

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

I want to express once again how humbled, honored, and excited I am to be called to serve as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Stanley. I feel a strong connection and sense of gratitude for all the Pastors, all the faithful church leaders, and all the members down through the years who have played a part in God's Kingdom work at First Presbyterian.

There is a passage of Scripture that gives me great perspective as I reflect on the road behind and look at the road ahead. It is found in I Corinthians 3:5-11 and it contains the philosophy of ministry that will set us on the right path as a church.

Paul writes: *"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

There are two occupations Paul uses to illustrate his view of ministry. The first is that of a farmer, an image that is very relevant in the history of our church and community. Like a good farmer, we are to be faithful to plant gospel seeds, to water and fertilize them, but here is the most important point: it is God who will cause the seeds to grow. What does this challenge us to do? It drives us to our knees to pray! We must realize that apart from God, we can do nothing. And if our church wants to experience true growth, it will only come if God is the one causing the growth.

The second occupation listed is that of a builder. Of course as a General Contractor and carpenter, I love the image of a skilled master builder laying a foundation, another building the framework, another putting on shingles... I appreciate the fact that my ministry will be building on all the construction that previous "builders" have done in this place. And never forgetting in the process that the "Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord."

My prayer for First Presbyterian is that we remain faithful to our calling as God's fellow workers. And as we farm and as we build, I can't wait to see God's mighty hand at work in and through us.

One of God's fellow workers,

Steve



TOO GOOD TO MISS!!

There are still some tickets left for the Gary Chapman seminar **“Keeping Love Alive as Memories Fade”** on **Thursday, April 12**, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Call the church office today to reserve your place. Invite a friend.

Dr. Chapman will have books available at the conference. They will be \$10 each (cash or check only).



REMINDER:
Baby Shower
honoring
Elizabeth Abernathy
will be
Sunday, April 15
2:00 - 3:30 pm!

BEST YEARS LUNCH THURSDAY, APRIL 19 12:00 PM

Founders Hall

Lunch will include chicken salad, congealed salad and a dessert.

If you are interested in participating in a Plant Exchange, bring a plant from your yard to share.

We hope to see you on the 19th for good food with fun and fellowship.



SAFETY TRAINING

The leadership of our church will be meeting on Saturday, April 21st from 9:00 - 11:00 am for a Safety Training Conference. We will meet in the Sanctuary and work through plans to keep our church family safe on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Steve at steve@fpcstanley.org for more information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Special children's events are highlighted in the church newsletter but did you know we have a SEPARATE Children's Ministry newsletter? It goes out about six times each year with updates and information about upcoming events. Our Children's Ministry newsletter can be accessed online by going to www.fpestanley.org/childrens and clicking on the link. You will also find links here for VBS and our summer Narnian adventure.



YOUTH NEWS

⇒ RIDGEHAVEN RETREAT MAY 18 - 20

Cost is only \$60.00. Sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. Sign up today!

If you need additional information, please contact Joel Jessen.

⇒ COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

“Blessing Bags” is a youth project intended to reach out to the homeless people in and around our community. The youth will be collecting items to put in bags which will be handed out to the homeless. Some of the items included will be: tissues, snack crackers, granola bars, lotion, chap stick, etc. There will be a display in the main hallway detailing the process. The display will include tags, each including specific information on an item needed. To participate, all you have to do is stop by the display and take a tag or two for the item(s) you want to purchase. Then, purchase the item specifically detailed on your tag. All items need to be returned to the church before 4/28. Let's support our youth in this outreach project!



*We would like to thank
all of those who helped
with our Easter fellowship time!
It was a wonderful event and
a blessing to all who were there!*

SNIPPET FROM AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

by Chloe and Judy Billings

What is a pathfinder? A person who goes ahead and discovers or shows others a path or way. Pathfinders at American Heritage Girls are our youngest girls to enter the program. They must be five years of age and/or at the kindergarten level in school. We currently have five pathfinders in this unit level of NC0512. This is a brave group of little girls. Imagine joining a group at this age without knowing anyone there. You may have an older sister in another unit of the program, but she won't be with you for most of the troop meeting time. Fortunately, they are welcomed by the smiling faces of Manetta Treat and Brandi Arnett, our Pathfinder Leaders. These girls discover what AHG is by experiencing the different facets of the program in small segments during unit time. This is done through service projects and various learning adventures. As they grasp the founding principles of AHG they earn beads to make a necklace by the end of the program year. When they complete the program they receive a level award. The level award namesake for the Pathfinders is Sacagawea. Who better to represent what it means to find your way. She led explorers Lewis and Clark half-way across our great country finding the way where many others had failed to do so. She was a beacon for others to follow. Our Pathfinders are like little stars lighting the path for other girls to follow. They exude happiness and joy; exhibiting what it means to truly follow in Jesus' footsteps through the journey of life. If you have a daughter who is 4 to 5 years of age come visit with us for a troop meeting. Be forewarned...the AHG bug may bite and she will be wearing a blue tee shirt and beaded necklace in no time. To learn more about AHG NC0512 or schedule a visit, email our Troop Coordinator at ahg.nc0512@gmail.com.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We would like to welcome **Lisa Revels** as our SOAR Director. Lisa has been added as a contract employee to lead our SOAR program. Lisa has many years of experience in this area and we are excited to have her leadership! Lisa grew up at FPC with her parents, **Jim** and **Terri Fowler**. She is married to **Jamie Revels** and they have three children: **Emily, Harrison** and **Jack**. Please be in special prayer for Lisa, Harrison and Terri this week as they are in Ohio at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Harrison is having a stent placed in his hepatic vein (liver) as well as some extensive urology tests. If all goes as planned, they will return on 4/10.

Several of our members have had outpatient surgery recently. **Pete Johnson** had surgery for kidney stones on March 23. **Jerry Barton** had a skin graft on March 29 due to the removal of skin cancer. Most recently, **Mary Rankin** underwent back surgery on April 3.

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Cindy Davis** on the death of her mother. **Gilda Beam**, age 87, passed away March 22 at the Stanley Total Living Center. Our sympathies are also extended to **Helen Lieurance** and family in the death of Helen's last remaining sibling. Her sister, **Ruth Smull**, died Friday, March 30, just on the heels of Helen's 98th birthday the day prior. Mrs. Smull was 18 months younger. Helen is the oldest of the four children of Richard M. (Mr. Dick) and Edith Abernethy Rhyne – Helen, Ruth, Mary B., and Richard - all of whom were members of our church family. Mrs. Smull was the sister-in-law of **Barbara Rhyne**, and the aunt of **Robert Rhyne**.

Claire Kopka, who recently completed our Communicants Class, was received into membership by profession of faith on Easter Sunday, April 1. Claire is the daughter of **Kary Kopka** and granddaughter of **Howard and Barbara Graham**.

Congratulations to **Sydney and Andrew Kirksey** who were married at FPC on Saturday, March 31. Sydney is the daughter of **Rick and Mary Ruth Heffner**.



MISSIONARY NEWS

Steve and Dianne Hill, our missionaries in **Peru**, will be visiting with us on Sunday, April 22. You are invited to join us at 6 p.m. in Founders Hall to hear from them. Some (or all!) of our care groups are planning to be there. If you would like to bring some kind of snack that would be great. Drinks will be provided.

Please join many others in praying for **Pastor Andrew Brunson**, a native of Black Mountain, NC, who has been jailed in **Turkey** since October 7, 2016. The Turkish prosecutors have charged him with two crimes: membership in an armed terrorist organization and military espionage, basically equating Christianity with terrorism. Andrew and his wife Norinne have lived and served in Turkey as missionaries with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church for nearly 25 years. His first court date comes up on April 16. Andrew wrote last week: "To the extent that I am known, I want to be known as a servant and lover of Jesus Christ... I have prayed for this land and its people for many years,... for God to pour out great blessing... In my weakness, I pray daily for strength and courage to persevere and remain faithful to my King until the end. My deepest thanks to my family around the world that is standing with and praying for me."

Birthdays to Celebrate in April

16 Courtney Greeson
Dorcas Murphy
Jacob Rhyne
Charlie Stewart

17 Hadley Rumfelt

19 Ellen Deese

20 Brent Grice
Emery Huss

22 Garry Chambers
Nathan Chitwood



23 Karen Ensley

24 Charleen Schrum

26 Monnie Blackman
Joseph Deese
Lisa Grice
Percy Raleigh

28 Sharon Herd
Emily Revels

30 Selena Farmer

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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e-mail: info@fpcstanley.org • web site: www.fpcstanley.org
Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED