

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

Recently I saw the headline to an on-line article that caught my eye. It said “*David Platt on the ‘greatest hindrance’ to advancing the Gospel.*” I was curious to see what he thought that obstruction to the Gospel might be. Platt, a pastor and author, is quoted in the article: “I wonder if the greatest hindrance to the advancement of the Gospel in our day may be the attempt of the people to do the work of God apart from the power of the Spirit of God.” (In Christianpost.com on Thursday May 2, 2019)

As a young man I thought I had all the answers, that I had everything figured out, that I had the power to change things. But the older I get, the more I realize how little I know, how limited my abilities are, and the inadequacy of my efforts. But these reality checks are healthy as they drive me to dependence on the Holy Spirit in my life and ministry. But this is a daily struggle. I easily fall into the trap of living and serving and doing in my own strength.

Jesus said to his disciples in Acts 1:8, “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” Notice the order: the power comes from the Holy Spirit and the result is a powerful witness to the ends of the earth. We have a very busy church, and we have a lot of hard working staff and volunteers, but unless we are working in the power of the Holy Spirit we will not bear fruit and see the Kingdom expand locally and globally.

This summer is packed with activities: We have a mission team just returning from Palmer Home (June 9-15), a team currently in Mexico (June 15-22), VBS (June 24-27), Family Fun Night (June 28), Best Years Outings, SOAR Sports Camps (July), Man Day Outreach (July 20), Church Wide Picnic (July 28), Church Camping Trip (August 30-Sept 2), Children, Youth and Young Adult Activities, and of course our Weekly Worship Service and Sunday School.

With all this activity let us pray with diligence that our Kingdom work would not be done apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. I can't wait to see how God will bless the summer of 2019 as we rely on His power to do His will!

Steve

★ **NEXT WEEK IS A BIG WEEK AT FPC!** ★



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
MONDAY, 6/24 - THURSDAY, 6/27
6:30 - 8:30 PM EACH NIGHT
AGES 5 - 11

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, 6/28
6:00 - 8:15 PM
ALL AGES ARE INVITED
TO THIS FREE EVENT



AND
ENCOURAGED TO INVITE A FRIEND OR TWO!

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

We still have volunteer opportunities available!
Sign up on Sunday or contact the church office to volunteer.



CHURCH-WIDE FAMILY PICNIC
JULY 28, 4:00 PM

Everyone is invited to our church-wide family picnic at The Gathering Place in Kings Mountain. We are still working on all the details! Mark your calendars and look for more information in the next newsletter!

July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>7:00 Adult Open Volleyball</p>	2	<p>3 11:00'ish (Exact time TBD) Children to Carolina Cinemas in Charlotte</p> <p>7:00 Worship Planning Team Meeting</p>	<p>4 Independence Day</p> <p style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 2px;">Church Ofc/CDC closed</p>	5	6 2:00 Men's Basketball
<p>7 <i>No evening activities.</i></p>	<p>8 6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg.</p>	<p>9 SOAR Volleyball Mini-Camp 9:00 am—12:00 pm</p> <p>6:30 Tech Team Meeting MTW Committee</p>	<p>10 9:15 Children to Charlotte Aviation Museum</p>	<p>11 6:45 Joint Officers' Mtg.</p>	<p>12 10:30 Best Years to Gaston Museum and lunch @ FPC</p>	<p>13 9:00 am—12:00 pm SOAR Baseball Mini-Camp</p> <p>2:00 Men's Basketball</p>
<p>14 <i>No evening activities.</i></p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>7:00 Facilities Comm Mtg. CDC Committee Mtg. Adult Open Volleyball</p>	<p>16 SOAR Basketball Mini-Camp 8:30 am—12:30 pm</p>	17	<p>18 6:30 AHG Leaders' Mtg.</p>	19	<p>20 Man Day</p> <p>9:00 am—12:00 pm SOAR Baseball Mini-Camp</p> <p>2:00 Men's Basketball</p>
<p>21 4:30 WIC Council Mtg. <i>No evening activities.</i></p>	<p>22 7:00 Adult Open Volleyball</p>	23	<p>24 6:30 Children -Star Gazing</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 10:00 Children-Water Fun on Playground</p>	<p>27 9:00 am—12:00 pm SOAR Baseball Mini-Camp</p> <p>2:00 Men's Basketball</p>
<p>28 4:00 Church-wide Picnic @ The Gathering Place</p>	<p>29 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>7:00 Adult Open Volleyball</p>	30	<p>31 9:00 Children to Schiele Museum</p>			

JULY RESPONSIBILITIES



NURSERY (Volunteers should be in place at 10:00 am.)

- July 7:** **Babies:** Jeremy, Ashley and Madison Abernathy
Toddlers: Jonan and Rachel Bynum
- July 14:** **Babies:** Johnny, Leslie and Kaleigh Smith
Toddlers: Lisa and Emily Revels
- July 21:** **Babies:** Josh, Melissa and Peyton Clevenger; Karen Ensley
Toddlers: Lee and Kristen Henderson
- July 28:** **Babies:** Lisa and Allie Grice
Toddlers: Craig, Susan, Katelyn and Caroline Mesimer

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- July 7:** Chris Baker
July 14: Ryan Abernathy
July 21: Ken Dake
July 28: Ron Ensley

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILIES

Congratulations to **Kevin and Alisa Bentley**. Their son Luke graduated from East Carolina University on May 4 and is joining full-time staff with Cru.

Pray for **Garry and Anita Chambers** as they spend time in Belize this summer preparing for and managing the six summer teams going to serve there. They are excited that their 12 year old grandson, Garrison (son of Timothy and Caryann Barton), will join them for two weeks.

Join **Kenton and Adriana Wood** in giving thanks for the formal organization of their first daughter church, Rey de Reyes Tlaquepaque on the southeastern side of Guadalajara, Mexico. Four elders and three deacons were ordained and installed. The church rents space in a shopping center and averages 130 people per Sunday.

Peter Bakelaar, our MTW missionary in Japan, recently spent time in Cuba participating in a collaborative exhibition with Cuban artists. He said that it was a powerful indicator of the role of art and beauty in building bridges for the Gospel.

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY!

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 – James Schweitzer (2007) | 12 – Andres Garza |
| 02 – Nathan Fredere (2001) | 22 – Roger Dye |
| Guercy Meme | Jim Fredere |
| 04 – Ashlyn F. (2005) | 24 – Mary Schweitzer (2003) |
| 08 – Haven Dirks (2011) | 31 – Maxine Williams |
| 11 – David White | |

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Alice Jessen continues recovering at home after spending more than a week in the hospital. Her recovery is slow, but she is showing improvement each day.

Bill Robinson (Ralphene's Bill) is at Atrium Health Lincolnton due to fluid on his lungs. He is undergoing tests to determine the cause and expects to be home by the time this newsletter is received.

We extend our sympathies to **Janet and Roy Redding** in the death of Janet's brother. **Steve Ferguson** passed away in Gastonia at the age of 77 on Wednesday, June 12.

WITH LOVING THANKS

Words cannot express the love we received from our church family after my surgery. Thanks for all the food, cards, visits and calls that we received from everyone. We felt your prayers. We appreciate each one of you.

*Love,
Janet and Roy Redding*

Thank you so much for sending me a gift card to use at the end of the semester. I appreciate you thinking of me during that stressful time. I was able to use your gift to pay for food, which was very helpful.

*In Christ,
Kelsey Smith*

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	60,059.06
Received in May for budget.....	52,331.74
Needed to date for budget.....	300,295.32
Received to date for budget	292,799.70
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	14,091.25
Received in May for Faith Promise	10,690.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	70,456.25
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	91,335.53

Birthdays to Celebrate in July

2 Micah Deneen

3 Andrew Elliott

4 Madison Black

5 Donna Hill

6 Don Hensley
Kenlee Herd

7 Manetta Treat

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
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e-mail: info@fpcstanley.org ♦ web site: www.fpcstanley.org

Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen ♦ Assistant Pastor, Thad Davis
Sunday School 9:00 AM ♦ Worship 10:15 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – July 2019

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)

A Prayer Prompter for July from: Tim Keller on Psalm 70 (Sel)

“Hasten, O God to save me, come quickly, Lord to help me...May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your saving help always say, ‘The Lord is Great!’ But as for me, I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. O God you are my help and deliverer; Lord do not delay.” (vs 1,4,5)

There is a place in prayer for Godly urgency. Jesus himself approves of “audacity” (Luke 11:8), an almost shameless relentlessness in petitioning God. Yet in the midst of even this kind of prayer, David uses his need to stimulate praise (v.4). Circumstances can drive us to seek God, yet even before they change (v.5) we can say

“The Lord is great!” when we find that God himself and his salvation (v.4) are enough.

Prayer: Lord teach me to pray with discipline and passion and yet also contentment with your love and will. Then through my prayers you will do much good in the world and in my heart. Amen

The Songs of Jesus, p.159, Timothy Keller

Pray for Pastors Steve Jessen, Thad Davis, Dan King, Chaplain Ivan Davis (TLC)

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 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).

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: 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: Eric Beam, Music Director

Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray that our Sports Camp ministry goes well and we reach many children with the message of Jesus' love.
- 2 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for my family and my responsibilities as father and husband.
- 3 **Chris Baker:** Be in prayer for all the people involved in the committees planning the future of our church.
- 4 **Mark Beatty:** Please pray that I will have a speedy recovery from toe surgery and that I would make the correct decisions regarding skin cancer on my nose and eye lid.
- 5 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for me and the Deacons working on ongoing projects at the church.
- 6 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for those who cannot worship with us because of health issues.
- 7 **Ken Dake:** Pray for our summer ministry to the youth of our church.
- 8 **Ron Ensley:** Pray that God would direct and bless the work of the Personnel Committee as we seek to serve FPC.
- 9 **Andrew Deese:** Please pray for a co-worker who has lost multiple loved ones this year.
- 10 **Ed Faggart:** Pray that I would efficiently complete projects around the house now that I am back from the five-week trip out west.
- 11 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray that I will have full use of my hand and resume my regular work.
- 12 **Mike Gamage:** Please pray for the SOAR committee as we seek to do God's will in reaching out to our congregation and community.
- 13 **Chris Graham:** For Christlike wisdom in dealing with family members who need to open their eyes to His amazing love.
- 14 **Mark Harper:** Please pray for safety for all our children this summer as they participate in many different activities.
- 15 **Rick Herd:** Pray for safe travel on our vacation.
- 16 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for Anna Kathryn and me as new parents to fulfill our responsibilities of raising our daughter in the way of the Lord.
- 17 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the Missions Conference Committee in making all the necessary preparations.
- 18 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for my Father to make my thoughts and actions conform to His will and purpose.
- 19 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray for my mom at the TLC as she deals with various health issues.
- 20 **Will Robinson:** Pray for my family and my responsibilities in work and business.
- 21 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for Debbie's upcoming dental surgery, that the implants would be successful.
- 22 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for our Missions Committee in preparing for the upcoming conference in Oct.
- 23 **Ryan Abernathy** I would like us to lift up praise and prayer for all the new additions to our church family.
- 24 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for my work and for those I work with who need the Lord's help.
- 25 **Chris Baker** Pray for all the families going on vacation. Pray for travel mercies and that God will refresh them and bless their time away.
- 26 **Mark Beatty:** Pray that I would grow in my walk with the Lord.
- 27 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for me and the deacons working on ongoing projects at the church.
- 28 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for Lauren and our Sunday School teachers and staff preparing for fall.
- 29 **Ken Dake:** Pray for our children who will soon be starting back to school.
- 30 **Ron Ensley:** Pray that the Stanley Total Living Center be able to hire adequate nurses and staff in a tight labor market.
- 31 **Andrew Deese:** Please pray for me to have patience at work.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise for God's blessing on our summer mission trips in June to Palmer Home in Mississippi and to Merida Mexico. And, thanksgiving to the Lord for all who served, prayed, and supported the projects.
- Praise for babies born, baptized and blessed as children of the covenant.