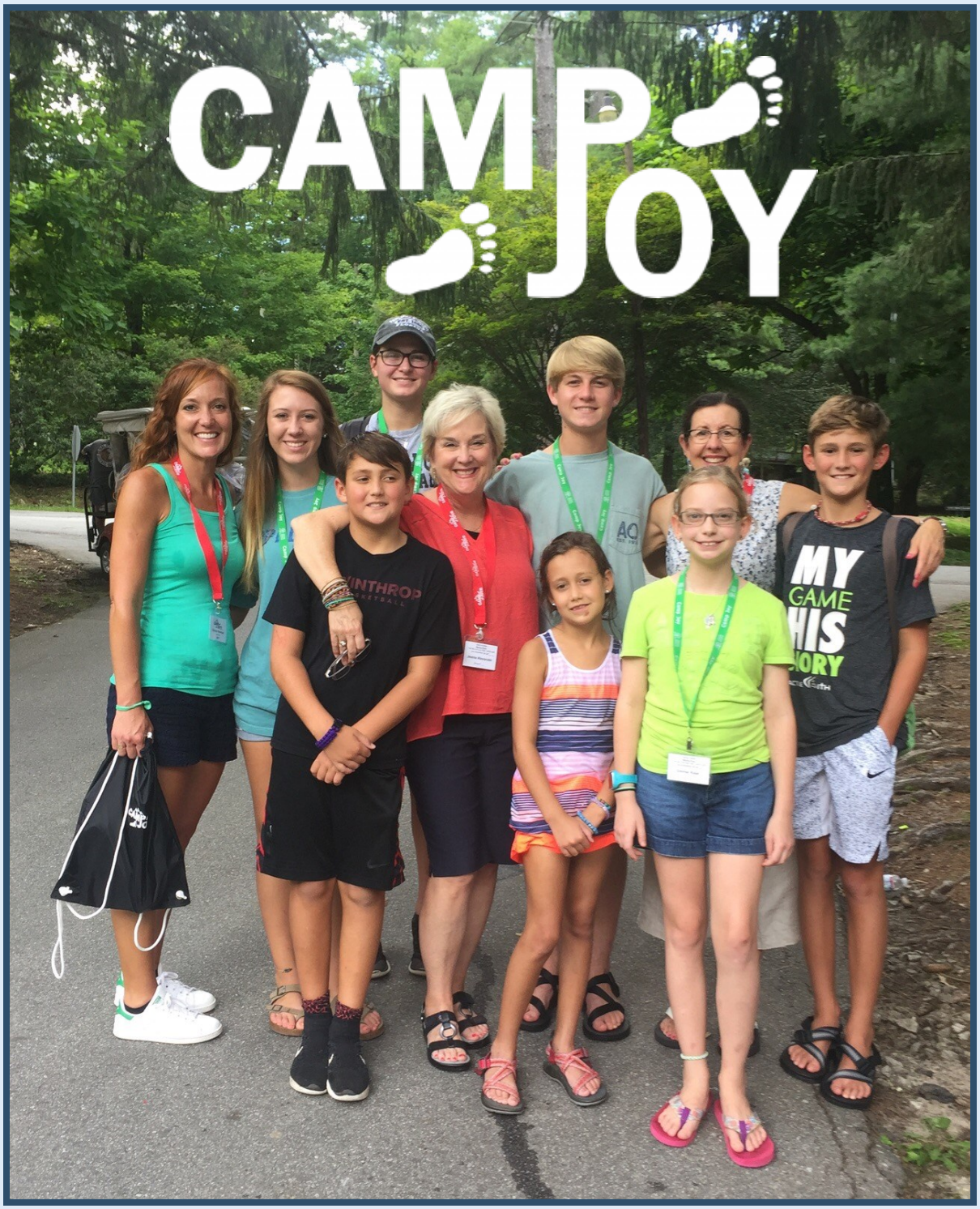
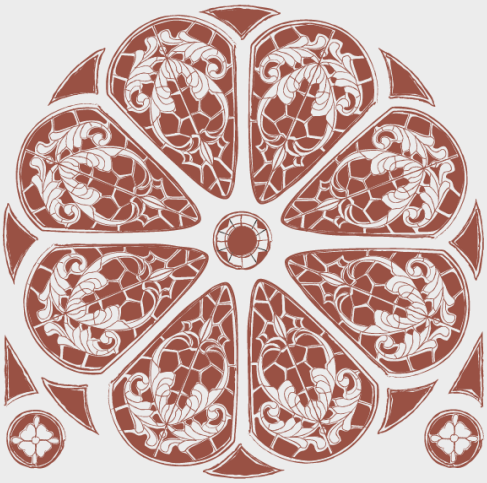
First Church Life

First ARP Church of Rock Hill

August 2017





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Rally Day

Sunday, August 27

10:00 a.m.

Join together in Robinson Hall for:

- Promotion of children & youth
- Introduction of teachers
- Presentation by Summer Mission Teams

All adult, youth,
and children's (4 and older)
Sunday School classes will attend.

Nursery will be provided for
children 3 and under.

Celebrating God's faithfulness and a new year in Christian Education at First ARP!

Pastor's Message

Barry Dagenhart, Senior Pastor

I hope that you are having a safe and restful summer. My intent with this article is to give you an update concerning the recent work of a special committee of the Session. Your Session appointed a special committee referred to as the 'Unity Committee' during October of 2016, and that committee proceeded to meet, on average, twice a month for the next seven months to talk about issues that could cause disunity, and to talk about ideas/concepts that could foster and improve unity within a congregation that has two worship services. Anytime a congregation has two or more services, the potential exists for two separate congregations to form, and we hoped this committee would have ideas to keep that from happening.

At the July meeting of the Session a couple of weeks ago, the Session approved the following recommendations from the Unity Committee: **(1)** Educational activities to inform and enlighten the congregation on the topics of unity, worship styles, the vision for worship and Christ-centered worship. The Unity Committee composed the following statement as the vision for worship: "Christ-centered worship (not style/preference-centered worship) with participation from the entire church body infused with theological instruction throughout that proclaims the gospel and pursues fellowship within the service." Both of our worship services fulfill this vision, and making sure we focus on Christ-centered worship instead of an individual style-centered worship can enhance unity.

(2) To aid communication, it was approved to have more frequent joint session-diaconate meetings, more personal news items in the newsletter, yearly publication of sessional committees and their responsibilities, and invitations to the congregation to volunteer to be at-large members of committees.

(3) The Session formed a sub-committee of the family life committee known as the Inter-Church relations committee to strengthen and expand our relationship with Mt. Prospect Baptist Church, and hopefully our service to the Kingdom.

(4) The Church Officers (all officers) need to be visible to the congregation, and it was recommended they assist in worship services each Lord's Day.

(5) Once a quarter, combine the 9:00 a.m. service and the 11:00 a.m. service into one worship service. This will most likely take place on the 5th Sundays of the yearly calendar and we will have one worship service on those days at 10:00 a.m., with Sunday School to follow and perhaps a lunch together in Robinson Hall. It is hoped that eventually baptisms, new member receptions and these sorts of congregational events can take place (at least some of the time) on these fifth Sundays when the entire congregation is together. The first joint service will take place on Sunday, October 29 later this year.

(6) It was recommended that the assimilation practices for our new members be reevaluated with the hope that new folks will feel at home more quickly and be plugged in to the life of the church sooner.

(7) The annual Lessons and Carols service is a much-beloved service and it will continue to operate as it is for the foreseeable future at both services.

(8) Re-institute congregational prayer teams. We have two presently meeting, but as we found out during the Revitalization process, prayer teams are a great help to the church spiritually speaking, but they also aid with unity and being involved in each other's lives and needs.

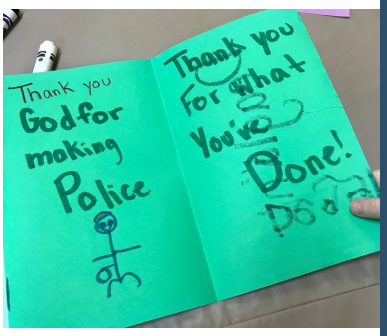
Each recommendation was assigned a committee or committees and staff people to make sure that the recommendations actually get implemented. Over the next few months, various committees and staff will be working on these recommendations and many of you will be asked for your help. We thank you in advance for your participation, help and ideas.

