



From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

For the better part of the last year, our Sunday morning sermons have taken us through the great book of Hebrews. An author not known to us wrote a sermon-like letter to a group of Christians who needed encouragement to continue looking to Jesus as their Savior, not falling back into a religion that could not save them.

They must have been somewhat like the Israelites in the wilderness. After God had saved them from Pharaoh's slave labor camps, gave them a wondrous escape from the Egyptian army, and brought them to safety at the foot of a mountain where he could interact with them through Moses, they fussed. "Let's go back to Egypt. This following Yahweh business is much too hard. We did not sign up for this!"

Many in the audience of the letter to the Hebrews were counting the cost of following Jesus - loss of life, confiscation of property, disappearance of friends, inability to carry on business and so on.

Christians throughout the ages can identify with both the Israelite experience in the wilderness and that of the Hebrews. The Christian life is difficult! Satan is after Christians to defame, defraud, devour and destroy us. The world and all that it offers piques our interest for short-term gain and long-term, eternal losses. And our sin nature still at work in us (though quite subdued by the Holy Spirit) can bring us to points of despair, tempting us to quit following Jesus.

God won't have us quit! He will have us finish strong! What God starts he completes. The Gospel is not only about our eternal destiny but is a comprehensive plan by God from all eternity to save sinners. He loves us with a love that won't let us go.

Surely God is at work in our lives. He is mighty and in his powerful work we will make it safely to Heaven.

But there is work for each of us! We must press on, keep the faith, stay the course, stand firm, hold fast, make our calling and election sure and strive with all we have to finish the race.

God is at work and you are at work.

These next several weeks as we make our way through Hebrews 11, the chapter of the heroes of the faith, we will see that embracing God's promises is exactly what our forefathers in the faith have done. They looked to Jesus from far off and never did see him. We, however, have seen the full person and work of Jesus and we are called to do as they did - to keep the faith until we land safely on heaven's shores.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV)

See you Sunday as we continue to learn what it means to live by faith,

ANNUAL LADIES TEA (for all ages)

We are looking forward to this time of fellowship! Please join us on Saturday, August 13 at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Invite someone and bring a favorite tea cup to drink from.

LIMON MISSIONS UPDATE

This Sunday, August 14 during the 9:45 AM Sunday School hour we will meet in the Fellowship Hall where Ed and Lynn Limon will give a report on their missions trip to Mexico. Come hear their story!

MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, August 21

9:45 AM

In the Fellowship Hall

Come see opportunities for every member to serve and be served in the life of First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

CHOIR

Choir practice will resume on August 28 at 4:30 with a kickoff meal and rehearsal.

HANDBELLS

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:15 PM

CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST EVENTS

- 11 Men's Evening Gathering
- 13 Women's Tea
- 18 Joint Officer & Stated Session Meeting
- 21 Ministry Fair

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 4 Lord's Supper
- 12 Men's Lunch
- 14 Women's Bible Study
- 15 Stated Session Meeting
- 17 Homebound Basket Delivery
- 21 Women's Bible Study
- 22 Men's Gathering
- 25 Homecoming and Luncheon
- 27 Young at Heart Luncheon
- 28 Women's Bible Study

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 2 Lord's Supper
- 3 Men's Lunch
- 5 Women's Bible Study
- 6 Men's Gathering
- 11 First Presbytery Meeting
- 12 Women's Bible Study
- 13 Joint Officer Meeting
- 15 Fall Festival/Pig Picking/Outreach Music
- 19 Women's Bible Study
- 20 Stated Session Meeting

October continued

- 25 Young at Heart Luncheon
- 26 Women's Bible Study
- 30 5th Sunday Hymn Sing/Social

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Women's Bible Study
- 3-4 First Presbyterial Women's Ministry 109th Annual Mtg & Retreat
- 6 Lord's Supper
- 7 Men's Lunch
- 9 Women's Bible Study
- 10 Men's Evening Gathering
- 16 Women's Bible Study
- 17 Stated Session Meeting
- 19 Hanging of the Greens
- 24 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 4 Lord's Supper
- 4 Lessons and Carols PM
- 5 Men's Lunch
- 6 Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon
- 7 Women's Bible Study and Christmas Luncheon
- 8 Stated Session Meeting
- 11 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 15 Men's Gathering
- 18 Treat Bags & Christmas Caroling
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day Worship

Nursery:

Aug 14: Vickie McPherson & _____
Aug 21: John Robinson & _____

Counter:

Aug 14: Jim Knox
Aug 21: Ferald Mann

Deacon Duty:

Aug 14: Stephen Robinson
Aug 21: Glenn Owens

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

Online: firstarpburlington.org | www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington | Office Phone: 336-584-6929

Admin Office: gloria@firstarpburlington.org | Finance Office: finance@firstarpburlington.org | Pastor: pastor@firstarpburlington.org