

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM PASTOR STEVE

by Steve Jessen

Several weeks ago, Julie and I traveled to Washington D.C. to see our daughter Hannah. We timed our visit hoping to see the famous cherry blossoms. God blessed us, the trees were in full bloom and were spectacular! The amazing reality is that just a few weeks prior to our visit, the cherry trees were bare and seemingly dead and lifeless. But by some miracle of God's creative power, buds popped out of the lifeless limbs, and pink flowers burst forth in all their beauty.

Isn't it amazing how creation points to Jesus? Romans 1:20 says, *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse."* The cycle of the cherry trees is God's workmanship, and it reminds us of the resurrection. Jesus was crucified on a "tree," a tree that was ugly and void of life. It was an "old rugged cross" as the hymn describes. And on that tree our Savior died. But that was not the end; spring was just around the corner. The body in the grave began to stir, and Jesus burst forth from the grave in all his glory.

What about your life? Do you feel like you are stuck in winter with no apparent sign of spring and no hope for the future? My prescription for you is to open your eyes as you are driving around this spring: flowering trees, beautiful azaleas, various flowers opening up, all remind us that Jesus is risen. The One who died on the cross is ALIVE, and there is no greater beauty than that. He is the One who brings us out of our winter into His marvelous spring.

*"Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."*  
Romans 6:4

Steve



## WIC NEWS

WIC Council will hold their monthly meeting on April 30 at 4:00 pm in Founders Hall. Please take note of the date change from our original schedule.

In lieu of our regular monthly circle meetings, we are looking forward to our Spring Banquet May 1. All those who turned in a paid reservation should plan to be here by 6:30 pm.

## MMOOS



Our next quarterly Man Day will be May 6. We have many projects to work on and we can use ALL skill levels! Be sure to sign up today at the bulletin board in the main hallway. See Pastor Steve if questions.

**May 6**

## CE COMMITTEE NEWS

Once again this year we are offering **scholarships** to those of our church family who will be going to a **Church camp** this summer.

Requests with a copy of the registration form should be turned in to Ronnie Smith or placed in his church mailbox on or before June 4.

Amount of scholarship aid will be determined by the number of applicants.

**YOUTH  
RETREAT**

**RIDGE HAVEN  
May 19 - 21**

**SIGN UP  
DEADLINE  
MAY 7!**

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	2	3 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.	4  6:30 CE Committee Mtg. MTW Committee Mtg. 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball 7:30 Officers' Prayer	5	6  Man Day!  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
7 AM Communion 11:30 Summer Palmer Home Team Mtg  <i>Care Groups, Children's Ministry and Youth end</i>	8  6:30 WIC Spring Banquet	9  6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	10 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.  6:30 Abernathy CG; Children's Min Team; Tech Team Mtg.	11  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	12	13 7:00 Deacons' Meeting  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
14  <b>Mother's Day</b>	15	16	17	18  6:30 Preschool Graduation 6:30 AHG Planning Mtg. 7:00 Session Meeting Adult Rec. Volleyball	19 <i>Last day of Preschool</i>	20  ← Youth Ridgehaven Retreat →  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
21 ← Youth Ridgehaven  4:00 WIC Council Mtg.  <i>No evening activities</i>	22 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	23	24	25  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	26	27  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
28  <i>No evening activities</i>	29  <b>Memorial Day</b>  <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Church Office and CDC closed</div>	30	31			

## MAY RESPONSIBILITIES



### NURSERY

**May 7:** 10:15 AM - Julianne, Shanna & Gabriella Griffin  
6:00 PM - Olivia Fox

**May 14:** 10:15 AM - David & Tommi Rust

**May 21:** 10:15 AM - Sandy Lasley and  
Caitlin Bumgardner

**May 28:** 10:15 AM - Lauren Henderson and  
Olivia & Ashleigh Fox

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**May 7:** Communion

**May 14:** Leon Lineberger

**May 21:** Jimmie Mitchell

**May 28:** Dan Ormsby

## ATTN: SENIOR ADULTS

We have a warm invitation to attend the "Well Done" Senior Adult Conference presented by our neighbors at First Baptist Church of Stanley. Dates and times are Friday, May 5, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and Saturday, May 6, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Cost is \$10 which covers materials and lunch on Saturday.

Dr. Mike Minnix, well-known pastor and author of the book "Senior Living" will share principles of living the abundant life here so as to hear "well done thou good and faithful servant" in the life to come. Special music and humor by "Band of Brothers."

Register at [www.ggba.net](http://www.ggba.net) or phone 704-263-4783.

A close-up photograph of a white golf ball resting on a green grassy surface next to the head of a golf club. The club's face has a series of black horizontal lines.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
SEPTEMBER 16**

**FPC Outreach  
Golf Tournament  
Westport Golf Club  
Denver, NC**

**Break out your clubs and bring a friend!**

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathies are extended to two of our church family members on the loss of loved ones recently. **Kathy Paramore's** half-sister, **Betsy Thompson**, and **Charlie Stewart's** grandmother, **Peggy Creech**, passed away. Remember to pray for these families as they cope with these losses.

We received news this week of the death of a former member of our church family. **Doris Cobb Bynum Williams** passed away Good Friday while under care of Hospice. She was 86. Doris was active in church missions work for many years. While at FPC, she met and married **Mack Bynum**, who preceded her in death.

We welcome new members as presented on Easter Sunday: **Claira Childers** and **Adelee Stewart** completed the Communicant's Class and were accepted into membership. **Bebe McMinn** was baptized although she was formally accepted into membership a year ago. **Sissie Kilby** joined by reaffirmation of faith.

## MISSIONS NEWS

A large group – 30 adults and youth! – went out from First Presbyterian this week to minister at **Palmer Home for Children** in Mississippi. Charles and Lorie Hamrick led the team composed of: Zack Bedford, Luke Bynum, Rachel Bynum, Alex Cavin, Clara Cobb, Heather Dake, Micah Deneen, Ed Faggart, Ryan Grice, Jared Hamrick, Mason Hamrick, Emma Harper, Lauren Harper, Abigail Jessen, Isaac Jessen, Joel Jessen, Steve Jessen, Jayda Killian, Grace Kopka, Rebecca Lasley, Alyssa Lowery, Connor McMinn, Tanner McMinn, Kevin Rhyne, Kaleigh Smith, Jake Teague, Sherry Teague, and Tori Teague.

**Mike Cosner**, our missionary to **Belize**, will be preaching at FPC on Sunday, April 23.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### TO THOSE IN OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MAY!

2 – Ellis Comer (2014)	11 – Harriet Troutman	17 – Jake Hunt
4 – Clyde Comer	12 – Suzanne Dye (2003)	Hernando Saenz
6 – Michael Wadhams	15 – Phineas Dirks (2013)	22 – Harold Bracken
10 – Carisse Cosner (2000)	Sam Hunt (2007)	Bonita Davidson
		26 – Lucy Piteo (2011)

## MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	63,544.35
Received in March for budget .....	53,077.81
Needed to date for budget .....	190,633.04
Received to date for budget .....	168,366.10
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	16,517.75
Received in March for Faith Promise .....	18,319.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	49,553.25
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	63,949.00

# *Birthdays to Celebrate in May*

3 Jessica Rhyne

7 Zac Rust

11 Danielle Abernathy  
Tim Featherstone  
Ed Kasper  
Kindyll Killian

4 Cody Bingham  
Wanda Elliott

8 Sabrina Shroyer

12 Will Hager

5 Heather Rumfelt  
Gary Shroyer

13 James Teague

6 Paul Abernathy  
Rockie Boggess  
Kelly Johnson  
Ashlyn Jurina



14 Joyce Burt  
Nancy Cozart  
Anna-Kathryn Lamb  
Callan Saine  
Sandra Todd

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512 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164 ♦ Phone 704-263-4275 ♦ Fax 704-263-0498  
e-mail: [info@fpccstanley.org](mailto:info@fpccstanley.org) ♦ web site: [www.fpccstanley.org](http://www.fpccstanley.org)

Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen ♦ Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen  
Worship 10:15 AM ♦ Sunday School 9:00 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# ARMORBEARER

## Prayer Calendar – May 2017

First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

Today I'm grateful for continued usefulness. On Easter, I was able to preach a Sunrise Service for SouthLake Church on the shores of Lake Norman, then come back to FPC to teach Sunday School, and later return to SouthLake to preach their morning worship service. Who would have thought that the Lord would still be using a high-mileage model like me? Join me in thanking him for usefulness.

Others, however, struggle in the face of sharp declines in strength, mobility and mental sharpness. I visit regularly with several such friends in my rounds among the senior adults of our church family. They grieve their losses deeply. Join me in praying for their encouragement, faith and inward renewal. The Bible reminds that inward strength can grow, even while outward strength diminishes.

Whatever our circumstances – whether we're up and running, or sidelined by weakness and limitation – the trick, of course, is to keep a heavenly perspective. If we have strength, it's because the Lord is providing. And if we don't, he's providing still. **For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.** (2 Cor. 4:17, 18)

### The Armorbearer Intercession

Armorbearers were personal attendants of a warrior chieftain who accompanied him in dangerous missions; they held huge shields sometimes surrounding their leader to protect him. **Intercessory prayers** by church members' can **protect** their leaders from "the flaming arrows of the evil one" and uphold them "that words may be given to me [Paul] in opening my mouth boldly to **proclaim** the mystery of the gospel" (Eph 6:16, 19).

