

The Link

The Newsletter for First A.R.P. Church

April 10—23, 2011



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Children's Easter Drama — Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone invited!!!

Sunday Morning Worship — April 17, Services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:45 .

Lenten Lunch — Wednesday, April 20 at 12:00 noon. Speaker will be Barak East from Holy Trinity.
Topic: Forgiveness ~ Cost for lunch: \$5

Maundy Thursday Communion Service — Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.
Childcare for children 4 years of age and younger.

Good Friday Service — Friday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Childcare for children 4 years of age and younger.

Easter Egg Hunt (Family Event)— Saturday, April 23 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Lewis Farms.
Reservation forms available. See Children's Ministry page for more information.

Easter Sunday Celebration! — Sunday, April 24
Worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.



Sunday Morning Greeters

April 10 — (8:30) Sam & Nancy McDaniel (11:00) John & Susan Williams

April 17 — (8:30) Sam & Nancy McDaniel (11:00) Rick & Rhonda Craig

Sunday Morning Coffee Servers

April 10 — Sarah Wallace

April 17 — Betsy Smith

Sunday Morning Worship Attendance

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
March 27	245	437	682
April 3	203	376	579

Ushers for 11:00 Service

April — Kevin Cherry, Mike Surbeck, Bill Kelly, Chip Ferguson

Wed. Prayer Luncheon Menu (12 Noon)

April 13 — salad bar, baked potato bar, dessert bar

April 20 — ham, potato salad, broccoli salad, fruit salad, sliced tomatoes

Wednesday Prayer Luncheon Helpers

April 13 — Jerry Lyons, Ellen Snider, Arthur Spencer, Gloria Rhyne

April 20 — Dee Cain, Peggy Starr, Anne McAllister, Jocelyn Estep

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

April 13 — meatloaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, yellow sweet corn, roll, dessert

April 20 — (no supper)

Wednesday Night Money Collectors

April 13 — Ernie & Jo Summey

April 20 — (no supper)

Medical Transportation Ministry

Do you need a ride to a doctor appointment?

Call Loretta Horne at 704-864-5527



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 Summer—4/28
Leigh Sabol—4/29
Ernie Summey—4/29
Dot Carson—4/30
Linda Maynor—4/30



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



Prayer Book

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.*

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
Wanda & Kenny Henderson	4/18/09	2 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

Special Wednesday Night Programs at First A.R.P.

As we head into the spring season we are planning a number of special Wednesday night events here at First ARP. These classes will follow our Wednesday Night Dinners and be in the place of any elective classes.

April 13th: “The Empty Easter Eggs” Children’s Drama. This performance will be in the Sanctuary from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please come and support our children!

April 20th: No Wednesday Night Events Scheduled

April 27th: Pastor Eddie Spencer speaking on the Family. This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

May 4th: Pastor Matt Kuiken to speak on an interesting topic he hasn’t thought of yet. This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

May 11th: Alex Pettet will speak on missions in the 10/40 Window. This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

May 18th: Special Musical Program in the Sanctuary from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

GASTON CHURCH LEAGUE T-Ball Schedule 2011



Teams:

Lutheran Chapel	First Methodist
Temple Baptist	Southminster
First ARP	Calvary Baptist

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

Children's Ministry Update

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 23

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Lewis Farms

330 Lewis Farm Road, Ranlo, NC



Reservation Forms Available

Arts and Crafts, Pony Rides, Face Painting,
Hay Mountain, Live Animals, Wagon Rides
Supper—Catfish Cove Mobile Unit—cash only

"The Empty Easter Eggs"

An original Easter Drama!

Wednesday, April 13—6:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Presented by our children and accompanied by our music ministry.



West Gastonia Easter Egg Hunt!

Friday, April 15—4:00—5:00 p.m.

Donations of plastic eggs and non-chocolate candy needed!



Congratulations to Two Families!

John William Davidson, III "Liam" was born on March 29, 2011 to John and Kelly Davidson. Lillian "Reese" Cherry was born on March 29, 2011 to Andrew and Jennifer Cherry.

Communicant's Retreat—March 2011



COVENANT COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Registration is open now

Contact us for information

704-864-5675 or lwilliams@firstarpchurch.org

Offering half day programs for 2, 3 and 4 year old children

High quality, Christ centered, research based program shared by an experienced staff. Faith development will be a constant component of the child's school experience. Our aspiration is to give children the tools to become "good citizens" and in their classroom and community.

Scholarships are available for qualifying families.

Please share the news of the Covenant Community Preschool Program with friends, coworkers, clientele and family.

- If you know of a family with a preschool aged child who may benefit from our program, share the news!
- If you can post or share the news of the preschool mission in your workplace, we will print fliers or brochures for you to share.
- If you live or have a business on a visible, well traveled road, please consider posting one of our yard signs to advertise the school. (Thank you Chip Craig and The Sign Connection for the gift of signs!) We need you to help us to get the news to all those who may benefit from a high quality, Christ centered, researched based preschool experience.

Covenant Community Preschool Program will comply with NC state and NAC accreditation standards in providing the best care for young children.



Dear Kids at First A.R.P.,

Thank you so much for the package you prepared for our family. It was a fun treat to open it while we travelled and distract us from the long trip. Erik and I had a lovely time visiting your Sunday School classes. Thank you for giving us your time, for asking such great questions and for praying for us. We continue to pray that the Lord would call His people in Mardin and in all of Turkey. We pray that He would fill us with his love and strength that we might be His lights in a dark land. We pray also for you that you would know the love of Jesus more every day. May you walk with Him and live for him.

Love, Erik & Laurie Meberg

Dear Staff of First A.R.P.,

Thank you so much for letting us use the Fellowship Hall for Michael's Eagle Scout Ceremony. You all were so generous and accommodating. Thank you especially to Nancy who was so helpful and made us feel so welcome! Also a special thank you to Mike who set up the room beautifully. You all were great and we certainly appreciate all of your efforts to make the day a beautiful one! Once again our sincere thanks from the Wallace Family!

Sincerely, Leslie Wallace

Dear First Gastonia Family,

Jeff and I want to thank you from our whole hearts for your prayers and support of our ministry in Berlin, Germany. The last year has been a great blessing for us as well as Rebekah Carson as we have witnessed the growth and formation of our church plant, now officially called the "Phillip Church".

We, along with 2 other missionary families, are supporting our German pastor and his wife in our bi-monthly worship services. Our worship times now draw up to 60 people including around 20 children. Our German brothers and sisters are really taking ownership of the church and are taking responsibility for the worship service preparations, music and children's programs.

Jeff and Rebekah are working full-time in our Family Center to lead programs as well as support the German-led programs. Many non-believers are able to take part in photography lessons, English clubs, our Family Café, board game nights, Family Festival weekend and soccer games. Through this great opportunity, we are able to meet people and begin relationships with them. In God's timing, we are able to share our faith in Jesus Christ and talk with them about spiritual things. Please pray with us that God will open doors for us to boldly share our hope in Christ and to put their faith in Him. Your faithful support of us and the Phillip Church is a great encouragement to many believers in Berlin and we all thank you!

**With love in Christ,
Suzanne Allers**



Living on Saturday

For many years, I have quoted Tony Campolo at least two or three times during this season of the year. As we continue to consider the cross of Christ and celebrate His glorious resurrection, we are reminded, "It's Friday, but Sunday is coming."

And it is true. It was Friday and Jesus, the Savior, entered into the most holy place, once and for all, obtaining eternal redemption by means of His death (Heb. 9:12). Sunday came. The resurrection of Christ from death on Sunday was God's glorious Amen to the salvation already achieved on Friday. All of this from God, so that we who have been united to Christ by faith can boldly say, "*Where, O death, where is your victory? Where, O death, where is your sting?*" *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (I Cor. 15:55-57). It was Friday and Sunday came. Hallelujah!

Through faith in Christ, we are recipients of the realities of God's glorious Friday and Sunday. We, who are saved by God's work on Friday, are sustained by the hope of Sunday. Yet spiritually, there is a sense that we live in between those glorious realities. For while we live as people saved to the uttermost by Friday, we have not yet participated fully in the victory of Sunday. One day when Christ comes again, "*There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...*" (Rev. 21:4). Yet for now, we must linger between what was achieved by God's Friday and what will be celebrated by God's Sunday. Spiritually, we live on Saturday. And sometimes living on Saturday can be difficult.

The Apostle Paul knew all about living on Saturday. Paul writes from a Roman jail cell to a group of Christians in Philippi. Amidst Saturday living he writes, "*I want to know Christ...*" (Phil. 3:10). **Primarily, Saturday-living calls for single-mindedness.** "*But one thing I do...*" (Phil. 3:13). The secret of Paul's success on Saturday was one thing; he declares, "*I want to know Christ...*" (3:10). "What is our chief end?" the Catechism asks, "To glorify God and enjoy him forever." Jesus said it this way, "*Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*" (Matt. 6:33). Saturday-living calls for one thing: a single-mindedness that seeks to echo the mind-set of Jesus when he said, "*I always do what pleases the Father*" (Jn. 8:29).

Secondly, Saturday-living cries out for self-awareness. Paul says, "*I want to know Christ... Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect...*" (Phil. 3:10, 12). C. S. Lewis said, "If you think being good is easy, you have never tried it." Saturday-living flourishes as we understand that we humbly live before a Holy God whose standard is perfection. "*Search me, O God, and know my heart...*" (Ps. 139:23). Not until we "*search our ways and examine ourselves*" (Lam. 3:40), can we revel in the glory and grace of God's forgiveness.

Thirdly, Saturday-living is confident of whose we are in Christ. "*I press on to take hold of that for which Jesus Christ took hold of me*" (Phil. 3:12). Paul's confidence and ours by faith is that God has hold of us. Jesus says, "*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand*" (John 10:27-29). On Saturday we succeed and fail, yet we press on as Paul says, "*to take hold of life*", confident that Christ has hold of us. As the Golden Gate Bridge was being built, 23 people fell to their death. The contractors responded by building a safety net. After the safety net was erected, only nine more men fell, and not one of them died. Productivity was increased by 25%. In much the same way, our safety net is our confidence that Christ has taken hold of us.

Fourthly, Saturday-living in Christ confirms that we are forgiven. We no longer have to live life bound in the chains of the past. Paul says, "*Forgetting what is behind...*" (Phil. 3:13). And Paul had a lot to forget, for he had watched and celebrated the stoning of Stephen; a leader in the early church. (Acts. 7:58, 8:1) He had zealously sought to stamp out the Christian movement entirely. Paul was an enemy of Christ. Yet he could say, "*One thing I do, forgetting what is behind.*" How? The answer for Paul's past and ours is Friday. He could live on Saturday with the hope of Sunday because the Exalted One who confronted Him on the Damascus Road was the Crucified One who took the penalty of His sins. Therefore, he would be the one who wrote, "*In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us...*" (Eph. 1:7, 8a). Friday achieved forgiveness which leads to living with freedom on Saturday "*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...*" (Phil. 3:13).

Fifthly, Saturday-living commits to Godly living. Paul didn't just forget what was behind. He strained toward what was ahead. He said, "*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me...*" (Phil. 3:14). Knowing the freedom of forgiveness, and the imputed righteousness of Christ (II Cor. 5:21), he desired to live out that life of righteousness with steadfastness and perseverance. Twice he says in a few sentences, I press on...

Lastly, Saturday-living is compelled by the glorious Sunday that will come. "*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3:14). We live on Saturday. We are confident of God's work on Friday and compelled by the hope of Sunday. Yet we have to strive, train and stretch on Saturday. It can be a grueling process. It can be hard and painful. Yet we press on, compelled and constrained by the anticipation of Sunday—the reality of Heaven, "*Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (Matt. 25:34).

Music Ministry Update

Praise God in His Sanctuary

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.” Psalm 100:4

The First A.R.P. Adult Choir has been invited to lead a hymn service for the opening worship service of this summer’s Bonclarken Music Conf.

July 10, 2011

Congratulations and Thanks for your leadership!

Music Conference registration deadline is May 15.

Register early to reserve your place at Carroll Cottage.

Forms are available in the Choir Room and in the Church Office.

Reminders

- Youth Choir sings April 10 during the 8:30 service.
- Joyful Noise singers are presenting a musical drama on April 13 at 6:30.
- Cherub Choir and Junior Choir sing April 17 during the 11:00 service.
- Adult Choirs will not rehearse on April 20.

Single Saints

The Single Saints will meet on Tuesday, April 19th at Jackson’s Cafeteria. Meet in the private dining room at 12:00 noon.



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 at 6:00 p.m.

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!

To purchase tickets see Chris Stowe in the breezeway on Sunday or give her a call @ 704-616-1820, Susan Williams @ 704-868-9090 or Nancy Peeler in the church office.

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

Updates for your Church Directory

- **Rudy & Kathy Stowe** – delete home phone number; add Rudy’s cell # 704-718-8639
- **Rocky Readling** – change address to P.O. Box 68, Southport, NC, 28465-9820
- **Jim Brown** – change address to Brian Center, 969 Cox Rd., Room 507, Gastonia, NC 28054
- **Danny Miller** – delete – Joined Catawba Heights Baptist Church 3-27-11

Mary Alice Holland used this in our Sunday School lesson Sunday. I thought it needed to be shared with all of us.

Jean Stewart

Your Pastor and Mine

If he is young, he lacks experience; if his hair is grey, he is too old. If he has five or six children, he has too many; if he has none, he is not setting a good example.

If his wife sings in the choir, she is forward; if she does not, she is not interested in her husband's work and is probably backslidden. If he speaks from notes, he has canned sermons and is a bore; if extemporaneously, he is not deep enough.

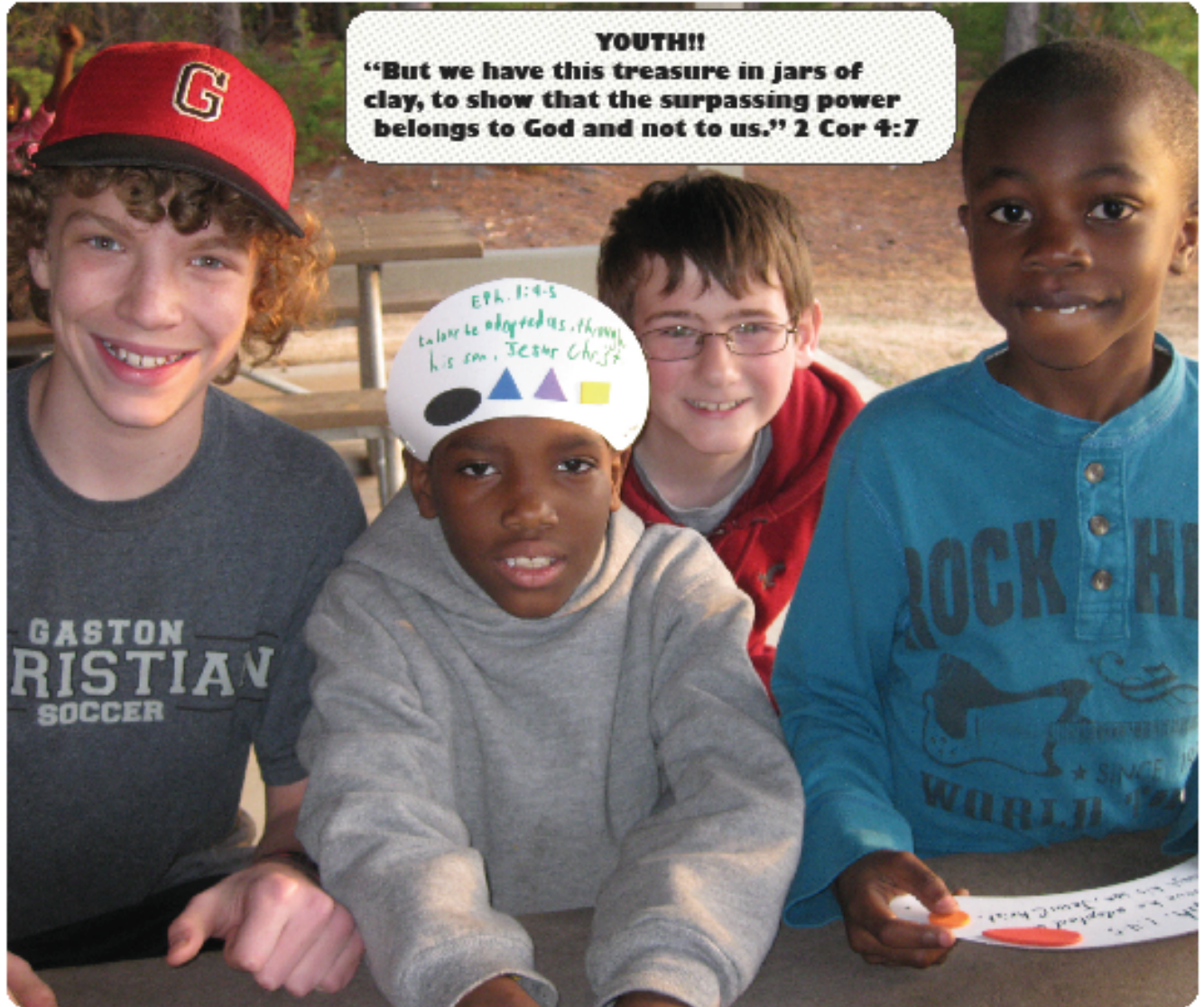
If he suggests changes for improvement of the Church, he is a dictator; if he makes no suggestions, he is just a figurehead. If he makes use of illustrations, he does not give enough Bible; if not, his teaching is not clearly understood.

