

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

A number of years ago we lived in the Steel Creek area of Charlotte. At that time they were building the 485 loop and an exit was put in close to our house. Shortly after that we moved to Wilmington. Several years later we were visiting Charlotte and as we were traveling down 485 we decided to exit to visit the old stomping grounds. As we turned off the exit ramp and headed toward our old house we thought we had made a mistake, nothing looked familiar. There was a large development with restaurants, apartments, and a movie theater that had appeared. Giant convenient stores had popped up out of the ground and new stores and businesses were stacked up on either side of the highway. We were amazed how much can change in just a few years!

It was the ancient Greek Philosopher Heraclitus who is credited with the statement that “you can’t step into the same river twice.” The idea of this is that “the only constant in life is change.” Change has been part of the human existence from the dawn of time, but it is the speed of change in our current world that causes our heads to spin. COVID-19 changed our lives in countless ways almost overnight, the internet, smartphones, and social media have allowed change in culture to take place in such rapid fashion that we don’t recognize anymore the place we used to live.

How do we find stability in our rapidly changing world? It comes from a concept found in Hebrews 13:8 that I call the “constancy” of Jesus. *“Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* We began our sermon series “Faith Foundations” with the teaching that Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. He is the rock on which we find consistency in the shifting sands of our culture. I think of the words from the great hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness” that emphasize the constancy of our God. *“There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not. As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.”*

We will begin a new sermon series in August called “Back to Normal?” It will be a study of the life of Joseph and how God used many drastic and sometimes unpleasant changes in his life to accomplish His purposes. Notice the question mark in the sermon series name. What is normal in a world that is constantly changing, and can we really go back? The river that we dipped our foot into several years ago has changed, but there is a Rock that we can stand on as the river flows around us that never changes and His name is Jesus. So if you are unsettled by the changes that you see all around you, fix your eyes on the unchangeable Jesus!

Standing on the Rock,

Steve

Sunday Morning Service Schedule Changes

Starting Sunday, August 1, we will combine our two service schedule into one service at 10:30am. We are excited to finally be able to have the church body together in one service.

Our Sunday morning schedule will be as follows:

9:30am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30am - Worship in church sanctuary.

YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH

The Session has initiated a search for a Youth Pastor to work with the young people of our church and community. Psalm 145:4 says “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” This staff position will help us in our vision to be a church that passes on the good news of Jesus Christ to the next generations. We are praying that God will lead us to the right person to help us fulfill this vision, but we need your help. If you know of someone who might be a possible candidate you can pass the name along to Elder Ron Ensley or Pastor Steve. Most importantly, please add this search to your prayer list and pray that God would guide this entire process according to His perfect will.

IT'S OFFICER NOMINATION TIME!



Officer Nominations are being accepted
August 1 through August 29.

Nomination forms including additional details can be found at the collection box in front of the SOAR office on the main hallway.



**BEST YEARS
COVERED DISH LUNCH
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12
11:30 AM**



Bring a favorite dish or two and join your Best Years friends in Founders Hall for a time of good eating and fellowship! For entertainment, your quick thinking skills will be tested as you play “Name That Tune.”

Did your tomato plant from our May luncheon grow lots of tomatoes? Bring in a tomato from your plant. Before we slice and eat the tomatoes, we will present an award for the best one.



FAMILY FUN DAY
SATURDAY, 8/14
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO THIS
FREE EVENT
AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO
INVITE A FRIEND OR TWO!



We will have hotdogs, corndogs, baked beans, watermelon slices, water slides, dunking booth and games! We'll also have a big tent for shade!

We have **volunteer opportunities** available!

Sign up on Sunday (bulletin board in main hallway) or contact the church office to volunteer.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION
IS AUGUST 29!



New Sunday School classes are being offered this Fall! Life Groups and Sunday evening activities will start back September 12. Stay tuned for more information in the August newsletter!



August 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mark your calendar for these upcoming CE team meetings:

- Youth Ministry Team - Weds., August 4 at 5:30 PM
- Christian Education Team - Weds., August 4 at 7:00 PM
- Children's Ministry Team - Weds., August 11 at 7:00 PM

FAMILY CAMPING TRIP: SEPTEMBER 3 - 6



Don't miss out on this fun family adventure. Come join us for a beautiful Labor Day weekend exploring God's beauty at Mt. Mitchell.

We have a group tent site reserved in Briar Bottom Campground in Burnsville, NC. For more details or to sign up, visit our website and click on the camping trip rotator. You can also sign up at the bulletin board next to the SOAR office in the main hallway.

WITH LOVING THANKS

Dear Friends at FPC,

Since my cancer diagnosis last August we have been blessed beyond measure with all the love, care, and concern that we have been shown. What a beautiful witness to the goodness of God, demonstrated through FPC in many special ways...from flowers to food, calls, cards, visits and persistent prayers. On July 6th I rang the "Celebration Bell" at CaroMont Cancer Center, marking the completion of chemotherapy and radiation. We couldn't have made it without the Lord's help, your support, and the blessing of all the medical people who God provided for my care. As we go forward in the recovery process, we sincerely thank you for all your ongoing encouragement.

*Yours in Christ,
Alice (and Chuck) Jessen*

MISSIONS NEWS

The **Crisis Pregnancy Center's** annual **Walk for Life** is being held on September 10. Contact the Gaston County Crisis Pregnancy Center office (call: 704-867-3706, text: 704-953-2612, email: cpcdir@gmail.com) for more information or to pick up your walk packet.

IN SOUTH AFRICA: **Shaun and Becky Hurrie** write that they are doing very well overall and are safe so far in Cape Town, considering some of the tragic events that have unfolded in the north and east parts of the country. Please join them and their young church plant in praying for peace and restoration in the coming weeks and months.

IN HAITI: **Guercy Meme** writes that Haiti is going through the worst moments he has ever seen in his lifetime. Many gangs are taking over the country and people are dying everyday including his nephew, a police officer, who was murdered when a gang took over one of the police stations in Port-au-Prince. Please join the Memes in praying for peace and unity among the people, for safety and protection of the orphans and staff of Salem ministry, for the community of Bourg-Vincent, Gonaives where God has placed him to serve, and for the Meme family as they go through this rough time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN AUGUST

04 – Cody Janicek	14 – Bill Scott	22 – Cora Goyzueta
05 – Micaiah K. (2003) Adriana Wood	17 – Raylene Cassson David K.	26 – Amanda Weaver (2003) 29 – Andrew Goyzueta
10 – Ken Cross	18 – Joel McCall	30 – Michael Lee
12 – Laura Cochran	20 – Amina F. Eliza Hunt (2012)	

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Adam Greenly is doing well following an appendectomy on July 11. **Ed Wallace** is home after a short stay in the hospital last week due to continued health issues. **Roxi Rutledge** is recovering at her daughter's house following knee surgery on July 14. **Liz Johnson** underwent another back surgery on July 15. She is recovering at home.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry
Team Meets
Sunday, August 22
at 4:30pm.

Monday, August 2:

6:30: Ruth Circle meets in the Church Parlor

7:00: Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Heather Dake

Martha Circle meets at the home of Phyllis Withers

Readers Circle meets in Founders Hall

Monday, August 9:

7:00: Denver Circle meets at the home of Vickie Smith

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you to all of you who have donated to our Food Pantry. This ministry depends your help.

Currently, the donations coming into the pantry are exceeding our requests for food. Please hold off on any food donations at this time. We want to give out the food we have before it expires. We will post an update when we are ready to receive donations again.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	64,660.25
Received in June for budget.....	50,121.83
Needed to date for budget.....	387,961.50
Received to date for budget	353,725.77
Needed monthly for Faith Promise.....	14,465.42
Received in June for Faith Promise	8,279.50
Needed to date for Faith Promise	86,792.52
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	90,893.54

Birthdays to Celebrate in August

2 Chris Baker
Claire Kopka
Tommi Rust

3 Zack Bedford
Cora Stewart

5 Chris Black

6 Maddie Jessen

7 Dean Chaney

8 Frankie Henderson

10 Bruton Beatty

11 Deanna Beatty
Heather Roberts

12 Averly Deese
Barbara Graham

13 Kristen Henderson

17 Don Hamilton
Tenley Lawson

18 Bill Robinson (Freida's)

19 Ken Dake

21 Mike Gamage
Leah Treat

22 Rick Herd

23 Jon Yodice

24 Randy Cole
Mike Dixon

27 Tommy Barton

28 Katie Saine

30 Chuck Bynum
Doug Gladden
Eloise Hamilton
David Hill

31 Shirley Chucci



The Church Family is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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E-mail: info@fpestanley.org ♦ Website: www.fpestanley.org

Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen
Sunday School 9:30 AM ♦ Worship-Mask Optional 10:30 AM



512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – August 2021

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 in opening my mouth boldly to **proclaim** the mystery of the gospel.” (Eph 6:16, 19)

