

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

A March 12 *Breakpoint* ministry article was titled “Dad’s Take Your Kids to Church.” (written by John Stonestreet with G. Shane Morris on the website: breakpoint.org) They write: “According to the best available data, the most reliable predictor of children’s ongoing church attendance is how consistently their own *father* attends.” The article goes on to provide statistics and studies that demonstrate the importance that a father plays in the spiritual development of their children.

We are reading for our men’s 40 Day Challenge a book called “*Act Like Men*” (By James MacDonald, Moody Publishers: Chicago, 2014). One chapter focuses on the failures of Eli, the Old Testament priest, as a father. God says “I am about to punish (Eli’s) house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.” I Samuel 3:13 (ESV) Eli failed to provide spiritual leadership for his family and the consequences were catastrophic. Fathers, we are responsible for the spiritual nurture and protection of our families. But we can’t do it on our own, we need the Holy Spirit to convict us, to guide us, and to help us overcome our failures.

But I want to take this a step farther and talk about the importance of having men in church. My strong conviction is that a healthy church is one where the men are actively involved, where men are growing in their faith, where men are serving and where men are taking their role in leadership seriously. Our tendency as men is to bail out, to be lazy, to renege on our spiritual responsibilities to our families and to our churches. MacDonald writes “Most men are not alert, not paying attention, and not watching out for their families as God commands them to.” (p.76) But here is the positive message, this is what we are to be praying and striving for: “to spend ourselves and deny ourselves and exhaust ourselves in servant leadership of our loved ones.” (p.28) A church where the men come not to be served, but to serve, will flourish and bear fruit for God’s kingdom for generations to come.

One final challenge to our men: For various reasons there are children in our church who do not have a father attending church with them. But these are our covenant children and it is up to the men of our church to step up and fill the gap to be spiritual “fathers” to these children and youth. They need us to model Biblical manhood and provide spiritual guidance and encouragement. And as we do, we imitate our Heavenly Father who is “the helper of the fatherless.” Psalm 10:14 (NIV)

I close with the theme verse of our Men’s 40 Day Challenge, a verse that is addressed to men, but can be applied to everyone. “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.” I Corinthians 16:13-14 (ESV) Amen!

In our Father’s love,





Help us get **BLESSING BAGS** to those in need!

Pick-up a bag or two this Sunday
from Pastor Thad's office!



MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND OUR SPECIAL EASTER CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: CHILDREN'S EASTER BASH

Interactive devotion, egg hunt, inflatables, fun!

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 7:00 PM: MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Communion will be served during this special service.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21:

9:15 am - Relax and fellowship with us in front of the church.

10:15 am - Worship with us as we celebrate the victory of Jesus over sin and death.

REMINDER...

A BABY SHOWER

for

ANNA KATHRYN LAMB

will be

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Gift registries are at Target and Buy Buy Baby.



SOAR NEWS: OPEN YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

Starting April 13, we will begin Open Youth Volleyball for ages 9 - high school. The schedule will be 10:00 am - 12:00 pm each Saturday for 4 weeks ending on May 4. This will be free for anyone who would like to participate.

A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR ALL LADIES!



Please join us for our
Spring Banquet
Monday, May 6 at 6:30 pm



This year we will have a “Decades” Theme. We encourage you (though not required) to come dressed in fashions from your favorite decade.

Our meal will consist of a salad and potato bar. The cost is only \$5 per person with the money going to WIC for Parlor upgrades.

You will find RSVP forms and a collection box in the main hallway on the literature display. Be sure to RSVP and pay by Sunday, May 5.

FREEBIES FOR THE TAKING!

We have a small office desk and a 4 drawer metal file cabinet that need a home. We also have the blue “throne” chairs that were previously on the Sanctuary platform. The desk and file cabinet are in the kitchen adjacent to the Sanctuary extension. Feel free to stop in and take a look at them.

These items will be available to the first person to claim them or until April 29, whichever comes first!

YOUTH NEWS!

We are gearing up for our youth retreat at Ridgehaven! We will be departing the church on Friday, May 10, in the afternoon and returning on Sunday, May 12. We have a lot of fun things planned for this weekend! Invite a friend!

The cost is only \$60 per student. Families with multiple students going pay \$30 for each additional youth.



See Pastor Thad or email him at thad@fpcstanley.org for more information and/or to register.

**A place to gather, to pray, to be thankful, to remember and appreciate our past loved ones and families, and much more
** Our Stanley Cemetery ****

Many thanks to these men for all your time and hard work in beautifying the Stanley Cemetery while honoring those who have gone before us: Bud Abernathy, Tommy Deese, Dan King, Leonard Lewis, Bob Mahovsky, Pat McAlister, and Charles Ray.



Donations for the Stanley Revitalization Project can be mailed to: [The Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund, c/o T. Deese, Treasurer, P.O. Box 772, Stanley, NC 28164.](#)

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Parke Sweigart spent several nights in the hospital after a routine doctor's visit on March 21 raised some red flags with his heart. After some tests and overnight observation, he was able to return home to await the test results.

Britney Ludeman continues on bedrest after some hemorrhaging last week. Preliminary tests indicate her unborn child is doing well.

We are happy to report that **Tom Barton** is doing well from surgery to implant a defibrillator in his chest on Tuesday. He was kept overnight for observation.

Welcome to our newest members: **Chip and Shara Beatty** and their sons **Bruton** and **Bentley**; **Laura Davis**, along with Laura and Thad's children **Lilli** and **Koen**; **Paul and Tiffany Drenth** and their children **Garrett**, **Madeline**, **Lucas** and **Fletcher**; **Sammy and Britney Ludeman** and their children **Sydney**, **John** and **Abigail**; **Ed and Stacey McGraw**. They were welcomed by our congregation on Sunday, March 24.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Congratulations to **AJ and Krista Babel** on the birth of their third daughter, Annabelle. They write: We are joyfully (and tiredly) adjusting to life with three little girls! We are thankful for God's graciousness toward us and sustaining grace as we parent and walk with Him. Annabelle is now 2 1/2 months old! Elsie (4) and Lydia (2) enjoy their little sister, and Annabelle often smiles when she sees her family!

Pray for **Mack Griffith** who serves as a pastor to chaplains. He writes: Although I am regularly processing and interviewing perspective Chaplains, my first responsibility continues to be a "Pastor to Chaplains". It's my privilege to travel to military installations around the country to spend some intensive time with many Chaplains and often with their families to encourage them and provide guidance as they seek to remain faithful to their calling to ministry while serving in a "pluralistic environment". I also visit with our Reserve Chaplains serving in the Reserve components, such as the Army and Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve etc. as they serve full time as pastors and serve the military part-time.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for the physical, spiritual and even legal protection for our Chaplains.
2. Please pray for the marriages of our Chaplains and for their children as there are often long separation of families due to military responsibilities.
3. Please pray for my travels and for wisdom to be a faithful "Pastor to Chaplains".
4. Please pray for more men to be called to the military fields of ministry as they are white unto harvest.

Thank you again for allowing me to minister to our military Chaplains!

Birthdays to Celebrate in April

16 Courtney Greeson
Dorcas Murphy
Jacob Rhyne
Charlie Stewart

17 Hadley Rumfelt

19 Ellen Deese

20 Brent Grice
Gavin Hare
Emery Huss

22 Garry Chambers
Nathan Chitwood



23 Karen Ensley

24 Charleen Schrum

26 Monnie Blackman
Joseph Deese
Lisa Grice
Percy Raleigh
Liam Robinson

28 Sharon Herd
Emily Revels

30 Selena Little

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164 • Phone 704-263-4275 Fax 704-263-0498
E-mail: info@fpcstanley.org • Website: www.fpcstanley.org
Pastor Steve Jessen • Assistant Pastor Thad Davis
Sunday School 9:00 AM • Worship 10:15 AM



512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 12
Stanley, NC 28164

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED