



First Church Life



J. Barry Dagenhart, Pastor

Andrew R. Stager, Associate Pastor

Robert J. Robinson, Pastor Emeritus

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 - 4 p.m. & Friday 8 - 1 p.m.
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www.firstarp.org

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

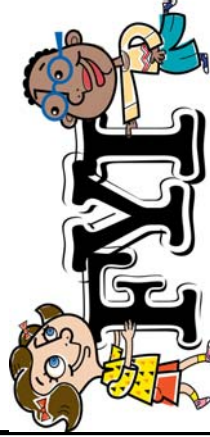
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship



For those of you wishing to contribute to the church, your gifts must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2009 in order to qualify for 2009 tax purposes. Also, there is a great opportunity for those of you 70½ years and older to make an annual gift this year (2009) from your IRA to the church. This gift is tax free upon your withdrawal and contribution.

As the year 2009 draws to a close, we hope you will consider these opportunities of giving to advance the Church.

The Professional Staff Committee

Once again, the Session has approved a special offering to allow the congregation to express their love and appreciation for the staff of First ARP during the Holiday Season. If you would like to participate, please designate your gift as "Staff Christmas Bonus", and place it in the plain white envelope enclosed in your bulletin and drop it by the office or in the offering plate on Sunday, December 20.

Please note:

The next newsletter will be published January 13.
Please have any information to Amanda before Mon-

First A.R.P. Church
201 East White Street
Rock Hill, SC 29730

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ROCK HILL, SC 29730
PERMIT NO. 10

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Inspired by the love of Christ, and enabled by the Holy Spirit, we serve God through worship, education and fellowship that we may proclaim His grace and share His love in the world.



A Note from the pastor

As I look back over this year of 2009, I think of many positive events and accomplishments in the life of the congregation. For example, even though we have been in the newly renovated facilities for a little over a year, the rest of those projects and punch lists were finished, including the new east parking area with its landscaping, the Will Cox Memorial Youth Area on the third floor of the educational building, and other ongoing work in the yard and gardens, including maintenance with some of the older buildings.

We also have the Brien Wilkerson Memorial Playground Project before us. This ambitious project (a price tag of about \$ 20,000 for completion) is being sponsored by Circle #3, the Diaconate and the Preschool Committee, and all three of those groups have provided leadership and input on the plan. I am happy to report that as of this writing, right at ¾ of the money needed is already in hand, which means this project will surely be funded soon, and be a reality for our children sometime in the spring.

Speaking of the Preschool, that ministry continues to serve children of the congregation as well as those in the community, and we appreciate the fine job Emily Patrick is doing as Interim Director while the Preschool Committee conducts a search for a permanent director. The Preschool staff is committed and a wonderful group of people, and we appreciate their work and the hard work of the Preschool Committee during this time of transition.

Another exciting accomplishment taking place this year is the formation of a Parenting Church Community of which First, Ebenezer and Tirzah ARP Churches are members. Our congregations have banded together to plant churches in York County in the years to come. In fact, we have the ambitious desire to plant three churches by 2013. Ministers and elders from these three congregations believe that God led us to that desire to plant three churches, and we continue to pray and covet your prayers that God will make His will known and will bless these efforts in the days to come for the growth of His kingdom, and the transformation of this community.

Thank you so much for all the different ways you serve God and others in this place. So many of you work behind the scenes to pray, visit folks, call and send cards, carry food, cook, give rides, and in many more ways serve, following the example of Christ Himself, who came into this world not to be served, but to serve and give His life. I hope that you and yours will have a Merry Christmas and a good new year in 2010 – to God's honor and glory.



Our Christian Sympathy is extended to Tom Gundersen at the death of his mother. Please pray that God's comfort would rest upon this family.

FARPY News

Don't forget—the deadline for registration and your dues for the *FARPY 2010* are due **THIS FRIDAY,**

December 18!!!

