

The Link

The Newsletter for First A.R.P. Church

May 15—June 11, 2011

FIRST ARP SPRING FLING

For our ENTIRE church family!

KARYAE PARK (Former YMCA Park)

4227 South Linwood Rd.

Saturday, May 21st 4:00 - 6:30 P.M.

Do you sit at the back of the church on Sunday mornings and see people near the front that you don't recognize? On the way to your Sunday School class, do you pass people you've never met? Have you met people at church but haven't had a time for conversation? Then this is a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our Christian family!

Hamburgers with all the trimmings, an **ice cream truck**, music by 8:30 a.m. Praise Band, volleyball, basketball, soccer, horseshoes, Treasure Dig for ages 2-5 yrs., **ropes course**, **climbing tower** and **mechanical bull** (*written parental consent required for these three events*), lots of places to sit and visit (inside and out). Bring basketballs and soccer balls.



Rain or Shine

Single \$5.00 Couple \$10.00 Family \$15.00

Reservations and Checks Required by THIS Sunday, May 15

See Sunday's Bulletin for Reservation form or drop by Nancy Peeler's office.



Climbing Tower



Mechanical Bull



Ropes Course

Sunday Morning Greeters

May 15 — (8:30) Harold & Betty Stowe (11:00) Brice & Norma Jean
May 22 — (8:30) Harold & Betty Stowe (11:00) Brice & Norma Jean
May 29 — (8:30) Harold & Betty Stowe (11:00) Paula Dixon & TBA
June 5 — (8:30) Harold & Betty Stowe (11:00) Dan & Jane Nation

Sunday Morning Coffee Servers

May 15 — Mickey Smith **May 29** — Mary Ruth Pursley
May 22 — Frances & Rob Parker **June 5** — Peggy Starr

Sunday Morning Worship Attendance

	8:30	11:00	Total
April 10	246	286	532
April 17	227	423	650
April 24 (Easter)	340	474	814
May 1	232	284	516
May 8	186	386	592

Ushers for 11:00 Service

May — Jerry Best, James Bostick, Tom Balsom, Wes Morris
June — Rudy Stowe, Chip Ferguson, Dan Willis, Marshall Welch

Wed. Prayer Luncheon Menu (12 Noon)

May 18 — potato bar, salad bar, dessert bar

Wednesday Prayer Luncheon Helpers

May 18— Jerry Lyons, Ellen Snider, Arthur Spencer, Jocelyn Estep

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

May 18 — fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, corn, roll, dessert

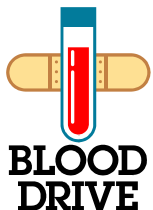
Wednesday Night Money Collectors

May 18 — Ernie & Jo Summey



Medical Transportation Ministry

Do you need a ride to a doctor appointment?
 Call Loretta Horne, 704-864-5527.



First A.R.P. Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

2:30-7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Please see Vicki Marsh on the breezeway on Sunday or give her a call at 704-867-2139 to make your life-saving appointment! Walk-ins are welcome on the day of the drive, but the process will go much quicker with an appointment.

We have a BRAND NEW website!!!

www.firstarpchurch.org

Happy Birthday

Bob Hubers—5/15	Marlene Walls—5/28
Mary Ruth Pursley—5/15	Sam Cain—5/29
Kim Starnes—5/15	Tommy Cope—5/29
Bob Crockett—5/16	Bryce Curtis—5/29
Piper Riley—5/16	Christian Duffie—5/29
Brad Wilson—5/16	Courtney Ellis—5/29
Jamie Christopher—5/17	Celia Farmer—5/29
Chris Johnson—5/17	Emily Payne—5/29
Danny Postell—5/17	Miriam Connor—5/30
Tom Wallace—5/17	Brenda Garretson — 5/30
Kristi Bostick—5/18	Craig Miller—5/30
Delsey Brown—5/18	Meredith Wallace—5/30
Johnny Holland—5/18	Max Garretson—6/1
Kathy Parks—5/18	Tom Williamson—6/1
Jonathan Queler—5/18	Greg Bryant—6/2
Madison Watson—5/18	Alexandria Franks—6/2
Nancy Wilson—5/18	Sonja Balsom—6/4
Meg Fisher—5/19	Elizabeth Frost—6/4
Matt Kuiken—5/19	Charlie Horne—6/4
Jean Stewart—5/19	Charles Hubbard—6/4
Carolyn Borden—5/20	Terry Cope—6/5
Julia Greeson—5/20	Jim Gantt—6/5
Dot Schutte—5/20	Nathan Smith—6/5
Tom Summer—5/20	Linda Blue—6/6
Carolyn Canaday—5/22	Sid Craig—6/6
Abigail Jarratt—5/22	Carolyn McRainey—6/6
Jeanette Evans—5/23	Karyn Love—6/7
Joe Painter—5/23	Clay Starnes—6/7
Christine Fink—5/24	Knoxie Cloninger—6/8
Peggy Smith—5/24	Penny Morris—6/8
James Anthony—5/25	Richard Pearson—6/8
Spencer Cain—5/25	Jamie Andrews—6/9
Tim Daniels—5/25	Kenzie Farmer—6/9
Mike Foster—5/25	Gerald Arney—6/10
Wanda Henderson—5/25	Julius Barkley—6/10
Olivia Bloomfield—5/27	Rex Champion—6/10
Anna Craig—5/27	Sybil Hollowell—6/10
Nathan Hamm—5/27	Becky Waters—6/10
Hannah Lear—5/28	Rachel Gutowski—6/11
	Winifred Jackson—6/11
	Mackenzie Fallin—6/12

Happy Wedding Anniversary to:

Mickey & Peggy Smith	5/15/71	40 years
Joel & Gayle Goodrich	5/16/64	47 years
William & Julie Ratchford	5/17/08	3 years
Carroll & May Barger	5/18/91	20 years
Scott & Leslie Farrar	5/18/85	26 years
Nick & Brooke Sipe	5/19/07	4 years
Butch & Ruth Boyd	5/20/83	28 years
Joe & Sarah Knowles	5/21/49	62 years
John & Susan Williams	5/21/88	23 years
Jim & Susan Crisp	5/26/84	27 years
Charles & Frances Boyles	5/27/78	33 years
David & Pat Johnson	5/27/72	39 years
Tom & Tari Williamson	5/28/83	28 years
Pablo & Jessica Mazariegos	5/30/09	2 years
Greg & Gail Hamm	5/31/70	41 years
Dwayne & Sarah Fink	6/03/78	33 years
Russ & Anne McAllister	6/03/78	33 years
Dean & Angie Dixon	6/04/94	17 years
Ernie & Jo Summey	6/06/64	47 years
Jeff & Kelly Burrell	6/07/80	31 years
Matt & Sabrina Kuiken	6/07/03	8 years
Mike & Barbie Harwell	6/08/02	9 years
Mikell & Elaine Jarratt	6/09/90	21 years
Jim & Linda Maynor	6/10/67	44 years
David & Tracey Smith	6/11/77	34 years
Glenn & Donna Tyree	6/11/77	34 years

My Mission Trip to South Africa

By: Gayle Goodrich

On Palm Sunday at the 8:30 service, Pastor Eddie commissioned me for the mission trip to South Africa. Going on the trip was a group of ten from our son's church, Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Cornelius. Our grandchildren, Graham, 16, and Jessie, 13, were part of the group. As I was walking out of the sanctuary that morning, Meg Fisher gave me one of the great church magnets that the youth had been selling. How good to receive it as I had lost from the back of my car the one I had previously purchased. On the way to the airport I looked down at the magnet in my lap and Eddie's words came back to me – that I would be going on behalf of our church – words that I took to my heart.

Seventeen hours from Atlanta we arrived in Johannesburg and then on to White River - a 5 hour van ride was ahead! We arrived late into the night at the Africa School of Missions, which was our home base for the next 10 days. Here we were greeted with warm smiles, hugs, clean beds and nourishing food.



The first day we drove from the school to the K2 Home Based Care facility. This is in the middle of the Masoyi tribe area and contained a center for worship, a children's daycare, a large kitchen, a young mothers group and a vegetable garden. One of the daily workers in the garden was a spry, 103 year old lady. What an inspiration as the love of Jesus radiated from her as she worked. At K2 we had our first lively worship with joyful songs by many rich voices. We played with the little orphans so starved for loving and touching. We sang with the children and shared The Easter Story. We did crafts with the young people and shared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit and juice. We also sang with

them and shared food and bags of good stuff like pens, paper, toiletries and small toys. Then we went out into the community to share The Easter Story with a middle school aged group. Another day we returned home from school.

About midway through our time there, we took one day to visit The Kruger National Park which was about 30 miles away. It was a day of taking in God's wonderful creations of wild animals in their own habitat. How magnificent they were!

Welcome To The KRUGER NATIONAL PARK NUMBI GATE											
Obtain travel document at reception.											
GATE TIMES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY-JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV-DEC		
OPEN	04h30 05h30	05h30	05h30	06h00	06h00	06h00	06h00	05h30	04h30 05h30	FIRST ARP CHURCH	
CLOSE	18h30	18h30	18h00	18h00	17h30	18h00	18h00	18h00	18h30		



Our next worship service was at Hosanna Christian Faith International Church which was an actual "real" church building. Pastor Solly leads this congregation and we were able to worship with them and share communion. Then we took over a hundred children to a partially finished building where we shared with them The Easter Story, music, crafts and food. When I handed a sandwich to a little girl she looked up into my eyes and said "God bless you" and I felt just how sincerely she meant those words.

Our last worship service was at Pastor Louie's Words of Salvation Church. This is a large blue and white striped tent far out in the countryside in a grassy field on the side of a mountain. This was a glorious worship service where God was praised with music and dance in a most profound way. Here again we were able to share our music and The Easter Story.

This was an experience that is in some ways very difficult to describe as one is overwhelmed by the suffering, disease, poverty and hunger. Even more overwhelming to me were the smiles and love I felt from those needy ones. I went to do what I could to help, and what I felt compelled to do as a Christian and a member of First ARP Church. It is my hope that if we all continue to do our small part, whether at home or in another country, then in time God's will – will indeed be done. <>



Faith Promise Thank You

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”
2 Corinthians 9:12

Dear Congregation of Jesus Christ at First ARP,

We just want to praise God and say a BIG thank you for all of you who have supported our Faith Promise Missions Budget for 2011-12! Your generosity has truly represented a heart for God’s Kingdom and to see that Kingdom move forward all around the world. This year we had 151 Faith Promise Cards turned in with a total of \$218,100 promised to support our Foreign and Home Missions Budgets. This total represents a significant increase in our missions budget though we had a few less faith promise cards turned in. All this is to say that God has moved in the hearts of His people here at First ARP to support His work, and for that we are truly grateful. Thank you for your generous support of our missionaries, and may your generous giving be accompanied by generous prayers for our mission partners.

With Much Love,
The Missions Committee

Gastonia Has a HUGE Problem — Homelessness

If you ask a member what’s the most important ministry of the church, you will get many different answers, from No Frills Friday, Wednesday Electives, InterFaith and Small Groups to Prayer Gatherings. These are great ministries, but let me tell you about a ministry that few people are aware of. It is our ministry to the Homeless of Gastonia through the Homeless Breakfast program. We have a special group of men and women who buy, cook and serve this breakfast from 5:30-7:00 a.m. every 2nd and 4th Thursday at our local Salvation Army located on Broad Street. Our thanks to: Tom Balsom, Tammy & Greg Bryant, John Connor, Rob Parker, Jo Anne Parker, Leslie Farrar, Tari Williamson, Nancy Sabol, Julia Greeson, Donna Craig, Alice Ann Kelly, Speed Ferguson, Zack Stroupe, Brice Maney, Joe West, Bill Hayes, Butch Boyd, Todd Rhoney, Matt Kuiken, Wally Mocanu, Kaleb Hobson and Jane Nation. You too can know the joy of serving others by volunteering.

We need more people to volunteer for the Homeless Breakfast and the InterFaith Hospitality Ministries which is another Homeless Ministry. Won’t you join us? The homeless are people—JUST LIKE YOU.

Nuts and Bolts

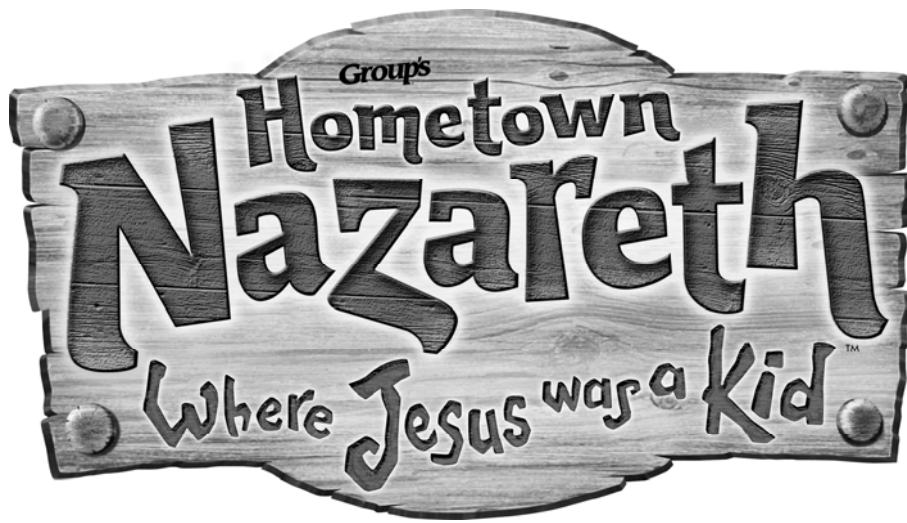
By Jean Stewart

True faith is believing God will do what is best for me in His time.

- Harrison Auten made the varsity golf team at Gaston Christian for next year. Congratulations, Harrison. We will be looking for you to have a great year.
- Huntley Auten placed second in the Gaston Christian School Science Fair. Great going!
- Alice Ann Beam Kelly has joined Drs. Bill and Jim Kelly at Gastonia's Kelly Dentistry. Alice Ann plans to limit her practice to children. We are so happy for you.
- It's that time of the year again! Anyone who has flowers in his or her yard to share in arrangements for the church, please call me. We have so many talented ladies who garden and also can do arrangements. We have two beautiful clear glass vases or brass urns you can use.
- Come by the office lobby and see the aquarium! It is beautiful and we have lots of fish. Thank you Leslie for getting it up and running again!
- Please remember to bring books to me for the library. If we have more than 2 copies, I plan to give them to the Prison Ministry to take to the prisons. Devotion books are also appreciated by them.
- As you know, we are now on face book. It is First ARP Church, Gastonia. I am new at this and learning, so be patient with me! On Fridays, I plan to post the Scripture Eddie will be using for the Sunday service, the sermon title, the offertory anthems and other news. This way you can start preparing for Sunday by reading the Scripture. When you get to the FB page, please click like. This will tell us how many times the page is used. Thanks and you will hear more later.
- The sound people having started installing our new system. Did some of you notice Sunday? You may see a little dirt and a few things out of place the next few weeks, but I think it will be worth it. We have a very fine crew doing the work.
- Eddie' Scripture for memory: *“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.”* Proverbs 24:3-4

No Frills Friday—June 3rd

Our next “No Frills Friday” will be Friday evening, June 3, from 6:30—9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Matt Kuiken will be teaching on Heaven and Hell. It will be a time of in-depth Bible study. No Frills means no supper and no childcare. Don’t miss it!



VBS 2011—Where Jesus Was a Kid!!!

July 25-28—9a.m.—12 noon

Register now at www.firstarpchurch.org!

At a Glance!!!

Day 1—Mary is chosen to be Jesus' mother.

Day 2—Jesus is born and gets his name.

Day 3—Jesus' family escapes to Egypt.

Day 4—Jesus goes to the temple.

Become a member of one of the 12 tribes!

Participate in Operation Kid-to-Kid!

Enjoy the Marketplace Shops!!!

Be sure to visit: the Olive Oil Shop, the Rock Quarry, the Synagogue School, the Carpentry Shop, the Dye Shop, the Bead Bazaar, The Wool Shop, and the Food Market.

Daily God Sightings!!!

God is alive every day! Help us fill our VBS pasture with "God Sightings Sheep" as a visual reminder!!!

Easter at West Gastonia!



Welcome Joel Anderson!

Joel Spencer Anderson was born on April 13, 2011 to **James and Julie Anderson**. Congratulations to these new parents!

**Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!**



T-Ball Banquet

Thursday, May 26

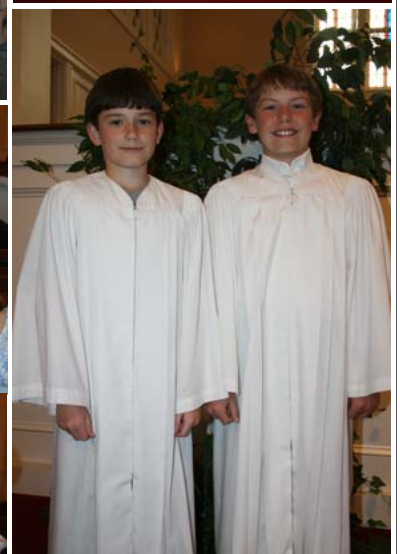
6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Congratulations to our littlest Eagles!!!



"The Empty Easter Eggs"!



Last Call!! Camp Bonclarken!

If you have registered your child for Camp Bonclarken Session One or Two and **have not already notified Rebecca Maney**, please do so by **May 30** so that matching funds can be mailed to the camp office.



Have You Noticed??? We have large poster frames and picture collages of ministry events on both floors of our children's ministry building. Check them out!!!

Thanks Walter Payne and *Image Mark!!!* What a great addition to our facility!

Open House!

Your family is invited to **Covenant Community Preschool**

Open House!

Blessing Our Community... Building God's Kingdom

Tour... the Preschool Classrooms and play spaces.

Learn... how Covenant Community will provide a high quality educational experience for your child!

We can't wait to see you!

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Covenant Community is located in the York Chester neighborhood—317 S. Chester St., on the First ARP Church Campus. Parking is available at the back of the church. Follow the balloons to the preschool entrance. Please contact us at 704.864.5675 or lwilliams@firstarpchurch.org for more information.

Children's Ministry Update

Pre-Summer 2011

Communicants

Class of 2011

Avery Myers Clark
Bryce Alan Curtis
Kathryn Barnes Forbes
Branton Hayes McHenry
Aaron Michael Nesnow
Rennie Epps Pearson
Kristin Leigh Rouse
Ethan Creswell Shell
Rachel Morgan Spencer
Charles Joshua Starnes
Emmaleigh Lauren Wingate

Please welcome these outstanding young people into the fellowship of our congregation!



2011 Kid Campaign



Sundays May 22, 29
"Be a Seed Planter"



Children's Ministry Trivia Questions

- How many children ages infant—fifth grade do we currently serve in our children's ministry?
- How many classrooms do we staff on a typical Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.?
- How many volunteers participate in our Sunday morning and Wednesday Night children's ministry?

The answer to all three of these questions is: **MORE THAN YOU REALIZE.**

Dozens of children and volunteers make this ministry happen. Wouldn't you like to be a part of this ongoing ministry to our youngest members? Be a "seed planter"!!!
1 Cor. 3:6



Camp 3:16

June 29-30, 2011

Grades 4 and 5

An inter-active missions camp for elementary students!

Registration: \$20.00 per child

Friends and Guests are Welcome!

Learn how to share your faith!
Participate in world missions projects!

**Project Haiti*

**Operation Kid-to-Kid*

Serve your church and community!
Have a lot of fun!

Registration brochures will be available soon at:
www.firstarpchurch.org.



Easter at Lewis Farm!





Building Strong Families

By Eddie Spencer

The Bible says, “*unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain*” (Ps. 127:1). How then do we build strong homes? The Bible responds, “*By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures?*” (Prov. 24:3-4).

Such wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. If our house is going to be built on a strong foundation and our family flourish, we must model and teach the wisdom and Word of God. “*Love the Lord your God... These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children*” (Deut. 6:5-7). This is God’s foundation. A family can possess everything, yet unless the home gives a spiritual foundation, built on the Word of God and the good news of life in Jesus Christ, a family has nothing that lasts.

Secondly, strong families are ones where affirmation is expressed. William James noted, “From cradle to grave, one of the deepest needs is to be appreciated.” For every, “No, what are you thinking?” there should be ten, “Good job”, “Well done”, “That’s great.” Yet affirming our children and others in the family is more than just encouraging and appreciating one another. A familiar Bible verse is, “*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it*” (Prov. 22:6). The Amplified Bible gives us an interesting insight into the meaning of this verse. “*Train up a child in the way he should go (and in keeping with his individual gift or bent) and when he is old he will not depart from it*” (Prov. 22:6 Amplified Bible).

Psalm 139:13 says, “*For you,*” and the “*you*” being in great emphasis, denotes that it is the Lord and only the Lord who is the Creator. “*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb*” (Ps. 139:13). If we are going to affirm one another in the context of the family, we must know one another. Our children arrive in our arms, longing to be known, nurtured, and loved as they have been uniquely made by God. Isn’t this true for all of us? To affirm one another in the family is to work at knowing the personality, temperament, talents and strengths of each other as they have been uniquely made, and then to strive at bringing out the best in them.

Thirdly, if we are going to build strong families, affirmation must be expressed and affection must be demonstrated. The Apostle Paul shared a poignant word with the church of Thessalonica that should be powerfully applied in our families. Paul, writing of his affection for the church, says, “*we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us*” (1 Thess. 2:7-8). Paul could have employed 7 to 8 words that communicated the idea of affection, yet he chose a Greek word I do not believe is used anywhere else in the New Testament. He used a term of endearment taken from the nursery. The word picture is of a father holding his beloved child with tenderness and firmness. This is the kind of affection needed in our families. Sadly, as the years pass, work increases, pressures mount, and demands compete for our time. That kind of affection can quickly wane. Positive non-verbal communication, gentle touching and hugging are just some of the ways to demonstrate affection.

Lastly, and consistent with the principles of affirmation and affection in the family, we must practice understanding if our families would be strong. “*The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out*” (Prov. 20:5). Our children’s, spouses’ and siblings’ deepest thoughts and potential are like treasures on the ocean floor. They can be covered up by debris, never to surface; or they can be gently nurtured to the surface where thoughts, dreams, and potential become realized.

The practice of understanding calls for the family members to be available and involved with one another. It demands time, energy and money. It calls for priorities to be reorganized and schedules to be restructured. What in our schedules is more important than our child’s ballgame or school play? What will give a greater return than the investment in our children’s spiritual legacy and success?

We all want our families to be healthy and strong. Consider and put into practice God’s wisdom from strong families. Build a spiritual foundation, express affirmation, demonstrate affection and practice understanding.

(This series will continue in the next issue of *The Link*.)

Music Ministry Update

Praise God in His Sanctuary

GOD IS HERE!

*A Celebration of God's Presence in Word and Song
Led by the Youth and Children's Choirs*

Wednesday, May 18

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Summer Choir Camp

Sing a New Song!

For rising 2nd—5th graders

August 8-11, 2011

9 A.M.-12 P.M. at First ARP

Registration due July 15.

\$15 per child; \$30 family max.

Thank You!

Choirs, accompanists, instrumentalists, bell ringers, volunteer musicians, and assistants for your work and dedication throughout the year. Your music enriches our worship.

MEN'S SUMMER BASKETBALL!!

It's time for some 4 on 4 outdoor full court basketball, starting in May and going through August. See Matt

Kuiken and Trustcott McLearn rain jumpers, while Andrew Spencer leaves everybody in the dust! Call Kelvin Monteith at 704-865-1252 for details & schedule, or email

Kelvin.monteith@wellsfargo.com.

Exotic places!! Fantastic People!!

Would you be interested in being a champion for one of the missionaries we support? The Foreign Missions Committee needs a few folks who are specifically connected with our missionaries (or ready/willing/able) to help us further engage the congregation in their work. That's what the missions committee is all about and we need your help. Just call or email to find out more. Micah Bomgaars (980-253-3552) mbomgaars@bgea.org

Attention: Single Saints

The Single Saints will meet on Tuesday, May 17, at the home of Mary Lou Pearson. Meet at the church at 12:00 noon.

Updates for Your Church Directory

- **Floyd Hayes** – change address to: 1251 E. Hudson Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28054
- **Lan & Jessica Martin** – change address to 34425 Quail Ln., Dagsboro, DE 19939
- **Ruth Cauble** – change Apt. # to B-126
- **Libby Kinlaw** – change Apt. # to B-113
- **Haidee Richardson** – change Apt. # to B-193
- **Alvin Cain** – change Apt. # to B-114
- **Bill Cain** – change email address to: bcain@WhisperofGod.org
- **Ralph Froneberger** – change address to 3288 Su San Farm Rd., Gastonia, NC 28056, phn. # didn't change.
- **Jim Brown** – change address back to 1921-C E. Hudson Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054
- **Tommy Coker** – went to his eternal home with the Lord on April 25, 2011
- **Elizabeth Cain** – change her name to Elizabeth Cain Williams. She will be under Coleman Mark Williams in the directory. They were married 4-23-11. Address will be 1707 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054. Her cell: 704-718-8629; His cell: 704-860-9347
- **Steve Harris** – new cell phone # is 336-624-7911.
- **Dan & Pat McCurry** – (New Member who joined 4/3/11) 2412 Denise Drive, Gastonia, NC 28056; home phn: 704-865-7767; Dan's cell:704-813-8177; Pat's cell: 704-813-8178; pwmccurry@aol.com & dcmccurry1@aol.com
- **Cary Ellen Howie** - (New Member who joined 4/3/11) 534 Thomas Trail, Gastonia, NC 28054; home phn: 704-671-4469
- **Mark W. & son, Cliff E. Howie** – (New Members who joined 4/3/11) 534 Thomas Trail, Gastonia, NC 28054; home phn: 704-671-4469; work phn: 704-554-0500; Mark's cell phn: 704-214-1099; Mark's email: mh2253470@aol.com Cliff's cell phn: 704-214-1120; Cliff's email: cliffyhowie@yahoo.com
- **Joe Summerville** – change Joe's business email address to: Joe@SummervilleFinancial.com
- **Wade Huss** – change cell phone # to 704-813-7208
- **Ralph Froneberger** – add email address: rfheustess@yahoo.com

Special Thanks to Joe Boyles, John Williams, Billy Sturgis, Jake Vance, Matt and Aaron Fargher for their great help on the Hope 4 Gaston project, Saturday, May 7. -- Jerry Lyons

"Baby Bottle Blessings"

Your "Change" will help change minds, hearts and Lives

You are invited to take a baby bottle and fill it with your silver change from now to June 19th (Father's Day). Bottles are available in the narthex, fellowship hall, office lobby, and chapel reception area. Return the bottle to the church or to the Crisis Pregnancy Center on or before June 19th.

May God bless you as you bless others!



HORIZON AND QUEST DEPOSITS AND FORMS ARE DUE THIS Wednesday, MAY 11 FOR EARLY REGISTRATION.

EARLY REGISTRATION COST=\$185 (\$80 DEPOSIT)

LATE REGISTRATION=\$200 (\$100 DEPOSIT) AFTER MAY 11

SMALL GROUPS WILL MEET SUN., MAY 15 AND 22

WONDERFUL Wednesday SUMMER SCHEDULE WILL BE MAILED TO YOU IN THE UPCOMING WEEKS!!

SENIOR GRADUATION LUNCH IS June 5 FOLLOWING THE 11 SERVICE-RSVP TO JEAN



My feet have followed closely to His steps...I have treasured His words more than my own. Job 23:10,12

All HS students will begin the Bridges-Christians Connecting with Muslims video study Sunday, May 22-Sunday, June 26 in Sunday School. Please try and be at all six sessions in order to be a part of the full study.

THE LAST YOUTH OF THE SPRING WILL BE Wednesday, MAY 25-DETAILS TO COME

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS THIS SUMMER!!

***If you would like to host a surprise event please contact Jake or Court by June!**

Wednesday, June 29-SURPRISE EVENT!

Wednesday, July 13-SURPRISE EVENT!

Wednesday, July 20-SURPRISE EVENT!

Wednesday, August 17-SURPRISE EVENT!

Every Sunday at the park there will be frisbee from 2-4p on the top field by the playground unless it is raining.

A Story of Two Crosses

By Penny Wilson

Many of you have been praying for my mother during the past year while she has been a dialysis patient. Those prayers have been heard and answered in a powerful way. She is currently being evaluated by Wake Forest University Baptist Hospital for a kidney transplant. On April 12th, she and I were in Winston-Salem, along with other potential transplant recipients, their caregivers and possible donors, for several initial interviews and educational meetings.

While we were there I made a couple of visits to the ladies' room in the area of the building just outside the education room. The ladies' room was a busy place. There was usually someone in there with something interesting to share. Later in the day, while members of the transplant coordinating team had my mother in another area of the building, I walked back to the educational wing to make another stop in the ladies' room. This time, when I went in, I was alone. I went into the stall across from the sink. When I came out to wash my hands, lying on the counter beside the sink were two little aluminum crosses. You've probably seen one before. It's the kind people carry in their purse or pocket. I looked around and I was still in there by myself. If the two crosses were lying there when I came in, I certainly didn't notice them. How did they get there? Are these for me, I wondered? I asked God if He was sending me a message by way of one of His ministering servants.

I put the crosses in my pocket and walked back to the opposite side of the building to wait for my mom. After we were released from the transplant center and were headed back toward home, we stopped at a Cracker Barrel restaurant for a bite to eat. I told Mom what happened while I was in the ladies' room and held out my hand with the two crosses. "One of these is for you," I told her. Tears came in her eyes as she carefully placed the little cross in her purse. We both experienced a sense of peace and confidence that God orchestrates the events of our lives and everything is under His control.

What an encouraging reminder

during this Easter season. The cross and the empty tomb made a difference in our lives as we have allowed the risen Christ to turn our doubts to assurance and our fears to faith. Just as the darkness and tears of that infamous Friday gave way to the joy and victory of Sunday morning, we can be assured that God will turn our darkness into light and our tears to joy. Thank you for your prayers I hope that you will continue to lift her up as she progresses on this journey. May the life and hope of the risen Savior be yours in abundance.



Cross in My Pocket

by Mrs. Verna Mae Thomas

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.
This little cross is not magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.
It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.
When I put my hand in my
pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.
It reminds me, too, to be
thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.
It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I
share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His
care.
So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of
my life
If only I'll let Him be.



Lauren Spiewak

Lauren Spiewak is a good friend of Tari Williamson and is called to be a missionary to the 10/40 Window. She begins her work in the Fall. Due to the spiritual sensitivity of the area, she asked we not identify her mission field. She spoke at the Noon Prayer Luncheon on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. Please remember Lauren in prayer.

Do We Have Your Correct Email Address?

If you are not receiving emails from the church, it's because we do not have your email address or it may be that the one we have is incorrect. All you need to do is call the church office and leave a message for Wanda or notify her by sending an email to whenderson@firststarchurch.org.

Lost and Found

We have a Lost and Found box located in the first floor office lobby area of the Education Building. If you are missing anything, please check the box. Some of the items have been there for a long time. **Everything in the box will be thrown away or given away on May 31st.** Thanks!

Free Cat to Good Home!

Ralph Froneberger is looking for a good, loving home for his 9 year old black, male cat. Please give him a call if you are interested at 704-865-4393.

Weekly Events

Sunday

Officers' Prayer Time
 8:00 a.m.
 Worship Service
 8:30 a.m.
 Coffee Fellowship—FH
 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School
 9:45 a.m.
 Inquirer's Class—FH
 9:50 a.m.
 Worship Service
 11:00 a.m.
 Ultimate Frisbee at Martha
 2:00 p.m.
 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.
 Greeson's Small Group

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Men of Panera Bible Study
 6:30 a.m.
 Mingle & Montage (Alfred &
 6:30 a.m.
 Charlie's)

Friday

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



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	TeleCare — 6:45 p.m. at Allen Tate Realtors	ACS Training for Staff 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Single Saints—12 Noon home of Mary Lou Pearson	Last Noon Lunch and Last Supper Special program, "God is Here" by youth & children's choirs—6:30 in sanctuary		Bible Club at West Gastonia Boys & Girls Club 4:00-5:00 p.m.	First A.R.P.: Spring Fling! Churchwide Family Event at Karyae Park 4:00-6:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Kid Campaign Sunday Booth in breezeway	Party Girls — 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall Book Club — 7 p.m. at home of Jo Anne Parker	Blood Drive 2:30—7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall	Last Youth Meeting	T-Ball Banquet in Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.		
29	30	31				
Quarterly Children's SS Teachers Mtg. 9:40 a.m.- 1st floor office lobby. Kid's Campaign Sunday Last Youth Small Groups Friends Class BBO 4pm at home of Truscott McLear	Memorial Day Church Office Closed					



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Eddie will be on Sabbatical the month of June and July	6	7	8	9	10	11
High School Seniors Sunday—Grads Luncheon in FH following 11:00 Worship Service	Knit One Pray One 10:00 a.m.—Nursery	Presb. & Synod Open House for Covenant Preschool 6:00-7:30 p.m.	Link Ministry 1:00 p.m.	Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.—FH	No Frills Friday 6:30-9:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall	Pastors' Prayer Partners, 7:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall



First A. R. Presbyterian Church

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Pastor Eddie's email: espencer@firstarpchurch.org

Pastor Matt's email: mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org

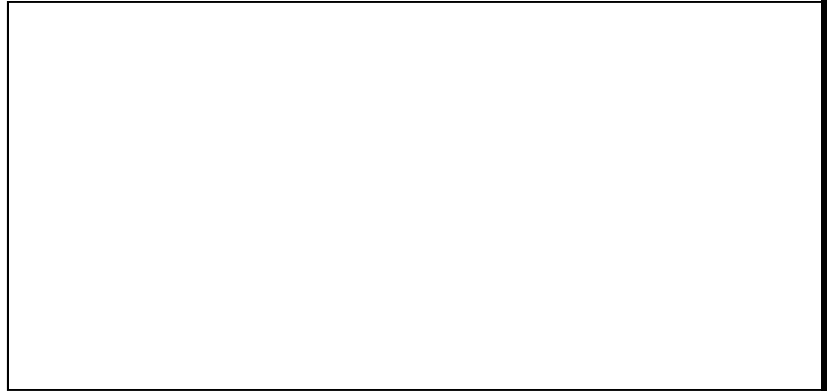
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In God We Trust



Sound and Video Updates – Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

For those of you who attended church at First A.R.P. on Mother's Day, you may have noticed some changes to the sanctuary. We are in the midst of some exciting improvements that will enhance and upgrade the sound and video that is used in the sanctuary and some similar additions in the fellowship hall. Thanks to the generous gift of one of our members who designated the gift exclusively for sound and video upgrades, we are able to make the following changes:

- New speakers – more stereo sound to enhance instruments and sound from video and CD's
- New Sound Board – the brains behind the mixing of the sound is now digital with presets that allow the operator to select the type of service – 8:30 a.m. worship, 11 a.m. worship, wedding and funeral – and each preset will have everything pre-programmed for a perfect sound mix
- New Amps and wiring – everything regarding sound is upgraded including amplifiers and processors and the electrical system is being wired such that all sound is on its own circuit – no more buzzing!
- New Microphones – Matt and Eddie can have their own lapel mics and we are adding mics to enhance the choirs that sing on the steps of the sanctuary and additional mics to be hidden in the chandeliers for total integrated sound
- New Projectors and Screens – Dual projectors and screens will be mounted in the ceiling (projectors) and walls over the choir vents (screens) with motorized controls to allow raising and lowering of screens so that they are out of sight when not in use. We even have plans for a video monitor in the choir loft with a motorized control to raise and lower as needed.
- Fellowship Hall – new ceiling mounted projector and a wireless microphone, exclusively for the fellowship hall

A Sound Committee was formed last Fall and members of the committee have met on numerous occasions and we have all prayed about these changes and upgrades. We are thankful for the members' generosity in allowing us to make these upgrades and feel that the changes will allow all the members and participants in the worship service to have a fulfilling experience.