

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

This week we honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His most famous speech was delivered on August 28, 1963 to over 250,000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. As the speech was in progress the story is told that the gospel singer Mahalia Jackson spoke out and said "Tell them about the dream Martin, tell them about the dream." It was then that King went off script and delivered what would become his most famous line: "I have a dream."

His dream was of a country that would live by its creed that "all men are created equal," a nation where "sons of slave owners and sons of slaves would sit down together at the table of brotherhood," a place where his children "would not be judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their character," that we would be an "oasis of freedom and justice." He then closed the description of his dream with a quote from Isaiah 40. *"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."*

There is power in a dream, in a vision of what the future might look like. King's speech helps us envision a different world, a world that reflects Biblical truths of justice, the inherent value of human life, and a love for all people. But living out a dream is not simple or easy. Dr. King's dream is still far from being fulfilled. In some ways there has been progress, but in other ways racial relations have deteriorated. One of my dreams for our church is that we would be a part of seeing Dr. King's dream fulfilled. That we would be a body of believers who actively promotes racial reconciliation and understanding.

What is the dream for our church, what vision do we have of the future? The answers can be found in God's Word. In one sense the dream is clearly laid out for us: *"Love the Lord Your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself."* (Mark 12:30-31) *"Go and make disciples of all nations."* (Matthew 28:19) *"You shall be my witnesses to the ends of earth."* (Acts 1:8) *"Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God."* (I Corinthians 10:31) But on the other hand actually living out the dreams and visions of the Bible takes much prayer, humility, wisdom and courage. Please join me in praying that God would show us His vision in 2020, so that our church will be a place where "the glory of the Lord is revealed, and that all people will see it together." "God has a dream for our church. What an exciting journey it will be as we seek to fulfill that dream together!"

Steve

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN



We are excited about our **Women's Retreat "Healing Wounded Women"** in Mooresville **March 13 - 15**. We will be studying the scriptures, hearing testimonies of God's goodness in hard times, and getting to know one another!

The cost is only \$50 and we still have a few spots remaining. Contact Lauren IMMEDIATELY at lauren@fpcstanley.org to reserve your spot.

WEEKLY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Bible Study has started back for the new year. The group meets on Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 am at the home of Laura Davis. Join them as they study the book of Proverbs. Childcare is provided.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Laura to let her know: bodedavis@gmail.com or 704-615-0465. More information can also be found at: bit.ly/fpcwomenbiblestudy.

WEDNESDAY

BIBLE

STUDY

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION CHANGES.

We are in a time of transition in our financial department. Stephanie Lee has faithfully served our church for 10 years as our financial secretary. We appreciate all that she did to keep our books in order, our checks written and distributed, and our reports timely. A search was conducted and we are pleased to announce that the Session has hired Debbie Friday to fill the position. She brings a tremendous amount of experience and aptitude in this area and we look forward to having her help maintain good stewardship in our finances.

Last fall our treasurer Gary Neely announced his plans to retire at the beginning of the new year. He also has served this congregation with integrity and excellence for 14 years. Our appreciation for all Gary has done goes beyond words. We will have a special time to honor him in church in the coming weeks. Be sure to thank him when you see him for all he has done to help us glorify God with the financial resources of the church.

The Deacons and Elders have unanimously chosen Phyllis Withers to fill the role of Treasurer and have added a new role of Assistant Treasurer that will be filled by Ken Dake. Both Phyllis and Ken have experience serving as treasurers in their previous churches. Along with Debbie they will be a part of working with our financial system to make it more efficient, utilizing the many technological tools now available. Please let them know how much we appreciate their willingness to volunteer in this capacity. We praise God for those who have faithfully served and we are thankful for those He has provided to carry on the work!

February 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 2:00 Men's Open Basketball |
| 2 AM Communion 4:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups | 3 6:30 Ruth Circle 7:00 Elizabeth, Martha, Readers Circles Mtgs 7:00 Adult Open Volleyball | 4 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group 7:00 Denver Circle Mtg. | 5 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp. 6:30 Rhyne Life Group | 6 6:30 CE Committee Mtg. MTW Committee Mtg. 7:30 Officers' Prayer | 7 | 8 7:00 Deacons' Meeting 2:00 Men's Open Basketball |
| 9 <i>Children's SS Teacher Training during SS</i> 4:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups | 10 6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg | 11 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group | 12 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp. 6:30 Children's Ministry Team Worship Committee Mtg Rhyne Life Group | 13 12:00 Best Years Lunch 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings Tech Team Mtg. | 14 | 15 MAN DAY 2:00 Men's Open Basketball |
| 16 4:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups | 17 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Facilities Comm Mtg Adult Open Volleyball | 18 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group | 19 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp. 6:30 Rhyne Life Group | 20 6:30 AHG Leaders' Mtg. 7:00 Session Meeting | 21 | 22 2:00 Men's Open Basketball |
| 23 4:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups | 24 7:00 Adult Open Volleyball | 25 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group | 26 Ash Wednesday 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service 6:30 Rhyne Life Group | 27 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings | 28 Online Youth Soccer registration begins! | 29 2:00 Men's Open Basketball |

WIC NEWS

FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Monday, February 3, 6:30 pm:

Ruth Circle meets in the Parlor

Monday, February 3, 7:00 pm:

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Judy Dixon

Martha Circle meets at the home of Amanda Huss

Readers Circle meets at the home of Sally Ormsby

Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 pm:

Denver Circle meets at the home of Vickie Smith.

WIC Council meets
Sunday, January 26
at 4:00 pm.

MAN DAY

will be

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 8:00AM - 12:30PM!



All men are encouraged to come out and help. After our workday is complete, we will return to the church for lunch!

Contact Pastor Steve if you are available to volunteer or have a potential project!



WORSHIP DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

After receiving recommendations from the Worship Committee, the Session has appointed a search committee to fill the part-time position of Worship Director. The committee will be comprised of the following members: Heather Dake, Chris Graham, Lee Henderson, Annalise Jessen, Jamie Revels and Freida Robinson. Please be in prayer for them as they begin to seek God's will for the person that He will call to fill this important role in the life of our church.

NEW MNA MISSION TRIP TO NEW BERN

Our Denomination's relief organization MNA has made an appeal for help to continue restoration work in New Bern, NC after Hurricane Florence. We would like to send a team **March 2-6** to help in the efforts. We will leave Monday morning and come back Friday. Cost will be minimal to help cover food and transportation. We will be doing some type of construction work depending on their needs. If you would be interested in going contact Tracy Withers at tmw6218@yahoo.com or Pastor Steve at steve@fpcstanley.org. We need your commitment ASAP so we can organize the trip.

2020 BUDGET OVERVIEW

In December, our Treasurer Gary Neely was asked to give a brief overview of the 2020 budget at our congregational meeting. These were his remarks at that time:

First, let me thank the committee who began meeting in June to prepare our budget. Thanks go to Rick Herd who headed up the process this year. Also to the many who provided budget requests this year in a timely and professional manner. And finally to the officer teams, who offered their input and approvals which produced this budget less than 2 weeks ago.

Our 2019 budget was \$720,708. We are projecting yearend giving to come in a little over this amount. Most years, we are able to accomplish some things outside of the budget, when we have extra income and/or we underspend our budget. In 2019, we completed office renovations, added a water filter system, upgraded our speaker system, improved our security system and made improvements to our lighting and other sanctuary technology upgrades, all in addition to our operating budget.

This brings us to our 2020 budget which is \$731,606. We feel good about this budget, an increase of 1.5% over 2019, and is about the same as our projected income from tithes and offerings this year.

The next 5 numbers are what makes up this \$731,606 budget.

- 1) Benevolences are donations FPC makes to organizations outside of FPC-Stanley, and total \$76,324 for 2020. A little over 10% of our tithes and offerings go to supporting Christian agencies that our church has chosen to support, the Catawba Valley Presbytery and the PCA General Assembly. Also included within benevolences are 100 families in Stanley who are in need of assistance through our mercy ministry as well as Kings Daughters and Crisis Pregnancy Center. When you give tithes and offerings to FPC, you are not only supporting the work of this church, but you are also supporting all of these works.
- 2) Next is Staff Expense, which is \$376,700. In addition to our 2 pastors, we have 2 other FT employees and 3 PT positions. Staffing makes up a little over half of our total budget, which is pretty typical for most churches.
- 3) Contracted Services - \$86,415. This category covers custodial services, lawn care, copier and other contracts.
- 4) Plant Administration - \$106,097. This includes utilities, insurance, office supplies, other similar expenses.
- 5) Christian Growth - \$86,070. Children's Ministry, Christian Education, conferences, Youth, men's and women's ministries, SOAR, outreach and other ministries are funded here.

Here at yearend is a perfect time to evaluate your general fund giving, much as you do your faith promise giving. Ask yourself what you would like your personal giving to be at the end of 2020? Then, plan ahead, make your gifts your first fruits, on a regular basis – weekly, monthly, quarterly – to reach your tithing objective. Malachi 3:10 says to test the Lord in this and see if the floodgates of heaven are not opened with blessings for you. If you do this, achieving our budget will be no problem.

There are 1-page summaries of the 2020 Budget on the brochure display in the main hallway. Please take one. Don't hesitate to ask any member of the Finance Committee, or any deacon or elder if you have questions about the budget.

Additional notes:

- Tithes and offerings have exceeded budgeted dollars all but a couple of years the last decade.
- Expenditures have come in under the budget 80% of the time.
- Both extra giving and underspending allow us to address unbudgeted expenses that arise.
- Special Giving (Faith Promise, SOAR, Church Family Assistance, mission trips) exceed \$250K/yr.
- FPC has seen \$1,000,000 flow through every year since 2012 when general fund giving and special giving are combined.

Praise God for blessing our church.

FEBRUARY RESPONSIBILITIES

NURSERY (Volunteers should be in place at 10:00 am.)

Feb. 2: **Babies:** Brent, Lisa and Allie Grice
Toddlers: Josh, Stacey and Samantha Hall

Feb. 9: **Babies:** Ashley Abernathy; Sally Ormsby
Toddlers: Robin Mundy

Feb. 16: **Babies:** Johnny, Leslie and Kaleigh Smith
Toddlers: Stacy, Natalie and Devon Helms

Feb. 23: **Babies:** Greg, Amanda, Maelin and Emery Huss
Toddlers: Craig, Susan, Kaitlyn & Caroline Mesimer

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he
is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Feb. 2: Communion

Feb. 9: Lauren Henderson

Feb. 16: Don Hensley

Feb. 23: Steve Jessen

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Pray for **Bobbi Jo Brooks**, our MTW missionary in **Germany**, who has just arrived back in the USA for a year of Home Ministry Assignment.

Pray for the **Hunts** and the **Janiceks** who serve with Serge as missionaries in **Czech Republic**, ministering at the Do Slova Church (Into the World) and with university students. Both families grew in 2019 – the Hunts adopted Sara Posey and the Janiceks adopted Jonah Lee.

Pray for **Becky White**, our MTW missionary in **Taiwan**, on the recent death of her mother Barbara White. A memorial service for Barbara was held this past Saturday in Taiwan where she and her husband David have lived after retiring as missionaries there.

Pray for **Kenton and Adriana Wood**, MTW missionaries in **Mexico**. They especially ask for prayer for the Rebalcito Mission where missionary Heriberto, his wife Arely and three daughters live and share the gospel. The church has adopted a banana plantation project to support the work there.

