



From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

The next two Sundays will have special themes to our Lord's Days as we gather to worship.

Since our denomination is observing September as Evangelism Emphasis Month, on Sunday, September 18, we will hear from God's Word about our duty as a church and individuals to fulfill the Great Commission.

The following Sunday, September 25, we will celebrate our 51st year of ministry at our annual homecoming Sunday. Our Synod's Moderator has chosen as his emphasis theme for the year "Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength" and so our sermon for worship will be on that topic from Jesus' teaching on the Great Commandment.

Also on Homecoming Sunday at 9:45 AM during the Sunday School hour, we will have the Moderator of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church speak to us about this year's spiritual emphasis. Phil Williams, a ruling elder from Covenant of Grace ARP Church in Winston-Salem is our moderator and his topic will be "Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength".

A luncheon will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall - the church will provide ham & turkey and we request that all who wish to bring a dish provide a fall-themed side. Dot Hutelmyer will be coordinating the meal, so please contact her if you have questions.

Many thanks to all who have visited the Ministry Fair and have signed up to participate in the ministries of the church this year! Lord willing, the Session will meet this week to put shape to each team and ministry so that we can soon begin the year of service together.

On Wednesday, September 21, we will have a Ministry Team kick-off event at 7:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. For those planning to serve on a team or who have the desire to assist a particular ministry, this event is for you! The Session will present the established ministry teams, there will be a brief primer on how Ministry Teams work, the Deacons will present 2017 budget request worksheets and each team will be dismissed to discover the scope of their work and to begin on the year ahead. Each team either assists the work of the Session or Diaconate in their various areas of ministry.

Ministry teams include: Music Ministry, Christian Education, Nursery, Mission & Outreach, Young at Heart, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Audio Visual, Electronic Technology, Hospitality and Mercy, Event Assistance & Kitchen Upkeep, Properties Appearance and Minister's Assistance.

For your long-range planning please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

- Fall Festival & Pig Picking to be held on the afternoon of Saturday, October 15
- Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social on Sunday, October 30 at 6 PM
- Hanging of the Greens on Saturday morning, November 19
- Christmas Lessons and Carols at 6 PM on Sunday, December 4

Especially make plans to bring guests with you to the October 15 and December 4 events.

Blessings to you this week!

HOMEcoming 2016

This year's Homecoming Sunday will be Sunday, September 25. At 9:45 AM during the Sunday School hour, we will have the Moderator of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church speak to us about this year's spiritual emphasis. Phil Williams, a ruling elder from Covenant of Grace ARP Church in Winston-Salem is our moderator and his topic will be "Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength". Our 11:00 AM worship service will include a sermon from Pastor Crofts on the same theme. A luncheon will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Ham and turkey will be provided. If you are able, please bring a fall-themed side item (vegetable, bread, relish, fruit, stuffing, etc.), dessert or beverage (tea, lemonade, soft drink) to share. Contact/coordinator is Dot Hutelmyer.

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.

YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart will next gather on Tuesday, Sept 27 from 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM with guest Sgt. Gregg Turner of the Burlington Police Department presenting a program on safety for seniors, community watch, scam protection and Burlington police statistics. Come prepared to ask questions. This luncheon will be a traditional covered dish, so please (if you are able) bring a favorite meat, vegetable, fruit, salad, or dessert to share! We are looking forward to a blessed time of fellowship. Love, Margaret and Glenn.

NURSERY WORKERS

We are in need of volunteers for our Nursery ministry. Please contact Vicki McPherson for more details. Vicki's email address is: vickimac@triad.rr.com.

MINISTRY TEAM KICKOFF

September 21 at 7:15 PM. This event is designed to help the different ministry teams get started !

Want to serve folks in our community?

We participate in Meals on Wheels locally and are in need of volunteers. Please consider partnering with Glenn & Margaret Owens and Gary Gregory in monthly deliveries. Our upcoming commitments are: Sept 26, 27; October 24, 25; November 21, 22; December 19, 20. Speak to the Owens about serving - 336-269-3055.

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Bennett Richardson	9/1
Gwen Hilton	9/4
Libby Cobb	9/6
Karen Hayes	9/6
Jill Roy	9/6
Carolyn Crofts	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

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please be sure to drop by the Narthex on Sunday mornings over the next few weeks to have an updated church directory picture taken.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

September

- 12 Men's Lunch
- 15 Stated Session Meeting
- 21 Ministry Teams Kickoff
- 22 Men's Gathering
- 25 Homecoming and Luncheon
- 27 Young at Heart Luncheon

October

- 2 Lord's Supper
- 3 Men's Lunch
- 5 Women's Bible Study
- 6 Men's Gathering
- 12 Women's Bible Study
- 15 Fall Festival/Pig Pickin
- 19 Women's Bible Study
- 20 Stated Session
- 25 Young at Heart
- 26 Women's Bible Study
- 30 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social

Nursery:

Sept 18: Carol Erb & Dot Hutelmyer
Sept 25: Fran Haynes & Macon Baird

Counter:

Sept 18: Bill Haynes
Sept 25: Jim Knox

Deacon Duty:

Sept 18: Stephen Robinson
Sept 25: Glenn Owens

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