

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

What a powerful and meaningful time of celebration we had this past Sunday, praising God for the way he has used Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell in Great Commission service. I am grateful for all those who planned, prepared and participated to make Jimmie's retirement celebration so special.

When you consider all the impact that this couple has had on us and on the world, you have to wonder what their secret is, what is the one thing above all else that has made their lives count for the Kingdom of God? The answer came in the form of a story that Jimmie shared with our staff last week from a mission trip in 1996.

A team from our church traveled to Winston Salem to conduct an outreach for 100 inner-city children. The program was chaotic, overwhelming and not going very well. One of the young people came up to Jimmie and said "wouldn't it be a good time for us to pray?" Jimmie agreed and found a corner for them to pray and they began to rotate people into the prayer corner every 15 minutes and the "prayer chair" was born!

This has been an integral part of our mission trips ever since. As others are working - mixing cement, digging holes, painting fences, talking with children, performing skits, helping someone with a craft, playing soccer; there is someone seated in the "prayer chair" praying for safety, for blessing, for lost souls, for eternal fruit. James 5:16 (NLT) tells us "*The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*" The success of our mission trips does not come from the talents, and skills of the team members, it comes from the Holy Spirit, whose power is accessed through our prayers. As we pray we acknowledge that it is not about us, it is not about our work or our abilities, it is about God working in and through us to accomplish His eternal purposes.

We all recognize Jimmie and Martha Sue's passion for fulfilling the Great Commission, but it is their passion for prayer that has served as the foundation for their amazing ministry. How many of us have been "influenced" by Martha Sue to sign up to pray for a missionary during our faith promise drive? What primary lesson can we learn from the Mitchells' "success"? It is this: "*Devote yourselves to prayer.*" Colossians 4:2

What place does prayer have at our church? I believe that our church's foundation must be built with prayer blocks. You can be a part of that. Everyone has a chair in their house, so pick a "prayer chair" and pray in it. Follow the example of the Mitchells and pray, for your prayers will help build the foundation wall on which the church will be built-both here and around the world.

Challenged to pray more,

*Steve*

# 2019 SPRING CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON**

There is still time to register!

All you have to do is contact Sandra in the church office by phone (704-263-4275) or email ([info@fpcstanley.org](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org)).

For more details, please visit our website at [fpcstanley.org](http://fpcstanley.org) or call the church office!

Be sure to read the “Parenting by Grace” article on page 4.

## IT’S COLLEGE BOX TIME!

Spring is here, and that means it time for College Boxes. This year for spring, we are going to try something different. In lieu of sending food and supplies, we will be collecting donations for gift cards for our college kids. We have put a lot of thought and discussion into this idea. Instead of packing up boxes, we thought it would be a good idea to let the kids pick items they would like - gas to come home, food, school supplies or books. Times have changed and most of the kids these days do not eat the processed food and some also have allergies.

If you are interested in participating, please give your donation to Julianne Griffin (Vice President of WIC) or Heather Ormsby (Treasurer of WIC). You may also give it to Sandra in the church office.

We will be collecting through Sunday, March 31st and the gift cards will be mailed the 1st week of April.



## SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE



Our security doors are complete! The code system is working great: allowing those who have been approved access to enter freely and requiring other visitors to buzz the intercom and enter that way. For obvious security reasons we want to keep the number of people with codes limited. If you mainly come to the church during the day, the church staff is here to let you in. If you need access after hours on a *regular* basis let us know and we may be able to issue you a personal code. We also have the ability to issue a temporary code for a single event or meeting. Please contact Sandra if you will need access after office hours. Thanks for your cooperation in making our church a safe place for all!



**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
EASTER BASH  
SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>  
2:00 - 4:00 PM**

Interactive devotion, egg hunt, inflatables, fun!

Our Children's Ministry Team needs your help to make this day complete. If you are able, please bring in donations of individually wrapped candy for the Egg Hunt! Candy may be placed in the tub in Lauren's office.

**WIC NEWS**

**THE APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Monday, April 1, 7:00 pm:**

Martha Circle meets at the home of Anne Abernathy.

**Monday, April 8 (see times below):**

**6:30 pm**—Ruth Circle meets in the Parlor.

**7:00 pm**—Elizabeth Circle meets in Room 15 (New Eve Class, downstairs)

Readers Circle meets at the home of Lisa Grice.

**Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 pm:**

Denver Circle meets at the home of Vickie Smith.

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**The next WIC Council Meeting will be this Sunday, March 28 in the Church Parlor.**



You are invited to  
**A BABY SHOWER**  
honoring

**ANNA KATHRYN LAMB (AND DILLON)**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**  
**2:00 - 3:30 PM**  
in Founders Hall

Anna Kathryn is registered at Target and Buy Buy Baby.

The hostesses are Anne Abernathy, Judy Billings, Manetta Treat,  
and Amanda Huss

# PARENTING BY GRACE

by Thad Davis

Living in a family is hard, and I don't just mean sharing space, or getting to grow up with people we know too well and are told we get to 'love even when we don't like them.' Parenting in a family is much more challenging, as some of us have less than stellar examples, or we have those parents whose ideal example haunts our every mistake. But parenting in the family of God can be different. When we get that God is the true and perfect Father of His children, including those in our homes and under our care, our perspective and practice can shift from what Paul Tripp describes as "**Ownership**" to "**Ambassador**" parenting. (*Parenting*, p.14-20) He describes this foundational shift in parenting in the areas of Identity, Work, Success, and Reputation.

Parents who subconsciously see themselves as '**owners**' of their children "tend to get their identity, meaning, purpose, and sense of well-being from their children," rather than **ambassadors** who "approach parenting as representatives... with a deep sense of identity and are motivated by meaning and purpose. They don't need to get that from their children because they have gotten it from the One whom they represent: the Lord Jesus Christ." (p.18)

He goes on to suggest that '**Owner**' parents "think that their job is to turn their children into something" through experiences, opportunities, school choice, sports teams, or even exposure to 'churchy' people who also "tend to think that they have the power and personal resources to mold their children." (p.18)

**Ambassador** parents, on the other hand, "are not motivated by a vision of what they want their children to be, but by the potential of what grace could cause their children to be." (p.19)

Along with what parents define as the "work" they are called to do comes the definition of what "success" in that work should be. Tripp warns us that '**Owner**' parents "tend to be working toward a specific catalog of indicators... like academic performance, athletic achievement, musical ability, and social likability," but instead, '**Ambassador**' parents "have faced the scary truth that... successful parenting is not about achieving goals (that you have no power to produce) but about being a usable and faithful tool in the hands of the One who alone is able to produce good things in your children." (p.19)

In case that doesn't demote our parenting ego, Tripp identifies problems with parents seeking to boost their own reputation. He says, '**Owner**' parents "unwittingly turn their children into their trophies," (p.19) who then feel "both the burden of carrying their parents' reputation and the sting of their disappointment and embarrassment." (p.20) '**Ambassador**' parents, on the other hand, "have come to understand that parenting sinners will expose them to public misunderstanding and embarrassment... and have come to accept the humbling messiness of the job God has called them to do." (p.20) He goes on to say that '**Ambassador**' parents "understand that if their children grow and mature in life and godliness, they become not so much their trophies, but trophies of the Savior that they have sought to serve." (p.20)

With this shift in our gospel-parenting perspective, it can be encouraging that a vast majority of teens still look to parents as their prime influential example, according to the Barna Center (<https://www.barna.com/research/teen-role-models-who-they-are-why-they-matter/>). The best example and influence we can be is through pointing our children to the grace of Christ, to repentance in admitting wrong and the reconciling of healing our broken relationships based on the work of Christ on the cross. And leading a life of humble grace means we are ambassadors of Christ (1 Corinthians 5:17-21) as we aim to live in this culture, clinging to His identity, meaning, and purpose. Acknowledging that we can't do this alone is a great first step. Taking that step is the starting place of our **upcoming conference** on "**Parenting Teens in Culture**" so please join us on **March 30** to grow in our God-given role as '**Ambassador**' **parents of God's grace**.

Check out a flyer, our Facebook page, or email [thad@fpcstanley.org](mailto:thad@fpcstanley.org) for more info on how to register today!

# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>6:30 Martha Circle 7:00 Adult Open Volleyball</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 Men's Breakfast 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>6:30 Abernathy Care Grp</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 MTW Committee Mtg. AHG Unit Meetings</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>2:00 Children's Easter Bash 2:00 Men's Open Basketball</p>
<p>7 12:00 Palmer Home Team Lunch Meeting</p> <p>5:00 Communicants' Class 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg 7:00 Elizabeth, Readers &amp; Ruth Circle Meetings 7:00 Adult Open Volleyball</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 6:30 Abernathy Care Grp Tech Team Mtg.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>2:45 AHG-Downstairs Rms 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 6:45 Joint Officers' Mtg.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>2:00 Men's Open Basketball</p>
<p>14</p> <p>2:00-3:30 Baby Shower for Anna Kathryn Lamb</p> <p>6:00 Children's Ministry; Youth; Care Groups</p>	<p>15 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>7:00 Facilities Comm Mtg Adult Open Volleyball</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 Men's Breakfast 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion</p>	<p>19 <b>Good Friday</b> Church Office and CDC closed</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 Best Years to Narroway 2:00 Men's Open Basketball</p>
<p>21  <b>Easter Sunday</b></p> <p>9:15 Church Fellowship</p> <p><i>No evening activities.</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Church Office and CDC closed</p> <p>7:00 Adult Open Volleyball</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Abernathy Care Grp</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>2:00 Men's Open Basketball</p>
<p>28</p> <p>4:00 WIC Council Mtg 6:00 Children's Ministry; Youth; Care Groups</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 Safety/Security Mtg. 7:00 Adult Open Volleyball</p>	<p>30</p> <p>← Wilmington Mission Trip →</p>				

