

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

How we greet each other during the holiday season changes: in November we exclaim “Happy Thanksgiving,” in December it is replaced with “Merry Christmas” and starting January 1 we say “Happy New Year.” We use these same greetings with complete strangers and with our closest friends and family. As we begin 2018 we are telling each other “my wish for you is that you are happy this year.” I would like to expand the New Year’s greeting a bit. Yes, I want you to be happy in the new year, and that 2018 would be filled with laughter and good times, but what I really desire for you is that you would have a “Hopeful New Year.” That 2018 would be “Hope-full,” packed to the brim with the solid assurance that your future is bright.

But, when we look at our world it is sometimes hard to be hope-full. We hear threats of nuclear attack, we see radical terrorist groups on the rise, mass shootings seem commonplace, we live in a country divided socially and racially and a political system that seems deadlocked, and even with stock markets soaring we see poverty and homelessness in our own community. In this world there is little that gives us much hope.

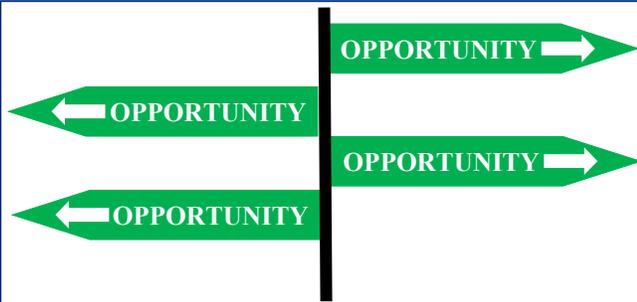
There is only one source of true hope in 2018 and I Peter 1:3 tells us what that is: “*According to God’s great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*” The victory of Jesus over sin and death has allowed those who have been born again to have hope. But those separated from Christ by their sin are in a desperate situation, “*having no hope and without God in the world.*” (Ephesians 2:12) It is up to us to share with the hopeless, the separated ones, the message of hope that we have in Christ. “*Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.*” (I Peter 3:15) If we don’t tell them about the hope of Jesus, who will?

My challenge for you in 2018 is taken from I Peter 1:13 “*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*” And my prayer for you and for our church is this: “*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*” (Romans 15:13)

Hope-full New Year,

*Steve*





**NEW YEAR...  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES!  
WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE?**

- ⇒ Youth, Image Bearers and Care Groups start back Sunday, January 14. Additional Care Groups meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- ⇒ Women's circles kick off Monday, January 8 with a joint meeting in Founders Hall at 7:00 pm. We have 4 circles to choose from in 2018.
- ⇒ SOAR kicks off the new year with Youth Volleyball online registration now through January 20. The registration process will be completed with evaluations on Saturday, January 20.



**CARE GROUPS BEGIN AGAIN  
THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14!!**

You are invited to take part in any one of our Care Groups that begin the week of Sunday, January 14. See the list below for the day/time, hosts or place of meeting and the leaders of each of our groups. Please choose a group and make plans to attend!

<b>Hosts/Place</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Day/Time</b>
Ron and Karen Ensley	James Teague	Sunday, 6:00 pm
Steve and Julie Jessen	Steve Jessen	Sunday, 6:00 pm
Dan and Carol King	Ryan Abernathy & Mark Beatty	Sunday, 6:00 pm
Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell	Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell	Sunday, 6:00 pm
Tracy & Phyllis Withers	Chuck Jessen	Sunday, 6:00 pm
Tommy & Janice Barton	Tommy Barton	Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Church Conference Room	Lennie Burrell	Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Church Parlor	Renee Abernathy	Wednesday, 10:30 am
Brian & Anne Abernathy	Rick Herd	Wednesday, 6:30 pm



**BEST YEARS LUNCHEON**

**Thursday, January 18  
12:00 pm**

Join us for Soup, Sandwiches & Scripture...and, of course, lots of fellowship!

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 2018 OFFICERS

## RULING ELDERS

### CLASS OF 2018

Tommy Barton  
Jimmie Mitchell  
Grady Rhyne  
Ron Smith

### CLASS OF 2019

Dean Chaney  
Ed Faggart  
Rick Herd  
Kevin Rhyne  
Robert Rhyne

### CLASS OF 2020

Ron Ensley  
Chris Graham

## DEACONS

### CLASS OF 2018

Matt Ormsby  
Jerry Ratchford  
Charlie Stewart

### CLASS OF 2019

Ryan Abernathy  
Mark Beatty  
Ken Dake  
Andrew Deese  
George Ross  
Tracy Withers

### CLASS OF 2020

Chris Baker  
Lynn Burrell  
Mason Friesenhahn  
Mike Gamage  
Mark Harper  
Will Robinson

The **Installation Service** for our new officers will be **Sunday, January 7** during the morning worship service.

