

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

SUMMER HEAT: COOLING OUR HEARTS TO ENDURE THE HEAT

by Pastor Thad

As I look at the thermometer, the mercury tells me that summer has arrived and that means two things for me:

- 1) The hotter it gets the more I sweat, and the more I sweat the thirstier I get (sorry for the rhyme, but I was a literature teacher before becoming a preacher).
- 2) The heat will at some point bring out the best and worst in me and the ones with whom I live and love. We longed for the warmth of summer during winter and couldn't wait for the end to the deluge of spring rain. But now these hot days prove how irascible I can become over the little things and how quickly I can lose my cool when it comes to the big hot messes that summer brings.

Two more things are clear, under the surface of these symptoms, if I put on my spiritually polarized sunglasses of faith (see my sermon from June 2) and see below the surface:

- 1) I thirst because I sweat. That's my body's normal response to cool down my core temperature, so to ignore my thirst would be to ignore a major symptomatic warning of an escalating internal problem. (Anyone who has had heat exhaustion knows that it brings many symptoms, all that point back to the root problem of dehydration needing to be quickly addressed.) So it is with my spiritual condition. My heart feels the pressure, stress, fear, bitterness, envy and desire for control of intense moments. And those situations aren't the problem, since neither is the solution found in changing the scenery or removing myself. Only when I find my need of living water to quench every thirst (Psalm 42) will I find enduring ways to endure the heat my heart so acutely feels.
- 2) The spiritual condition of my heart (also described as my soul and core emotional response factory, main source of desire and delight - Psalm 37:4) is not neutral. There is always a response from the daily situations of life, and my heart is never passively floating through, just feeling what it wants to feel when it happens to feel that way. And the picture of our sinful and uncultivated hearts that God gives us in Jeremiah 17:5-9 is not a pretty one, IF we don't tend to our hearts before life happens and then again during the scorching heat of everyday life.

To evaporate the metaphors and suggest a helpful resource to open our hearts to hear God's Word more clearly on the topic of change at the heart level, let me suggest "How People Change" by Paul Tripp and Tim Lane. (<https://www.paultripp.com/how-people-change>) They explain a thorough reliance on God's grace in Christ, the stream of living water, and a clearer biblical picture of the problem of the hot messes in life that are daily proof of the rotting problem of my sinful heart. This book urges us to weed out the symptoms in order to identify root problems that so easily entangle the process of our sanctification by looking to present and future grace as much as the past grace that once saved. These authors also help us identify the thorns, fake fruit, and quick thirst-quenchers that are evidence of our depraved hearts in order for us to continue to be remade into the image of Christ and renewed by grace. These ideas are so central to the Gospel, not simply changing behaviors or becoming better fakers, but healing the blindness to our own sinful patterns by relying on the Holy Spirit's transformation that Christ freely offers.

On a personal level, this book is the most biblical, beneficial and applicable book I worked through while in seminary and would love to share a copy with a few of you who are eager for heart change, especially as life heats up. I pray that my thirst is quenched by His mercy and all of our hearts are renewed by Christ, his past forgiveness and future grace, during this hot summer season.

Stop by my office or email me at thad@fpcstanley.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



VBS is for all children ages 5 - 11! Invite a friend or two!

Pre-registration is **REQUIRED** if you are going to request to be in a crew with a friend or in a particular crew.

More information is at www.fpcstanley.org/vbs.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT FRIDAY, JUNE 28 EVERYONE IS INVITED!



Join us for a night of fun and fellowship starting at 6:00 pm. We will have hotdogs, corndogs, hamburgers and watermelon slices, water slide, dunking booth and games! We'll also have a big tent for shade! It's all FREE!!

Bring your family! ✦ Bring a friend! ✦ Bring a chair!



We still have volunteer opportunities available!



Sign up on Sunday or contact the church office to volunteer.



SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, JULY 28

We are planning a church-wide picnic. Look for details in the future!



BEST YEARS JUNE OUTING

Make plans to join us for a trip to Asheville on Wednesday, June 19. We will leave the church at 9:30 am. We will visit the Farmers' Market and then enjoy lunch (dutch treat) at Moose's Café.

If you did not sign-up through the One Call Now message, please call the church office right away to reserve your spot on the bus.

*Do this in
remembrance
of me.*
Luke 22:19



We will observe
THE LORD'S SUPPER
SUNDAY, JUNE 9
during the morning worship.

CRISIS
PREGNANCY
ENTER
OF GASTON COUNTY



Baby Bottle Blessings
"Change for Change"

Remember to collect your change and turn in bottles on or before Sunday, June 16!

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

First Presbyterian has been sending short-term teams to the **Palmer Home for Children** in Columbus, Mississippi since 2007 – 15 teams in all. On Sunday, June 9, another FPC team will be going. This will be the last team to serve in Columbus since the Palmer Home campus is being moved to Hernando, Mississippi. Going on the 17-member June team with leaders **Debbie Harper and Luke Bynum** are: **Ivan Balderas, Zack Bedford, Suzy and Emma Deneen, Jake Fox, Lauren, Emma and Clay Harper, Jayda Killian, Pastor Dan King, Emily Revels, Sherry, Jake and Tori Teague and Katie Weaver.**

First Presbyterian also has a long history of sending short-term teams to **Mérida, Mexico** where the first team to go out from FPC went in 1991. On June 15 – 22 we are sending a 14-member team to Chuburná, Mexico (about 30 miles from Mérida) to minister for a week doing construction and teaching VBS. Members of the team led by **Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell** are: **Lennie Burrell, Jonan and Rachel Bynum, Lisa and Allie Grice, Abigail Jessen, Pastor Steve Jessen, Johnny, Leslie and Kaleigh Smith, Annalise Sotelo and Phyllis Withers. Miriam Jessen and Kelsey Smith** who are already in Mérida on a missionary internship will join the FPC team in Chuburná.

Please pray for these two teams!!!

CE NEWS

Remember that we are once again offering **scholarships** to those of our church family who will be going to a **church camp** this summer.

Requests with a copy of the registration form should be turned in to Lauren Henderson or placed in her church mailbox **on or before June 16.**

Amount of the scholarship aid will be determined by the number of applicants.



SOAR NEWS

SOAR is offering 3 mini-camps in July: baseball/softball, basketball and volleyball. These sessions are being offered for only \$25.00 each. Check out the website (fpcstanleysoar.org) for more info and to register before they fill up!

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our church is growing with many newborns being added recently. Congratulations to **Seth and Chelsea Abernathy** on the birth of **Evie Kay** born May 25. Evie's proud grandparents are **Brian and Anne Abernathy**. Congratulations to **Maria Bailey** on the birth of **Xander Ray Langevin** born May 27. The proud grandparents are **Pete and Liz Johnson**. **Dillon and Anna Kathryn Lamb** welcomed their daughter **Audrey Kathryn** on June 1. The proud grandparents are **Doug and Deana Lamb** and **Leon and Kathy Lineberger**. The proud great-grandparents are **Jim and Wanda Ramsey**. We might need to get a bigger nursery!

We celebrated with our 2019 graduates this past Sunday, June 2. Congratulations to all of our graduates: High School - **Zach Bedford, Cody Bingham, Rachel Bynum and Eric Dake**; College - **Dana Baker, Miriam Jessen, Brandon McGraw, Trevor Redding and Angel Ross**; Military - **Kelsie Dixon**.

Becky Hensley underwent eye surgery on May 30. Her recovery has been tough thus far so pray for her to get some much needed healing soon.

If you notice bigger smiles on some faces at FPC, it may be some of our recent retirees. Congratulations to **Nancy Cozart** and **Tracy and Phyllis Withers** on your retirements.

Happy Father's Day!

to all the FPC dads

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Recently, Gaston County had their "Best of Gaston 2019 Awards" to recognize top businesses in the community. We are excited to announce that two businesses in Stanley, with close FPC connections, were voted to be in the top of their categories.

Abernathy Hardware was voted as one of the top 3 hardware stores in all of Gaston County. Congratulations Brian and Anne on this top honor!

The Stanley Total Living Center also received recognition in several areas. They received First Place honors as Best Assisted Living and Best Over-all Company to Work For. Jennifer DeFelice, STLC Administrator, was voted as Best Boss. They also placed in the top three of multiple categories which included Best Clergy, **Ivan Davis**. Way to go, Ivan!

Birthdays to Celebrate in June

17 Miriam Jessen
David Pitts

18 Dalton Lawson

19 Seth Abernathy

21 Ruth Kerley
Karsyn Rutkowski



25 Ethan Dake
Heather Ormsby

28 Brandon Lawson
Lisa Revels

29 Mary Ruth Heffner
Robin Mundy

30 Melissa Clevenger

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Sunday School 9:00 AM • Worship 10:15 AM



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