



From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

As I move around the congregation visiting homes, eating meals, teaching different studies, engaging in meetings and more, I see a lot of the day-to-day life of our church.

I have to remind myself periodically that I can't assume that all I see is seen by all. Only six of us attend Session meetings. A Wednesday ladies Bible study only includes those who participate, and they are all women, and so on.

When I write this newsletter each week, I hope to paint a picture of something in the church that is living, breathing and of benefit to you the congregation. It may be a report on a recent event. Sometimes it includes promotions regarding ways you can serve or be served. And sometimes there may be a teaching aspect, showing all of us something we need to know in order to be faithful.

Our Men's Lunch meeting on the first Mondays of the month and our Men's Gathering on various Thursday evenings have been studying Richard D. Phillips' *Masculine Mandate*. This is a book I have read several times and have used often with different groups of men.

The reason I love and use this book is simple: it takes the basic biblical reasons for man's creation by God and shows how men can faithfully serve God in this world.

Some of the topics we have covered in our study include: man made in God's image, man's calling to work and keep/guard creation, the requirement of God to serve others, work as a means to provide for others, the effects of sin on our God-given callings and the need for man to rule over the earth in a way that makes it productive. Recently, we just entered the subject of man in marriage.

Some might be tempted to say that these topics are basic, are already known and let's get on to something else. But they are fundamental teachings! They are necessary for all of life and we forget them. Even more far-reaching, our culture has lost its way in the basic areas of who we are and what God desires of us. My prayer is that these studies will affect us presently and for generations to come!

Our congregation being a part of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church nationally is also a part of a regional Presbytery including churches in the state of North Carolina. Our Summer Stated Meeting was held on Tuesday in the Huntersville ARP Church. Attending for our congregation were John Robinson and Jay Snow.

Presbytery day is always a long one - up early, on the road for a 100 miles or so, hard seating, lengthy meetings and back on the road again. It's a joy to see faces from our regional church, to eat a meal with friends only seen a few times per year and to make new friends in the Gospel ministry. Good fellowship also comes in the form of a long car ride with brothers from home.

Our church body met to approve a fine young man to serve a church as an associate pastor, we resolved some differences between men in conflict and we accomplished the usual dotting of i's and crossing t's of business that can only be taken up by the collective body of ruling and teaching elders. The Word of God was preached and testimonies were given regarding faith and call to ministry.

Lord willing our two new HVAC systems for the fellowship hall and education wing will be completely installed by week's end. The work began on Monday and we ought to give thanks to the Lord for provisions to care for our faculty and enjoy climate controlled space on the days we gather.

I hope to see you Sunday as we study Hebrews 10:26-31 in the morning and Psalm 21 in the evening. The Lord is gracious to feed us with his word - come empty and be filled!

Boyan

5th SUNDAY HYMN SING & SOCIAL

Please plan to join us on Sunday, July 31 as we enjoy a time of fellowship and encouragement as we sing together about God's goodness, faithfulness, and sovereignty in our lives as well as a time to enjoy ice cream & toppings!

CHURCH WORKDAY

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, July 30 and plan to meet at the church at 9 AM for some projects and necessary upkeep of our facilities.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

The fifth First Presbyterian Women's Ministries Retreat will be held this fall at Bonclarken on November 4-5.

The theme for the retreat is God's Marvelous Grace. Barbara Duguid who has written the book *Extravagant Grace*, will share her story of God's amazing grace. The purpose of this retreat is to grow in our understanding of God's Word and to have fellowship with our sisters across the Presbytery. The annual meeting for the Presbyterian is part of the retreat this year and is to be held after lunch on Saturday.

Details regarding the retreat are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. We hope you will consider joining us again for a time of Bible study, renewal and fellowship.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY- Evening Book Study

Women's book study will meet Tuesday, August 9, at 6:30 PM at Janice Richardson's home. We will share a pot luck meal and finish our book, *Extravagant Grace*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

July

- 21 Stated Session Meeting
- 30 Church Workday - 9 AM
- 31 5th Sunday Hymn Sing and Social, 6 PM

August

- 2 Women's Ministry Leadership Training
- 7 Lord's Supper
- 8 Men's Lunch
- 9 Women's *Extravagant Grace* Book Study, 6:30 PM
- 11 Men's Evening Gathering
- 13 Women's Tea
- 18 Joint Officer & Stated Session Meeting
- 21 Ministry Fair

August

BIRTHDAYS

Gage Roy	8/4
Josh Limon	8/11
Ossie Spaulding	8/12
Catherine Mangum	8/13
Stephen Robinson	8/13
Lorene Childrey	8/14
Hannah Baird	8/19
Betty Mann	8/19
Carolyn Pulley	8/19
Deborah McGrogan	8/20
Lola Knox	8/21
David Robinson	8/22
Freeman Baulding	8/24
Kaye Murray	8/25
Erin Cobb	8/29
Charles Seay	8/29
Foy Evans	8/30
Joyce Payne	8/31
Seth Spaulding	8/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jay & Julie Snow (30)	8/2
Kevin & Elizabeth Hutelmyer (12)	8/9
Ed & Lynn Limon (36)	8/10
Joe & Kaye Murray (62)	8/11
Erik & Kelli Ensley (11)	8/13
James & Carolyn Constable (29)	8/23
Chip & Sarah Wright (48)	8/24
Chris & Emily Hutelmyer (8)	8/30

MID-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience the contribution statements will be placed outside the sanctuary (piano side) on Sunday, July 24.

Nursery:

July 24: John Robinson & Dot Hutelmyer
July 31: _____

Counter:

July 24: Bill Haynes
July 31: Stephen Robinson

Deacon Duty:

July 24: Glenn Owens
July 31: Stephen Robinson

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