

# The Link

## The Newsletter for First A.R.P. Church



March 27—April 9, 2011



### The Season of Lent



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. In some churches this is a day not only for putting ashes on one's head but also a day of fasting. It is a day of sober reflection, self-examination and spiritual re-direction. Lent is the forty days before Easter. Sundays are not counted as a part of the forty days because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent is a season of soul searching and repentance. It is a season for each of us to reflect and take stock of our lives. It originated in the earliest days of the church as a time of preparation for Easter. The parament color for the season of Lent is purple. Many years ago purple was very expensive, so it came to signify wealth, power and royalty. Since we Christians prepare for our King through reflection and repentance, purple has also become a color of penitence and mourning.

The communion table frontal has I.N.R.I. in the center. These initials are for the Latin superscription on the cross: "*Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*" (John 19:19). Behind these letters is a club and dagger crossed. The club symbolizes the betrayal of Christ and the dagger is for martyrdom. On each side are four angels bowing in worship.

The lectern has a Latin cross, which reminds us of the supreme sacrifice offered by Jesus for the sins of the world. Alpha and Omega letters on each side of the cross are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which signify that Jesus is the beginning and end of things. PAX over the cross in the Latin word means peace. The lamp is a symbol of wisdom and enlightenment. It also symbolizes the word of God. "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet*" (Psalm 119:105). The handle on the lamp is a complete circle standing for eternity, because it is without beginning and without ending.

One of the bookmarks has the crossed keys, to recall Peter's confession and our Lord's gift to him as the keys of the kingdom. "*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven*" (Matt. 16:18-19). After much research, I could not find what the symbol in the middle of the keys means. (If you know, please tell me.)

The other bookmark has three pineapples with the St. Andrew's cross in the center. Tradition says that Andrew died on this form of cross, requesting that he be crucified on a cross unlike that of his Lord. The eight pointed star symbolizes regeneration. I hope the stories behind the symbols we see every time we go to church will help us recognize and symbolize different times in the life of Christ and in the life of the Church. Use this period of Lent to prepare for the crowning season of the Christian year—the Easter Season.

Jean Stewart

## Sunday Morning Greeters

**March 27** — (8:30) Vincent & Tammy Cherry (11:00) Tim & Leigh Daniels

**April 3** — (8:30) Sam & Nancy McDaniel (11:00) John & Susan Williams

## Sunday Morning Coffee Servers

**March 27** — Mickey Smith

**April 3** — Sally & Jack Green

## Sunday Morning Worship Attendance

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>March 13</b>	184	323	507
<b>March 20</b>	226	341	567

## Ushers for 11:00 Service

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

**April** — Kevin Cherry, Mike Surbeck, Bill Kelly, Mark Ferguson

## Wed. Prayer Luncheon Menu (12 Noon)

**March 30** — country steak, mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, salad, biscuit, dessert

**April 6** — pork chops, macaroni & cheese, sweet peas, salad, roll, dessert

## Wednesday Prayer Luncheon Helpers

**March 30** — Vicki Marsh, Jo Anne Parker, Gayle Goodrich, Peggy Smith

**April 6** — Gene & Anne Hanna, Sarah Wallace, Barbara Sanford

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

**March 30** — ham with pineapple raisin sauce, scalloped potatoes, green peas, baby carrots, roll, dessert

**April 6** — fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, yellow corn, roll, dessert

## Wednesday Night Money Collectors

**March 30** — Ernie & Jo Summey

**April 6** — Marlene & Leonard Walls

## Medical Transportation Ministry

Do you need a ride to a doctor appointment?

Call Loretta Horne at 704-864-5527



Laura Testa—3/28  
 Dean Dixon—3/29  
 Dot Robinson—3/29  
 Dee Cain—3/30  
 Sue Ellington—3/30  
 Joshua Farrar—3/30  
 David Wilson—3/30  
 Taylor Hazard—3/31  
 David Hooks—3/31  
 James Parks—3/31  
 Vance Riley—3/31  
 Jackson Barkley—4/1  
 Russ McAllister—4/1  
 Mark Dewalt—4/2  
 Rosie Nichols—4/2  
 Trey Taylor—4/2  
 Heaven McLearn—4/3  
 Tammi Rhoney—4/3  
 Harry Schutte—4/3  
 Nancy Peeler—4/3  
 Tom Balsom—4/4  
 Mackay Smith—4/4  
 Kristen Hedrick—4/5  
 Patricia Dukes—4/7  
 Steven Harris—4/8  
 Mary Arney—4/9  
 Rick Craig—4/10  
 Dana Haley—4/11  
 Mikell Jarratt—4/11  
 Greg Mocanu—4/11  
 Mary Stewart—4/11  
 Jonathan Bradley—4/12

Amelia Pritchett—4/12  
 David Carson—4/13  
 Erika Wallace—4/13  
 Rob Parker—4/15  
 Beverly Savinsky—4/15  
 Brenda Bridges—4/16  
 Ron Evans—4/16  
 Kevin Cherry—4/17  
 Richard Ferguson—4/17  
 Carmen McGill—4/17  
 Brent Miller—4/17  
 Karie Postell—4/17  
 Jordan Burrell—4/18  
 David Jansen—4/18  
 Whitleigh Hipps—4/19  
 Randy Mumford—4/19  
 Jack Green—4/20  
 Kristina Nagel—4/20  
 Sydna Rhodes—4/20  
 Ellen Snider—4/20  
 Gayle Goodrich—4/21  
 Sam Painter—4/21  
 Samantha McCurry—4/22  
 Thomas Summer—4/22  
 Lorelei Garrett—4/23  
 Chip Ferguson—4/24  
 Alex Gantt—4/24  
 Jim Stewart—4/24  
 Kelly Davidson—4/26  
 Kathy Connor—4/27  
 Paige Huffstetler—4/27  
 Kim Taylor—4/27  
 Earle Wilfong—4/27  
 Jenny Morrow—4/28  
 Sara Sumner—4/28  
 Leigh Sabol—4/29  
 Ernie Summey—4/29  
 Dot Carson—4/30  
 Linda Maynor—4/30



## Happy Wedding Anniversary

Mark & Carolyn Dewalt	3/27/78	33 years
Jerry & Gretchen Best	3/29/97	14 years
Floyd & Gloria Rhyne	4/4/58	53 years
Sidney & Carol Wilfong	4/9/95	16 years
Courtney & Brad Ellis	4/10/10	1 year
Marcus & Beth Wingate	4/10/99	12 years
James & Kathy Parks	4/11/87	24 years
Vincent & Tammy Cherry	4/12/03	8 years
David & Leigh Ann Kayler	4/12/96	15 years
John & Gwynne Wharton	4/12/08	3 years
James & Lee Craig	4/15/50	61 years
Kennon & Ansley Keiser	4/21/90	21 years
Jim & Pam Alley	4/24/70	41 years
Ron & Rosie Nichols	4/26/86	25 years
Andy & Kirby Crotts	4/27/02	9 years
Matt & Julie Davis	4/28/01	10 years





## Ladies' Night Out!

The Women's Ministries Board is hosting our Spring Ladies' Night Out on April 14, 2011 in the First A.R.P. Fellowship Hall @ 6:00. Our speaker will be our very own Ansley Keiser! Ansley is a wonderful Bible teacher and her topic will focus on "Contagious Companions."

Dean and Deluca will be catering a delicious boxed supper and nonrefundable tickets are available for \$10.00. Be sure to come for great food, fun door prizes and lots of FELLOWSHIP!

You can purchase tickets from Chris Stowe @ 704-616-1820, Susan Williams @ 704-868-9090 or Nancy Peeler @ 704-864-3468.

Please call the church office @ 704-864-3468 with childcare reservations for children 5 years old and under.



### Church Directory Updates

- **David L. Jennings, II** – change address to: 312 N. Myers St., #423, Charlotte, NC, 28202. Email address is [DLJenningsII@yahoo.com](mailto:DLJenningsII@yahoo.com); change phone # to his cell phn #: 704-678-1682.
- **Mary & Louis Markwood** – change address to: Morningside, 2755 Union Rd., Apt. 121, Gastonia, NC, 28054
- **Mark & Betsy Forbes – NEW MEMBERS JOINED 3/6/11** – Address: 643 Archie Whitesides Rd., Gastonia, NC, 28052, phn: 704-868-2356; Non-communicant children: Katy & Wilson; Mark's email: [mforbes@blaineconstruction.com](mailto:mforbes@blaineconstruction.com) Betsy's email: [mforbes@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mforbes@carolina.rr.com)
- **Mickey Smith** – change email address to: [micsmith114@hotmail.com](mailto:micsmith114@hotmail.com)
- **Bill Rouse** — change email address to: [wrouse2@carolina.rr.com](mailto:wrouse2@carolina.rr.com)

## Nuts and Bolts

By Jean Stewart

**Faith is not a sense, nor sight, nor reason but simply taking God at His word.**

- Parks Keiser represented Gaston Christian School in the Gaston County spelling contest. He came in 6<sup>th</sup>!! We are proud of you Parks.
- The Due West Branch of the AAUW recognized 36 young women from Erskine College and Abbeville County high schools at a dinner on March 6. Kennedy Craig was honored for her academic success in art and Spencer Cain for health and human performance. Congratulations girls.
- Remember to put your drink and food can tabs in the box in the elevator breezeway. These are for our Boy Scout troop.
- PLEASE pick up your dishes in the Fellowship Hall. They are in a box on a back table. We will leave them two weeks then they go to Habitat!
- Remember our Lenten Luncheons. March 30: Holy Trinity Lutheran, Beth Yarborough of 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, topic: Compassion; April 6: St. Michael Catholic, Shawn Griffith of St. Mark's Episcopal, topic: Truth; April 13: 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist with Jack Weisenhorn, topic: Service; and April 20: 1<sup>st</sup> ARP with Brack East of Holy Trinity Lutheran, topic: Forgiveness. Cost of the meal is \$5.00. A love offering will be accepted to support As One Ministries.
- Meagan Balsom presented her junior recital Saturday morning at 1<sup>st</sup> ARP. It was 45 minutes of beautifully played music. Thank you for sharing this with us Meagan. We are so proud of you. She will perform again Tuesday night at Wingate.
- Woo-hoo!!! Rebecca and Brice are grandparents again—Eisley Dawn Maney was born Wednesday morning, March 23, 2011. She weighed 8 lb. 15 oz. The proud parents are John and Christa Maney!
- Do you realize how many times our buildings are used? Seven days and most nights a week, it is full blast. Besides all of our ministries meeting here, we share our campus with community activities such as blood drives, neighborhood watch meetings, organizations such as AAUW, Eagle Scout Award ceremonies, our own members for receptions and parties. For instance, this past week we had 2,000 high school students for the Choral Festival over a two-day period. Can you imagine how many times the toilets were flushed? We had seven visitations and funerals in the past two months. We hosted the Cub Scout box car event. The staff works hard to keep events moving—directing people to places, pointing out rest rooms and answering questions. In the midst of this, we must complete our work. Is this a complaint? Absolutely NOT. We are here to serve and minister. Yes, sometimes our buildings get some mistreatment, but we can repair them. We are very visible in the community.
- Eddie' scripture for memory: "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" (Isaiah 40:29).

## Music Ministry Update

### *Praise God in His Sanctuary*

*"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you." Psalm 63:3*

#### Schedule Updates

Youth Choir meets at 5:15 p.m. on March 27. See you there!

#### Register for Music Conference!

Music Conference registration forms are available in the Choir Room and in the church office.

Take advantage of the exciting choral opportunities available for singers, kindergarten-adult.  
July 10-15, 2011 at Bonclarken.

Registration deadline is May 15.

#### Gaston County Choral Ensemble

The Gaston County Choral Ensemble will be singing in both morning services March 27.

Don't miss the beautiful music they will bring to our worship on Sunday.

## NO FRILLS FRIDAY

**Friday, April 1, 2011**

6:30 — 8:45 p.m.  
(Note time change)

In the Fellowship Hall

Eddie & Matt will be speaking on  
*"The Foolishness of the Cross"*

Come join us as we study  
God's Word together!

(No Supper & No Childcare)

## Dearborn 2011 Mission Trip

With at least 30,000 Arab Muslims in Dearborn, MI, our church once again has a mission team that will be sowing seeds by sharing the love of Christ and the Gospel with the Muslims in Dearborn. Some of the mission opportunities will be to teach English to Arab Muslims, lead VBS program for Arab Muslim children, distribute Christian literature in Muslim neighborhoods, conduct prayer walks in Muslim residential and business neighborhoods and praying for and with Muslims when the opportunity arises.



The Apostle Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." During the recent sermons on missions, Pastor Eddie has reminded us that we are Christ's ambassadors. As ambassadors, we are called to spread the seeds of the Word so that a harvest can be reaped. Once they hear the Word, God is faithful and will bring about the salvation of untold numbers of Muslims around the world.

This mission trip is open to all ages as past mission trips have included team members from youth to senior adults. If the Lord is leading you to be a part of this mission trip from June 13-18, contact Mike Foster at 704-867-5439. The deadline to sign up is March 31.

## 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'oeuvres and a live band, The Caleb Davis Band.

**Raffle tickets are \$5 each or Buy 5 and get the 6<sup>th</sup> 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

# Children's Ministry Update

Children's Ministry Volunteer Spotlight!!!  
Wednesday Night Teachers!



Jennifer Mocanu



Tina Shell, Betsy Hurst



Joe West, Ellis Fisher

## Communicant's Retreat!

March 25-26!

**Friday, March 25—Meet at Church—5:30 p.m.**

Bring 3-4 dozen plastic eggs, 2-3 bags of Easter candy and a flashlight!

**Pick-Up—the Curtis' house—10:00 p.m.**

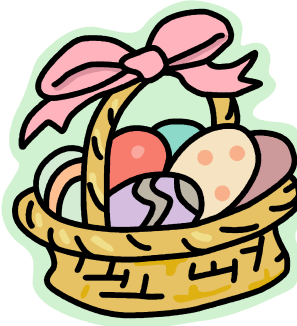
**Saturday, March 26—Meet at Church—8:30 a.m.**

Pancake Breakfast—Fellowship Hall

**Pick-Up—Youth Building—12 noon**



**It's That Time of Year Again! Eggs and Candy!**



**We need plastic Easter Eggs!**

**We need LOTS of individually wrapped candy!  
(non-chocolate!!!)**

**Collection Baskets available:  
Elevator Lobby  
Outside Mrs. Maney's Door!**

## Easter Egg Hunt!

**Saturday, April 23**

**4:30—6:00 p.m.—Lewis Farms**

**Watch for more details!**



### Children's Ministry Team Meeting

**Wednesday, April 6**

**5:30 p.m.—First Floor Lobby**



### West Gastonia Easter Egg Hunt

**Friday, April 15**

**4:00-5:00 p.m.**

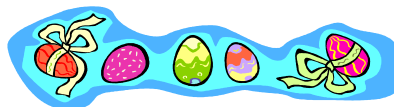
Games

Arts and Crafts

Egg Hunt

Resurrection Story

**Volunteers needed and welcome!**



### "The Empty Easter Eggs"

**An original Easter Drama!**

Presented by our children.

Accompanied by our music ministry.

**Wednesday, April 13**

**Sanctuary**



*The Empty Easter Eggs*



## Gospel Spirituality

How is the power of the gospel unleashed in us? Indeed, the gospel of the cross is powerful. *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”* (I Cor. 1:18). Obviously, we must begin by believing the gospel. Christ died a death we could not die, bore a justice we could not endure, was dead, buried and descended into hell for our salvation. This is *“...the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...”* (Rom. 1:16). And this is not all!

Christ lived a perfect life; a life we could not live. He lived without sin and kept all the requirements of God’s law. He did this so that a loving and just *“God made him (Christ) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”* (II Cor. 5:21). Through faith in Christ, we not only receive a salvation that declares us forgiven sinners, but also as accepted saints. We have been declared righteous. We have been clothed with the beauty, perfection and loveliness of Christ. Christ is our *“righteousness, holiness and redemption”* (I Cor. 1:30).

Through faith in Christ, we are not only forgiven, accepted by God, adopted as His children, promised that we are His heirs but we are an entirely new person. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God...”* (II Cor. 5:17-18). Do we earnestly believe this? We do not receive Christ merely that we would have a promise of heaven. No! We receive salvation in Christ so that we may live here and now in the hope of heaven. The gospel declares that we have a whole new eternal identity even in this present world. We are *“children and heirs of God”* (Rom 8:16-17); *“the Bride of Christ”* (Eph. 5:27); *“...the sheep of his pasture”* (Ps. 100:3). The Good Shepherd laid down his life for his sheep so that *“...they may have life and have it to the full”* (Jn. 10:10).

Living in the power of the gospel is, by faith, claiming what Christ has already achieved. In Christ we are somebody glorious, filled with the *“...light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. We have this treasure in jars of clay...”* (II Cor. 4:6-7). But this is not self-esteem. *“...we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not us”* (II Cor. 4:7). This is gospel-esteem. It is living life in the power of our identity, in Christ.

Therefore, how does the power of the gospel work in us and for us? **First, gospel spirituality liberates us to face the dark truth about ourselves.** Some people might say, “Now there you go again talking about sin”. The comment is well taken. Some people and preachers focus so much on sin that it becomes easy to forget that the gospel is good news. Also, we are not always so discerning about ourselves. Paul said, *“I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent”* (I Cor. 4:4). Paul is saying, sometimes I have declared myself innocent when I was guilty, as well as vice-versa. Yet equally, the Bible calls us to examine ourselves..

The reason to examine ourselves; to take a look on the spiritually dark side is not self flagellation. No, we want to live honestly with ourselves. We want to face the truth about ourselves from the inside out. The end goal is not to berate but liberate ourselves. For the Christian, it is **gospel repentance**. We are free to face the truth about ourselves in the love and the security of the gospel.

And there is much truth to be faced. Ever been shocked by how you reacted or responded to a person in a given situation? We may say, “Wow, was that me? I even surprised myself.” Surprise, surprise, surprise, it was you and it was me. That’s why I quote Jack Miller all the time, “Cheer up, we are a lot worse than we think.” And the gospel frees us to face it.

Face the sin realities of our lives. Do you know the difference between murder and resentment? There is a difference, but it is quantitative rather than qualitative. The seed of resentment when it is nurtured, watered and kept is murder. Now most of us suburbanites simply choose revenge from gossip, snubbing, and bitterness. For some it is all the same. The seed of resentment is the harvest of bitterness and it kills as well.

The gospel liberates us to face the truth about ourselves. Christ has already nailed these sins to the cross. We face and repent of them in order to know where and how we need to change, as well as to live inwardly honest and authentic lives.

**Secondly, gospel spirituality frees us from the tyranny of other people’s judgments.** Criticism hurts. If you say you do not care what people think and say, you have either emotionally disengaged from people or you are lying. Criticism hurts, but it does not have to be internalized to the point that others’ judgments become part and parcel of how we think about ourselves.

I propose a three-prong spiritual attack to deal with those who desire to hurt us by their words and judgments. First, keep before us the truth that before God you are a lot worse than our worst critic knows. God knows how subtly and insidiously pride works in our lives. Think of the Psalmist’s words, *“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me... you perceive my thoughts from afar... you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.”* (Ps. 139:1, 2, 3) Does your critic or foe know you this well?

Secondly, the omnipresent, omniscient, just God, *“demonstrated his love in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Rom5:8) *This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and gave His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins*” (Jn.4:10). God in Christ has chosen to forgive us. People hurt, judge, misunderstand and criticize us. The power of dealing with it is forgiveness. Forgiveness does not always mean reconciliation. It means you are no longer going to allow that person in your life or harbored feelings toward that person to control your life. However, how do we do it? We focus not on what somebody did to us, but who we are before God. *“Forgive each other just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

Thirdly, we spend time with the great lover of our souls so that His love is functioning in our lives. How do you love those who are nasty to us? *The only way –“Not by might or power but by my Spirit says the Lord”* (Zechariah 4:6).

## 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  
 2:00 p.m. Ultimate Frisbees at Martha Rivers—Youth & Adults  
 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. Greesson'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

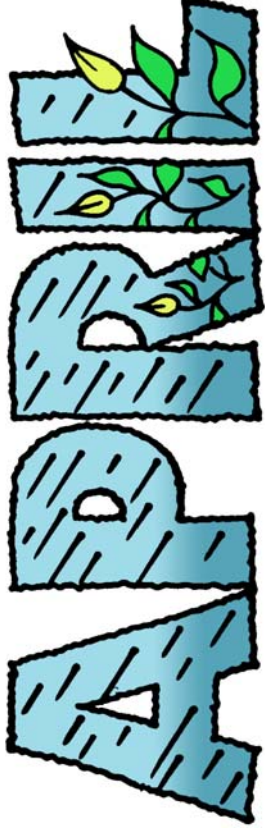
9:30 a.m. Moms in Touch  
 12:00 p.m. Prayer Luncheon  
 5:00 p.m. Junior Choir  
 5:30 p.m. Supper  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer for Muslims—library  
 6:15-7:30 Children's Ministry  
 6:15 p.m. Cherub Choir  
 6:15 p.m. Celebration Ringers  
 6:15 p.m. Youth Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Early Service Choir  
 6:30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

### 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
3 Ultimate Frisbees at Martha Rivers Park at 2 p.m. for Youth & Adults Youth—KNEEL in Sanctuary 4:00 p.m. IHN	4 Knit One Pray One 10:00 a.m.—Nursery Vida Youth Counsel at McAllister's, 5:30-7 p.m.	5	6 LINK Ministry, 1 p.m. Lenten Service at St. Michaels—12:00 Shawn Griffith, speaker Electives end until 27th CMT, 5:30, 1st floor lobby	7 Thursday Morning Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. Parlor	8 A.R.P. Women's Ministries Board Meeting at Bonclarken	9 A.R.P. Women's Ministries Board Meeting at Bonclarken
10 Communion Ultimate Frisbees at Martha Rivers Park at 2 p.m. for Youth & Adults	11 Kale Dale, 10 a.m. at home of Susan Williams Etheida Hanna, 10:00 FH Janet White, 3:00 pm FH Juanita Garrison, 6:30 FH	12 Minnie Alexander Circle, 2 pm, FH Suzanne Allers Circle 6:30 p.m., FH Lillian Whitesides Circle 7 p.m. at home of Susan Crisp's	13 Lenten Service at First Methodist—12:00 Jack Weisenhorn, speaker Children's Easter Drama, 6:30 p.m. in Sanctuary "The Empty Easter Eggs"	14 Jo Ann Griffith Circle 9:30 a.m.—Parlor LAST Thur. A.M. Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. Chapel Ladies Night Out 6:00 p.m., FH	15 Bible Club at Boys & Girls Club 4-5 p.m. Easter Party	16 Women's Ministries Board meeting 9:30-1:30 p.m. FH
17 PALM SUNDAY New Members' (Ladies) Coffee during Sunday School—FH	18 Telecare—6:45 p.m. at Allen Tate Realty	19 Single Saints 12:00 p.m. in FH	20 LINK Ministry 1 p.m. Lenten Lunch at First A.R.P. — 12:00 Brack East, speaker No supper or electives	21 MAUNDY THURS. Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	22 GOOD FRIDAY Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary	23 Egg Hunt at Lewis Farms 4:30-6:00 p.m.
24 EASTER SUNDAY HE IS RISEN! No Evening Ministries	25 Church Office Closed Book Club—7:00 p.m. at the home of Jo Anne Parker	26	27 No Noon Lunch Supper and Electives Resume No Youth meeting	28	29	30



## Job Opportunity



With the growth of First A.R.P. Women's Ministries, a part-time position of Director of Women's Ministries has been created. This person would facilitate and ensure continuity between the Women's Ministries Board and the Church staff, ensure spiritual development among women, mobilize volunteers for Women's Ministries, and encourage the use of spiritual gifts of the women of the church.

### Qualifications:

- ◆ A personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- ◆ A calling to and passion for ministry to women
- ◆ A working knowledge of Reformed theology and Presbyterian doctrine

Resumes should be mailed to the church to the attention of Women's Ministries.

## Do You Know Someone Who Might Need Adult Day Care?

### ARE YOU?

...A family member who needs quality care for your aged loved one while you work?

...A caregiver of an older person who needs relief?

...A concerned person who is willing to help individuals locate a service that will benefit them?

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like additional information, contact the Adult Services Division of the Gaston County Department of Social Services at 704-862-7540. Their staff is available to assist you in determining if Adult Day Care is the right choice for you.

### DID YOU KNOW?

...Gaston County has two Adult Day Care Centers. One is located in Gastonia and the other in Mt. Holly.

...Adult Day Care is a weekday program that provides loving care for older adults from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

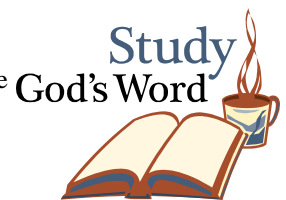
...Adult Day Care participants enjoy themselves through structured activities and companionship with others.

...Adult Day Care has caring staff that prides themselves in serving your loved one's individual needs.

....Adult Day Care is an affordable service. The cost is never over \$35 per day.

## A Study of Jesus' Passion

Do you find it hard to focus your heart on Christ during the Easter season? If so, come and join us as we study Jesus' last days here on earth before his death and resurrection. **Our study will begin Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and end the week before Easter and we will meet from 9-10am in the Library.** You will be amazed as you listen, learn and discuss what Jesus has done for you!



## PRAYER BOOK



REQUESTS  
FOR  
PRAYER

**Do you know someone who is unsaved?** It could be a family member, friend, co-worker. We now have a book in the prayer room **just for** the names of those who may need salvation. All that is needed is for you to write the name of the person in the book. You can use first name, daughter, son, friend, etc., only God knows the name of this person.

These individuals will be prayed for during the Intercessory prayer time and at other times of prayer. The book will be kept in the prayer room and can be accessible at any time the church is open.

\* Please note that the Prayer Book should contain **only names for salvation**, all other prayer request should come through the church office.

## GASTON CHURCH LEAGUE T-Ball Schedule 2011



Teams:  
 Lutheran Chapel                      First Methodist  
 Temple Baptist                        Southminster  
 First ARP                                Calvary Baptist

Week One	Date	Location	Time	Field	Team	Vs.	Team
	04/02/2011	FBC	9:00	A	Lutheran Chapel	Vs.	Calvary Baptist
			9:00	B	Temple Baptist	Vs.	FUMC
			10:00	A	First ARP	Vs.	Southminster

Week Two	Date	Location	Time	Field	Team	Vs.	Team
	04/09/2011	FBC	9:00	A	FUMC	Vs.	Lutheran Chapel
			9:00	B	Calvary Baptist	Vs.	Southminster
			10:00	A	Temple Baptist	Vs.	First ARP

Week Three	Date	Location	Time	Field	Team	Vs.	Team
	04/16/2011	FBC	9:00	A	Lutheran Chapel	Vs.	Southminster
			9:00	B	FUMC	Vs.	First ARP
			10:00	A	Calvary Baptist	Vs.	Temple Baptist

Week Four	Date	Location	Time	Field	Team	Vs.	Team
	04/30/2011	FBC	9:00	A	First ARP	Vs.	Lutheran Chapel
			9:00	B	Southminster	Vs.	Temple Baptist
			10:00	A	FUMC	Vs.	Calvary Baptist

Week Five	Date	Location	Time	Field	Team	Vs.	Team
	05/07/2011	FBC	9:00	A	Lutheran Chapel	Vs.	Temple Baptist
			9:00	B	First ARP	Vs.	Calvary Baptist
			10:00	A	Southminster	Vs.	FUMC



### *Hope Recycled*

April 9, 2011

**Bike Ride—10:00 a.m.      BBQ—12:30 p.m.**



A bike ride is planned for all ages. This event is scheduled for April 9th at 10:00 a.m. and is sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Belmont. Registration is \$5 per person and one 20 gallon plastic bag of aluminum.

Participants are required to:

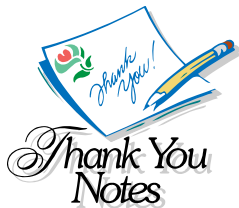
1. Wear a helmet
2. Wear closed-toe shoes
3. All participants 17 years of age and under must have their parents signature for approval. All elementary school age participants must have their parents' signature for approval and a co-rider 18 years or older registered to ride with them.

BBQ sandwich, chips and beverage will be served after bike ride. (BBQ included for registered bike riders. BBQ for non bike riders will be \$3 per sandwich, chips & drink).

**Contact First Baptist Church of Belmont, NC, to register—704-825-3758 or 704-678-6800.**

**Sponsor a bike rider at \$1 per mile (5 mile ride).**

Profit to be shared with The Dannie Benjamin Mission Fund and the First Baptist Church of Belmont Youth Ministry.



Dear First A.R.P. Church,

Thank you all so much for the compassion given to us following the death of Margaret Pursley. I want to especially thank those who prepared and served the wonderful meal that the family enjoyed in the fellowship hall after the service, those who made gifts to the church in Mom's memory, those who sent cards and messages of sympathy, and all those who included us in their thoughts and prayers. Mom considered herself a lifelong member of First Church. She was born into the First Church family, grew up there, and was an active member for most of her adult life. Mom had been gone from Gastonia a long time – almost 11 years, and she was quite elderly (97) and had outlived many that would have known her. So, it was very moving that so many of you were there to support us at the services. Thanks again, and may God bless all of you.

**The Family of Margaret Pursley**

Dear First ARP Church,

Thank you for your generous prayer and financial support of Intersivity Christian Fellowship! As we seek to reach out to students in Western NC & SC, your partnership has made it possible to serve in campus ministry the last 19 years. The Lord continues to move on college campuses, calling students to himself and developing disciples that become leaders in the church. May the Lord continue to bless your efforts in kingdom work, both in Gastonia and throughout the world.

**Gratefully,  
John & Shelly Hanna  
Intersivity Christian Fellowship in Boone, NC**

Dear Circle Ladies,

I want to thank you for making cookies for the lovely reception in January which honored me on my retirement from First A.R.P. Church. The cookies were so delicious, and they looked so nice on the lovely table with the cake, punch and flowers. I appreciate your willingness to bake for this special occasion! Thank you!

Thank you also for all the acts of kindness which you have bestowed on me. I appreciate the prayers, cards, contributions to the Organ Scholarship, gifts and spoken words of appreciation. May God bless each one of you as you continue to serve Him through the Women's Ministry.

