

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

As I reflect on the recently completed Christmas Scenes one word that comes to mind is “unity.” It was amazing to me how everyone used their God-given gifts to reach the unified goal of sharing the “*good news of great joy that will be for all people.*” One comment that caught my attention was a woman who told me that she really enjoyed the Scenes, but what really inspired her was the dedication and spirit of the people who were doing the presentation. What she sensed was the unity of heart and spirit that the Lord so graciously instilled in us.

This is an answer to the prayer that Jesus prayed for us in John 17 when he said “*The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*” (John 17:22-23) Jesus prayed for us to be “one.” And that is exactly what happened during the Christmas Scenes. But the purpose of that unity is found in the next verse: “so that the world might know.” God can use our unity in love to show the world His love. That is my prayer as well, that the unity displayed to the folks who embarked on “the Journey to Jerusalem,” will be a living testimony of the love of God for them.

Pastor Dan wrote an excellent article in the last newsletter that challenged us to look for and pursue what we are to be doing during this “between time.” It was very insightful counsel that we should take to heart, because it will lead us to unity. Even in this time of transition and change, if we are one in the Spirit, if we are one in the Lord then He will use that unity for His glory, just as He did during the Christmas Scenes.

May the unity of the church, regardless of the circumstances, be a beacon of hope to a society and a world filled with disunity.

Shalom,

Steve

MERRY CHRISTMAS



FROM YOUR FPC STAFF!!!



WE HOPE YOU CAN WORSHIP WITH US CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:15 am - Worship
7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Adult Choir Musical Presentation



NEW YEAR NOTES

Sunday, January 7

10:15 am: Officer Installation Service

Sunday, January 14

10:15 am - Communion

6:00 pm - Sunday Evening Activities Resume:
Children's Ministry, Youth and Care
Groups start back!

WIC NEWS

Joint Circle Meeting January 8 7:00 pm

All of our women's circles will be meeting jointly in Founders Hall for the bible study kick off.

Be sure to come so you can sign up for a circle and get your study book.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Image Bearers will be back in action on **Sunday, January 14 at 6:00 pm**. We will have our annual **Pajama Party** that night. Kids of ALL ages are welcome to wear their PJ's and bring something comfy to snuggle on/with. We will be watching our Christmas program and enjoying snacks and playtime!

The **Children's Ministry Team** will have their first meeting of the new year on **January 17 at 6:30 pm**. This is our big planning meeting so make plans to attend.

BEST YEARS LUNCHEON

**Thursday, January 18
12:00 pm**

WIC is hosting a Best Years Lunch to include Soup, Sandwiches & Scripture!

Make plans to join us for a great time of fellowship and eating!

Offering Envelopes



2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up from the table in the main hallway.

CHRISTMAS SCENES FOLLOW-UP

A huge thanks to all who made cookies for the scenes. Please remember to pick up your plates from the table in Founders Hall.

If you took a bag of costumes to clean, you can return the cleaned and folded costumes to Pastor Steve's office. Thank you for helping out with this process!

WE HAVE LOTS OF P-MAIL!

Remember to check the P-mail boxes for Christmas blessings sent your way. There are many cards waiting to be picked up! They are sorted by family for quick and easy pick up.



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Newsletter Deadline <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">New Year's Day</div> <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Church Office and CDC closed</div>	2	3	4	5	6
				6:30 CE Committee Mtg.-P MTW Comm Mtg.-CR 7:30 Officers' Prayer	3:00 AHG Dinner & movie-FoH	2:00 Men's Open Basketball
7 <i>Officer Installation</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
	6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg Conference Room 7:00 WIC Circles Joint Mtg-Founders Hall		6:30 Tech Team Meeting 7:00 SOAR Comm Mtg	6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Joint Officers' Mtg.-CR		2:00 Men's Open Basketball
14 AM Communion	15	16	17	18	19	20
6:00 <i>Sunday evening schedule resumes.</i>	6	6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	6:30 Abernathy Care Grp Children's Min Team	6:30 AHG Leaders Mtg. 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball		Youth Volleyball Registration 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
21 1130 Hospitality Team Mtg.	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25	26	27
6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups	6:30 Volleyball Orientation	6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	6:30 Abernathy Care Grp	6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball		8:00 Presbytery Mtg. 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
28	29	30	31			
4:00 WIC Council Mtg. 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups		6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group				

JANUARY RESPONSIBILITIES



NURSERY

- January 7:** 10:15 AM - Angel and Brittany Ross
January 14: 10:15 AM - Lisa and Allie Grice
January 21: 10:15 AM - Mark and Deanna Beatty,
Alyssa Lowery
January 28: 10:15 AM - Angel and Brittany Ross

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- January 7:** Officer Installation
January 14: Ed Faggart
January 21: Ken Dake
January 28: Tommy Barton

WITH LOVING THANKS

We received numerous thank you notes, too many to print, from our senior adults for the poinsettias and gift boxes recently delivered to them by the deacons from the church. One note stated: "Your gifts are greatly appreciated, but even better is the fact that your deacon who brought them took time to come in and visit with us. ... He talked about his job and his new family. He also brought back memories of our church in earlier years. How blessed we are to have deacons like him. He would make you proud!"

Thank you to all who had a part in this process!! Your time and effort meant a lot!! We are proud of you all!

MISSIONS NEWS



*Your missionary friends
from around the world wish you a
Merry Christmas!*

Happy Birthday in January

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 02 – Milo Janicek (2013) | 07 – Elise Babel (2015) | 22 – Cadyn Cosner (2003) |
| Stephanie Weaver (1994) | 09 – Alisa Bentley | 24 – Lydia Babel (2017) |
| 04 – Lily Ayllon | 13 – Ruth Garza | 28 – Tyler Dirks |
| 05 – Kara Piteo (2015) | 14 – Walter Weaver (1996) | Becky White |
| Tom Nachtergaele | 15 – Amelia F. (2013) | |

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Patrick and Betsey (Neely) Theodossiou** in the birth of a daughter, their first child. **Wren Amelia** arrived December 12. Proud grandparents are **Gary and Teresa Neely**.

Sincere Christian sympathies are extended to the Featherstone and Jones families following the unexpected death of **Julie Featherstone Jones**. Julie, only 46 years old, passed away in her sleep at home on December 11. She and her husband, **Brian Jones**, both grew up as part of our church family and Julie worked for a time on the staff of our Child Development Center. They have one son, 19-year-old **Steven**. Julie's parents, **Tim and Ann Featherstone**, remain as members of FPC. Brian's parents, **Chuck and Susan Jones**, after many years in membership here, moved away some years ago, now residing in Clemmons. Brian has one sister, **Stephanie (Jones) Burge**, of King, NC.

We also extend Christian sympathies to **Parke and Darlene Sweigart** on the death of Darlene's brother. **Wayne Lapp** passed away in Pennsylvania from complications from Pulmonary Disease.

Leslie Smith is resting well at home following surgery in Huntersville on December 13. She is taking six weeks off from her teaching responsibilities for her recovery.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ADULT VOLLEYBALL TEAM

The First Presbyterian Adult Volleyball Team was recently recognized by the CCSL Volleyball League. The team didn't quiet finish at .500 for the season, but the league's leaders noticed something in the team. "Attitude means everything and their 'Christ-like attitude in victory as well as defeat' came through in each and every match all season long!" For this, they were awarded the 2017 Shepherd's Heart award. Congratulations to the team members: Rachel Gamage, Mike Gamage, Stacey Hall, Josh Hall, Rick Herd, Anna Friesenhahn, Mason Hamrick, Debbie Harper, Lauren Harper, Emma Harper, Rebecca Lasley, Alyssa Lowery and Chris McAllister.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	63,544.35
Received in November for budget	57,796.85
Needed to date for budget	698,987.82
Received to date for budget	671,711.84
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	16,517.75
Received in November for Faith Promise	19,197.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	181,695.25
Received to date for Faith Promise	153,357.00

Birthdays to Celebrate in January

1 Kelsie Dixon

2 Deana Lamb

4 Karen Greeson
Mark Johnson
Sherry Jurina

6 Freida Robinson
Sherry Wagstaff



7 Stephanie Youngblood

8 Nick Boggess

9 Heather Dake
Caroline Mesimer

11 Dana Baker

13 Ron Ensley
Rick Heffner

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e-mail: info@fpcestanley.org ♦ web site: www.fpcestanley.org

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



512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – January 2018

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 Promptings from God’s Word for the New Year:

Sing to the LORD, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, you his servants...his chosen ones, the children of Jacob. I Chron. 16:10-13

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 the Lord to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Eph. 6:11ff)

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 **Chris Baker:** Pray for the children and families of our church and those who minister to them.
- 2 **Tommy Barton:** Pray that we boast only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 **Mark Beatty:** Please pray for my Aunt Barbara who has cancer.
- 4 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray that as a newly elected deacon I will be able to fulfill my duties according to God's wishes, and so doing conduct myself in a manner that is also pleasing to God.
- 5 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for the new officers as they start their terms and get oriented to their tasks.
- 6 **Ken Dake:** Pray that our youth ministry and its leaders will be led by God's Spirit this year.
- 7 **Andrew Deese:** Pray for Hailey and her changing work schedule and that God's direction would be made clear in her work situation.
- 8 **Ron Ensley:** Pray for a servant heart and wisdom as I return as an active member of the Session.
- 9 **Ed Faggart:** Pray that I would be more accepting of God's will/plan for my life. Too often I am displeased when I do not get my way.
- 10 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for me in my new role as a deacon in the church, and that I find time for my new responsibilities.
- 11 **Mike Gamage:** Pray for strengthening in faith and prioritizing daily conversations with the Lord as my service as a deacon begins.
- 12 **Chris Graham:** For a greater and stronger faith each day of 2018.
- 13 **Mark Harper:** Pray for discernment and wisdom for the Deacons and the church leadership going into 2018.
- 14 **Rick Herd:** That I would be more proactive in talking to and contacting my shepherd group..
- 15 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that I would seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
- 16 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the deacon board and everyone's new roles for 2018.
- 17 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for me as I have been assigned to a new team at work: that it will be a smooth transition and that I adjust quickly; that I will be a valuable and contributing teammate and that the team will be managed well.
- 18 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for me to serve the Lord and be faithful at church and with my family.
- 19 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for good health of mother and baby during my daughter Carly's expected delivery mid-month.
- 20 **Robert Rhyne:** In 2018, may I be reminded each day that when I bring needs, desires, worries and praises to God that I will have faith to leave them with Him.
- 21 **Will Robinson:** Pray for Sarah and me as we await and prepare for the birth of our first child.
- 22 **George Ross:** Please pray that God will continue to provide good health and Christian growth in 2018 for me and my family.
- 23 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for growth in my family's (and my) walk with the Lord and continued blessings of good health.
- 24 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray for strength to keep up all my responsibilities of home, work, and church.
- 25 **Tracy Withers:** That in the coming year, God will help me focus on showing His compassion and love to those that are on my Shepherd list.
- 26 **Ryan Abernathy:** My prayer request for January would be to continue praying for our search committees!
- 27 **Chris Baker:** Pray that I can keep up with the demands of family life, work, and church.
- 28 **Tommy Barton:** Pray that we can share our faith to the world in a loving way: that Jesus is the only way to heaven.
- 29 **Mark Beatty:** Pray for our deacons wisdom in decisions about maintenance/care of our facilities.
- 30 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for all of the families and friends that have lost loved ones in recent days.
- 31 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for wisdom for our elders in decisions that we will be making in the days ahead to lead our church in God's way.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise the Lord that Martha Sue has healed up well after her fall.
Jimmie Mitchell
- "Glory to God in the highest" and THANKS for all the characters and personnel who made the Christmas Journey a phenomenal witness for our Lord and Savior to our church and community.