



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

We have now made our way through a sermon series on life in the church.

At the outset we identified ourselves as the *church of God* - those called out of the world to live holy lives. As such, we are to be busy at five main activities in the church - *worship, discipleship, community, mercy* and *stewardship*.

Each Lord's Day, we begin our week in the Lord's House in *worship* together. This past Sunday evening, we had our first of weekly evening services. Lord willing, these will fill our souls with grace so that we have plenty of fuel for the weekly journey we'll all take before returning the next Sunday.

In addition to our weekly sermons and Sunday evening lessons, opportunities to grow in *discipleship* through the Scriptures are available to you. New Sunday School Classes will begin on September 6. On September 9, a weekly Wednesday Bible study on *Joshua* taught by Pastor Crotts will begin for our women at 11:15 AM. You may consult the printed schedule below for dates for the Tuesday evening book study for women. Soon, we hope to have a Men's Ministry announcement for growth and fellowship opportunities - stay tuned!

Hopefully you were able to pick up a copy of the September issue of Table Talk magazine - there is a copy available for each household and there are five copies of *The Reformation Study Bible* available in the Fellowship Hall for a cost of \$42.

Our life together in *community* takes place as often as we gather together around the Word and in Christ. I hope you can make time to be with your fellow Christians in worship, discipleship, at events like Young at Heart, workdays, choir, Women's studies and other venues for fellowship. We will be all the richer because we've done so and we do need one another!

Our ministries of *mercy* are important. We want to take care of our own, serve in our city & communities and be involved with world missions. Especially, we want to take the opportunity to pray for these things during our Sunday evening service.

Our use of what God has entrusted to our care - time, talent and resources - are our *stewardship*. We want to efficiently and effectively use these valuables in the life of our church.

Please be sure to sign-up for any ministry where you have interest to serve or to be served. The Ministry Fair displays will remain in the Fellowship Hall through September 6 and you may express your interest in these ministries through that time.

The Session will meet on September 10 to formally constitute ministry teams and committees. Appropriate training and preparations will be made to get these wonderful ministries up and running. Our desire is that each ministry be well-done for God's glory and the good of our congregation. We are an outpost of heaven and desire to serve the Lord well in ways that reflect the one whose image we bear.

Also, make note of the First Saturday Workdays our Deacons have planned, the first being September 5. There will be something for every age and ability as we wash windows, swap the nursery and a classroom, and pressure wash some exterior surfaces. It will be good to work on our facility and be together.

Please don't hesitate to call the pastor or your Session or Diaconate with any questions you may have. We would love to help you serve our Lord and his people here at First ARP Church!

God has blessed us - we have Christian worship, a glorious Gospel, a first-class facility in a strategic location, excellent Christian people, varied gifts and financial resources at our disposal. Let's be all-in as we see what God will do in, through and with our church.

For Christ's Church and Glory,

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

August		
30	Missions & Outreach Committee - 3 PM	
30	Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social - 6 PM	
September		
5	First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon	
6	Sunday School Classes Begin - 9:45 AM	
6	The Lord's Supper	
8	Women's Ministry Book Study - 7:00 PM	
9	Women's Ministry Bible Study Begins - 11:15 AM	
10	Stated Session Meeting - 6 PM	
17	Joint Officer Meeting - 7 PM	
22	Young at Heart Luncheon - 11:45 AM	
26	Missions & Outreach Cookout - 4 - 8 PM	
October		
3	First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon	
4	The Lord's Supper	
13	First Presbytery at Christ Church Denver, NC 10 AM	
13	Women's Ministry Book Study - 7:00 PM	
16-18	Womens' Ministry ARP Fall Retreat at Bonclarken	
18	Homecoming and 50th Anniversary Meal following Worship.	
27	Young at Heart Luncheon - 11:45 AM	
November		
1	The Lord's Supper	
1	Annual Congregational Meeting (tentative date)	
7	First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon	
10	Women's Ministry Book Study - 7:00 PM	
29	Hymn Sing and Social - 6 PM	
December		
1	Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon - 11:45 AM	
5	First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon	
6	The Lord's Supper	
4	Christmas Lessons & Carols with reception to follow - 7 PM	
8	Women's Ministry Book Study - 7:00 PM	
20	Christmas Caroling after Evening Service	
24	Christmas Eve Service - 5 PM (tentative time)	

Directories are available at each narthex entrance to the sanctuary.

THANK YOU

Both our family and the Lankfords would like to thank the congregation for the prayers, cards, notes, food and love expressed to us since the passing of Tammy's dad, Jack Lankford. It was a blessing to receive such kindness at our time of loss and we feel thankful for having such a supportive and loving church family.

-Tammy, Doug and Steven Cobb

MINISTRY COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

Christian Education Committee (all ages)
Electronic Technology Committee
Event Assistance Team & Kitchen Assistance Team
Mens' Ministry Team (NEW!)
Mercy and Hospitality Team (NEW!)
Minister's Assistance Team (NEW!)
Mission & Outreach Committee
Music Ministry
Property Appearance Committee
Women's Ministry Team
Young at Heart Ministry Team

PAINTING OF NATIVITY

In the rear hallway of the Sanctuary Wing is a large, original oil painting of the nativity. It was painted 25 years ago by a friend of the Crotts family. The artist, Wanda Locke, was born in Michigan and was a Chippewa Indian. She was married to Ted, had 5 children, and spent her life painting oil landscapes. After her conversion mid-life to Jesus Christ she painted a few Biblical scenes, this nativity being a rare one. She passed away in 2012 from cancer. Please take a moment to study the picture!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Harold and Shirley Boswell
Mandy Crotts
Carolyn Crotts
Patrick Crotts
Martha Ann Crotts
Audrey Sneed
Caleb Sneed

(Pastor Bryan Crotts is a member of First Presbytery)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES-*beginning 9/6/2015*

Elementary Class - John Robinson, Julie Snow
Singles & Doubles Class - Bennett Richardson, Jay
Snow-*Westminster Confession of Faith*
Adult Topical Class-Doug Glass, *How People Change*
Ladies' Bible Class - Jean McKinnon, *Adult Quarterly*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER NEEDS

- We give thanks for the Ministry Fair and our first Sunday evening service - both well attended and joyful events
- Pray for the Session as they prepare to lead the congregation through the 2016 budget process and as our updated Ministry and Policy Manual is implemented in the life of the church.
- Lift up our Deacons as they serve the body of Christ in stewardship of our facility, material needs and support for all ministry events.
- Pray for Catherine Mangum's daughter Laura Moss to make a full recovery from illness. She is at Liberty Commons.
- Pray for the unemployed to find work that uses their gifts.
- Ask that our caregivers may persevere in their labors of love.
- Lift up those who are chronically ill, that they may find grace in their hour of need.
- Pray for our aging members who experience various health-related trials.
- Ask that God would give parents faithfulness in raising their children.
- Remember our homebound members who are unable to enjoy our worship and fellowship.
- Marion Angel, Theo Baulding, Hope Gregory, Doris Haywood, Bill Huffman, Jim & June Little, Mary Lou McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery and Rucker Turner.
- Give thanks for those who serve our church in various ways.
- Ask God to help each of us to live holy lives before the watching world as a witness to Christ Jesus.

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES: Andy & Nannette Howard (Pakistan), Jeff & Lisa King (Spain), Ali & Tara Mitchell (ARP Connect), Jubilee Birthday Ladies – Sheila Osborne & Nannette Howard

LOCAL MISSIONS: Jesse Wesselink (International Students, Inc), Siloam Missionary Homes, Alamance Pregnancy Center, Allied Churches, Meals on Wheels.

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
Jim Little	9/20
Betty Bessette	9/22
Jillian Roy	9/29
Beth Seay	9/30
John Snow	9/30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Vicki McPherson (39)	9/4
John & Cheryl Greeson	9/17
Len & Jessica Sneed (16)	9/17
Charles & Beth Seay (34)	9/19
Tom & Lorene Childrey (55)	9/25

MINISTRY REMINDERS

Nursery:	Counter:
Aug 30: Nicole Newton	Aug 30: John Robinson
Fran Haynes	Sept 6: Stephen Robinson
Sept 6: Jessica Richardson	Deacon Duty:
Donna Wolff	Aug 30: David Newton
	Sept 6: Stephen Robinson

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