

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Scott Deneen

Being prepared makes us so much more fruitful. Think of exams you've taken in school... weren't you so much happier when you knew the answers because you'd studied?! Or if you run road races... aren't you glad you put in the miles weeks ahead so you were able to go the distance? Of course. Preparation is always better than no preparation.

But what about the church's preparation for future ministry opportunities? Are we preparing? And for what?

Our Spring Bible Conference, "**Christianity in the Secular Age**," will address the coming changes in our culture due to the rise in secular, non-Christian thinking. Rev. Sid Druen, a PCA pastor working at Davidson College as a campus minister, views the front lines of cultural change through the "Leaders-of-Tomorrow" and will be here to enlighten and challenge us.

What do today's students believe about Reality? Truth? Marriage? Christianity? Church? Politics? Power? Ultimate reality? Etc.. The answers matter because what students believe today affects American culture tomorrow as they move into influential positions of power. This will be our topic for Sunday School.

Then, during worship, Sid will take us back into the American Church's past to address our failures in race relations. The Church should lead the culture in racial reconciliation because of our own reconciliation with God through Christ. Sid will give us some takeaways regarding repentance for past sins as well as opportunities for future comradery in the Gospel with our fellow Christians brothers and sisters of different races and ethnicities.

So plan to be here yourself, as well as, inviting your extended family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers for this special morning of teaching.

For Such a Time as This...

Scott

Spring Conference



"Christianity in the Secular Age" - Sunday, 2/26

PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

At our outreach committee meeting we were reflecting on a verse from Pastor Scott's sermon about Zacchaeus several weeks ago. The verse is Luke 19:10 where Jesus says "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." The very reason Jesus came to this world was for the lost, people like you and like me. We were lost in our sins, stumbling in the darkness, until Jesus found us and saved us. I Corinthians 12:27 says we are the body of Christ, that means we are united with Jesus not only in his sacrifice on the cross, but we are also united to his mission. When we are united with Jesus, we will be about the business of seeking and reaching out to the lost; sharing with them the good news that we have experienced in our own lives.

In order for our church to be healthy, to be vibrant, to be growing, we need to have the heart of Jesus, which is a heart for the lost. The starting point is always prayer. Please pray for our committee and for our church to know God's will in planning outreach events and in promoting a heart for the lost. One idea that came up in the meeting was using Easter (April 16) as an opportunity to invite your friends to church. In order to welcome our invited guests, we are talking about having a special time for refreshments and interaction before the service. Start praying now for someone that you can invite to share in the life-changing story that we celebrate at Easter.

Maybe you have an idea for an outreach activity, we would love to hear your thoughts and partner with you in reaching the lost. If outreach to our community is something that resonates with you, please consider joining the outreach committee and being a part of reaching the lost! But this is not just the job of a committee, it is a calling for every one of us! *"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."* Acts 20:24

Steve



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

will begin

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 12 NOON

at Commonground

5481 Hickory Grove Road

Pastor Steve Jessen will be presenting the message.

A light lunch will follow the service.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Lineberger
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter

Anna Kathryn

to

Dillon Lamb

Saturday, the eighth of April
two thousand seventeen
half past four in the afternoon

*First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, NC 28164*

*Reception to follow after the ceremony
at the home of Leon and Kathy*

WIC NEWS

February Circle meetings are as follows:

Monday, March 6:

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Sherry Teague.
Grace Circle meets at Catawba Coffee Co. (6:00 pm)
Readers Circle meets at the home of Anna Friesenhahn.
Ruth Circle meets in the Church Parlor, Ginny Haley hosting.

Tuesday, March 7:

Denver Circle meets at the home of Leslie Smith.

All circles meet at 7:00 pm except Grace which meets at 6:00 pm.

COLLEGE BOXES



It's that time again! We are collecting items for our 8 away-from-home college students to show them how much we love and care about them. Please place your items in the college box bin located in the main hallway. Donations will be collected now until March 19.

FPC CARE GROUPS

Here is an inside look at what is happening in our care groups. Some of the things they say that they enjoy most are:

- Being together (a wonderful place to form lasting friendships)
- Studying together, whether it's a book of the Bible, a video series about the Holy Land or a topical study
- Praying together – some groups share their prayer concerns with one another online each week
- Welcoming new members – there is always an empty chair waiting for you!
- Doing special projects: collecting food for the church food pantry; painting backdrops for the Christmas scenes; praying for the children in our church family; sending cards; volunteering at Kings' Daughters
- Special "eating" get togethers (We Presbyterians like to eat!)

Does this sound like something you would like to do? Check out the listing of facilitators, hosts and meeting times on our church website – fpcstanley.org – and come join us!!!

MISSIONS NEWS

Congratulations to **A.J. and Krista Babel**. They welcomed **Lydia Claire** to the world on January 24. **Elsie** is the happy big sister. The Babels serve with Cru on the college campuses in Tennessee and western North Carolina.

The **Wadhamses** enjoyed a trip to Cape Town, South Africa recently. It was nine-year-old Michaela's first time to see her family there and learn about the country that her family came from. The Wadhams are MTW missionaries in the state of Washington where they work with the Lummi Indians.

Steve Williams has been asked by MTW to serve as the New Zealand and Pacific Islands Coordinator. In addition he serves on the Asia Pacific Member Care Committee to provide on-field care of missionaries. He and **Rita** continue to serve in their local church in Christchurch, New Zealand.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MARCH!

02 – Joelle Casson (2012)
Les Williams

04 – Henry McLaughen (2015)

07 – Lindie Wadhams
Andy Weaver

12 – Peter Bakelaar

14 – Mack Griffith

15 – Maggie Dirks (2007)

18 – Mark Casson

20 – Keenan Cosner (1998)

26 – Chuck Williams

28 – Sarah McCall

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service @ Commonground 6:30 Youth; Abernathy CG	2 6:00 AHG Planning Mtg 6:30 CE Committee Mtg. MTW Committee Mtg. 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball 7:30 Officers' Prayer	3	4 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
5 AM Communion 2-4 Bridal Shower for Anna Kathryn 6:00 Image Bearers, Youth, Care Groups	6 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Grace Circle Meeting 7:00 Elizabeth, Readers & Ruth Circle Meetings	7 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group 7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.	8 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service @ New Life Baptist 6:30 Youth; Abernathy CG; Children's Min Team;	9 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	10 Volleyball Finale	11 7:00 Deacons' Meeting Volleyball Finale 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
12 <i>Daylight Savings Time begins.</i> 4:30 Communicants' Class 6:00 Image Bearers, Youth, Care Groups	13 6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg	14 6:30 Barton Care Group	15 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service @ Springfield Mem'l 6:30 Youth, Abernathy CG	16 6:30 AHG Leaders Mtg. 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball 7:00 Session Meeting	17	18 10:00-11:00 Soccer Registration 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
19 4:30 Communicants' Class 6:00 Image Bearers, Youth, Care Groups	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	22 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service @ Hickory Grove Baptist	23 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	24 Soccer Orientation	25 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
← Soccer Camp: 3/20 - 3/24, 6:00 pm →						
26 11:30 Palmer Hm. Spring Team Mtg. 4:00 WIC Council Mtg. 4:30 Communicants' Class 6:00 Image Bearers, Youth, Care Groups	27 6:30 SOAR Comm. Mtg	28 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	29 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service @ Frontline Worship 6:30 Youth, Abernathy CG	30 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	31	
← Sanctuary all week for Children's Play Prep →						

MARCH RESPONSIBILITIES

NURSERY

- March 5:** 10:15 AM - Liz Johnson
6:00 PM - Taylor Mundy
- March 12:** 10:15 AM - Lauren Henderson, Olivia & Ashleigh
6:00 PM - Taylor Mundy
- March 19:** 10:15 AM - Ashley Abernathy
6:00 PM - Taylor Mundy
- March 26:** 10:15 AM - Angel and Brittany Ross
6:00 PM - Lennie Burrell



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- March 5:** Communion
- March 12:** Ryan Abernathy
- March 19:** Scott Deneen
- March 26:** Ed Faggart

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

Proverbs 22:6

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Have you picked up an updated church directory?
Be sure to do so. Feel free to take a couple if you
need them. Remember to throw out the old one as
there were lots of changes.

Gaston County Crisis Pregnancy Center's spring session of our VOLUNTEER PEER COUNSELOR TRAINING

will begin March 21, 2017
at 700 Robinson Rd.
Gastonia

Training lasts for 5 weeks and will be held every
Tuesday night from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm.

We have 5 locations around Gaston County
That need peer counselors like you!

The Volunteer Application can be downloaded from our website: cpcgaston.net. Please contact Rhonda Gottfried at 704-867-3706 or rhonda.gottfried.cpc@gmail.com for more information.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We extend Christian sympathies to **Rick and Mary Ruth Heffner** on the death of Rick's niece, Melissa Gwyn on February 8.

Ellen Beam is scheduled for surgery February 24. This is necessary following tests after her February 3 surgery indicated cancer in the surrounding tissue.

Ed Kasper is having surgery today, February 22, following a biopsy result of Melanoma this week.

We will observe
Communion
 during the morning worship service



Sunday, March 5

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	63,544.35
Received in January for budget	63,417.05
Needed to date for budget	63,544.35
Received to date for budget	63,417.05
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	16,517.75
Received in January for Faith Promise	34,485.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	16,517.75
Received to date for Faith Promise	34,485.00

Birthdays to Celebrate in March

1 Debbie Harper
Jason Herd
Marcia Rhyne

2 Tom Barton
Wayne Friday
Sandy Lasley

3 Lyndsey Greeson

4 Wes Marsh

6 Kristen Cozart
Dee Hager
Adelee Stewart



7 Dan King

11 Judy Billings
Junior Bryant

12 Ashley Abernathy
Michael Prather

13 Jimmy Abernathy
Garry Lucas

15 Jeff Skidmore

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164 ♦ Phone 704-263-4275 ♦ Fax 704-263-0498
e-mail: info@fpccstanley.org ♦ web site: www.fpccstanley.org

Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen ♦ 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

BIBLE

Room 119

Teacher: Chuck Jessen

Theme: I John: True Fellowship

This study will discover the foundation of genuine fellowship, the falsehoods, the fundamentals, the facts, and the faith of true fellowship.

EQUIPPING MEN FOR SERVICE

Activity Building

Teachers: Chris Baker, Steve Jessen,
Kevin Rhyne, Ronnie Smith

Theme: Work as Worship

Explore God's design for work in this video series. Why does God call us to work? How does your work intersect with your faith? Why does God have you in your current position? How can your career be an opportunity to be on mission for Christ in the marketplace?

FELLOWSHIP

Founders Hall

Teachers: Ron Ensley, Rick Herd,
Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell

Theme: Philippians

Paul's letter to the Philippians invites us to explore the joy of living for Christ and find tangible ways to grow our faith. Join us in this New Testament study.

JOURNEY

Room 12

Teacher: Dan King

Theme: Battling Unbelief:

Defeating Sin with Superior Pleasure

What if we really believed the gospel? What would that belief mean in our battle against anxiety? Pride? Misplaced shame? Bitterness? Despondency? Lust? In this book study, Pastor John Piper shows us how delighting in the bounty of the gospel can free us for a life less encumbered by sin, to the glory of Christ.

NEW EVE

Room 15

Teachers: Suzy Deneen, Nancy Raleigh,
Cathy Rhyne, Sherry Wagstaff

Theme: Oneness Embraced; Gospel of John

In the month of March the ladies will finish their study of Oneness Embraced and then move into an inductive study of the Gospel of John, exploring the riches found there.

OPEN BIBLE

Conference Room

Teachers: Don Hensley, Robert Rhyne

Theme: Daniel

The Open Bible Class will conclude their in depth look at the prophet Daniel and then move into a study of a New Testament book.

20 SOMETHINGS (anyone post high school to 29)

Room 11

Teachers: Andrew Elliott, Joel Jessen, Chris McAllister

Theme: Disciplines of the Christian Life

The class will focus on topics such as prayer, Bible study, worship, etc and explore how these disciplines can help us grow in our relationship with God.

NEWCOMERS

Room – Pastor Deneen's Office

Teacher: Scott Deneen and Ministry Leaders

Theme: Introduction to First Presbyterian

This class is designed for those who may be considering membership or who would simply like to know more about First Presbyterian and the Presbyterian Church in America.

You are invited to attend
the class of your choice.



Sunday School

Spring 2017

March - May



Superintendents
Sandy Lasley and Freida Robinson

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Director: Lauren Henderson

NURSERY (Birth to 18 months)

Room 112

Teachers: Rotating Teachers

Judy Billings, Heather Ormsby, Heather Roberts and Jamie Stewart are among the fine ladies who will rotate staying with the youngest members of our church family as they experience God's love.

TODDLERS (18 months to 3 years)

Room 114

Teacher: Sherry Teague

Theme: **God's Love**

This quarter covers Jesus' miracles, parables, death, resurrection, and ascension. Although three year olds are limited in their vocabulary and understanding, they are able to grasp Biblical truths that are expressed through Scripture – when taught appropriately. These little ones will gain a firm, Biblical foundation upon which succeeding teachers will build. Every lesson will point them to Jesus and their need for Him.

4's and 5's: (Older 4's – currently in kindergarten)

Room 106

Teachers: Ellen Deese, Julie Jessen

Theme: **Jesus Is God**

Mrs. Ellen and Mrs. Julie will help the children discover that Jesus' many miracles were signs that point to him as God the Son, our Savior. They will find out about his power, learn about his glory, and be taught about his authority. We pray our students will grasp that it was God who came to help his people in Jesus.

PRIMARY BOYS/GIRLS (Grades 1, 2)

Room 10

Teachers: Stacey Hall, Sandy Lasley

Theme: **Serving God**

Our first and second graders will focus on what it means to be God's servants. Using stories from both the Old and New Testaments, the children will study the lives of Bible men and women who served God faithfully. They will be taught that a faithful servant of God is someone who responds in trust to God's saving love and relies on God for power to serve him.

GRADE SCHOOL BOYS/GIRLS: (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Room 18

Teacher: Lauren Henderson

Theme: **God's Growing Church**

This quarter we will use the first few weeks to complete our study on God's design for worship. Once complete, we will dive into our new curriculum on the growing church. This will include studies on God's promises and kingdom plans. The children will also be introduced to the promised Holy Spirit and how God prepares his people to share the gospel. They will study Paul's life as a faithful witness and close by learning to depend on Christ to build his church.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Room 17

Teachers: Dana Baker, Lorie Hamrick

Theme: **Dream Big**

When teen girls get stuck in drama, discontentment, sadness, and shame, how can they even begin to look ahead to the future? This Bible study connects Scripture with everyday life to help the girls discover big and small ways they can pursue God's dreams for them.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Room 16

Teachers: Ken and Heather Dake

Theme: **Letters from God**

This is a study of the various sections of the New Testament letters. It will be an eclectic quarter with many topics, reminding us that being a Christian affects every area of our lives. The youth will learn about what it means to exist in the time between the first coming of Jesus and his second coming. They will explore foundations of the Christian life as well as learn to conform to the character of our Savior.

HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Room 14

Teachers: Chris Graham, Charles Hamrick

Theme: **Philippians**

We'll look at how God provides Christians with many opportunities to make a real difference in this world. The book of Philippians helps equip students to serve those around them and to meet the spiritual needs of others, while remaining grounded in their own faith by cultivating strong friendships with other believers!

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar –March 2017
First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

People often wonder how God’s sovereignty and prayer go together. In other words they ask, “If God is sovereign, why pray?” Prayer is like preaching in that they involve a human action, but God has ordained them for His own glory. So He both encourages our prayers (“**pray without ceasing**” 1 Thess. 5:17), and responds to our prayers! “**And this is the confidence which we have before him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us**” (1 John 5:14). Even if we don't know how to pray according to God's will He helps us, “**the Spirit of God intercedes for us according to the will of God**” (Romans 8:27). So pray hard according to the scripture with full confidence in God to act and you will see God’s sovereignty and your prayers work together for His supreme glory.

The Armorbearer Intercession

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).

AWARE PRAYER For Ministry Leaders and Staff

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff: Areas of prayer may include special ministries you may be aware of that they are doing in a particular week, or special concerns about their health/strength, families/relationships, etc. You may pray for the fruits of the Spirit in their lives and for fruit from their labors. You may be led to pray for vision, wisdom, grace and protection from enemy attacks that would discourage or hinder their service of the Lord. Pray for them as God may bring things to mind and lay them on your heart. The Holy Spirit is our helper as we pray for those who serve him.

- Monday:** Pastor Scott Deneen, Senior Pastor
Pastor Steve Jessen: Assistant Pastor
- Tuesday:** Lauren Henderson, Children’s Ministry
Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center
- Wednesday:** Global Outreach, Adult Ed/Care Groups
Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell
- Thursday:** Eric Beam, Music Director
Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant
- Friday:** Pastor Dan King: Ministry to Seniors
- Saturday:** Pray for those who preach, teach, and lead at FPC on Sunday.

Daily Requests for Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray that I faithfully perform my elder role of providing oversight and care to church family members in my Shepherd Group.
- 2 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray for our continued good health (Marcia and me) as we see many dear friends struggling with major health concerns.
- 3 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for strength to continue serving on the Session.
- 4 **George Ross:** Pray for the children and youth of our church and those who guide and teach them.
- 5 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for the FPC ministries to our children in Sunday School, CDC, etc.
- 6 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray that I would use my time wisely in my daily devotions to the Lord.
- 7 **James Teague:** Pray for the witness to the SOAR volleyball participants and their families as they have the finale and finish their season this Saturday.
- 8 **Tracy Withers:** Pray that God will give me a servant heart, and for our son Mason as he is looking for a new job.
- 9 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray that God helps me prepare for my first children's message that it will help our kids get a little nudge towards God.
- 10 **Chris Baker:** Pray for Lauren Henderson and all working with her to bless and teach our children.
- 11 **Mark Beatty:** Pray that I will be a doer of God's word and not just a hearer, so that God will direct my steps to serve as needs arise in the church.
- 12 **Tommy Barton:** Pray that those taking the communicants class will learn and understand what it means to confess their faith in Christ.
- 13 **Dean Chaney:** For God to give wisdom to those who serve as our leaders-national, state, and local.
- 14 **Ken Dake:** Pray for our youth ministry, that the Word is shared and lives are impacted. Pray for those searching for a new youth pastor.
- 15 **Andrew Deese:** Pray that I would be a good witness to those I come in contact with everyday.
- 16 **Ed Faggart:** That God would give me wisdom and compassion in Shepherd Group matters and to listen more openly to the advice of others.
- 17 **Chris Graham:** Pray for godly wisdom and guidance in all of my decision-making.
- 18 **Clyde Haley:** Pray that our country will turn back to God, and truly become "One nation under God."
- 19 **Mark Harper:** Pray that I can be positive, patient and wise in my work as our company is in a busy time and dealing with turnover issues.
- 20 **Rick Herd:** That I have the time to spend with my shepherd group and a special request for my work.
- 21 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that our family would treat one another with kindness and respect each day and that I would walk in the fear of the Lord.
- 22 **Pete Johnson:** Pray for Liz's brother as he recovers from a bad auto wreck last month.
- 23 **Leon Lineberger:** Pray for Dillon and Anna Kathryn in their upcoming marriage in April.
- 24 **Jimmie Mitchell:** That Matt Ormsby and I will work together to serve our shepherd group well.
- 25 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray that I would be the husband and father that God desires me to be and that he would bless my daughter with a baby.
- 26 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the coaches, refs, and participants in the SOAR soccer outreach.
- 27 **Percy Raleigh:** Pray for our sick and shut-ins to be encouraged and healed of their health issues.
- 28 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for the PCA denomination and FPC Stanley, that we will boldly declare Christ and resist the influences of the devil and be a beacon of light to our community and world.
- 29 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray that Cathy and I keep our eyes on Jesus as the object of our eternal hope and the guide for our daily living.
- 30 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray that we who have older parents will have wisdom and strength in helping and encouraging them at this time of their lives.
- 31 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for church friends who are facing various illnesses and infirmities.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise to God for all our new church officers. May the Lord continue to raise up dedicated leaders to lead his church.
Jerry Ratchford
- Praise that Sarah was granted a transfer to work at a care facility in Chicago which is located closer to her apartment.
Ed Faggart