



First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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WE ARE A GROUP OF BELIEVERS UNITED IN CHRIST FOR THE GLORY OF GOD & A DESIRE TO PROCLAIM JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR & LORD IN BURLINGTON & TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

Merry Christmas to you! I pray that each of you are blessed this season by the hope of Jesus' first coming into the world to "save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray" and have both eyes on the sky for the second of Jesus, who says to us, "Behold! I am coming soon!"

Our study this past Sunday in Ruth 1 & 2 led us to see that God's grace often shines brightest in the darkness. This is a wonderful message for us and our world at Christmas 2017.

In this great short-story that takes place during the awful period of the Judges, we see how Israel's sin and the poor choices of individuals leads to God's judgment made manifest through warlord rule and severe famine. We also see God's mercy when folks turn to him in faith, believing that he will provide both food and offspring to his covenant family.

This Sunday, December 24 in the morning service (note that we will not have evening service this Sunday), we will look at the wonderful conclusion to the story—Ruth's marriage to Naomi's kinsman Boaz in Ruth 4 & 5. A foreigner—Ruth the Moabitess marries a righteous man of Israel. Naomi, formerly bitter and empty and left alone, will soon hold a baby grandson who is to be King David's grandfather. Greater than that, Jesus will be born many generations later and he will be the greater David, the Messiah of Israel!

I hope that each of you will see that the Lord is always at work in broader history, as well as in our individual lives and families. This is our Father's world and he orders every step of every man in such a way that he is glorified and we are cared for, redeemed and sanctified. You may be in a dark place—a famine of sorts, family issues, declining health or even spiritually, but our God never leaves or forsakes us, but cares for us well!

Merry Christmas!

THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Ask God's blessings on our church's Elders, Deacons, Staff, & Volunteers, as well as for Him to provide future leaders.

Pray for our church's growth in grace, as well as our witness to Christ and growth in membership in the Kingdom of God.

Connie Bennett (recovery from car accident, Parkinson's, hip pain)

Theo Baulding (relief from hip pain)

Harold Boswell (rehabilitation after suffering a stroke)

Jean Cathey (eye surgery recovery)

Foy Evan (vertigo)

Anne Garner's grandson, Tyler Philipps (chemotherapy)

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

Jim Knox (stroke recovery)

Steve Kyaw (chemotherapy)

Kay Moore (recovery from illness, heart-related)

Grady Pack (oxygen levels return to normal & stabilize)

Mary Renegar (COPD, breathing difficulties)

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

Cynthia Ward's son Mike

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

Campus Outreach serving Elon students, Isaac Sasser & Peter Perkins; expansion of ministry to Florida

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: Carolyn & Graig Pulley

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

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: (local) Piedmont Rescue Mission

(regional) First Presbytery Church Extension

MISSIONARIES: MT3—the A.R.P.'s Missionary branch, World Witness' Mobile Theological Training Team

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, Marines, waiting assignment (wife, Maggie & Baby Aleighana)

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

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES: Christian Education Ministries

FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, December 24	Morning Worship - 11 A.M., No Evening Worship Service
Monday, December 25	Christmas Day! (Offices closed.)
Tuesday, December 26	Church Offices open only today.
Sunday, December 31	Morning Worship - 11 A.M. & Evening Worship - 6 P.M.
Monday, January 1, 2018	New Year's Day! (Offices closed.)

BIRTHDAYS

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

Margaret & Glenn Owens	December 20
Kathy & Larry Isley	December 22

Our Treasurer, Laurene Howington, requests that all year-end giving that you wish to be included in 2017 be postmarked December 31 or received in the church office by the same date. She also notes her thanks to those who compensated for giving from the Sunday missed due to weather.

2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup beginning this Sunday.

The Church Offices will be open Tuesday, December 26th only & closed January 1, 2018.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Visit ligonier.org for articles and audio clips on *Remembering Dr. R.C. Sproul*.
 W. Robert Godfrey said of Dr. Sproul, "R.C. was a servant of Christ who was given remarkable gifts that he used for God's glory with extraordinary dedication. His many books and articles, his hymns, and his lectures and sermons displayed his profound learning, his vital faith, and his marvelous ability as a communicator."

Wisdom Wednesday from Reformed Theological Seminary is a weekly video series where relevant matters of the Christian faith are addressed by RTS faculty and friends with truth, candor, and grace. Check back each week for a new Wisdom Wednesday video from Reformed Theological Seminary, a seminary with a Mind for Truth and a Heart for God. Last week's episode is titled [How Can I Best Support My Pastor?](#) from Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III Chancellor & CEO John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology.

	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
December 24:	Macon Baird & John Robinson	Bill Haynes	Larry Isley
December 31:	Vicki McPherson & David Robinson	Stephen Robinson	Stephen Robinson

2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, NC 27215

Online: firstarpburlington.org | www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington | Office Phone: 336-584-6929

| Pastor: pastor@firstarpburlington.org | Admin Office: ministrycoordinator@firstarpburlington.org | Finance Office: finance@firstarpburlington.org |