

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

Year after year the Super Bowl is watched by more Americans than any other event. It is not just about watching the game (or the commercials), it has become a social event that gives us an excuse to have a party and eat too much. The game this year (for those of you who watched), was very exciting, with the Eagles soaring to victory, much to the delight of the city of Philadelphia. For me the most thrilling part of the Super Bowl ended up being the post-game interviews. As the coach of the Eagles took the microphone during the trophy ceremony he said with all his heart, "I want to give the praise to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for giving me this opportunity." Several other players including the quarterback and the receiver who caught the winning touchdown also gave the glory to God when given the chance.

As I have been thinking and preaching about stewardship in recent weeks, one of the ideas I wrote down was the "stewardship of opportunity." How do we take advantage of the opportunities that God puts before us? Do we use those occasions to glorify God or do we let them pass by and hope for a second chance? The coach of the Eagles had his 30 seconds to speak to over 100 million people, I believe he was a good steward of that opportunity!

There are several verses that speak to this subject. In Galatians 6:10 it says "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." We need to be sensitive to those situations that God brings into our lives where we can bless those around us, and especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. If the Lord places someone on your heart, write them a note, give them a call, speak a word of encouragement. Just this morning as I was going through my emails I came across some encouraging notes from friends last year that re-encouraged me. Your prayers, notes, and acts of kindness have richly blessed me and my family. When the Holy Spirit shows you a way that you can "do good" to others, don't think twice, don't wait, be a good steward of the opportunity.

In addition, Ephesians 5:15,16 exhorts us to: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Are we good stewards of the opportunities we have to witness to Jesus and the gospel? As we live, and work, and interact in this dark world, our words and our lives can bring light by bearing witness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Be a good steward this week of the opportunities that God presents to you- whether it be to millions, or to just one!

To God be the Glory,

*Steve*





**BEST YEARS  
VALENTINE PARTY  
FEBRUARY 24  
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.  
Founders Hall**

**\*Potato and Salad Bar\***

After lunch, there will be games and prizes!  
Make plans to attend.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A  
BRIDAL SHOWER  
HONORING  
SYDNEY HEFFNER  
SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
IN FOUNDERS HALL**

Sydney is registered at: Bed, Bath & Beyond, Belk and Target.

Hostesses are: Jane Black, Suzy Deneen, Lisa Grice, Julianne Griffin, Donna Hill, and Marianne Magill.

**2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

The 2018 Contribution Statements are available. Please stop by the table in the main hallway and pick up your statement.

**CHURCH DIRECTORIES**

Updated church directories are printed and ready for pick up. Stop by the Literature Display in the main hallway and take a copy or two. Be sure to throw out the old one as there were lots of changes.



## EASTER EGG HUNT SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 6:00 PM (during Image Bearers)

We are collecting **individually wrapped candy** for our upcoming Easter Egg Hunt. If you are able to help us, please place candy in bin outside of Lauren's office no later than Sunday, March 11.

## with Loving Thanks

*My words cannot express the joy I received from the church members of First Presbyterian. The fellowship was stupendous. Belonging to two care groups was very beneficial and helped me learn to study the Bible. The hugs I received from all age groups is already being missed.*

*Thank you all,  
Charleen Schrum*

## FOUNDERS HALL REMODELING

Have you noticed the changes in Founders Hall? In addition to the new chairs, there is a fresh coat of paint and new blinds. The project is still underway with new window treatments and some wall décor to be added. Thanks to all the workers and coordinators who have worked, and continue to work, many hours to see this project to completion. It is looking great!

Many of you have asked what we did with our old chairs. We were able to donate them to several local ministries in need:

- His Frontline Ministries in Gastonia and Belmont for their new soup kitchen/clothing closet
- Catawba Heights Baptist to be donated to ministries they support
- Reach 1 Missions for their homeless mission serving Burke county and surrounding areas
- United! in Action of Stanley for a proposed youth center

We are blessed to be able to share with our partners in ministry.

# KEEPING LOVE ALIVE AS MEMORIES FADE

**SPRING CONFERENCE WITH DR. GARY CHAPMAN**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12 6:30 – 9:00 P.M.**

Now is the time to make your reservations to attend!! Most families have someone who is experiencing some stage of dementia. Come learn how to stay connected with the loved one you are watching disappear. Tell others in the community about this opportunity and invite them to attend.

## MISSIONS NEWS

### Mission Teams for 2018

Pray for our short-term teams. Opportunities for you! **Needed – more adult volunteers for the Palmer Home trips.** Contact Tracy Withers or Jimmie Mitchell if you can help.

