

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

As our church begins the new year, many of our committees are meeting and talking about plans and dreams for 2018. Having an organization that is guided and led by committees is a double-edged sword. The negative side can be summarized in the term "death by committee." This means that our creative ideas and our passion can be snuffed out by never ending committee discussions and deliberations that eat up precious time with no apparent results. We begin to lose our enthusiasm and eventually we burn out and drop out. It is hard to recruit new members when it is perceived that joining a committee will bring certain misery and the feeling that you are entering a black hole with no escape.

On the other side, we know that committees can bring great blessing to a church. When a group of like-minded folks come together to serve Jesus, there can be great excitement as God's kingdom is advanced in the world. And we are better together; we achieve much more as a team than we could as individuals. Proverbs 15:22 says. *"Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed."* Committees, when functioning well, can be a wonderful instrument in God's hand to carry out His purposes here on earth.

I have to confess that I don't care too much for meetings, especially meetings that drag on and on with no apparent purpose. But put me in a room with people who are excited and enthusiastic about serving Jesus, are talking about spreading the gospel, and are praying for the Holy Spirit to move...now this is no longer a meeting- we are engaged in ministry! I don't mind the term committee, but I think the term "ministry team" better captures the idea of what we want to promote as a church.

Our ministry teams need you! If you are already a part of a committee, thank you and please don't feel trapped. It's okay to take a break now and then, it's okay sometimes to switch areas of ministry, it's okay to say no. But in general, if you are a part of the body of Christ you should be involved in ministry. Check out the Committee bulletin board in the main hallway and sign up in an area of interest to find out more. You are not signing your life away; you are just expressing interest and someone will let you know opportunities for you to be a part of the team. Even if you don't "join" a committee, you can still "support" one even if it is just a few hours a month.

When committees become places where ministry thrives, we will fulfill what is described in Ephesians 4:16: *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

In ministry with you,

*Steve*



## WIC NEWS

We have 4 circles meeting on two different nights in 2018. All circles meet at 7:00 pm. Plan to attend one of the meetings starting in February!

### FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS:

#### Thursday, February 1:

Denver Circle meets at the home of Vickie Smith.

\*NOTE: This circle will meet on Tuesdays for the remainder of the year.

#### Monday, February 5:

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Deanna Beatty.

Readers Circle meets at the home of Anna Friesenhahn.

Ruth Circle meets at the home of Anne Abernathy.

#### REMINDER:

The next scheduled WIC Council meeting is Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

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If you are not on the WIC emailing list contact Sandra in the church office and give her your email. Even if you are not in a circle, you can still be on the prayer chain, help out with bereavement meals and other needs, and participate in special activities.

## WIC PRAYER CHAIN



As we enter into the new year, we thought it would be a good time to clarify the process to initiate a prayer request for the prayer chain. Here are a few tips:

- Send an email directly to the prayer chain... [wic@fpcstanley.org](mailto:wic@fpcstanley.org).
- Send an email to one of our WIC presidents:  
Heather Dake - [heatherdake97@gmail.com](mailto:heatherdake97@gmail.com) or  
Anna Friesenhahn - [akfriesenhahn@gmail.com](mailto:akfriesenhahn@gmail.com).

Those are likely to be the fastest and easiest options for us to get the prayer chain started. You also have the option to call one of the presidents, but it may take longer to get the prayer chain started due to the daily work/personal obligations. As a last resort if none of the above options work for you, you can call Sandra at the church and she will email it to one of us. Please be patient with us; we will get prayer requests out as soon as possible. If you are interested in managing the prayer chain exclusively, please let either Heather or Anna know.



**BEST YEARS VALENTINE PARTY**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
**1:00 - 3:00 PM**



**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!**

**UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES**  
**WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON!**

Remember to 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 28<sup>th</sup>. Look for updated directories on the Literature Display by the first of February.