Read more about these prayer requests and news from all our missionaries on the missionary boards in the hallway leading to Founders Hall.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY

04 – Krista Babel
13 – Charles Davidson
20 – Eden Wadhams (2000)
21 – Diane Bakelaar
22 – Arklie Hooten

23 - Emanuel Lepadatu (2004)
24 – Anita Chambers
26 – Katelyn Comer (2010)
27 – Kenton Wood

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathies are extended to several in our church family who lost loved ones recently. **Marcia Rhyne's** step-mother, **Sue S. Evans**, of Mooresville, NC passed away December 20. She was 76 years old. **Jimmie Mitchell's** sister passed away on December 28. **Margaret M. Nunnery**, from Edgemoor, SC, was 93 years old. **Carl Klutz's** father, **Carl Klutz, Sr.**, passed away on December 27. Mr. Klutz, age 92, was from Mt. Pleasant, NC.

Sharon Herd had surgery on her foot at the end of December. **Kevin Rhyne** had carpal tunnel surgery on January 8. On January 9, **Jerry Ratchford** had surgery for prostate cancer and, at the same time, **Clay Harper** was having foot surgery due to an infection in one of his toes. Last week, **Dean Chaney** underwent surgery for a hernia while **Janet Kaufman** had surgery on her foot. As this article was being written, **Margaret Gladden** was coming out of surgery to repair a broken hip she suffered from a fall at her house on January 20.

Please keep all of these in your prayers as they are either still feeling the loss of loved ones or recovering from surgeries.

WITH LOVING THANKS

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the calls, texts, visits and meals after my eye surgery in December. Most of all thank you for your prayers. I am so grateful for the love of God that is shown to me through the kindness of His people.

Jonan Bynum



CEMETERY WORK DAY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Volunteers are needed to assist in the removal of fallen leaves and tree limbs in the historic Stanley Cemetery. If you are able to help out, bring your leaf blower and/or leaf rake. For more information, you can call Bob Mahovsky at 704-678-6643.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Needed monthly for budget | 60,059.06 |
| Received in December for budget | 75,839.08 |
| Needed to date for budget | 720,708.76 |
| Received to date for budget | 756,531.43 |
| | |
| Needed monthly for Faith Promise | 14,091.25 |
| Received in December for Faith Promise | 23,123.00 |
| Needed to date for Faith Promise | 169,095.00 |
| Received to date for Faith Promise | 171,562.53 |

Birthdays to Celebrate in February

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Jake Fox | 10 Howard Graham | 18 Andrew Deese | 23 Julie Black |
| 3 Chris Ham Justin Jurina | 11 Thad Davis | 19 Clair Childers Alice Jessen Max Rust | 24 Anita Chambers |
| 5 Isaac Jessen Leith McAllister Dan Ormsby | 12 Naomi Treat | 20 Jared Hamrick Matt Ormsby | 25 Madeline Drenth Janet Redding |
| 6 Grace Kopka Leslie Smith | 16 Jeremy Burrell Lee Henderson Brooklynn Stewart Josh Stowe Jake Teague | 21 Tamara Burrell Alana Gibson Kaitlyn Mesimer | 26 Wyatt Foster Steve Jessen |
| 7 Jack Revels | 17 Will Robinson | | 27 Mike Kelly |
| | | | 28 Kelsey Smith |

The Church Family is a 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@fpcstanley.org ♦ web site: www.fpcstanley.org

Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen ♦ Assistant Pastor, Thad Davis ♦ Pastoral Care, Dan King
Sunday School 9:00 AM ♦ Worship 10:15 AM



512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 12
Stanley, NC 28164

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – February 2020
First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

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)

February Prayer-Prompts

Prov. 2:1-7 –“ My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2) turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— 3) indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4) and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5) then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6) For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7) He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless.” **Matt. 7:7-11** - ⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”

Pray for Pastors Steve Jessen, Thad Davis, Dan King, Chaplain Ivan Davis (TLC)

Pray as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for our pastors. Some suggestions for prayer are included, but pray also as you are aware of other particular needs and concerns they may have.

