

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

Matt Ormsby gave a Mission Report this past Sunday in worship in which he testified to God's overabundant provision to, and through, us with regard to Faith Promise giving. The stats were something like this...

- 110% of Faith Promise giving was received in 2016
- \$2.8 million has been given to Faith Promise by FPC since 1992
- the Johnny Adams Mission Fund has given away over \$450,000 in the last ten years

What are we to make of these statistics? Here are a few realities...

1. God provides a heart that *wants* to give. Let me say that again... our hearts want to hoard, keep, grab, cling, etc., but God, through the work of His Spirit, changes our hearts so that we *want* to give... we *want* to provide... we *want* to bless... we *want* to pour out. And the result is that we give more and more to God's Kingdom objectives because He has changed our hearts to want to.
2. Once He transforms our hearts with a desire to give, He then provides the resources *to* give. Not many of us at FPC are wealthy. In fact, I'd say most of us are Middle Class at best. But God has an infinite storehouse of wealth He loves to channel through faithful people and churches. And as we have remained faithful to give, He has remained faithful to supply us with an extraordinary amount of missionary giving over the last 25 years – \$2.8 million and counting.
3. The end result of this for us is increasing joy. Don't you just *love* to hear what God is doing for His people around the globe through us?! Don't you just get *excited* to hear how He provides for His people's needs?! ... cars, medical expenses, basic missionary support, building supplies, orphanage needs, travel expenses, bus tickets, refrigerators, etc., and the like. I know I do! So joy accompanies the heart change and the financial ability.

So at every turn God gives us the heart to give, supplies the money to give, and then blesses us with joy in the giving as well as in the hearing of how He has blessed.

Our God is Great (with a capital "G"!). Never forget it. And never doubt it. And never shrink back from moving forward in your trust of "Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."

Blessings,

Scott

Spring Conference – "Christianity in the Secular Age" Sunday, February 26th

Guest Speaker: Sid Druen, RUF Campus Minister at Davidson College

There will be a combined Sunday School class (Middle School - Adults). The topic will be *LOOKING FORWARD: The coming post-Christian culture and actions we can take now in preparation.*

Worship will begin at normal time. The topic for worship will be *LOOKING BACK: Our country has a poor history with race relations. What can we do to repent and heal our land?*

PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

This past Sunday I was preaching on the command of Jesus, that we are to love one another, from John 13. After church, we had our first team meeting for the mission trip to Palmer Home in April. A slide show had been prepared for the meeting, and providentially one of the songs that accompanied the pictures on the screen was: "They will know we are Christians by our love." Little did they know when they prepared that presentation, that it was the very song I would use to summarize my sermon! God was putting an exclamation point on His Word last Sunday! This was followed by a story about a stop at Chick-Fil-A on the trip down to Palmer Home last year. One of the employees commented that they were touched by the obvious way the Palmer Home team loved each other, and that while in the restaurant they conducted themselves in such a loving manner. God is glorified when we love each other with the love of Jesus.

But this is not a love that comes from us. Listen to what Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes on this subject: "Beloved friend, I ask you again, have you seen yourself? Well, if you have, you see yourself as utterly undeserving of the least of God's mercies. All your self-righteousness has vanished and gone. And as you see yourself like that, you see that others are also victims of the same horrible thing which we call sin. So you are sorry for them and have pity upon them, and you do everything you can to help emancipate them, so that they may become sharers with you of the love of God." (*The Love of God* p.74.) When we remember that God loved us first (I John 4:10,19), it gives us a heart overflowing with compassion toward other fellow sinners in need of God's love. Will our church be a "love hospital," a place where people are healed by God's love and strengthened by our love for each other?

I love you all because God first loved me,

Steve

YOUTH NEWS



Remember **this Sunday at 6:00 pm**, we will meet at Jared and Mason Hamrick's for a **Super Bowl Party**. Bring a snack and/or a drink to share.



Thanks to the families who have already signed up to provide a snack supper for our Sunday night meetings. We still have several dates available. Please stop by the Youth Bulletin Board across from the church office and sign up.

We will observe
Communion
during the morning worship service



Sunday, February 5



RUTH CIRCLE REMINDER

The February 6th Ruth Circle meeting will be at the home of Barbara Rhyne. You can meet at the church by 6:30 pm to carpool. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.



**BEST YEARS
VALENTINE PARTY
FEBRUARY 11
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Founders Hall**

Join us for soup, sandwiches
AND
tons of fun and fellowship!

Be sure to sign up during Sunday School this Sunday!



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO A
BRIDAL SHOWER
HONORING
ANNA-KATHRYN LINEBERGER
MARCH 5, 2017
2:00 - 4:00 PM
IN FOUNDERS HALL**

Anna-Kathryn and Dillon are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Walmart.

Hostesses: Libby Chaney, Karen Ensley, Amanda Huss, Kim Jessen, Nancy Raleigh, Katie Saine and Missy Smith.

2017 SHEPHERD GROUPS

Have you checked out the bulletin board across from the church office? There you can find all of the Shepherd Groups listed along with pictures of the Elder and Deacon(s) for each. Please keep us up-to-date on your family. If you ever have a need, or maybe it's good news you want to share, please contact the church office or your Elder.

WITH OUR MISSIONARIES

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church in America sends over 700 missionaries to 86 countries around the globe? Did you know that First Presbyterian Church is sending about 60 short-term missionaries this summer to Palmer Home (2 teams), Mexico and Paraguay? **Pray for fruitful ministry!**

Pray for Nathan, the 15 year old son of **Jim and Carin Fredere**. He had hip surgery on Monday to correct the dysplasia on the right side. He will be in the hospital (NYU Langone Hospital for Joint Diseases) for a few days and out of school for about a month. Pray that this will improve his long-term hip joint health, reduce his current pain levels and that he would heal quickly and well.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Several of our members are home recovering from recent hospital stays and/or surgeries. **Andy Murphy** was hospitalized for severe bronchitis. During his stay, the doctors discovered he had suffered a heart attack. After several days in the hospital, he was released to recover at home. **Wanda Ramsey** spent a few days in the hospital following hip replacement surgery. She is now at home. **Janet Kaufman** is doing well following out patient Cataract surgery.

At the time of this printing, **Ellen Beam** is preparing for a lumpectomy on Friday, 2/3.

Suzy Deneen is back at school following her 2nd of 4 rounds of Chemotherapy. These treatments occur every 3 weeks.



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Did you order a Christmas ornament presented during our 2016 Missions Conference? The ornaments are ready for pick up in the main hallway. Please stop by to pick up your order.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Here are two ways you can get involved in reaching out to the people right here on our doorstep.

1. **Outreach Committee.** We meet the second Monday of every month to work on the goal of sharing the gospel in the Stanley area. If you are interested or you want to check it out to see if you would be interested, join us at our first meeting February 13 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor.
2. **Hospitality Team.** Shake a hand, give a fist bump, smile and make a difference for the Kingdom! Even if it's just once a month, you can make a difference welcoming all those coming through the doors of our church.

For more information contact Pastor Steve at the church or email: Steve@fpstanley.org.

Birthdays to Celebrate in February

16 Jeremy Burrell
Lee Henderson
Brooklynn Stewart
Joshua Stowe
Jake Teague

17 Will Robinson

18 Andrew Deese
Moe Sanderson

19 Alice Jessen
Max Rust

20 Jared Hamrick
Matt Ormsby

21 Tamara Burrell
Kaitlyn Mesimer



22 Clair Childers

23 Julie Black
Charlie Davis

24 Anita Chambers
Blain Friesenhahn

25 Janet Redding
Milton Shelby

26 Steve Jessen

27 Mike Kelly

28 Kelsey Smith

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen • Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED