

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

Several days before our recent trip to Mexico I received a text from Pastor Ricardo asking me if I would be willing to preach that Sunday. At the end of his text he put the words “tema: libre” which means “theme: free.” I understood this to mean that I was to preach on what it means to be free in Christ. And so I prepared a sermon in Spanish on the contrast between slavery and freedom in the Bible. When I arrived in Mexico Pastor Ricardo asked me what I was preaching on and I said “I’m using the theme you gave me - free.” He laughed because what he meant was that I was “free” to pick whatever topic I wanted for the sermon... lost in translation!

And as we celebrate the Fourth of July we are reminded of this same theme: freedom. John Adams was one of our Founding Fathers, our first Vice President and second President. In a letter he wrote to his wife Abigail on April 26, 1777 he says: “Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it.” We can never fully know the cost of our freedom. We need to appreciate people like the men and women that Pastor Thad was working with in Alaska (during his duties as ANG Chaplain) who are being deployed soon. And think of the sacrifice that our own Garrett and Michaela Brooks are making as Garrett has a long deployment overseas away from his wife and almost-one-year-old daughter Lucy. We must not take for granted the cost paid by our dedicated service men and women- past and present.

The Fourth also reminds us of the freedom that we have through the Cross. Romans 8:1-3 (NASB) says: *“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin...”* Our spiritual freedom comes at a great cost: the blood of Jesus Christ.

While we can never fully comprehend what Christ has done to purchase our freedom, in the words of John Adams “I hope you will make good use it.” The freedom we have in Jesus is a gift not to be squandered. First, accept that you have been forgiven by grace and are free from the curse of sin. Second, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to live each day in freedom. Third, share this good news with everyone you can: that those who the Son sets free will be free indeed! (John 8:36)

Appreciating our Freedom,





CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

**SUNDAY, JULY 28
4:00 PM**

Pack your picnic basket! We want you to join us for a time of fun, food and fellowship! We are meeting at The Gathering Place, 467 Dover Rd, in Kings Mountain. We will have some activities and games for all! Bring a picnic supper for your family! We will have tables and chairs for eating but you'll want to bring a chair for fellowshiping outside. All ages are encouraged to join us on this outing!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
A BRIDAL SHOWER HONORING**

LINDSEY GREESON

**SUNDAY, JULY 21
2:00 - 3:30 PM
IN FOUNDERS HALL**

Lindsey is registered at: Dillard's North Lake for china and Bed, Bath & Beyond for cookware.

You can also go to www.zola.com if you wish to help them celebrate their marriage by making a contribution to their honeymoon fund. (In couples, search Lindsey Greeson and Sean Lappin.)

Hostesses are: Anne Abernathy, Jonan Bynum, Teresa Neely, Cathy Rhyne, Ann Smith, Missy Smith and Phyllis Withers.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Robin White had a partial knee replacement on July 2. She and her husband David live in the Atlanta area where he serves as Assistant Director of Member Care and Development for our MTW missionaries. Please pray for her quick recovery.

Paul and Marty Clark ask for prayer for the former abandoned boys with their families who will be coming to their home in Lima, Peru on July 7 to spend the day. At the last event there were 64 people eating lunch with them.

Pray for **Shaun and Becky Hurie** as they continue the process of raising support to join the MTW missionary family in South Africa.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

While traveling with our Best Years to Asheville last month, **Gloria Marsh** gave us a scare. While sitting at the Farmers Market, Gloria passed out and was unconscious. After being checked out at the local hospital, she was released later that night.

Ailene Friday was finally able to return home after spending more than a week at Caromont Regional Medical Center for breathing difficulties along with some other issues.



Did you know we have
HEARING DEVICES
available for Sunday Worship?

Hearing devices are available to anyone who needs a little sound boost during Sunday worship. Stop by the Video/Sound booth at the back of the sanctuary and ask for one. Someone will be happy to assist you. It's that simple!

WITH LOVING THANKS

Jacob and I want to thank the church for all the wonderful meals that were prepared and brought to us during our recovery from the accident. We are so grateful for being so blessed by the blankets of prayers and visits from our loving church family. You showed us enormous support and encouragement by this and the cards were so kind. Thank you all.

Jake and Carolyn Rhyne

In this past month we came to a new appreciation of being "family". We discovered how much we are blessed, both by our earthly family and our church family. Thanks for your expressions of love and practical help. Your cards and calls, prayers and provisions, were bountiful and beautiful. Alice continues to progress and is eager to "meet and greet" as soon as she is able. Thanks for your continued love and prayers for us. "I'm so glad we're a part of the family of God."

Alice and Chuck Jessen

Birthdays to Celebrate in July

18 Hailey Deese

19 Liz Johnstone
Juanita Thomas

20 Susan Herd

21 Josh Hall

22 Ann R. Smith

23 Sharon Bryant
Carolyn Rhyne

24 Lucy Brooks
Pam Burgess
Clyde Haley
Liz Johnson
Sally Ormsby
Brittany Ross

25 Kirsten Abernathy
Suzy Deneen

26 Luke Bynum

27 Jayda Killian
Sherry Teague
Michael Youngblood

28 Margaret Gladden
Martha Tadlock

29 Samuel Ormsby



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



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