Scripture Prayers for Christ’s Kingdom to Come – Matthew Henry

Let the kingdom of your grace be manifested more and more throughout our land and in the places where we live. Let your word have free course and be glorified. Do not let your kingdom be taken from us...even though we deserve it. Let your gracious kingdom permeate all our lives, so that our bodies can be proper temples of the Holy Spirit. Let no iniquity have dominion over us. Overturn, overturn, overturn the power of corruption inherent in us. Let the prophesied One, who has the right to rule, come to us...As people of the truth, enable us to always hear Christ’s voice. Let us not only call him ‘Lord, Lord’, but always do the things he says. Let the love of Christ control and constrain us. Let our eyes be fixed on fearing him, so that we do not sin. Let your glorious kingdom come quickly. Let us look forward constantly to the arrival of the Day of God. Make us ready so we can lift up our heads with joy, knowing that our redemption is near. Make us fully conscious of the firstfruits of the Spirit’s presence in us, that we may groan within ourselves as we eagerly await our full adoption, which is the redemption of our bodies. Amen. (2Thess 3:1; Matt 21:43; 1Cor 3:16; Ps 119:133; Ezekiel 21:27; Ps 110:3; Jn 18:37; Luke 6:46, 2Cor 5:14; Ex 20:20; Rev 22:7; 2Tim 4:8; 2Pet2:12; Lk 21:18; Rom8:23)

(From: *A Way to Pray*, Edit/Revised O. Palmer Robertson, *Banner of Truth*, Pub., p. 203,204)

Pray for Pastor Steve Jessen, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pray 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

Saturday: Brian Miskelly, Worship Director and Luke Bynum, Technology/Digital Intern

Pray for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray that our country and leaders will seek the Lord and his wisdom to seek God in the issues and controversies of our times.
- 2 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for me to be more like our Master, loving and serving others.
- 3 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray that our church might reflect Christ's love to both family and our community, and that they would desire to learn more.
- 4 **Will Robinson:** Pray for our family with many work responsibilities, along with house building.
- 5 **Ron Smith:** Pray for a season of rest for our CDC teachers as the Summer program has ended and the full time program starts back in September.
- 6 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for our daughter-in-law, Amber and her family as her grandmother recently passed away.
- 7 **Ryan Abernathy:** Please pray for our CDC staff as they get ready to return for the school year.
- 8 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for the ongoing work of our Deacons in overseeing the many caring, helping and oversight ministries of FPC.
- 9 **Chip Beatty:** Pray that our church musicians, choirs, and worship teams seek to lead us closer to God in spirit-led worship.
- 10 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for me that I will continue to grow in my faith.
- 11 **Ken Dake:** Pray for those of us who serve and oversee in the media ministry week by week.
- 12 **Ron Ensley:** Pray for my wife Karen's healing and recovery from surgery earlier in August.
- 13 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for my promotional test at work coming up in September.
- 14 **Mike Gamage:** Pray that enjoyable hard work and witness of SOAR Sports Camp bears fruit in the lives of the participants and their families.
- 15 **Chris Graham:** As we begin to gather as one group again, pray that we not just return to "normal," but strive to be even better for the glory of the Lord!
- 16 **Don Hensley:** Pray for my mother-in-law, Ann Smith, and Becky's sister Beth who cares for her.
- 17 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that I would have wisdom to navigate changes in my workplace.
- 18 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for the children, workers and ministry of our Sunday School and for the fall enrollment for CDC.
- 19 **Dan Ormsby:** Please pray that Sally's surgery will go well at the end of August in removing all of the cancer and that she will have a good recovery.
- 20 **Matt Ormsby:** Please pray for my mom and her ongoing cancer treatments.
- 21 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray that those facing sickness, sorrow, and struggle will be given grace to endure.
- 22 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for me to be better at listening for the needs of others, and then providing meaningful help.
- 23 **Robert Rhyne:** Prayer to be bold in sharing my Christian experience when opportunities arise.
- 24 **Will Robinson:** Pray for our family with our many work responsibilities, along with building a house.
- 25 **Ron Smith:** Pray for those in our community who may be homeless or wondering how to make ends meet to find wisdom and hope in Jesus Christ.
- 26 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for our son Maxton as he will be deployed to Ft. Bragg in upstate New York next month with the US Army.
- 27 **Ryan Abernathy:** Please continue to pray for Elizabeth and our family as she returns to work and we settle into our new routines.
- 28 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for our children and youth who soon are beginning a new school year.
- 29 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for the witness of teachers and students as they prepare for the start of school.
- 30 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray that more faith-based leaders are elected to positions of influence in our country.
- 31 **Ken Dake:** Pray for Eric and Ethan as they pursue work and educational challenges and opportunities.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise and prayer for the many summer ministry leaders and participants, especially the recent Soar Sports Camp.
- Thanks for the various groups/people involved in the music and worship teams in the summer time.