

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## “FINAL BLESSINGS” FROM YOUR ASSISTANT PASTOR

If I could say thank you and goodbye in a way that could mean what it should to my church family at FPC, then I would try. My words are clunky and deliver less of the message of gratitude than I feel. But here we are and words must carry the weight of my thanks and goodbyes.

So thank you...

But my goodbye can be adjusted into a ‘until we meet again...’ A few of you have mentioned it but we feel more like missionaries being sent out, so the ‘until later’ carries the eternal hope of a heavenly reunion, where what matters will be our union to Christ and our worship together at his feet, forever. With that eternal perspective, I’d like to leave you all with a final thought, a last good word. 1 Peter 2:9-10, shows our purpose as the people of God: *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

This passage, written by a blue collar fisherman, sent to catch other men, doesn’t rely on a bait and switch, doesn’t dress up his words for some fancy religious occasion, and doesn’t use a message of ‘tell them what they want to hear.’ Peter raises the standard of every believer (belonging to “a royal priesthood”) based on the calling of Christ and the purpose-filled value of declaring His message, proclaiming His excellent gospel.

So my final words come in this context: Be who you are, as God’s people. Be the good-news delivery team, be the mercy-messengers, be the marvelous light switch in broken neighborhoods. And you don’t have to wait until the building re-opens or Sunday School resumes, or even until you call the next pastor. Ministry is now, and you are royal-priests, bringing good news to hurting people. I will be praying for you as I ask that you pray for me and my family, that the parade of God’s provision, even the bitter moments, will be used to refine us so that more of Christ will shine through and the light of the glory of Christ will be put on display... until eternity.

Through His Grace,

*Thed*

**Options**  
for Sunday Worship

**Sunday Worship - 10:15 AM ☩ Pre-service - 10:00 AM**

- ⇒ **Attend in person - Sign up at [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)**
- ⇒ **Tune in online - [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)**
- ⇒ **Listen in by phone - Call 339-207-7653**

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

Recently I was doing a word search puzzle based on a quote by Lyndon Johnson: "If we are to live together in peace, we must come to know each other better." The first step toward racial reconciliation is coming to know others better who are different from us. Recently I preached on the parable of the Good Samaritan who crossed racial and social barriers to enter a relationship of love and peace where there would normally be hate and misunderstanding.

In Acts 10 Peter goes to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile (a non-Jew). Peter is hesitant because it was "unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation" (10:28), but the Holy Spirit clearly directs him to cross the racial divide and engage with someone from a different race, culture, and upbringing. The result: the Holy Spirit is poured out on the Gentiles and they are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (10:45-48). The truth is that not only were Cornelius and his family changed, this encounter opened Peter's biased eyes and his world view was radically altered. Like Peter I have been blessed, challenged and shaped through the years by my relationships with people who come from different backgrounds.

Our own Denomination has come to recognize the importance of relationships across racial and cultural lines. The Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation approved by the 46th General Assembly of the PCA in 2018 states: "Undoubtedly the best way of gaining insight into the experience of minority races in the PCA and in North America is to be in intentional relationship with those from other races, ethnicities, and cultures. This is more than "having a black acquaintance" within one's proximity; this involves entering into a genuine relationship over the long haul where honest reflection and communication might happen. Once our hearts and minds are engaged with the real hurt and pain of others, we are shown the cultural blind spots that cause us to sin against our brothers and sisters." (GA minutes p. 619-620.)

When we go outside our normal circles and come into relationship with others, the Holy Spirit will use that in a mighty way to break down barriers and to do His great work of reconciliation. Let us pray for those types of relationships in our lives and in our church.

In the Deep and Wide Love of Jesus,

*Steve*

## CRISIS PREGNANCY BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN EXTENDED



This year's campaign, like lots of other things in our lives, has been a little different. Hopefully, some of you have been able to make a donation to this great cause. Even though the deadline was last Sunday, we are going to continue collecting donations this week. If you are able and would like to participate, you can drop off your donation or mail it to the church marked "Attn: CPC Baby Bottles." CPC also offers an online giving option at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/baby-bottle-blessings>. If you give online, look for "Team FPC" to show your association to our church. Any gift amount is much appreciated; however, a baby bottle typically contains an average of \$28 if you want to use this to determine your gift.



## **PASTOR THAD'S FAREWELL DROP-IN SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

We invite you to “drop in” to say goodbye to Thad, Laura, Lilli and Koen outside the church Activity Building.

If you are not able to drop-in on the 28<sup>th</sup>, you can send him a note of appreciation:

His address **until July 1**: 213 Harvest Farm Court  
Mt. Holly, NC 28120

His address **after July 2**: 34 Wayside Lane  
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750

We praise God for the time we have shared with the Davis family and for Thad's ministry among us. Continue to keep this very special family in your prayers during their time of transition.



## *Congratulations* **CLASS OF 2020**



The following graduates were not included in our previous newsletter:

College Grads: Madi Black and Justin Vineyard

We also learned that Kaitlyn Mesimer was Valedictorian of East Gaston High School.

Congratulations to all of our FPC graduates!

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS**

Activities are starting back for our children! We are excited about our 2 summer programs!

### **Wednesday Evening Program: Mystery Island**

June 24, July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22

6:30 - 8:00 pm

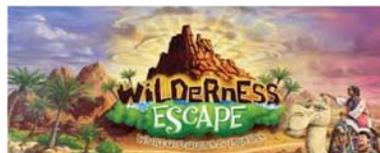
For children entering Kindergarten - 6th Grade



### **“In House” Vacation Bible School**

August 3 - 6

6:30 - 8:00 pm



**\*Pre-registration is REQUIRED for both programs! See the emails from Lauren or the Children's Ministry Facebook page for more details.**



**YOU ARE INVITED  
TO A  
VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER  
FOR  
ADAM AND JENNIFER GREENLY  
(AND BIG BROTHER JACOB)**

The Greenlys are expecting a little girl the first week of August.

Gift Registries are at: Target and Buy Buy Baby  
**Gifts are due in the church office by July 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Jennifer's Circle (Elizabeth Circle) will deliver the gifts and then do a Zoom visit with her to open them on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM.

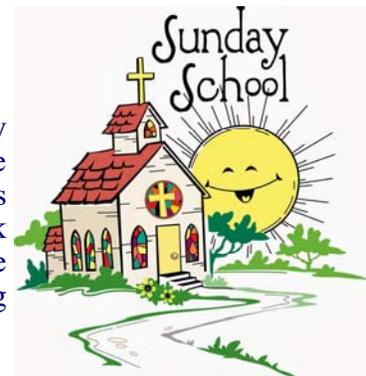
If you have any questions, contact Sherry Teague, Robin Mundy or Lauren Henderson,



**FPC YOUTH  
will meet  
Sunday evenings,  
July 12 and 26,  
6:00 pm  
outside of the  
Activity Building.**

**CE ANNOUNCEMENT:  
SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS!**

Your Christian Education Team met on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss many things, including the possibility of reopening Sunday School. We all unanimously believe at this time that we will not reopen as normal for the summer. We look forward to getting everyone back into Worship with us over the next two and a half months. The Team looks forward to reopening Sunday School with a big celebration on Sunday, September 7. Help us pray toward that date!



Your CE Team:

Lauren Henderson, Ronnie Smith, Ken Dake, Martha Sue Mitchell, Sherry Teague



**FRIDAY, JULY 17 – SATURDAY, JULY 18  
STARTING AT 7:00 PM  
at the home of Debbie Harper**

**ALL high school girls are welcome but RSVP is required.**

Weather permitting, we plan to go swimming at Carrigan Farms on Saturday! Bring a swimsuit and towel!

## WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

We extend our Christian sympathy to **Garry and Anita Chambers** on the death last month of Garry's 98-year-old mother, **Mrs. Doris Chambers**. They are grateful for the time they got to spend with her in recent months as she came to live in their home and receive their bedside care in her final days.

One of our short-term mission trips in 2020 was to have been to Paraguay. The trip had to be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Word comes from our friends in Paraguay that the government in Paraguay has decreed that all schools be closed until December and the borders are closed indefinitely. Please pray for our friends at **El Renuevo and Barrio Parque Churches** where we have been sending teams since 2008.

### HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

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



## TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS



We are continuing with the temporary office hours of Monday - Thursday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Many of these days you will find multiple staff members in the office even beyond these hours. If you are comfortable in getting out, we welcome you to stop by the office! We are not wearing masks but we ARE practicing social distancing and have plenty of hand sanitizer around the church. As always, you can contact one of our pastors or a staff member by phone if you have a need outside of these hours.

## THINGS ARE LOOKING GOOD!!

Even though we've been in a "shut down" things are still happening around FPC! Thanks to all the folks who have been busy working to make our church look better and be more functional. Some of the things that have been done include:



Floors  
Waxed



New Deacon  
Room



Online Streaming  
Room



Old Boiler  
Vents Removed

## WITH LOVING THANKS

*Thanks to Pastor Dan for his phone calls, checking on Norm as well as me. Thanks to Pastor Steve for checking on us and his prayers as well. It is comforting to have so many lifting me up in prayer and sending cards of encouragement. This is such a caring church who truly cares for each and everyone. A special thanks to the "car wash team." I really needed one! God is good all the time, even in the low spots. May God bless each and everyone.*

*Evelyn Accipiter*

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*Many thanks to the group of guys who came out and did yard work and tree trimming at our house...especially the younger men. Also thanks for the thoughts and prayers for Parke during his cancer surgery and most recently during his surgery to repair 2 aneurysms. We really appreciate our church family and Pastor Steve.*

*Parke and Darlene Sweigart*

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*We want to thank the church for the beautiful floral bouquet sent to us during the death of Garry's mother. We also received comforting cards and words from many members. We're so thankful for the hope we have of being re-united with her in heaven some day.*

*Garry and Anita Chambers*

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*Thanks, and again I say thanks. Reading your many cards/notes/greetings was a "four-score-downpour"! Our 15 years here at FPC have brought many rain drops of blessing, but in this event your showers of blessing were a deluge that made me (and Alice) realize how special your love, friendships, and fellowship are to us. Wish I could contact you one-by-one, but know that we enjoyed all the creative ways you overwhelmed us with your well-wishes. God bless you and shower you with his blessings.*

*Chuck (and Alice Jessen)*

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*This has been an unusual year for all of us but especially our graduates. Many special activities they were looking forward to did not happen. One thing that obviously meant a lot to them was the recognition our church was able to shine on them during their special time. Here are a few of the notes we received from them:*

*Thank you for all of the thoughts, prayers, and gifts as I move to Liberty University in the fall. I am very excited for the start of a new chapter and hope that you will continue to pray for me throughout my college years. I love you all!*

*Olivia Fox*

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*Thank you for the thoughtful graduation sign and recognition of us 2020 Seniors. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated.*

*Max Rust*

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*And from mom and dad: Thank you FPC for your support for all our kids!!*

*David and Tommi Rust*

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*Thank you so much for the graduation gifts. I am enjoying reading the devotion book. Thank you also for the Chick-fil-A gift card. That's my favorite place to eat! I appreciate your thoughtfulness during this exciting time in my life.*

*Kaitlyn Mesimer*

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### *In Memoriam*



**Betty Ann Abernathy**  
**January 17, 1930 - June 17, 2020**

Christian sympathies are extended to the family of **Betty Ann Abernathy**. Betty Ann, a long-time member of FPC, passed away at the age of 90 on Wednesday, June 17. Many in our church family are closely related to Betty Ann: Children - **Renee Abernathy** and **Paul Abernathy (Linda)**; Grandchildren - **Jeremy Abernathy (Ashley and Madison)**, **Ryan Abernathy (Elizabeth and Avery)**, **Chris Abernathy (Danielle, Kirsten, Austin and Landon)** and **Heather A. Rumpfelt (Jeromy, Hadley and Evan)**. Also, **Jacob Rhyne (Carolyn)** is Betty Ann's brother.

We also extend Christian sympathies to **Garry and Anita Chambers**. Garry's mother, **Doris Chambers**, passed away on May 24 at the age of 98. Mrs. Chambers was living with Garry and Anita in Florida where Garry is MTW Regional Director for the Caribbean and Indigenous (Native American) ministries.

**Congratulations to Richard and Ann Seibert** who were married on Saturday, June 20. (Ann is the former Ann R. Smith, Phyllis Withers's mother.) They had an intimate wedding in Founders Hall with Pastor Steve presiding and their immediate family observing.

**Jerry Barton** was admitted to the hospital June 3. She was released after a few days of testing and surgery to remove a blockage in her colon. **Terri Fowler** also had a short stay in the hospital starting June 3 after experiencing some health complications. **Parke Sweigart** had surgery on June 10 to repair 2 abdominal aneurysms. Now at home, he is doing very well in his recovery. **Ed Wallace** was admitted to the hospital June 15. He was treated for excessive fluid retention which was causing unstable blood pressure and a low oxygen level. He is at home but needs prayer for continued health concerns. **Sharon Bryant** underwent outpatient cataract surgery on June 16. She is at home and doing well. **Ann Smith** (Becky Hensley's mother) was admitted to the hospital June 17 for a heart irregularity. She also fell, bruising her ribs and breaking a bone in her foot as a result. She is at home and will follow up with her cardiologist to determine how to treat her heart irregularities. **Jenny Greenly** is in the hospital after her water broke at 33 weeks. They are trying to wait as long as possible for her to give birth.

## MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	60,967.16
Received in May for budget.....	76,367.14
Needed to date for budget.....	304,835.80
Received to date for budget .....	302,800.96
Needed monthly for Faith Promise.....	13,750.00
Received in May for Faith Promise .....	14,987.68
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	68,750.00
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	94,582.85

## *Birthdays to Celebrate in July*

2 Micah Deneen	10 Brian Lasley	23 Sharon Bryant Carolyn Rhyne	27 Jayda Killian Sherry Teague Mike Youngblood
3 Andrew Elliott	15 Allie Grice Tanner McMinn	24 Lucille Brooks Pam Burgess Clyde Haley Liz Johnson	28 Margaret Gladden Martha Tadlock
4 Madi Black	18 Hailey Deese	19 Liz Johnstone	29 Sam Ormsby
5 Donna Hill	20 Susan Herd	25 Kirsten Abernathy Suzy Deneen	
6 Don Hensley Kenlee Herd	21 Josh Hall	26 Luke Bynum	
7 Manetta Treat	22 Ann Smith Seibert		
8 Samantha Hall			

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Temporary Office Hours: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Monday - Thursday  
Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen • Assistant Pastor, Thad Davis • Pastoral Care, Dan King  
Sunday Worship 10:15 AM (online and limited in-person)



512 Old Mt. Holly Road  
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – July 2020  
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.”(Ephesians 6:16, 19)

## Prayer Prompt for July – Spiritual Warfare

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

## Pray for Pastors Steve Jessen, Dan King, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sun.:** 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

## Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Chris Graham:** Pray for Thad, Laura, and their entire extended family as they embark on the next chapter of God's plan for them. May strength, peace, and faith envelope them in these coming months.
- 2 **Mark Harper:** Please pray that the economy will pick back up and my company's orders and workload will return to normal.
- 3 **Don Hensley:** Pray for wisdom for church officers and committees planning for reopening the church.
- 4 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for those whose jobs have been lost and face severe economic hardship.
- 5 **Dan Ormsby:** Please pray that we will have the mind of Christ to be a good witness for our Lord in this trying time in our country.
- 6 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for Summer ministries to our children and youth.
- 7 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for TLC staff and patients and protect them from the Corona Virus.
- 8 **Kevin Rhyne:** Given the fear generated by recent social unrest, pray for the Holy Spirit to convict people of their need to trust the God who is in control of everything that concerns them.
- 9 **Will Robinson:** Prayer that our praise team will be reassembled so they can begin to lead worship again.
- 10 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for Debbie and staff as they prepare to open the preschool summer program.
- 11 **Tracy Withers:** Please pray that our son, Maxton, will be able to come back to the United States in July as planned.
- 12 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray for the safety and health of our CDC staff, parents, and children as the Summer Preschool program opens back up in July.
- 13 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for shut-ins, those in nursing homes and their families during this time.
- 14 **Chris Baker:** Pray for our children's ministry in the summer schedule and the preparations for VBS.
- 15 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for our Deacons as we try to provide help for those in need who may come to us.
- 16 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for me that I will learn to adjust to physical limitations as I age.
- 17 **Ken Dake:** Where Eric and I work is very slow due to reduction of orders from Covid shut-downs. Pray that business will speed up to prevent/reduce layoffs.
- 18 **Ron Ensley:** Praise and prayer for the work of the Re-opening Task Force. Their work of love and concern for the FPC congregation to open worship safely shows true Christian service.
- 19 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for our family to return to normal after recent quarantine.
- 20 **Mike Gamage:** Pray we always put our lives in God's hands as we face the many challenges in our lives today.
- 21 **Chris Graham:** For us to remember and be encouraged by God's flawless track record of leading His people through national crises in US history.
- 22 **Mark Harper:** Please pray that the Lord will grant me wisdom and patience in all that I do.
- 23 **Don Hensley:** Continue prayer for my son-in-laws that the Lord open doors of employment for them.
- 24 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for our SS teachers and staff preparing to re-open in September.
- 25 **Dan Ormsby:** Please pray that I will make the right decisions regarding my work.
- 26 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for VBS Aug. 3-6. Pray for the leaders and staff to show God's love and point children to Jesus.
- 27 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for Nathan and all the children and youth during the summer months.
- 28 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for our church to be a beacon of light and a source of hope in this very dark world.
- 29 **Will Robinson:** Pray for us adjusting our time/work schedules since adding Lexi Lynn to our family.
- 30 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for our graduates as they head off to college or work that they would continue to grow in their walk with the lord.
- 31 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for our MTW Committee as we make plans for our 2020 Missions Conference.

### Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise: Despite all of the chaos happening outside, we have had some great family time the past few months.  
Ken Dake
- Thanks be to God for the wonderfully creative live-stream services that have involved so many people, families, testimonies, missionaries, and musicians.