## APRIL RESPONSIBILITIES



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

- April 7:**     **Babies:**     Debbie, Emma and Lauren Harper; Ashley Abernathy  
                  **Toddlers:**   Lisa and Allie Grice
- April 14:**   **Babies:**     Jonan and Rachel Bynum  
                  **Toddlers:**   David and Donna Hill
- April 21:**   **Babies:**     Caitlin Bumgardner; Frankie Henderson; Ashleigh Fox  
                  **Toddlers:**   Lauren Henderson; Olivia Fox
- April 28:**   **Babies:**     Johnny, Leslie and Kaleigh Smith  
                  **Toddlers:**   Greg, Amanda , Maelin and Emery Huss

*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

- April 7:**     Mike Gamage  
**April 14:**   Lauren Henderson  
**April 21:**   **Easter**  
**April 28:**   Chris Graham

## MISSIONS NEWS

Our 2019 short-term teams are gearing up for their summer mission trips to Palmer Home and Mexico. More plans are in the works for sending teams to Wilmington and to the Dominican Republic. See Tracy Withers for more news.

### Happy APRIL Birthday to Our Missionaries

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 02 – Katy Janicek       | 14 – Bill Troutman      |
| 03 – Ana Santana        | 21 – Jane McLaughen     |
| 04 – Carrie Dirks       | 22 – Garry Chambers     |
| Anna F. (2007)          | 24 – Robin White        |
| Michaela Wadhams (2007) | 26 – Suzanne S.         |
| 05 – Melissa Hunt       | 27 – Jonathan J. (2013) |
| 06 – Michael Cochran    | 29 – Fox Cochran (2009) |
| 09 – Karen Weaver       |                         |

**\*\*New dates for the Wilmington Mission Trip are April 29 - May 3.\*\***  
Contact Jimmie Mitchell or Pastor Steve for information.

## GIDEON LOVE OFFERING REPORT

Thank you to all who gave to the love offering for the Gideons last month. A total of \$1,325.00 was given!

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We want to extend a special birthday wish to **Helen Lieurance**. Helen turns 99 years *young* on March 29. She is our oldest living member.

On March 12, **Charles and Lorie Hamrick** celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. We congratulate them on reaching this milestone!

Congratulations to **Scott and Jenna Stuckey** on the birth of their 2nd child. **Elliot Scott Stuckey** was born on March 11. His proud big sister is **Amelia**.

**Tracy Withers** underwent eye surgery on Tuesday of this week. We are happy to report everything went well.

## GRACIAS.....MUCHAS GRACIAS

*Thank you for celebrating with us on Sunday!! We are grateful to each one (there are too many to name) who had a part in planning and coordinating that wonderful day. From start to finish, it couldn't have been better. We are humbled and overwhelmed by your outpouring of love. There are not words to express how much it meant to us. We praise God for this testimony to His faithfulness in calling us to work together with you in spreading the gospel around the world.*

*Now we look forward to the next chapter in our lives...certainly going on more mission trips as God gives us strength. And, more importantly, thanks to the generous contributions from so many of you and the Session, seeing what God has in store in planting a Hispanic church.*

*Gracias for being part of the missions outreach. We love you and look forward to what God is going to continue to do through each of us in the future. There is no better way to express our deepest thanks than by saying – To **God** be the glory.*

*Jimmie and Martha Sue*

## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	60,059.06
Received in February for budget .....	51,374.05
Needed to date for budget.....	120,118.13
Received to date for budget .....	111,774.70
Needed monthly for Faith Promise.....	14,091.25
Received in February for Faith Promise .....	12,373.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	28,182.50
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	22,808.00

# *Birthdays to Celebrate in April*

1 Keith Black  
April Marsh  
Holden Marsh

2 Terri Fowler

3 Sallie McAllister

4 Tony Beam  
Brad Heath  
Chris McAllister

5 Cathy Rhyne



7 Chip Beatty

8 Tommy Deese

10 Bentley Beatty  
Doug Lamb

11 Casey Ham

12 Rachel Baker  
Mary Rankin

15 Alyssa Lowery

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512 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164 ♦ Phone 704-263-4275 ♦ Fax 704-263-0498  
e-mail: [info@fpcstanley.org](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org) ♦ web site: [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

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



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