



First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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We are a group of believers united in Christ for the glory of God and a desire to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in Burlington and to the ends of the earth!

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Faith,

Like it or not, the holidays are here. Don't get swept away by the busy season!

One of my favorite stores, for the second year in a row, will be closed on Black Friday. It takes some nerve to shut down a revenue-seeking business on one of the most revenue-heavy days of the year. Their challenge is to do something different, *get outside*.

The next seven weeks can be a blur. Take care to make your plans in a way that allows for reflection about the wonder of the Son of God made flesh *for us*.

Our church family has a few events that you should be sure to include in your observance this year:

- Saturday, November 25 at 9 AM, come help hang the greens and get our building decorated for the Christmas days ahead.
- Sunday, December 3 at 6 PM in the Sanctuary will be our annual Lessons and Carols Service. There will be nine Scripture Lessons that show us the span of redemptive history in the Bible. We will sing Christmas Carols, hear from our Choir as they sing Christmas Songs and our instrumentalists will perform various sounds of the celebration of Christ's incarnation. There will be a reception following the service in the Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, December 17 at 6 PM is our annual Christmas Caroling venture to our loved ones in the church who are homebound. Gather just prior to our 6 PM departure from the Fellowship Hall and we will make our rounds, returning for cookies and hot drinks!
- Our sermon series for December 10, 17, and 24 will be the book of Ruth. This little book helps us see God at work - when there are barren wombs, empty silos, and utter helplessness, God comes to help, to redeem! These passages will also help us see that from creation in Genesis to fulfillment of creation in Revelation, God is at work on the stage of creation, showing his glorious plan of redemption for sinners. We will also sing through the hymnal's Christmas selections to help our hearts and minds focus on Jesus our Redeemer.
- Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, there will not be Sunday School or Evening Service.

In our Sunday School series on Martin Luther and the Reformation, we will continue through the remainder of the year to see the value and benefit of the work of the great Reformer. It has been a treat to experience and understand the rich history that we have as Associate Reformed Presbyterians.

Let's give thanks this season for what God has given us—a church that is reformed and always reforming—according to Jesus's standard, the Bible.

THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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)

Connie Bennett (Parkinson's, hip pain)

Theo Baulding (relief from hip pain)

Harold Boswell (rehabilitation after suffering a stroke)

Foy Evan (vertigo)

Anne Garner's grandson, Tyler Philipps (chemotherapy), (grieving at the loss of his grandmother, Bessie Philipps)

Fran & Bill Haynes' neighbor (cancer, faith in Christ)

Lola Knox (regaining strength after cancer treatments, scan results proved no change/next scan in January)

Jim Knox (stroke recovery, swallow test)

Steve Kyaw (chemotherapy—7 weeks)

Grady Pack (oxygen levels return to normal & stabilize)

Greg & Carolyn Pulley's grandson, Tommy (newly diagnosed with heart condition)

Mary Renegar (COPD, breathing difficulties)

Justine Robare, Foy Evans' daughter, (to find suitable employment locally)

Christine Roberts (Ed Limon's sister, adjustment to assisted living home & alzheimers)

Jill Roy (recovery from foot surgery)

Jondeen Terry (recovery from knee replacement surgery)

Cynthia Ward's son Mike

Donna Wolffe (broken wrist)

Cindy Wright (strength with & healing from R.A.)

Campus Outreach serving Elon students, Isaac Sasser & Peter Perkins; expansion to FL

Young adults & singles (good relationships, contentment)

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: Pat & Grady Pack

LOCAL CHURCH: Northside Presbyterian Church (PCA), Pastor Jim Mitchell

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: (local) Alamance Pregnancy Center

(regional) Jesse & Shayna Wesselink (International Students in Triad)

MISSIONARIES: Rev. Drew & Lauren Goodman, children Geneva, Peter, Luke & Baby due 12/2017

(Barry Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Wales)

Andrew and Norene Brunson suffering persecution in Turkey; pray specifically that he will be released by Christmas!

EMERGENCY WORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, ARMED FORCES:

Ask 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)

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.

Dear Church Family,

Although we've not come to the end of this health journey yet, we want to stop and thank you for your many prayers, the beautiful cards, visits, and words of encouragement. Please know how deeply we appreciate your love and friendship as we continue to go through Rehab, and we do believe the power of God's love will carry us all the way.

With grateful hearts,

Jim, Lola, and Family

FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, November 15	Ladies' Bible Study, chapter 7, <i>The Gospel According to Abraham</i> - 11 A.M.
Wednesday, November 15	Handbells Practice - 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, November 15	Cat Kids - 6:30 P.M.
Sunday, November 19	Sunday Morning Worship - 11 A.M.; No Sunday Evening Service
Saturday, November 25	Hanging of the Greens - 9 A.M. (Breakfast provided)
Saturday, November 25	Operation Christmas Child - 2-6 P.M. (Charlotte, NC)
Saturday, November 25	Deadline to <i>R.S.V.P.</i> to Lynn Limon to attend Raleigh Ringers Concert
Sunday, November 26	Sunday Morning Worship & Sunday Evening Worship - 11 A.M. & 6 P.M.
Sunday, November 26	Choir Practice - 5 P.M.
Wednesday, November 29	<i>Lessons & Carols Rehearsal</i> - 6 P.M. (Supper provided)

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 3	<i>Lessons & Carols</i> - 6 P.M. (Reception to follow)
Monday, December 4	Men's Lunch at 12 noon at Southbound Sandwich & Men's Evening Gathering @ 7 P.M. at Panera Bread
Tuesday, December 5	Young at Heart - 11:45 A.M.
Tuesday, December 5	Table Talk Christmas Party - 7 P.M.
Wednesday, December 6	Cat Kids Christmas Party - 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, December 9	Raleigh Ringers Christmas Concert - 3 P.M. (Duke Energy Performing Arts Center, Raleigh, NC)
Sunday, December 10	Congregational Meeting - 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday, December 12	Ladies' Evening Book Study Christmas Gathering
Wednesday, December 13	Ladies' Bible Study Christmas Luncheon
Sunday, December 17	Christmas Caroling & Treat Bag Delivery - 6 P.M. (cookies & hot chocolate to follow)

BIRTHDAYS

Laurene Howington	November 20
Martha Alexander	November 22
Ellen Huffman	November 24
Audrey Turner	November 24
Tim Robinson	November 25

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary & Chuck Renegar	November 22
Carol & Rick Erb	November 28



Operation Christmas Child boxes are due Sunday, November 19. The goal is 120 boxes. It's not too late to donate and have a box created for you.

Also, if you would like to volunteer at the Charlotte Processing Center on Saturday, November 25 from 12 noon-6 P.M.,

Speak with Joyce Payne, (336) 222-1133. (You can work in 3 hour increments.)

LESSONS AND CAROLS WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 6 P.M. WITH A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

THIS EVENT IS ONE TO MARK, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND DIG OUT YOUR FESTIVE WEAR (PLAID PANTS AND SWEATERS!). THE SERVICE WILL BE THE READ WORD OF GOD AND THE BEST OF SACRED CHRISTMAS MUSIC. THERE WILL BE READINGS FROM THE BIBLE THAT SHOW GOD'S WONDERFUL PLAN OF REDEMPTION (THE LESSONS) AND WONDERFUL SELECTIONS OF CHRISTMAS SONGS (THE CAROLS). THIS WILL BE A WONDERFUL EVENT TO INVOLVE THE WHOLE BODY AND TO GET OUR MINDS CENTERED ON THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS! THERE WILL BE A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL TO BRING A FINGER FOOD TREAT: VEGETABLE, FRUIT, SAVORY, OR SWEET!

Young At Heart is Tuesday, December 5 at 11:45 A.M.

Turkey, gravy, dressing, sweet potatoes, squash casserole & frozen fruit salad will be provided. Please provide additional vegetables, desserts or bread. (There is no Young at Heart in November.)



Table Talk Christmas Party for young adults is Tuesday, December 5 at the Crotts' home at 7 P.M. There will be a Scavenger Hunt, Bible Trivia & "White Elephant" Gift Exchange. Lasagna, salad & dessert is on the menu!



Cat Kids Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 P.M. We will have pizza and a "white elephant" gift exchange!



The Raleigh Ringers Christmas Concert is December 9 at 3 P.M. at the Duke Energy Performing Arts Center in Raleigh.



Tickets are \$15 for groups of 10 or more (\$17 individually). R.S.V.P. to Lynn Limon by November 25!

The Session has called the annual business meeting of the congregation for Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 9:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the 2018 Budget and hold elections for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Congregational Chair and Treasurer. Copies of the budget and the final ballot for officers will be distributed prior to the meeting by mail.



Ladies' Evening Book Study will have a Christmas Gathering at the Crotts' home on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 P.M.



Please bring an ornament to exchange—one you've made, one that tells of your history or one of symbolism.

Soup and salad will be served with Christmas peppermint & chocolate ice cream balls for dessert.



Ladies' Bible Study Christmas Luncheon is Wednesday, December 13 at 11 A.M. at the Crotts' home. Poppyseed chicken casserole or deli meat tray with salad & Christmas cake will be served. Please bring an ornament to exchange!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING & TREAT BAG DELIVERY IS PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 6 P.M.



HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES TO FOLLOW IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
November 19:	Vicki McPherson & Joyce Payne	Glenn Owens	Larry Isley
November 26:	Kathy & Laurie Isley	Bill Haynes	Glenn Owens

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