



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

8: 30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

Congregational Meeting - Sunday, November 23, 10:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect congregational officers, approve an interim budget, and discuss other general business. The interim budget will be a four month budget which will allow us to move from a calendar year budget (with which we have been operating) to a fiscal year budget of May 1 through April 30. Since our largest giving months are normally November and December, the Diaconate and Session thought that a fiscal year budget would be much better for planning purposes. The interim budget being recommended for these first four months of 2009 is a pro-rated version of the 2008 budget the congregation approved last year. This is why you have not received a proposed budget in the mail before this meeting. The congregation will receive a proposed fiscal year budget for approval in the spring, with which we will operate May 1, 2009-April 30, 2010.

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

Are you coming to the annual Thanksgiving breakfast?

Mark Thursday, November 27, 7:30 a.m. on your calendar now for a great morning of food, fellowship, and teaching! Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:30 a.m., with a devotional beginning at 8 a.m. Everyone is invited - even out of town guests!



This is a wonderful opportunity for families to gather before the busy day begins. Families are asked to donate \$5 (give to the church office, John Barron, or Wayne Win- gate). Men are needed for prep, cooking, and cleanup. Contact John or Wayne if you can help!

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 Director of Christian Education

Take your Bible and search for the word "Advent." If you looked hard enough, you realized that "Advent" does not appear. There is no record in the concordance, nor is there any history given to the subject in the footnotes. That's probably because Advent was a later addition in the Church, as was the celebration of Christmas. When the Church began to celebrate Christmas in the fourth century, a season of preparation was added.

The term Advent has its basis in the Latin word *Adventus*, referring to the coming or arrival of Christ the Lord. The focus of the season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the anticipation of His return. This means that during Advent, we not only think of Christ's coming to this world, but at the same time, we think of His future coming in glory. Thus, we experience and reflect upon the joyful anticipation of what God has accomplished, is doing, and will yet fulfill.

On Sunday, November 30, the Advent season will begin and our children will light the candles of the Advent wreath as we do each year. As the light grows stronger, we will be reminded each week of Christ's coming through Scripture, messages, and songs. Are you ready to experience, anticipate, and long for the Savior this year? As we prepare our hearts for an exciting season of celebration, join with me in singing "O come, O come Emmanuel..."

Blessings,
Amanda

On Sunday, November 9, the following individuals were elected to serve as Deacons for the Class of 2011: **Jeanie Alexander, Kelly Clayton, Greg Harbin, David Helms, Connie Kiser, Warren Norman, and Marsha Vogel.** Please pray for them in their new leadership roles.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor of or in memory of someone, Please contact the church office before Nov. 20 to make your dedication.

FARPY NEWS

Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center

On Wednesday, December 10, the youth will travel to Charlotte to help at the Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center. We have done this the last couple of years and had a blast serving our community and world through this great ministry. Due to OCC's guidelines, you must be at least 13 years old to participate in this event. If you are interested in joining us, please let Andrew know by Dec. 3rd!

Youth Caroling and Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 14, the Middle School and Senior High youth will go caroling and have their annual Christmas Party! This is always a lot of fun as we spread the joy of Christ's coming with our church family and each other! More details will be available soon. If you are interested in participating, please let Andrew know!

Middle School Retreat Wrap-up

The Middle School youth had a great retreat at Bonclarken last weekend! Twenty-three of First ARP's finest made the trek up the mountain and spent their time in worship, playing games, trying out the zip-line, eating tons of candy, and enjoying God's beautiful creation. Those on the trip were: **Emma Tuttle, Max Johnson, Christopher McKinney, Ben Barkley, Kathleen Barkley, Addi Berry, Tinsley Berry, Brianne Sullivan, Lucy Russell, Mary Catherine Blank, Mary Campbell Kelleit, Catherin Burnette, John Landstreet, Jr., Mary Elizabeth Loftus, Melissa Leighton, Anna Low, Emma Low, & Sarah Todd Low.** The chaperones were **Jamie Low, Megan Madsen, and Andrew & Kristin Shoger.**

Thank You

On behalf of the First ARP Preschool, I would like to send a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Silent Auction fundraiser last week by sharing your time, talents, gifts, donations, and prayers! We were able to raise over \$2500. Thanks for your support!

Shelley Pruitt, Director

Don't forget, November is HOPE month! Bring non-perishable food items (in boxes, bags, or cans) and place them in the HOPE bin in the connector. So far, we've collected over 15 bags for the HOPE house. Thank you for your generosity!

Christian Education Ministry

Bedtime Christmas Stories

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 19 from 6-8:30 p.m. for Bedtime Christmas Stories. The evening will include dinner, Christmas stories, games, crafts, music and more! The cost is \$5 per child. **Please RSVP with Amanda by December 15.** This event is open to ALL children (childcare available for infants - 2 yrs; activities for 3 yrs-5th grade).

Still haven't found a Sunday School home? Check out one of these classes this Fall—

The Young Adults are studying controversial issues facing our culture today and how we can respond to them biblically. Or, visit the Discover Life class as they study Richard Phillips' *Turning Your World Upside Down*. Read through Jesus' parables and find challenges to the way we approach life each day. Remember, you can always step into the Rogers or Emmanuel class. Both of these classes use uniform studies (*The ARP Quarterly* and *Christian Life Series*). These classes are always open to receiving new members!

Sunday school is an important hour each week in which a small group of individuals can dig deeper into God's Word to find encouragement and application to all of life's crazy seasons. Don't miss this opportunity for personal and corporate growth!

Do you need more Christmas gift ideas?

Women's Ministries is selling the church cookbook, *Favorites: Past and Present* for \$25 now through the month of December. This is a great gift for anyone in your family, filled with wonderful recipes. You don't have to be a master chef to make them! Stop by the table in the T-Hall or the church office and pick up a few for your relatives and friends today!



DECEMBER Birthdays

1	Grace Matthews	17	Benjamin Simpson (Jimmy & Beth's son)
2	Bill Turner		Taylor Grace Pearson
3	Megan Madsen		Grier Gettys
4	John Wingate	18	John Barron
	Lee Carroll		Martina Russell
	Ragan Simpson	19	Betty Powell
6	Miriam Stanley		Sarah Slough
	Andy Elder		Rodney Smith
	Chris Fischesser	20	Rachel Dagenhart
8	Debbie Leathers	21	Chuck Crawford
9	David Porter		Tom Simpson
10	John Balfour	22	Tony Berry
	Sarah Harper	24	Rene` Herlong
12	Michele Harbin	26	Katie Beth Leathers
	David Ledbetter	27	Buist Eaves
13	Howard Givens		Jane Faulkner
14	Gail Helms		Polly Herron
	Martin Putnam	28	Kathy Barron
15	Brooke G. Wilson	29	Rebekah Allan
	Annalisa Hosea		Christi Gettys
			Emily Harper



November Calendar Reminders

- November 23 - General Congregational Meeting
- Steve Maye: "Raising Boys Biblically" seminar
- November 26 - No Foundations for the Family
- November 27 - Thanksgiving Breakfast
- November 27 & 28 - Church Office Closed