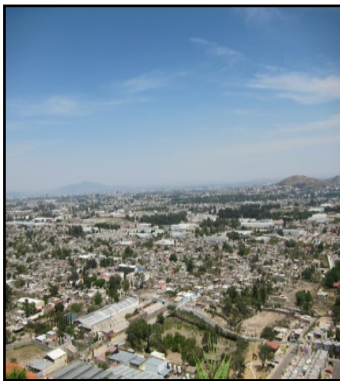


The Link

The Newsletter for First A.R.P. Church

February 20 — March 12, 2011

Guadalajara is Calling You!



City of Guadalajara



The Bonilla Family



Continuing Legacy

Below is an update from Juan Carlos and Ruth. We need **you** to come with us and help them break new ground in Guadalajara, August 6-13 this year. Please pray about whether God may be calling **you** to become part of this mission team.
— Russ McAllister

“Greetings my friends from Guadalajara, Mexico! We finally arrived on Friday, Feb. 11th. We are so thankful for your prayers for our family and safe arrival in Mexico. God gave to us his guidance and protection along the way and we continue to place our trust in him.

We are filled with excitement as we begin this journey with the Lord and His church. Only 2% of the people in Guadalajara have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ so the task before us is a *“God sized task”* but we believe in God’s mighty power to save!

We are also excited that you, our brothers and sisters at First ARP Church are joining together with us on this journey in a short term mission trip on August 6-13th, 2011. There is so much to do so we hope that you will consider joining the team on this trip. Ephesians 3:20 tells us that God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we can ever ask or think, this is a great promise!

Even though it is nice to finally be home, we will be leaving again on Thursday to drive to Rio Verde (a 6-hr. trip) to attend the meeting of the ARP Synod of Mexico and a World Witness missionary retreat. Please continue to pray for our travels and time with fellow pastors and missionaries and to celebrate Mary Catherine’s 3rd birthday!”
Juan Carlos and Ruth Bonilla

Sunday Morning Greeters

February 20 — (8:30) Greg & Tammy Bryant (11:00) Morris & Marcia Keeter

February 27 — (8:30) Greg & Tammy Bryant (11:00) Morris & Marcia Keeter

March 6 — (8:30) TBA (11:00) Walter & Julia Lee Payne

Sunday Morning Coffee Servers

February 20 — Mary Ruth Pursley

February 27 — Sonja & Tom Balsom

March 6 — Ruth Bernet

Sunday Morning Worship Attendance

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
February 6	219	404	623
February 13	198	351	549

Ushers for 11:00 Service

February — Rudy Stowe (head), David Jansen, John Williams, Billy Sturgis

March — Jack Lear (head), Carl Long, David Jansen, Gary Miller

Wed. Prayer Luncheon Menu (12 Noon)

February 23 — salad bar, baked potato bar and dessert bar

March 2 — lasagna, salad, rolls, dessert

March 9 — chicken salad, broccoli salad, Jello salad, rolls, dessert

Wednesday Prayer Luncheon Helpers

February 23 — Dee Cain, Peggy Starr, Anne McAllister, Jocelyn Estep

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

March 9 — Gene & Anne Hanna, Sarah Wallace, Barbara Sanford

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

February 23 — **Chili cook-off!** 13 varieties of chili, cornbread, variety of desserts, and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for kids. All proceeds go to Youth Missions, Nashville

March 2 — fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, corn, roll, dessert

March 9 — meat loaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, sweet corn, roll, dessert

Wednesday Night Money Collectors

February 23 — Gayle Goodrich, Jeanette Lyons

March 2 — Marlene & Leonard Walls

March 9 — Roxanne Spencer, Amelia Pritchett



Medical Transportation Ministry

*Do you need a ride
to your doctors appointment?*



Alex Blevins—2/20
 Mary Lisa Sherrill—2/20
 Mike Taylor—2/20
 Alvin Cain—2/21
 Che Hooks—2/21
 Zack Stroupe—2/21
 James Bostick—2/22
 Connor Cherry—2/22
 Cathy Foster—2/23
 Lauren Haubert—2/23
 Jane Alice Todd—2/23
 Ashley Fretz—2/24
 Thorny Guthery—2/24
 Sharon Huffstetler—2/24
 Morris Keeter—2/24
 Debra Starnes—2/25
 Amanda Summey—2/25
 Will Henry—2/27
 Jerry Miller—2/27
 Matt Tippet—2/27
 Emma Davis—2/28
 Walter Payne—2/28
 Mike Craig—2/29
 Samuel Best—3/2
 Melissa Jackson—3/2
 Ruth Bernet—3/3
 Sam Payne—3/3
 Mattie Cornagie—3/4
 Glenn Tyree—3/4
 Mike Haley—3/5
 Hannah Hobson—3/5
 Hayley Parks—3/5
 Linda Miller—3/6
 Beverly Shuford—3/6
 Ken Todd—3/6
 Nate Hargrove—3/7
 Terry McCurry—3/7
 Emily Lowther—3/7

Caroline Roberts—3/7
 Chaz Shell—3/7
 Bill Hattaway—3/8
 Winsley Crofts—3/9
 Robert Parker—3/9
 Mark Burnham—3/10
 Lisa McGill—3/10
 Mace Pursley—3/10
 Ida Robinson—3/10
 Suzanne Allers—3/11
 Mary Ann Beckett—3/11
 Bogey Cornagie—3/11
 Ansley Jarratt—3/11
 Rowan Maney—3/11
 Michelle McCurry—3/11
 Rudy Stowe—3/11
 Lauralee Hurst—3/13
 Alex Bridges—3/14
 James Craig—3/14
 Kennedy Craig—3/14
 Kristin Harris—3/14
 Harry Bryant—3/15
 Marty Gutowski—3/15
 David Roberts—3/15
 Clay Connor—3/16
 Conner Daniels—3/16
 Kerri Neil Storm—3/16
 Amy Pritchett—3/17
 Blake Cotton—3/18
 Joey Hedrick—3/18
 Chris Carr—3/19
 Tommy Coker—3/19
 Sally Green—3/19
 Jo Johnson—3/19
 Laura Long—3/19
 Randy Sherrill—3/19
 Anne Alexander—3/20
 Griffin Keiser—3/20
 Joe Summerville—3/20
 Jill Crisp—3/21
 Martha Ferguson—3/21
 Steve Harris—3/21
 Don Wilson—3/21
 Coleman Hattaway—3/22
 Angie Surbeck—3/22



Happy Wedding Anniversary

Ray & Carolyn Jones	2/21/70	41 years
Joe & Patsy Boyles	2/23/63	48 years
Mike & Angie Surbeck	2/27/82	29 years
Ron & Gail Evans	3/04/87	24 years
Bill & Monica Cain	3/05/83	28 years
Jim & Brenda Stewart	3/08/85	26 years
Danny & Heidi Postell	3/18/89	22 years
Tom & Delsey Brown	3/24/84	27 years
Marshall & Ann Welch	3/26/67	44 years
Mark & Carolyn Dewalt	3/27/78	33 years
Jerry & Gretchen Best	3/29/97	14 years

LIBRARY NOTES

Open House for Children on Sunday, February 20th during the Sunday School hour. Come by and see what's available!

WINGATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

*Kenney Potter, conductor
Meaghan Balsom, featured accompanist*

In Concert

February 21, 2011

7:00 P.M.

First A.R.P. Sanctuary

With Special Guests

GASTON CHORAL ENSEMBLE

*Trip McGill, conductor
Justin Bumgardner, accompanist*

**Plan now to attend this evening
featuring hymns, spirituals, anthems,
classic and contemporary
choral music!**

You're Invited to a Wedding Shower!

Everyone is invited to a drop-in wedding shower to honor **Elly Hovis and Zack Keuthan** on **Saturday, March 5, from 2-4 p.m. in the First A.R.P. Fellowship Hall.** Elly and Zack are registered at Kohl's, Target, and Bed Bath & Beyond.

Church Directory Updates

Trip McGill – add email address: t.mcgill@att.net
R. B. Wilson – went home to be with the Lord 1-28-11
Floyd Burt Rhyne (NEW MEMBER – joined 1-30-11) husband of **Gloria Rhyne** – 1629 S. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054, home phn. 704-864-2262, cell phn. 704-860-4215
Hayley Alicia Parks (NEW MEMBER – joined 1-30-11) – 115 Kentberry Ct., Gastonia, 28056, cell phn: 704-883-6279, email: HAPsweetpotatoes@aol.com
Katherine Grace Parks (NEW MEMBER – joined 1-30-11) – 115 Kentberry Ct., Gastonia, 28056, cell phn: 704-883-6280, no email
Barbara Owens – Change last name to Hargrove and move her and Nate over to Mark Hargrove. Barbara and Mark were married Saturday, Feb. 12.

Nuts and Bolts

By Jean Stewart

I asked my wife, "Where do you want to go for our anniversary dinner?" It warmed my heart to see her face melt in sweet appreciation. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" she said. So I suggested, "How about the kitchen?" And that's when the fight started.....

- ♦ Welcome David Jennings, II. We are so pleased to have you as our church organist. May you sit on that organ bench as long as Norma Jean has!
- ♦ Thank you for participating in the Souper Bowl Sunday collection. We were able to send Crisis Assistance a check for \$1243. Thank you, Johnny for your work.
- ♦ We have some hard of hearing devices that can be checked out to use at the church services. See Tom Campbell at the sound board to get one. Tom says if you want to purchase your own, the price is \$125.00.
- ♦ Thank you to those who came by the library Sunday to check it out. This Sunday will be children's library day. We will take them in during the Sunday School hour and parents are also welcome to come by.
- ♦ We have some very bright students in our church! Gaston Christian School's distinguished honor roll for the upper school has 7th graders Ansley Jarratt, Joe Painter and Kendall Rouse and 8th graders William Anthony, Parks Keiser and Grady Pearson. To receive this honor you must earn a point grade average of 3.75 to 4.00. The elementary school honor roll for the fall term is "A" list Alex Franks and Parker Riley and the "A/B" list is Daniel Duffie, Nate Hamm, Caroline Curtis, Kristin Rouse and Rachel Spencer. We are so proud of all of you!
- ♦ Please remember to save you pop tops for the Boy Scouts. These will be used to help support the Ronald McDonald House. There is a box in the elevator lobby to put them. Thanks.
- ♦ Congratulations to Pressly McGill. She won the MVP award for tennis at Forestview. Keep it up Pressly!

Eddie's Scripture for memory: *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever" (2 Cor. 9:8).*

Children's Ministry Update

Children's Ministry Volunteer Spotlight!!



Meet Some of our Volunteers!

Billie Riley and her husband, Tripp are teaching our Three Year Olds this winter in Sunday School. Tripp and Billie have three small children of their own.

Lynn and Nathan Hamm are teaching our Third Grade students this winter. The Hamm's have been dedicated to children's ministry for years and are the parents of two teenagers and a fourth grader.

Glenn Tyree has been teaching upper elementary students for the past three years. Glenn's children are grown, but he still has a big heart for children's ministry.

Ruth Bernet and Penny Wilson teamed up this winter to teach First Graders. Ruth has taught on and off for many years; this is Penny's first class at First A. R. P. !!!

"Missions Mania" - Continues in Sunday School!!!

Sunday, February 20
Decorate Classroom Doors
"Jesus Loves the Children of the World"

Sunday, February 27
Grades 1-5
Inter-Faith Pillowcase Project



Library Open House

Kids Day!!! February 20!!!

Come check out books and movies for the entire family!

We have something for everyone to read!!!



Communicants Class to Begin!!

Our Fifth Grade students will begin Communicants Class on Wednesday, March 2 during their program time. The class will continue on Wednesdays March 9, 16, 23 and the weekend of March 25-26 with a mini-retreat.

We look forward to Sunday, May 8 when our Communicants Class of 2011 will have the opportunity to make a public confession of faith and become communicant members of First A. R. P. Church.



Catechism



Catechism



Catechism

Third Grade on the Move!!!

A Visit to the Carson's House!



A Summer Preview!!!

June 29-30 - Club 45 Mini-Missions Camp

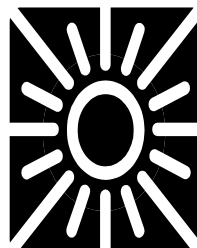
July 10-15 - Music Conference

July 17-22 = Camp Bonclarken - Session 1

July 24-29 - Camp Bonclarken - Session 2

July 25-28 - VBS

August 8-11 - Music Camp - Grades 2-5



A Vision for Mission at First ARP

By Matt Kuiken

This month we are focusing on the calling of the Church to participate in the spread of the gospel all around the world. Missions isn't primarily supposed to be something we do, but rather something that is woven into the very fabric of who we are as Christians. With this in mind, the Foreign Missions Committee at First ARP longs for every member of the church, from the youngest to the oldest, to be involved in God's mission to the world. As the Foreign Missions Committee has prayerfully considered what this involvement should look like, we have felt led in the following ways:

1. At First ARP, rather than seeing our missionaries as people we pay to be involved in missions for us, we will focus on developing mission partnerships with them. These partnerships will be defined by *communication* and *cooperation*. We will seek to regularly *communicate* with our missionaries, getting to know them and their families so we can regularly support them in prayer and other ways. These partnerships will also be defined by *cooperation*. We will have the opportunity with our mission partners to be involved with their work by praying, giving, and also the opportunity to go, see and participate in what they are doing.
2. First ARP will develop mission partnerships in the areas of **Evangelism and Church Planting**. In obedience to the Great Commission we want to see the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to all nations, and to see healthy churches developing disciples where previously there has been little or no gospel witness. This area of Evangelism and Church Planting will continue to be a major emphasis in our Foreign Mission Program.
3. First ARP will develop mission partnerships in the area of **Theological Education**. Throughout much of the developing world the church is exploding with growth, but this growth is often a mile wide and an inch deep. People are coming to church hungry for the Word of God, but the pastors often have minimal knowledge of the Bible and theology. So as the church here, we believe one of the best ways to help support the church there, is to partner with people and organizations that are effectively training pastors in these places.
4. First ARP will support a yearly **Mercy Project** where we seek to help bring the kingdom of God to earth by alleviating human suffering. When Jesus was on earth he didn't just preach, but sought to bring physical wholeness where there was once sickness and pain. So we will have a mercy project where we will not only raise money as a congregation, but we will also go and get our hands dirty on behalf of the poor and oppressed.
5. As we continue to develop this vision for Foreign Missions at First ARP we want everyone to be involved. But if you have a special interest in one of these three key areas, please talk to Pastor Matt Kuiken or Micah Bomgaars about getting more involved. This will be an exciting year at First ARP as we partner with those doing God's work around the world. May God give our church a heart that reflects His heart for the world! "*The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God*" (Isaiah 52:10).

No Frills Friday Challenges - Part 1

By Alex Pettett

In the early 1900s, there was a schism within Protestantism which resulted in some Protestants becoming either "social justice" Christians or "proclamation gospel" Christians. Social justice Christians overemphasized the importance of relieving earthly suffering at the cost of the proclamation of God's word. Proclamation gospel Christians, fearing liberal association with social justice Christians, began emphasizing solely the preaching of God's word while ignoring earthly suffering. Regarding proclamation gospel Christians, the retreat from the front lines of relieving earthly suffering is commonly known as the Great Reversal.

As the "conservative" church withdrew from relieving suffering and became increasingly cerebral, seeking self-comfort and stimulating theological discussions became the food of many modern evangelicals in North America. All the while, we could not figure out why we started feeling dead inside, even as Christians. Nor could we understand why our joy felt superficial, manufactured, and limited to a few hours of singing and preaching on Sunday.

Jesus clearly calls us not only to proclaim and study His word but also to live it. This means the study of His word while relieving earthly suffering. This means singing hymns on Sunday and living in communities that hold us accountable from Monday-Saturday. This means giving out of our need and not out of our abundance. This means recycling and conserving our precious resources as stewards of His creation. This means a paradigm shift in our thinking that our own fathers may not have understood. This means "preaching the Good News while being the Good News." It is time to put an end to the Great Reversal!

To that end, I offer seven practical challenges to help us return to a biblical understanding of our mission as the people of God.

1. *Today*: Identify broken relationships in your immediate family, take them to the Lord, and get Christian counseling if needed.
2. *Tomorrow morning*: Read the Gospels and decide to be as radical as Jesus was in his deeds.
3. *Within a week*: Identify one way you can personally work on restoring God's creation (i.e., the environment) and act on it.
4. *Within two weeks*: Identify one non-Believer already in your life and commit to strengthening your relationship with them.
5. *Within four weeks*: Look at your budget, see all of it as God's money, and begin praying about how He could use all your resources.
6. *Within eight weeks*: Begin a relationship with someone from a socio-economic class far below your own. Be able to know their first and last name, family make-up, their religious beliefs, and strengths. They should know yours as well. You may find them in a soup kitchen or around the corner. Ask the Spirit to guide you and take a friend with you for courage.
7. *Within three months*: Join or start a small group that encourages and serves together in a common ministry focused on "restoring/redeeming relationships."

(To be continued in the next edition of *The Link*)



Living a Simpler Life

The theme of our recent “*No Frill’s Friday*” was “living a simpler life.” It is important to live simply if we are going to live missionally. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us a simple aim for living life, “*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*” (Matt. 6:33).

Our primary teaching text was, “*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share*” (1 Tim. 6:17-18).

“*Command those who are rich in this present world...*” The question is, “who are the rich? When we hear the term “rich”, we seldom include ourselves in this category; however we must. 1.3 billion people in the world live on \$1 or less per day. 2.7 billion people subsist on less than \$2 per day. All things considered, ***we are the rich***. So an obvious question emerges, how do we as “rich” Christians live in a world of poverty?

A theological primer on wealth might be helpful as we answer this important question. The Bible does not condemn material wealth and possessions; rather, it commends wealth and possessions as gifts from God. However, the Scriptures also carry a warning. Material wealth can become spiritually dangerous, if we use the gift and ignore the Giver. “*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs*” (1 Tim. 6:9-10). Few things tempt to grip our hearts more than money. Christ put it this way, “*No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and money*” (Matthew 6:24).

And yet the same passage which warns us of the dangers of wealth and possessions commend it. “*...God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment*” (6:17). Material wealth and possessions are inherently good as are all things which come from God the Creator. “*Every good and perfect gift is from above...*” (James 1:17). “*For everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving*” (1 Tim. 4:4).

As “rich” believers, we can take advantage of our God-given wealth in three ways. We can spend it or save it for ourselves. We can give it all away. Or, we can learn to enjoy it by investing it in God’s work. This is the commitment of our text, “*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share*” (1 Tim. 6:18).

The question that Christians often ask is how much of our money should we share? I think the more appropriate question is how much should we keep for ourselves? “*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that*” (1 Tim. 6:6-8). One of the reasons many of us do not have more contentment is that we drive so hard to achieve and acquire. As someone has said, “Because of our worship of material things, we buy stuff we do not really need, with money we do not often have, to impress people we do not really know, with things which do not eternally last.”

John Newton, the famous Anglican pastor and author of the hymn, “Amazing Grace”, was asked by a young man how much he should give to God’s work. Newton responded by giving this criterion for giving. Determine before the Lord your necessities, conveniences and extravagances. For every cent we spend on conveniences and extravagances, spend a cent on Christ’s kingdom. Newton then applied Proverbs 19:17, “*He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.*” and said, “I will stake my friendship on the promise. If you act on this truth, in a spirit of prayer and faith, with a single eye to his glory, you will not be disappointed.”

I suggest, for our own soul and for the kingdom of Christ, to consider coming down a notch or two in our lifestyle in order to increase our commitment to give to Christ and His kingdom. Materialism runs rampant in many churches, but it is not a sin that is addressed in many of our evangelical circles. While no Christian pastor, author or church should tell us what kind of car to drive, house to buy or vacations to take, these decisions should be made prayerfully and considerately as a follower of Jesus Christ and a participant in His kingdom.

Below are a few suggestions for living a simpler and missional life:

- ◆ **Budget Frugally** – “There are two ways to get enough. One is to accumulate more. The other is to desire less.” – C. K. Chesterton
- ◆ **Discernment on Advertising** – “The purpose of media bombardment is to increase desire so that in our hearts we go from, “That’s extravagant” to “That would be nice” to “I may need that” to “I’ve got to have that.” – Richard Foster
- ◆ **Examine the things of our lives** – Do we enjoy them? Do we have an attachment to them? Are they idols?
- ◆ **If we are vulnerable to materialism** - Is there someone to hold us accountable?
- ◆ **Focus on quality of life, not quantity of stuff; on relationships, not luxuries.**
- ◆ **Purchase for usefulness, not status.**
- ◆ **Cultivate a life of giving.** “*Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil*” (Eph. 5:15-16).
- ◆ **The more money we make, commit to maintaining the same lifestyle.**

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
 6:30 p.m. Greeson's Small Group
 8:00 p.m. College Bible Study

Monday

11:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Group
 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

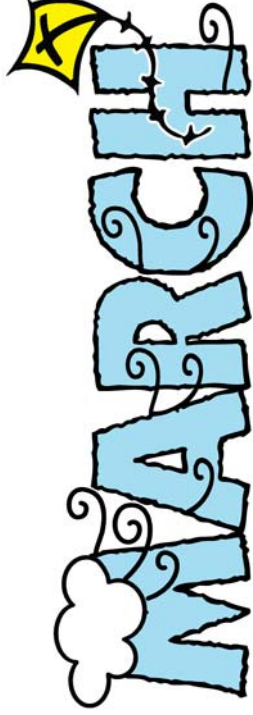
9:30 a.m. Moms in Touch
 12:00 p.m. Prayer Luncheon
 5:00 p.m. Junior Choir
 5:30 p.m. Supper
 6:00 p.m. Prayer for Muslims—library
 6:15-7:30 Children's Ministry
 6:15 p.m. Cherub Choir
 6:15 p.m. Celebration Ringers
 6:15 p.m. Youth Ministry
 6:30 p.m. Early Service Choir
 6:30 p.m. Adult Electives
 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)
 9:00 a.m. Thurs. Morning Bible Study
 — Church Parlor
 1:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study at Lil Summerville

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



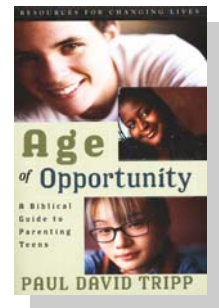
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Faith Promise Dedication Sunday Prayer Gathering 6 p.m. in Sanctuary	7 Knit One Pray One 10:00 a.m.—Nursery	8 Minnie Alexander Circle, 2 pm, FH Suzanne Allers Circle 6:30 p.m., FH Lillian Whitesides Circle 7p.m. at Lil Summerville's	9 LINK Ministry 1:00 p.m. Lenten (service only—no lunch) at St. Marks 12:00 George Freeman	10 Session Meeting—7 p.m.	11 Camp Bonclarken Family Weekend 11th—13th Cub Scouts—FH	12 Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed. Cub Scouts' Box Car Derby Day—FH
13 Communion 	14 Kate Dale Circle 10am at home of Jenny Morrow Eihalda Hanna 10am FH Janet White 3:00pm FH Juanita Garrison 6:30pm FH	15 Single Saints—FH Noon	16 Lenten Lunch at at First Pres.—12:00 Ray Ammons	17 Jo Ann Griffith Circle 9:30 a.m. — Parlor NCMEA Regional Choral Contest 17th-18th Erskine Alumni Dinner 7:00 p.m. in FH	18 Middle School Retreat at Bonclarken 18th-20th	19
20 	21 Telecare—6:45 p.m. at Allen Tate Realty	22	23 LINK Ministry Lenten Lunch at at First Baptists—12:00 Matt Kulken 1st Pres. Elders Assoc. 7pm—Loc. TBA	24	25	26
27 IHN Gaston County Choral Ensemble—singing at both worship services	28 IHN Book Club—7:00 p.m. at Jo Ann Parker's home	29 IHN	30 IHN Lenten Lunch at at Holy Trinity—12:00 Beth Yarborough	31 IHN		

Noon—Wednesdays in Lent—2011 2011 Theme: “Lessons of Lent”

The meal will be at noon, followed by worship which will conclude by 1:00 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$5. The offering recipient will be As-One Ministries.