**In Christ's Name,  
Norma Jean**

Dear Eddie,

Please share CAM's thanks with your congregation for taking part in "Souper Bowl" Sunday and designating the funds to our ministry. This annual hunger fighting effort has become a great resource for CAM and other agencies in our community.

CAM is proud of its partnership with area congregations. Together, we have made great strides in meeting the needs of the poor. Thanks to your congregation for helping to make our work possible.

**Cathy Howell, Executive Director**

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express how blessed we are to have had your prayers during the loss of my Mom and Grandmother. With such a sudden and unexpected loss, there was no time to do anything BUT pray. We have felt your prayers for sure and we ask that you continue to lift our family up in prayer in the days ahead. We thank you for the deli tray you provided for us, the many calls, cards and visits. We are very BLESSED that we have First A.R.P. as our church family.

A special thanks to Pastor Eddie for giving my Mom/Grandmother a wonderful home-going. Your words were perfect, as usual. And to Norma Jean, who played so beautifully at the service. We just can't let you retire, can we? Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

**In Christ,  
The family of Kathy Jones and Dawn Carr**

Dear Church Family,

Deepest thanks for all the cards, calls, prayers, concerns and visits. Your love and encouraging support are so precious to us as we continue to seek healing for Allen. We thank God for our caring brothers and sisters-in-Christ.

**Love,  
Allen & Becky Waters**

# YOUTH



HOPE FOR GASTON BENEFIT  
CONCERT-  
LOVE IN MOTION-SETH CONDREY  
THIS Friday NIGHT AT  
BETHLEHEM @7P  
TICKETS ARE \$6 IN ADVANCE AND  
\$10 AT THE DOOR.

**"But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand" Psalm 31:14-15**

## NASHVILLE MISSION TRIP

**\$125 DEPOSITS ARE DUE!**

## INTERFAITH

**March 27 AND April 3-56 ON THE THIRD FLOOR**

**NO FRILLS Friday-Friday, April 1 IN THE FSH**

**WED., March 30-BDKN YOUTH NIGHT! FLYER WITH DETAILS TO COME THIS WEEK. BE AT THE YB AT 5:30P. BRING MONEY FOR DINNER**



**COME INTO HIS PRESENCE**



**THE LORD IS A GREAT GOD**



**LET US WORSHIP**



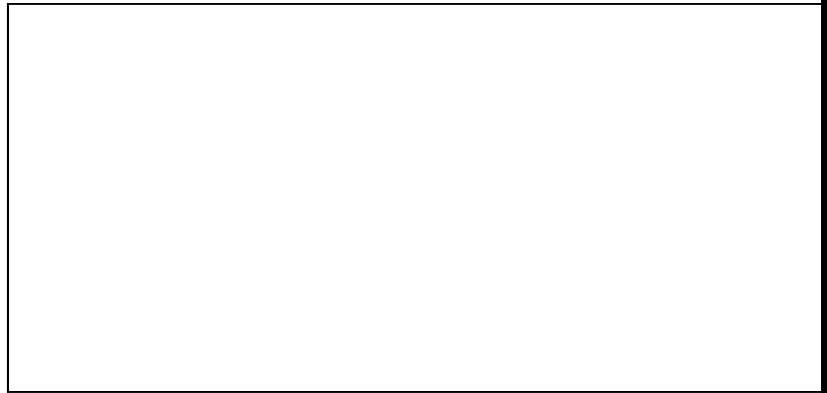
## *First A. R. Presbyterian Church*

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

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**Return Service Requested**

*In God We Trust*



## **Covenant Community School**

Registration is open now for Covenant Community School 2011-2012 School Year



Covenant Community School will open its doors to children and families in September 2011! Covenant Community School (CCS) is an outreach mission of First A.R.P. Church, Gastonia. It has been in the "works" for nearly 3 years. Jim Maynor has kept the dream alive and it is now truly coming to fruition. CCS will be serving children ages 2, 3 and 4 years of age offering a high quality, Christ centered, developmentally appropriate preschool experience for young children and their families. Music and physical education classes will be shared weekly. Classes will be half day. There will be a special emphasis on building community and building strong family connections through Christian values.

If you know of anyone who is considering a preschool for his or her child, we ask that you be a disciple for Covenant Community School and share the news about this opportunity for young children and their families. Contact Lynda Williams, Director at 704-864-5675 or by email at: [covenantarp@aol.com](mailto:covenantarp@aol.com) for more information.

Registration forms are available in the First A.R.P. Church office.