



# First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 6, 2017

VOL. 45

ISSUE 46

*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 who made our 3rd Lessons and Carols service and reception such a wonderful blessing to God's people and our guests who attended. Big cheers and gratitude to our choir, musicians, bell ringers, Scripture readers and sound technician who all made the service so beautiful! And what a spread of food!

Remember that our annual business meeting of the church will take place this Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 A.M., in the Fellowship Hall at our planned Congregational Meeting. If you are a member of the church and did not receive a letter from your Session along with a copy of the proposed 2018 budget, please let me know. As you participate in the life of the church in this Sunday's meeting, please be in prayer for our church's needs to be met richly by Christ through his people—through our support of the budget for ministry, as well as by serving the church in various capacities. God uses us to accomplish his kingdom goals!

This Sunday will mark the beginning of a 3-week series on the book of Ruth. Many themes in the short-story show us the ravages of sin in the world and the great grace of God in his covenant love and mercy. There is certainly a contemporary Christmas message in the story of Ruth. Take time to read the little book—it's only four chapters.

On Sunday evening, we will study Psalm 59, which speaks of David's confidence in the Lord when Saul is outside his door to take his life.

In both services, we will continue to sing our way through the Christmas carols in our hymnal.

Keep our church family in your prayers—we have many who are suffering various trials and we all need the encouragement of fellowship in the Lord's grace.

See you on the Lord's Day,

## THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Ask God to help each of us to live holy lives before the watching world as a witness to Christ Jesus.**

Connie Bennett (recovery from car accident, 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)

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)

Jondeen Terry (recovery from knee replacement surgery)

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: Rachel Pelone

LOCAL CHURCH: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pastor Powell Sykes.

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: (local) Gideons Alamance West Camp, Al Whitlow

(regional) David Springer (Campus Outreach at Elon University)

MISSIONARIES: Nathan & Ashley Olson (Layman Serving the Church in Scotland)

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: Bonclarken is the denominations conference center, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western NC, with accommodations for groups up to 350.

**FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES**



Wednesday, December 6	Cat Kids Christmas Party - 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, December 9	Raleigh Ringers Christmas Concert - 3 P.M.
Sunday, December 10	Congregational Meeting - 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, December 10	Morning Worship - 11 A.M. & Evening Worship - 6 P.M.
Tuesday, December 12	Ladies' Evening Book Study Christmas Gathering
Wednesday, December 13	Ladies' Bible Study Christmas Luncheon
Sunday, December 17	Morning Worship - 11 A.M., Pack Goody Bags - 5:15 P.M., Christmas Caroling & Goody Bag Delivery - 6 P.M., (cookies & hot chocolate to follow)
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**

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

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

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 6:30 P.M., MEET AT HOLLY HILL MALL FOR FEED THE HUNGER'S PACK-A-THON!**



NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ARE GIVEN TO THOSE IN NEED IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD.

**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 have been distributed 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!*

**Drop off goodies in the Church Kitchen for our Homebound Members between now and December 17.**

**We will gather at 5:15 P.M. on the 17th to pack gift bags to be delivered at 6 P.M., during Caroling.**  
(mini tissue packets, mini hand sanitizers, hard candy, candy bars, apples, oranges, bookmarks, etc.)

 **CHRISTMAS CAROLING & TREAT BAG DELIVERY IS PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 6 P.M.**   
**HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES TO FOLLOW IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

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

## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

~In *PEACE: Classic Readings for Christmas*, author Dr. Stephen Nichols states “If we are looking for permanent and ultimate good will, love, and peace, we must look beyond our gift-giving, get-togethers, & office parties. We must look to no other place than to a manger.” It was Jesus Christ, the baby who was laid in that manger, who conquered sin and misery, establishing peace between God and man for all who trust in Him. Dr. Nichols reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas and the earthshaking implications of Christ’s appearance. This is available on [ligonier.org](http://ligonier.org) or [here](#).

~Sally Lloyd-Jones, author of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, has written [Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story](#) which is filled with joy, excitement, & celebration in all of creation at the coming of Jesus. Though, at the time, most of man-kind was unaware of Who was in that manger, the author has the animals join in with the poor teenage couple and ragged shepherds song of joy.

~A challenge to you: listen to Handel’s *Messiah* in its entirety this Christmas season and read a history behind George Frederick Handel! Visit [here](#) for the CD or find it live streamed on various sites. For a great, quick history of Handel read Opal Wheeler’s [Handel at the Court of Kings](#).

~[Christmas Carols for a Child’s Heart](#) has a brief history behind of the hymns and authors/composers and includes a fully orchestrated CD with children’s voices singing along with Joni Earekson Tada and Bobbie Woglemuth, and simple piano music with guitar chords.

~[Why Christmas?](#) by Barbara Reach attempts to answer why we celebrate Christmas. Most children do not know the true answer to that question or why God sent Jesus to live on earth. This is a helpful devotional with Scripture readings, memory verses, Christmas carols and questions to direct your child’s heart towards God. The readings, which begin on the first day of December, are Biblical, short, and effective. Colorful illustrations illuminate the events of the incarnation. This book will provide parents with the assistance they desire for leading their child to the Christ of Christmas.

### A quote by C.S. Lewis

**“In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity; down further still, if embryologists are right, to recapitulate in the womb ancient and pre-human phases of life; down to *the very roots and seabed* of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders.”**

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	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
December 10:	Vicki McPherson & Joyce Payne	Stephen Robinson	Stephen Robinson
December 17:	Vicki McPherson & Joyce Payne	Larry Isley	Larry Isley

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