



First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 3, 2018

VOL. 46

ISSUE 1

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 Beloved in Christ,

We have rushed up to Christmas and now are headlong into the New Year.

The holidays can be a blur. We shop, party, carol, worship, visit, travel and rush until the hush of Christmas Eve arrives.

The world somehow still stops on that special night as it prepares for the anticipated day. I recollect many chilly, starry Eves. The world stops its flurry. The hum of the interstate is magically hushed, save for the few who must remain on the road.

Christmas Day is special but it can be busy with excited early risers who've anticipated Christmas for some time. There may be a special meal or two as family & friends gather. For some reason there are sports teams that will play a special game that day. But the day is still different.

And then...it's all over! The after Christmas advertisements beckon us to "save more money." Political rhetoric picks up where it left off. The headlines report the usual activity of a dark and dying world. Some must return to work. Household chores never end!

All season long we sing *Joy to the World*. It is a song that we can sing *all year long*. Isaac Watts, the great hymn writer, based this Gospel-centered carol on Psalm 98. The tune is from the great composer George Frederick Handel.

Take a moment to read the Psalm in its three sections: *Verses 1-3* teach us that we should sing praise to God our Redeemer - *all year* and *all life long*! *Verses 4-6* call the whole world to enter into the praise of God. *Verses 7-9* extend the praise of God to parts of creation.

As you reflect on the Psalm and Christmas Hymn, as well as enter the hustle and bustle of 2018 with a world gone awry from sin, consider the confidence we have as Christians. Our Scriptures teach us to look to God in praise for many reasons, one important one: *He will come to judge the world and make all wrongs right!*

Keep humming the hymn in 2018!

THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Ask for God to grant wisdom for those who serve in seats of authority: parents, earthly masters, governors, judges and officers of the law.

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

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 Margaret Owens as she and her family mourn the loss of her father. He passed away on December 29.

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.

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)

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

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: David Robinson

LOCAL CHURCH: Grace Hill Church (ARP), Pastor Ross Durham

MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: ARP Minister Chaplain (CPT) Mike Basic, Vicenza, Italy

MISSIONARIES: Foreign Mission - that the name of Jesus would be faithfully preached across all lands

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: World Witness and all fronts/leaders, Alex Pettett

FIRST ARP CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, January 7 Sunday, January 7, Sunday School, 9:45 A.M., Morning Worship, 11 A.M., Evening Worship 6 P.M.
- Sunday, January 7 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be served during Worship.
- Sunday, January 7 Choir practice, 5 P.M.
- Monday, January 8 Men's Lunch, 12 noon, Southbound Sandwich Shop; Men's Evening Gathering, 7 P.M., Panera Bread
(chapter 11 of J.I. Packer's *18 Words: the Most Important Words You Will Ever Know*)
- Tuesday, January 9 Ladies' Evening Book Study, 7 P.M., @ the Crotts' home (supper provided)
(chapter 3 of Elyse Fitzpatrick's *Idols of the Heart*)
- Wednesday, January 10 Ladies' Bible Study is Wednesday, 11 A.M., at the church building.
(chapter 10, Iain Duguid's *Living in the Gap Between Promise & Reality The Gospel According to Abraham*)
- Sunday, January 14 Sunday School for Adults will complete Luther & the Reformation. A new study will begin January 21.
- Sunday, January 14 Congregational Meeting after Worship in the Sanctuary
- Monday, January 15 Joint Officer Meeting, 7 P.M.
- Tuesday, January 16 Table Talk for young adults, 7 P.M., the Crotts' home
- Tuesday, January 23 First Presbytery meets at Coddle Creek ARP, 10 A.M.
- Wednesday, January 24 & 31 Cat Kids, 6:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 31 Handbells choir practices resume, 6:30 P.M.

BIRTHDAYS

Arie Wright	January 1
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

Issues of January's 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.

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

Now That's a Good Question! by R.C. Sproul: Over the years, R.C. Sproul's students have asked him countless questions. Now you can read his answers to more than 300 of these questions. Topics include theology, apologetics, the Bible, philosophy, and personal and cultural ethics. While the answers are brief, they all display the depth and breadth of learning, reasonableness, wit, and commitment to God's Word that characterize R.C.'s approach to teaching and ministry.

WORLD VIEW Seeking Grace and Truth in Our Common Life by Marvin Olasky: As Editor-in-Chief of World Magazine, Marvin Olasky has offered his views on current events and culture for more than 25 years. In this collection of columns, he shows readers how Christians can speak biblical truths while also living out the biblical values of grace and mercy in today's world.

	Nursery	Counter	Deacon on Duty
January 7:	Vicki McPherson & Mandy Crotts	Glenn Owens	
January 14 :	Kathy & Laurie Isley	Ferald Mann	

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