

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

This week there was a rare opportunity to see a total solar eclipse in our area. I had the unique opportunity of observing a total solar eclipse when I lived in Mexico City in July 1991. It was a somewhat eerie experience. Everyone poured into the streets to observe the celestial show, and at the peak of the eclipse, the city was plunged into darkness, the streetlights came on and day became night.

In the book of Joel this imagery is used to describe the great and terrible day of the Lord. "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. *The sun shall be turned to darkness*, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Joel 2:30-32.

The eclipse is a reminder to us of the awesome power that God possesses. He has the ability to blot out the sun and to plunge our existence into total darkness. This is the picture the prophet Joel paints to help us recognize that the day of the Lord is at hand. This imagery is frightening, unsettling, and downright terrifying. But Joel does not leave us in despair, he writes one of the most comforting lines in all of scripture: "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Peter seizes on this message in his Pentecost sermon in Acts 2:17-21. God is to be feared, but when we call on Him, He will save us. That message preached by Peter resulted in 3000 people becoming believers and being baptized. What then do we tell people whose lives are blocked from the "Son" and who walk in darkness? Our simple proclamation to them is to call out the name Jesus and they will be saved! What words of hope we possess in this dark world, let's share them with everyone God brings into our lives.

*Steve*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 6:00 PM

Care Groups, Image Bearers and Youth begin a new season! There are also Care Groups meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning that week. Look at the bulletin board across from the church office for all the details. Choose a day and topic of your likings and sign up!



**These are the Final Days  
to Sign-up for the  
Church-wide Camping Trip  
Friday through Monday,  
September 1 - 4**

at

**Briar Bottom Camping Area  
in Mt. Mitchell Campground**

**FREE!!!**

Sign up online or at the bulletin board  
in the main hallway by Sunday, 8/27.

**care  
groups  
begin Sept. 10**

Sign-ups are underway for the fall season of our Care Group ministry. These small groups provide the opportunity to build trusting relationships where you can pray for one another, encourage each other, and discuss the Bible in a more personal way. This makes for a powerful way to grow spiritually!

We have **nine care groups** - five which meet on Sunday evening, two on Tuesday evening, one on Wednesday morning and one on Wednesday evening. **Choose the one you want to attend** and put your name on the list posted on the bulletin board across from the church office.



**Our Fall  
Sunday School Quarter  
begins  
Sunday, September 3.**

**Sunday School  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

We have classes for all ages from infant to adult. Adults have several classes to choose from including a Newcomers Class for those who may be interested in membership or just want to learn more about our denomination.

Take a moment to look at the new class offerings detailed in the enclosed Sunday School directory.

## WIC NEWS

### SEPTEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### **Monday, September 11:**

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Cookie Wilkinson.  
Readers Circle meets at the home of Sally Ormsby.  
Ruth Circle meets at the home of Anne Abernathy.

#### **Tuesday, September 12:**

Denver Circle meets at the home of Leslie Smith.  
Grace Circle meets at the home of Wendy Ham.

**REMINDER:**  
WIC Council will  
meet on  
Sunday, August 27.

**\*\*\*All circles meet at 7:00 pm except Grace which meets at 6:00 pm.\*\*\***

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 2:00 Men's Basketball  ← Church-wide Camping trip →
3 AM Communion  ← Church-wide Camping trip →  <i>No Evening Activities</i>	4 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>   <b>Labor Day</b>  Church Office and CDC closed	5  6:30 Preschool Orientation	6  Preschool begins	7  6:30 CE Committee Mtg. MTW Committee Mtg. 7:30 Officers' Prayer	8	9 7:00 Deacons' Meeting  2:00 Men's Basketball
10 2:00 - 3:30 Bridal Shower for Kaylee Coleman (Joe Deese)  6:00 Sunday Evening Schedule Resumes	11  6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg 7:00 Elizabeth, Readers & Ruth Circle Meetings	12  6:00 Grace Circle Mtg. 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group 7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.	13 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.  6:30 Abernathy Care Grp; Children's Min Team; Tech Team Mtg.	14  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings	15	16 9:00 Outreach Golf Tournament  2:00 Men's Basketball
17  6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups	18 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	19  6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	20 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.  6:30 Abernathy Care Grp.	21  6:30 AHG Leaders Mtg. 7:00 Session Meeting	22	23  2:00 Men's Basketball
24  4:00 WIC Council Mtg.  6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups	25  6:30 SOAR Comm. Mtg	26  6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	27 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.  6:30 Abernathy Care Grp.	28  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings	29	30  2:00 Men's Basketball

## SEPTEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES



### NURSERY

- September 3:** 10:15 AM - Mark and Deanna Beatty  
**September 10:** 10:15 AM - Greg and Amanda Huss  
**September 17:** 10:15 AM - Craig and Susan Mesimer  
**September 24:** 10:15 AM - Dan and Sally Oarmsby

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- September 3:** Communion  
**September 10:** Steve Jessen  
**September 17:** Rick Herd  
**September 24:** Joel Jessen

## WITH LOVING THANKS

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you for your many kind acts after Roger's death. Thanks for the many cards, calls, visits and prayers. They were a big help to me. I am thankful for my church family.*

*Joyce Burt*

*On behalf of the Child Development Center, I would like to thank the church for all their support. Thanks to the deacons for the new benches on our playground. And to the men for the awesome job they always do completing various jobs for the CDC on Man Day! We are blessed!*

*Debbie Smith*

## MISSIONARY NEWS

A Reminder! Our annual **Missions Conference** is just around the corner: **October 18 – 22**. It is not too soon to begin thinking about which of our 56 missionary families serving in 20 different countries that you want to pray for regularly in 2018. Prayer is every Christian's part in missions!

### *Celebrating September Birthdays*

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11 – Rebecca Schweitzer (2011) | 27 – Abby Piteo (2005)       |
| 18 – Foard Hunt (2009)         | 30 – Nelson Ayllon           |
| David Jones                    | Paul Clark                   |
| Anna Schweitzer (2005)         | Mary Ladson McLaughen (2011) |
| 20 – Kevin Bentley             |                              |

*Reminder*



- ◇ **Walk for Life at Crisis Pregnancy Center (Main Campus):** Friday, Sept. 8, 4:00 - 8:00 pm
- ◇ **FPC Outreach Golf Tournament:** Saturday, September 16, 9:00 am

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

*In Memoriam*



**Kathleen N. Ottinger**  
**September 17, 1914 - August 6, 2017**

Our condolences go out to the family of **Kathleen Ottinger**. Mrs. Ottinger, FPC's oldest member, died Sunday, August 6, at the Stanley Total Living Center. She was 102. Her daughter and son-in-law, **Charlene and Roland Hager**, are also members at FPC. We also extend Christian sympathies to **Joyce Burt** on the death of her husband, **Roger Burt**, who died Tuesday, August 8.

After several days at Caromont Regional Medical Center, **Barbara Rhyne** was transferred Sunday to Stanley Total Living Center for rehab. **Clyde Haley** will finish his radiation treatments next week. Other than excessive tiredness he is doing well. **Milton Shelby** was admitted to the hospital this week for excessive fluid retention following his radiation treatments.

On August 2, American Airlines recognized **Art Cozart** for 35 years of service in the airline industry. We extend our congratulations, too, for such an admirable record of persistence and dedication, especially in an era when job loyalty is an increasingly rare commodity. Not only has Art wrestled a lot of Samsonite in 35 years, but he's also drunk a lot of airline coffee. Lucky for us, because that means he's repurposed a lot of Styrofoam coffee cups which we now get to enjoy as wonderful pieces of art. (Well, not pieces of Art, but works of Art.) Anyhow, Art, we salute you! Keep on tuggin' and chuggin'.



HAVE YOU VISITED  
OUR WEBSITE LATELY?

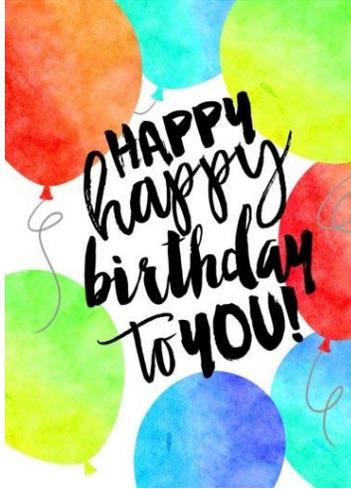
Check out our updated website and mobile version at [fpcstanley.org](http://fpcstanley.org).

## JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	63,544.35
Received in July for budget .....	78,740.49
Needed to date for budget .....	444,810.43
Received to date for budget .....	444,429.48
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	16,517.75
Received in July for Faith Promise .....	12,394.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	115,624.25
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	104,206.00

# *Birthdays to Celebrate in September*

- 1 Clay Harper
- 2 Dicky Franks
- 3 Emma Harper  
Lauren Harper  
Hudson Rick
- 5 Martha Sue Mitchell  
Roy Redding
- 7 Chelsea Abernathy  
Parke Sweigart  
Jacob Treat



- 10 Julie Jessen
- 11 Will Mosely
- 12 Angel Ross
- 15 Ann Holcomb  
Marianne Magill

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Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen  
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



512 Old Mt. Holly Road  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

### **20 SOMETHINGS** (anyone post high school to 29)

Room 11

Teacher: Joel Jessen

Theme: 1 Timothy

Paul's letter to Timothy presents a challenge for young leadership in the local church. Some of the topics of discussion include prayer, public worship, the relation between church and state and world evangelization.

### **BIBLE**

Room 119

Teacher: Chuck Jessen

Theme: The God Standard: Written in Stone

We will study the 10 Commandments, the God Standard (and the Gold Standard) of God's law etched in stone. "God spoke all these words" (Exodus 20:1) that were given, as John Calvin said, "to invite all men to go straight to Christ."

### **EQUIPPING MEN FOR SERVICE**

Activity Building

Teachers: Chris Baker, Kevin Rhyne, Ronnie Smith

Theme: Defending Your Faith

How do you defend your faith in a faithless world? Learn how apologetics can bring comfort and confidence in defending the existence of God and the historical truth claims of Jesus Christ.

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Founders Hall

Teachers: Ron Ensley, Rick Herd,

Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell

Theme: Exodus

Exodus, one of the Bible's great building blocks, shows us the great, loving and sovereign God who is working out his purposes in his way, not ours. We will follow the journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land.

### **JOURNEY**

Room 12

Teacher: Dan King

Theme: The Four Seasons of Marriage

Spring. Summer. Winter. Fall. The cycle repeats itself many times throughout the life of a marriage, just as seasons repeat themselves in nature. Each season holds the potential for emotional health and happiness, and each one has its challenges. In this class we will describe these recurring seasons of marriage, help you and your spouse identify which season your marriage is in, and show you how to enhance your marriage in all four seasons.

### **NEW EVE**

Room 15

Teachers: Suzy Deneen, Teresa Neely, Cathy Rhyne

Sherry Wagstaff

Theme: Transformed Women in the Bible

You will meet several women in the Bible who spent time with Jesus and were never the same after that. Our desire is that you too will experience the transforming touch of God's love and that your everyday life will sparkle with fresh hope and overflowing joy.

### **OPEN BIBLE**

Conference Room

Teachers: Don Hensley, Robert Rhyne

Theme: Gospel of John

The Open Bible Class is excited about plunging into an in-depth study of the Gospel of John. Come join them in exploring the rich teachings in this New Testament book.

### **NEWCOMERS (Starts September 10<sup>th</sup>)**

Room 13

Teachers: Steve Jessen and Ministry Leaders

Theme: Introduction to First Presbyterian

This class is designed for those who may be considering membership or who would simply like to know more about First Presbyterian and the Presbyterian Church in America.

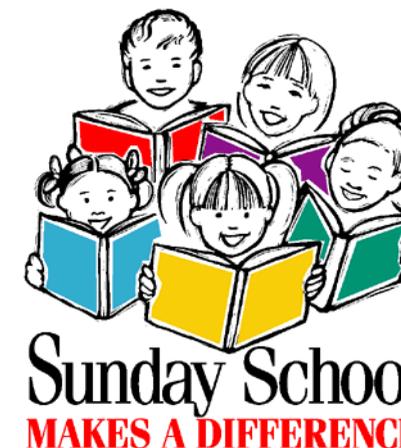
# Sunday School

Fall 2017

September, October,  
November

Superintendents

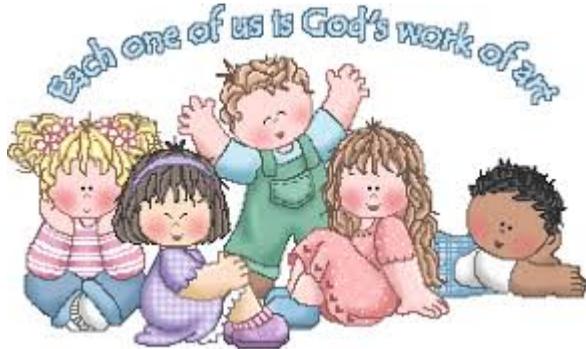
Sandy Lasley and Freida Robinson



Make regular attendance  
a priority for you  
and your family!!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Director: Lauren Henderson



### **NURSERY** (Birth, Ages 1, 2)

Room 112

Teachers: Rotating Teachers

Donna Hill, Jamie Stewart, Heather Roberts, Leslie Smith and Robin Mundy are among the fine ladies who will rotate staying with the youngest members of our church family as they experience God's love.

### **PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN** (Ages 3, 4, 5)

Room 106

Teachers: Ellen Deese, Julie Jessen

Theme: God Created All Things

Children will learn about God's creation, the fall, the promised Savior, and the new heavens and the new earth. From start to finish their teachers will help them understand that the Lord our Creator is gracious and merciful, forgiving them, saving them and keeping them. We want each child to begin to develop a biblical self-image and be able to say: I am a child created in God's image. My purpose is to glorify my Creator.

### **PRIMARY BOYS/GIRLS** (Grades 1, 2)

Room 10

Teachers: Ashley Abernathy, Stacey Hall

Theme: Living Together

This quarter, our children will be challenged to trust and obey the loving heavenly Father, who has called them to belong to his family and has revealed who he is through his Word. They will study stories in Genesis about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. They will learn that God works out his purposes in spite of the sin of his people and see how he uses people, including them, to carry out his good purposes.



### **GRADE SCHOOL BOYS/GIRLS** (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Room 18

Teacher: Lauren Henderson

Theme: Worshiping God

During this quarter the students will study what the Bible teaches about worshiping God. The first unit focuses on what worship is and why we worship. Students will learn to respond to our holy God with hearts full of praise. In the second unit the students learn how we worship with special emphasis on prayer. The final unit highlights the remaining elements of corporate worship—singing, the reading and teaching of Scripture, giving of gifts, confessions of faith, the sacraments, and the benediction.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS** (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Room 17

Teachers: Linda Faggart, Lisa Grice, Lorie Hamrick

Theme: Promises, Promises

Learning about our covenant making and covenant keeping God in studies from Genesis and Exodus, our teens will explore such topics as: Off to a Great Start, Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Caused, A Tough Test, Scoundrel and Saint, When Life is the Pits, Family Reunion, Pack up the Kids We're Taking a Trip.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS** (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Room 16

Teachers: Ken and Heather Dake

Theme: Promises, Promises

See description for Middle School Girls.

### **HIGH SCHOOL** (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Room 14

Teachers: Chris Graham, Charles Hamrick

Theme: Old Testament Journey

We'll continue our journey through the Old Testament, as "new" lessons can still be learned from "old" stories. Prophets, exile, forgiveness, wisdom, unwise decisions, bravery, cowardice, bad kings, good queens...we got 'em all!



# ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – September 2017

First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

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).

## Prayer Promises from God's Word for the Month:

<sup>4</sup> *Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.*

<sup>5</sup> *For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.*

<sup>6</sup> *Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.*

<sup>7</sup> *In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me. Psalm 86:4-6*

## Prayer for Our Pastors

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for our pastors. Some suggestions for prayer are included, but pray also as you are aware of other particular needs and concerns they may have.

**Monday:** To love God with all their heart, and to love others as themselves. (Matt. 27:37-39)

**Tuesday:** To trust the Lord completely for their wisdom, so that he will direct their daily path. (Prov. 3:5,6)

**Wednesday:** To pray always, putting on the armor of Lord to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Eph. 6:11)

**Thursday:** To love their wives and manage their family in ways that honor Christ. (Eph. 5:25, I Tim. 3:4,5)

**Friday:** That God's word will be their reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. (II Tim 3:16)

**Saturday:** To care faithfully for the flock and have compassion for lost sheep. (John 10:16, Lk. 15:4)

**Sunday:** To empower them to preach and teach the Gospel in the power of the Spirit. (Matt. 4:23, Rom. 10:15)

## Prayer for Our Ministry Leaders and Staff

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff:

**Monday:** Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center

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

**Wednesday:** Lauren Henderson, Children's Ministry

**Thursday:** Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

**Friday:** Eric Beam, Music Director

**Saturday:** Pray that **all** who preach, teach and lead on the Lord's Day at FPC will bring God's word in the power of the Spirit to bless his people and glorify Jesus Christ.

## Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Clyde Haley:** Pray that my current treatment will rid my body of cancer, and restore me to good health once again.
- 2 **Mark Harper:** Pray that as our children start school they will be a light to those they encounter.
- 3 **Rick Herd:** Pray that the golf outreach tournament September 16 will reach a number of un-churched invitees who come to enjoy the fellowship and hear the word of Christ.
- 4 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that I would have a greater understanding of how to honor God in my work.
- 5 **Pete Johnson:** Pray for God's direction in the election of new Elders and Deacons.
- 6 **Leon Lineberger:** For my family and for my strength in daily work and my work as a Deacon.
- 7 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that I would proclaim Christ to anyone that God sends my way.
- 8 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for wisdom and guidance for the two search committees, that God will lead them to the right people to further his kingdom.
- 9 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the CDC, the new teachers/staff and kids as they start the fall preschool program.
- 10 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for the youth of the church as they go back to school and for First Pres Pulpit committee as they search for a new pastor.
- 11 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for more consistency and fervency in my personal prayer life.
- 12 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray for my mom as she struggles with various health issues.
- 13 **Grady Rhyne:** For my daughter Jessica as she has plans to continue her education this semester, and that Nathan and I can survive the ordeal.
- 14 **George Ross:** Please pray that I will remain right-minded as I move into new challenges.
- 15 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray that our Sunday School teachers would be blessed through their teaching.
- 16 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray that I will be a good Christian leader to family and those around me.
- 17 **Tracy Withers:** Pray that God will use me to fulfill His will in the fall Missions Conference.
- 18 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray for guidance and wisdom for our Pulpit Nominating Committee.
- 19 **Chris Baker:** May God bless parents and help our children in their studies this new school year.
- 20 **Mark Beatty:** Please pray for our pastoral and youth leader search committees.
- 21 **Tommy Barton:** Pray for the MTW committee as we prepare for the 2017 Missions Conference.
- 22 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for the new officer nominees as they begin their church leadership training.
- 23 **Ken Dake:** Pray for God's watch care over our children and youth during the new school year.
- 24 **Andrew Deese:** Pray for Hailey and me as we adjust to life with our new addition.
- 25 **Ed Faggart:** Pray for traveling mercies since there will be significant travel this fall.
- 26 **Chris Graham:** Pray for God to grant wisdom to me in all aspects of life.
- 27 **Clyde Haley:** Pray for our search committee that they will follow God's lead in finding the right man as our Senior Pastor.
- 28 **Mark Harper:** Pray that God will give me wisdom and patience with my family, that I have a servant's heart and that I will show them Christ's love every day.
- 29 **Rick Herd:** Pray that I keep strong in my faith in my duties, my work and relationships.
- 30 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that I would have wisdom to lead my wife and children closer to the Lord.

## Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise that my brother found a good job after only 3 months.  
Jerry Ratchford.
- Praise for the participation, witness, and response to the summer sports/baseball ministry.
- Praise for the witness of our summer mission teams.
- Thanks for all the volunteers who are starting in new fall ministries in Sunday School, Children's and Youth ministries, and Care Groups.