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Theme/Topic</u>
March 9 (Ash Wed.—No meal)	St Marks Episcopal	George Freeman First UMC	“Humility” Ephesians 4:2
March 16	First Presbyterian	Ray Ammons First Baptist	“Faith” Matthew 17:20
March 23	First Baptist	Eddie Spencer First ARP	“Prayer” Matthew 11:24
March 30	Holy Trinity Lutheran	Beth Yarborough First Presbyterian	“Compassion” Colossians 3:12
April 6	St. Michaels Catholic	Shawn Griffith St. Mark’s Episcopal	“Truth” John 8:32
April 13	First Methodist	Jack Weisenhorn St. Michael’s Catholic	“Service” Matthew 28:20
April 20	First ARP	Brack East Holy Trinity Lutheran	“Forgiveness” Ephesians 1:7

Age of Opportunity Parenting Conference with Paul Tripp



Location: Parkwood Baptist Church
1729 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054
Dates: Friday, March 25th and Saturday, March 26th
Times: Friday evening: 7:00-9:15 p.m.
Saturday morning: 9:00 a.m.—noon
Cost: \$5 donation per adult (no cost for children & students)

Note: An age-appropriate study will be provided for graded children and students.

Who is Paul Tripp? Paul Tripp is the president of Paul Tripp Ministries, a nonprofit organization, whose mission statement is “Connecting the transforming power of Jesus Christ to everyday life.” This mission leads Paul to weekly speaking engagements around the world. In addition to being a gifted communicator and sought after conference speaker with Paul Tripp Ministries, Paul is on the pastoral staff at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he preaches on Sunday evenings and leads the Ministry to Center City. Paul is also Professor of Pastoral Life and Care at Redeemer Seminary in Dallas, Texas; he is the Director of the Center for Pastoral Life and Care in Fort Worth, Texas, and has taught at respected institutions worldwide. As an author, Paul has written ten books on Christian Living that are read and distributed internationally.

For more information, contact Peggy Thompson at 704-864-3681 or peggy@parkwoodonline.org or visit the website at parkwoodonline.org/discipleship/paul-tripp for online registration and payment.

Moms In Touch International (MomsinTouch.org) Winter Brunch

Attention Moms, you are invited to brunch!

Do you worry about your children? Come experience how you can replace your anxiety and fear with peace and hope by praying with other moms. Moms In Touch International gathers moms together to pray specifically and scripturally for our children and schools. Won’t you join with us in prayer for this next generation? Please come learn more at our Winter Brunch, **Saturday, February 26, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at First Baptist Church in Belmont.** For more information about Moms In Touch International visit www.MomsInTouch.org, or call Danetta Kellar at 704-718-4540. We hope to see you on February 26!

Looking Back After Forty-Five Years on the Organ Bench

by Norma Jean Huffstetler

I applied for the job of organist at First ARP Church, and I was interviewed twice - once at my home and once in the office of the D.C.E. during the evening service at the church. Dr. Andy Miller and Lloyd Stewart were on the committee to hire a new organist. Clyde McCants, who was a professor at Gaston College at the time, also applied. He went on to become an ARP minister, and he is now retired.

My first Sunday to play was April 4, 1965. I remember that we sang Hymn # 35, "All Ye That Fear God's Holy Name," in *The Hymnbook*. It was a setting of Psalm 22. When I started playing at First ARP, I was already engaged to marry Brice Huffstetler.

Rev. Grant Johnson's last Sunday as minister was the week before I started playing. The new pastor was Rev. Murray Griffith, and his daughter, Jane, was married on November 27, 1965, same date Brice and I were married. Other pastors through the years were Dill Allison, Richard Body, Harry Schutte, John Carson, Eddie Spencer. Dr. Doug Jones served one interim.

The congregation gave a bridal reception for Brice and me in old fellowship hall in the basement. Mary Ruth Baird wrote a poem for the occasion which began: "In April she our organist became, and now she wants to change her name."

The choir met in the small crowded room which is now the handbell room. Anne Alexander, Mary Lou Pearson, Betsy Smith, and Jean Stewart were members of the choir when I arrived and they still are today! The piano was crowded into the corner behind the choir room door.

The family of Mary Whitesides Hood gave a set of White Chapel Handbells in her memory. These were ordered in 1972 from London, England, and arrived in 1974. Toddler Sharon Huffstetler helped me unpack the handbells. There were no cases available, so Frank Forbes from Gaston County Schools built the cases for the church.

Quite often Sharon was the only baby in the nursery and many ladies kept her during the worship services. Many thanks to them.

The first formal Missions Conference in 1975 brought Everett Carson and Bob Sytz to ask me if I would be present to play. I was almost nine months pregnant and I told them I would plan to be there as long as I could. Beverly was born on Tuesday morning, April 15, after I played one of the missions services on Monday evening.

For the Christmas Eve service in 1975, I brought 2 1/2-year Sharon to church with me while Brice looked after baby Beverly at home. She promised to sit beside me on the organ bench, but soon she climbed over to the bookcase behind the organ and started directing the choir, much to the amusement of the choir, especially Georgeanne Whitesides.

Brice and I joined First ARP Church in March of 1983, and Sharon joined soon after that at the age of ten. Harry Schutte was the pastor and he had been asking us to join for some time. I had felt the prayers of the congregation lifting me up as I played the service on a Sunday morning when my father was not expected to live through the day. I knew that this was my church and these were my people, whether I was a member or not.

Harry Schutte and Beverly became close during his children's sermons. He gave one sermon for the children about "Grumpy Gus," and afterwards Beverly named Mr. Schutte "Happy Harry." He started calling her "Bouncing Beverly" and still does, even to this day!

Charlie Pearson, Sr., loved to kid about not being able to sing. One year he was in charge of Bible School and announced that he would sing in the assembly room (Old Grier Bible class) that night after supper. I was accompanying Charlie on the song while he moved his mouth and this beautiful voice came from behind the piano. Cousin Bill Pearson helped Charlie carry off that joke and the congregation loved it.

On another occasion I accompanied Charlie Pearson's dog, Freckles, as he sang for the congregation in the fellowship hall.

In 1982 I suggested purchasing the 6-foot grand piano which is now in the sanctuary. A couple of elders questioned whether or not it would be used enough to justify the purchase. Time has certainly proved that it is being used extensively.

Mrs. Ava Torrence gave money to purchase the Orff instruments in 1984.

We also added a third octave of White Chapel handbells. Later the church purchased a three-octave set of Malmark handbells, both of which are in use today. A couple of years ago we added handchimes for use with the handbell choir and also for use by the children.

A new choir room was built in 1985 while Ernie Summey was treasurer. The old choir room became the handbell room. In 1988 the new piano in the choir room was given in memory of Hoke Hanna by his family. In 1996 an anonymous donor gave all of the hymnbooks (*Sing Joyfully*) which we are still using to the glory of God and in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Schutte.

In 1996-97 the pipe organ was updated, and several new ranks of pipes were added. The sanctuary was renovated a year or two later and it was necessary to remove the organ console from the building. The organ men from Atlanta came to remove it by lifting it over the wall behind the pulpit with a series of scaffolding, steps and manpower, carefully supervised. Walter Payne stored the console in his business for several months. The process was reversed after the renovation was completed.

In 1998 Trip McGill asked me if I would serve as Registrar for the Bonclarken Music Conference. I have been working with the conference ever since then.

Choir directors through the years have included Roy Melton, Roysten Merritt, Bill McGibney, Ouida Schotts, Brooks Clary, and Kenney and Heather Potter. Many times I served as interim choir director when the need arose. Trip McGill has also served as interim choir director and substitute organist. In the early eighties, Dr. Schutte asked me to be Director of Music.

During the years I have been organist, choir director, junior choir director, youth choir director, handbell director, Orff instrument director, accompanist, director of music and staff member. I have played for many weddings and funerals through the years, often for the children of couples I played for when the parents married.

I have enjoyed being a part of First ARP Church for 45 years and I cherish my time leading this congregation in worship and music. God has been good to me and has blessed me and my music ministry at First ARP Church. It has been my pleasure to serve God with you, as a congregation and as friends. You have been like family to me and I am looking forward to continuing to worship with you in the church pew, sitting by Brice, something he has missed our entire married life. May God bless each one of you as you work to carry on His ministry in this place!



Dear First A.R.P. Church,

Thank you so much for your kindness toward us. We appreciate so much for the kerosene and the gas. We do thank you for helping us out. We enjoy the lunch and the supper that you fix us on Wednesdays. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Love, Jeanie & David Ruff

To Our First A.R.P. Family,

Thank you so much for the love and concern you have shown us since David's sweet dad went to be with the Lord. All the cards, food and prayers have shown us how much you care for us. Thank you again and God's best blessings to you all.

Much Love, David & Susan Jennings

Dear Boys & Girls Members,

Thank you for collecting hats, scarves and gloves for CAM to share with others. We have given them to many people who needed them to keep warm. Thank you for following God's commands to care for others.

Blessings, Cathy Howell, Director

Dear Congregation Members,

I want to thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement which you placed in the church in honor of my forty-five years at First A.R.P. Church in the music ministry. Thank you for remembering me with the beautiful portrait which has been hung in the choir room. I have really enjoyed the flowers and they are still lovely! My thanks also go to Eddie and his kind words and honoring tribute which he presented to me! And I was quite touched by your standing ovation! My love goes out to each one of you! I know this is the most wonderful, caring and loving congregation anywhere! It has been my privilege to serve God and worship Him along side of you for these many years. Thank you for your many kindnesses and acts of love which you have given me over the years.

Thanks again for everything as I continue to be with you on Sundays in the church pew! May God continue to bless you and the ministry of First A.R.P. Church!

In His name, Norma Jean

**Gaston Symphonic Band Concert
"Founders Concert"**

February 25, 8:00 p.m.

Unity Place

Free Admission

William Tell Overture

Purgatorio

Second Suite in F for Military Band

Summer of '69, Woodstock

Many other selections

**ARP Members: Tom Balsom, Ken Todd, and
Julius Barkley**

**Dr. Bruce Trefz was one of the Founders of the
Gaston Symphonic Band**

1st Annual H4G Planet Fitness Invitational



**Gastonia Municipal Golf Course
Gastonia, NC**

Morning tee time starts at 8AM
Afternoon tee time starts at 1:30PM

Captains choice format

Cost is \$200.00 per team

Entry fee deadline - Feb 28, 2011

Lunch provided

All proceeds go to Hope 4 Gaston



"Pattin' Fore A Purpose"

Contact David Hooks for more information
at 704-914-8512 or david.hooks@t-mobile.com



**Support Cancer Services
of Gaston County**

It is time to sell raffle tickets for Cancer Services spring event. The theme is about cancer survivors and hope. The event will be held on Friday, April 1 at Stowe Manor in Belmont. Event tickets are \$25 with heavy hors d'oevres and a live band, The Caleb Davis Band.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or Buy 5 and get the 6th free (so 6 for \$25). This year, the prizes are a 42" T.V., an Apple iPad and \$250 cash.

Many of you know how dear Cancer Services is to my heart! They supported me through many years of my illness. They are a WONDERFUL group and I will give my ALL to support them! All money raised goes to help those in GASTON COUNTY; gotta love those local organizations!

For tickets, please call Dawn Carr at 704-865-3072 or you may get them from Leslie Farrar when you are at church; she will have them in her office.

Thanks for supporting such a great cause...good luck on winning something at the drawing...I'm going for the CASH!!

In Christ,
Dawn Carr



"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Ephesians 4:29-5:2



Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Luke 11:23

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS!

**FEW-MON., FEB 21-DETAILS TO COME!
4:45-6:15P**

CHILL COOKOFF-WED., FEB 23

**SPRING RETREATS-FORMS DUE THIS
WEEK...MARCH 4-6 (HS)...MARCH
8-20 (MS) BOTH ARE \$60**

All those interested in signing up for the mission trip-sign up online at www.firstaryouth.org. Call Court or Jake if you have any questions.



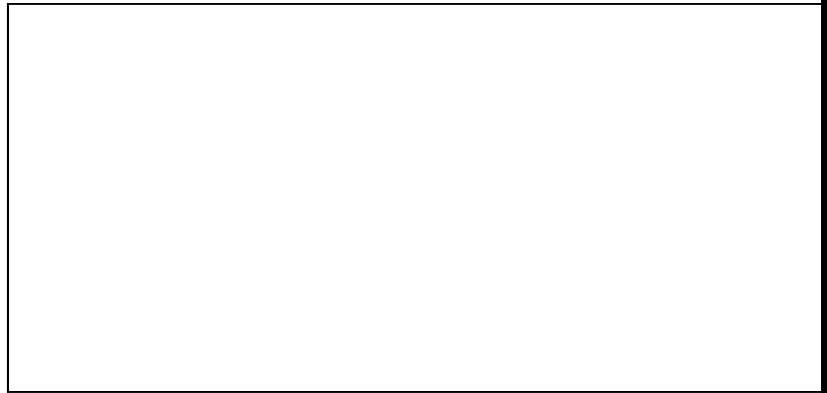
First A. R. Presbyterian Church

317 S. Chester Street, Gastonia, NC 28052
Phone: 704-864-3468, Fax: 704-864-2416
Church email: whenderson@firstarpchurch.org
Pastor Eddie's email: espencer@firstarpchurch.org
Pastor Matt's email: mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org

**Non-Profit
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Return Service Requested

In God We Trust



Welcome David Jennings, II!



David began his work as our new organist and 11:00 worship choral accompanist on Sunday, February 13, 2011. It is a particular joy to have him follow Norma Jean Huffstetler footsteps even though no one can fill her shoes.

One of the greatest joys is that David is a long time member of First ARP Church. He was one of the singers in our first Youth Praise Team. Recently, he was the keyboardist in the start-up worship team of Gaston Community Church. He and his parents have been faithful members of the church since David was a teenager.

David is a 2002 graduate of Gaston Christian and a 2007 graduate of UNCG in nursing. Presently, he is a nurse at Carolina' Cancer Care. In addition to serving people in his nursing career, he has a great passion for music. Amazingly, David did not begin his piano and organ career until he was in his teens. He has flourished with God-given talents.

He has served as the organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. As noted above he served as the keyboardist at Gaston Community. He has also served as the organist at First Wesleyan Church in Gastonia, as well as serving as substitute organist at First Presbyterian and First Baptist Church in Gastonia.

God blessed our church family years ago when he brought the Jennings family to First ARP. Now He has deepened His blessing in bringing David to the organ bench to help lead our church in the worship of God.