

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

I am thrilled that God is bringing new people into our church family. We have 15 wonderful folks participating in our Newcomers class this fall! For many of our newcomers this is their first experience with the Presbyterian Church. In the class we go over Presbyterian history and distinctives. In our Newcomers class I said that Presbyterian thought can be summed up in one profound word...*GRACE*. What is grace? It is the unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor of God toward sinners. Our foundational belief is that we are saved by God's *grace* through faith in Jesus Christ.

Most world religions and even many churches teach that it is up to us to somehow work our way up to God. If we try hard to be nice, do good things in our community and don't commit any really bad sins, then we might be okay in the end. If we pray enough, give enough, and go to church enough, it might be enough to save us. If the good in our lives outweighs the bad, then hopefully we will be allowed into heaven. However, the Bible teaches us that it is impossible to save ourselves. In fact we are dead in our sins, we have no spiritual life in us. (Ephesians 2:1, Colossians 2:13)

As Presbyterians we believe that we are helpless to work our way up to God, He must come down to us. And so God stepped down into our world in the person of Jesus to bring us salvation...*GRACE*. (Matthew 1:21) Jesus came to die on the cross while we were still sinners...*GRACE*. (Romans 5:8) God comes down to our lifeless spirits and breathes His life into us...*GRACE*. (Ephesians 2:4-5) God enables us to live in assurance that our salvation is based on His work, and not our own...*GRACE*. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

When we understand how immense God's grace is toward us, it is life changing. In our Life Group we are using a study called "Grace" by Max Lucado. He asks these challenging questions: "Have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Strengthened by grace? Emboldened by grace? Softened by grace? Snatched by the nape of your neck and shaken to your senses by grace? Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off." (Max Lucado, *Grace*, (Thomas Nelson: Nashville), 2012.)

Grace calls us to change, but grace also connects us to God's eternal purposes. "*He has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.*" I Timothy 1:9 (NIV) I pray that our church is so captured by grace and so full of grace, that our lives, our community and our world will be transformed by this remarkable word...*GRACE*.

Living by His Grace,

Steve

2019 Annual Missions Conference

October 10 - 13

God's plan.....



Our purpose

Exodus 9:16

But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

2019 Missions Conference Goals

Prayer Goal

300

people praying regularly
for a missionary.

Faith Promise Goals

\$165,000 Level One

\$170,000 Level Two

\$175,000 Level Three

**Look for more details
coming soon
including information on our
children's conference plans!**



2019 CHRISTMAS SCENES DECEMBER 12-14

There are numerous ways in which you can participate.

Look for more information in the coming weeks!

Reminder...Sunday, September 29 is the deadline for:

- ⇒ **College Gift donations** - Check or cash can be placed in the lock box in the main hall at the SOAR office.
- ⇒ **Hygiene Kit Sponsorships** - Place your check or cash in the baggie provided for each kit you want to sponsor. Then place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Additional bags including instructions can be found on the wall display in the main hallway and in the church office.



FACILITIES UPDATE

In our continued efforts to make the church as safe and secure as possible, our exterior doors have been re-keyed this week. This means any key you may have, including the master keys, will no longer open the church. Please use your assigned door code to enter the building.



**2019 LIFE CHAIN
OF GASTON COUNTY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019
2:00 – 3:00 PM**

For the Stanley event, you can park at Stanley Pentecostal Holiness Church. The chain will form next to Hwy. 27 from East Parkwood Street to downtown.

More information is available on the website, lifechaingaston.org.

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SEASONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

You can be a part of getting gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes ready to send around the world where they will become tools for local Christians to share God's love with children in need. Seasonal employees are needed at the Charlotte Operation Christmas Child shoebox processing center.

These paid positions run approximately from mid-November through mid-December. Positions are temporary, full-time (40+ hours per week including Saturdays), with both first and second shift available. Requirements include clean background along with professional and church references. Positions available include:

- Data Entry Keyers – (alpha numeric and 10 Key) – Responsible for the keying of information from a scanned image on a computer screen. Must possess excellent keying skills with a high level of accuracy.
- Cash Processors – Cash handling experience required. Responsible for preparation of cash donations for processing.
- Mail Processors – Responsible for the sorting of incoming donor correspondence.
- Team Coaches – Candidates with supervisory, team or volunteer leadership experience are needed to lead teams in warehouse, shoebox processing, mail and data entry operations.
- Forklift Operators – Must have Forklift certification and experience on sit-down forklifts.
- Dock & Warehouse Workers – Unloading and Loading large boxes containing shoebox gifts. Heavy lifters must be able to lift at least 60 lbs.

For more information or to apply, visit their website at samaritanspurse.org and click on the *Get Involved* tab. Applications will begin to be reviewed in September. You may apply in-person at the Charlotte Processing Center as of October 1, 2019.

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	9/30 (NL Deadline)	1 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group 7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.	2 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp. 6:30 Worship Jam Session Abernathy Life Group	3 6:30 MTW Committee Mtg.	4	5 9:00 Lil Flyers 2:00 Men's Basketball
6 AM Communion	7 6:30 Ruth Circle Meeting 7:00 Elizabeth, Martha & Readers Circle Mtgs. Adult Volleyball	8	9 6:30 Tech Team Meeting	10	11	12 2:00 Men's Basketball
13 <u>MISSIONS</u> <u>CONF.</u>	14 7:00 Facilities Comm Mtg Adult Volleyball	15 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group	16 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp. 6:30 Abernathy Life Group	17 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings	18	19 9:00 Lil Flyers 2:00 Men's Basketball
20 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups	21 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Adult Volleyball	22 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell Life Group	23 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp. 6:30 Abernathy Life Group Calendar Planning	24 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings	25 Officers' Retreat	26 9:00 Lil Flyers Officers' Retreat concludes 2:00 Men's Basketball
27 4:00 WIC Council Mtg. 6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Life Groups	28	29 6:30 Barton Life Group 7:00 Burrell LifeGroup	30 10:30 Wed. Morn Life Grp.	31		

OCTOBER RESPONSIBILITIES



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

- October 6:** **Babies:** Lauren Henderson; Ashleigh Fox
Toddlers: Heather Roberts
- October 13:** **Babies:** Ashley Abernathy; Sally Ormsby
Toddlers: Stacy, Natalie and Devon Helms
- October 20:** **Babies:** Jonan Bynum; Debbie Harper
Toddlers: Lisa and Allie Grice
- October 27:** **Babies:** Josh, Stacey and Samantha Hall
Toddlers: Susan, Kaitlyn and Caroline Mesimer

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

- October 6:** Communion
October 13: Missions Conference
October 20: Matt Ormsby
October 27: Kevin Rhyne

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILIES

It's a boy! Congratulations to **Pedro and Jaris Pollorena** on the birth of **Joshua Isai** on Tuesday, September 10, weighing 6.1 lb. and 20.5 inches long. The happy grandparents are **Ricardo and Ana Santana** and Joshua's big sister is two-year old **Zoe**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 02 – Lynn Cross | 17 – Ian J. |
| Jim Ramsey | 20 – Jaris Pollorena |
| 07 – Henry Dirks (2008) | 29 – Phil F. |
| 08 – Wanda Ramsey | 31 – Amy J. (2011) |
| 12 – Olive Janicek | Heather J. |
| Aaron Zapata | |

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Sammy and Britney Ludeman** on the birth of their 4th child, **James Benjamin**, born September 8. The proud siblings are **Sydney, John and Abigail**.

Percy Raleigh is breathing easier these days after an 80% arterial blockage was opened with placement of a stent. The procedure was performed in Gainesville, FL, September 6.

Karen Ensley is recovering at home from foot surgery on September 13.

WITH LOVING THANKS

We are so thankful for the many words of thoughtful care and meaningful prayer. God is answering them in ways that only He can to provide comfort where grief overwhelms, hope where our hearts hurt, and peace that passes understanding. So thank you to all our FPC family. "His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." Lamentations 3:22-23

Thad and Laura Davis

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	60,059.06
Received in August for budget	51,706.11
Needed to date for budget	480,472.51
Received to date for budget	468,617.21
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	14,091.25
Received in August for Faith Promise	6,844.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	112,730.00
Received to date for Faith Promise	119,968.53

Birthdays to Celebrate in October

2 Jennings Black
Jim Ramsey

3 Emma Deneen
Darwin Paramore

4 Sissie Kilby

6 Chelsea Deese

7 Zane Billings

8 Wanda Ramsey



9 Ryan Grice

10 Sydney Kirksey

11 Henry Chucci
Jolee Lawson

12 Jonan Bynum
Grady Rhyne

15 Tracy McMinn

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164 ♦ Phone 704-263-4275 ♦ Fax 704-263-0498
e-mail: info@fpcstanley.org ♦ web site: www.fpcstanley.org

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



512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED