

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

My earliest memory of politics was turning on the TV to watch cartoons only to discover with great disappointment that the Watergate hearings had preempted Bugs Bunny! Politics have always been contentious, and this election season is no exception. I heard recently of a pastor who talked about the party system. He noted that we have the party of the donkey, the party of the elephant and then there is the party of the Lamb. John the Baptist identified the leader of this party as Jesus when he said "*Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*" (John 1:29) Jesus did not lead a political party, but He did bring about a spiritual revolution that frees His people from sin and death.

As Christians we are called to participate in the political process. Romans 13:7 says "*Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*" This sounds a lot like what Jesus said "*to render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.*" (Mark 12:17) What do we owe to our politicians? They deserve our respect, our support through paying of taxes, our compliance as far as our conscience will allow and an acknowledgment that they are there as "servants of God." (see Romans 13:4) And what do we owe God? He deserves our worship, our trust, our love. We know that our political system is important, but ultimately it cannot save us. There is only One who is the Savior of the world, the Lamb of God.

We have a God-given civic responsibility to pray and vote according to how the Holy Spirit leads us. But as we engage in politics it is critical that followers of Jesus do so with a spirit of love. Romans 13:8 emphasizes this point: "*Owe no one anything, except to love each other; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.*" The church is called to set a different tone in the middle of all the political rancor. We are to love our neighbors as Christ loves us, even if their votes do not match ours. I know that more than anything I want to be identified as being a part of the party of the Lamb, the party that loves well!

In God I trust,

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**

CE TEAM NEWS



Stay tuned for a Sunday School update letter coming in the mail very soon!

YOUTH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29



We are excited to have our youth leading the worship service on November 29. Join us to see our youth in action!

ANGEL TREE



Look for our Angel Tree in the Sanctuary Extension on Sunday, November 1st for an opportunity to bless a child this Christmas!

Each Angel represents a child in need. Please consider taking an angel and purchasing the gifts listed. You may do so individually or pair up with other people. There will be a Sign Up Sheet and Instructions on the table with the Angel Tree. If you are unable to come to the church, please call the office.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Circle Meetings for November are as follows:

Monday, November 2, 6:30 pm:

Ruth Circle will meet in the Parlor.

Monday, November 2, 7:00 pm:

Elizabeth Circle will meet at Tommi Rust's home.

Martha Circle will meet at Vicki Murphy's home.

Readers Circle will meet in Founders Hall.

Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 pm:

Denver Circle will meet at Vickie Smith's home.



REVIEW OF COVID-19 CHURCH GUIDELINES

As we face the ongoing realities of the pandemic, we have to accept that it is not going away anytime soon. And so we must continue our diligence in doing our part to keep the virus from spreading. As we gather to worship we have mask-optional areas where social distancing is being observed. We are asking that if you cannot social distance from others that you wear a mask. We also have a mask-on space in the conference room where masks must be worn. We will continue with reduced seating in the sanctuary limited to every other pew at either side of the pew unless you are a family unit.

We all have different thoughts and comfort levels when it comes to gathering for worship, but I think we can all agree that the love of Jesus that binds us together is greater than anything that might divide us. Please pray for continued wisdom for the leadership of the church as they guide us through these uncertain times. Stay tuned...we are working on a plan for December that will hopefully allow more folks to attend during the Christmas season.

GET CONNECTED AT FPC!



Are you wondering how you can keep informed with what's happening at the church and with our church family and friends?

Recently we implemented a Digital Discovery Team at our church. This team is collaborating to keep our social media and website pages up-to-date with the latest information. Below are the different ways to stay informed and get connected with FPC online:



1. **LIKE** our page **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STANLEY, NC** on Facebook. This page is for the public to find information about our church. So, go like our page and invite your friends and family to connect with us too.



2. **JOIN** our **MEMBERS OF FPC STANLEY** group. This Facebook group is for members and regular attenders of FPC Stanley. Here you will find specific information pertaining to activities and events for members of our church, i.e. youth events, Imagebearers, WIC activities, etc. You also have the opportunity to post your own personal prayer requests, condolences, gratitudes, or questions that will only be seen by members of our church. So come join us on this members' page.



3. **SUBSCRIBE** to our **YouTube channel**. Go to youtube.com and search **FPC Stanley**. EVERY WEEK we stream our worship services online. The links to these services can be found on our YouTube channel. WE ARE TRYING TO GET TO 100 SUBSCRIBERS! We are almost to our goal with 92! So hit that subscribe button and tune in on Sundays when worshipping from home.



We also have our **LIVE CHAT** on our **YouTube** channel starting at 10:00am. Join us in our LIVE CHAT room and let us know where you are worshipping from and say hello to our online family. This is a great way to stay engaged while worshipping remotely.



4. **CHURCH WEBSITE: www.fpcstanley.org** Here you will find links to all of the above as well as information for all the different ministries within our church. Feel free to explore our website and find out what FPC Stanley is all about.

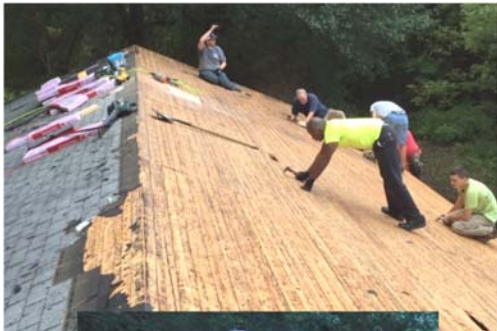
If you have questions about any of the above or if you are interested in being part of our Digital Team contact Lisa Revels at digital@fpcstanley.org.

GREAT COMMISSION HOUSE UPDATE



The renovation of the house on the new property is progressing. A new roof was installed last weekend! A big thanks to all who risked life and limb to remove the old shingles and install the beautiful new onyx black architectural 30 year shingles. The bathroom has been gutted and rotted wood repaired. The old carpeting was pulled out and sent to the dump. A new HVAC system will be installed in the coming weeks as well as a new hot water heater.

But we need help! We will need painters and people to help with the flooring in the coming weeks. Please let Rick Herd (rickherd08@gmail.com) know if you are available to help where needed. Please pray for guidance and safety for all those working on the house and that God would use the Great Commission House in a very special way!



**THANKS
to those who
have already
volunteered!**



**VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 6:00 PM
STANLEY PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH**



Reminder to Veterans: If you are able to attend, the event coordinators would love to know. You may contact Sandra in the church office at 704-263-4275 or info@fpstanley.org to RSVP.

Donations are being accepted to offset costs for the celebration. Any money remaining after expenses will pay for ongoing support for the non-profit Ancestry Fund's cemetery maintenance expenses. Donations can be made in honor or in memory of someone if you so desire. Checks should be payable to the *Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund*. You may mail them to *Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund, c/o Thomas Deese, Treasurer, PO Box 772, Stanley, NC 28164* or drop them off to Sandra in the church office.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO COMMIT TO PRAY AND GIVE IN 2021!

2021 GOALS	300 PEOPLE PRAYING regularly for our missionaries
	FAITH PROMISE -
	\$170,000 To maintain current support
	\$175,000 To increase support
	\$180,000 To possibly support new missionaries

Your Faith Promise supports Missionaries like Tyler Dirks at East Charlotte Presbyterian:

East CLT is an eclectic place comprised of Southeast Asians, Syrians, Palestinians, Africans, Latinos, Black, White, etc. East CLT is full of sojourners, and husbandless women, and fatherless children. And it is with much delight that God has stationed His flock (ECPC) in the midst of this extremely unique landscape. In recent months (amidst one of the most unstable years of our lives) God ordained a small Baptist church community to donate their property to East CLT Pres.! With this 24/7 property we are hosting a Bible study for teenage girls who got pregnant in High School, Christ-centered tutoring sessions for students at title one schools who find themselves at risk of falling further behind during Covid, space for a foster care organization to train new foster families, and a Christ-centered Wednesday night "camp" atmosphere and Bible study for the many middle and high school aged youths in the area. And of course, we are delighted to simply and substantively invite, encourage, and equip people to see, savor, and serve Jesus Christ as the Author and Perfector of their faith through the Sunday worship gatherings and as we meet together in each other's homes throughout the week!

Look for sign-up forms in the bulletin this Sunday, 10/25! You can also sign-up online at fpcstanley.org/missions-fest or fill out a form and drop it in the designated box in the office hallway.



WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Pray for our missionaries who are struggling emotionally during the tumult of the pandemic and uncertainty, both here and around the world.

Pray for Shaun and Becky Hurrie and their children as they seek to get visas and make preparations to travel to South Africa where they will join the MTW ministry team.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER

02 – Steve Williams	11 – Bobbi Jo
04 – Ricardo Santana	13 – Bill Schweitzer
05 – Sica Lepadatu	14 – Catalina N.
06 – Claudia Comer (2011)	16 – Chris Griffith
09 – Leticia Zapata	27 – Sabrina Wadhams


The Heartbeat of GOD



**OCTOBER MISSIONS FESTIVAL
WRAPS UP THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25!**

Join us outside, weather permitting, for the final Sunday of our Missions Festival. We will enjoy hearing from some missionaries and then Pastor Steve will bring the message. This is **Commitment Sunday** so be in prayer how God will lead you to Pray, Go and Give.

If you are attending in person, remember to bring a chair if you have one. You are also welcome to bring an Easy-Up canopy for your family.



Invite an unchurched friend to attend with you!




The American Heritage Girls are partnering 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.

Please go to this website to donate:
<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0400P>.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ENDS NOVEMBER 1!**



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOE BOXES**

The American Heritage Girls are collecting items and shoeboxes for our annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Event. Look for the display in the Sanctuary Extension Sunday, October 25!

There are 3 ways in which you can help:

1. Take a shoebox from the display to fill and return.
2. Shop for individual items and place in the designated bin at the display. (AHG will box the items.)
3. Donate \$9.00 to cover shipping cost of each box. Make check payable to Samaritan's Purse. If you want to donate for multiple boxes, make check in increments of \$9.00 (i.e. \$9, \$18, etc.).

Please return any items to the bins provided by the following deadlines:

- Individual items are due no later than November 6, 2020.
- Complete shoeboxes and monetary donations are due no later than November 29, 2020.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We are excited to welcome **Patrick Theodossiou** “officially” to the FPC family. Patrick started attending FPC more than 10 years ago while he was dating FPC member **Betsey Neely** who, 6 years ago, became his wife. **Patrick** along with their 2 children, **Wren** and **Sawyer**, was baptized on Sunday, October 18.

Christian sympathies are extended to **Doug and Deanna Lamb and family** in the death of Doug’s mother. **Audrey Lamb**, age 86, passed away unexpectedly in Wilmington on October 3. Mrs. Lamb was grandmother to **Dillon (Anna Kathryn) Lamb** and **Michaela (Garrett) Brooks** and great-grandmother to **Audrey Lamb** and **Lucy Brooks**.

Ron Ensley was admitted to the hospital at the beginning of October for A-Fib. Ron had a successful shock treatment which quickly restored his heart into rhythm.

Due to another infection in his knee, **Mike Gamage** underwent surgery on October 8. He is doing well as he recovers at home on a 8-week antibiotic protocol.

Jonan Bynum is doing well following cataract surgery on October 7.

As this newsletter is being printed, **Cinde Mayes** is undergoing surgery for her recently diagnosed breast cancer.

WITH LOVING THANKS

Comments from some of the ladies of the church who received cards recently from an anonymous donor:



Thank you for your kindness!

What a blessing!

That was a very nice surprise!

They are awesome!



SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	60,967.16
Received in September for budget.....	83,171.33
Needed to date for budget.....	548,704.44
Received to date for budget	551,655.16
Needed monthly for Faith Promise.....	13,750.00
Received in September for Faith Promise	17,188.43
Needed to date for Faith Promise	123,750.00
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	141,253.22

Birthdays to Celebrate in November

1 Brianna Gosnell Gabriella Griffin Debra Wallace	8 Janet Kaufman Vicki Murphy Jeff Redding	16 Lennie Burrell	25 Steve Smith Brandon Youngblood
2 Landon Abernathy Phyllis Ribbeck	9 Garret Drenth	18 Missy Smith	26 Jeremy Abernathy Becky Hensley
3 Buddy Cavin Torie Jurina	10 Olivia Fox Anna Friesenhahn Mason Hamrick Wayne Kerley	19 Rachel Bynum Cameron Cozart Jacob Greenly Taylor Mundy Charlotte Riopel	29 Michaela Brooks Rob McMinn Susan Mesimer
4 Ashleigh Fox	11 Kathy Lineberger	20 Lori Hamrick	30 Mark Beatty Chet Greeson Ronnie Smith
6 Jimmy Fowler Onie Kasper Rebecca Lasley	13 Teresa Neely	21 Paul Drenth Gloria Marsh	
7 Mason Friesenhahn Pete Johnson	14 Ann Smith	22 James Magill	
	15 Eric Dake Ann Davis John Hill Johnny Smith	24 Jason Bryant Theresa Pitts	

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)



512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 12
Stanley, NC 28164

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED