

The Link

The Newsletter for First A.R.P. Church

January 23 — February 5, 2011



SOUP SUNDAY FOR YOUTH MISSIONS

Sunday, January 23

8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Homemade vegetable beef soup will be available for dine-in or take-out after the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, January 23rd. Only take-out will be available after the 8:30 service. The cost will be \$5.00 and \$10.00 depending on the size. All proceeds will go toward our youth summer mission trip to Nashville.

FIRST A.R.P. BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, February 1

2:30—7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



To register, see Vicki Marsh on the breezeway between Sunday services or you can give her a call at 704-867-2139.

NO FRILLS FRIDAY

Friday, February 4

6:00—8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

In one of C. S. Lewis' Screwtape Letters, a senior demon instructs a junior demon in leading people astray. The senior demon's strategy was, "Keep them busy."

Such a strategy not only works to keep people from Christ but to keep Christians from the things of Christ. We are not only too busy for our own souls but for the mission that Christ has given us.

Jesus gives us a simple aim for life. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt. 6:33). It is a life of freedom and simplicity. Sadly, many of us are so focused and busy on all the other things of this world, we end up replacing the joy and freedom of Christ's kingdom with the anxieties and discouragement of this world.

Why live a life that seeks Christ and His kingdom? What does such a life of simplicity and mission look like? How can we make changes to move to an inward and outward simplicity of life and living?

On Friday night, February 4, Matt, Alex and Eddie are going to shed light from God's Word on a life of mission and simplicity. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a time of Bible Study.

It is a No Frills Friday night, as there will be no supper, nursery or children's ministry. We want to simply study and pray together. Feel free to bring your own supper or simply fast. The night would be worth investing in childcare if you have children.

Sunday Morning Greeters

January 23 — (8:30) Bill & Annabelle Kelly (11:00) Tete & Bet Pearson

January 30 — (8:30) Bill & Annabelle Kelly (11:00) Paula Dixon & Lil Summerville

Sunday Morning Coffee Servers

January 23 — Bet & Tete Pearson

January 30 — Betsy Smith

Sunday Morning Worship Attendance

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 12	268	355	623
December 19	206	345	551
December 26	Services canceled due to inclement weather		
January 2	195	326	521
January 9	200	365	565
January 16	169	350	519

Ushers for 11:00 Service

January — Tom Balsom (head), Jack Lear, Jerry Best, Kennon Kiser

Wed. Prayer Luncheon Menu (12 Noon)

January 26 — pork chop, pinto beans, slaw, dessert

February 2 — country style steak, mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, salad, dessert

Wednesday Prayer Luncheon Helpers

January 26 — Dee Cain, Peggy Starr, Anne McAllister, Jocelyn Estep

February 2 — Vicki Marsh, Jo Anne Parker, Gayle Goodrich, Peggy Smith

Wednesday Night Menus (5:30 p.m.)

January 26 — chicken tenders, BBQ beans, coleslaw, French fries, tossed salad, dessert

February 2 — spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, French bread, dessert

Wednesday Night Money Collectors

January 26 — Gayle Goodrich

February 2 — Marlene & Leonard Walls

Medical Transportation Ministry

Do you need a ride to your doctors appointment?

Call Loretta Horne at 704-864-5527

LAPTOP COMPUTER NEEDED

If you have a laptop computer that you would like to donate to a worthy cause, please call Oscar Whitescarver at 704-868-4934. Someone he knows has the opportunity to go to college but he needs a laptop.



If your birthday is in January and it was not listed in the last Link, *please forgive us*. It was not intentional. See below:

Joe Knowles 1/1
 Seppi Bernet—1/2
 Jim Maynor 1/2
 Jennifer Fallin—1/3
 Lydia Newman—1/3
 Jennifer Gallagher—1/4
 Kathy Watkins—1/4
 Gus Connor—1/5
 Dale Hovis—1/5
 Annabelle Kelly—1/5
 Emily Kirkpatrick—1/5
 Dale Starnes—1/5
 Sadie Williams—1/6
 Ken Taylor—1/7
 Tom Brown—1/8
 Carley Daniels—1/8
 Andrew Hooks—1/8
 Bob Jarrett—1/8
 Kelly Kelley—1/8
 Ali Williams—1/8
 Peter Garrett—1/10
 Chris Green—1/10
 Brenda Stewart—1/10
 Dana Baker—1/11
 Carrie Curtis—1/11
 Rebecca Gutowski—1/12
 Amy Moore—1/12
 Carter Savinsky—1/14
 Mickey Smith—1/14
 Mike Surbeck—1/14
 John Bomgaars—1/15
 Haidee Richardson—1/16
 Bruce Miller—1/17
 Katherine Parks—1/17
 Dean Rosdahl—1/17
 William Anthony—1/18
 Laura Clark—1/18
 Danica Barker—1/19
 Jimmy Dale—1/19
 Ellis Fisher—1/19
 Bryan Greeson—1/19
 Lynn Haubert—1/19
 Carlene Williams—1/19
 Martin Pearson—1/20
 Marie Taylor—1/20
 Darinda Davidson—1/21
 Sarah Fink—1/21
 Parker Burrell—1/22
 Billie Riley—1/22
 Megan Burnham—1/23
 Elizabeth Cain—1/24
 Abby Fallin—1/24
 Caleb Farrar—1/24
 Riley Rouse—1/24
 James Todd—1/24
 John Williams—1/24
 Georgia Becton—1/25

Susan Crisp—1/25
 Carl Long—1/26
 Aliyah Smith—1/26
 Mary Nell Green—1/27
 Lynn Hamm—1/27
 Mark Hargrove—1/27
 Kendall Rouse—1/27
 Allen Waters—1/27
 Dean Auten—1/28
 Tommy Carson—1/28
 Pat Morrow—1/28
 Jo Summey—1/28
 Billy Wilson—1/28
 Meagan Balsom—1/29
 Owen McMurray—1/29
 Dawn Carr—1/30
 Trip McGill—1/30
 Eddie Spencer—1/30
 Hal Stowe—1/30
 McKenzie Barkley—1/31
 Arthur Spencer—1/31
 Penelope Stroupe—1/31
 Brittany Lear—2/1
 Laura Parker—2/1
 Jack Green—2/2
 Ashley Heavener—2/2
 Barbara Plyler—2/2
 Ethan Shell—2/2
 Mary Willis—2/2
 Lan Martin—2/3
 Farris Morris—2/3
 Cole Nichols—2/3
 Donna Tyree—2/3
 Sandi Burnham—2/4
 Lane Crofts—2/4
 Sherry Huss—2/4
 Vicki Marsh—2/4
 Alex Wylie—2/4
 David Rhodes—2/4
 Taylor Watkins—2/4
 Timothy McPeters—2/5
 Craig Watson—2/5
 Nadia Andrews—2/6
 Tyler Long—2/6
 Shirley Nolen—2/6
 Heidi Postell—2/7
 Michael Brunnemer—2/8
 Peggy Starr—2/8
 Ralph Froneberger—2/9
 Elizabeth Maney—2/9
 Kristin Bostick—2/10
 Kelly Brown—2/10
 Gaines Summey—2/10
 John Loughridge—2/11
 Marlon White—2/11
 Caroline Bernet—2/13
 Gail Evans—2/13
 Matthew Fargher—2/13
 Olivia Hedrick—2/13
 Caroline Jackson—2/14
 Leigh Ann Kayler—2/14
 Jan Morkoski—2/14



Happy Wedding Anniversary to:



If your anniversary is in January and it was not listed in the last Link, *please forgive us*. It was not intentional. See below for January and February wedding anniversaries:

Ken & Libby Todd	1/03/70	40 years
Barbara Plyler	1/01/73	38 years
Harry & Ruby Bryant	1/14/43	68 years
Robert & Chris Stowe	1/15/83	28 years
Jim & Ann Lovell	1/19/63	48 years
Walter & Julia Lee Payne	1/20/79	32 years
Charles & Tammy Hubbard	1/28/91	20 years
Mark & Martha Ferguson	2/01/03	8 years
Bob & Widdy Barnhill	2/09/51	60 years
Steve & Lisa Buchanan	2/14/87	24 years
Bob & Jo Ann Sytz	2/15/58	53 years
Don & Gloria Wilson	2/18/62	49 years
Brad & Claire Wilson	2/19/94	17 years
Joe & Patsy Boyles	2/23/63	48 years
Mike & Angie Surbeck	2/27/82	29 years

Wedding Shower!

Everyone is invited to a "drop in" wedding shower to honor **Mark Hargrove and Barbara Owens** on **Sunday, January 30 from 2-4 p.m. at the home of Kennon & Ansley Keiser**; 1301 South York Rd., Gastonia. Mark & Barbara are registered at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Wal-Mart.



Boy Scout Troop 4 Spaghetti Supper!!

**Tuesday, February 14
5:00—8:00 p.m.**

**First A.R.P. Fellowship Hall
Eat-in or Take-out**



It will be on Valentine's Day this year, so treat your Valentine with a delicious spaghetti supper while supporting our Boy Scout Troop 4 at the same time!!!

**Tickets are \$7.00 each
or \$25.00 for a family of 4 or more**

**Purchase tickets from:
Sid Craig,
Jim Todd,
Greg Christopher or one of our Boy Scouts.**

Nuts and Bolts

By Jean Stewart

After the baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.....His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home and I want to stay you with you guys!"

- ◆ For his Scout Life Project, Stephen Christopher collected 75 coats which were distributed by the Gaston County School counselors to needy children. What a worthy project, Stephen! Good job.
- ◆ Paige Huffstetler is on the fall Dean's List for Appalachian State University. Her academic performance earned her a place on the Chancellor's List. We are so proud of you!
- ◆ Mya Hipps was crowned Miss Greater Lyman on January 8th! She will compete for the title of Miss South Carolina in July! Mya is a freshman at North Greenville University. Way to go Mya!
- ◆ Please remember to save the tabs of aluminum cans. Our scouts are collecting them for the Ronald McDonald House. Put them in zip lock bags and place them in the small box in the Elevator Box lobby. Our scouts are depending on you to help collect at least 70 lbs.
- ◆ February is Read a Book Month in our church. We will have an open house on February 13th between Sunday School and the 11:00 service for our adults. Come by our church library and see what we have available. Meet Jan Hubers who has set up our library. I will also be there to greet you! On February 20th, we will host the children and show them what is available. Rebecca and I will also be there that day. We look forward to seeing you. Our library is located on the 2nd floor on the right side of the hall going to the Chapel! PLEASE, when you check out a book, be sure and sign the take out card and leave it on the shelf. We have books missing and we have no idea who has them. Some of our new books are: Spoken From the Heart by Laura Bush, Decision Points by George Bush, Life Support by Robert Whitlow, The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis, Jane Austen Ruined My Life by Beth Pattillo and A Heart Set Free: The Life of Charles Wesley. We have something for everyone!
- ◆ Eddie's scripture for memory is: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

A NOTE OF



Dear Church Family,

Over the past decade I have had many difficult times. These times have not only affected me, but my family and my church family. Through these years I have been through many changes. If it were not for your prayers and support, I do not know where I would be. Thank you.

Most recently, I have decided to enter a treatment center. Although this was an arduous decision, it was a lifesaver. In Harriet, Arkansas I am learning new concepts and meeting new people. Daily we read, hike incredible trails, and have meaningful group meetings. It is very beautiful here. The Lord has blessed me with a great opportunity.

Lastly, I hope all is well at First A.R.P. You are deeply missed. You have overwhelmed my family and me with kindness and thoughtfulness since the day we arrived. You are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Robert Spencer

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits over the past six weeks during my unexpected surgery and hospitalizations. I appreciate everything you have done for me. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring and loving church family. It was comforting to know that I had so many prayer warriors on my side, especially on days when I was struggling. Thank you again for everything.

In His name,
Sharon Huffstetler

A.R.P. Church Family,

Tim and I would like to thank each one for your prayers at this time. Many of you called and sent cards that was so thoughtful. We also want to thank you for coming to my Dad's funeral.

Love and Prayers,
Tim & Sharon McPeters

Dear Mrs. Stewart and Ladies of the Church,

Thank you for all of the wonderful things you do for Jordan and me. We appreciate the gift cards and the Christmas lunch that you prepared for us. You are so kind to always think of us!

Love,
Jordan and Meredith Parks

Dear First A.R.P. Church Members,

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." Romans 12:12-13

These are the marks of a true Christian and these have been shown to our family during these days of my mom's illness and subsequent going home.

We appreciate all the prayers, cards, meals, and visits. The prayers especially lifted us up during the days we needed them most.

Thank you for showing Christ.

Mary Ann Beckett

To the church of First A.R.P.,

Just a note of thanks for all you did during my surgery and recovery. Your prayers, flowers, food and cards were greatly appreciated! I know the Lord will bless you!

Love in Christ,
Michelle Winn & Family

Dear Rebecca,

Please thank the class that remembered me with a Christmas star to hang on my tree. It looks so pretty. I am so lucky to have someone to remember me. Thanks and wishing you all a happy Christmas. God bless!

Love,
Betty Taylor

Dear Children,

Thank you very much for the precious ornaments that you made for CAM to share with our clients. I'm certain that they were very special to those who received them. Thank you for thinking of others in our community.

Best Regards,
Cathy Howell
Crisis Assistance Ministry

Dear First A.R.P. Church Family,

How grateful we are for each time we've had the privilege to be with you. We enjoyed the fellowship with the Sunday School classes last week and as always returned home warmed and encouraged by your love and support.

We want to thank you for your gracious and generous support of us through another year. This is a huge encouragement as we prepare to return to Taiwan. We thank God for your faithful commitment to support missionaries around the world.

Blessings on you all as you celebrate the coming of real peace on earth—Jesus Christ.

With love,
Randy & Janet Adams

To the committee who prepared the condolence meal for us,

The family of Ruth Falls acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Thank you so much. The food was delicious, and the love and care behind it was even better. We so appreciate it.

Toni F. Ridge
(Niece of Ruth Falls)

Dear Friends at First A.R.P. Church,

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to our Home Delivered Meal Program (Meals-on-Wheels) during 2010. Your donations will provide lunches for 50 homebound seniors in Gaston County. We appreciate your kindness.

Have a wonderful holiday,
Jane Yarseph
Adult Nutrition Program Supervisor
Gaston County Adult Nutrition
Program "Meals-on-Wheels"

Dear Rev. Eddie & Staff,

The students and staff at Webb Street School appreciate the opportunity you have provided for vocational training in a natural setting. The skills they learn will enable them to make informed decisions about work after graduation.

Thank you for all you do for our students, and for your ongoing loyal support.

Sincerely,
Kathy Dixon



WHAT DO YOU GET?

What do you get if you have incredible volunteers, 24 families, 80 children, lots of basketballs, Barbie dolls, games and other toys, clothes to fit kids from birth to 18, a food box for each family and a Birthday Party for Jesus for the children? Answer: a very successful Community Christmas Store!! This event was held at First ARP Church on December 9, 2010.



THANK YOU to all who contributed time as shoppers, store volunteers, party volunteers, Spanish interpreters, and planners. THANK YOU to those of you in our congregation who provided sports equipment and money to stock the store. A special Thank You to the Women's Ministry Board who paid for the food boxes and made a very large monetary contribution.

The look on the faces of the parents who were able to shop for their children: PRICELESS! Thank you Lord for your blessing on this project and this awesome opportunity to do this in Your Name and for Your glory!

Vicki C. Marsh

First A.R.P. Church is Seeking an Organist

First A.R.P. Church is seeking a qualified organist to provide service music, enhance congregational singing, and accompany the Chancel Choir for the weekly 11:00 AM worship service. Interested persons may forward their letter of interest with qualifications to the Administration Committee at whenderson@firstarpchurch.org. Deadline is Wednesday, January 26.

Church Directory Updates

- ◆ **Corey, Lisa, and Emma Rhyne** – transferred membership
- ◆ **Dot Schutte** – change apartment number to #103
- ◆ **Harry Schutte** – (in healthcare at Covenant and now has a phone there) 704-691-5612
- ◆ **Doug Nation** – change address to 816 9th St. NE, Washington, DC 20002
- ◆ **Gretchen Best** – add cell phone # 704-691-8928
- ◆ **Jerry Best** – change cell phone # to 704-619-1351
- ◆ **Mary Willis** – 2755 Union Rd., Apt. 118 (receives mail at: P.O. Box 1194) Gastonia, NC 28053
- ◆ **R.B. & Carrie Wilson** – change address to 2755 Union Rd., Apt. 121, Gastonia, NC 28054, phone # stays the same.
- ◆ **Harry & Dot Schutte** – 1351 Robinwood Rd., Apt. A103, Gastonia, 28054, delete email address
- ◆ **Hazel Foy** – change address to: 350 Camp Rotary Rd., Gastonia, NC 28052
- ◆ **Coleman Williams** (joined 12-19-10) – 1707 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, 28054 (cell)704-860-9347
coleman111@gmail.com
- ◆ **Dean Rhyne** – (joined 12-19-10) 811-3 Jamestown Dr., Gastonia, 28056, (cell) 704-813-2575
- ◆ **Mike & Angie Surbeck** – (joined 12-19-10) 3708 Eaglebrook Dr., Gastonia, 28056, (h) 704-861-1102 Angie work: 704-8663712, Angie cell: 704-616-6218, Angie email: surbeckl@aol.com; Mike w & cell: 704-616-5350, Mike email: surbeckbest@aol.com
- ◆ **Sara Jarvis** – (joined 12-19-10) 318 Lawson Fork Creek Drive, Boiling Springs, SC 29316, (h) 864-580-9787, © 864-580-9787, sjarvis84@yahoo.com
- ◆ **Chris Johnson and Non-Communicant child, Mazzy** – (joined 12-19-10) 1500 Westbrook Circle, Gastonia, NC, 28052, (h) 704-864-7051, (w) 704-349-1529, cjohnson1500@gmail.com
- ◆ **Dean & Angie Dixon and sons, Tyler and Hunter Dixon** (joined 12-19-10) – 2001 Gladelynn Ct., Belmont, NC, 28012, no other info at this time
- ◆ **Andy and Kirby Crotts and Non-Communicant children, Drew, Lane, & Winsley** – (joined 12/19/10) – 1014 S. Belvedere, Gastonia, NC, 28054, no other info at this time
- ◆ **Ray & Carolyn Jones** – (joined 1-2-11) – 124 Windsong Ct., Gastonia, NC 28054, (h) 704-813-6013, Carolyn's email: cjhome@bellsouth.net
- ◆ **Dawn Carr** – add work number: 704-306-7587
- ◆ **Suzanne Allers** – change email address to: marvsuzanneallers@googlemail.com
- ◆ **Jamee Pritchett** – change last name to Webb. She got married 12-2-10.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

New Morning Bible Study

There will be a new Thursday morning Bible Study led by Pastor Matt starting February 3rd. The class will meet from 9-10am at the church, and there will be childcare available for those who need it. During this time we will be studying portions of the book of Proverbs focused around the theme, “*Wisdom: The Art of Godly Living.*” Both men and women are welcome at this Bible Study. Please sign-up for this class by calling Matt at the church or by emailing him at mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org.

Three Key Relationships

By Matt Kuiken

As you look forward into this New Year I hope that one of your priorities is continuing to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:12-13 says it this way: “*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*” The challenge of this verse is that all believers must continue to work out their salvation in all areas of their lives. These are not works that somehow earn our salvation before God, but they are evidence that his grace really is at work within us. This is a challenging verse, but it also contains a statement of great comfort. God did not leave us alone on the work site of our lives, instead Paul points out that God is the project manager working alongside us and equipping us that we might become the people he has called us to be.

As we work out our salvation by God’s strength and grace and grow as disciples we do so in the context of community. God has not called us to be “lone-ranger” Christians out in the world fighting spiritual battles on our own. Rather, he has called us to close-knit relationships, where we bear each others burdens and spur one another on in the faith. And within this community, I have become more and more convinced that it is crucial to have at least three kinds of relationships in your life if you are going to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

First, it is critical to have a *relationship with someone beyond you in the faith*. These are people who are more spiritually mature than you are. They have been walking with Jesus longer, they have more spiritual wisdom and insight than you do and they are people that you can learn from. It is crucial that we have at least one person like this in our lives so that we can go to them for godly advice, for prayer and for encouragement. Remember that these are people who are farther down the path than you are and they have been where you want to go. Make sure that as you seek to grow this year you have a spiritual mentor, someone beyond you in the faith that you can look to and learn from.

Secondly, it is equally critical that you have a *relationship with someone beside you in the faith*. This should be someone who is roughly the same spiritual maturity level as you are. These relationships should be ones of accountability, encouragement and support. They make you realize that you are not in this alone, but that you are facing the trials of life and faith together. When you have someone beside you in the faith, you do not feel like one of you is the leader and one of you is the learner, but rather that you are spiritual brothers or sisters, enjoying each others company on the Christian journey. This is not a shallow relationship in any sense, but rather a deeply spiritual friendship that I am describing. You may find these kinds of relationships in your Sunday School class, in your small group or just by locating someone in the church who is a part of the same age and stage as you are. Who do you have in your life who is walking beside you in your faith?

Finally, to grow as a disciple of Jesus I think it is critical to have a *relationship with someone behind you in the faith*. We are not only called to be *ministered to* as Christians, but we are also called to *minister to others*. It doesn’t matter how long you have been a Christian, but there is always someone behind you that needs you to disciple and teach them. Even if you have only been a Christian for a week, there is still somebody who has only been a Christian for half a week and looks up to you. So we all need to have someone in our lives who we are mentoring and ministering to in the faith. These do not have to be formal mentoring relationships, but can simply be a person who is spiritually younger than us that we can take an interest in, talk with and pray for. It is often as we minister to others in the faith, that we grow ourselves. So who do you have in your life who is behind you in the faith and that you are seeking to minister to?

My hope is that this year at First ARP will be one of great growth as disciples of Christ. In order for this to happen it is important for us to have relationships with someone beyond us, someone beside us and someone behind us in the faith. Do you have these three key relationships in your life?

Weekly Events

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Officers' Prayer Time
 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship—FH
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 9:50 a.m. Inquirer's Class—FH
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 4:00 p.m. MS Boys & Girls PACT
 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir
 6:00 p.m. HS Girls Small Group
 6:00 p.m. Dyksterhouse Small Group
 6:30 p.m. Greeson's Small Group
 8:00 p.m. College Bible Study

Monday

11:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Time
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 4
 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting—Lobby of Education Building

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Chapel

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Moms in Touch
 12:00 p.m. Prayer Luncheon
 5:00 p.m. Junior Choir
 5:30 p.m. Supper
 6:00 p.m. Prayer for Muslims—parlor
 6:15-7:30 Children's Ministry
 6:15 p.m. Cherub Choir
 6:15 p.m. Celebration Ringers
 6:15 p.m. Youth Ministry
 6:30 p.m. Early Service Choir
 6:30 p.m. Adult Electives
 7:00 p.m. Combined Choirs
 7:00 p.m. Joyful Noise
 7:30 p.m. Praise Team
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday

6:30 a.m. Men of Panera Bible Study
 6:30 a.m. Mingle & Montage (Alfred & Charlie's)
 1:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study at Lil Summerville's

Friday

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast—FH
 7:00 a.m. Men at Chick-Fil-A
 7:00 a.m. Bible Daddies—Tony's

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Scout Sunday Prayer Gathering 6 p.m. in sanctuary	7 Knit One Pray One 10 a.m. in Nursery	8 Minnie Alexander Circle, FH, 2:00 pm Suzanne Allers Circle FH, 6:30 p.m. Lillian Whitesides Circle 7:00 p.m. at Jill Haney's	9 LINK Ministry 1:00 p.m.	10 NEW Morning Bible StudyBegins 9:00 a.m. at church	11 Valentine Party Primetimers 6:00 p.m.	12 Pastors' Prayer Partners 7:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall
13 Communion Library Open House for Adults—9:30-11:00	14 Kale Dale Circle 10am at Loreita Horne's Eihelda Hanna 10am FH Janet White 3pm FH Juanita Garrison 6:30 BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI SUPPER, 5-8 p.m. in FH	15 Single Saints—FH Noon	16 LINK Ministry 1:00 p.m.	17 Morning Bible Study 9:00 a.m. at church	18 Officers Training Program in FH	19 Officers Training Program in FH
20 Mission Sunday Library Open House for Children 9:30-11:00	21 Wingate Choir Dinner 5:00 pm - FH Concert—Wingate Choir & Gaston Co. Choral Ensemble, 7 :00 p.m. in sanctuary	22 Telecare—6:45	23	24 Morning Bible Study 9:00 a.m. at church	25	26
27 Mission Sunday Combined SS classes	28 Book Club—7:00 p.m. at the home of Jo Ann Parker					



February is Missions Month!

Renewing Our Passion for Our Purpose

By Eddie Spencer

One of the purposes of First A.R.P. Church is to “communicate the King’s Gospel through evangelism.” Jesus’ last words on earth before He ascended to heaven and sent His Spirit were: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

We are called to be witnesses of the good news of the gospel of Christ to our neighborhoods and to the nations. This is evangelism. It is one of the most joy-producing eternal endeavors to which we can commit our lives.

First, we share Christ for God’s glory. God is worthy of our witness; we share Christ for God’s glory. He delights in His name, fame, and gospel shared to the nations. We are called to share Christ because He has told us to share His good news of Christ. But even more, when we share Christ with those who have not heard, our frail attempts elicit the pleasure of God. God opens the hearts of people to know the unsearchable riches of Christ, for His praise and glory. *“I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations... and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations”* (Is. 66:19).

Second, we share Christ because of the glory of the gospel. Consider the glory of God’s gospel. *“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus”* (Eph. 2:4-7). Wow!

What does the world have to compare with the glory of this good news? Sadly, people poke around the garbage heaps of this world; dashing from one pleasure, recreation and relationship to another; seeking a soul satisfaction that never comes. We have the privilege of sharing the good news that *“life that is truly life”*. Life is not found in the refuse piles of this world, but rather within the incomparable riches of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

Third, we share Christ out of the spiritual overflow of our lives. If we do not share Christ, it may be that we have forgotten the gospel that has saved us. We have forgotten that without Christ we are lost. *“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time... Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath”* (2:1-3). Have we lost sight of the message of the gospel? *“We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away”* (Heb. 2:1). What happens as we drift away from the Lord? We expend so much time and emotional energy perplexed and anxious in our own lives; we lose a concern for the souls of others.

God’s remedy is for us to preach the gospel to ourselves. We must daily set our hearts and minds on the truth of the gospel. *“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory”* (Col. 3:3-4). Daily renew your mind and heart with the veracity and eternal hope of the gospel. The result? We may well become a little more like E. Stanley Jones, a missionary of another era, who said, *“When I first came to Christ I had the overwhelming desire to throw my arms around the world and tell them how much Christ loves them.”*

Fourth, when we share Christ, we participate in the joyous party in the kingdom of God. When a sinner comes to Christ, *“there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God”* (Luke 15:10). When we share the gospel of our Savior; when we serve another, even when no one is looking; when we give a cup of water to the thirsty in the name of Jesus, we become participants in the joyous party in heaven. When we share Christ we are dancing to the rhythm of grace.

Fifth, we share Christ because people’s eternity is dependent on their response to Christ. If the Scriptures are our source of truth, we cannot avoid the teaching on judgment and hell. Hell is real. Real people will spend eternity separated from God. Hell is a major theme in Jesus’ teaching ministry. Jesus is clear. There are two realms - light and darkness. There are two rulers - God and Satan. There are two ways - the narrow and the broad. There are two destinations - eternal life and eternal destruction.

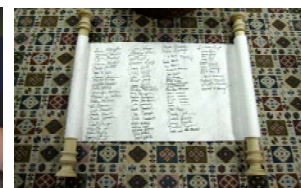
We are not the judge. When we speak of judgment, we must do so humbly, gently, with tears in our eyes and grief in our souls. We are one beggar telling another beggar where to find food that satisfies. We are not the judge, but we share the salvation of the One who is the Judge and the criterion for judgment. *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (Jn. 14:6). *“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him”* (Jn. 5:22-23).

Lastly, we are God’s witnesses. The Scriptures are clear. God is sovereign over the salvation of people. *“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...”* (Eph. 1:11). The Scriptures are equally clear that God’s instrumentality in spreading the gospel is us. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

It is to the cause and call of evangelism, communicating the King’s gospel, that I hope and pray we will recommit ourselves.

Children's Ministry Update

A Look Back at "A Night in Bethlehem"!



Children's Ministry continued

Volunteer Spotlight!!!



Gretchen and Jerry Best, John and Kathy Connor, and Tammy and Vincent Cherry all serve our children's ministry during the Sunday School hour. The Bests work with our toddlers, John and Kathy teach two year olds and the Cherrys teach kindergarten. Thanks to these great volunteers!!!

It's Basketball Season!!!

We have four First A. R. P. Eagles teams who have begun their season! Watch the bulletin for game times!

Four Year Olds—Drills and Thrills

5-6 Year Olds—Inter-Church League

(all games at Southminster Presbyterian Church)

7-8 Year Olds—Inter-Church League

(all games at First United Methodist Church)

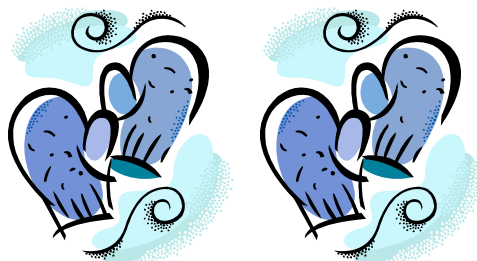


9-10 Year Olds—Inter-Church League

(all games at First Baptist Church)

2011 Mitten Tree

Our annual Mitten Tree benefits clients of the Crisis Assistance Ministry by providing children with hats, mittens, scarves and gloves during the cold winter months. Please put your items directly on the tree located in the main elevator lobby off of the breezeway. The tree will be up through January 30!!!



Bring Kisses!!!!

Our children's ministry will be packing small candy bags filled with Hershey Kisses for the children of C. A. M. clients. Included with the candy are verses of Scripture! Bring your "kisses" to the red buckets outside Mrs. Maney's office.



Wednesday Night Children's Teachers: will meet on Wednesday, January 19 at 5:45 p.m. in the downstairs lobby.

Children's Sunday School Teachers: will meet on Sunday, January 30 at 9:45 a.m. in the downstairs lobby.

Welcome Emerson and Ben!

We welcomed two new babies into our children's ministry during the month of December! *Emerson Grace Mumford* and *Benjamin Rhys Hazard* were born on December 11 and December 23! Congratulations to Randy and Pamela Mumford and Josh and Taylor Hazard.

Both babies have grandparents in our church as well; Ken and Jo Henry and Jerry and Anne Payne!!



This Month's PARENT LINK NEWSLETTER

The January issue of PARENT LINK newsletter (available online and in church brochure racks) has some timely ideas for strengthening family relations:

1. Begin the day with music.
2. Reclaim mealtime.
3. Make devotions fun and active.
4. Develop a family mission statement.

For a full version of these suggestions, pick up a copy of PARENT LINK!!!



If you are cleaning out gently used toys, please remember our classrooms can always use dolls, puzzles, cars and trucks and music toys and manipulatives!!!

Music Ministry Update

Praise God in his sanctuary

*“Oh come, let us sing
unto the Lord!
Let us shout joyfully to the
Rock of our salvation.”
Psalm 95:1*

**Resolve to be a better
choir member
in 2011!**

**The Congregational Choir
should be full of enthusiastic
worshippers.**

**Engage your mind,
heart, and voice in every
opportunity to worship
God with singing.**

Join a Choir in January!

**All of our choirs welcome new
members, and January is a
great time to join!**

Sundays
Youth Choir 5:15-6:00

Wednesdays
Junior Choir 5:00-5:45
**Celebration Ringers 6:15-
7:00**
Cherub Choir 6:15-6:45
Early Service Choir 6:30
Chancel Choir 7:00

Mark your calendar:

*Wingate University Singers
in concert
Monday, February 21
at 7:00 in the sanctuary*

*Kenney Potter,
conductor*

*Meagan Balsom,
featured accompanist*

FINANCIAL UPDATE			
	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>
Revenues	\$177,370.22	\$1,173,616.72	\$1,241,951.00
Expenses	109,091.08	1,165,735.24	1,241,951.00
Net surplus (deficit)	<u>68,279.14</u>	<u>7,881.48</u>	

ARP YOUTH!

"Or what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?" Job 38:6-7



Soup Sunday-

Prep Day-Sat., Jan 22 (9-12p) in the FSH

Sun., Jan 23-8:30-1p is Soup Sunday-orders are \$5 and \$10. Dine in or take out available following the 11 service. Take out only following the 8:30 service. All proceeds go to the Youth summer mission to Nashville!

COME JOIN US!



180 WEEKEND!

KICKOFF-WED., JAN 26-MEET AT THE YB AT 6P. PICK UP AT 8:30P AT PARKWOOD.

THE WEEKEND-JAN 28-30. SIGN UP BY WED., JAN 19. COST IS \$40.



First A. R. Presbyterian Church

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Pastor Matt's email: mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org

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In God We Trust



Aunt Ruth's Purse

By Toni Ridge

(Toni is the niece of Ruth Falls, who went home to be with the Lord Dec. 5, 2010. Ruth was a member of First A.R.P. for 81 of her 92 yrs.)

It was always with her. It contained a variety of things....

1. Eye drops — so she could see clearly
2. Hearing aid batteries — so she could hear everything around her
3. A plastic rain bonnet — to shield her from inclement weather
4. Jar of Mentholatum — as a balm for hurts and wounds
5. A calendar book, notes, and pictures — so she would not forget those people and times that were important, and to help her keep perspective on what was important
6. A comb — so she would be presentable in public

She had to leave all that here. But, she took the MOST important thing with her. What she took....

1. Allows her to see more clearly than eye drops
2. Allows her to hear every sound there is without a hearing aid
3. Protects her from all rain and storms better than any rain bonnet
4. Instead of Mentholatum, she has been given the Balm of Gilead, healing her from all pain and disease. Even to wiping away every tear of sorrow.
5. Now, no calendar or pictures are needed. She is surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses before the throne and all those she has known and loved who have gone before.
6. And last, but not least, she is made presentable, not by a comb, but by the robe of righteousness so as to be able to stand before the throne of God in thanksgiving and joy.

All this from one item, one thing. It's too big to fit into a purse, but small enough to fit perfectly into a heart...her relationship with Jesus. THIS is the most important thing we could ever have in our possession.

So, ladies, think of Ruth when you pick up your purse. And gentlemen, when you see a woman carrying a purse, remember what Ruth would have us remember.... You can only be so prepared for what happens here on this earth, but there is one and only one thing needed for the future we each have.

Be sure of your relationship with the Lord.... She'll be looking for you.