



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.
803.327.2009 phone 803.327.4123 fax
www.firstarp.org

March 2008, Part One

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
5:30 p.m.—Foundations For the Family

Easter is such a special season and active time in the church. Easter opens so many opportunities for our entire congregation to worship together and fellowship. Please mark the following dates and times on your calendar so that you can attend these great services!

Saturday, March 15, 2008

The Annual Easter Celebration, for children and families, will be from 10:30-noon at the Lesslie Land. The morning will include crafts, stories, Easter egg hunt, and a picnic lunch for everyone.

Sunday, March 16, 2008

Palm Sunday worship services, Final Fruits offering, and meal of appreciation following worship in the gymnasium.

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Childcare will be provided.

Friday, March 21, 2008

Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m. in front of the Wachovia bldg downtown

Sunday, March 23, 2008

Easter services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., followed by the Flowering of the Cross



Remember to move your clocks **ahead one hour** on Sunday, March 9!

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

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

In Proverbs 12:15, the following words are found: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." While I will not claim to be wise, I have been trying to listen to the advice of doctors and take my time in returning to work as my body tries to heal.

I want to thank you for your prayers, your calls, cards, food, and other well-wishes as I continue to travel the road to recovery. After practically two weeks away from the office, I have been coming in during the mornings this week, and going home at lunch. After lunch, I have remained at home with my feet up as I try to deal with the reading and/or other work I have brought home with me.

I intend to keep this schedule for the next couple of weeks, and time will tell whether the pain will subside or not. I feel that I have made some progress in the pain department, but not as much as I would like, so I will still seek the doctor's advice on when and how much work to do.

While thanking folks, I also want to thank Bob Robinson for his willingness to help with pastoral duties during this illness, and I appreciate the work of the elders, the deacons, the Women's Ministries, and the church staff in making sure that so much has been accomplished and that all ministries, programs and services have operated smoothly and as scheduled. I continue to ask for your prayers that my body will absorb the clot, and that I will be restored to good health as quickly as possible. I look forward to seeing you on the Lord's Day.

Barry

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to **Frank & Cindy, Tripp & Benjamin Wilkerson** at the death of their son and brother, **Brien Wilkerson** on Saturday, February 16 and to the **Herman Rhodes** family at his death on Sunday, February 17. Continue to pray for God's comfort to be upon these families.



Prayer Requests

Each week, a list of prayer concerns based on daily updates is compiled. This list contains not only prayer needs, but also an ongoing list of praises and concerns that God has graciously answered. If you would like to receive this updated prayer list on a weekly basis, **please contact the church office or Amanda** at ajghent@compodium.net and indicate whether you would prefer a hard copy or email.

FARPY retreats

Senior High Spring Retreat

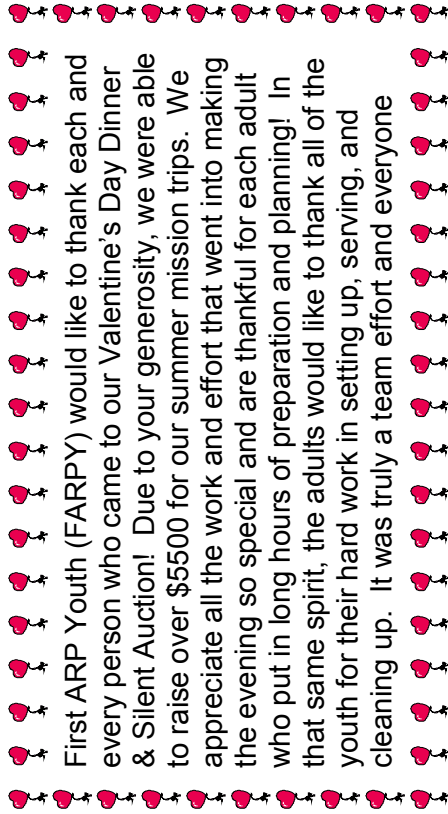
The Senior High Spring Retreat is on its way! We'll be at Bonclarken on the weekend of March 28-30, so make sure you write that down! This will once again be a Super Retreat which means there will be hundreds of high school youth from all over the denomination. If you are interested in going, please see Andrew for a registration packet. The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 12.

Atlanta Mission Trip

Hurry! Time is running out to register for this great trip! The **Atlanta Mission Trip** for Middle School students is scheduled for **June 9-12, 2008**. This is a great introduction to mission work for our youth as we will be providing a Bible Club for international children in the Atlanta-metro area. If you are interested in joining us (students or adults) please pick up an application from Andrew and return it by **Wednesday, March 5**.

Appalachia Mission Trip

Our Senior High Mission trip to **Appalachia** is coming soon! The dates for this trip are **July 5-12, 2008**. This is a wonderful week of serving the children and youth of the Appalachian Mountains through Bible School and long-lasting relationships. If you are interested in joining us, please pick up an application from Andrew and return it by **Wednesday, March 5**.



First ARP Youth (FARPY) would like to thank each and every person who came to our Valentine's Day Dinner & Silent Auction! Due to your generosity, we were able to raise over \$5500 for our summer mission trips. We appreciate all the work and effort that went into making the evening so special and are thankful for each adult who put in long hours of preparation and planning! In that same spirit, the adults would like to thank all of the youth for their hard work in setting up, serving, and cleaning up. It was truly a team effort and everyone

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Thanks to all of those who helped serve the week with our IHN guests. They'll be back April 20-27, so mark your calendars!

CALENDAR UPDATES:

- March 9 - The CAT will meet at 4:45p.m.
- March 20 - Caring Cards turnover
- March 25 - Downtown Ecumenical Blood Drive @ Episcopal Church of Our Savior from 2:30-7p.m.

FROM THE DIACONATE...

The Diaconate had their regularly scheduled meeting on February 12 and would like to share the following action items:

- Kitchen door locks have been changed to insure greater security. Keys may be temporarily checked out from the office as needed.
- Lighting for the Memorial Garden and for the front sign have been repaired.
- Handicapped parking spaces in the area of the fellowship hall are being more clearly designated.
- Deacons noted the work done by the youth in cleaning the benches and edges of the floor prior to the Valentine Dinner.
- Designated offering received for the Robinson Hall heat/air system totals \$6,600.00 so far.
- Noted that 13% of Forward in Faith funds have been set aside for the Daughter Church. The current portion totals \$128,958.91.

Financial Report—January 31, 2008

January Income	\$50,614.06
January Expenses	\$70,063.41
January Deficit	(19,449.35)
General Account Balance	\$9,921.69
Forward in Faith Balance	\$818,405.98
Other Accounts Balance	\$208,214.85

HARPS

Dates to Remember

March 6 - "HARPS on the go" to the "Patchwork Tales"

March 25 - 4th Tuesday covered-dish luncheon

Also, make plans to join us for the big summer trip to **Abingdon, VA August 5-7, 2008**. Many activities will be included in this fun trip, so call Lee Carroll or Bill Turner if you are interested in going!

Come and join the Happy ARPs!

SESSION NOTES

The Session held one meeting during January. Key actions included: Renovations continue in Robinson Hall. Structural steel work will take place in the next week or two. The Builder's Risk insurance is in place, and the contracts with Smith Construction have been signed. \$991,991 has been given to the campaign. Thirteen percent of giving has been placed in the line for the daughter church. Forward in Faith statements will be mailed this week.

Letters have been distributed to church officers to help meet the 2007 missionary commitment by April 1, 2008.

Kitchen locks have been re-keyed and only a limited amount of keys have been issued. Revised kitchen procedures are being developed and plans are to re-form the Kitchen Committee.

Specific elders were approved as representatives to the March 11 and October 14 meetings of Catawba Presbytery. One elder has been approved as representative to General Synod, and a second one will be designated later.

Heard a request to retrieve chairs that have been offered as a gift for possibly outfitting the newly renovated areas.

Identified members in need of specific concern and offered appropriate prayers for them. Prayer was offered for Dr. Dagenhart & his illness and praise was given for Dr. Robinson serving in pastoral roles in Dr. Dagenhart's absence. Prayer was also offered for the Associate Pastor Search Committee.

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

Dorothy Day Update



On Thursday, February 21, Bill & Eloise Cornwell, Jack & Ann Roddey, and Joe & Janice Sutton represented First ARP at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. They served a

delicious meal to 85 people. Special thanks to the Wilkerson family for the food they donated for the meal.

The next meal will be served Thursday, March 20. Please contact Bill Turner if you would like to help with a meal.

Easter Celebration

All children, toddlers through 5th grade, and their families are invited to the **Easter Celebration on Saturday, March 15 from 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Lesslie Land.** If you would like to participate, please **RSVP to Amanda AND drop off a bag of candy per child** in the box in the connector with your name on it by Sunday, March 9. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Amanda Ghent.

Time to sign up for Preschool!

Preschool registration has begun for the 2008-09 school year! You may pick up an enrollment application in the church office. Please call or email Shelley Pruitt at the Preschool (803-325-1222 or firstarppre-

Wycliffe Ministries will present a dinner-theater, **"Sunong"** on **Tuesday, April 1, 2008** 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer ARP Church in Rock Hill. You will learn about Bible translation in the Asian cultures, enjoy an Asian-style catered meal, and have the opportunity to speak with representatives. For tickets to this FREE event and meal, contact Amanda immediately!

Foundations for the Family

March 2 - Family Worship in the gym at 5:30 p.m. followed by a deli-style sandwich supper.

March 9 - Lessons and activities will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by a (Mashed Potato Bar).

Don't miss these great opportunities for fellowship!

"Nurturing our Covenant Family"

Sunday, March 30 will be a special service night to assemble baskets, boxes and cards for our homebound members, college students, and missionaries. Please grab flowers from the "Giving Tree" in the T-Hall and return those items to the church by Easter so we have what we need for assembly that evening.

We will have a covered-dish dinner and will celebrate the Women's Ministries Jubilee Birthday (dessert will be provided).

Make plans to attend this fun celebration of service and fellowship!



Foundations For the Family

Laying the groundwork for family, faith and spiritual disciplines through worship, Bible study, service and fellowship.

March 2—Family Worship

Meet in the gym at 5:30 p.m. to worship together. **Deli-style sandwiches** will be served at 6:30 p.m.

March 9—Lessons & Activities

The program for all children and adults will begin at 5:30 p.m. Children will meet in respective age classrooms for lessons and music. Middle School girls discipleship group will meet at 5:45 p.m. Senior High Girls' and Guys' D-groups will meet at 5:30 p.m. Adults will meet in the Parlor (Mayberry) or in the Library (sermons) The Young Adult Sunday School class will provide a **Mashed-potato Bar** promptly at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

March 16—Lessons & Activities

The program for all children and adults will begin at 5:30 p.m. Children will meet in assigned classrooms for lessons and crafts. The adults will meet in the Parlor or the Library for discussions. Senior High Girls' and Guys' D-groups will meet at 5:30 p.m. **Pizza** will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the gym for the entire family.

March 23—Easter

No evening activities

March 30 —Nurturing our Covenant Family

All members of the congregation are invited to attend this special evening of service for our homebound members, college students, and missionaries. Make sure to read the article in this newsletter for more information, or you can contact the church or Kathy Barron.

We will also celebrate **Women's Ministries Jubilee Birthday!**

A **covered-dish meal** will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the gym for everyone, and the *women will provide the dessert* for everyone.