



### *From the Pastor:*

A few weeks back I offered a challenge:

It takes a lot of hands to get the work of the church done and I'm looking for co-laborers! Our ministry operates on the labors of staff, elders, deacons and church members.

The Lord calls and gifts every Christian to work in the church (Ephesians 4:11-12, I Corinthians 12). Our theology teaches us that the communion of saints (see our Westminster Confession of Faith 26) is important - that we owe one another our gifts, graces, time, talents and resources to assist each other in Christian nurture and growth.

Our church ministry year cycles around the school year. As September approaches, we will reset ministry teams and committees to give all who'd like to serve a chance to jump on a team.

I also hope you have plans to serve the church in a specific way this next year. Typically we say that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. That figure does not match our biblical mandates or theological convictions. If that statistic is true, it means that 80% of the congregation is saying, "Serve me!" Our posture should be, "How can I serve others?"

Let me offer a challenge: In preparation for the August 21 Ministry Fair and the upcoming year, take out a slip of paper and write down the areas of the church where you have previously served, as well as the areas where you would like to serve in the future. Maybe consider adding one additional item to your list. Stretch yourself this year!

This Sunday morning at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall, there will be displays highlighting each Sunday School Class, opportunities to sign up for ministry teams or committees and information regarding upcoming various opportunities for ministry.

I hope that you will select a class for discipleship and community opportunities. You'll be glad that you did!

Our five areas of ministry that help give our church focus: Worship, Discipleship, Community, Mercy and Stewardship.

We 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.

Through the ministry of Discipleship, we have opportunities to grow in grace. 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 unite us together as we walk through life side-by-side. We 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.

Mercy Ministry takes place inside our church as we take care of one-another. Outside our congregation, we have the opportunity to serve both locally and in the far reaches of the world. Our God is a God of mercy and we reflect his image in us to others as we serve them.

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.

These aspects of the church need two things: 1) your participation and 2) the Holy Spirit's blessing.

Let's pray and serve together, looking to see what the Lord does in and through our church.

See you at the Ministry Fair on August 21!

## 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

### SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Homecoming is September 25. Plan to join us for the 11 AM Worship service and Lunch to follow!

### NEW ADDRESS!

Spc. Josh Limon  
51st MEDLOG  
Box 538  
APO, AE. 09898

Thank him for his service!

## 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
Erik & Kelli Ensley (11)	8/13
James & Carolyn Constable (29)	8/23
Chip & Sarah Wright (48)	8/24
Chris & Emily Hutelmyer (8)	8/30

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

#### August

- 18 Joint Officer & Stated Session Meeting
- 21 Ministry Fair

#### September

- 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

**Christmas in August!** Now is a good time to stock up on supplies for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Crayons, pencils, sharpeners, scissors, erasers, rulers, glue sticks, underwear, socks, tees, etc. Avoid large items like notebooks. Questions, call Joyce Payne 222-1133.

#### Nursery:

Aug 21: Carol Erb & \_\_\_\_\_  
Aug 28: Dot Hutelmyer & John Robinson

#### Counter:

Aug 21: Ferald Mann  
Aug 28: Stephen Robinson

#### Deacon Duty:

Aug 21: Stephen Robinson  
Aug 28: Glenn Owens

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