Mon.: To love God with all their heart, and to love others as themselves. (Matt. 27:37-39)

Tues: To trust the Lord completely for their wisdom, so that he will direct their daily path. (Prov. 3:5,6)

Wed.: To pray always, putting on the armor of the Lord to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Eph. 6:11ff)

Thurs.: To love their wives and manage their family in ways that honor Christ. (Eph. 5:25, I Tim. 3:4,5)

Fri.: That God’s word will be their reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. (II Tim 3:16)

Sat.: To care faithfully for the flock and have compassion for lost sheep. (John 10:16, Lk. 15:4)

Sun.: To empower them to preach and teach the Gospel in the power of the Spirit. (Matt. 4:23, Rom. 10:15).

Prayer for Our Ministry Leaders and Staff

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff:

Monday: Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center

Tuesday: Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell, Global Outreach

Wednesday: Lauren Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Children’s Ministry

Thursday: Lisa Revels, SOAR Director

Friday: Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Will Robinson:** Pray that Sarah's pregnancy and delivery will go smoothly.
- 2 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for wisdom in the new year as I serve on the Session and with the ministry of the King's Daughters.
- 3 **Tracy Withers:** Please pray for our son, Maxton, who is in the Army, stationed in Germany.
- 4 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray for our CDC staff that God will strengthen and continue to encourage them.
- 5 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for my grandmother, Betty Ann Abernathy whose health is failing greatly.
- 6 **Chris Baker:** Pray that the incoming treasurer and financial secretary will continue the fine work done by their predecessors.
- 7 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for the ongoing work of the music team as we help lead Sunday worship.
- 8 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray especially for my children who both have very stressful or dangerous jobs.
- 9 **Ken Dake:** Please pray for the treasurer and financial secretary transition in 2020.
- 10 **Ron Ensley:** Pray that God's grace and peace be present with FPC members in nursing homes and those confined at home. May we not forget them.
- 11 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray that God will help me manage my busy schedule better.
- 12 **Mike Gamage:** Pray that hearts are opened to God throughout the SOAR Volleyball season.
- 13 **Chris Graham:** Pray for continued patience and wisdom in caring for Jodie's father, Gordon Schronce.
- 14 **Mark Harper:** Please pray that son Clayton will make a full recovery from his foot surgery and that infection will not return or cause any lasting issues.
- 15 **Don Hensley:** Pray for health of our grandchildren, during this time of colds and flu.
- 16 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for Audrey as she continues to grow and learn new things.
- 17 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray that our new members find joy in serving in a ministry at FPC.
- 18 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for our Winter SOAR volleyball season to have a great witness for Christ.
- 19 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray that our church will continue to thrive and grow.
- 20 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray that our daughter Carly has a safe delivery of Rhett, a healthy baby boy.
- 21 **Will Robinson:** Pray for all the worship team and musicians leading our Sunday worship time.
- 22 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for wisdom in the new year as I serve on the session and with the ministry of the King's Daughters.
- 23 **Tracy Withers:** Pray that God will give wisdom and strength as we plan the 2020 Mission Trips and for finalizing trips to Paraguay, Palmer Home, and MTW project in Georgia.
- 24 **Ryan Abernathy:** Please pray for our church staff that God protects them, strengthens them, and continues to provide them wisdom each day.
- 25 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for those who lead and teach the children of our church.
- 26 **Chris Baker:** Pray that our family can keep up with all the responsibilities of home, work, and church.
- 27 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for my grandfather's health concerns.
- 28 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for me that I will be able to continue do the facilities work required at FPC.
- 29 **Ken Dake:** Pray for the youth ministry of our congregation.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise God for the strong financial finish to our church year and God's provision for our local needs and the missionary commitments we made for 2019.
- Praise for work of our previous treasurer and financial secretary, and thanks for the new persons who will be taking over these important tasks.
- Praise and thanks for the newcomers who have joined our church fellowship and pray for visitors who are attending to make steps of commitment to Christ and his church.
- Thanks and appreciation for the word, witness, and faithful work of our pastor's and church leaders/staff.