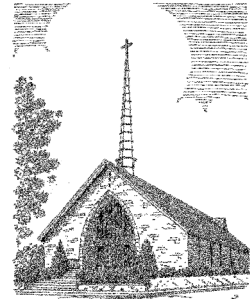


The Link

Connecting the church family
and friends of
First ARP Church Lancaster.

May 22, 2012
Volume XLII Issue 21



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Lancaster, S.C.

Love is

patient, kind

Love does not

envy, boast, dishonor others

Love is not

proud, self seeking, easily angered

Love keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.

Love always

protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres.

Love never fails.

...

And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love.**

But the greatest of these

is Love.

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
701 North Main Street, Lancaster, South Carolina 29720
Church Office - 803-285-1578 Church Fax - 803-285-1579
Email- onahill@comporium.net Website - www.firstarplancaster.org

Church Family Concerns



Nancy Bates-Home
 Mavis Caskey-Home
 Melvin & Mary Ella Jordan
 Marion Weisner-Cancer
 Nancy Ogburn-Therapy
 Rebecca Andersen-Knee
 North Elementary Good News Club
 Peggy Stansell-Recent surgery
 Greta Cureton's grandson, Will
 Kimberly Neely-Bob Knox's daughter, Cancer
 Megan Primmers-Esther Shields niece, Lymphoma
 Nancy Ladd-Esther Shields sister, Cancer
 Caleb Flachman-15 years old, tumor on brain
 Laura Coats-Friend of Danielle Huey Hamer, Cancer
 Wallace Broadie-Friend of Stacey Pegram, Cancer
 Cecil & Nadine Ghent-Cecilia's Parents
 Jack Caskey-James & IW's brother
 Upcoming Synod
 VBS
 Outreach

Homebound & Nursing Home

Doris Aiken-White Oak Manor
 Jane Blakeney-White Oak Manor
 Frank Bourne-White Oak Manor
 Francis & Grace Bosdell-Debby Hegler's Parents-Morningside
 Merley Byrd-Patricia Gardner's Father
 Bradford & Carol Nims-Florence
 Conway Hunter-Home
 Lois Wilson-Donna Robinson's Mother-Yorktown Village
 Mary Brown Parks-Morningside

Military

Jonathan Dix-Alaska
 Alexander Williams-Friend of Richard Shields-Persian Gulf

Pregnancies

Leigh Lever
 Christine Willis
 Danielle Deese
 Pamela Huey Moser
 Anna Miller

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

May 27	2 Sam 16-17	Luke 9:1-20
May 28	2 Sam 18-19	Luke 9:21-42
May 29	2 Sam 20-21	Luke 9:43-62
May 30	2 Sam 22-23:7	Luke 10:1-24
May 31	2 Sam 23:8-24:25	Luke 10:25-42
June 1	1 Chronicles 11	Luke 11:1-26
June 2	1 Chronicles 12-14	Luke 11:27-54

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day.



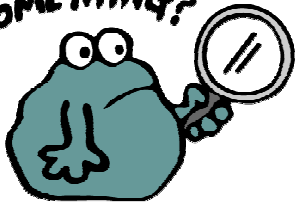
Church Staff

Pastor.....Dr. Kyle E. Sims
 Intern.....Mr. Tom Wilson
 Choir Director.....Dr. Kristen Wunderlich
 Organist.....Mrs. Amy Jones
 Secretary.....Mrs. Cecilia Estridge



Publication deadline is 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings.

LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING?



Ladies, if you are missing a cake container, crock pot, tupperware, or other bake ware, you will find these items in the kitchen. Please pick up as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Kitchen Committee



ADULT FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS PICNIC

Friday, June 8 @ 6pm
Fellowship Hall

This will be a covered dish meal.
(The meat will be provided.)



There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers to help in Bible School on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall on Sunday!



Meet and Greet
at Shiloh ARP

Saturday, June 2nd at 10 am.

Lunch will be provided (no charge)

Topic: "The Journey of the Missionary Candidate."

Featured speakers: Shelia Osborne and
Lisa King

Thank You

Thank you church family for your gifts and prayers. That is one part you have in Bible translation with us.

Phil and Sarah Baer

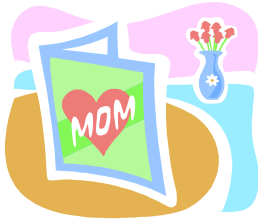
What is

FAITH PROMISE GIVING?

Faith Promise is making a commitment, as you trust in the provision of God, to give money to support foreign missions above and beyond your normal tithe.

- ◆ It promotes voluntary giving that is not duty-oriented or compulsory, but rather is motivated by God's grace to us.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



The Sunday School children, teachers, and I had a great time making Mother's Day gifts for the wonderful women of First ARP.

Unfortunately, we did not make enough! The children will be making more recipe card holders on Sunday, May 27th during Sunday School time. If you did not receive a gift from us on Mother's Day, please pick up a recipe card holder from the children who will be stationed at both doors after the service on May 27th! We are thankful for each of you!

Kristen

Jean Love Circle
Monday, June 4
6:30pm
(Note time change)



JULY 15



**BONCLARKEN
WEEKEND
October 5-7**

Mark your calendars!

****Adult Sunday School****

Beginning Sunday, June 3, we will be combining all Adult Sunday School classes as we have in the past summer season. This will give our teachers a break, gives us all a change of pace, and provides some additional experience for our pastoral intern, Tom Wilson, who will be teaching. All adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Come for fellowship at 9:45am.



I just wanted to say a quick "thanks" for keeping us in your prayers. Your note was an unexpected blessing in last week's mail. May

the Lord continue His blessings in Lancaster as he keeps us connected to one another across SC.

In Him,
Rev. Brian Howard
Effingham Presbyterian Church

*For I know the PLANS
I have for You,
Plans to PROSPER you
and not to harm YOU
Plans to give you
HOPE and a FUTURE.*

Jeremiah 29:11

Christian 'Highs' and 'Lows'

By Ian Hamilton

The Christian life is full of extraordinary 'highs' and unsettling 'lows'. This is something young Christians are often unprepared for. And yet God's Word could not be clearer that our spiritual good requires that the Lord lead us through dark valleys as well as lifting us up to expansive mountain tops. This is why reading constantly in the Psalms is such a healthy and sobering experience for the child of God. There we encounter faith at its purest, most ardent, most perplexed, most humbled and most exhilarating.

My point in saying this is to remind you that the life of faith is erratic and irregular, not even and unhindered. John Owen, the great English Puritan divine, makes this point powerfully in his magisterial treatment of sanctification in *Volume 3* of his *Works* (Banner of Truth Trust). He writes, just as 'the growth of plants is not by a constant insensible progress . . . but . . . by sudden gusts and motions . . .', so 'the growth of believers consists principally in some intense vigorous actings of grace on great occasions . . .' (397). It has pleased the Lord not to give us steady, uninterrupted growth in grace; rather, he is pleased to have us cry to him, wait on him, seek his face, often in the midst of trials, before he grants us to grow in likeness to the Savior - if nothing else, to humble us, and keep us dependent on him. If our Lord Jesus is the proto-typical man of faith, and he is, then the pattern of his life will be the essential pattern of our lives. What the Spirit first produced in him he comes to re-produce in us. And what was the pattern of the Savior's earthly life? Was it even and untroubled? No. He was brought by his Father through dark valleys, where, the writer to the Hebrews tells us, he 'learned obedience through what he suffered' (*Heb.* 5:8).

In the light of this, Owen anticipates a pressing pastoral question: 'I do not see much, if any, growth in grace in my life: am I therefore devoid of the root of holiness?' Owen's response is measured, searching and pastorally reassuring. He says, 'every one in whom is a principle of spiritual life, who is born of God, in whom the work of sanctification is begun, if it be not gradually carried on in him, if he thrive not in grace and holiness, if he go not from strength to strength, it is ordinarily from his own sinful negligence. Owen urges us then to search our hearts if we appear to be regressing in holiness, and to cast off the sin that so easily besets us. Self-examination, in the light of God's great grace to us in Christ, is a necessity. Without it we can so easily drift into spiritual presumption and self-deception.

But Owen proceeds quickly to balance what he has just said. It is one thing for holiness to be present and another for the believer to be conscious of it. Indeed, continues Owen, 'there may be seasons wherein sincere, humble believers may be obliged to believe the increase and growth of (holiness) in them when they perceive it not, so as to be sensible of it. Owen never forgets he is a pastor, writing for Christ's lambs. He is quick to reassure struggling saints: 'What shall we say, then? Is there no sincere holiness where . . . decays are found? God forbid. Progress is erratic and 'horticultural', not even and 'mechanical'.

Owen is not soft-peddling sin in the believer. He is not condoning lack of godly resolve. He is, however, recognizing that the life of faith is inherently erratic, 'horticultural' in its growth and development and not 'mechanical'.

My main concern in writing this is to encourage you to do one thing - read the Psalms. Read them daily. Be constantly refreshed, humbled, and reassured by them. Learn the shape of the life of faith, not least to guard you from being beguiled by the temptation to seek shortcuts to holiness. I can assure you of one thing (hopefully): reading the Psalms will not leave you content with the state of your Christian life. They will unsettle you, as well as encourage you. They will lift you into the heights, but at times draw you into the depths. John Calvin wisely said of the Psalms, 'They are an anatomy of all the parts of the soul'. See yourself in the Psalms. But more importantly, see Christ there, leading you onwards and upwards - though the 'upwards' may at times be discovered in the 'downwards'. Does that make sense to you?

Ian Hamilton is Pastor of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, May 27

9:30am Shepherding
9:45am Coffee & Fellowship
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service

Monday, May 28 - Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, May 30

6:30pm Prayer Meeting
7:30pm Choir Practice

FINANCIALS

May 20, 2012

Attendance	93
General Fund Offering	\$2,592.57
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$3,932
Faith Promise	\$92
Faith Promise Y-T-D	\$4,706.65

MAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders: Mac McConnell & Butch Ghent
Deacons: Dave Mohr & Don Rushing
Ushers: Dave Mohr, Don Rushing, Mike
 Cauthen & Mac McConnell
Collections: Dave Mohr & Don Rushing

VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY 27

Flowers: Available
Nursery: Kelly Sims (Infants)
 Shannon Mohr (Toddlers)
Children's Church: Sally Lloyd
Greeters: Betty Sowell & Pat Scruggs (F)
 Buddy Lever (S)
Friendship Class: Betty Allen

UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

Nursery	Infants	Toddlers
June 3	Holly Rivers	Pat McEachern
June 10	Rebecca Cook	Katey Powell
June 17	Natalie Carmichael	Stacey Pegram
June 24	Susan Prete	Susan Cauthen

Children's Church

June 3	Patricia Gardner
June 10	Leigh Lever
June 17	Kimberly Hefner
June 24	JB Powell & Betty Arant

Greeters	Front	Side
June 3	Phil & Sarah Baer	Butch & Dell Ghent
June 10	Richard & Lorri Crawford	Tom & Leigh Lever
June 17	Mac & Carol McConnell	Philip & Stacey Pegram
June 24	Don & Betsy Rushing	Richard & Esther Shields

FIRST ARP CHURCH
701 NORTH MAIN STREET
LANCASTER, SC 29720
803-285-1578
FAX - 803-285-1579
EMAIL -
ONAHILL@COMPORIUM.NET
WEB PAGE -
FIRSTARPLANCASTER.ORG

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANCASTER, SC
PERMIT NO. 15