### AWARE PRAYER For Ministry Leaders and Staff

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff: Areas of prayer may include special ministries you may be aware of that they are doing in a particular week, or special concerns about their health/strength, families/relationships, etc. You may pray for the fruits of the Spirit in their lives and for fruit from their labors. You may be led to pray for vision, wisdom, grace and protection from enemy attacks that would discourage or hinder their service of the Lord. Pray for them as God may bring things to mind and lay them on your heart. The Holy Spirit is our helper as we pray for those who serve him.

**Monday:** Pastor Scott Deneen, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Steve Jessen: Assistant Pastor

**Tuesday:** Lauren Henderson, Children's Ministry  
Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center

**Wednesday:** Global Outreach, Adult Ed/Care Groups  
Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell

**Thursday:** Eric Beam, Music Director  
Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

**Friday:** Pastor Dan King: Ministry to Seniors

**Saturday:** Pray for those who preach, teach, and lead at FPC on Sunday.

## Daily Requests for Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray that I would use my time wisely in devotion for the Lord daily.
- 2 **James Teague:** That I pick up the pace for prayer.
- 3 **Tracy Withers:** Please pray for our son Mason, as he recovers from a fractured bone in his leg and searches for a job.
- 4 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray that God continues to lead and guide our Outreach Committee as we seek His will in reaching our community.
- 5 **Chris Baker:** Pray that I reflect God's love in my everyday life as a husband, father, coworker, coach and a member of his church.
- 6 **Mark Beatty:** Pray for Deanna's and my parents' health as they are getting up in years.
- 7 **Tommy Barton:** Pray that God will guide us as elders to be wise in our decisions and leadership.
- 8 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for our country, our leaders, and our military as we celebrate upcoming holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July.
- 9 **Ken Dake:** For the youth and leaders as they prepare for the upcoming retreat at Ridgehaven.
- 10 **Andrew Deese:** Please pray that God would give me patience.
- 11 **Ed Faggart:** Pray that that I would carve-out more time each day for focused Bible study and prayer. Other tasks exist which crowd that out.
- 12 **Chris Graham:** Pray that our youth would maintain strong faith as they face temptations.
- 13 **Clyde Haley:** Pray for God to continue to lead our Church, the Pastors and Session, that we will have the wisdom to follow Him in all that we do.
- 14 **Mark Harper:** Please pray that pending test results will show benign or at least that any disease is treatable for my sister-in-law, Sandra.
- 15 **Rick Herd:** Pray for my load at work, that I can comprehend and have the wisdom to analyze and trouble shoot a new business application system that we will implement at work.
- 16 **Joel Jessen:** Pray for our Youth Retreat to Ridgehaven May 19-21, that it will be a blessing to all who participate—youth and leaders.
- 17 **Pete Johnson:** Praise and prayer for Liz as she continues recovery from recent surgery.
- 18 **Leon Lineberger:** Pray for Anna Kathryn and Dillon Lamb as they begin their married life.
- 19 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that I and all our officers here at FPC would have the mind of Christ.
- 20 **Dan Ormsby:** Please pray for healing for our church staff and guidance for Pastor Steve as he leads the church during this time.
- 21 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for our country and our world leaders to seek God's wisdom to lead us.
- 22 **Percy Raleigh:** That God will help us to do our deacons' work in the joy and strength of the Lord.
- 23 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for the PCA and for our church, FPC, that we will continue to present the truth of the Gospel and that we remain strong to withstand the attacks of the world and the devil.
- 24 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for our church family bonds to be even stronger as a result of supporting each other through another significant spiritual trial.
- 25 **Robert Rhyne:** That there would be unity in the church (both FPC and the church at large). *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."* (Ephesians 4:3)
- 26 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for the new members who joined our church recently.
- 27 **George Ross:** Please pray that the Lord continues to guide me on his path through the life decisions my family and I are facing.
- 28 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray that God will bless our children's ministry, especially VBS in June.
- 29 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray that I would make decisions that glorify God.
- 30 **James Teague:** That I survive another Bike 2 DC.
- 31 **Tracy Withers:** Please pray for God to raise up someone to coordinate our 2017 World Missions Conference in October.

## Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise to God for the worship and witness to the resurrection on Easter and for those who professed their faith and joined the church.
- Praise for the great SOAR soccer season and for all those who oversee and participate in it.