12
Ian Constable	5/14
Mary Jane Glass	5/16
Zoey Ensley	5/18
Ben Wright	5/18
Jacob Christopher	5/26
Linda Love	5/28
Jason Massey	5/28
Esther Roy	5/28
Kathy Isley	5/30
Mae Wilburn	5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Britt Causey (12)	5/10
Bill & Fran Haynes (54)	5/14
David & Nicole Newton (11)	5/15
Isaac & Chelle Spencer (6)	5/16
Jim & June Little (57)	5/17
Larry & Lyne Causey (43)	5/20
Eddie & Jo McKinnon (40)	5/25
Ferald & Betty Mann (48)	5/28

MINISTRY REMINDERS

Nursery:

May 03: Fran Haynes
Jessie Richardson
May 10: Stephen Robinson
Donna Wolff

Counter:

May 3: David Newton
May 10: Gene Parks

Deacon Duty:

May 3: Stephen Robinson
May 10: Doug Glass

Elder Greeter:

May 3: Gene Parks
May 10: John Robinson

Happy Mother's Day!

May 10th

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