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**We give thanks for the ministry of the following elders and deacons whose terms have expired and who now leave active status:**

### ELDERS

Clyde Haley  
Joel Jessen  
Dan Ormsby

### DEACONS

Pete Johnson  
Leon Lineberger



## NOTES FOR THE NEW YEAR

As you know, the New Year brings on many changes in personnel with the election of new officers on our Deacon and Elders boards as well as changes in the WIC Council and circle leaders. Due to these changes, we are working to reassign some of the **mailboxes** over the next couple of weeks. Please pay special attention to the mailbox name(s) when you are putting mail in or taking mail out.

Another project for the New Year is publishing an updated **Church Directory**. Please verify your information in the current directory. If there are any corrections to be made or if you want to add an email address or cell number, please notify the church office by phone (263-4275) or email ([info@fpcstanley.org](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org)) no later than Sunday, January 21st. Look for updated directories on the Literature Display by the first of February.

**2018 Offering Envelopes** and **2018 Budgets** are available on the Literature Display.



*Do this in  
remembrance  
of me.*

We will observe the  
**LORD'S SUPPER**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**  
during the morning  
Worship service.

**A SPRING CONFERENCE  
WITH DR. GARY CHAPMAN**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12  
6:30 – 9:00 PM**

Cost: \$10 per person

**“Keeping Love Alive as Memories Fade”**

How love can persist even as dementia  
gradually erodes memory and physical abilities

**WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY**

**Jim and Carin Fredere in New York.....**The year began with surgery for our son **Nathan**. Praise God that he has recovered fully. We had 80 PEOPLE at our Christmas party! We ate together, gave awards, and Carin spoke about Jesus being the real gift of Christmas.

**Becky White in Taiwan.....**A few of you have heard by now that in Thanksgiving week I saw a neurologist about some ongoing tremors in my right hand and foot. I received the surprising diagnosis of a very early stage of Parkinson's Disease, later confirmed with a brain scan and with medication. Surprising?! Only because I feel too young for this. All is well, and I am confident in God's love. Even in this short time, I have seen God's hand of provision: my specialist is in my church, the brain scan was moved up two weeks, a friend is taking me to a very special Christian massage group that offers missionaries and pastors free therapy, etc. I am also thankful that medical care in Taiwan is both good and affordable. My family, colleagues, students and friends have been supportive. I am feeling pretty good and anticipate many more years of ministry at Christ's College. At the same time, I cherish your prayers.

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Skip Ribbeck** who, on December 22, achieved the very respectable age of 95. Skip is our congregation's second-oldest living member, out done at this point only by 97-year-old **Helen Lieurance**. Both these venerable members enjoy reasonable mobility (as long as somebody else is driving), good minds, and a love of conversation.



### LAST CALL!!

Please check the P-Mail boxes for cards "mailed" to you. The boxes will be removed Monday, January 15.

## With Loving Thanks

*Dear FPC,*

*Thank you so much for sending me a box of goodies and praying for me. It came at the perfect time and put a smile on my face in the midst of studying for finals. I'm grateful to have a church family like you.*

*In Christ,  
Kelsey Smith*

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*Words cannot express my gratitude for all the prayers, visits, calls, cards, and generous offers to bring food, etc. Since the passing of my lovely wife Betty Jo, and the many medical treatments I have undergone, my church family has been extremely kind and faithful to remember me. You are truly a blessing to me and my family.*

*With love,  
Milton Shelby*

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This note arrived in the mail from a 9 year old that came to our Christmas Scenes...

*Dear Stanley Church,*

*Thank you for making the Bible come to life at the Christmas Journey for me. My 4 year old sister was with me and she always talks now about Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Thank you again for making the Bible come alive. We all enjoyed it, especially the oranges!*

*Madison and Kyndall*

# Birthdays to Celebrate in January

16 Ryan Abernathy

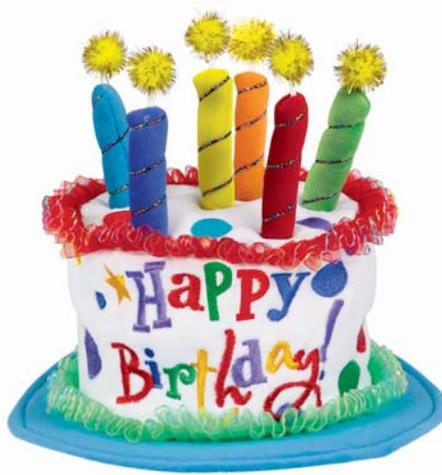
17 Betty Ann Abernathy  
Robert Billings  
Cookie Wilkinson

18 Danny Wallace

19 Leon Lineberger

20 Wendy Ham

21 Vicky Gamage  
Carol King  
Matthew Magill



22 Jamie Revels

23 Debbie Friday

24 Trevor Burgess

25 Kaleigh Smith

27 Jamie Stewart

30 Renee Abernathy  
Scott Burgess

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e-mail: [info@fpcstanley.org](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org) • web site: [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)  
Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen  
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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