



### *From the Pastor:*

The local church is a powerful tool in the hands of our God.

It is the place where worship is held, the Gospel is proclaimed, discipleship takes place, prayer meetings are held, fellowship occurs and more!

The local church is the seat of much action in God's economy with Christians. One very important aspect of the local church is that we get to set apart and send missionaries.

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 the Limons will again partner 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. The camp will take place in Ometepe in southern Mexico.

Your prayers for travel, safety and success in ministry will be appreciated. We will plan to send them off in July and hear a report after their return. Additionally, you may contribute financially to the cost of the two-week trip. The total cost is approximately \$2,250. Funds already committed are \$1,000 and your donations will help encourage the local churches of Mexico who will benefit from their ministry with this church music camp.

If you'd like to support this mission financially, please make your check payable to First ARP Church and note in the memo "Limon 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. Ed and Lynn will tell the congregation about their upcoming trip on May 22 during a Missions Moment at our 11 AM service.

Many thanks to the 28 folk who came out to our workday last week. I drove up to the church building yesterday, the grass freshly mowed and noticed how striking the facility looked with freshly mulched natural areas. Several tasks in addition to mulching were completed - the fence was repaired, the back storage shed was power washed, several electrical issues were fixed, nursery toys were cleaned and the pew racks were cleaned and refreshed with pencils, envelopes and visitor cards. What a day! Thank you.

It's been a while since we've published a financial update. Each weekly offering balance from the previous Sunday is posted in every bulletin. Through April 2016 our income: \$80,994.56. Our expenses to date: \$74,783.39. Our budget for the first four months: \$81,819.06. As you can see, we have spent significantly less than planned. The Lord has been good to us and you have been faithful to help meet the ministry needs of our church. Thank you!

The Personnel Committee, consisting of all Deacons and Elders, has recently worked through and made a significant decision for the church. As many of you know, Gloria Hendry has served for several years as our Administrative Assistant and Financial Secretary. She has recently requested to step back from some of her duties in order to pursue some opportunities for work that have come her way. The Session, acting on her request and the Personnel Committee's recommendation, has decided to grant her request. She will continue producing our bulletin, newsletter and updating our internet content. The Financial portion of her position will be turned over to Laurene Howington. When presented with the need to hire someone to fulfill these duties, we realized that we had someone in our midst who was knowledgeable, skilled and possessed the appropriate character for handling the week-by-week financial responsibilities of the church.

One of the Elders was recently commenting how well organized our financial system seems to be. After he served as a Sunday counter, he noted how the process is thorough, discreet and leaves no room for error. Our elected Trustees come by the office each week to approve disbursements and two signatures are required for each check written. Monthly reports, which are available to you upon request, are prepared and distributed to each Officer, Trustee and Treasurer. The Trustees also receive copies of the check registry so that they can review each check written on a monthly basis.

The local church is a powerful tool in the hands of our God. And we give thanks for our local church and how God has so richly blessed us!

See you Sunday,

## From the Turner Family

*Thank you for your many expressions of support and sympathy at Rucker's death. We appreciate the cards, the visits, the beautiful luncheon, and your presence at the funeral and visitation. We will appreciate your continued prayers.*

- Audrey, Ken, Wendell, and David

### 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.

### YOUNG AT HEART

Our next luncheon is Tuesday May 24 at 11:45 am. The menu will be sandwiches, salads and desserts. All food contributions will be greatly appreciated. We are planning a short devotional and a time of sharing.

### 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.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

##### May

- 19 Stated Session Meeting
- 22 Sunday School with missionary, Sheila Osborne
- 24 Young at Heart
- 29 5th Sunday Hymn Sing & Social

##### June

- 5 Lord's Supper
- 5 Missions Luncheon
- 6-9 Presbytery & General Synod
- 6 Men's Lunch
- 16 Stated Session Meeting
- 21 Young at Heart

### MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

#### 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
David Spaulding	5/20
Shirley Boswell	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

Matt & Britt Causey (13)	5/10
Bill & Fran Haynes (55)	5/14
David & Nicole Newton (12)	5/15
Larry & Lynn Causey (44)	5/20
Ferald & Betty Mann (49)	5/28

#### BULLETIN BOARDS

Please stop by the bulletin boards near the new narthex entrance. There you will find current announcements and recent notes of appreciation.

#### Nursery:

May 15: Fran Haynes & John Robinson  
May 22: Dot Hutelmyer & Vicki McPherson

#### Counter:

May 15: David Newton  
May 22: John Robinson

#### Deacon Duty:

May 15: Stephen Robinson  
May 22: Glenn Owens

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