

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas Eve was a very special time of worship for our church. In the meditation we explored "The Seven Wonders of God's Love." In reality the wonders of God's love are infinite, but as we begin a new sermon series on I John these seven thoughts provide a great introduction to one of the book's primary themes.

1) The First Wonder of God's love is that He sent His Son into this world to save us from our sins and give us new life.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him." I John 4:9

What a wonder that a loving Father chose to send His beloved Son, into a harsh and troubled world to live in poverty and die a cruel death on a cross for us.

2) The Second Wonder is that God loves us in spite of us.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

This is unconditional love in its purest form.

3) The Third Wonder is that Jesus gave His life willingly.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." I John 3:16

4) The Fourth Wonder is that we are adopted as beloved children of God.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" 1 John 3:1

Our Heavenly Father welcomes home repentant sinners, He runs to us, wraps His arms around us, lavishes blessings upon us, and receives us into His family as one of His own.

5) The Fifth Wonder is that God's Love never ends.

"Love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment." I John 4:17

God's love never runs dry, it has no limitations, it has no borders, it is not fickle, it is not here today and gone tomorrow. God's love is eternal, unchanging, unalterable, ageless, timeless, and enduring to all generations.

6) The Sixth Wonder is that the bond of God's love is unbreakable.

"For I am convinced that neither death or life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39

Take heart *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."* I John 4:18

7) The Seventh Wonder is that not only does love originate with God, it is defined by Him.

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God...God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

What a life changing truth that God is the eternal source and perfect meaning of love. When you live in love, you live in God. I John 4:16

May you bask in the "Wonders of God's Love" during 2019!

Steve

BEST YEARS LUNCH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Join us for a bowl of chili followed by some apple crisp for dessert.



After lunch, we will have a guest speaker from the Stanley Police Department.

Come and bring a friend!! Contact Kathy Lineberger at 704-922-8714 to advise if you are able to attend.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Thanks to all of you who have already submitted updates and changes to your directory listing information. We are working on a new directory and would like to be sure the information is accurate and complete. Be sure to notify Sandra in the church office (info@fpcstsanley.org) of any changes needed for your listing. You may also put this information on the Attendance Pad.

WITH LOVING THANKS

To our church family,

Ginny and I wish to thank all of you for your support during my recent surgery and recovery. We appreciate the cards, phone calls and visits. Most of all, thank you for the prayers. I had no idea how many were praying, but I knew it was a lot. The Lord has heard those prayers, and according to my surgeon the cancer has been successfully removed. God is GREAT, and I give Him all the praise and glory.

Clyde and Ginny Haley

Thank you for the fruit and candy baskets!

We have received many thanks from our senior members who were given goodie baskets in December...too many to print. They were obviously very touched by the thoughtful gift. A big thanks to Kathy Lineberger and Vicki Murphy who shopped for the goodies and put the baskets together. Also thanks to the deacons for hand delivering the baskets!

The following note was received from Greg Huss's dad:

I would like to thank Pastor Steve and the members of this church for your thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery and hospitalization. The love you have shown for me and my son and his family is greatly appreciated. May God bless each and everyone of you during this season of celebration of the birth of his Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jim Huss

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



Taylor Raymond "Skip" Ribbeck
December 22, 1922 - January 4, 2019

Condolences are offered to **Phyllis Ribbeck** and family in the death of her husband and our fellow member **Skip Ribbeck**. Skip passed away on Friday, January 4. At the age of 96, Skip was our congregation's second-oldest member.

Christian sympathies are extended to **David, Julianne, Shanna and Gabriella Griffin** in the death of David's father. **Bill Griffin** passed away on January 1 at his home in Gastonia. He was 75 years old. Our thoughts are also with **Chuck, Jonan, Luke and Rachel Bynum** in the death of Chuck's grandmother. **Gladys Brewer**, age 100, died at the Stanley TLC on Saturday, December 29. We also offer condolences to **Tom and Jerry Barton** and **Tommy and Janice Barton** in the death of Jerry's sister and Tommy's aunt. **Frances Plyer** died at the age of 88 in Charlotte on December 24.

Congratulations are in order for **Jeromy and Heather Rumpfelt** on the birth of **Evan Jeromiah** December 25. Evan's proud big sister is **Hadley**. Just as proud are his grandparents, **Paul and Linda Abernathy**, and his uncle and aunt, **Ryan and Elizabeth Abernathy**.

Tracy Withers is doing well following his 2nd knee replacement surgery on December 19. After spending only one night in the hospital, he continues the recovery process at home. Prayers are requested for **Wayne Kerley** who is currently undergoing treatments for prostate cancer.

Two members of our church family have been deployed. Please remember **George Ross** and **Garrett Brooks** along with their families during this time. Take time to drop them a note over these next few months while they are away:

George left on 1/7 and will return 2/8:

1LT George E Ross II
23 TRS, Class COT 19-02
550 E Maxwell Blvd Box 9000
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-9000

Garrett will be moving around for several months so you should use his home address. Michaela will get it to him:

6709 #5 McClellan Loop
Fort Riley, KS 66442

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Welcome **Miguel and Pinchi Diaz** visiting from **Paraguay** as they worship with us this Sunday, January 13. A number of our short-term teams have worked with them in Barrio Parque where they lead a small congregation.

David White who serves with MTW in Atlanta writes: The things I am working on in the next week will include planning the content for our ReConnect Conference January 28-31. We will spend time with between 25 and 30 missionaries who are on Home Ministry Assignment, looking back with them at what God has done over the previous term and helping them to process all that they have experienced. Many arrive at ReConnect tired and discouraged, and this is a time when we can offer perspective, encouragement and renewal. Please pray that this will be a time to edify and encourage those who attend.

Birthdays to Celebrate in January

16 Ryan Abernathy

17 Betty Ann Abernathy
Robert Billings
Cookie Wilkinson

18 Danny Wallace

19 Leon Lineberger

20 Wendy Ham

21 Vicky Gamage
Carol King
Matthew Magill



22 Jamie Revels

23 Debbie Friday

24 Trevor Burgess

25 Kaleigh Smith

27 Jamie Stewart

30 Renee Abernathy
Scott Burgess

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Pastor Steve Jessen • Assistant Pastor Thad Davis
Sunday School 9:00 AM • Worship 10:15 AM



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