

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

A New Year normally involves making resolutions like lose weight, get fit, quit smoking, learn something new, eat healthier, get out of debt/save money, spend more time with family, etc.. All wonderful aspirations that should result in a better life. But while these things are good, might there be better things? Yes.

Puritan Jonathan Edwards made resolutions, too. At least seventy of them. Look over a few below to discern the heart behind them, and then ask the Lord if these might be good resolutions for you as well. [you can find the full list on Google] Edwards writes:

“Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to his will, for Christ's sake.”

#1 Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own good, profit and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriads of ages hence. Resolved to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general. Resolved to do this, whatever difficulties I meet with.

#4 Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body, less or more, but what tends to the glory of God; nor be, nor suffer it, if I can avoid it.

#6 Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.

#13 Resolved, to be endeavoring to find out fit objects of charity and liberality.

#14 Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.

#53. Resolved, to improve every opportunity, when I am in the best and happiest frame of mind, to cast and venture my soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, to trust and confide in him, and consecrate myself wholly to him; that from this I may have assurance of my safety, knowing that I confide in my Redeemer.

May God bless each of you in the coming year for His glory, and may you find your joy made full in Him.

Grace,

*Scott*

## NEW YEAR...NEW ROADS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Youth, Image Bearers and Care Groups start back Sunday, January 8. Additional Care Group meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Youth will also meet on Wednesdays.

Women's circles kicked off this week. 4 circles meet on Monday nights and one meets on Tuesdays.

SOAR kicks off the new year with Youth Volleyball registration this Saturday, January 7. Visit the website ([fpcstanleysoar.org](http://fpcstanleysoar.org)) for registration details.



## PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

I recently finished a biography of Bob Pierce called "This One Thing I Do" by Franklin Graham. Bob Pierce was the founder of World Vision and also Samaritan's Purse. He was a man who put his faith in action. One of his mantras was this: "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God." In the story of Noah, it says in that the rebellion and wickedness of man caused God's heart to be "filled with pain." (See Genesis 6:6)

When we look at the world in which we live, we see sin and brokenness all around us. Our hearts should be broken that our friends, neighbors and even family members are separated from God because of the sin in their lives. If our hearts are broken for those around us, it should spur us to put our faith in action. First, we need to fervently pray for those who desperately need the Lord. Second, we can share our testimony with others of how Jesus saved us from our sin by his death on the cross. Third, we must communicate to the broken that God is full of grace and mercy and is the only One who can deliver them from sin and death. And finally, we need to love them unconditionally with the love of Christ.

My prayer in 2017 is that we have broken hearts for the world and that our church will be a place where the broken can come to find healing and wholeness through Jesus Christ.

*Steve*



### **Children's Ministry Pajama & Movie Night!**

**Sunday, January 22  
6:00 - 7:30 PM**

All children/ages welcome.  
Bring your own blanket/pillow.



### **ATTENTION PARENTS OF MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**

Youth Group starts back this Sunday, 1/8 at 6:00 pm. A new Snack Supper sign up is on the Youth Bulletin Board across from the church office.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OFFICERS

### RULING ELDERS

#### Class of 2017

Clyde Haley  
Joel Jessen  
Dan Ormsby

#### Class of 2018

Tommy Barton  
Jimmie Mitchell

#### Class of 2019

Dean Chaney  
Ed Faggart  
Chris Graham  
Rick Herd  
Grady Rhyne  
Kevin Rhyne  
Robert Rhyne  
Ron Smith

### DEACONS

#### Class of 2017

Chris Baker  
Mark Harper  
Leon Lineberger  
Percy Raleigh

#### Class of 2018

Matt Ormsby  
Jerry Ratchford

#### Class of 2019

Ryan Abernathy  
Mark Beatty  
Ken Dake  
Andrew Deese  
Pete Johnson  
George Ross  
Charlie Stewart  
James Teague  
Tracy Withers

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We give **thanks** for the ministry of **Deacons Garry Lucas and Johnny Smith** whose terms have expired and who now leave active status.

The **Installation Service** for our new officers will be **Sunday, January 8** during the morning worship service.



**Spring Conference**  
**Sunday, February 26**  
**during the**  
**morning services.**

**Look for details in**  
**the near future.**

## WITH LOVING THANKS

*Dear FPC family,*

*Vicki and I wanted to thank you for all the emails, Facebook contacts and Christmas Cards that we have received from the church family there. It is encouraging and overwhelming to think that after all these years you still think about and pray for us. We are continuing in the good work God has led us to here. Church revitalization is a whole different animal than Church planting. But in a few months we will have been at Grace Church for two years. God is blessing, the church is growing and its a happy place again. People get up on Sunday morning and want to come to church again. Please pray with us as we are starting some new outreach initiatives. And as always please pray that God will protect our hearts from fear and pride and open doors for our message.*

*In the Love of Christ,  
Tim and Vicki Barton*

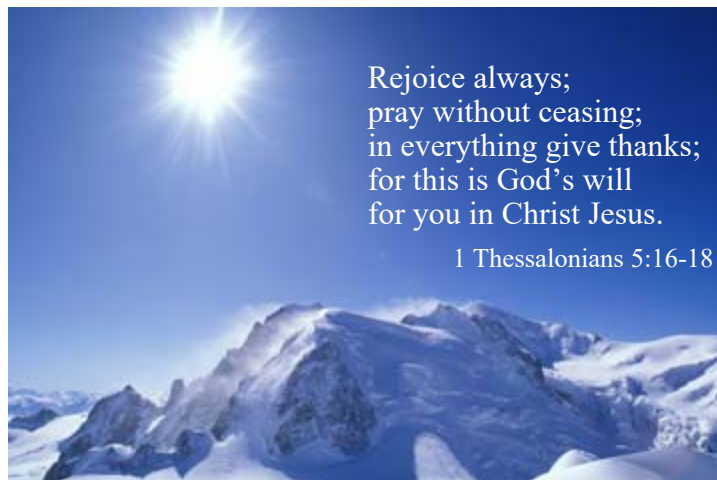
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*My Dear Church Family,*

*I wish I could tell each of you how very special you are to me. Your outpouring of love and concern when my Dad first fell was of tremendous strength for me. I knew as soon as Dad could walk, we would return home and back to our daily routine.*

*But somehow, I began to sense I had walked this path before and what appeared to be so fixable was not in God's plan. But you, my precious friends, were. Thank you so much for the calls and cards and the prayers lifted up for my family. My Christmas was bleak but oh was my Dad rejoicing. Much love to each of you.*

*Vicki Murphy*



Rejoice always;  
pray without ceasing;  
in everything give thanks;  
for this is God's will  
for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations on the birth of **London Alyssa** to **Tyrell** and **Jennifer Brooks** on December 11. Proud grandparents are **Wayne** and **Debbie Friday**; **Ailene Friday** is the equally proud great-grandmother. **Aubrey** is now the big sister in the family.

Sympathies are extended to **Ailene Friday and family** in the death of her brother **Donald Laughter** who died January 1 at home in Maryville, TN. Of thirteen siblings, eleven of whom survived to adulthood, Ailene remains alone as the last living. Mr. Laughter was uncle to **Wayne and Debbie Friday, Jennifer and Beau**.

Christian sympathies are also extended to **Robert Billings** and family in the death of his step sister, **Michelle Curry Brown** who passed away in North Wilkesboro on December 23.



### LAST CALL!!

Please check the P-Mail boxes for cards “mailed” to you. The cards will be removed Monday, January 16th.



## NOTES FOR THE NEW YEAR

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 22nd. Look for updated directories on the Literature Display by the end of January.

**2017 Offering Envelopes** and **2017 Budgets** are available on or near the Literature Display.

# Birthdays to Celebrate in January

16 Ryan Abernathy

17 Betty Ann Abernathy  
Robert Billings  
Cookie Wilkinson

18 Danny Wallace

19 Leon Lineberger  
David White

20 Sarah Jane Griffin  
Wendy Ham

21 Vicky Gamage  
Carol King  
Matthew Magill

22 Jamie Revels

23 Debbie Friday



24 Trevor Burgess  
Kim Johnson

25 Kaleigh Smith

27 Marsha Skidmore  
Jamie Stewart

28 Rhoda Davis

30 Renee Abernathy  
Scott Burgess

31 Nathanael Prather

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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