

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

How can we experience peace in the middle of a Christmas season where our lives seem to spin out of control? We can be consumed by the consumerism of Christmas. Black Friday, Cyber Monday, stores full of shiny toys, and an infinite number of items that can be at your door in just two days. When you add to the commercialized frenzy- hanging decorations, baking/ cooking, cleaning, family get togethers, work parties, school functions and even church activities, you find yourself swept along in the Christmas rapids, hurtling and spinning toward December 25. These activities are not necessarily bad things, but in all the commotion, in all the hustle and bustle where do we find peace?

Last Sunday we discussed the Hebrew word Shalom. This word translated as “peace” is more than an absence of conflict, it goes beyond a feeling of serenity, it refers to a sense of “wholeness” in your body, mind and spirit. Here are some suggestions to find “shalom” in your life during this season.

Your Body- God created your body and it is important to take care of yourself. *Go outside*- fresh air and sunshine promote peace. *Be active*- take a walk, go to the gym, or do a lap around the mall before shopping! *Eat wisely*- keep this word in mind: moderation. *Rest*- make sure you sleep enough, and schedule some down time. *Observe the Sabbath*- let Sunday be a true day of rest and worship (and maybe take a break from shopping.) *Look for it*- Psalm 34:14 says “*seek peace and pursue it.*” Peace doesn’t just happen, sometimes you need to move a little to find it.

Your Mind: Isaiah 26:3 says “*You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you.*” Peace is a matter of focus. When we fix our thoughts on Jesus, a wonderful side effect is peace. This time of year we should concentrate on Jesus and what He did for us; come to think of it...that’s the whole point of Christmas!

Your Spirit: In order to find peace in the chaos, your spirit needs a healthy diet of God’s word. Psalm 119:165 says “*Those who love Your law have great peace.*” God’s Word, His decrees, His commands, guide us on the path to true peace. I challenge you to curl up with a good book- God’s Good Book, because in its pages you will discover the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. He was born to bring peace between sinners and a Holy God. “Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.” (From “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”) That is the peace our spirits long for... peace with God.

When the Christmas craziness overwhelms you, take a moment and remember that Jesus was born to fulfill this promise: “*The Lord will bless his people with shalom.*” Psalm 29:11

SHALOM,

Steve





CHRISTMAS SCENES UPDATE

The opening of "A Christmas Journey" is just around the corner! Here are a few important things for you to know:

1. **DRESS REHEARSAL:** Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:00pm. This is our only chance to do a full run through of the production. It is critical for all drama participants, all greeters, parking lot/security crew, basically everyone who will be involved. A light meal will be provided.

2. **PRODUCTION TIMES:**

Thursday, Dec. 12 - Scenes run 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Friday, Dec. 13 - Scenes run 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 14- Scenes run 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

***A meal will be served in Founders Hall starting at 5:40 pm on Thursday and Friday, then at 5:00 pm on Saturday. Participants should be on the field by 6:25 pm each night.

3. **INVITATIONS:**

TAKE A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY FLYER (ON THE DISPLAY SHELF IN THE MAIN HALLWAY AND ON THE DEACONS' BENCH IN THE SANCTUARY) AND INVITE A FRIEND SO THAT...

"Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand." Romans 15:21

4. **COOKIES:**

We need volunteers to bake **ONE** recipe of 25-36 cookies each for this event. If you would like to volunteer to bake, then please do the following:

- 1) Pick up a cookie platter from the deacons' bench in the sanctuary this Sunday, 12/8. **PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING COOKIES ON THE PLATTERS PROVIDED.**
- 2) Bake 1 recipe of homemade cookies (total of 25-36).
- 3) Specify (label) the cookies if they contain nuts.
- 4) Bring the cookies to Founders Hall by Thursday, December 12 at NOON.



BEST YEARS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 12:00 PM

Join us for a Christmas lunch prepared especially for you. We hope you can make it out for a time of food and fellowship.



FPC P-MAIL IS BACK IN BUSINESS!

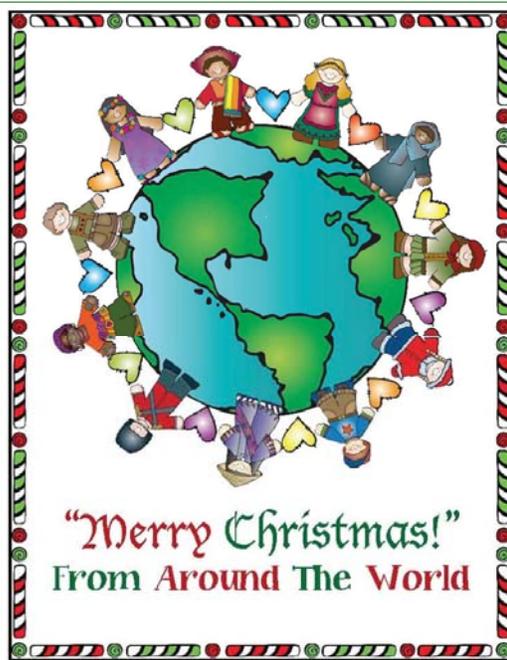
Send Christmas cards through the FPC mail system. As you address your cards, please consider if the recipient has been attending. This system only works for our church family that is active and attending worship each week.

For those folks that have not been attending, we hope that you will still send some Christmas cheer their way via the postal service, or better yet, hand deliver it to them!

Please keep in mind our newcomers or visitors that might not be in the directory.

Feel free to call the church office if you need addresses for our shut-ins, inactive members and visitors.

Boxes can be found at the back of the Sanctuary extension. Just place cards in the boxes based on the first letter of the recipient's last name. Remember to check your appropriate box for cards addressed to your family!



GREETINGS FROM OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Our 52 missionary families serving in places around the world send Christmas greetings to you, their First Presbyterian Church family. They express great thanksgiving for all your prayers and support during the past year which have enabled them to share the light of Christ as God continues to build His church. Their desire is that each of you have a very blessed time as you celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2019 MISSIONS CONFERENCE GOALS UPDATE

We currently have 230 people committed to pray for our missionaries.

\$177,840 was committed for Faith Promise giving!
This puts us over the top level of our Faith Promise goals.



CO-ED YOUTH VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW FOR GRADES 3 - 12!

Visit the SOAR website at
fpestanleysoar.org
to register!
Don't wait...teams fill up quickly!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS!

The following men were elected into office at our Congregational Meeting on December 1:

Elder - Don Hensley, Dan Ormsby, Grady Rhyne, Kevin Rhyne
Deacon - Ryan Abernathy, Chip Beatty, Ken Dake, Tracy Withers

These men will be installed on January 5 during the morning worship service. Please be in prayer for these and all our officers as they look to a new year of serving!

Also at that meeting, the following were elected to serve on the TLC Board: Mike Dixon, Rob McMinn and Steve Smith.

2020 BUDGET

Our 2020 Budget was approved by the Session at their November meeting. Copies of the new budget are available on the literature display in the main hallway. If you have questions regarding the new budget, please see any of our session members.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Rick and Mary Ruth Heffner** and **Scott and Pam Burgess** on the birth of their granddaughter. **Elizabeth Kay** (middle name after Rick's mom) was born November 13 to **Brody and Jessica (Burgess) Heffner**. Most of you know Brody and Jessica as they were members before moving out of the area.

Ann Smith is doing well after having sinus surgery on November 26. Hopefully she is able to breathe better now!

WITH LOVING THANKS

Dear First Presbyterian Church family,

Thank you so much for the generous donation towards Dalton's wheelchair. Brandon, Dalton and I appreciate it more than words can express. By your donation, along with donations from members of my home church, we were able to pay the entire out-of-pocket expense of the wheelchair. We are forever grateful.

*Love,
Jolee Lawson*

The Stanley Police Department
invites you
TO HONOR ALL SENIOR ADULTS
at their
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST
DECEMBER 19
7:00 - 9:30 AM
at
Christ Lutheran Church
203 S. Main Street, Stanley



Birthdays to Celebrate in December

16 Caitlin Bumgardner
David Griffin

23 Hayley Rutkowski
Roxi Rutledge

25 Evan Rumfelt

17 Bebe McMinn

26 Ellen Beam
Joseph Treat

18 Lucas Drenth
Craig Mesimer
Jerry Ratchford



28 Julia Treat

19 Mona Kelly

29 Michael Ham
Rhys McAllister
Phyllis Withers

20 Bobby Blackman, II

30 David Rust
Rex Tucker

22 Janice Barton

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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



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Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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