

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

Dear Friends,

August is Officer nomination month here at First Presbyterian, so I'd like you to join me in prayer as we ask God to raise up Spirit-led, Gospel-saturated, Christ-following, pure-in-heart, humble-in-spirit, loving men of faith to lead us. God has richly blessed us with such men in the past and my confident prayer is that He will continue to do so in the future.

God has used elders to lead His people since the days of Moses (see Exodus 3:16-18), so for almost 3,500 years God has guided, instructed, trained, preserved, and protected His people through the human instrumentation of elders.

The office of Deacon was introduced into the early church so that the Apostles and elders could continue the spiritual ministry of the Word and prayer free from trying to meet the daily physical needs of the people (Acts 6:1-7). Together the Elders and Deacons would provide for both the spiritual and physical needs of God's people so that in the totality of their being, body and soul, God's people would be nourished. (We continue to experience God's blessing through this manner even in the church today!) God is good.

Therefore, since God still employs this system to bless His church, what practical steps can we take in the process?

- 1) pray regularly and boldly for God to make clear His chosen servants
- 2) use 1 Timothy 3:1-10 and Titus 1:6-9 as God's "measuring stick" to "see" qualified men.
- 3) ask those men who meet God's criteria to serve prior to August 21st
- 4) if you are asked to serve, please pray diligently for God's guidance as well as seek the counsel of other Godly people to hear their wisdom
- 5) give God glory for His ongoing blessing of His church in this place

All glory to God,

Scott



Nomination forms and a collection box
are located in the main hallway for

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

being accepted through August 21.

PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

Christmas in August? That's right, I'm already thinking about **Christmas!** No, I'm not starting to shop (I'm usually in the stores on Christmas Eve!). I'm not listening to Christmas music (although my wife Julie will be playing her Christmas CD's any day now!). What I'm thinking about is a long standing tradition at FPC called "CHRISTMAS SCENES."

The Outreach Committee has been talking with the staff and with the Session and Deacons about some exciting new ideas for this dynamic opportunity to share the **good news** of the birth of Christ with our Community.

This is a total church ministry. That means that our goal is 100% participation from the youngest to the oldest. There will be a place for everyone to serve. Here are the dream teams we would like for you to pray about joining: Prayer, Promotion, Audio/Technology, Construction, Art/Creative Design, Food, Costumes, Parking/Traffic/Security, Drama and Music. You can email me at steve@fpcstanley.org to sign up for a team, and we will also have signups at the church.

The vision for this year's Christmas Scenes is fresh, with some new and exciting twists, but at the same time it will draw from our wonderful past traditions! Stay tuned as we roll out **Christmas Scenes XVI!**

Pray with me that God would use FPC to proclaim to the world that *"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11

Let me be the first to wish you **"Merry Christmas!"**

Steve



SOUTH MOUNTAINS STATE PARK SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 Meet at the Main Picnic Shelter, 10:00 am until...

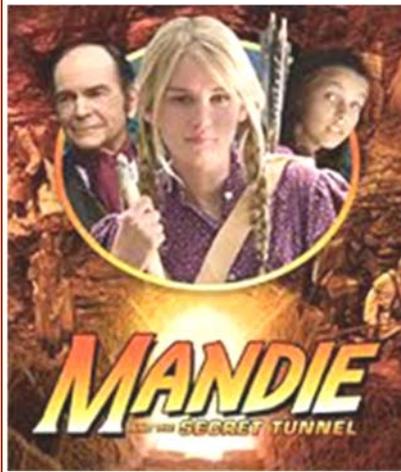


Join us at South Mountains Park, 3001 S Mountain Park, Connelly Springs, NC 28612 for a day of fun and fellowship. Come and hike, wade in the creek, or just sit and enjoy the mountain air. Be sure to bring a comfy chair!

Bring your own snacks and food for lunch. There are grills available if you want to grill something. The church will provide charcoal as well as tea, lemonade, water and a dessert!

If you would like bus transportation, please contact the church office or sign up at the bulletin board in the main hallway!





CHILDREN'S MOVIE NIGHT "Mandie & the Secret Tunnel"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17TH
6:30-8:30 PM

FREE EVENT!

Remember to bring a pillow
and a blanket/sleeping bag.

BEST YEARS "LIVING COLOR" PARTY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13
12 NOON

Come join us in Founders Hall for lunch,
fun, fellowship and a few surprises.

Be sure to wear your favorite colors.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

A new season of **CARE GROUPS** begins September 11. Sign-up sheets listing all the groups will be posted on the bulletin board across from the church office on August 14. Check them out and put your name on the one you want to attend.

August 28 is **PROMOTION SUNDAY**. We will enjoy a big Sunday School breakfast and then go into the sanctuary for a special program.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A BRIDAL SHOWER
HONORING HEATHER WALLACE
AUGUST 28, 2016, 2:00 PM
AT THE HOME OF ANNE ABERNATHY**

Heather is registered at Walmart.

Hostesses: Anne Abernathy, Lennie Burrell, Martha Sue Mitchell, and Janet Redding.



ARE YOU MISSING A DISH OR TWO???

As the Founders Hall kitchen was being cleaned recently, many dishes were found that do not belong to the church. Please stop by the "Lost and Found" table in Founders Hall to retrieve any dishes that may belong to you. The dishes will remain until August 31. At that time any dishes not picked up will be donated to the Penny Thrift Store.

WITH LOVING THANKS

Thank you to Pastor Steve and his MMOOS team! On Saturday, July 23, you came with tools, trucks, trailers and smiles. You lifted our burden by hauling, sawing, washing, hammering, mowing and installing. You lifted our spirits with your joy and laughter. We are humbled by your amazing abilities, by the depth of your love and by the wonderful grace of God. Thank you for blessing us.

Frankie and Lauren Henderson

We have many ministries here at FPC. Some of you are heavily involved in one or more of them, and some of you may not realize what takes place outside of Sunday worship. The following notes came from people in our community that have been touched by two of our outreach ministries.

I wanted to take time to tell you guys thank you for the help you all gave us this month with our Duke Energy bill. My family and I greatly appreciate it. Without you guys, we wouldn't have any power in our house. I hope one day I am able to help a family in need, the way you all have helped in my time of need. Again, thank you!

*Love,
Hannah*

Thank you for the investment you have made in Jackson. This is his first time ever playing softball: no backyard, no nothing. He took a sudden interest in baseball right before I received the email from Chris about this softball league. The timing was perfect.

I won't share our entire family story, but just know that this is very meaningful in his young life. Further, I appreciate how you teach to build up rather than to tear down. Not only is Jackson learning these physical, athletic skills, but he has a ways to go cognitively. Terms like "on deck" and "the bag" have been new, not to mention the situational awareness involved in making a play.

I appreciate you personally, and as a local pastor I am so inspired by this very effective ministry at FPC Stanley.

*God bless,
Dennis Boyce*



A BIG THANKS TO FPC from the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County. Our congregation collected \$1500 in the Baby Bottles!!! The total received by CPC from area churches/people: \$70,696. This is the best collection ever received. **PRAISE GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.**

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We extend Christian sympathies to **Jeff, Marsha and Brad Skidmore** on the death of Marsha's dad in Virginia on July 19.

Our sincere condolences also go to **Chris and Dana Baker, Rachel and Rebecca** on the death of Chris's grandmother July 30 at the Robin Johnson Hospice House.

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

What does a missionary do? How would you describe a missionary? Here are some ideas as you pray for the missionaries who are a part of our First Presbyterian family.

Messengers of good news, spreading the gospel around the world
Instruct and inspire as they itinerate throughout the world, at home and abroad
Servant heart, serving God and others
Sent by God to do the work He has prepared for them to do
Immersed in the lives of people they serve
Obedient to God's leading
Nurtures believers in their faith
Ambassadors of Christ
Reaching out to plant churches, teach, preach, help orphans, care for the sick
Yielded to God

JUST DO IT

You can still "just do it" – it is not too late to decide to be an **ARMORBEARER**. If you didn't sign up on July 24 but want to pray for the leaders of our congregation on a regular basis there are blue sign up sheets on the Literature Display in the main hallway. Put your name on the sheet and turn it in to the office. Special thanks to all who feel called and have responded to offer support to those who oversee the ministry of FPC. If you aren't sure, give it a try for a month, you can become a regular Armorbearer anytime as God may lead you. "If my people who are called by my shall humble themselves and pray...I will hear from heaven..." I Chron. 7:22. Thanks, Chuck & Alice Jessen

Church Directories

Be sure to pick up an updated Church Directory or two from the Literature Display. There have been many changes since the last one was published. Remember to throw out your old copy.

2nd Quarter Giving Statements

2nd quarter giving statements have been printed and are on the Literature Display. Please stop by and retrieve your statement. If you find any discrepancies, contact our Treasurer Gary Neely.

Birthdays to Celebrate in August

17 Don Hamilton
Tenley Lawson

23 Carly Klutz

24 Randy Cole
Mike Dixon
Nancy Raleigh

18 Karson Baity
Bill Robinson
Cameron Rodgers



25 Daniel Williams

27 Tommy Barton

19 Jerry Barton
Ken Dake

28 Katie Saine

21 Scott Deneen
Mike Gamage
Leah Treat

30 Chuck Bynum
Doug Gladden
Eloise Hamilton
David Hill

22 Rick Herd
Virginia Neuman

31 Shirley Chucci

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e-mail: info@fpcstanley.org • web site: www.fpcstanley.org

Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen • Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED