

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

August is one of those in-between transitional months of the year. Summer is winding down, school is starting up, and we begin gearing up for our fall programming at church. But in this changeover from summer to fall something happens that is perhaps the most important process of our church year: officer nominations.

In my Bible reading I have been making my way through the books of I & II Kings and I & II Chronicles. In these historical books a pattern emerges that is repeated over and over. If the Kings trusted in God, worshiped Him alone, and rejected the false idols of this world, then Israel/Judah enjoyed great blessing. If the Kings trusted in their own strength, rejected the one true God, and sought after false gods, then Israel/Judah suffered disastrous consequences. Just like the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, a healthy church is contingent on healthy leadership. That is why August matters so much in the life of our church!

What characteristics are important to ensure that we have a healthy leadership team? I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 are important passages that should be studied as men are considered for nomination. The PCA Book of Church Order also gives us guidance in finding the right kind of leader:

For Elders:

He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.

For Deacons:

The office is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their helping one another in time of need. To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.

We must always remember that ultimately Jesus leads our church. However, in our Presbyterian system leaders are chosen by the congregation to “seek the mind of Christ” in the matters and decisions of the church. August is a reminder that you the members of the church play a critical part in God’s plan of leadership. This is your opportunity to help put forth men who trust in God, worship Him alone, and reject the false idols of this world, so that they might lead our church to great blessing!

Please be in fervent prayer during August that, through your nominations, God would call out His officer class of 2022.

Thankful for August,

Steve

Praying and Meaning It!

by Pastor Thad

“Nothing so shows the character of our faith as our conduct and attitude after we have prayed.” - D. Martin Lloyd-Jones

There are many books on prayer, God’s sovereignty and prayer, our necessity to pray, praying without ceasing, praying in suffering, praying in joy, praying for rain and bringing an umbrella, praying for deeper relationship with God, praying for healing, praying for help, praying for hope. But this quote caught me more than all those helpful reminders of the purpose of prayer. My attitude can often be changed after praying, relying on God, who alone can change hearts and heal. Sorrow for an unjust situation that is out of our control and requires a just judge to intervene. Hope for a season that seems almost hopeless until the light of God’s promise dawns again.

My conduct on the other hand is the area where this quote stuck the hardest. It seems that my faith is fickle most often when needing to be put into practice in response to an item of prayer. In other words, what I do during my prayers and after making my request to God, (Philippians 4:6) shows my true belief in God’s answer. Practically speaking, I couldn’t pray for my child’s bleeding knee without also bandaging the boo-boo. I wouldn’t pray for a friend’s dating relationship without getting to know the couple and encouraging their growth together in the Lord. I wouldn’t be helping a soldier who is deploying to war, by simply saying a prayer that God would help their situation and not also giving them the truth of the Gospel to shine the light of the grace and glory of Christ, (2 Corinthians 4:6) even in the fog of war.

And it seems I’m not the only one who needs this challenging reminder. Abraham’s servant in Genesis 24 needed the reminder that God answers prayers, “before he had finished speaking.” (Genesis 24:15) Paul begins most of his letters with specific details of his prayers for them and then writes in Spirit-guided answers, as if God were using his letters as part of the answer to his own pleas for deepening knowledge of God’s grace and truth. (Colossians 1:9-14)

Another helpful book that has given many other contexts for trusting in God’s answer to our faith-building prayers is “A Praying Life” by Paul Miller. I strongly recommend using this book to lean on God by faith, in prayer and our resulting “conduct and attitude after we have prayed.” I will be praying for us as a congregation to deepen our faithful prayers and I will gladly share this book in order to possibly be part of the answer to those prayers.

BEST YEARS AUGUST EVENT “HATS OFF TO TOMATOES” THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 12:00 PM



Join us for lunch in Founders Hall. We will have fried chicken, tomato sandwiches and pie.

We are having a HAT CONTEST. Get creative and start decorating your hat. Make it as elaborate and crazy as you can!

If you have tomatoes from the plants you were given at the spring event, we’d love for you to bring some in to share!



CHURCH-WIDE CAMPING TRIP

at

Briar Bottom Group Camping Area
in Black Mountain Campground
**Friday through Monday,
August 30 - September 2**

FREE!!!

Sign up by August 25!

Visit our website for more information and to sign up. You can also sign up at the bulletin board in the main hallway.

Parking is limited. Carpooling is highly encouraged.



IT IS

OFFICER NOMINATION TIME!

Officer Nominations are being accepted
August 4 through August 25.

Nomination forms and a collection box
are located in the main hallway.



Children's Ministry News

Our final Children's Ministry summer trip will be on Wednesday, August 7th. We are going to the Discovery Place and Imax Theater in Charlotte. The cost is \$8 per person and the time is TBD. Kids are to bring a bag lunch. Email Lauren at lauren@fpcstanley.org to reserve your bus seat and to receive updated information on the trip.



SOAR NEWS

NEW THIS FALL: LIL FLYERS AGES 18 MONTHS - 5 YEARS OLD

This program is designed to introduce and develop the fundamental skills of movement and sports to children ages 18 months - 5 years. We will focus on showing God's love even in play and preparing our youngest of hearts to play on any sports team when they come of age.

The program will be on Saturdays from September 7 - October 26. We will have 4 different age categories. The time will be 9:00 - 9:45 am or 10:00 - 10:45 am depending on the age of your child. More information is available on the SOAR bulletin board in the main hallway.

Registration will be open to our church family starting on Sunday, August 4. Be sure to visit our website at www.fpcstanleysoar.org to register early before it opens up to the public.

Would you like to help out as a leader for our Lil Flyers program? Contact Lisa Revels at lisa@fpcstanley.org for more information!

CE NEWS

Our new church year starts up September 8! As we prepare for this exciting time, please mark your calendar for the following dates as applicable to you...

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

All Sunday School teachers for our youth/adult classes during the 2019-2020 church year are invited to attend our training session on Sunday, August 4th immediately following worship. An Italian lunch will be provided!

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Training for our small group leaders for the new church year will be on Sunday, August 18th at 5:30 PM. Dinner will be provided.



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL PROMOTION SUNDAY CELEBRATION

The Christian Education Team would like to invite you to our annual Promotion Celebration on Sunday, August 25th. Celebrations will begin at 9:00 AM with a Big Country Breakfast, followed by our promotions and worship at 10:15 AM.



WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



Charleen Grace Schrum
April 24, 1935 - July 22, 2019

Charleen Schrum passed away on July 22 at the age of 84. Charleen was a long time member of FPC although she moved to Lexington, SC last year to be closer to her family.

2nd Quarter Giving Statements

2nd quarter giving statements have been printed and are on the Literature Display. Please stop by and retrieve your statement. If you find any discrepancies, contact our Treasurer Gary Neely.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

How should you pray for our missionaries? These prayer requests come from Tyler Dirks at East Charlotte Presbyterian Church, but they give us suggestions about how to pray for all of our missionaries:

1. Pray that God would author an unquenchable zeal for Himself in our thinking, imaginations, hearts, and in our feelings. ...Pray that our obsession would be unrelentingly aligned with God, and that His agenda would be manifest in our lives as the joy set before us.
2. Pray that dozens upon dozens of people would be miraculously, and manifestly, called by God from darkness unto light (SAVED!) ...and pray that we would be front-row witnesses to these conversions. Pray that the Gospel seed would fall on rich, deep, receptive soil in unbelieving souls - and that God would be pleased to lavishly give the gift of repentance unto life (Acts 11:18) to people all around us. Pray that God would make all of us voraciously humble, hungry, and teachable.
3. Pray that all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander would be put away, along with all malice. ...Pray that we would be sincerely and substantially kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave us.

Birthdays to Celebrate in August

17 Don Hamilton
Tenley Lawson

18 Bill Robinson (Freida's)

19 Jerry Barton
Ken Dake

21 Scott Deneen
Mike Gamage
Leah Treat

22 Rick Herd



24 Randy Cole
Mike Dixon
Nancy Raleigh

27 Tommy Barton

28 Katie Saine

29 Glenn Gibson

30 Chuck Bynum
Doug Gladden
Eloise Hamilton
David Hill

31 Shirley Chucci

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@fpcstanley.org • Website: www.fpcstanley.org
Pastor Steve Jessen • Assistant Pastor Thad Davis
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