I also want to thank the members of the Unity Committee for all of their time and effort. Robert Alexander served as chair, Cole McKinney as Vice Chair, Jeff Lesslie as secretary, and Sarah Harper, Eric Madsen, Patrick Robinson, Philip Bunch and myself were all members of this committee. We hope and pray that these recommendations will aid and strengthen the unity already present at First ARP. As Paul teaches in Ephesians 4, Jesus has given gifts to His Church to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God…" May God bless us to that end as we work together in His power. —Barry

iServe Day

Thank you to our younger elementary children who joined together on July 19 to bake brownies and make cards for our hard working police officers.

After delivering the tasty treats, they enjoyed a tour of the police station and "The Three Little Pigs" play at the library.



Thank you to Sally Anne Catoe, Lainey Nowicki and Megan Sanders for helping to chaperone this fun day of stories and serving others!

Summer Play Dates sponsored by Women's Ministries

Mothers with babies and toddlers please join for a time for play and fellowship with friends!

Play Dates will meet from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the church.
Check the bulletin for room location!

Remaining Dates
August 3
August 17

For more information contact Shellie Sloop (shelliesloop1969@gmail.com) or Tiffany Dagenhart (tndagenhart@gmail.com)

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

The Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen was founded in 1896 in Rock Hill and was named after Dorothy Day who founded "Houses of Hospitality". From it's beginning, the soup kitchen's mission embodied that spirit of hospitality. It provides a safe comfortable place and a free hot meal to whomever walks through the door... ***No Questions Asked!***

As an independent charitable organization, the Soup Kitchen supporters are an ecumenical and eclectic hodgepodge of churches, businesses, civic groups, school groups, students and professionals. The Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen isn't just about filling stomachs; they are also committed to making people feel comfortable and welcomed. Dorothy Day insisted that the people she served were treated as guests, and her lead has been faithfully followed.

A group from First ARP faithfully serves at Dorothy Day on the <u>third Thursday of each month.</u>

On July 20, 65 folks were served at the soup kitchen by Beth Diers, Susan Eaves, Susan Gardner, Fran Hancock, and Donna Ziegler.

August serving date: Thursday, August 17

Are you being called to serve in this special ministry?

For more information on serving at Dorothy Day contact Susan Gardner: sgardner@comporium.net

Our next **Family Promise** host week is: **August 20-27**

Volunteers are needed in all aspects of this ministry. Please contact any of the Family Promise committee members to talk about how you might support our guests during the next host week.

Family Promise®

<u>Remaining Family Promise Host Weeks for 2017</u>

August 20-27

November 12-19

Committee Members

Set-up and clean-up: Nora & Eric Madsen, Ginger & David Smith, Beth & David Gault

Meals: Fran Hancock, Mary Joyce Wright

Activities: Jan Phillips

Overnight Hosts: George Coxhead, Tim Marshall

Advisors: Marsha & Bill Vogel, Connie Kiser, Philip Bunch

Youth Happenings

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

Appalachia Mission

Our **Appalachia Mission Team** served the Lord through a week of Vacation Bible School at Morgan Memorial United Methodist Church in Rose Hill, Virginia.

The team did a great job sharing the Gospel alongside of the youth from First ARP Lancaster. We are so thankful for the Lord's protection through all of the travels and adventures. A huge thanks to our leaders Taylor Madsen, Lisa Smith and for Philip & Courtney Bunch for their leadership as well!

Middle School Mission Project

Our Middle School Students did an amazing job serving the Lord by leading Game Makers (Recreation) at our Vacation Bible School! In our Middle School Mission Project, each student led a day of recreation, and by the end of the week our students were leading all on their own!

We also experienced a great time of fellowship with lunches and studying God's Word about why we have VBS and Missions!

You're Invited!

There are many open serving opportunities for the coming year, and YOU are invited to be a part of what God is doing at First ARP! Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve this year in any of the following roles:

- **Sunday School Teacher**
- **Nursery Volunteer**
- **Children's Church Leader**
- **Foundations for the Family Children's Leader**

For more information about these serving opportunities contact **Connie Kiser**, Christian Education Director:
christianeducationdirector@firstarp.org
OR **803-327-2009**

HARPs News

July Luncheon Recap: What could be better on a hot summer day than joining Christian friends and guests in cool Robinson Hall? On July 18 a wonderful lunch was served, prepared by our favorite chef, Erin McManus. Lee Carroll's talented daughter, Lisa Jones, led a Bible study, after which everyone joined voices in hymn singing. An *amazing* 43 hip Harpsters and guests attended.