If he fails to please somebody, he is hurting the Church; if he tries to please everybody, he is a fool.

If he preaches the truth, he is insulting and meddling; if he does not preach it, he is a hypocrite.

If he preaches an hour, he is tiresome; if only 20 minutes, he is lazy. So what? They say preacher has an easy time of it! Uh Huh!

From the book, *i seen him when he done it.*



YOUTH!!

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” 2 Cor 4:7

ALL STUDENTS GOING TO SERVE THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 9 AT SAMARITANS FEET BE IN THE YB PARKING LOT AT 5:30P. YOU MUST SIGN UP WITH COURT IN ORDER TO ATTEND. LIMITED SPOTS-10.

HOPE FOR GASTON GOLF TOURNAMENT-SAT., APRIL 16-SIGN UP WITH JAKE TO HELP. 7A-12P. WE WILL NEED 6-8 VOLUNTEERS!!

NASHVILLE MISSION MEETING-9:45A IN THE YB ON SUNDAY, APRIL 17 FOR PARENTS

WED., APRIL 27-FEW-INSTEAD OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED YOUTH-FROM 5:30-7:30P DETAILS TO COME!!

YOUTH CHOIR SINGS THIS SUNDAY DURING THE SERVICE!

Small groups April 10 and 17. No meetings April 24 and May 1.



First A. R. Presbyterian Church

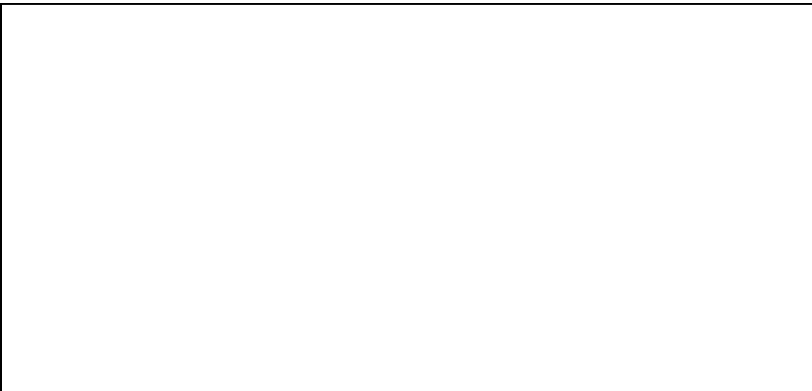
317 S. Chester Street, Gastonia, NC 28052
Phone: 704-864-3468, Fax: 704-864-2416
Church email: whenderson@firstarpchurch.org
Pastor Eddie's email: espencer@firstarpchurch.org
Pastor Matt's email: mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org

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In God We Trust



No Frills Friday

On the first Friday of every other month, Matt and Eddie are committed to a 2-1/2 hour in-depth teaching time from 6:30—9:00 p.m. It is called “No Frills Friday” because we offer no food or other social amenities. We gather for study. We did make an exception this past Friday as we enjoyed Russ McAllister’s birthday cake between the teaching session.

The next “No Frills Friday” will be Friday, June 6. Presently, we have not decided on a topic. If you would like to suggest a biblical topic for more intensive study, contact Eddie at espencer@firstarpchurch.org or Matt at mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org.

Faith Promise 2010-2011: \$198,194
Faith Promise Received in 2010-2011: \$168,961

If you would still like to contribute to our last year’s 2010-2011 Faith Promise, it would be appreciated. If you have made a Faith Promise for this next year and can make a contribution by Sunday (April 10th), it will help us make our monthly support to our missionaries. Call Tammy Baker at the church office if you have questions.

Don’t Forget Lenten Lunches

Remember our last two Lenten Luncheons. **April 13:** at First United Methodist with Jack Weisenhorn, topic: Service; **April 20:** First 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.