



First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 16, 2017 VOL. 45 ISSUE 31

For God's glory, First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is a group of believers united in Christ endeavoring to make disciples and proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in the Burlington area and throughout the world.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

It takes many hands to accomplish the work of the church and I'm looking for co-laborers! Our ministry operates on the labors of staff, elders, deacons and church members.

The Lord calls and gifts every Christian to work in the church (Ephesians 4:11-12, I Corinthians 12). Our theology teaches us that the communion of saints (see our Westminster Confession of Faith 26) is important—that we owe one another our gifts, graces, time, talents and resources to assist each other in Christian nurture and growth.

Our church ministry year cycles around the school calendar. As September approaches, we will reset ministry teams and committees to give all who'd like to serve a chance to jump on a team.

I hope you have plans to serve the church in a specific way this next year. Typically we say that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. That figure does not match our biblical mandates or theological convictions. If that statistic is true, it means that 80% of the congregation is saying, "Serve me!" Our posture should be, "How can I serve others?"

Let me offer a challenge: In preparation for this Sunday, August 20th's Ministry Fair and the upcoming year, think and pray about an area of the church where you'd like to serve. It may be re-engaging in a ministry where you served previously or seeing a need in the life of the church and desiring to fill that gap. Some of you have reached a point where you may not be able to offer what you once were able to do. Don't forget that small things do add up! Faithfulness in the life of the church comes in many forms. Your prayers, cards, encouragement and support *do matter much* to this church body—even if from a distance or from your chair at home. So don't let a challenge cause you to think that you can't meaningfully participate from your God-given limitations! And we do stand on the gracious foundation laid by those periods of service from days gone by.

This Sunday morning at 9:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall, there will be displays highlighting each Sunday School Class, opportunities to sign up for ministry teams or committees and information regarding upcoming various opportunities for ministry.

I hope that you will select a class for discipleship and fellowship opportunities. You'll be glad that you did!

Our five areas of ministry that help give our church focus are: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Mercy and Stewardship.

~We **Worship** together. Sermons, choir, handbells, participation in worship, keeping nursery, setting up for the Lord's Supper. There's so much to be done in order to do the main thing we were created to do and re-created in Christ Jesus for—glorifying God.

~Through the ministry of **Discipleship**, we have opportunities to grow in grace. Sunday school, Bible studies, counseling and more. Remember the Great Commission? Jesus says the church should teach Christians to obey all that has been commanded. There's much for us to learn, in fact, more than our lifetimes may allow!

~Joyful interaction through various forms of **Fellowship** unite us together as we walk through life side-by-side. We eat, pray, sing and serve together in various ways, recognizing the many and varied gifts of the body of Christ. It's a beautiful picture when it all comes together.

~**Mercy** ministry takes place inside our church as we take care of one another. Outside our congregation, we have the opportunity to serve both locally and in the far reaches of the world. Our God is a God of mercy and we reflect his image in us to others as we serve them.

~God asks that we be good **Stewards** of our time, our talents and our treasures. A body of many gifts useful for God's glory and one another's good is an important part of a church's life. We must use our financial and physical resources well. It takes time, service and money to operate a church. And so we will seek the Lord's will in these things.

These aspects of the church need two things: 1) your participation and 2) the Holy Spirit's blessing. Let's pray and serve together, looking to see what the Lord does in and through our church.

See you at the Ministry Fair on August 20 during the Sunday School hour!

THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

HEALTH & STRENGTH:

Connie Bennett (Parkinson's)
Macon Baird (recovering from surgery to remove throat cancer, radiation treatment)
Theo Baulding (relief from hip pain)
Jean Cathey (recovering from eye surgery)
David Huffman (recovering from detached retina repair surgery)
Lola Knox (healing from cancer)
Ferald Mann (pain relief)
Grady Pack (oxygen levels return to normal & stabilize)
Christine Roberts (Ed Limon's sister, alzheimers, moved to Fayetteville VA Home)
Mike Limon (Ed Limon's brother, recovering from open heart surgery)
Audrey Turner (strength)
Cindy Wright (healing from infection, strength, healing with R.A.)

OTHER NEEDS:

Karen Hoke as she prepares to move on or before September 1st.
Foy Evans' daughter, Justine Robare to find suitable employment now that they have moved to Elon
Margaret Owens as she mourns the loss of her mother, Mildred Turbyfill
Shauneen Roy as she recovers from vehicle crashing into her home
Nicole Newton & children after the loss of David, provision, wisdom
Ask God's blessings on our church elders, deacons, staff, & volunteers as they lead & serve.

FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Barber, Theo Baulding, Jean Cathey, Foy Evans, Doris Haywood, June Little, George McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery, Gene Parks, Mae Wilburn, Al Wright

FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Dottie Latta

RETURNING STUDENTS, TEACHERS

EMERGENCY WORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, ARMED FORCES:

Ask for God to grant wisdom for those who serve in seats of authority: parents, earthly masters, governors, judges and officers of the law.

Josh Limon, stateside; Steven Mendiola, Middle East (wife, Maggie & Baby Girl)

LOCAL CHURCH: Adams Farm Community Church (A.R.P.), Jamestown, Pastor Brian Howard

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: Piedmont Rescue Mission
Campus Outreach Elon

MISSIONARIES: MT 3—the A.R.P.'s Missionary branch, World Witness' Mobile Theological Training Team
Andrew & Norene Brunson in Turkey; pray for his release from prison

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES: First Presbytery Church Extension

FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, August 19	Moving Day for Foy Evans & Justine Robare - 11 A.M.
Sunday, August 20	First ARP Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Hall - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday, August 20	Choir practice resumes at 5 P.M.
Tuesday, August 22	Young at Heart - 11:45 A.M.
Tuesday, August 22	Table Talk - 7 P.M.
Sunday, August 27	Simple Supper (sandwich fixings)
Sunday, September 3	Lord's Supper
Wednesday, September 6	Cat Kids - <u>5:30 P.M.</u>
Wednesday, September 6	Handbells practice resumes - 6:30 P.M.
Monday, September 11	Men's Lunch @ Southbound - 12 noon
Monday, September 11	Men's Evening Gathering @ Panera - 7 P.M.
Tuesday, September 12	Ladies' Evening Bookstudy - 7 P.M.
Wednesday, September 13	Ladies' Bible Study - 11 A.M.
Wednesday, September 13	Cat Kids - <u>5:30 P.M.</u>

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 24	Homecoming & Luncheon
Saturday, September 30	Operation Christmas Child Box Packing - 4 P.M., Fellowship Hall
Saturday, October 14	Fall Festival
Tuesday, October 19	Piedmont Rescue Mission Banquet - 6 P.M.
Saturday, November 25	Hanging of the Greens - 9 A.M. (Breakfast provided)
Wednesday, November 29	Lessons & Carols Rehearsal - 6 P.M. (Supper provided)
Sunday, December 3	Lessons & Carols - 6 P.M. (Reception to follow)
Sunday, December 17	Christmas Caroling & Treat Bag Delivery - 6 P.M. (cookies & hot chocolate to follow)

BIRTHDAYS

Hannah Baird	August 19
Betty Mann	August 19
Carolyn Pulley	August 19
Lola Knox	August 21
David Robinson	August 22
Freeman Baulding	August 24
Foy Evans	August 30
Joyce Payne	August 31
Seth Spaulding	August 31

ANNIVERSARIES

Carolyn & James Constable	August 23
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**Don't forget this Sunday, at 9:45 A.M. during the Sunday School hour, we will have
First ARP's Annual Ministry Fair.**

This is your opportunity to discover the ministries our church offers and to sign up!



 **All hands on deck!** 

Foy Evans & his daughter, Justine Robare need your help as they move from Raleigh to Elon on this Saturday, August 19. If you can assist for a few hours, beginning at 11 A.M., please let Pastor Crofts know. Their address will be 525 S. Williamson Ave., Elon, NC 27244.

 Young at Heart 

Young at Heart meets Tuesday, August 22, at 11:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Stephen Crofts will report on his recent trip to China! Lasagna is on the menu; please bring sides to accompany.



RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

Westminster Theological Seminary Bookstore is a ministry of Westminster Theological Seminary (WTS), in Glenside, PA. Their mission is to distribute biblically rich, theologically robust, and pastorally relevant books to God's people. They spend an enormous amount of energy sifting through the thousands of books published each year to find ones that glorify Christ and build up his church. There are many helpful books on their shelves, but the Bible is the only one that needs no caveat. The *English Standard Version (ESV)* is the fruit of more than 100 of the world's leading Bible scholars, and is their first recommendation for personal reading and study, for private and family devotions, and for teaching, preaching, and worship. You can shop online at wtsbooks.com.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Piedmont Rescue Mission is Alamance Rescue Mission for men, Alamance Pregnancy Services for women & babies, Grace Haven Ministries for youth & Good Samaritan Thrift Store where you shop/donate items to benefit these ministries! The Good Samaritan Store # 1 is at 1636 N Church St., Burlington, NC 27217 & the phone number is 336-229-4900. (piedmontrescuemission.org)

C O—Campus Outreach—began in 1978. By God's grace, the ministry has grown to 27 franchises in 100+ campuses in 16 states & 9 countries. **C O** desires to work along side parents & the local church to reach college students with the gospel as well as encourage leadership development. Locally, David Springer heads up this group on Elon University's campus. Visit campusoutreach.org for more information.

	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
August 20:	Anne Garner & Vicki McPherson	Glenn Owens	Larry Isley
August 27:	Lynn Limon & Jondeen Terry	Jay Snow	Stephen Robinson

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