

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

March 17, 2019 will be a special day for our church. We will celebrate the long and faithful service of Jimmie Mitchell. He has been volunteering full time as our Missions Coordinator since May of 1995! Jimmie has been instrumental in sending 158 mission teams around the world, and has personally participated with and helped to lead 80 of those teams. Approximately 575 individuals have gone on one or more of these short-term trips! When you consider the multiplication effect of those 575 people on the people that they reached, you will realize that the influence of one humble life, lived for Jesus, is beyond measure. Jimmie also served our local church in a myriad of ways, from leading our church faithfully as an elder, to picking up pizzas donated to our mercy ministry, and everything in-between.

But perhaps the greatest gift we have received from Jimmie is his single mindedness. His laser focus on fulfilling the Great Commission and reaching this world with the Gospel has been unrelenting. His boundless energy, channeled in one direction, has propelled this church to be a "missions minded" church. His efforts, anointed by the Holy Spirit, have pointed the focus of this church outward, and God has wonderfully blessed us as a result.

But I have a big concern... I am not concerned about Jimmie, we all know that he will never really retire! God has more in store for him, and another chapter of his story is yet to be written. No, my concern is this: who will replace Jimmie? Of course we all will agree that he is irreplaceable, a one of a kind person, there will never be another James Erskine Mitchell. But who will step up to carry on the work that he has started, who will grab the baton and keep running the race?

In 2 Kings 2 we read the story of how the prophet Elijah is taken to heaven in a chariot of fire and all that is left behind is his cloak. His successor Elisha picks up the cloak and this is the result: "Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, 'The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.'" Who will have the singlemindedness that Jimmie has brought to us all these years? The reality is that it will take all of us to pick up the cloak that Jimmie has worn so well. And wearing that cloak means that we must be all-in, 100% committed, willing to sacrifice everything so that the Gospel is proclaimed to the "ends of the earth," just like Jimmie."

And so I close with these words from a poem written by the missionary C.T. Studd. The words summarize Jimmie's life, and I pray they will motivate us to "pick up the cloak."

*Oh let my love with fervor burn, And from the world now let me turn;  
Living for Thee, and Thee alone, Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.*

Eternally grateful to God for my amigo Jimmie,



\*\*\*\*\*  
**SPRING CONFERENCE**  
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**ARE YOU  
(OR WILL YOU BE)  
PARENTING  
A TEENAGER?**

**PARENTING**  
Technologically-Obsessed  
**TEENS**  
ANXIETY-RIDDEN  
**IN**  
PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN  
**CULTURE**

**REGISTER  
NOW!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 9AM-12NOON**

**SPEAKER: DAWN POULTERER WOODS**  
[www.dawnpoulterer-woods.com](http://www.dawnpoulterer-woods.com)

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 - INDIVIDUAL • \$15 - COUPLE • STUDENTS ARE FREE!**  
\*Early registration is encouraged, but not required.\*

- Includes choice of one book with early registration.
- Scholarships available upon request.
- To register, contact Sandra in the church office at [info@fpstanley.org](mailto:info@fpstanley.org) or 704-263-4275.
- Questions??? Please email Pastor Thad at [thad@fpstanley.org](mailto:thad@fpstanley.org).

With years of experience to draw from, Dawn will help parents navigate the current cultural issues of today to equip our teens to flourish in God’s calling for their lives. With the backdrop of modern culture, parenting today is flooded with unprecedented technological advances, instant access to unlimited information, and a marketplace of competing ideas and priorities, all competing for our teens’ hearts. Our time together will include practical tips and resources, personal reflection and application, as well as a Q&A session.



**Daylight Savings Time  
Begins This Sunday, March 10!**

Be sure to turn your clocks ahead  
1 hour before you go to bed.

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Also, use this as a reminder to change the batteries  
in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



**BEST YEARS LUNCH  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 11:30 AM**

We will be celebrating the Scottish Heritage of the Presbyterian denomination with special entertainment by a Bagpiper.

The lunch menu will include: lemon pepper chicken, baked potato, green beans, salad, roll and dessert!

We hope to see you there!!



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

Interactive devotion, egg hunt,  
inflatables, fun!



**CANDY NEEDED**

Our Children's Ministry Team needs donations of individually wrapped candy for our Easter Egg Hunt! Candy may be placed in the tub in Lauren's office.

## COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Make plans to attend the Community Lenten Services every Wednesday during Lent. The services begin at 12:00 noon with a light lunch to follow.

### Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Springfield Memorial Baptist Church  
2920 Dallas - Stanley Highway, Stanley

### Wednesday, March 20, 2019

First Baptist Church (FAMILY LIFE CENTER)  
409 Old Mt. Holly Road, Stanley

### Wednesday, March 27, 2019

New Life Baptist Church  
527 North Buckoak Street, Stanley

### Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church  
2717 Dallas - Stanley Highway, Stanley

### Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Hickory Grove Baptist Church  
3717 Hickory Grove Road, Gastonia



## CHAIRS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in the blue “throne” chairs that were previously on the Sanctuary platform, please contact the church office. They will be available to the first person to claim them or until March 22, whichever comes first!

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathies are extended to **Chip and Shara Beatty** in the death of Shara's grandmother. Ione Wenrich passed away on February 24, one day shy of her 91st birthday, in Pennsylvania. We offer our condolences to **Billy and Heather Roberts** in the death of Billy's sister. **Rebecca "Becky" Roberts**, age 34, passed away on February 25 in Florida. Sympathies are also extended to **Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell** and family in the death of **Arminta Sturgess Mitchell**, the widow of Jimmie's brother, John Moffatt Mitchell. This beloved sister-in-law, 95, was buried in South Carolina on February 28.

**Ailene Friday** underwent outpatient surgery February 27 for repair of a fractured vertebra. Our prayers are that this will go a long way to relieve the intense pain this dear lady has endured.

Congratulations to **Charlie and Rebecca Foster** on the birth of **Charlie "Wyatt" Foster** born on February 26. **Claira Childers** is the proud big sister. Baby Wyatt is also welcomed by his great-grandfather **Grady Rhyme** and cousin **Nathan Chitwood**.

On March 12, 1994 **Joel and Kim Jessen** were married. Congratulations to them for reaching this 25 year milestone!

## WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Pray for **Cody and Katy Janicek** as they minister to students on the college campus in **Prague, Czech Republic**. They have a student community group that meets every Wednesday night for a dinner followed by a Bible study. On a personal note, they are officially on the "approved" list to adopt a baby in Prague. They ask that we pray that their baby, wherever he or she is, is safe and being well taken care of and for patient hearts as they wait to welcome another child into their family.

Pray for **Becky White** and her ministry among the students at Christ's College in **Taiepei, Taiwan** where she has been teaching for 27 years. On a personal note, she writes: Between end of the semester exhaustion, my flu, Mom and Dad's flu, and Parkinson's, I ended last semester with very low energy. I am thankful for some rest during the Chinese New Year's break. We have also found a woman in our church to help out part-time with housework. In addition, I am experimenting with a nutrition program called Wahl's Protocol (lots of healthy food, no gluten, no dairy = quite a challenge!) We continue to cherish your prayers for health, energy, wisdom, and good care giving as the semester begins.

# Birthdays to Celebrate in March

17 Jimmie Mitchell

18 Anne Abernathy  
Greg Huss

19 Stacey Hall

21 Stacy Helms  
Carl Klutz  
Connor McMinn

22 Rachel Gamage

23 Julie Marsh  
Ed Wallace



24 Cindy Davis  
Casey Paramore

26 Whitney Black  
Jamie Williams

29 Linda Faggart  
Helen Lieurance

30 Amanda Marsh  
Chrissy Teague

31 Havanah Roberts

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church  
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Pastor Steve Jessen • Assistant Pastor Thad Davis  
Sunday School 9:00 AM • Worship 10:15 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED