

Moment for Missions

Jeff and Suzanne Allers

You may remember the visit from Jeff & Suzanne Allers last fall.



During their visit with us, they were sharing about their ministry in Berlin, one that was taking much transition - moving from ministry with building a youth church group, to working in a Family Center, ministering to unchurched people. We'd like to remember the Allers as **Missionaries of the Month**.

Jeff and Suzanne both were called to ministry before moving to Berlin. Jeff worked in youth ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia while Suzanne served as Director of Christian Education and Children's Ministry within the ARP denomination.

Jeff and Suzanne married in 2000, had twin boys and first served in Marzahn, Germany, a suburb of Berlin, where they worked with children and youth, about 1/3 of the population. Now, the Allers serve at the Family Center in Preznlaue Berg. They, along with Rebekah Carson, provide extra-curriculum programs for kids, youth, and adults in the area. These programs include sports, culture, child-raising, and education, and are taught with a Christian world-view.

Let's remember the Allers family and their ministry in Germany this month. Continue to pray for their transition in ministry, and for their teaching, that the programs offered would be effective and reach out to many individuals in the area. Also, pray for strength and health, especially for their two young children. For more information visit www.missiontoberlin.com/teamberlin.



Congratulations to Donny and Sharon Neely at the birth of their granddaughter, Olivia Neely on March 4, 2009. Olivia is the daughter of Mark and Samara Neely.

FARPY Updates

Dates for your calendar!

All Middle and High School Youth are reminded of the Spring calendar with the following important dates:

April 6-16: Our Welsh visitors will be with us—check the calendar and RSVP with Michele Harbin (366-1250) if you plan to participate in any of the events.

April 26-28: Erin's Tea Room and Youth Bake Sale—sign up with Michele for a time when you can help. Don't forget to ask 2 people to donate baked goods!

May 9, 8 a.m. - Noon: Spring Yard Sale

May 9, 3-7 p.m.: Covenantor's Cup hosted by Tirzah ARP Church. More info to come soon!

May 31: Graduation Sunday

Springtime Fun at Bonclarken

The Middle School Youth had a fantastic weekend at Bonclarken, March 26-28! We sang along with the Erskine College Barn Band and listened to Johnathan Cox speak about sharing our relationship with Christ with our friends. We also did a scavenger hunt in the rain and had a Goodwill fashion show. Please go up to the third floor of the educational building to see pictures! Ask any one of us and we will surely tell you we had a great time!

Those attending were: Ben Barkley, Kathleen Barkley, Mary Catherine Blank, Mary Campbell Kellett, Melissa Leighton, Mimi Loftus, Anna Low, Christopher McKinney, Hannah McKinney, Sara Simpson, Emma Tuttle, with chaperones Megan Madsen and Cole & Kay McKinney.

Families – As you make your summer plans, don't forget that First ARP Women's Ministries can help send your children to Bonclarken camps and conferences! We provide \$100 per child per summer to attend Horizon, Quest, AIM, Reach, Music-Drama and Camp Bonclarken. We also support women attending the Family Bible Conference on a pro-rated basis. Talk to Amanda about signing up for camp and conferences, and get in touch with Betsy Dreier (328-1302) for more information!

FROM THE DIACONATE...

The Diaconate met in March and took the following actions:

- Noted the continued research of liability and insurance issues for non-church activities.
- Reported the completion of work on the interior & exterior windows on the 3rd floor, and the exterior windows on the 2nd floor of the educational building.
- Approved the painting work on the exterior of the 1st floor windows of educational building at no cost.
- Reminded members that repairs to the Oakland Avenue parking lot will take place April 13-17.
- Noted the formation of a Preschool Committee and Kitchen Committee.
- Scheduled a congregation-wide work day for Saturday, April 4 from 9 a.m.—noon.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report—February 28, 2009

General Account Income:	\$61,068.38
General Account Expenses:	\$79,215.45
General Account Deficit:	-\$18,147.07

HARPS

Mark your calendars for a yummy covered-dish luncheon on Tuesday, April 28 in Robinson Hall. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and learning!

HARPS On The Go...

Downtown Greenville is waiting on us! We're heading there on Thursday, April 23 to visit the museums, Falls Park, and for the Main Street History Tour. We'll leave the church at 8:45 a.m. and return before 5 p.m. The cost is your lunch plus \$2 for the tour. Contact Bill Turner if you have any questions.

SESSION NOTES

The Session held one meeting during March. Key actions included:

Heard a report of final construction work associated with the Forward in Faith renovation. The final cost to the construction company was \$1,246,092.

The Family Life Committee is planning for a new pictorial directory. This version will be produced primarily "in house" including the taking of family pictures.

The Maundy Thursday service will include communion around tables in Robinson Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Approved the use of the church facilities for the annual Catawba Presbytery Children's Retreat to be held May 16th.

Approved participation in ONA's new program known as the "Parenting Church Community" as our approach for the daughter church.

Heard a report from the March meeting of Catawba Presbytery. During the meeting, Jamey Dagenhart was approved as a student of theology and brought under the care of the Presbytery. Rev. Heiko Burklin, recently of Florida Presbytery, was approved as the new pastor at Neely's Creek ARP Church.

The Professional Staff Committee continues to search for a new Director of Youth Ministries.

Approved an annual offering be received for members of the congregation attending seminary.

Identified members in need of specific concern and offered appropriate prayers for them.

Questions about this meeting or inputs to the Session can be directed to your district elder, a pastor or the clerk.

Preschool Update - HOP-A-THON

First ARP Preschool wants to say THANK YOU for coming out to this year's Hop-A-Thon last month. We raised almost \$1500 for the preschool. Thank you for your continued support!

Shelley Pruitt, Preschool Director

Foundations for the Family Spring Celebration!

Wednesday, May 6 marks the last day of Foundations for the Family for this season. We will have a covered-dish meal and fellowship at Elk's Park at 6 p.m. Bring your fishin' rods, blankets and chairs, and a side dish or two to serve. Chicken and drinks will be provided. If you can help with set up, contact Ginger Smith.



Holy Week Calendar

Palm Sunday (April 5) - The Erskine College Choraleers will help lead the 11:00 a.m. worship service with several musical selections

Wednesday (April 8) - No Foundations for the Family

Thursday (April 9) - Maundy Thursday Service in Robinson Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday (April 10) - Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m. Wachovia Plaza

Easter (April 12) - 8:30 a.m. worship, Flowering of the Cross, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m. worship service. Following worship, a covered-dish lunch for all families will be held in Robinson Hall.

Mark your calendars for **THIS Saturday, April 4!**

There will be a Congregational Workday from 9-noon. This day will be used for working in the gardens and on the grounds to clear out and replace the dead shrubs and plants. There are also a few other tasks to be completed that day. We hope everyone will come out and lend a hand to help make the grounds beautiful for our visitors and special activities in the following weeks. Make sure to bring all of your tools with you! See you then!



You're Invited!

Women's Ministries of First ARP is excited to host Erin's Tea Room on April 24, 25, and 26 in Robinson Hall from 10-2. As always, good food & fellowship will be available and will accompany many opportunities to support First ARP's Women's Ministries. Mark your calendars today and look for more information to come soon!

We need LOTS of volunteers to help with this event from Wednesday-Sunday. Contact Shellie Sloop if you can help!

The women are invited to a Bible study for all ages this summer, beginning June 9 and running for six weeks through July 14. Over the next two summers, we will be studying *Having a Mary Spirit* by Joanna Weaver, author of *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. These studies will be held in different homes on Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. Plan to join us for this opportunity of fellowship and growth!



Plans are under way for a Pictorial Church Directory. Pictures will be taken in the Parlor each Lord's Day during the months of April and May beginning April 5. If you wish to supply a family picture that you have available instead of having your pictures taken, you may leave it in the church office or place it in the envelope on the Women's Ministries bulletin board in the hall. If you bring in a picture please fill out one of the information forms and attach it to the picture.

Dorothy Day Update

On Thursday, March 19, members of First ARP Church served over 70 individuals at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. Those who helped included Janie Cauthen, Peggy Murdock, Kelley Tuttle, Jan Stephenson, Sally Williamson, and Cindy Wilkerson. The next meal will be served on Thursday, April 16, 2009.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Jan Stephenson (985-4820), Dorothy Day Coordinator.