#### **Palmer Home in Columbus, Mississippi**

- April 2 – 7: Need 1 or 2 adults
- June 10 – 16: Need 3 or 4 adults

#### **Rebalsito, Jalisco, Mexico**

- August 10 – 17



### Missionary Update

#### **Janiceks in Prague, Czech Republic**

Cody and Katy Janicek write: Here are three ways your gifts were at work in the past year.

- Your gifts helped provide scholarships for summer, fall and winter conferences for college students.
- Your gifts helped fund student community groups. We make it a priority to host students in our apartment each week and provide a home-cooked meal for them.
- Your gifts make it possible for us to be here. The Czech students need Jesus and He has called us here to tell them about Him.

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

*In Memoriam*



**Milton G. Shelby**  
February 25, 1930 - February 4, 2018

**Milton Shelby** passed away somewhat unexpectedly Sunday, February 4, at Stanley Total Living Center. He was 87. He and his wife Betty Jo moved to Stanley several years ago due, in part, to their interest in affiliating with FPC. Mrs. Shelby died in August of 2016. Milton served faithfully for many years as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

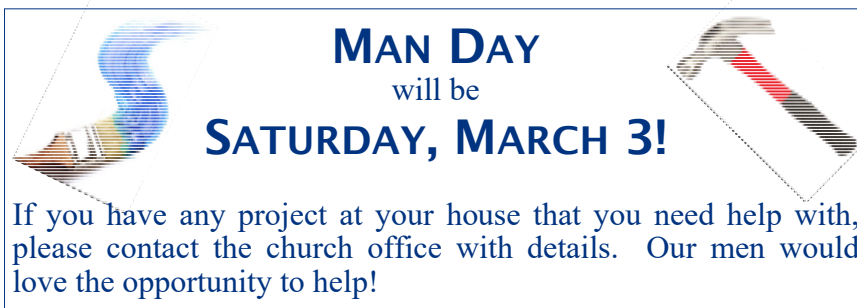
Sympathies also go out to **Karen and Chet Greeson, Courtney and Lindsey**, in the death of **Sue Homesley**, Karen's mother. The widow of FPC ruling elder **Alfred Homesley**, Sue was 80 years of age. She passed away January 30 at home after a long struggle with cancer.

A funeral was held Tuesday at Harvest Church in Lincolnton for former FPC member and hero volunteer cook for our youth retreats **Terry Huss**. He was 57. Terry contracted an invasive cranial infection which defied cure. He is survived by wife **Janice** and children **Morgan, Adam and Allison**, whom we love and for whom we express our affection and prayers for consolation.

Condolences go out as well to **Brent and Lisa Grice** in the death of Brent's uncle, **Gary Jones** of Denver, NC; to **Ed and Debra Wallace** in the death of their brother-in-law (Ed's sister **Wanda's** husband) **Jeff Holland** of Stanley; to **Jacob and Carolyn Rhyne and Betty Ann Abernathy** in the death of brother-in-law **Ray Hovis** of Stanley whose wife **Rebecca** is Jacob and Betty Ann's sister; and to **Rick and Mary Ruth Heffner** in the death of Rick's uncle, **Rev. George Dameron** of Covington, GA. Rev. Dameron was the brother of our late member **Kay Heffner**.

Congratulations (again) to **Gary and Teresa Neely** in the addition of yet another grandchild. **Solomon Oak** was welcomed into the home of **Stewart and Gabe Neely** on January 30, just two days after Stewart preached from our pulpit. **Ezra** is the big brother. Stewart is staff pastor for youth ministries at Christ Covenant PCA in Matthews, NC.

Also swelling the ranks of FPC progeny is **Asher Samuel Patterson**, a great-grandson of **Parke and Darlene Sweigart**. Asher was born January 28 to Sweigart granddaughter **Jessica** and husband **John Patterson**. We celebrate with all these successive generations.



**MAN DAY**  
will be  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 3!**

If you have any project at your house that you need help with, please contact the church office with details. Our men would love the opportunity to help!

# Birthdays to Celebrate in February

16 Jeremy Burrell  
Lee Henderson  
Brooklynn Stewart  
Joshua Stowe  
Jake Teague

17 Will Robinson

18 Andrew Deese

19 Alice Jessen  
Max Rust

20 Jared Hamrick  
Matt Ormsby



21 Tamara Burrell  
Kaitlyn Mesimer

22 Clara Childers

23 Julie Black

24 Anita Chambers

25 Janet Redding

26 Steve Jessen

27 Mike Kelly

28 Kelsey Smith

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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](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org) • web site: [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)  
Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen  
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED