



From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

Isn't it funny that sometimes we don't know why we do what we do the way we do it? But we just do it... anyway!

Often the meanings behind the ceremony are lost to us. Why are wedding ceremonies the way they are? Or funerals? Or church services?

What about homecoming? For me, this is the first church that I've been a part of that has observed such a Sunday. It's a nice tradition; a good way to preserve important past history.

It is good to remember important events. In the Bible, Israel is given signs and markers to help remember and observe milestones.

Rocks were piled up when the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground, making their entrance into the real estate promised so many centuries before to father Abraham.

Ceremonies and holy seasons were given to them by God to remember and observe special acts of God's redemption in their lives. For example, the Passover is a reminder of bitter slavery and joyful rescue.

We give and receive rings in marriage ceremonies to serve as signs and reminders, not only of the covenant made between man and wife, but of the greater covenant between God and mankind.

This Sunday is set apart for the worship of God - as usual, but also to remember with thanksgiving 51 years of First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The church was organized on January 1, 1965.

Why do we do this? Several reasons: It's good to remember. It's good to give thanks! It's good to give opportunity for people to return to a place that meant something to them in a previous season of life. It's good to celebrate God's goodness and provision.

I hope that many can come to all of our events: the special Sunday School class with our Synod's Moderator, our worship service and the meal to follow.

Let's mark well the goodness of God in our church life: fifty-one years of ministry, two handfuls of ministers, many ordained officers, over 2,600 morning worship services, youth groups, mission trips, baptisms, discipleship, fun events, births, weddings, deaths, hardships and triumphs.

We can say with Asaph in Psalm 73, "Surely God is good to Israel."

See you Sunday.



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

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

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

During the Sunday School Hour - 9:45 AM on Sunday, October 2, we will have guest Betty Stevens. She is the Area Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child and will speak to us about this international ministry and our participation in the work.

CHURCH WORKDAY

A Church Workday is scheduled for Saturday, October 8 at 9 AM. There will be chores and projects for all ages and skills. Speak to Glenn Owens if you have any questions. Some projects include cleaning out the pews on the organ side, unclogging gutters/downspouts, and making repairs to our roof runoff drainage system.

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.

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

Kelli Ensley	10/2
Becky Sneed	10/7
Margaret Mann	10/8
Macon Baird	10/11
Ed Limon	10/11
John Harris	10/13
Anne Garner	10/14
Len Sneed	10/17
Jay Snow	10/19
Tammy Cobb	10/20
Matt Causey	10/22
Jay Christopher	10/24
Chuck Renegar	10/25

ANNIVERSARIES

Macon & Katherine Baird (20)	10/12
Mark & Donna Vestal (22)	10/22
Mark & Amy Sanderson (31)	10/26

Dear ARP Friends,

Thank you for the prayers, get well cards and phone calls since my surgery. First ARP members are the greatest! I'll be at home a few more weeks but hope to see you soon. God bless!

Jondeen Terry

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

September

- 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 25: Fran Haynes & Macon Baird
Oct 2: _____

Counter:

Sept 25: Jim Knox
Oct 2: Steve Kyaw

Deacon Duty:

Sept 25: Glenn Owens
Oct 2: Stephen Robinson

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