

# First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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No. 9

## *From the Pastor:*

Dear Congregation,

Ready? Set. Go!

Do you remember these words from childhood games? I can remember them from grade school field days and three-legged races.

These words are also helpful for our congregation. Let me explain.

The first thirty days of a pastor landing in a new church are full of observation, learning and walking around. I'm slowly remembering names (keep telling me yours!). A meeting with the Deacons and another with the Elders has helped me gain perspective. I've attended various events and met with some of you already. Someone has led me around the inside and out of our facility, showing me which keys and thermostats serve their purpose. I'm learning - *getting ready*.

A good footing is important for starting a race. After a period of learning and evaluating, a new minister must get ready to run the race of ministry and congregational life. There's planning, communicating, getting resources in place and making all things ready for the next months.

And then...there are the words most greatly anticipated: *Go!*

What does that look like for us at First ARP Church?

Most of us operate around the school year. August through May, whether we are in school or not, seems to drive our sense of time.

August is coming. I would like for us to be up and moving by then with a robust plan for ministry. After *getting ready* (observation, learning and walking around) and *setting our feet* (planning, communicating, getting resources in place and making all things ready), we should be ready for a great year of ministry. *Ready? Set. Go!*

We will Worship together. Sermons, choir, handbells, participation in worship, keeping nursery, setting up for the Lord's Supper. There's so much to be done in order to do the main thing we were created to do and re-created in Christ Jesus for - *glorifying God*.

There will be a ministry of Discipleship. Opportunities to grow. Sunday school, Bible studies, counseling and more. Remember the Great Commission? Jesus says the church should teach Christians to obey all that has been commanded. There's much for us to learn, in fact, more than our lifetimes may allow!

Joyful interaction through various forms of Community will unite us together as we walk through life side-by-side. We should eat, pray, sing and serve together in various ways, recognizing the many and varied gifts of the body of Christ. It's a beautiful picture when it all comes together.

Opportunities for Mercy will abound. Inside our church, we will take care of one-another. Outside our congregation, we will have the opportunity to serve both locally and in the far reaches of the world. Our God is a God of mercy and we can reflect his image in us to others.

God asks that we be good Stewards of our time, our talents and our treasures. A body of many gifts useful for God's glory and one another's good is an important part of a church's life. We must use our financial and physical resources well. It takes time, service and money to operate a church. And so we will seek the Lord's will in these things.

What do we do all year? Worship, Discipleship, Community, Mercy and Stewardship!

What do we do next year? Same thing. Maybe a few tweaks to reflect what the Lord has presented to us. Every year thereafter? Same things.

*Ready? Set. Go!* Repeat cycle. By faith. For the Glory of God. In service to one another and the world around.

I am thrilled to be a part of this congregation. I can't wait to see what the Lord will do in us and through us.

Are you ready? I hope so!

Let's take the next sixty days or so to be *ready* and *get set*. And in August, let's *go!*

Together and for God's glory,



## WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR

On May 24 following the Worship service we look forward to a catered lunch in honor of Rev. Crotts and family in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to worship the Lord with us and join us for this time of fellowship!

The Crotts family will soon be moving into their new home. Their address is: 1230 May Court - Burlington.

### ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES AVAILABLE

We want to make sure that you can hear the spoken word and feel connected to the worship services. If you think you would benefit from using an assistive listening device during our services, please see one of the deacons to get more information. The units come with either a single earbud, or coil loop system that is compatible with hearing aids equipped with a Telecoil, T-Coil, or, TV Mode Switch. Additionally, you can bring your own headphone sets and plug into the devices.

### FROM THE SESSION

The Session met on Monday, May 4 with Pastor Crofts as our new Moderator. We had a very fruitful and encouraging meeting. One item of business to share with the congregation, for your awareness and prayers, is that we have been working with Presbytery and General Synod to ensure that our pastor's compensation is in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. Laws related to the ACA are changing often and so we give thanks for professionals in our congregation, as well as the resources of Presbytery and General Synod to assist us.

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will next be served on Sunday, June 7 during worship. The Session has determined that the sacrament will be served on the first Sunday of every month.

### YOUNG AT HEART

"Getting to know you" will be our theme on Tuesday, May 26 at 11:45. Our new Pastor Bryan Crofts will have the program. Fried chicken, a salad, baked beans and banana pudding will be provided. Any food contributions are always appreciated. Come and fellowship with our new pastor.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Ed and Lynn Limon are pleased to announce the birth of a grandson, John Atley Nicholson. The happy parents are Laura (Limon) and Seth Nicholson. Baby John was born on April 23rd; 8 lbs 3 oz, 21 in long. The Nicholsons will be moving from CA to Rhode Island this summer.

### WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The women's committee will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7:20 at church. Every woman of our church is welcome to attend. The next meeting is May 19.

### 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.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER NEEDS

**ILLNESS:** Please be in prayer for the following -- Tim Bessette; Owen Constable (Upcoming surgery May 18); Foy Evans; Gary, Hope, & Ben Gregory; Ellen Huffman (Upcoming surgery May 14); Peggy Mitchell; Margaret Owens; Margaret's sister Carolyn Turbyfill; Mary Renegar (Recent MOHS surgery); Kathryn Richardson (Graduation). **Remember all our shut-ins.**

**CHURCH NEEDS:** Pray for Rev. Bryan Crofts as he assumes pastorate of our church, and for the family's adjustment to a new home in Burlington.

**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

### 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.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Jan-April Contributions:	\$50,989.88
Jan-April Expenses:	\$49,385.03
Needed to Meet Budget Jan-April:	\$79,196.04

### MINISTRY REMINDERS

<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Counter:</b>
May 17: Karen Jones	May 17: John Robinson
Macon Baird	May 24: Jim Knox
May 24: Stephen Robinson	<b>Deacon Duty:</b>
Doug Cobb	May 17: Macon Baird
<b>Elder Greeter:</b>	May 24: Doug Glass
May 17: Bennett Richardson	
May 24: _____	