



From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

In the book of Revelation, churches are referred to as lampstands (see chapters 1-2). God has local churches, gatherings of God's people, as a visible witness to himself. So long as churches faithfully preach the Gospel and live repentant lives, God maintains a witness through them.

Churches exist to encourage saints, provide the preaching of the Word, administer the sacraments and to make possible worship for the people of God.

February of this year marked fifty years of ministry through First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. We have been a lampstand in our area for half a century!

In 1965, a group of Christians gathered for prayer in homes, worshipped in a retail space at Cum-Park Plaza and at the Agriculture Building in Graham, before moving into the present building in 1966.

Rising liberalism in the church - biblically, theologically and culturally - led a group of believers to strike out on their own and they soon affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

On October 18, our church will be having our annual homecoming celebration. All of them are special, but this one is sure to be a great milestone.

Fifty years is a long time! It is a golden milestone that we should mark well.

In an age of short shelf life, we should not forget the blessings of a fifty year ministry. What we enjoy today at First ARP Church is built upon a couple of generations of hard working folks who, blessed by God, made our church work. It is often said that the church is built with grace, grit and gumption. That certainly is true for First ARP Church.

Aren't we thankful for a fine facility, a rich history in the community, a succession of ministers and the sons and daughters of the church who are still following the Lord faithfully - here and across the world?

We also look forward to another 50 years! Let's pray for faithfulness to the Gospel, steadfast living in the midst of a crooked and depraved world and that our generations after us would worship the Lord as we do today.

And let's celebrate well on October 18. A special Sunday School Class for all will help us remember our past. Worship will be special as we celebrate the steadfast love of the Lord in our church. Rev. Jamie Hunt, Moderator of the General Synod of the ARPC and retired minister from Coddle Creek ARPC in Mooresville will be our guest preacher. His theme will be, "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls" from Jeremiah 6:16.

Afterwards, we will eat together in the Fellowship Hall. A catered meal will be provided. Please invite those whom you know have been associated with the church through the years. Bring a friend or neighbor.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will be administered this Sunday as part of our morning worship service. The Lord's Supper is for those who have been baptized in the Name of the Triune God, have publicly professed their faith in Christ, and are members of an evangelical church. Children who have not yet made a profession of faith and united with the church should refrain from taking the elements.

DIRECTORY UPDATE Address Change

Harold and Shirley Boswell
2234 Sweetbay Cr
Burlington NC 27215

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COOKOUT

Join us this Saturday, October 3 from 4-8 PM for good food and fellowship. We will have a food collection for the Foodbank. Please bring one or more nonperishable food items. Those coming who desire could bring chips or dessert. We will provide meat, buns, and condiments, fixings. Men interested in helping with grilling or providing a grill please speak to Stephen or Macon.

1st Saturday Workday

Join us Saturday morning, October 3 from 9 -12 as we work together to maintain our buildings. We have several projects in mind.

GREATER VISION BANQUET

The Piedmont Rescue Mission's **Greater Vision Banquet 2015** will be October 15, 2015, 6PM at the National Agents Alliance Building, 1214 Turrentine St., Burlington, NC. The meal is catered by Golden Corral. Please join us for an evening of fellowship as we learn about this vital ministry in our community. Please see the flyer on the bulletin boards. The Keynote Speaker is Robert Amaya, *Co-Star* in the movie *Courageous*, "Jaiver Martinez." There is no cost for your meal. However, this is the main fundraiser for the rescue mission, so a generous donation is appreciated. Please see Glenn or Margaret Owens if you plan to attend.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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 and Katherine Baird (19)	10/12
Mark and Donna Vestal (21)	10/22
Mark and Amy Sanderson (30)	10/26



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

October

3 First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon
 3 Missions & Outreach Cookout - 4 - 8 PM
 4 The Lord's Supper
 7 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
 8 Stated Session Meeting - 7 PM
 13 First Presbytery at Christ Church Denver, NC
 10 AM
 13 WM Book Study - *Extravagant Grace* - 7:00 PM
 16-18 Womens' Ministry ARP Fall Retreat at
 Bonclarken
 18 Homecoming and 50th Anniversary
 Meal following Worship.
 21 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
 22 Called Session Meeting - 7 PM
 27 Young at Heart Luncheon - 11:45 AM
 28 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM

November

1 The Lord's Supper
 4 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
 4 First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon
 7 WM Book Study - *Extravagant Grace* - 7:00 PM
 10 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
 11 Annual Congregational Meeting
 15 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
 18 Hymn Sing and Social - 6 PM

December

1 Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon - 11:45 AM
 2 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM
 4 Christmas Lessons & Carols with reception to
 follow - 7 PM
 5 First Saturday Workday - 9 AM - Noon
 6 The Lord's Supper
 8 WM Book Study - *Extravagant Grace* - 7:00 PM
 9 WM Bible Study - *Joshua* - 11:15 AM - Luncheon
 20 Christmas Caroling after Evening Service
 24 Christmas Eve Service - 5 PM (tentative time)

Nursery:

Oct 4: Nicole Newton and Fran Haynes
 Oct 11: Dot Hutelmyer and John Robinson

Counter:

Oct 4: Jay Snow
 Oct 11: Jay Snow

Deacon Duty:

Oct 4: Doug Glass
 Oct 11: Stephen Robinson

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