



# FIRST CHURCH LIFE



J. Barry Dagenhart, Pastor

Robert J. Robinson, Pastor Emeritus

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 - 4 p.m. & Friday 8 - 1 p.m.  
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July 2008, Part One

**First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Rock Hill, South Carolina**

**Sunday Schedule  
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Worship**

### **Foundations for the Family**

The Christian Education Committee, Family Life Committee, and the Worship Committee would like to thank each of you for your responses to the recent evaluation and comments on the 2007-2008 Foundations for the Family Sunday evening program. After reviewing these comments at the joint meeting of these committees in May, the decision was made to return back to a Wednesday evening program for the upcoming year.

Over the next few weeks, these three committees will be heavily involved in planning the program for children, youth, and adults for Wednesday evenings. We are currently in the process of developing new opportunities for fellowship, and choosing children and adult Bible study curriculum. We will make every effort to inform you of these details as they are finalized.

We are excited and look forward to the fall season. Please join us as we begin the program on Wednesday evening, September 3 and run through early December. A meal will be served each Wednesday from 5:45 - 6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall and lessons for children, youth, and adults will

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

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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.



## FARPY news

### Appalachia Mission Trip

The Appalachia Mission Team will be leaving this Saturday, July 5. We are excited about this opportunity to carry the Good News of Jesus to the children and youth in the Appalachian Mountains. We appreciate your prayers for us while we are away and look forward to sharing our stories with you upon our return! **Those on the trip are: Key Barkley, Ivey Smith, Atkinson Dillingham, Bethany Geddings, Will Smith, Elise Harbin, Caroline Robbins, Jeremy & Amanda Ghent, and Andrew Shoger.** We will be teaming up with Ebenezer ARP from Charlotte, NC and White Oak ARP from Georgia.

### Wales Mission Team

The Wales Mission team will have its Commissioning Service on Sunday, July 13 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please keep this team in your prayers as we prepare for our trip. The dates are July 17-28.

# Did you know?

**Graham Tuttle** recently received *The Harvard Prize Book* award. This award is given to one 11<sup>th</sup> grade student in each school with the highest grade point average who demonstrates excellence in scholarship and achievement in other non-academic areas. Congratulations Graham!



### BLOOD DRIVE

On Tuesday, June 24, First ARP hosted the quarterly American Red Cross blood drive in the gymnasium. With a goal of collecting 30 units of blood, 28 units were successfully collected. The next Rock Hill Ecumenical downtown drive will be September 16 at St. John's UMC. If you would like to help with advertising and drives, contact Amanda.

### New Church Budget Procedures

For the past couple of years, the Session and the Diaconate have been concerned that there has been an inconsistency between the approved budget and actual giving. A special committee of both elders and deacons was appointed to review the current budget process and make recommendations deemed appropriate.

One recommendation the Session approved is to change the fiscal year of the church. November and December are traditionally the highest-giving months of the year. However, our current fiscal year (the calendar year) has us preparing the next year's budget before we know the giving of these important months; not to mention working on preparing the budget during a very busy time of the year. The Session approved changing the fiscal year to a May through April period of time. This will allow the Finance Committee to have a clearer picture of overall giving for the previous year, and will also mean budget planning will be accomplished during the relatively quiet months of the new year.

In order to effect this change smoothly, the congregation will be given a proposed transition budget in a fall congregational meeting which will cover the first four months of 2009. This transition budget will be based on a pro-rated share of the 2008 budget which has already been approved. Then, in April of 2009, the congregation will be asked to approve a proposed budget for the new fiscal year of May, 2009 through April of 2010.

Another recommendation from the committee approved by the Session is to provide a main budget, and a budget addendum. It is hoped that this system will allow all committees and ministries of the church to better prioritize that which is truly important to the congregation. The main budget will be based on traditional giving patterns and structured to fund the primary priorities of the congregation. The addendum budget will contain additional ministry opportunities which will be undertaken if giving is sufficient to support them. This will insure we exercise sound stewardship of our anticipated funds, while being ready to move forward in faith with additional ministries if giving allows.

Details of this new process will be developed in the coming months and provided to you later in the year. Please direct any questions you might have to your district elder or the Finance Committee, chaired by Chet Wingate.

John Barron, Clerk of Session

## FROM THE DIACONATE...

The diaconate held one meeting in June and would like to share the following:

### **Church Security**

Usher Captain procedures have been altered so that the building is most secure during worship services on Sunday. Church members are reminded to lock their car doors and to be careful not to leave any valuables such as purses, wallets, cell phones, & GPS devices in plain sight in vehicles.

### **Use of Facilities by Non-Church Groups**

Any non-church related activities will need to use the church for non-church related activities will need to show proof of insurance coverage and to name the church as "additional insured" on their policy. Such groups will also be asked to sign a "hold harmless" statement as part of the agreement they will complete when reserving the church.

### **Change to Bus Usage Policy**

The current bus refueling procedures have been changed to prevent any gasoline theft incidents. Anyone wishing to use the bus must contact the office for information, and allow time to fill up before beginning a trip.

## SESSION NOTES

The Session held its normal June meeting. Key actions included: Reviewed information on the current renovation. Recent work has concentrated on the roof. Framing & HVAC installation is expected over the next couple of weeks. Completion is expected in late August.

A report was received from a Special Committee reviewing budgeting procedures. Their recommendations were approved. See a separate article for details of this change.

A new paragraph to the Wedding Policy was approved. It applies to non-members using the church.

Approved the use of the sanctuary for a non-member wedding on October 18.

Approved use of the church for the annual meeting of the Catawba Presbytery Elders Association on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Heard a report on the summer meeting of Catawba Presbytery and the General Synod. Presbytery approved the call of Andy Stager as our new Associate Pastor. Dr. John DeWitt is moderator-elect of the General Synod.

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.



### Dorothy Day Update

On Thursday, June 19, members of First ARP Church served 85 individuals at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. These members included **John Landstreet, Joan Barkley, Karen Cable, Ben Turner, Brian Twomey**. Thanks to all who help with this wonderful ministry!

Remember our Summer Sunday Worship schedule is now in effect through Sunday, August 31. Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m. and worship follows at 10:00 a.m.

### Calling all SERVANTS!

The Christian Education Ministry of First ARP wants YOU to consider volunteering to help with the Children's ministry in the upcoming 2008-2009 year. We need nursery & toddlers nurturers, preschool teachers, elementary leaders, Children's Church teachers, and other volunteers to help with the ministry for our children. You can also be praying for the children and adults involved in all aspects of this ministry. If you would like to help, contact Amanda immediately.

## Christian Education News

We are "Blessed to be Servants!!"

Thanks to all of the many volunteers who helped with VBS June 16-19. Over 50 children were able to learn about being God's servants. We had such a wonderful week of Bible lessons, games, crafts, and music. Many thanks to those who helped and prayed for the fantastic week!

### Monkey Joes

Children ages 2 and up are invited to our Monkey Joe's outing on Friday, July 18. We will meet at the church at 9:45 a.m. and return by 3 p.m. Cost per child is \$9 and includes 4 hours of playtime, a slice of pizza, and a drink. Parents and chaperones are asked to carpool and attend. RSVP with Amanda by Tuesday, July 15 if you would like to join the group.

## Women's Ministries News Woman of the Year

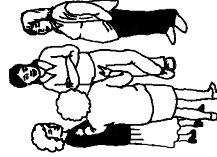
At the joint circle meeting on June 11, the Women's

Ministries Board was honored to present Mrs.

Theresa Sherer Smith with the WM 2007 Woman of the Year Award. Theresa was recognized for her many years of service to Christ and His church. We offer our humble thanks and appreciation to Theresa. She was presented with an engraved silver platter.

### Attention Ladies: There is still an opportunity to attend Bible study and fellowship this summer!

The women will continue to study this year's circle book *View from the Top: Studies in the Life of Joseph* at the joint meetings on Wednesdays, July 9 (Ch 11) and August 13 (Ch 12) at the church. A light meal will be served before the Bible study. Please contact Dottie Gettys or Amanda if you have any questions about this special time of fellowship.

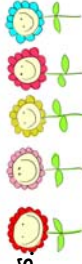


## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR JULY 21-27

You can still register for **Family Bible Conference** at Bonclarken during July 21-24. Dr. Sinclair Ferguson and Dr. Ligon Duncan will be the Bible and Worship leaders for the week. There is a special treat for the women as well, as Mrs. Susan Hunt leads a special time on Tuesday.

Following the week of spiritual encouragement, **World Focus** offers a weekend full of opportunities! Meet some of our missionaries and hear what is happening in the mission fields all over the world.

Both conferences accommodate the entire family, so come and relax together! Contact Amanda for registration materials.



### A Missionary Note

Our missionaries in Pakistan, **Dr. & Mrs. Ron Brunson**, have been preparing should the Taliban gain control. This would pose a grave threat to the Christians there by pressuring them to convert or die. Their answer to this possibility was to find godly young men in every village and prepare them to lead and nurture the church at the local level. This is no small task since there are some 150 villages in the Sahiwal area at the Punjab. Two leadership camps were held last summer with 22 carefully selected young men in attendance.



Since then, the campers have started weekly inductive Bible studies in 7 of the villages! Meeting the need of isolated village communities for their youth present untapped opportunities for outreach. In addition to camps and training weekends, two rallies per year are planned to gather youth, parents, and pastors to discuss issues facing young people today. Dr. and Mrs. Brunson have asked us to pray for them and the 200+ new believers