



From the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

Many of you were able to come out to the ministry fair on Sunday. It was great to see the sign-in pages begin to be filled as folks milled around the Fellowship Hall perusing the different options for ministry this next year.

All Ministry Fair displays will remain in the Fellowship Hall for the present. You may drop by each week as you are able and sign up for the opportunities to serve and be served. So many seem to be traveling of late - taking those last trips as summer comes to an end. If you missed the Ministry Fair last Sunday, be sure to drop by to look things over as you return to church.

Over the last few weeks I have made the challenge for every member to consider where they have served, where they are currently serving and where they might consider serving in the upcoming year.

It has been very encouraging to see folks place their name on a list, for members to inquire where they could best be used and to see new faces emerge showing desire to jump on board the service needs of the church. I'm always thrilled to see folks presently not engaged or less-engaged enter the life of the church in a more committed way!

You may not know where you fit in? If that's the case for you, call me or catch me on Sunday. Let's find a spot for you so that God's people will benefit from your service and participation.

My hope is that every member, in addition to attending the morning and evening services, will find a one place to serve and one place to grow. That might look like joining a Sunday school class, attending a men's or women's event, coming out to a workday, or taking part in a ministry team. God has created, redeemed and gifted every Christian to serve and has designed the teaching ministries of the church for every Christian to be fed in the knowledge of Christ.

One new endeavor for the fall is a Sunday School class for Young Adults. We have a large number of folks in their late teens, twenties and thirties. If you fit into that category (even loosely!), plan to join us in the Hospitality Room on Sunday, September 4 at 9:45. No topic has yet been selected, however, we will gather and as we visit, see what the needs of the group are and tailor make a course for the class.

This opportunity is a great chance for our younger adults to engage more deeply in the life of the church, to get to know one another and to learn from the Word in a place where biblical/theological conversation will help us navigate us through the hardships and challenges of life. Additionally, this forum is a good place to bring a friend who may not be in church or who is asking serious questions about faith and life.

Each Sunday on my mind are the various conditions and life settings each of our members are facing. On a given Sunday, in our congregation, all sorts of difficulties are on the minds and hearts of our people: death, sickness, financial struggles, vocational needs, relational issues, chronic illness or pain and so much more.

Let me encourage you to think and act differently on Sundays. We have six days to work, fill out our calendars, watch our favorite shows and even chit chat about our favorite teams. Sunday is a special day: we gather in the Lord's house, on the Lord's Day with the Lord's people. It's a foreshadowing of what heaven will be like - fellowship with God and our fellow saints. And we have the opportunity to be of encouragement to all who come in heaviness, weariness and mourning.

Make yourselves available to one another - come early, stay late, let conversations linger. Plan to lunch with someone every week. Especially think of those in our midst who don't go home to a family but to an empty house. Expand and deepen your relationships in the church. Work hard at fellowship and getting to know your fellow travelers. The Israelites in the wilderness were stuck with one another - there was no getting away! We have the option to zip in and slide out - before we get to engage in someone's needs.

Friends, let's be the church as we march toward Zion together.

**MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS
CHOIR**

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

HANDBELLS

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

MEN'S BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Join us on September 12 at noon at Southbound Sandwich Works. Our discussion will be chapter 8 of *Masculine Mandate*. The Thursday evening Men's Gathering will meet to discuss chapter 5 of *Masculine Mandate* on Thursday, September 22 at 7 PM at Panera Bread.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY RESUMES!

The ladies Bible study will resume on September 14 at the church at 11 AM. Make plans to join us!

SAVE THE DATE!

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

SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART

Parenting Seminar with Dr Tedd Tripp.

When: September 9-10,
Friday: 7-9 PM
Saturday 9 AM - 12:30 PM

Cost: \$10 per person
\$15 per couple

Where: Harvest Baptist Church
3741 S Church Street
Burlington, NC 27215

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

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

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Bennett Richardson	9/1
Gwen Hilton	9/4
Libby Cobb	9/6
Karen Hayes	9/6
Jill Roy	9/6
Carolyn Crotts	9/7
Doug Cobb	9/15
Nicole Newton	9/18
Ariel Constable	9/19
Larry Isley	9/20
Jillian Roy	9/29
Beth Seay	9/30
John Snow	9/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Vicki McPherson (40)	9/4
Len & Jessica Sneed (17)	9/17
Charles & Beth Seay (35)	9/19
Tom & Lorene Childrey (56)	9/25

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.

NEW ADDRESS!

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

Thank him for his service!

Nursery:

Aug 28: Dot Hutelmyer & John Robinson
Sept 4: Vicki McPherson & _____

Counter:

Aug 28: Stephen Robinson
Sept 4: Bennett Richardson

Deacon Duty:

Aug 28: Glenn Owens
Sept 4: Stephen Robinson

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

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