



# First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

VOL. 45 ISSUE 34

*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,

We have wrapped up our study of Heaven in the adult Sunday School Class. One question that has been asked a lot is this: do dogs go to heaven? Our recurring answer (and joke!) as good Calvinists is that "only elect dogs will be there". Since animals are a part of the new heavens and new earth, we can be sure that there will be animals of some variety. Kids want to know if dinosaurs will be there? Some of you with beloved pets want to know specifically about your animal. I'm pretty sure cats will not be there (that's a joke too!).

The Bible is not clear or specific about these things. Romans 8:19-22 does tell us that creation will be redeemed: "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now."

When God promises to make all things new, we understand that the entire world was cursed by sin and that curse will be reversed. We sing of this in Joy to the World when we express the thought, "No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found". This, we understand, is distinct from God's special creation and redemption of men and women. We are made in the image of God with souls that will last forever, and with a mind, heart and soul that must interact with God. God specially saves us to love and worship him and the rest of creation benefits from our redemption.

I ran across a wonderful quote from Martin Luther, the German monk who helped reform the church in the 16th century and through today. He says to his dog, "Be thou comforted, little dog, Thou too in Resurrection shall have a little golden tail."

Let me encourage you, whether young or old, to think about eternity often. Our minds are fixed on the here and now, and rightly so. This is where we are currently called to live, serve and be productive. One eye, though, should be on our eternal home! God revealed much about Heaven in the book of Revelation. His goal was to encourage Christians who were still living on earth and under the duress of life in this fallen world in the midst of a crooked and depraved generation. Reading it will help us see two main things: Jesus will have victory and we will enjoy the presence of God forever. Only we must trust Jesus and persevere!

Let me also encourage you to think about your funeral plans. A couple of weeks back, our study of Heaven led us through the topic of a Christian funeral service. I like to recommend to folks that they think about the Scriptures they'd like read, the songs to be sung and other special themes near and dear to their hearts. A funeral service is a time of worship, a witness to the promise of the resurrection, a place to be comforted by God and an opportunity to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name. If I've served at 80 funerals in 15 years of ministry, I would venture that half of the families had to struggle through what their loved one wished at their funeral. It can be a great service to your family to make your wishes known. Sometimes it's even good to sign a copy and put in a safe place, like your Bible, as well as leave a copy with the church office.

If you are interested in making such a plan, let me know! I'd be happy to drop by and talk these things over with you.

A few weeks back I mentioned that 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 foods 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.

This Sunday during the Sunday School hour we will hear from Joyce, Karen, and Lynn as they report to us about their July Short-Term Trip to Scotland and Wales. They travelled with World Witness of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to serve with Drew & Lauren Goodman at Berry Church in Wales and the Olsons in Leith, Scotland. I hope you can come out to hear what the Lord did in and through them! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 for their presentation. Lord-willing, see you on Sunday!

## THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### HEALTH & STRENGTH:

Connie Bennett (Parkinson's)  
Macon Baird (recovering from surgery to remove throat cancer, praise the Lord no radiation treatment)  
Theo Baulding (relief from hip pain)  
Sarah Gilmore (Jack Snow's finance's mother recovery from major surgery)  
Elizabeth—Denise Hummer's mother (health)  
Lola Knox (regaining of strength after cancer treatments)  
Steve Kyaw (bladder tumor, surgery on September 11)  
Mike Limon (Ed Limon's brother, recovering from open heart surgery)  
Ferald Mann (recovering from surgery)  
Grady Pack (oxygen levels return to normal & stabilize)  
Margaret Owens (balance)  
Christine Roberts (Ed Limon's sister, alzheimers, moved to Fayetteville VA Home)  
Mary Renegar (breathing issues)  
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.)

### OTHER NEEDS:

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

**Ask the Lord to raise future church deacons, elders, ministers, missionaries**

### 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: George McKinney

### 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 Aleighana born 8/16)

LOCAL CHURCH: Covenant Fellowship (ARP), Greensboro, NC

Pastor David Smith

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: (local) Ministry to Visiting Professors from China, Rev. Stephen Crotts

(regional): ARP Minister Chaplain (CPT) Leon Buchannan, Grafenwoehr, Germany

MISSIONARIES: Lisa & Jeff King & children, serving in Spain

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

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES: Moderator of General Synod Rev. Lee Shellnutt

## FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, September 6	Cat Kids - 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, September 6	Handbells Practice resumes - 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, September 9	Church Workday - 9 A.M. until...
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 Book Study - 7 P.M.
Wednesday, September 13	Ladies' Bible Study - 11 A.M.
Wednesday, September 13	Cat Kids - 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, September 13	Handbells Practice - 6:30 P.M.
Sunday, September 17	Breakfast & Called Congregational Meeting - 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday, September 19	Table Talk (20's & 30's) - 7 P.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

Libby Cobb	September 6
Karen Hayes	September 6
Jill Roy	September 6
Carolyn Crotts	September 7
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

Lynn & Tim Robinson	September 9
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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.**



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→  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  
—A GOOD READ TO CELEBRATE 500 YEARS SINCE MARTIN LUTHER NAILED HIS 95 THESIS ON  
THE CHURCH DOORS IN WITTENBERG, GERMANY.



To donate towards **Hurricane Harvey 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.



**RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT**

The Reformation Study Bible was the first Bible since the 1560 Geneva Bible to contain study tools rooted in the biblical doctrines recovered during the Protestant Reformation. Under the direction of Dr. R.C. Sproul, this foundational resource was created by more than fifty scholars. Since 2009, this valuable tool has been even more accessible with the availability of a Reformation Study Bible app for iPhone and iPad. This app, in addition to allowing you to carry the entire text of the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible with you wherever you go, provides easy access to more than 20,000 study notes on Bible verses & terms, introductions to the seven groups of biblical books, book introductions with outlines, 96 theological essays on central doctrines of Scripture. This entire resource is stored right on your phone for instant access without a network connection and is available from the iTunes store. The app includes features such as: fast keyword, phrase, and wildcard search; highlight verses in multiple colors, personalize verses with your own notes, & additional translations free: KJV, ASV, YLT, WEB, Darby, RVA, AA, free downloads: Greek NT, Mathew Henry's Concise Commentary, Easton's Bible Dictionary, Spurgeon's Daily Devotional, Thompson Topics, KJV with Strong's Web backup of notes and highlighting, direct, two-way Web synchronization, split screen view, verse tagging.

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|                      | <b>Nursery</b>              | <b>Counter</b> | <b>Deacon on Duty</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>September 10:</b> | Fran Haynes & John Robinson | Bill Haynes    | Stephen Robinson      |
| <b>September 17:</b> | Kathy & Laurie Isley        | Jay Snow       | Larry Isley           |

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