

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

One of the most beloved Christmas Carols is "Silent Night." One of the reasons we are drawn to the words and tune of this song, is that it gives us a sense of peace. "*Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.*" The heavenly peace that our hearts all crave can be found in the "little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay."

This idea that the peace of heaven can be experienced here on earth is a remarkable truth. There are two loud proclamations at the beginning and end of the life of Jesus that illustrate the fact that the incarnation of Jesus is the conduit of peace into our broken world. The angels declared to the Shepherds. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased." Luke 2:14 Then at the triumphal entry we hear a very similar proclamation, but this time we see that Jesus brings "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." Luke 19:38.

The reason Jesus brings peace to us here on earth is His heavenly role as the peace maker. He is the one who brokers peace between sinners caught in a sinful world, and a Holy God. His sacrifice on the cross allows us to be at peace with our Heavenly Father, not only in this life, but in the life to come. When we rest in Jesus, we sleep in heavenly peace.

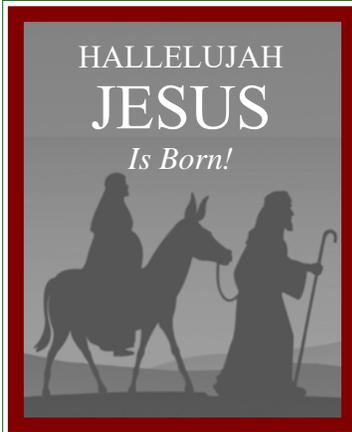
Christmas is a night in my life that I feel heavenly peace here on earth. As a child Christmas Eve was my favorite church service of the year. I was captivated by the glowing of the candles as we sang "Silent Night" together, but it is the peace I feel during that time of worship that I look forward to every year. I know many of you have family gatherings on Christmas Eve, but I would encourage you to incorporate the Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7pm into your Christmas family tradition. Come as a family so you and your children can experience a peace-full night of worship together.

Julie and I are so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful loving church family. We pray that you and your family enjoy a Christmas filled with the peace that came to us on that "Silent Night."

In Heavenly Peace,

*Steve*





**Our choir will present a  
musical of praise and adoration  
“HALLELUJAH  
JESUS  
Is Born!”  
Sunday, December 22,  
during the morning worship.**



### **MINISTERIAL RELIEF FUND OFFERING**

Although you can donate to this offering throughout the year, each December we highlight the Ministerial Relief Fund Offering collected by the PCA. Your gift to this offering provides for the needs of the faithful servants of the PCA. If you were able to see behind the smiles of these faithful servants, you would see the hardships they face due to age or serious physical infirmity. Many are widows, some are disabled pastors or missionaries. And, because they made financial sacrifices to serve us, their incomes are not sufficient to provide the most basic of needs. Without your help, they must decide between food, heat, or needed medications. And they face loneliness and feeling forgotten. Your gift to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund shows them in a very real way, they are not forgotten.

You may donate online at [www.pcadonate.com](http://www.pcadonate.com) or make your check payable to Ministerial Relief Fund and drop it in the offering plate.

## 2020 is 2 Weeks Away!

2019 is winding down and we are gearing up for 2020. Mark your calendar for these upcoming events to start the new year:

January 5: Officer Installation during morning worship

January 6 & 7: Our women's circle meetings start back up. If you are not in a circle, there's room for you! Contact the church office for more information.

January 8: A Women's Bible Study kicks off. This group will meet each week on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 am at the home of Laura Davis. They will study the book of Proverbs. Childcare will be provided. Contact Laura ([bodedavis@gmail.com](mailto:bodedavis@gmail.com) or 704-615-0465) if you are interested in attending! Additional details can be found at: [bit.ly/fpcwomenbiblestudy](http://bit.ly/fpcwomenbiblestudy).

January 12: Communion will be served during the 10:15 am worship. Our Sunday evening activities begin at 6:00 pm—Children's Ministry, Youth and Life Groups. (Life groups are also held at other times during the week.)

The young adults are inviting the entire congregation to join in a 2020 challenge to read through the Bible in a year. The theme of the challenge is from Psalm 119:18 "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law!"

Please let Joel Jessen know that you are taking the challenge so you can be on an email list for periodic encouragement notes and accountability. His email is [Joelcjessen@gmail.com](mailto:Joelcjessen@gmail.com). He can also send you some resource references if needed.

We are excited to see what the Lord has planned for FPC in the new year!



Our FPC family is invited to join  
American Heritage Girls  
in honoring  
**Chloe Billings**  
during a formal presentation of her  
**Stars and Stripes Awards Ceremony**  
**Saturday, January 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm**  
at First Presbyterian Church, Founders Hall

Please RSVP to Judy Billings at [jbillings@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jbillings@carolina.rr.com) with the number in your party attending.

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day  Church Office and CDC closed	2  6:30 MTW Committee Mtg.	3	4  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
5 Officer Installation  4:45 Choir Rehearsal  No evening activities	6  6:30 Ruth Circle 7:00 Elizabeth, Martha and Readers Circle Mtgs.	7  7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.	8	9  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings Tech Team Mtg CE Committee Mtg.	10	11  2:00 AHG Stars & Stripes Ceremony  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
12 AM Communion  4:45 Choir Rehearsal  6:00 Sunday evening schedule resumes.	13  6:30 Outreach Comm. Mtg.	14  6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group	15 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp.	16  6:30 AHG Leaders' Meeting 6:45 Joint Officers' Mtg.	17  Youth Retreat	18  Youth Volleyball Clinic  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
19 ← Youth Retreat  4:45 Choir Rehearsal  6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  Newsletter Deadline  7:00 Facilities Meeting	21  6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group	22 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp.	23  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings	24	25  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
26  4:00 WIC Council Mtg. 4:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups	27  7:00 SOAR Committee Mtg.	28  6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group	29 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp.	30	31	



## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

*The Church Family* is our newsletter that has been produced and sent out twice a month to our church family for many, many years. Starting in January 2020, we will begin making this a **monthly** publication. You will receive one newsletter each month, approximately 1 week before the end of the month.

## PROCESS REMINDER: PURCHASES/REIMBURSEMENTS

Our Financial Secretary has asked us to remind you that copies of receipts (or scanned copies) do not allow us to be “up to code” with the IRS. In order to retain our non-profit status we are supposed to only accept what they label as “clean” receipts.

What this means is:

- It must be the ORIGINAL purchase receipt
- It must only contain items purchased for the organization.

For example, if you go to the grocery store and pick up things for yourself and the church you must do separate transactions and only turn in the receipt with the church expenses. If you want to keep a copy of the receipt for yourself, make a copy, submit the original and keep the copy for yourself. If you have any questions, please contact Sandra or Lauren in the church office.

## ATTENTION PARENTS OF SCHOOL-AGED BOYS

FPC Stanley is evaluating the viability of establishing a Trail Life USA Troop. Trail Life USA is a Church-Based, Christ-Centered, Boy-Focused mentoring and discipleship journey that speaks to the heart of a boy. Established on timeless values derived from the Bible and set in the context of outdoor adventure, boys from Kindergarten - 12th grade are engaged in a Troop setting by male mentors where they are challenged to grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created. Trail Life USA is an environment where boys thrive! Adults are equipped to lead a program in a structured outdoor environment where boys are engaged in real-world challenge and experience camping, hiking, and fishing; they develop skills in riflery, archery, and canoeing; and learn character and leadership in a practical hands-on manner that is naturally engaging.

FPC is holding an informational meeting on Monday, January 20, 2020, 6:30-8:30 pm in Founders Hall for interested parties. The focus of this meeting will be to determine interest in forming a troop and potential troop committee members to establish a charter. A sign up sheet will be placed on the AHG Bulletin Board at the entrance of Founders Hall. Please leave your name and contact information to be emailed a reminder.

# JANUARY RESPONSIBILITIES



## NURSERY (Volunteers should be in place at 10:00 am.)

**January 5:** **Babies:** Lauren Henderson; Ashleigh Fox  
**Toddlers:** David and Tommi Rust

**January 12:** **Babies:** Greg, Amanda, Maelin and Emery Huss  
**Toddlers:** Jonan and Rachel Bynum

**January 19:** **Babies:** David and Donna Hill  
**Toddlers:** David and Tommi Rust

**January 26:** **Babies:** Mark and Deanna Beatty  
**Toddlers:** Lee and Kristen Henderson

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**January 5:** Officer Installation

**January 12:** Matt Ormsby

**January 19:** Mike Gamage

**January 26:** Chris Graham

57	JAN 1ST SUN
Name _____	
<b>First Presbyterian Church</b> Stanley, N.C.	
Regular Offering _____	
Special Offering _____	
<small>"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." -- I Cor. 16:2.</small>	

**2020 Offering Envelopes** are available at the Literature Display in the main hallway.

## WITH LOVING THANKS

*We received numerous thank you notes, too many to print, from our senior adults for the poinsettias and goodie baskets recently delivered to them by the deacons from the church. One note stated: "There are perks that come with ageing and this is one that almost makes it worthwhile. Even though I cannot be with you regularly, it is comforting to know that I do have a church family."*

*Thank you to all who had a part in this process!! Many of you work behind the scenes to shop and put together the wonderful baskets. Then our deacons, some of them with their family, deliver the goodies and visit with our shut-ins and senior adults. Your time and effort meant a lot to these folks, especially the ones who are home bound and unable to be with us each week!!*

*Thank you for your prayers for my mom, Judy Davies, who is doing well after a successful lobectomy of her right lung to remove a cancerous growth. She will have regular scans over the next several months to monitor two more areas that were discovered on a recent scan in the same lung. Please continue to pray for Judy and my dad, Buz."*

*Julie Jessen*

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This past Sunday, we welcomed new members into our church family: **Bill and Ralphe Robinson** and **Dave and Jackie Robinson**. Due to health issues, **Cinde Mayes** and **Diane Yodice** were unable to take their vows but will do so at a future date.

**Jonan Bynum** continues to recover at home following surgery on December 10 to repair a torn retina. This surgery was necessary after a less invasive procedure failed.

We are hoping for a quick recovery for **Jim Fowler** who underwent an appendectomy on December 16.

## WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

**Charles and Bonita Davidson** who serve with Mission to the World in Monterrey, Mexico write:

January 19 – 23 we will travel to Cancun to work with a group of pastors who are interested in establishing new churches. *Pray that God will grant us and them the grace to be open to new ideas and the grace of God that enables us to serve him with a life full of joy and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.*

January 28 – 20 we will be hosting and directing our second Church Planter retreat. This year we are inviting their wives as well. *Please pray that God's Spirit will work in all of our lives so that we are refreshed and encouraged by the communion and interaction we will experience.*

### Happy January Birthday

02 – Milo Janicek (2013)  
 04 – Lily Ayllon  
 07 – Elise Babel (2015)  
 09 – Alisa Bentley  
 13 – Ruth Garza

15 – Amelia Fa. (2013)  
 22 – Tom N.  
 24 – Lydia Babel (2017)  
 28 – Tyler Dirks  
 Becky White

## NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	60,059.06
Received in November for budget .....	83,053.83
Needed to date for budget .....	660,649.70
Received to date for budget .....	680,625.23
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	14,091.25
Received in November for Faith Promise .....	11,291.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	155,003.75
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	148,439.53

## *Birthdays to Celebrate in January*

2 Deana Lamb	9 Heather Dake Caroline Mesimer	17 Betty Ann Abernathy Shara Beatty Robert Billings Cookie Wilkinson	22 Jamie Revels
4 Karen Greeson Sherry Jurina	11 Dana Baker		23 Tiffany Drenth Debbie Friday
6 Freida Robinson Sherry Wagstaff	13 Ron Ensley Rick Heffner	18 Danny Wallace	24 Trevor Burgess Diane Yodice
7 Stephanie Youngblood	16 Ryan Abernathy Stacey McGraw	19 Leon Lineberger	25 Kaleigh Smith
8 Nick Bogges Bill Robinson (Ralphene's)		20 Wendy Ham	27 Jamie Stewart
		21 Vicky Gamage Carol King Matthew Magill	30 Renee Abernathy Scott Burgess

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e-mail: [info@fpcstanley.org](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org) ♦ web site: [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – January 2020

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)

## A NEW YEAR Prayer-Prompt

**1** Then I saw a **new** heaven and a **new** earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, **new** Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” **5** And he who was seated on the throne said, “**Behold, I am making all things new.**” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” **6** And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (Revelation 21)

## Pray for Pastors Steve Jessen, Thad Davis, Dan King, Chaplain Ivan Davis (TLC)

Pray 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sun.:** 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:** Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell, Global Outreach

**Wednesday:** Lauren Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Children’s Ministry

**Thursday:** Lisa Revels, SOAR Director

**Friday:** Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

## Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Ron Ensley:** Pray God's blessings on new church officers as they begin their terms of service in 2020.
- 2 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for my dad who is having issues with his foot .
- 3 **Mike Gamage:** Pray for continued blessings and encouragement for participants and volunteers in SOAR volleyball, and all FPC outreach activities.
- 4 **Chris Graham:** For wisdom and unified decision-making as we continue to fill open staff positions.
- 5 **Mark Harper:** Please pray for my sister Julie as she takes on the responsibility of primary caregiver for my mother who is battling cancer.
- 6 **Don Hensley:** Pray for continued motivation and enjoyment of study for Sunday School lesson preparation.
- 7 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for growth in our church.
- 8 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as I serve on the session this year.
- 9 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the new officers as they transition into their new roles.
- 10 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for strength to serve the Lord.
- 11 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for liberal giving throughout this new year to adequately support our general budget and Faith Promise Giving goal.
- 12 **Will Robinson:** Pray that Sarah's pregnancy will go smoothly.
- 13 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for renewed energy and excitement in serving the Lord in 2020.
- 14 **Tracy Withers:** Pray that God will give me wisdom and strength to lead our Missions Committee in 2020.
- 15 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for those who lead and teach the children of our church.
- 16 **Ryan Abernathy:** Please pray that in the new year God will guide our Deacon Board towards His will for our church.
- 17 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for the ongoing work of the music team as they help with Sunday worship.
- 18 **Chris Baker:** Pray that the new Deacons will find their place in the various responsibilities of serving.
- 19 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray that my family will enjoy good health in 2020 and that God will become more a part of my everyday decision making.
- 20 **Ken Dake:** Pray for the work and witness of our youth ministry and those who lead it.
- 21 **Ron Ensley:** Pray that God bind the elected officers of FPC into a team to serve the church in 2020 with unity and glory to Jesus Christ.
- 22 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray that God will help me manage my busy schedule better.
- 23 **Mike Gamage:** Pray for God's blessing to help me overcome the arrogance of turning to my own efforts to address sin in my life instead of going to God first and always.
- 24 **Chris Graham:** Pray for Harvest Church and brother Scott Deneen as they strive to continue and grow God's kingdom.
- 25 **Mark Harper:** Pray for my mother battling cancer and for my sister Julie as prime caregiver, and the rest of the family as we try to provide care and support .
- 26 **Don Hensley:** Pray for continued improvement of Becky's eyesight following eye surgery last year.
- 27 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for Audrey as she continues to grow and learn new things.
- 28 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray that our new members will find joy in serving in a ministry here at FPC.
- 29 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for our Winter SOAR volleyball season.
- 30 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray that our church will continue to thrive and grow.
- 31 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for everyone at FPC to have a loving and grace-giving spirit toward others during this new year, even for the more difficult people in our lives.

### Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise God for the many who gave so much in the work and witness of the Journey to Jerusalem Scenes, and for the gospel witness to those who attended.
- Praise and thanks for the newcomers who have joined our church fellowship.
- Thanks and appreciation for the word, witness, and faithful work of our pastors and church leaders/staff.