



# First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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*We are a group of believers, united in Christ, for the glory of God, proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, to Burlington and to the world.*

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

An excellent question to ask any organization that has existed for a length of time is this: are we a mission or monument? To answer that question and be honest is only half of the necessary task. To take realistic and necessary action to arrest a trend or trajectory is a whole other matter.

A mission means that a clearly defined purpose is stated, embraced and on pace to fulfillment. We see mission statements in all sorts of places—our physicians, schools, auto service departments, restaurants, and other entities clearly state the reason for their existence. My church home as a child has the mission “to know Christ and to make Him known.” Ours states, “We are a group of believers united in Christ for the glory of God proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to Burlington and to the world.” It is one thing to have a mission statement, it is another to have a gathering of people who embrace it, love it, bleed it, speak it, fulfill it and enlist others to join the effort.

A monument describes an organization that has lost its way and has become an institution. The bills are paid, doors remain open, the structures maintained, committees exist and the mission statement may even have a place of prominence. Gone are the passion and effectiveness.

Every organization has cycles in its lifetime and her leaders and team members must constantly be vigilant in order that they remain on mission and adjust as necessary for sake of viability.

Another excellent question for a church is, “Are we doing all that Jesus commands that his church do?”

In Revelation chapters 2-3, Jesus writes seven letters to seven churches. Each letter is addressed to a specific congregation. The whole church today can take lessons from each letter! Jesus writes each to encourage, rebuke, challenge and offer either blessing or punishment for their follow-through of his requests.

His encouragements are worthy—“You’re faithful, you’re fearless, you’re not fainthearted. You reject evil.” His rebukes are needed—“You’ve lost your first love. False teachers and heresy have infected your local body. You are too tolerant of wickedness. Your church is lukewarm.” His challenges give direction—“Be faithful unto death. Be zealous. Repent!” His promises are motivating—“Conquer and overcome, and I’ll give you eternal life!”

The officers of the church have spent time this year asking several important questions: *What is our mission? What are our values? What is needed to accomplish that mission? How may we involve our congregation in accomplishing our mission? What decisions need to be made in order to position our church for long-term viability?*

In order to present this information to you, the Session of First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is calling a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 9:30 AM, for the purpose of informing the congregation regarding the mission, values and vision of the church leadership and engaging all of us in the work of First A.R.P. Church as it seeks to accomplish her mission. This gathering will take place in the Fellowship Hall in place of Sunday School classes and there will, of course, be good breakfast food and drinks provided.

I hope that you will make plans to attend, take notes and participate in the exciting opportunity that our church has to accomplish her mission: *We are a group of believers, united in Christ, for the glory of God, proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, to Burlington and to the world.*

Our church will be 53 years old on January 1, 2018. With our investment in the present and future of our church, our church will by God’s grace celebrate a 100th anniversary in the future. I’ll be an old man by then, many of us will be gone and Lord-willing, a new generation of believers will be carrying on our same mission. The future of our church does depend on our present investment, prayers and faithfulness to God’s gift of First A.R.P. Church! Let’s all put this important date on our calendars and see what the Lord has in store for our church.

Hoping to see you on Sunday,

## THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### HEALTH & STRENGTH:

Connie Bennett (Parkinson's)  
Theo Baulding (relief from hip pain)  
Foy Evans (weakness)  
Sarah Gilmore (Jack Snow's finance's mother recovery from major surgery)  
Lola Knox (regaining of strength after cancer treatments, knee inflammation)  
Jim Knox (stroke recovery)  
Steve Kyaw (recovery from surgery)  
Ferald Mann (recovering well from surgery)  
Grady Pack (oxygen levels return to normal & stabilize)  
Margaret Owens (balance, recovery from dental surgery)  
Christine Roberts (Ed Limon's sister, alzheimers, moved to Fayetteville VA Home)  
Mary Renegar (breathing issues from COPD, skin cancer removal)  
Becky Sneed (broke right arm at wrist)  
Audrey Turner (procedure, pray for good results)  
Donna Wolffe (broke wrist)  
Cindy Wright (healing from infection, strength with & healing from R.A.)  
Hurricane Harvey & Irma recovery, & ARP Churches affected

### OTHER NEEDS:

Foy Evans' daughter, Justine Robare to find suitable employment now that they have moved to Elon

**May our love abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. (Philippians 1:9-10, ESV)**

### 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: Jean McKinnon

### 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, job search; Steven Mendiola, Middle East (wife, Maggie & Baby Aleighana born 8/16)

LOCAL CHURCH: Northside Presbyterian Church (PCA)

Pastor Jim Mitchell

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: (local) Alamance Pregnancy Services of the Piedmont Rescue Mission  
(regional) Jesse & Shayna Wesselink (International Students in Triad)

MISSIONARIES: Drew, Lauren, Geneva, Peter, Luke and Baby due 12/2017 Goodman  
(Pastor, Barry Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Wales)

Andrew & Norene Brunson in Turkey; pray for his release from prison

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES: For the Church of God to grow through  
the work of First Presbytery Church Extension and Synod's Outreach North America.

## FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, September 13	Ladies' Bible Study - 11 A.M.
Wednesday, September 13	Cat Kids - 6:30 P.M.
Sunday, September 17	Breakfast & Called Congregational Meeting - 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, September 17	Choir Practice - 5:00 P.M.
Tuesday, September 19	Table Talk (20's & 30's) - 7 P.M.
Wednesday, September 20	Ladies' Bible Study - 11 A.M.
Sunday, September 24	Homecoming & Luncheon
Tuesday, September 26	Young at Heart ♥ - 11:45 A.M.
Saturday, September 30	Operation Christmas Child Box Packing - 4 P.M., Fellowship Hall

### SAVE THE DATE

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 <b>Rehearsal</b> - 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

Doug Cobb	September 15
Ariel Constable	September 19
Larry Isley	September 20
Jackie Smith	September 24
Jillian Roy	September 29
John Snow	September 30

### ANNIVERSARIES



Check out First ARP on *FACEBOOK* for important events and newsworthy highlights!

[www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington](http://www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington)

**THE SESSION OF FIRST ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS CALLING  
A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017, AT 9:30 A.M.  
THE PURPOSE IS TO INFORM THE CONGREGATION REGARDING THE MISSION, VALUES AND VISION OF THE  
CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGE ALL OF US IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH  
AS IT SEEKS TO ACCOMPLISH HER MISSION.  
PLEASE JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.  
BREAKFAST FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.**



HOMECOMING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24! THERE WILL BE FELLOWSHIP MEAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE TO REMINISCE AND LOOK AHEAD! TURKEY & HAM AS WELL AS TEA, LEMONADE, & WATER WILL BE PROVIDED; PLEASE BRING FALL-THEMED SIDES TO ACCOMPANY!

♥ **Young at Heart** is Tuesday, September 26 at 11:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. ♥  
Lunch is potluck! Don Bolden, Editor Emeritus of the *Times-News* will be our speaker.

→ 📖 NEW BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE BOOK TABLE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH KITCHEN! 📖 →

- REFORMATION STUDY BIBLE, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION. • A LITTLE BOOK ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BY JOHN CALVIN,
- REFORMATION ABCs THE PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS OF THE REFORMATION-FROM A TO Z  
BY STEPHEN J. NICHOLS & NED BUSTARD. • MARTIN LUTHER A GUIDED TOUR ON HIS LIFE & THOUGHT BY STEPHEN J. NICHOLS



To donate towards **Hurricane Harvey & Irma Recovery** through the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church visit [arpnews.org](http://arpnews.org) and select **The Good Samaritan Relief Fund** or mail donations marked for **The Good Samaritan Relief Fund** to The ARP Center, 918 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Ste. 127, Greenville, SC 29607  
Also, the above mentioned website gives information on ARP churches affected by Hurricane Harvey & Irma.



### RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

REFNET (Reformation Network) is a 24-hour Christian internet radio featuring biblical preaching and teaching committed to the historic Christian faith. You can hear REFNET on the web at [refnet.fm](http://refnet.fm) or with the app on Google Play or at the App Store.

On REFNET you'll find PREACHING, TEACHING, SCRIPTURE, NEWS, MUSIC, & AUDIOBOOKS.

RefNet is an outreach of Ligonier Ministries.

### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Alamance Pregnancy Services is a Christian non-profit agency supported by donations from area individuals, churches, & organizations. It exists to help by offering free, confidential, caring consultation with the goal to provide clear & informative information to help an individual make an informed decision about a pregnancy. Alamance Pregnancy Services offers Bible classes, parenting classes, infant care classes, childbirth classes, counseling, maternity & baby needs. For more information visit [piedmontrescuemission.org](http://piedmontrescuemission.org) or call 336-222-9195. Donations needed include diapers size 5 & down, baby wipes, new & gently used baby clothing (newborn-4T), baby blankets, baby furniture, & NEW car seats.

	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
<b>September 17:</b>	Kathy & Laurie Isley	Jay Snow	Larry Isley
<b>September 24:</b>	Vicki McPherson & Joyce Payne	Glenn Owens	Glenn Owens

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