



First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 10, 2018

VOL. 46

ISSUE 2

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 Friends in Christ,

It is good to make a plan and work that plan! Sometimes, however, our plans don't go through! Last month we scheduled our annual business meeting for the congregation for December 10, but the winter weather we experienced kept us from holding it that day. A week later, our rescheduled meeting was held but we lacked a sufficient number of the church membership to conduct any business.

The book of James tells us to make our plans but also seek the Lord's favor (see James 4). So, *Lord-willing*, we will have our annual meeting in the Sanctuary this Sunday, January 14, after worship. Our membership stands at 187 and one-quarter of those members must be present to transact business, therefore, requiring 47 members to be present. If you are able to stay this Sunday, please do participate in this important aspect of Presbyterian church life and responsibility.

Our Income for 2017 totaled \$240,271.37. This includes all gifts to the General Fund, as well as giving towards additional requests made this year for Benevolence and Short-Term Missions. Additionally, the church bus was sold to the local mission *Christian Adventurers Youth Ministries* for a sale price of \$10,000, which is included in the total income reported above. You may read their newsletter from July [here](#) and see how our old bus is serving their ministry.

Expenses for 2017 totaled \$267,442.32 and include disbursements to our denomination for special offerings, funding four participants in short-term mission trips, and operating the ministry of the church from a General Fund budget. Our General Fund called for \$264,514.90 in spending but we held our expenses in those categories to \$259,188.84.

A quick review of ministry in 2017 includes our twice-weekly worship together and learning from *Philippians*, *Psalms*, *Job*, *the Protestant Reformation*, and *The Importance of the Church*. We were able to serve others by sending four people on short-term missions to the U.K. and Mexico and hosting First Presbytery's Spring Meeting. Growing together in the Lord, we held various fellowship study groups. We operated our wonderful faculty, assisted those in need, and participated in denominational efforts in the areas of missions, church planting, Christian higher education, and more!

The Lord uses all of us to make the ministry of the church possible. It takes the labors of our members, officers, and staff using their time and spiritual gifts. Additionally, your financial gifts to the church this year, as well as your additional "\$5 Challenge" gifts, made our ministry possible. A hearty "thanks!"

Let's thank the Lord for being "willing" to let us carry on the work of the church here and across the lands. And, Lord-willing, see you on Sunday!

THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Pray that we would live by the Spirit & put off the old self and on the new & that we would lead for Christ in our spheres of influence.

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

Ask the Lord to be kind and merciful to Kay Moore as she suffers from heart arrhythmia and undergoes a procedure to correct it. Praise the Lord for sustaining his church in 2017. May the Lord bless us in 2018 so that we are faithful and effective in our Kingdom labors.

Pray for the Owens as they mourn the loss of Margaret's father and Glenn's sister.

Jean McKinnon requests prayer for her niece Janet Wilson who is suffering from pancreatic cancer.

Remember Harold and Shirley Boswell as he continues to recover from a stroke. Ask for strength for Shirley as she maintains her home and daily tends to Harold's care (now at Brookdale).

Pray for health and strength for James Constable's mother, Lori Graham.

Thank the Lord for bringing visitors to our church. Ask that our fellowship and worship and discipleship would be a bright spot in the community as people seek a church that is God-centered, Christ-exalting and Scripture-saturated.

Lift up those with chronic illnesses: Connie Bennett (Parkinson's), Cindy Wright (Rheumatoid Arthritis), Gene Parks (Parkinson's), Mary Renegar (COPD), Foy Evans (vertigo & heart issues)

Ask that God would make us more Godly so that our lives will bear witness to the transforming power of the Gospel of Christ.

Pray for Jim and Lola Knox as they adjust to life and health care with Jim at home.

Remember in prayer those with upcoming health and diagnostic tests: Lola Knox and Steve Kyaw

Remember in yours prayers our visiting Elon students: Isaac Sasser (studying in Spain & Morocco), Peter Perkins (Baseball)

Ask for God's grace & wisdom for our young & single members who are searching for relationships & seeking to please God in their lives

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: John Robinson

LOCAL CHURCH: Covenant Fellowship (ARP), Pastor David Smith

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: ARP Minister Chaplain (CPT) Leon Buchannan, Grafenwoehr, Germany

MISSIONARIES:

Andrew and Norene Brunson suffering persecution in Turkey; pray for his release from prison!

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: Moderator of Synod Lee Shelnett

FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, January 14 Sunday School, 9:45 A.M., Morning Worship, 11 A.M.,
Congregational Meeting, immediately following Morning Worship,
Evening Worship 6 P.M.
- Sunday, January 14 Choir practice, 5 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 10 Ladies' Bible Study, 11 A.M.
(chapter 10, Iain Duguid's *Living in the Gap Between Promise & Reality*
The Gospel According to Abraham)
- Monday, January 15 Joint Officer Meeting, 7 P.M.
- Tuesday, January 16 Table Talk for young adults, 7 P.M., the Crotts' home
- Wednesday, January 17 Ladies' Bible Study, 11 A.M.
(chapter 11, Iain Duguid's *Living in the Gap Between Promise & Reality*
The Gospel According to Abraham)
- Tuesday, January 23 First Presbytery meets at Coddle Creek ARP, 10 A.M.
- Wednesday, January 24 Cat Kids, 6:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 31 Handbells choir practices resume, 6:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 31 Cat Kids, 6:30 P.M.

BIRTHDAYS

Alex Constable	January 14
Grady Pack	January 19
Julie Snow	January 20
Dottie Latta	January 24
Theo Baulding	January 25
Harold Boswell	February 4
John Robinson	February 7
George McKinney	February 10
Margaret Owens	February 10
Jan Burwell	February 15
Karen Hoke	February 17
Lynn Limon	February 18

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Cathy Young	February 3
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ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS 2017 ARE READY AND MAY BE PICKED UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Issues of January & February Table Talk devotional are available at the Sanctuary entrances and at the Book Table near the Fellowship Hall.

2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup in the North Narthex of the Sanctuary.

Sunday School for Adults will complete Luther & the Reformation. A new study will begin January 21.

THE POSTPONED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FROM DECEMBER 10 WILL BE AFTER WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 14. 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.

Save the Date: Family Bible Conference 2018 is July 23 - 26, 2018, at the Bonclarken Assembly Grounds.

T. David Gordon is the main speaker.

He is the author of [Why Johnny Can't Preach](#) & [Why Johnny Can't Sing Hymns](#).

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

[The Loveliness of Christ](#) by Samuel Rutherford comes highly recommended by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson as he quotes Rutherford—“ ‘Christ is a well of life, but who knoweth how deep it is to the bottom?’ Find encouragement, wisdom and ... in these devotional excerpts from the letters of Samuel Rutherford. Here some of his most helpful thoughts are allowed to stand out in their unadorned wisdom and power.” Samuel Rutherford was a Scottish Christian in the 17th century and Dr. Ferguson claims this to be one of his family’s most referenced books for encouragement.

	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
January 14:	Kathy & Laurie Isley	Ferald Mann	Glenn Owens
January 21:	Sandra Johnson & Darrell Plyter	Larry Isley	

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