

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

One of the most recognizable characters from the movies and TV in the 1980's was Mr. T. His Mohawk hairstyle and gold chains were part of his persona. There is one profound line from Rocky III that is most associated with Mr. T when he said, "I pity the fool..." No one wants to be called a fool. The Bible presents two seemingly contradictory views of fools. First, a fool is someone who rejects God, His commands and His Word. *"The fool has said in his heart 'there is no God.'" Psalm 14:1* The book of Proverbs over and over speaks of the folly of fools: *"Those who trust in themselves are fools."* (28:26)

But the apostle Paul turns the term "fool" around and holds it up as a character trait that is honorable. In I Corinthians 4:10 Paul writes *"We are fools for Christ's sake..."* In the first four chapters of I Corinthians Paul uses the root word "moros"(fool) at least 10 times (from which our word moron, and moronic are derived). Here is a sampling: *"The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing."*(1:18) *"The foolishness of God is wiser than men."* (1:25) *"But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise."* (1:27) *"Let him become a fool that he may become wise."* (3:18)

What does it mean to be a "fool for Christ"? The key word in that statement is "Christ." Apart from Christ you are a fool "to be pitied" because you are separated from the only One who brings sense to the world. When Christ is the reason for your foolishness, then you will find wisdom and truth flowing into your life.

What does a "fool for Christ" look like, act like, think like? In Christian history there have been some who have purposefully acted foolish (i.e. running around barefoot in the snow), so that people would ridicule them. They considered the humiliation of being called a fool an honor that would please God. Now this is an extreme application that I don't encourage, but in the Bible people like Noah, Esther, David, and the Old Testament prophets all acted in ways that appeared foolish as they obeyed God's instructions. When Jesus is leading and guiding our lives it will many times not make sense to the world around us.

Much of what we do as Christians could be considered foolish by those who do not have Jesus in their lives. Giving up several hours on Sunday to go to church and Sunday School... "That's the best day of the week to sleep in and take it easy." Going to life groups... "Why would you want to hold hands with people and sing *Kumbaya*?" Giving money to the church and to missions... "Why should you give your hard earned money away when you barely have enough for yourself?" Going to another country to tell people about Jesus... "Why would you push your beliefs on people who are perfectly happy with their own beliefs?" Spending time in prayer and Bible study... "Why would you want to add anything else to your already busy life?"

Living for Jesus doesn't always make sense, but at the same time it makes all the sense in the world!

Don't pity this fool for Christ!

*Steve*



**IMAGE BEARERS, YOUTH  
AND LIFE GROUPS  
START BACK  
THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
6:00 - 7:30 PM**

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES  
WILL BE AVAILABLE  
THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8!**

Our new Pictorial Directories are ready and we are excited for each family to have one. We will have directories available this Sunday before and after Worship. If you miss getting your directory this Sunday, stop by the office during the week to pick one up.

## **REMINDERS**

- We will observe **The Lord's Supper** on **Sunday, September 8** during the morning worship service.
- Our **Best Years** will have *A Nifty 50's Covered Dish Lunch* on **Thursday, September 12** at **12:00 pm**.
- We are currently collecting for our **College Student Gifts**. Please place your cash or check donation in the collection box in the main hallway before the end of September.

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathies are extended to **Thad and Laura Davis** and family in the death of Laura's sister. **Rachel Bode Tucker**, of Lookout Mountain, TN, died August 27 at the age of 42 from injuries she sustained in an auto accident just days before.

**Barbara Rhyne** has returned to the Stanley Total Living Center after surgery and a stay of a few days at Caromont Regional Medical Center.

We are happy to report that **Parke Sweigart** is doing well following surgery last week to put in a pace maker.

## WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Pray for **Jim Ramsey** as he goes to **Romania** this month on his 40<sup>th</sup> evangelistic mission outreach there.

**Ken Cross** is regaining his strength after undergoing heart surgery in June due to a-fib. He serves as team chaplain for men and women's basketball teams at Queens College and the women's basketball team at UNCC as well as being a mentor to sports ministers in churches that have sports ministries. Ken gives thanks for the ways he has witnessed God break down spiritual walls with coaches, staff and players. Continue to pray for his ministry with **CEDE Sports** – Mobilizing Churches & Chaplains through Sports.

**Becky White's** mom, Barbara White, recently spent two weeks in the hospital in Taipei, **Taiwan** with a frightening flare up of newly diagnosed COPD. Continue to pray for physical, spiritual, and emotional strength for Becky and her parents.

Pray with **Steve and Rita Williams** for more colleagues to join them in ministry in **New Zealand**.



## Request From Our Tech Team

The FPC Tech Team is wanting to build another roll-around TV cart and is need of a 50-60 inch TV or a tablet computer. If you have one you would like to donate, we'd love to take it off your hands. Contact Phyllis Withers or the church office if you can help us out.

## CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER'S BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS UPDATE

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County is thankful to all of you who participated in their Baby Bottle Blessings Project. FPC raised \$2,909.94! The total raised for this project was \$130,123.95! This is a tremendous blessing for the Crisis Pregnancy Center and all they serve.

# Birthdays to Celebrate in September

18 Claudia Forbes-Robinson  
Kevin Griffith  
Dillon Lamb

19 Kary Kopka

22 Kaylyn Clevenger  
Tracy Withers

23 Judy Dixon  
Ann Featherstone  
Mark Harper



25 Austin Abernathy  
Darlene Sweigart

27 Jennifer Greenly  
George Ross

28 Pam Cole  
Crystal Hare  
Abigail Jessen

30 Jim Tilley

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](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org) • Website: [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)  
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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED