



# First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

VOL. 45

ISSUE 45

*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 Church Family,

Many thanks to all of you for your words and gifts of appreciation! Our family enjoyed reading through your cards on Sunday afternoon.

A teacher in seminary encouraged us to keep every card and note from folks throughout our ministry. I added the stack to what he suggested we call our “D-P” file, which stands for “depression file”. His encouragement was this: *When you face hard times in ministry and want to quit, read what folks have said has been beneficial to their spiritual growth. It will keep depression at bay!*

Each member family of the church should receive in the U.S. Mail this week a copy of the proposed 2018 budget for the ministry costs of the church. Also included in your mailing will be information about the nominations and election process for church officers and congregational servants. Please mark your calendars for **9:30 AM on Sunday, December 10, 2017**, for the Annual Meeting of the Church. This year’s schedule and location are different—during the Sunday School Hour and in the Fellowship Hall.

At each of the Town Hall Meetings held this fall, we have rallied around our church mission—note it’s listed above in blue. We have also noted our values. On notecards you wrote down various words that you believe describe what is near and dear to us as a church:

*Worship. Scripture. God. Christ. Community. Family. Service. Evangelism. Missions. Loving. Caring. Safe. God-centered. Reverent. Leadership. Peace. Reformed. Prayer. Essential. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.*

You also indicated areas of desired growth and ministry:

*Outreach to the community. Ministry to children. Training as ambassadors to reach out for church growth. Increased presence in the community through signs, advertising and social media.*

By God’s grace and our labor in the Lord’s fields, we can continue to worship, learn, grow, serve and reach the world for Christ.

This Sunday’s sermon will take us to our last “alone” statement: *Soli deo Gloria*—to God alone be Glory! It is also the first Sunday in our season of advent and so we will begin to sing Christmas hymns!

Be sure to join us at 6 PM in the Sanctuary for our annual Lessons & Carols event. Bring someone along and plan to enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall afterwards.

See you on the Lord’s day—

## THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Pray that the Word of God preached will cause us to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.**

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)

Steve Kyaw (chemotherapy)

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: Joyce & Russ Payne

LOCAL CHURCH: Hillside Presbyterian Church (ARP), Pastor Bill Prince

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: (local) Caring Kitchen

(regional) Shelia Osborne (Stateside/Short-Term Missions Coordinator)

MISSIONARIES: Lisa & Jeff King (Spain)

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)

Seth Nicholson, Marine (Limon's daughter, Laura's husband; deployment)

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES:

For the Church of God to grow through Erskine College & Seminary.

## FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES







Wednesday, November 29	Ladies' Bible Study, chapter 8, <i>The Gospel According to Abraham</i> - 11 A.M.
Wednesday, November 29	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols REHEARSAL</b> - 6 P.M. (supper provided)
Sunday, December 3	Sunday Morning Worship - 11 A.M. & <i>Lessons &amp; Carols &amp; Reception</i> - 6 P.M.
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



Mary Renegar	December 9
Carol Erb	December 13
Rick Erb	December 14
Jimmy Smith	December 14
Donna Wolf	December 15
Cynthia Ward	December 16
Shauneen Roy	December 19
Andre White	December 24
Caroline Baird	December 27
Kathryn Crotts	December 27
Maggie Mendiola	December 28
Mandy Crotts	December 30
June Little	December 30
Matt Erb	December 31



### ANNIVERSARIES





Carolyn & Graig Pulley	December 17
Margaret & Glenn Owens	December 20
Kathy & Larry Isley	December 22

   **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. Mandy & Bryan Crofts will present a Christmas program.*





 Table Talk Christmas Party for young adults is Tuesday, December 5 at the Crofts' 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 Crofts' 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 Crofts' 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.**

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	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
<b>December 3:</b>	John Robinson & Jondeen Terry	John Robinson	Glenn Owens
<b>December 10:</b>	Vicki McPherson & Joyce Payne	Stephen Robinson	Stephen Robinson

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2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

Online: [firstarpburlington.org](http://firstarpburlington.org) | [www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington](https://www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington) | Office Phone: 336-584-6929

| Pastor: [pastor@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:pastor@firstarpburlington.org) | Admin Office: [ministrycoordinator@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:ministrycoordinator@firstarpburlington.org) | Finance Office: [finance@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:finance@firstarpburlington.org) |