

THE CHURCH FAMILY

FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

Although the Spring Bible Conference was a month ago, I wanted to follow up on a question several people asked prior to the conference that was not addressed during the conference... the question was: “Should Christians boycott the elections this year if there are no good choices?”

After the conference I posed the question to Dr. Alan Myatt over lunch to which he answered a firm “no.” His rationale [in my own words] was as follows...

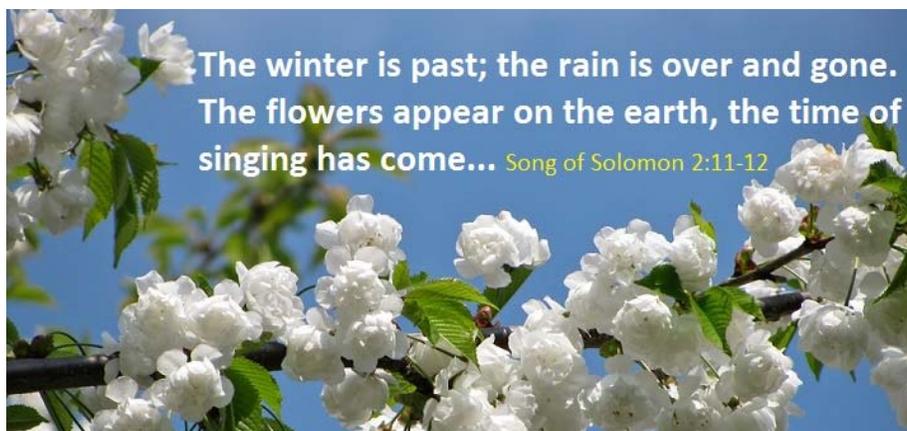
Christians, instead of boycotting particular segments of society, should be *more* involved (not less) in those segments so as to be salt and light. Take art or the movies for instance... Christians abandoned those disciplines long ago and have allowed “less than holy” images, world-views, and doctrines to shape our culture’s minds and hearts for generations. Therefore, Christians should stay aggressively and consistently engaged in our culture – including the electoral process – even if we do not like the outcome. Merely voting on election day (and complaining afterward) is less than our best effort. More for Christ’s Name and Kingdom should be done on a regular basis.

In other words, rather than boycotting the elections this year, we should, starting now, write and/or call our local, state, and federal officials and encourage their positive “motions” as well as call attention to any ungodly/immoral statutes or movements. All this, of course, being offered with gentleness and meekness – “speaking the truth in love” – while at the same time praying fervently for God to work in their hearts and minds. This consistent, positive, loving, wise pressure can help stem the moral erosion of our culture, as well as, offer Godly options to those open to it.

May God bless us as we think, live, act, and speak in Christ-honoring ways going forward.

Grace and Peace,





A NOTE FROM PASTOR STEVE

“Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

As I begin my ministry here at FPCS I wanted to let you know once again how honored and humbled I am to be here to share in the work of the gospel and to share my life as well. Julie and I look forward to all God has in store for us and for our church as we take our first steps on this journey.

In my first weeks/months I will be working in several areas. First I will be preparing for the transferal of my ordination to the Catawba Valley Presbytery. This will involve some interviews, some homework, and ultimately examination by the Presbytery, hopefully in May. Please pray on my behalf for this process to go smoothly. My second priority is getting to know you all - to strengthen relationships and begin new ones. I can't wait to get a sense of what God is doing in your lives and to hear your faith stories. The third area is to begin looking at what my calling will be as your Assistant Pastor. To begin exploring how we as a church are reaching our community and our world, and also ways that our men's ministry can expand, so we can encourage fellowship, outreach and Biblical challenge.

Finally, as a follow up to my sermon on April 3, I want to encourage you to pray for someone who is not a believer, who is lost. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”* Acts 1:8 God can use you by the power of the Holy Spirit to reach people in your everyday life. Pray and be open to Divine appointments and opportunities to be a witness for Jesus Christ. And please share your stories with me. I love hearing how God is at work in and through His people. Just shoot me an email at steve@fpcstanley.org.

Your servant in Christ,



Just a reminder...

- **April 17, 2:00 - 3:30 PM:** Bridal Shower for Chelsea Stanley (Seth Abernathy)
- **April 24:** Deadline to sign-up and pay for the May 2 Mother/Daughter Banquet



Food Pantry Needs

Thank you for helping to keep our Food Pantry well stocked!! We continue to help lots of local families due to your generosity. The one item we are currently low on is crackers. Since our food items are so well stocked, it would be nice if we could possibly stock some toilet tissue to give along with the food. As you are able, place donations in the designated bin in the main hallway.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Three of our members have been hospitalized recently for kidney stones and/or kidney infections. **Jessica Rhyne** and **Debra Wallace** are both home following brief hospital stays for kidney stones and infections. Debra underwent surgery to aid in the removal of stones. **Courtney Greeson** was also in the hospital with kidney stones. She currently has a stint and is awaiting surgery scheduled for April 13.

Betty Shelby is home recovering from bladder surgery on April 4.

Margaret Gladden is currently at Caromont Regional following hip replacement surgery on April 5.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Read the latest news from our missionaries on the bulletin boards in the hallway leading to Founders Hall.

As you pray for our missionaries this month...

- Pray that the study of the Word each day would provide spiritual food for personal growth.
- Pray for adequate physical exercise to keep the body healthy and mind alert.
- Pray for wisdom in scheduling activities.
- Pray for safety in travel.
- Pray for a deep and genuine love for the people among whom they live and work.
- Pray that they will always stand firm in the Lord.
- Pray for good family times.

With Loving Thanks

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to thank you all for your prayers and concern during my recent stay in the hospital. I would also like to thank you all for your prayers over the last few months for me to get back on my feet. It has been an extremely frustrating time for me. I miss you all and ask that you continue to pray.

*God bless,
Liz Johnstone*

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Do you have a heart to serve and a specific skill that could be helpful to a PCA church planter, church, or other PCA ministry? Mission to North America's SecondCareer Ministry is seeking adult volunteers of all ages to serve via the Internet. The following are types of assistance frequently requested:

Accounting	Administration	Architect	Computer Software	Demographic Site Profiling
Graphic Design	Grant Writing	Publicity/Marketing	Social Media	Website Development

If you are interested in more information about serving with your skills via the Internet, please contact Barbara Campbell, MNA SecondCareer Facilitator, bcampbell@pcanet.org, 804-339-5005.

Birthdays to Celebrate in April

16 Courtney Greeson
Dorcas Murphy
Jacob Rhyne
Brad Skidmore
Charlie Stewart

17 Melodie Garrison
Hadley Rumfelt

19 Ellen Deese

20 Kale Baity
Brent Grice
Emery Huss

22 Garry Chambers
Nathan Chitwood

23 John Abernathy
Karen Ensley

24 David Marsh
Charleen Schrum

26 Monnie Blackman
Joe Deese
Lisa Grice
Percy Raleigh

28 Sharon Herd
Emily Revels

30 Selena Farmer

Happy
Birthday

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED