

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

One of my favorite times of the church year is VBS week. A big thanks to Lauren and her team for all their hard work to bring VBS to life! So many have given their time and talents to serve Jesus at VBS like designing an amazing train set in the sanctuary, teaching lessons, overseeing crafts, serving as crew leaders, preparing food/ snacks, running technology, leading games and serving in numerous other ways. This is the body of Christ in action!

VBS is an important opportunity for our church to focus on the next generation and to share the gospel message with our community. It encourages us older folks to be young at heart and reminds us of the challenge from Jesus to have faith like a child. This year we are on the "Rocky Railway" teaching the kids about the power of Jesus.

I am reminded of a story from when I was a child called "The Little Engine that Could." It was about a train full of toys heading to the boys and girls on the other side of the mountain. But the train engine broke down as it tried to go up the steep incline. A little blue engine came along and they asked her for help, but she said she was much too small to pull the train over the mountain. Nevertheless, she gave it a try and all the way up the mountain the little engine said "I think I can, I think I can," and then as they crested the mountain top the little blue engine said "I thought I could, I thought I could."

In our lives we all face mountains that seem insurmountable. Our natural tendency is to say "I think I can" and to try in our own power to make it over the mountain. But the truth is that in spiritual matters our power is insufficient to save us. This is the point: Jesus is the power in our engine that helps us overcome the insurmountable mountain of sin and death in our path. A more Biblical title to this book would be "The Little Engine that Couldn't." And what the little engine should be saying is "I know I can't, but I know Jesus can." The Bible tells us we can't do it on our own: "*For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*" Romans 5:6 The cross where Jesus died is where we find the power we need to live overcoming lives. "*For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*" I Corinthians 1:18

The Bible Points from VBS capture this truth: "Jesus' power helps us do hard things, gives us hope, helps us be bold, lets us live forever, and helps us be good friends." When our spiritual locomotives are powered by Jesus we can bring good gifts to the children on the other side of the mountain, just like we are doing at VBS!

Dependent on Jesus Power,

Steve



SAVE THE DATE...
FAMILY FUN DAY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



All ages invited! Mark your calendars and look for more details in the next newsletter!

Children's Ministry News



Our Children's Ministry Department will be headed to **TWEETSIE RAILROAD** on **Monday, August 2nd**. This will be an all day adventure (8 AM - 5 PM). More information is coming soon about how to sign up, prices, etc.

Our **summer Bible study** will be a 2-part series called **"The Non-Avengers"**!

This will be for **children ages 4-11** in the Image Bearer room downstairs.

We will meet on
July 7th & July 21st, 6:30-8:00 PM

NO RSVP necessary. Just come!



We still have spots open for children entering 1st-6th grades in our

ULTIMATE SPORTS AND GAMES CAMP
JULY 12 - 15
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

We would love to have your child at camp!!

▲ Register today at: ▲
 ▲ www.fpcstanleysoar.org ▲
 ▲ ▲

FROM YOUR WORSHIP DIRECTOR

I want to take a moment and reflect on Sunday, June 13 when the choir and praise team joined together again to lead in worship. It was such a blessing to hear and see our choir and musicians working together to lift up the name of Christ. It was a very moving and meaningful moment. I am loving that combination in worship and look forward to doing it again when we resume the first Sunday in September.

Here are a few things happening this summer that I would like to invite folks to. This is open to any and all! We welcome and encourage your to come and be a part!

- **MEN'S ENSEMBLE**
Rehearsal Sunday, July 11 at 4pm in the sanctuary. Open to all men and our young men as well! We will practice that afternoon and sing the following **Sunday, July 18**. It will be something easy and fun. So come and join us!
- **WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE**
Rehearsal Sunday, July 25 at 4pm in the sanctuary. Open to all women and our young women as well! We will practice that afternoon and will sing the following **Sunday, August 1**.
- **We are looking for our YOUNG ADULTS.....**
Calling all young adults from nineteen to thirties. We are looking to have some music for you guys as well. If you are interested you can email me at brian@fpcstanley.org or text to (704)915-9758. We want to have a time that we can get you guys together and see what God has in store. So, singer or musician please me know.

Blessings,



CrossFit JUNE/JULY EVENTS!

FPC Youth Ministry

June 30th: Summer Series-Chosen 1:4, 7:00-8:30 PM at Youth Building

July 14th: Summer Series-Chosen 1:5, 7:00-8:30 PM at Youth Building

July 24th: Tubing on the Green River *RSVP by July 14th to Joel or Lauren!*****

Bus departs at 8:00 am with plans to return at 5:30 pm (no promises...ha!)

Bring: \$10, change of clothes, towel, sunscreen, and your lunch in a water proof sack or plastic bag. Wear your bathing suit under your clothes for departure from church.

July 28th: Summer Series-Chosen 1:6, 7:00-8:30 PM at Youth Building

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Women's Circles do not meet in July. Enjoy your summer break.

We will get back together on your appointed day in the month of August:

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

Readers Circle meets in Founders Hall

Monday, August 9:

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Let us know you value our Sunday School ministry by attending! As we look to make plans for the Fall, it is important for us to know who to plan for. If you need to choose a class, you will find our brochure on our church website at www.fpestanley.org/sunday-school

We have classes for ALL ages!!

NEWS FROM OUR FACILITIES AND SAFETY AND SECURITY TEAMS

We have just completed a Surveillance System Upgrade by installing additional cameras on our property. In hopes to deter any wrong doings on our property, we are adding some signage so everyone will know we have video surveillance.



BEST YEARS REMINDER

For those of you who purchased tickets for our trip to Narrowway Productions, be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, July 10. The bus will depart the church at 10:00 am!

MISSIONS NEWS

2021 MISSION TRIPS!

Pack your bags! It's mission trip time again! We have the following trips planned for 2021:

- ⇒ Palmer Home, Hernando, MS - August 8 - 13
- ⇒ MNA Warehouse, Rome, GA - August 25-28
- ⇒ Short Term...Short Notice...Anytime

Sign-up **by July 4** on the Missions bulletin board or on our website at www.fpcstanley.org/missions.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Congratulations to **John and Mary Baber** on the birth of son **Jackie** on March 18! Pray for them as they adjust to being first-time parents and as they continue to minister to students at UNCC.

Keep **Jim and Wanda Ramsey** in your prayers. Ask that doors will soon be opened for Jim to return to serve in **Romania** and in the **prison ministry** here.

Paul and Marty Clark write that **Peru** has experienced another wave of Covid19. Thankfully, they have been able to return to Lima, but Marty had to wear two masks and a facial shield to be allowed to go into a supermarket recently.

Clyde and Jennifer Comer ask for prayer as he coaches and trains new team leaders for 2021-2022 and as Jenn faces some health challenges.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

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



WITH LOVING THANKS

The Children's Ministry Team would like to thank each and every person who contributed in any way (small or large) to help us accomplish our 2021 VBS. We look forward to opening up registration next year to an even wider group of children. It is wonderful to be a part of a church that loves its children so well.

*Lauren Henderson, Lennie Burrell,
Lisa Grice, Julianne Griffin,
Frankie Henderson, Robin Mundy
Debbie and Ronnie Smith*



We are so thankful for such a loving church family! Your words of encouragement, support and prayers mean so much to us during this difficult time. I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart. Psalm 9:1

*Love in Christ,
Dan and Sally Ormsby*



Thank you for each and every way you've shown love for Ed and me during his hospitalization. You have been and always will be a blessing to us! Please keep us in your prayers.

*God bless you,
Ed and Debra Wallace*



A huge thanks to our Women's Ministry for planning the recent Women's Service Day and for those who came out to help some with some of the needs here at the church and at the homes of some of our church family. We are grateful for the way you showed God's love by your acts of kindness!

Your Fellow FPC Family

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. " Galatians 6:10 NIV

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Chrissy Teague** who graduated from East Carolina University in December 2020 with a Public Health Degree. Chrissy plans to remain in Greenville, NC for work.

Libby Chaney is at home recovering from surgery on May 20 to repair a broken hip following a fall. Our prayers are with Libby as she continues to recover and for the loss of her brother who passed away while she was in the hospital,

Christian sympathies are also extended to **Deanna Beatty** and family in the recent loss of her grandmother and to **Chet Greeson** and family for the recent passing of his mother.

Ryan and Elizabeth Abernathy, along with big sister **Avery**, welcomed **John Ryan** to their family on May 27. **Paul and Linda Abernathy** are the proud grandparents.

If you see big smiles on the faces of **Rick and Mary Ruth Heffner** and **Scott and Pam Burgess**, it may be due to the addition of another grandchild to their family. **Liam Dean Heffner** was born on June 16 to Brody and Jessica Heffner (former members at FPC).

Jolee Lawson is doing well following surgery on June 21 to remove her gall bladder.



MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	64,660.25
Received in May for budget.....	69,071.93
Needed to date for budget.....	323,301.25
Received to date for budget	303,603.94
Needed monthly for Faith Promise.....	14,465.42
Received in May for Faith Promise	15,479.52
Needed to date for Faith Promise	72,327.10
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	82,614.04

Birthdays to Celebrate in July

2 Micah Deneen

3 Andrew Elliott

4 Madi Black

5 Donna Hill

6 Don Hensley
Kenlee Herd

7 Manetta Treat

8 Samantha Hall

10 Brian Lasley

15 Allie Grice
Tanner McMinn

18 Hailey Deese

19 Liz Johnstone

20 Susan Herd

21 Josh Hall

22 Ann Smith (Seibert)

23 Sharon Bryant
Carolyn Rhyne



24 Lucy Brooks
Pam Burgess
Clyde Haley
Liz Johnson
Sally Ormsby
Brittany Ross

25 Kirsten Abernathy

26 Luke Bynum

27 Jayda Killian
Sherry Teague
Michael Youngblood

28 Margaret Gladden

29 Sam Ormsby

30 Addison Deese

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

Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen

Worship-Mask Required 8:30 AM ♦ Sunday School 9:30 AM ♦ Worship-Mask Optional 10:30 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – July 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

O God, let the kingdom of your grace prevail more and more in this fallen world. Yet guard us from thinking your kingdom will come in a form that can be detected by the careful scrutiny of men. Let us by faith see your kingdom in our midst by the presence of Christ. Let his kingdom be like yeast, diffusing its life-giving power until the whole world has been permeated by his gracious rule. Enlighten our minds so we can see his kingdom in this world like a grain of mustard seed, which begins as the smallest of all seeds and yet grows until it becomes the greatest among shrubs. (Luke 17:20,21; Matthew 13:31-33)

Let the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. Assume to yourself your own great power and reign throughout the world even though the nations rage against you. Set up your throne where Satan’s seat of power is located. Let every thought be brought into submission to you. May the law of your kingdom be magnified and honored by all people. Let your kingdom that does not come in word only, but in power, be set up throughout the world. Stretch forth your mighty scepter from your throne in heavenly Mount Zion. (Rev. 11:15-18; 2:13; II Cor.10:5; Isa. 42:21; II Cor. 4:20; Psa. 110:2,3)

(From: *A Way to Pray*, Edit/Revised O. Palmer Robertson, *Banner of Truth*, Pub., p. 202,203).

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 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for my brother as he continues his process of starting over, and that part of this restart process includes putting Christ in his life.
- 2 **Ken Dake:** Pray for Ethan's studies now that he has completed his Eagle Project; thanks for the support to all who helped him attain it.
- 3 **Ron Ensley:** Pray that Christian love grow within me and be reflected to all I meet.
- 4 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for our children's ministry summer programs and all those who lead who are loving and blessing our children.
- 5 **Mike Gamage:** Pray for faithfulness in my walk with God.
- 6 **Chris Graham:** Pray for wisdom and hope as we move forward from the passing of my mom and the handling of her estate.
- 7 **Don Hensley:** Pray for our son-in-law, Scott Frye, as he lost his father to Covid the week before Father's Day.
- 8 **Joel Jessen:** pray that I would maintain an eternal perspective on all aspects of life: home, work, community and church.
- 9 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for the children, workers and witness of the summer Child Development Center Preschool Program during June/July.
- 10 **Dan Ormsby:** Please pray for Sally as she has Chemo in preparation for Ovarian cancer surgery.
- 11 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the staff and participants in the SOAR sports camp being held July 12-15.
- 12 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for our country that leaders will seek the Lord's help and direction to lead us wisely for the good of all.
- 13 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for every believer in our church to stand firm on God's scripture-revealed truth, knowing without any doubt that Jesus loves us, as we face hatred from today's godless society.
- 14 **Robert Rhyne:** That I might be bold and kind when sharing truth to those who have never heard.
- 15 **Will Robinson:** Pray for our family with our many work responsibilities, along with building a house.
- 16 **Ron Smith:** Pray for Debbie to adjust quickly to new medications.
- 17 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for me as I make important decisions on upcoming health care options.
- 18 **Ryan Abernathy:** Please continue to pray for God's guidance as Elizabeth, Avery, John, and myself get settled in at home.
- 19 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for the ongoing work of our Deacons in overseeing the many caring, helping and oversight ministries of FPC.
- 20 **Chip Beatty:** Pray that our church musicians, choirs, and worship teams will bring us closer to God in spirit-led worship.
- 21 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for our nation. Just pray for our nation.
- 22 **Ken Dake:** Pray for Eric who moved from a temp to permanent position at Blum late in June.
- 23 **Ron Ensley:** Pray for God to guide the officers in filling staff needs to support our youth ministry.
- 24 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for parents, children, and teachers preparing for school re-openings in August and Sept.
- 25 **Mike Gamage:** Pray that SOAR Sports Camp July 12th - 15th serves as an effective outreach to our community.
- 26 **Chris Graham:** Pray for a renewed desire to spend more time with the Lord and His Word.
- 27 **Don Hensley:** Pray for extra study time in God's word amidst the summer's "busy" things that need doing.
- 28 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that each of my children would know the truth, and that the truth would set them free.
- 29 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for the children, workers and ministry of our Sunday School and for the fall enrollment for CDC.
- 30 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for God's wisdom on the best way to care for my 91year old dad.
- 31 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray that our country will return to God for unity, peace, and order that honors Christ.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise and prayer for the many summer ministries at FPC: VBS, Sports Camp, youth activities, mission trips, men's basketball and more!
- Thanks for the many children that have been participating in the children's time during worship.