

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM PASTOR STEVE

by Steve Jessen

Last week I attended our denomination's General Assembly in Greensboro, NC. This is the annual meeting for Pastors and Elders to come together to discuss important church matters. I was excited to hear about our denomination's initiatives in the areas of racial reconciliation and multi-cultural outreach. One of the major discussions centered on a report from an ad interim committee titled "Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church." The report affirmed the important role of women in our churches serving in non-ordained areas of ministry. The Assembly was also a wonderful time of fellowship, training and powerful worship, which I really enjoyed.

One of the hymns that we sang during our worship was "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," written by Martin Luther, the great reformer of the church. This October will mark the 500-year anniversary of Luther's now famous 95 Theses, that were nailed on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany. That event is considered one of the sparks of the Protestant Reformation.

Several weeks ago, I preached from Psalm 42:8 "*at night his song is with me.*" I mentioned how God had used the song "Great is Thy Faithfulness" to encourage me during a difficult time. As I sang "A Mighty Fortress" last week, I remembered that God had used that very hymn to give me courage during a time in college when I was really struggling- another "song in the night."

The hymn tells the story of the onslaught of the "*Prince of Darkness*" who is described as "*our ancient foe*" the one who "*doth seek to work us woe- his craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.*" The Enemy is real, and if we "*in our own strength confide*" we will lose. But when we trust in Jesus then, and only then, do we possess the power to defeat the enemy. In Christ Jesus, we are assured of this: "*And He must win the battle.*" And "*His kingdom is forever.*"

No matter what you face this day take comfort in these words "*A mighty fortress is your God. A bulwark never failing.*"

Thro' Him who with us sideth,

Steve



**REMEMBER...
FAMILY FUN NIGHT
THIS FRIDAY,
JUNE 23, 6:00 PM**



NOTE FROM YOUR SESSION

The last several months have been challenging for our church family. First of all, your elders would like you to know that we made you, the church family of FPC, our prayer focus for protection and unity during this difficult trial. On Sunday, April 30th, every member was challenged to sign a card committing to pray daily for our pastors, elders and deacons. That challenge continues in our church family newsletter "Armorbearer" insert. We have been praying for each other, and that is good!

As Pastor Scott has resigned his position as Senior Pastor, we urge every single member to continue to pray for him, Suzy and their dear family as they heal relationally and spiritually, that the Lord will provide them a vision of ministry in the future. They will continue to worship with us in the pew. Be sure to encourage them in their journey.

We trust you have all witnessed God's hand in this process. His grace has proven sufficient for 126 years at FPC! We must continue to seek His guidance as we trust in Him alone for personal salvation, sharing this love we have experienced with Stanley and the world.

So, the question on the minds of many.....WHAT NEXT? Guess What? It's all about prayer! Top 3!

- 1- Continue your commitment to pray for your leaders that we will be protected from destructive sin, and we will pray for each of you for spiritual growth.
- 2- Pray for spiritual and physical strength, as well as vision for Pastor Steve, Julie and his family as he leads in a dual role.
- 3- Pray for the elders to have God's favor as we now seek God's will as we prioritize the needs of our church family, and determine our next steps as a congregation.

If you have a question or concern, please reach out to an elder. Your elders are thankful for the support, trust and kind words that you have shared with each of us over the last several months. We are humbled to serve you in this office, and be assured that we all recognize that all good that takes place here at FPC comes only from above. We will keep you informed as God makes His plan clear to us all.

In His Service,
Robert Rhyne (Clerk)
On behalf of the Session

WIC NEWS

Only 2 of our circles are meeting in July:

Monday, July 3, 7:00 pm:

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Deanna Beatty.

Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 pm:

Denver Circle meets at the home of Vickie Smith.

The WIC Council
will meet Sunday,
June 25, 4:00 pm.

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> ← Mexico Mission Trip <hr style="width: 100%;"/>
2	3 Newsletter Deadline	4 Independence Day <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 5px;">Church Ofc/CDC closed</div>	5	6 6:00 AHG Planning Mtg. 6:30 CE Committee Mtg. 7:30 Officers' Prayer.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<hr style="width: 100%;"/> ← Sports Camp: 9:00AM - 1:00PM each day <hr style="width: 100%;"/>						
	6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg	7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.	6:30 Children's Min Team Tech Team Mtg.	7:00 Joint Officers' Mtg.		
16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20	21	22
<hr style="width: 100%;"/> American Heritage Girls Summer Camp: 8:00AM - 4:00PM each day <hr style="width: 100%;"/>						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	6:30 SOAR Comm. Mtg			<hr style="width: 100%;"/> ← Paraguay Mission Trip <hr style="width: 100%;"/>		
30	31 Newsletter Deadline					
<hr style="width: 100%;"/> ← Paraguay Mission Trip <hr style="width: 100%;"/>						
4:00 WIC Council Mtg.						

JULY RESPONSIBILITIES



NURSERY

July 2: 10:15 AM - Lauren Henderson, Olivia and Ashleigh Fox

July 9: 10:15 AM - Josh and Stacey Hall

July 16: 10:15 AM - Debbie, Lauren and Emma Harper

July 23: 10:15 AM - Lisa and Allie Grice

July 30: 10:15 AM - Greg and Amanda Huss

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

July 2: Robert Rhyne

July 9: Communion

July 16: Ryan Abernathy

July 23: Chris Baker

July 30: Ken Dake



OUR SUNDAY EVENING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER SESSION BEGINS IN JULY!

Come to Narnia with us and discover
God's presence with His people!

Sunday evenings: July 2, 9, 23, 30 and August 6 & 13
6:00-7:30 PM
Ages 4-11



**YOUTH GROUP
WILL MEET ON
SUNDAY EVENINGS
JULY 2 – AUGUST 13
6:00 – 7:30 PM**

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Annalise Jessen** and **Angel Sotelo** on their recent marriage. The couple was married on Saturday, June 17.

Our prayers are lifted up for **Milton Shelby** as he is currently undergoing radiation treatments for bladder cancer.

PRAYING WITH AND FOR OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Steve and Rita Williams: As many of you are aware, one of our more recent responsibilities is in the visitation and care of missionaries serving in the Asia and Pacific region. Please pray for the many missionaries serving in that area not to become discouraged as they often encounter spiritual darkness and personal attack.

Joel and Sarah McCall: Sarah recently had an emergency appendectomy. Joel is preparing to return to Uganda, DR Congo and Rwanda in July to teach a large group of pastors there the second half of the book of Romans. Please pray for clarify in communication, Spirit-filled understanding for the pastors, multiplication of the message, safety and health.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO THOSE IN OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JULY!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 – James Schweitzer (2007) | 12 – Andres Garza |
| 2 – Nathan Fredere (2001) | 22 – Roger Dye |
| Guercy Meme | Jim Fredere |
| Archie Parrish | 24 – Mary Schweitzer (2003) |
| 8 – Haven Dirks (2011) | 31 – Maxine Williams |
| 11 – David White | |

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	63,544.35
Received in May for budget.....	69,112.83
Needed to date for budget.....	317,721.74
Received to date for budget	315,361.85
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	16,517.75
Received in May for Faith Promise	6,904.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	82,588.75
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	84,762.00

Birthdays to Celebrate in July

2 Tim Cloninger
Micah Deneen

3 Andrew Elliott
Tim Kilby

4 Maddie Black

5 Donna Hill

6 Don Hensley
Kenlee Herd



7 Johnny Robinson
Annette Rodgers
Manetta Treat
Abby White

8 Samantha Hall

10 Brian Lasley

15 Allie Grice
Anna Hamrick
Tanner McMinn

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@fpccstanley.org • web site: www.fpccstanley.org

Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 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 – July 2017

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).

Prayer Thoughts From God’s Word for the Month:

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:14-16

Prayer For Our Pastors

Pray daily 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 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)

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: Global Outreach, Adult Ed/Care Groups
Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell (Mexico Mission Trip June 24-July 1)

Wednesday: Lauren Henderson, Children’s Ministry (VBS—June 19-23)

Thursday: Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Friday: Eric Beam, Music Director

Saturday: Pray that **all** who preach, teach and lead on the Lord’s Day at FPC will bring God’s word in the power of the Spirit to bless his people and glorify Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Mark Beatty:** For FPC to glorify God and seek His will moving forward in the life of the church.
- 2 **Tommy Barton:** Pray for the MTW committee as we prepare for the 2017 Missions Conference.
- 3 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for our country, our leaders, and our military as we celebrate July 4th.
- 4 **Ken Dake:** Pray for the summer youth ministry, and the youth pastor selection process.
- 5 **Andrew Deese:** Pray that I would be more focused during my devotion time.
- 6 **Ed Faggart:** That God would grant traveling mercies as I go on various trips during the year.
- 7 **Chris Graham:** For wisdom and guidance in caring for aging parents.
- 8 **Clyde Haley:** Please pray for me with some health issues currently. Pray that the doctors can diagnose the problems and correct them.
- 9 **Mark Harper:** Pray that God continue to bless the Deacons in our church and keep us productive and active in maintaining all He has given to us.
- 10 **Rick Herd:** That my granddaughters will know the Lord and take Jesus into their hearts
- 11 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that I would strive to keep my heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
- 12 **Pete Johnson:** Pray that all our recent graduates will seek God's direction in their lives.
- 13 **Leon Lineberger:** For physical and spiritual strength in my daily work and work as a Deacon.
- 14 **Jimmie Mitchell:** That I might continue to have my quiet time each day and that God will Give me strength to serve Him all the days of my life.
- 15 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray that the lives of all involved in the summer sports ministry this season will be changed for Christ.
- 16 **Matt Ormsby:** For the Outreach Comm. and our chair, Pastor Steve, with his increased workload.
- 17 **Percy Raleigh:** Pray for the witness of the Paraguay Mission Trip July 27 - August 5.
- 18 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for my stepson Mark and Kaylee who were united in marriage July 8th.
- 19 **Kevin Rhyne:** For Session wisdom and alignment with God's will as plans are developed regarding future church pastoral and ministry leadership.
- 20 **Robert Rhyne:** May the Lord grant opportunity to multiply my faith and life in others. *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."* (2 Tim. 2:2).
- 21 **Grady Rhyne:** For the peace and good will of the congregation as we move forward.
- 22 **George Ross:** Pray that the safety and security of our church continue to grow stronger and more unified, so that all will feel at peace coming to God's house.
- 23 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray that our teachers would experience a closer walk with the Lord as they prepare and teach so faithfully every Sunday.
- 24 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray that I would be a Godly leader for my family.
- 25 **James Teague:** That I can get everything in order that needs done this summer.
- 26 **Tracy Withers:** Please pray for our upcoming Mission's conference and for God to raise up volunteers to make this a God honoring event.
- 27 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray that will God provide guidance in my "work life" as I face new challenges ahead.
- 28 **Chris Baker:** Pray that the search comm.. have open minds and hearts to look for God's direction seeking a new Youth/SOAR director.
- 29 **Mark Beatty:** Please pray that my children and grandchildren will know Christ all their days.
- 30 **Tommy Barton:** Pray for God's work in the Paraguay Mission Trip July 27-August 5.
- 31 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for our Session to make wise and prayerful decisions as we seek to oversee the ministry of our church.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise for the power of prayer--tests show Debbie's sister's tumor has shrunk by 50% after 3 treatments.
Mark Harper
- Praise for the witness of our Summer Mission Teams to Palmer Home, Mexico and Paraguay.