



# FIRST CHURCH LIFE



J. Barry Dagenhart, Pastor

Andy 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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October 2008, Part One

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

### Sunday Schedule

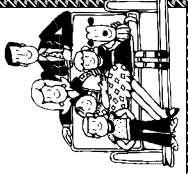
8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship

## “Caring for One Another”

It's not too late to sign up for the annual church-wide retreat at Bonclarken. We will enjoy a weekend in the mountains and learn how to better care for one another as God's people. Dr. Robby Bell, Academic Dean of Erskine Theological Seminary, will lead the Saturday morning session. There will be opportunities to relax, or to take part in the many activities, from apple picking to Frisbee golf or bowling! Please make plans to join us today! Sign up in the T-Hall on Sunday morning, October 5, or in the gym on Wednesday night, October 1. Pack your bags now - we're going to the mountains!



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

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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 Director of Youth Ministries

It seems hard to believe that it was five years ago I showed up at First ARP Church as a single, soon-to-be married youth worker. A lot has changed over that time and now I am preparing to leave as a married, soon-to-be father of two! What has not changed, however, is the need for complete faith in God to direct my steps into this exciting, yet uncertain, future. It seems I will be making a personal extension of the nearly completed Forward in Faith journey as I head back to Due West and Erskine Theological Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity degree.

While we will not be leaving until January, I know the next few months will go by very quickly. I hope to have the opportunity to speak with you in person before our departure. In the meantime, however, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the love, support, encouragement, and friendship you have shown me, Kristin, & John in our time here. I have no doubt God has used you in preparing me to be able to respond to his calling. I also know that the Lord has wonderful things in store for this congregation.

Many of you have asked what you can do to help us as we prepare to leave. We would covet your prayers in the coming days as we look for a place to live and employment for me near Erskine.

To the youth of First ARP Church: space does not permit nor does the written word allow me to truly express the love and joy I have for each of you! I can only echo what Paul said to the church at Philippi, "I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." May God bless each of you!

Andrew

The following men were elected on Sunday, September 21 as Elders for the class of 2013: Jeremy Dreier, Carey Harper, Tim Kiser, and Jamey Leathers. We appreciate their willingness to serve.

## FARPY update

Senior High Retreat Wrap-Up  
The Senior High youth had an incredible weekend at Bonclarken! We enjoyed a great speaker and amazing worship band, went bowling, ate fresh Krispy Kreme donuts, stayed up late, and laughed non-stop. Those who went on the trip are: **Jon Meadows, Julie Harbin, Mary Alexander Barron, George Barron III, Key Barkley, Josh Madsen, Taylor Madsen, Katherine Matthews, Cassie Braut, Zac Hubbs, Caroline Logan, Hank Gettys, Ax Dillingham, Will Smith, Ivey Smith, Greg & Michelle Harbin, and the Shogers!**

### Attention Middle School Students!!!

Mark your calendar for the Fall Retreat at Bonclarken, November 7-9. More information to follow...or contact Andrew if you are interested.

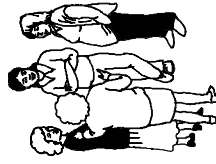
### It's easy to get the scoop...

It's time for the Annual ARP Magazine Subscription Campaign. Watch for an insert in the bulletin, or go to [www.arpmagazine.org](http://www.arpmagazine.org) to subscribe and pay online. You can also call 864-232-8297, ext 236 to place your order. The ARP Magazine now offers a downloadable version, in addition to the printed magazine. For an added bonus, if 90% of First ARP families subscribe, you will each pay the low price of \$16.50 per year. Thank you for your support, Delores McDonald, Editor.

## Women's Ministries News

\* The Women's Ministries will host a Pampered Chef party on **Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m.** in the Robinson Hall. The points earned by your purchases will be used to purchase items for the church kitchen. Make sure to bring friends! If you would like more information, contact Shellie Sloop.

\* Save the date for the Winter Women's Retreat at Bonclarken, **January 23-25.**



## FROM THE DIACONATE...

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

- ◆ Voted to request that an offering be received on October 5<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of meeting benevolent concerns of the congregation.
- ◆ Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Pat Bunce from the Board.
- ◆ Deacon elections begin soon with congregational recommendations due Oct. 12.
- ◆ Volunteers for the sound system are still needed. Contact Polly Wingate.
- ◆ Received the following information from the Building and Grounds Committee:
  - \*Landscaping: Two dead trees have been taken down and the brick and slate repairs are being accomplished.
  - \*A central rail will be placed at the entrance to the T-hall near Rogers' Classroom.
  - \*The new heating & air system is at work in Robinson Hall (\$8800 has been received toward this need)
  - \*The AC has been repaired in the gym.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

August 2008 Income:	\$50,890.02
August 2008 Expenses:	\$61,425.52
August Forward in Faith Income:	\$75.00
<b>Account Balances—August 31, 2008:</b>	
General Account	\$6,925.28
Miscellaneous Accounts	\$190,072.52
Forward in Faith	\$398,014.31

## SESSION NOTES

The Session held two meetings in September. Key actions included:

Reviewing information on the current renovation. The contractor is now working to accomplish the finishing items so the building can be occupied. The bill for this month will exhaust the Forward in Faith funds currently given for this purpose and further bills will draw upon a loan set up by the Diaconate. Additional Forward in Faith donations will be used to pay off this loan.

Approved a Diaconate request to receive a special offering to assist some needs in the church's community. This will be received on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Family Life Committee reported that the pre-school has 46 children enrolled with 6 open slots.

The Mission Committee reported that the \$18,931 shortfall in the church's contribution to World Witness for 2007 has been collected thanks to the generosity of the congregation. This will be sent to World Witness.

The Professional Staff Committee announced the hiring of Connie Kiser to lead the Cherub Choir and Ellie Stager to lead the Children's Choir

Received with regret the resignation of Pat Bunce from the Diaconate due to her move back to Lansing, Michigan.

Approved a Fall Festival for the Women's Ministry to serve as a fund raiser.

Received as new members: Jeffrey & Lindsay Lett and Andy & Ellie Stager.

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, September 18, members of First ARP Church served 82 individuals at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. These members included Paul Gettys, Carolyn Hallman, and Bill & Marsha Vogel. Thanks to all who help with this wonderful ministry! Our next meal will be Thursday, October 16, 2008.

## Christian Education News

### Operation Christmas Child

FAMILIES together in service experiencing  
“the power of a simple gift.”

First ARP will participate in the Operation Christmas Child project again this year by filling shoeboxes this Christmas season. **Wednesday October 15** will be the kick-off for this outreach project. Following the meal, we will have tables to make crafts & cross necklaces, and to design cards to fill the boxes. All children, youth, and adults (ages 2/3 and up) are invited to this special night of service. We want to reach our goal of 250 boxes this year! Let's join together in service for children all over the world.



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) will hold its second meeting on October 16 at the church. This time will be filled with fall craft fun, fellowship, and Bible study. Contact Dottie Gettys if you would like to volunteer childcare or provide baked goods for one of the meetings. This group will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

**Foundations for the Family**, our **Wednesday evening program (5:45-7:15 p.m.)**, is a great opportunity for the entire family to enjoy a nice meal, fellowship, and Biblical teaching. Don't miss out on Wednesday nights! Now that it's getting cooler, get out your favorite recipe and bring a "pot o' chili" to share with everyone on **Wednesday, October 29!** Please bring your chili in a crock-pot to the church before dinner. Salad, bread,

### HARPS Update

\* The HARPS will gather on Tuesday, October 28, for the monthly covered-dish luncheon. Remember to bring an old or interesting item (along with its good story) to share with the group. Don't forget your favorite dish for the lunch! See you there!

\* Don't forget our trip to Myrtle Beach, November 10-12, 2008. You have until October 10 to make your reservations. Please contact Lee Carroll (366-2016) for more information.

### Renovation Update

Renovations are coming to an end in Robinson Hall and on the new educational floor. Meals and services will be held in the fellowship hall beginning Wednesday, October 8. In a few weeks, we will be able to move into the new adult Sunday School classrooms.

On **Saturday, October 25 at 9 a.m.** everyone is asked to help move the furniture into the new respective classrooms. We need as many people as are able to attend. Within your Sunday School classes, make sure that there are a few representatives to help arrange the room. With everyone's help, we can accomplish this move in no time! Join us for the morning of moving!

### Preschool

\* A Silent Auction is planned for early November to raise funds for the Preschool. Make sure you are ready to come! Donations for the purpose of auctioning are being accepted and are greatly appreciated.

\* Are you looking for something to do with a bit of spare time?? The Preschool needs volunteers for its "Grand Brigade." You may come any weekday morning to hold a baby, or to read and sing with children. Please contact Shelley Pruitt, Director, if you are interested.

