

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, do you remember what significant event happened 400 years ago? On November 21, 1620 the Mayflower landed on the tip of Cape Cod carrying Pilgrims filled with hope of a new start in a new land. The Mayflower Compact signed by the travelers outlined their hopes: *“Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another; covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid;”* The Pilgrims hoped for a new life of religious freedom, expansion of Christianity and economic opportunity.

As we think about 400 years in the history of our country, that is a long time. 400 years is also a significant number in the Bible. It represents the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament. During that time, like the pilgrims, the nation of Israel suffered oppression and longed for freedom to worship. In the last book of the OT Malachi writes a word of hope for future generations: *“See I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire will come,”* says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 3:1)

For 400 years after Malachi there is no written record of God speaking to His people. But that silence is broken when the angel Gabriel brings a message of good news to a priest named Zechariah. His son John would prepare the way for the One who would fulfill the hope of Malachi. Zechariah sings a song of praise to God *“And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God,”* (Luke 1:76-78) The long awaited hope of Israel had finally arrived!

This Thanksgiving as we look back 400 years to the arrival of the Pilgrims on our shores, let us be inspired by their hope in God. And let us be encouraged by the fact that 400 years after Malachi wrote the final words of the OT... hope was born. This Christmas we will celebrate the fact that no matter what hardships we face in this world, no matter how long the wait, HOPE IS BORN and His name is Jesus!

Thankful and Hopeful,

Steve

OpTions
for Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship - 10:15 AM ✝ Pre-service - 10:00 AM

⇒ *Attend in person*

⇒ *Tune in online - www.fpcstanley.org*

⇒ *Listen in by phone - Call 339-207-7653*



ANGEL TREE

Angel Tree gifts are due no later than this Sunday, November 22.

Remember to place your **unwrapped** gifts in a large bag and **attach the angel** you received to the bag. If you have any large items that cannot be bagged, attach a copy of the angel tag to each item. Place the large item along with the bagged gifts in the library (across from the nursery).



YOUTH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29

We are excited to have our youth lead the worship service on November 29. We hope you can join us in person or online!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX PROJECT

Filled shoe boxes are due no later than Sunday, November 29.

Your filled shoe boxes and/or monetary donations can be placed in the designated boxes at the back of the Sanctuary extension.

FAITH PROMISE AND PRAYER COMMITMENT UPDATE

We are nearing the time to close out our sign-ups for Faith Promise, Prayer and Outreach for 2021. If you have not yet signed-up, please do so now. In the next several days, we need to determine the level of support for our missionaries for next year, so we need to finalize our commitments very soon.

Prayer/Outreach Goal: 300 You decide who you are praying for and how often.

Status as of 11/14: 137 (About 46% so far)

Faith Promise Goals: \$170,000 Continue Current Level of Support for our Missionaries
\$175,000 Increase Support for our Current Missionaries
\$180,000 Consider Adding a New Missionary

Promises as of 11/14: \$142,090 (About 84% so far)

Signing up is EASY! Remember children can sign-up too!

- Online: Prayer and Outreach (one person per form please!) and Faith Promise.
- Call: 704-263-4275
- Email: Prayer and Outreach: fpcglobal@fpcstanley.org
Faith Promise: giving@fpcstanley.org
- In Person: Drop your form(s) in the designated box(es) at church just outside the offices



Thank you for your support of our missionaries and agencies. If you have any questions or need any additional information about anything related to missions, please send email to fpcglobal@fpcstanley.org.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

**Image Bearers
Christmas Party
Sunday, December 6th
6:00 - 7:30 pm**

All children ages 4-11 years old are welcome
(even if they don't normally attend IB).

CE NEWS

Image Bearers, Youth and Life Groups wrap up for the year the week of December 6.

These groups will begin meeting in the new year starting the week of January 10.

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, November 22: MNA Mercy Ministries Thanksgiving Offering
This offering is a tool that Mission to North America can use to support new church planting efforts in multi-ethnic or economically challenged neighborhoods. Through grants, MNA can encourage the training of interns for ministry in those neighborhoods or provide grants for church planters to have benevolence funds at their disposal.

Sunday, December 20: PCA Ministerial Relief Offering
This offering is used to look after widows, retired ministers, and PCA church servants in distress. The funds provide financial assistance and support to our faithful servants, many of who live near or below the poverty line. Your gifts help pay for basic needs like groceries, housing, and medical expenses.

Here is a widow's testimony from Crystal Korzep, wife of Dan Korzep, former pastor of Harvest PCA in Lincoln:

When Dan Korzep died suddenly from a heart attack last year at the age of 69, Crystal was left with no savings or retirement. Her health issues prevented her from working. When she was unable to get disability or Medicare benefits she applied for financial assistance through the PCA Retirement and Benefits Inc. and the Ministerial Relief Fund. She started receiving financial assistance within a month! Crystal stated, *"It is truly the Lord caring for me through this ministry, or I would have nothing. I've been able to pay my rent, my bills, and get food. I've been able to go to sleep at night knowing I was taken care of, even though I don't have my best friend and my pastor beside me."*

To make a donation to either of these offerings: look for the bulletin insert on the designated Sunday, stop by the church office, or give online (Thanksgiving: www.pcamna.org) (Christmas: www.pcarbi.org/lookafter).



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS AND STANLEY CEMETERY ANCESTRY FUND COMMUNITY PROJECT

There is still time to support our American Heritage Girls troop in their partnership with the Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund for Wreaths Across America. The troop is collecting sponsors for wreaths to be placed on veterans' graves on Saturday, December 19, at the annual Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony. The troop's goal is to have 150 wreaths. Individuals can honor or remember our veterans with only a \$15.00 donation.

Please go to this website to donate:

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0400P>

or

pick up a donation form from the church office.

The deadline for 2020 sponsorships is November 25.

GREAT COMMISSION HOUSE UPDATE

Progress continues with the remodeling of our Great Commission House but there is still work to be done. If you would like to volunteer, we would love to have your help. We have work for all skill levels. Please contact Rick Herd or the church office for more information.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Congratulations to Pedro and Jaris Pollorena on the birth of Hanna Sofia on October 22. She joins sister Zoe and brother Joshua. The happy grandparents are Ricardo and Ana Santana.

Michael and Tricia Lee were scheduled to return to their ministry with MTW in Panama on November 13. Pray for them as they settle back in after an extended stay in the USA due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Happy Birthday in December

05 - Elijah K. (2007)

08 - A. J. Babel

10 - Beth K.

11 - Kimberly Wadhams (2004)

12 - Marty Clark

13 - Victoria Weaver (1998)

14 - Ruth Schweitzer (2013)

18 - Daniel J. (2009)

19 - Ellie Casson (2008)

21 - Liviu Lepadatu

28 - Emma Wadhams (2001)

30 - Rita Williams

DEACON AND ELDER CANDIDATES

The following men have been examined by the Session and approved as candidates. **The congregation will vote on December 13.** Please be in prayer in this matter until then. The brief biographies below include (italicized) each man's Christian testimony and sense of call to office.

DEACON

Lynn Burrell was born in Rochester, NY and has lived in North Carolina for 36 years. He and wife Lennie have been married for 52 years. Lynn and Lennie have 2 grown children: Kevin and Jeremy. After a career in engineering, Lynn now enjoys a life of retirement. He has been a member of FPC for 8 years.

- *I was raised Catholic and attended Catholic school for 8 years. Christ was not a personal issue in the teaching of the religion. After watching my wife grow in her faith, I realized I had been missing the point.*
- *I feel that now I am retired, I have the time to use the gifts God has given me.*

Mason Friesenhahn was born in New Braunfels, Texas and has lived in Gaston County for 32 years. He has been married to wife Anna for 13 years. They have one son, Aiden. Mason is a firefighter with the Gastonia Fire Department. Mason has been a member of FPC for 20 years.

- *I grew up in the church and accepted Christ as my Savior at the age of 14.*
- *I love working and serving God and the church. I want to be more involved.*

Mike Gamage was born in Watertown, NY but has lived in Gaston County since 1977. He has been married to wife Vicky for 37 years. They have 2 grown children: Rachel and Clint. Mike holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. He is a Sales Manager/Stockholder at American Stainless Tubing, Inc. Mike has been a member at FPC for 25 years.

- *I grew up in a Christian home but fell away from church participation after college. Our children's attendance at FPC daycare led our family to join the church. My personal relationship with Jesus strengthened and I made my profession of faith in 1995.*
- *I have grown and matured spiritually as a member of FPC, especially as a SOAR participant. I hope to continue this growth in the many opportunities for service as a deacon.*

Will Robinson was born and raised in Lincoln County. He and his wife Sarah have been married for 5 years. They have two children, Liam and Lexi. Will is a Service Tech at Hotsy. He has been a life-long member at FPC!

- *I have been in church since I was born. I came to Christ in the 6th grade while on a retreat. I am still growing in Christ every day.*
- *I believe that I can help further the ministry of our church.*

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ELDER

Born in Charlotte, **Ron Ensley** has lived in the Mt. Holly/Stanley area his entire life. He has been married to wife Karen for 47 years. They have 2 grown children: Alex and Melissa. Ron has been a member at FPC for 28 years and is now retired from American and Efird.

- *In 1975 at Castanea Presbyterian Church under the preaching of Rev. Linus Whitlock I was convicted of my sin and my need for Jesus Christ as my Savior. The last 45 years have been a process of growth in my Christian life.*
- *I have previously served as an elder at FPC. I have been convicted to once again serve out of a grateful heart for the blessing God has given me.*

Chris Graham was born in Lynchburg, VA but has been in this area for 53 years. He has been married to wife Jodie for 34 years. They have one daughter, Kate, 30. Chris graduated from Washington and Lee University. He is currently working with The Cason Group as an insurance broker. Chris has been a member at FPC for 32 years.

- *I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home. I was officially saved at age 12 at a Baptist church in Charlotte. My faith grew dramatically in college and the years immediately afterward. As a member of FPC for half my life, I have grown SO much in my faith and will be eternally thankful for this church.*
- *I was a deacon a while back, but the Lord touched my heart (or gently slapped me) a few years ago to serve as Elder. I may have met the qualifications for a few years, but only then did it become clear to me that I would love to serve my church family in this role.*

Joel Jessen was born in Phillipsburg, NJ, but has lived in Gaston County since 1993. He and wife Kim have been married for 26 years. They have 4 children: Annalise, Isaac, Abigail, and Madeline. Joel graduated from Grove City College with a BA in Religion. He currently works at Wells Fargo as an Annuity Product Manager. Joel has been a member of FPC for about 18 years.

- *I was raised in a Christian home and came to know Christ at an early age. After working at a summer camp in high school, I recommitted my life to Him. Throughout my life, I have been learning how deep my sin is and how dependent I am upon the grace of God.*
- *God has given me a desire to teach others His Word and build up the church. I hope to serve the family of God and encourage others.*

Robert Rhyne was born in Ft. Worth, Texas, but moved to North Carolina at three months of age. A graduate of NC State University, Robert works in sales with Land O' Lakes, Inc. He and wife Marcia have been married 40 years. Their daughters are Amber, 37, and Kasey, 35. Robert has been a member of FPC for 60+ years.

- *I grew up in this church (FPC), surrounded by Christian parents, family, friends and so many Godly teachers and mentors that impacted my life, many of whom are now in heaven. I accepted Christ and joined the church when I was about 10 years old. A foundation was laid, and through the college years of freedom, only by God's grace did He allow me to continue to build on that foundation.*
- *Personal desire to serve Christ's church and His flock. I have been afforded talents of teaching, hospitality, and faith. Others have shared with me they recognize this in me and have asked me to serve. I do so in obedience to Christ's call.*

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



Barbara Rhyne

October 30, 1937 - October 27, 2020

Christian sympathies are extended to the family of **Mrs. Barbara Rhyne**. Barbara passed away at the Stanley TLC on October 30. She faithfully served this church in so many ways over the years and was instrumental in the formation of the STLC. Barbara's son **Robert (Marcia) Rhyne** has been a member at FPC since he was an infant and has followed his parents' roles serving FPC in many capacities over the years.

We extend our sympathy to **Charles and Lori Hamrick, Jared and Mason** in the death of Charles' grandmother. **Mildred Moore**, age 86, passed away in Gastonia on October 21.

Condolences also to **Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell and family**. Jimmie's sister **Annie Nunnery** of Edgemoor, SC died Sunday, October 25. She was 99 years old. Her passing means two of the original 10 siblings of Jimmie's generation still survive.

We also extend our sympathies to **Ron and Karen Ensley and family** in the death of Karen's dad. **John McCarn** passed away at the Stanley TLC on October 29. Mr. McCarn was grandfather to **Melissa (Josh) Clevenger** and great-grandfather to their children, **Peyton and Kaylyn**.

Phyllis Ribbeck continues to recover at home following knee surgery on October 27. **Ellen Beam** is also doing well as she recovers at home from surgery to repair a hiatal hernia on November 3.

After spending a couple of nights in the hospital at the end of October, we are glad to report that **Martha Murphy** is doing well. She was suffering effects of a stroke.

Monica Fahy (Diane Yodice's mom) is recovering at home after spending time in the hospital earlier this month to have a stent put in her kidney.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	60,967.16
Received in October for budget	42,200.66
Needed to date for budget	609,671.60
Received to date for budget	593,855.82
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	13,750.00
Received in October for Faith Promise	8,254.36
Needed to date for Faith Promise	137,500.00
Received to date for Faith Promise	149,507.58

Birthdays to Celebrate in December

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Betsey Theodossiou | 11 London Brooks
Ed Faggart
Debbie Smith | 18 Lucas Drenth
Craig Mesimer
Jerry Ratchford | 26 Ellen Beam
Joseph Treat |
| 3 Peyton Clevenger
Ginny Haley
Charles Hamrick | 12 Janet Ratchford
Sarah Robinson
Wren Theodossiou | 19 Mona Kelly | 28 Julia Treat |
| 4 Lynn Burrell
Judy Lucas | 14 Sharon Morton
Tori Teague | 20 Lori Hamrick | 29 Rhys McAllister
Phyllis Withers |
| 5 Chris Abernathy
Annalise Sotelo | 15 Kevin Rhyne | 22 Janice Barton | 30 David Rust
Rex Tucker |
| 7 Libby Chaney
Harrison Revels | 16 David Griffin | 23 Hayley Rutkowski
Roxi Rutledge | |
| 8 Daniel Deese
Billy Roberts | 17 Bebe McMinn | 25 Evan Rumfelt | |



The Church Family is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Road, Stanley, NC 28164 ♦ Phone 704-263-4275 ♦ Fax 704-263-0498
E-mail: info@fpstanley.org ♦ Website: www.fpstanley.org
Temporary Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Monday - Thursday and 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Friday

Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen ♦ Pastoral Care, Dan King
Sunday Worship 10:15 AM (in-person, online and phone)



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