

# Volunteers

	<b>December 24</b>	<b>December 31</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	Kelly Sims	Natalie Carmichael
<b>Toddlers</b>	Stacey Pegram	Erin Tindal
<b>Greeters (F)</b>	Phil & Sarah Baer	Butch & Dell Ghent
<b>(S)</b>	Richard & Lorri Crawford	Philip & Stacey Pegram
	<b>December</b>	<b>January</b>
<b>Elders</b>	Richard Crawford Ed Ogburn	Frank Brackett Buddy Lever
<b>Captain</b>	Sam Prete	Debbie Dickson
<b>Co Captain</b>	Lathan Rivers	Mary Strickland
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Scruggs Conner Tindal	Frank Brackett Benny Brazell

# Staff and Officers

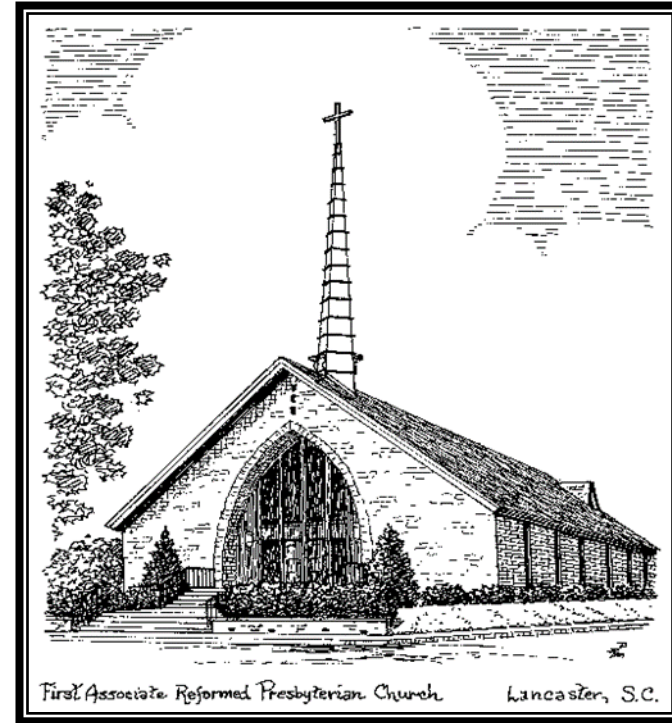
<b>STAFF</b>		<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>DEACONS</b>
Pastor- Dr. Kyle E. Sims	2018	Ed Ogburn	Debbie Dickson
Pastoral Intern- Mr. Ethan McConnell		Richard Crawford	Keith Jaillette
Choir Director- Dr. Kristen Wunderlich	2019	Frank Brackett	Debby Hegler
Organist- Mrs. Amy Jones		Buddy Lever	Dave Mohr
Secretary- Mrs. Stacy Pokopac	2020	Richard Gardner	Daniel Bohler
		Sam Prete	Richard Shields

*An Associate Reformed Family Serving God, Lancaster, and the World*

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firstarplancaster.org



# First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2017

# Worship

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

### **Prelude**

Mrs. Amy Jones

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Dr. Kyle Sims

## ENTERING WORSHIP

### **\*Call to Worship**

Mr. Ethan McConnell

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
for His steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for His steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for His steadfast love endures forever;

Psalm 136:1-3

### **\*Hymn**

Red Trinity Hymnal #201

*“O Little town Of Bethlehem”*

### **\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*\*congregation stands*

# Financials

<b>December 17, 2017</b>	
Attendance	116
General Fund	\$3,454
Total GF contributions This Month	\$11,337
Average Monthly Budget requirement	\$18,996
Missions Fund	\$50
Memorial Fund	\$210
Bonclarken Campaign	\$452

**AUTOMATIC DRAFT** Are you ready to take a step of faith? Sign up for a monthly draft of your giving. It is a serious commitment to set up your tithe to come out every month, but we are called to give from our first fruits. This is a tool to help you be faithful and regular in your giving to Christ and His church. For more information see Sam Huey.



### **2018 CATAWBA PRESBYTERY EVENTS**

March 2-4 Senior High Super Retreat - Bonclarken

March 13 Presbytery at Oak Ridge Church - 10:00 a.m.

March 23-25 Presbytery Middle School Retreat - Bonclarken

April 20- Women’s Ministries Meet and Greet- First ARP Lancaster

June 5 Catawba Presbytery- Bonclarken - 10:00 a.m.

September 21-23 Senior High Super Retreat – Bonclarken

October 13 Children’s Retreat at Neely’s Creek Church

October 9 Presbytery meets at 1st Rock Hill - 10:00 a.m

October 23 Elders’ Association at Shiloh Church - 7:00 p.m.

November 2-4 Catawba Middle School Retreat-Bonclarken

During this holiday season, I want to encourage you to take some time to read the Christmas story with your family. It does not take long and it will be a great teaching time for you with your kids and grandkids. If you can make it your tradition, it will be something your family will always remember. How much more important is this account over that of the other Christmas Stories.

This is also a time for each Christian to take some time to examine your life and consider again the gospel of Jesus. You probably will have some time over the holidays where you can sneak away from the Hallmark movie or the game to read and pray. Jesus' coming was in love for you. In John's First Letter we see that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b). He came to destroy sin and death the devil had brought. He came to be man so he might die for man.

The gospel of Jesus is the great gift of God. It is the gift every soul needs in their life. Without the gospel there is no salvation, no new life, and no hope in death. If we have Jesus, knowing and trusting Him with our lives, then we have hope even in the face of death. We have hope in this life and in the next but only through Jesus Christ.

See what the Lord gave you at Christmas! It is exactly what you need. It takes care of your greatest need perfectly. It can never be lost. It can never be destroyed. It can never be the wrong size. Jesus Christ given for you is the perfect gift to sinners who were lost. All you have to do is receive Him as your Lord and Savior. You have to trust your soul with Him and live for Him out of love.

This Christmas consider the Advent of Jesus Christ. Consider what it has done for sinners like you. Make sure you have received this gift from God and that you are loving God and praising God for it all the year long.

Dr. Kyle E. Sims  
Pastor

### **\*Confession of Faith**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell;  
The third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic\*\* church;  
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **\*Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen, amen.

### **Tithes and Offerings**

### **Offertory**

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Hymn** Red Trinity Hymnal #204  
*“Away In a Manger”*

MEANS OF GRACE

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture Reading** Pew Bible Page 976

Ephesians 2:8-10

**Sermon** Dr. Kyle Sims  
*“God’s Gifts: Faith”*

**Prayer of Application**

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

**\*Hymn** Red Trinity Hymnal #224  
*“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”*

**\*Free Offer of the Gospel**

**\*Benediction**

**HOPE IN LANCASTER** HOPE is currently seeking donations of healthy, non-perishable foods such as the following: Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Potatoes, Grits, Cereal, Instant Potatoes, Canned Tomatoes, Juice, & Jiffy Mix.

HOPE also has a Fresh and Healthy food initiative to provide healthier food options for their clients. Additional pantry needs include: Peanut Butter, Canned Salmon, Jelly, Canned Fruit, Canned Beef Stew, & Dry Pasta

**UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS**



- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 24 | 9AM Continental Breakfast<br>10AM Children’s Service<br>11AM Morning Worship<br>4PM Candlelight Service<br>10PM Candlelight Service |
| January 20  | 11AM Joint Women’s Circle Soup Lunch  |
| April 21    | 9AM CWMARP Meet and Greet   |

**ADDRESS UPDATES**

Ensign Dillon Coale and Kaitlyn Coale  
5631 Silver Star Court  
Milton, FL 32583

SGT. COALE, ALEX P.  
PSC 561 BOX 8137  
FPO, AP 96310-0082

**Are you praying for your Ten List?**

# Announcements



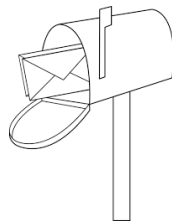
**VISITORS** Welcome to Lancaster First ARP. If you are a first time visitor, our ushers have a welcome packet for you. If you are a returning visitor, please fill out an attendance card from the pew in front of you so we may have a record of your visit. Offering envelopes are also available for your convenience.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS** The church secretary will be on vacation December 26-29. If you are willing to help cover the phones on these mornings, please signup on the bulletin board. The church office will be closed December 22 and 25, and January 1.



**TRAIL LIFE DONATIONS** Our Trail Life scouts are collecting supplies to make fire starters. Please bring your old wax candles to the church office. Contact Buddy Lever with any questions.

**WOMENS MINISTRIES** All women of the church are invited to a joint Women's Circle meeting Saturday, January 20 from 11-1. We will begin a study of Genesis with the first chapters of *Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality: The Gospel According to Abraham* by Iain Duguid and *Idols Of the Heart: Learning To Long For God Alone* by Elise Fitzpatrick. This will be followed by a soup lunch. A signup sheet will be available in January. Contact Katey Powell with questions.



**MAILBOXES** During the Christmas season, we have a mailbox available for the congregation to leave cards or messages for each other. They are located in the hallway behind the choir loft. Leave or pick up messages from the slot that matches the first initial of the last name of the recipient. 2018 GREETER and WORSHIP SERVICE CHILDCARE schedules are in the mailboxes now.

## LEAVING WORSHIP

### **\*Congregational Response**

Red Trinity Hymnal #194

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*CCLI License #399806*

### **\*The Greeting of the Congregation**

#### **Taking the Gospel To the World**

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

# Sermon Notes

Text: Ephesians 2:8-10

Title: "God's Gifts: Faith"

## Prayer Emphasis

**Christmas needs:** Pray for those who are away from family and friends, especially those in the military, those serving our community as fireman, policeman, or EMS workers, and those who are on call or who work where there is no option of stopping for Christmas.

**Blue Christmas:** There are many in our community who are alone at Christmas. They have lost their loved ones. They have strained relationships with family. They have problems and issues in their lives that the holidays only make worse. Pray for our friends and neighbors who struggle through the holiday season.

**Christmas Travel:** Many folks from our church will be traveling to see family over the next few weeks. Pray for safe travel for them.

**Situation in Korea:** The Winter Olympics are coming up next month. Pray that the Lord will bring peace to this region.

**Ethan McConnell:** As our new intern starts out his work, pray that the Lord will give him wisdom. Pray that he will make connections with our youth and those in the community. Pray for him as he preaches his first sermon for us next week.

**Children's Ministry:** Pray as we seek to expand and improve our ministry to our children.

**Our Nation, State, and community:** Pray for our leaders. Pray for the needs of Lancaster.

**Those dealing with illness and emotional, mental, or spiritual issues.**

- **Sister Churches**

Shiloh ARP- Lancaster, SC- Rev. Tom Wilson

Smyrna ARP- Smyrna, SC- Rev. Alan Morrow

# Prayer Requests

## **First ARP**

Ann Pokopac  
 Benny Brazell  
 Carol Nims- Presbyterian Home- Florence  
 Carlyle & Mott Henley  
 Chic Whitlock  
 Clara Nell Robinson  
 Erin Tindal  
 George Mason  
 Betty Allen  
 I. W. Caskey  
 John & Pat Willis  
 Katey Powell  
 Marilyn Duve  
 Mary Brown Parks-Morningside  
 Mary Ella Jordan  
 Nancy Ogburn  
 Phil Baer- Mexican Leaders Workshop  
 Sally Lloyd  
 Sheryl Huey  
 Tom Strickland  
 Wayne Dickson- Tests

## **Church Planters**

Ben Carver- Shem Creek ARP- Mt. Pleasant  
 Ian Wise-Pageland RPCNA  
 Matt Awtrey-Kings' Church- Irmo  
 Rob Turner- Arsenal Hill- Columbia

## **Military**

Alex Coale- Japan  
 Dillon Coale- NAS Pensacola

## **Missionaries**

Phil & Sarah Baer-Wycliffe  
 Rebekah Carson-Germany  
 Mark & Natalie Witte-Spain

## **Friends & Family**

Andrew Brunson- Prison in Turkey  
 Charles and Annie Montgomery- Susan Prete's  
 Parents  
 Darryl Wayne Bristow- Pat McEachern's Broth-  
 er  
 Delphine Spinks- Geri Brazell's Sister  
 Donna Bohler- Daniel Bohler's Mom  
 Doris Hudson- Lorri Crawford's Mother  
 Family of Sherry McMullen  
 Gentry McColm- Hope Church, TX  
 George Busch- Scots Kirk Presbyterian Church  
 Gwen Furse- Friend of the Pokopac's  
 Jimmy Simpson- Mary Ella Jordan's Cousin  
 JoAnn Byrd-Patricia Gardner's Mother  
 Joan Pardue- Benny Brazell's Sister  
 John Boykin- Friend of the Scruggs'  
 John Christian Rozycki- Kristen Wunderlich's  
 Nephew  
 Judy Morrison- Aaron Morrison's Step Mom  
 Louise Carpenter- Debbie Dickson's Mom  
 Mary Ginty-Katey Powell's Mother  
 Mary Musselwhite- Pat McEachern's Friend  
 Phil Ghent- Butch Ghent's Brother  
 Robert and Janice McClelland- Andrea Hen-  
 ley's Parents  
 Sandra Ginty- Katey Powell's Sister-In-Law  
 Shirley Parker- Brazell's Sister-In-Law  
 William Jordan- Mary Ella Jordan's Brother In  
 Law

# Young Worshipers

During the worship service your youngest children should draw pictures of what they hear and see in the appropriate boxes, while older children ought to take written notes.

<u>Scripture Text and Title</u>	<u>My Favorite Hymn</u>
<p>1.</p>           <p>2.</p>           <p>3.</p>	<u>What I Learned Today?</u>
<u>Things To Pray For</u>	<u>How Will I Obey God's Word?</u>

# December

# 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
<b>3</b> <b>12:00 Congregational Meeting</b> 5:30 Last Parenting Class	<b>4</b> 6:00 JL Circle	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 AE Circle <b>6:45 Choir Practice</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10</b> <b>6:00 Church Christmas Party</b> 7:00 Diaconate NO YOUTH	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 11:30 Lunch Bunch	<b>13</b> <b>6:45 Choir Practice</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>17</b> <b>6:00 Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 7:00 Session NO YOUTH	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>24 COMMUNION/ MISSIONS FUND</b> (See side panel for today's schedule)	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>31 CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND</b> NO YOUTH	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 7:00 Youth Breakfast	<b>2</b> <b>1:00 MS Christmas Baking &amp; Candy Making</b> <b>4:00 Choir Practice</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 6- Ed & Nancy Ogburn
- 9- Harold & Betty Allen
- 13- Kevin & Becky Andersen
- 18- Wayne & Debbie Dickson
- 18- Sam & Susan Prete
- 19- Matt & Janet Hall

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Betty Allen
- 12- Emily Tindal
- 16- Rebekah Carson
- 17- Holly Rivers
- 20- Bobby Grier
- 21- Tom Morgan
- 23- Sal Estrada
- 26- Lathan Rivers
- 28- Spencer Sims
- 30- Geri Brazell
- 30- Spencer Estrada

## NORMAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:15 Officer Meeting
- 9:30 Coffee Fellowship
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship

## CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 Children's Service
- 11:00 Morning Worship
- 4:00 Candlelight Service
- 10:00 Candlelight Service