If you're happy and you know it, you're a HARP!

Upcoming Luncheons

- Fall Luncheon will be on **October 17.** The program will be given by our friends from Mt. Prospect Baptist who will share about Manna House, their weekly food pantry.
- Christmas Luncheon will be **December 15** at Westminster Towers.

Upcoming Trips

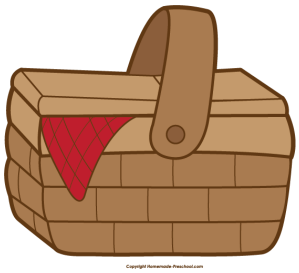
Stay tuned for dates!

- In late September a group will travel to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte.
- In late November or early December, travelers will see a play at Flat Rock Playhouse and spend the night at Bonclarken.

Women's Ministries

Wednesday, August 30, 5:45 p.m., Robinson Hall

Abby Talley, two-time cancer survivor, wife, adoptive mother, small business owner, and grateful servant will share her testimony, *"I can't stress about what I don't remember and other blessings from cancer."*

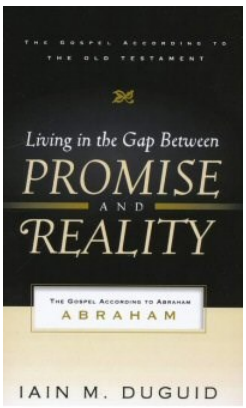


A casual, picnic-style dinner with ham and fried chicken will be provided by Circle 3.

This is a free event. Please register by **Sunday, August 27** by signing up in Sunday School classrooms or by calling the church office, 803-327-2009.

Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities

Serving the Spiritual Life of Women



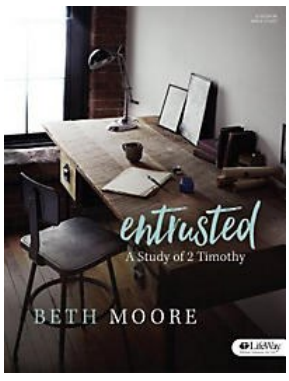
Monthly: September-May

Fellowship, prayer, projects and Bible study

- Circle #1: First Thursday evenings
- Circle #2: First Thursday mornings
- Circle #3: First Monday evenings

Bible Study Book:
***Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality: The Gospel According to Abraham* by Iain Duguid** (cost: $12)

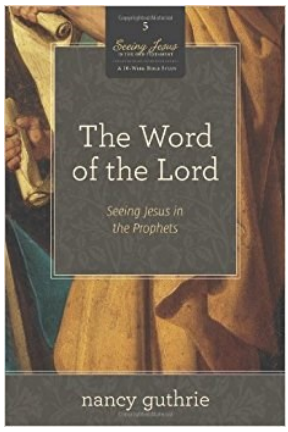
(Watch for dates and times in the newsletter, bulletin, and weekly email)



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Begins September 5th

Entrusted: A Study of 2 Timothy
by Beth Moore
(Cost: $12)



Thursday Noon Bible Study

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Begins August 31st

The Word of the Lord: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets
by Nancy Guthrie

Books and sign ups are available by contacting Women's Ministries Spiritual Life Coordinator, **Kathy Barron** (mkhbarron@gmail.com) or at the Fall Kick-Off on August 30th!

CAMP JOY

Ministering to Those With Special Needs

Camp Joy, our denomination's camp for those affected by disabilities, is often called' the closest place to heaven on earth.' Three of the four sessions of Camp Joy North Carolina have had members of our church family serving in ministry. Whether filling the role as worship leader, recreation leader, camp doctor, counselor, Bible teacher, Camp Joy player, puppeteer, or helper in the kitchen.....all of us 'GOT JOY'! God worked mightily in all our lives, and we were richly blessed by our 'heroes!' How exciting to know that the ministry of Camp Joy has spread to South Carolina, Florida, and will soon be happening in Virginia....to God be the glory for its eternal impact in so many lives!

Session 1: Elliott, Mabry, and Roddey Smith
Session 3: Barry and Jamey Dagenhart; Brooke Dillingham; Connie, Tim and Emmie Kiser; former member Mary Elizabeth (Mimi) Loftus; Chrissi, Warren, Ren, Walker and Riley Norman and their nephew Adam Williamson; Ginger Smith; and Jeanie Alexander
Session 4: Amy, Connor, Caris and Christian Kulbok; Barbara and Robert Lesslie; Katie, Jeff, Adah and Noah Lesslie

August Birthdays

2
Aiken Golightly

3
Evan Gettys
Wayne Wingate

4
Eleanor Herlong
Hayley Powell Evans

5
Susan Barnette
Caroline Tuttle Comer
Melissa Lyon

6
Jeremy Dreier
Mary Phillips Gettys

9
Emmie Kiser
Mabry Smith
Ann Marie Williamson

10
Sylvia Rhodes

12
David Gault

13
Ryan Simpson

14
Sarah Todd Low
Miley Rhoad
Mike Simpson
Sally Anne Williamson

16
Ben Barkley

17
Cameron Norwood

18
Kara Duggins

19
Barbara Roberts

21
Addison Sanders

23
Heather Robinson

24
Julie Harbin

25
Gracie Grant
Donna Hanna

26
Jamey Dagenhart
Mitch Sanders

27
Shiloh Brooks
Susan Hallman
Cranford Morgan
David Stephenson

28
Chrissi Norman

29
John P. Gettys, Jr.

30
David Rankin

31
Marin Grant

Christian sympathy is extended to

Gerald Talley

at the death of his mother

Cathan "Cathie" Talley

on July 15, 2017

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." -Matthew 5:4

Celebrating New Life

Congratulations to

Kara & McAuley Alexander

on the birth of their daughter

Mary Emeline Alexander

July 20, 2017

Mary Emeline joins big brother, Finn

Proud grandparents are

Jeanie & Robert Alexander

Congratulations to…

Ashley & Tom Scott

on the baptism of their son

Blake Russell Scott

on Sunday, July 23, 2017

AUGUST Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, August 1
- CE Committee Meeting
  7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, August 3
- Barry Dagenhart Prayer Team
  8:00 a.m. in Robinson Hall
- Mothers With Babies Playdate
  10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, August 6
- Communion
  9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship

TUESDAY, August 8
- Family Life Committee
  5:30 p.m.
- Diaconate
  6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, August 9
- Youth Game Night
  7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, August 12
- Men's Breakfast
  7:00 a.m.
- Caregiver Bible Study, Faith Room
  9:30 a.m.

MONDAY, August 14
- Session
  7:00 p.m.
- Ladies Book Club
  7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, August 15
- Breakfast Club @ home of Luke & Molly
  10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, August 17
- Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen
  9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Mothers With Babies Playdate
  10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, August 20
Start of Family Promise Week

THURSDAY, August 24
- Just Joy
  6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, August 27
End of Family Promise Week
- Rally Day
  10:00 a.m. in Robinson Hall

WEDNESDAY, August 30
- Women's Ministries Fall Kick-Off
  5:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, August 31
- Women's Thursday Bible Study Begins
  12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Save the Date

- **September 6:** Foundations for the Family resumes
- **September 24:** Congregational meeting to elect Elders
- **October 13-15:** Church-wide retreat at Bonclarken
- **October 17:** HARPs Fall Luncheon
- **October 29:** Kirking Service/Joint Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- **November 19:** Congregational meeting to elect Deacons & approve budget
- **November 23:** Thanksgiving Breakfast
- **December 15:** HARPs Christmas Luncheon at Westminster Towers

If you have an announcement, information, article, or event photo you'd like to submit for newsletter consideration please email it to: **newsletter@firstarp.org**
The deadline is the 20th of each month.
(For example, the deadline for the September newsletter is August 20!)

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday

Foundations for the Family
will resume September 6
5:30 p.m. Meal in Robinson Hall
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir
6:30 p.m. Adult Study
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

Just Joy

every 4th Thursday
6:30 p.m. Worship Service
geared toward special needs friends and families, but all are welcome to come and participate!

Preschool

Summer Camp
August: 1-3, 8-10, 15-17
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Contact **Virginia McCallister** for more info on Summer Camp or fall enrollment: **803-327-2009** or **preschooldirector@firstarp.org**