Winter jam—January 10, 2010 (meet at the church @ 3:45)

This will be an awesome concert with Christian artists including Third Day, Newsboys, NewSong, Tenth Avenue North, Fireflight, Sidewalk Prophets, Robert Pierre, Revive & Guest Speaker Tony Nolan. This amazing event is only \$10.00.

Don't miss out on this and be sure to invite friends!!!

Visit www.farpy.blogspot.com for more information.



Update on Rebekah Carson, Berlin, Germany

Rebekah Carson serves with World Witness in Berlin, Germany. Her team is currently focused on outreach ministry through the Family Center. Among many other efforts, they host short-term mission teams and put on English camps for Berlin youth.

Rebekah shared some of her milestones in ministry during the Sunday School hour December 6. Given that the former East Berlin is predominantly atheistic, and very skeptical of anything that could be perceived as ideology or propaganda, Rebekah's ministry must always take the form of friendships first. Only when Berliners realize that they are loved and served regardless of their beliefs do they open themselves to Rebekah's gospel witness.

Please pray that Rebekah's relationships, generated through the Family Center and other avenues of ministry would result in many people coming to know Our Savior and give thanks for those who have come to faith al-



**Christmas
Worship
Schedule**

Sunday, December 20

Lessons & Carols at both worship services (8:30 & 11 a.m.)

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight services (5 & 9 p.m.)

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Session Notes

The Session held a regular meeting in November. Key actions included:

- Approved the transfer of 34 individuals to the church's Inactive Roll.
 - Approved the proposed slate of congregational officers for 2010: Ashley Barron, Chair; Scott Allan, Vice Chair; Paul Dillingham, Treasurer; Carolyn Rogers, Trustee.
 - Approved motion to accept the First ARP Mission Trip Committee guidelines and proposed structure. This sub-committee of the Missions Committee will be responsible for the planning and coordinating, with Session approval, of all overnight mission trips (for children, youth and adults).
- Questions about this meeting can be directed to your elder, a pas-



Many thanks to everyone who helped with our Christmas outreach projects this year. As a congregation, we filled 46 boxes for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child project and gave over \$1200 worth of toys, games, and gifts to Salvation Army's Toys for Tots program.

Thank you for playing such a vital part to both of these ministries this year. We were able to give to children all over, both near and far. Continue to pray for the children that will receive these gifts and that that God would use the gifts to minister to His children.

Attention all Ladies!

The Spring 2010 Beth Moore study, *A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place*, will begin soon! The Tuesday morning class will meet on January 12 at 10 a.m. and the Wednesday evening group will meet January 6 at 6:30 p.m. Please sign up in the connector



JANUARY Birthdays

1	Chuck Cauthen	15	Elsie Hutchinson
2	Eddy Coleman		Campbell Warner
3	Martin Goode	16	Walter Revell
5	Amy Kulbok		Brenda Wilson
6	Kelly Clayton	17	Robert Lesslie
	Doug Stokes	18	Brooke Dillingham
	Sarah Williams	19	Chris Leighton
8	Margaret Harper		Marsha Vogel
	Jan Phillips	21	Ren Norman IV
	Amber Stutts	22	Nancy Johnson
9	Helen Cable	23	Ida Topor
11	Susan Barron	24	Cindy Wilkerson
	Jon Meadows	26	Joan Barkley
	Owen Stager		Julie Madsen
12	Mary Lynne Loftus	27	Jeffrey Lesslie
13	Dana Berry		Susan Salley
	Mitzi Green	28	Grafton Leach
	Zac Hubbs	29	Wayne Flowers
	Angie Ledford	30	Carlisle Putnam
	Claire Williamson		Jamie Russell

Congratulations to Starr Lee, proud grandmother of Mary Douglas Childers, who was born on December 3 to Kevin and Laura Lee Childers; and to Hall and Meg Dozier at the birth of their daughter, Sara Pressly, born on December 7. Proud grandparents are John and Dottie Gettys. We give thanks to God for these new lives!