**Coming on Thursday, April 12      6:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**A Spring Conference**  
**with Dr. Gary Chapman**

**World renowned author, speaker and counselor**

**Keeping Love Alive as Memories Fade**

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

**Cost: \$10 per person - Make your reservations now!!**

## ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS!



We would like to update our list of **ALL** college students! Please contact the church office to advise if your student is enrolled in college this semester. We want names of all college students whether they are living at home or at college. If they are living at college, please be sure to include their current address. Even if you gave us this information in the fall, we appreciate you taking time to help us in making sure we have accurate information.

You can email this information to Sandra at [info@fpcstanley.org](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org) or call her at 704-263-4275.

## PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS NEEDED



We need to re-stock our kitchen with plastic food containers. If you have any containers that can be used for leftovers/extras, please drop them off in the Founders Hall kitchen.



## HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR FOOD BARREL LATELY?

It's had a much needed *face lift*!! A big **thanks** goes out to **Sherry Wagstaff** for painting the barrel recently. If you haven't noticed, be sure to take a look! While you're there, we'd love for you to drop off a bag of food for our food pantry!

This ministry has served many people in the Stanley community. Thank you for your faithful support!

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  6:30 CE Committee Mtg. MTW Committee Mtg.	2	3  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
4 AM Communion  6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups	5 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  6:15 AHG Room 13 7:00 Elizabeth, Readers & Ruth Circle Meetings	6  6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group 7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.	7 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.	8  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings	9  5:00 AHG Father/ Daughter Ball-FoH	10 7:00 Deacons' Meeting  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
11 <i>Gideon Presentation</i>  6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups	12  6:15 AHG Room 13 6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg	13  6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	14 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.	15  6:30 AHG Leaders Mtg. 7:00 Session Meeting 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	16	17  2:00 Men's Open Basketball
18  6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups	19 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	20  6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	21 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.	22  6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	23	24  1:00 - 3:00 Best Years Valentine Party 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
25  4:00 WIC Council Mtg.  6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups	26	27  6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	28 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.	29  6:30 Abernathy Care Group		

## FEBRUARY RESPONSIBILITIES



### NURSERY

**February 4:** 10:15 AM - David, Tommi and Max Rust

**February 11:** 10:15 AM - David, Tommi and Max Rust

**February 18:** 10:15 AM - Susan, Kaitlyn & Caroline Mesimer

**February 25:** 10:15 AM - Angel and Brittany Ross

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**February 4:** Communion

**February 11:** Chris Graham

**February 18:** Rick Herd

**February 25:** Steve Jessen

## WITH LOVING THANKS

Dear First Presbyterian Session (and Church),

Suzy and I would like to thank you for supporting us financially through 2017. Your generosity allowed us to focus on our marriage without the strain of an income source as well. Although a substantial gift on your part that could be deemed "undeserved," Suzy and I were blessed beyond what our words and hearts can convey. We don't take lightly the sacrifice that was made by the Session (and church) and, therefore, would like to communicate our sincere thanksgiving to you for your friendship, love, support and kindness.

Love,  
Scott and Suzy Deneen

## MISSIONS NEWS

**Michael Cochran** was ordained to the gospel ministry on November 12. He, Laura and son Foxx are headed to **England** this month to join the missionary family there.

**Mack Griffith** asks for prayer in his new responsibilities of mentoring chaplain candidates.

**Bobbi Jo Brooks** serving in **Germany** gives thanks for unique opportunities to mentor photographers from Syria, Italy and Germany.

### *Celebrating Birthdays in February*

03 – Zoe Piteo (2017)

04 – Krista Babel

10 – Steve Hill

13 – Charles Davidson

20 – Vicki Barton

Eden Wadhams (2000)

21 – Diane Bakelaar

23 – Emanuel Lepadatu (2004)

24 – Anita Chambers

26 – Katelyn Comer (2010)

27 – Kenton Wood

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Mike Gamage** is recovering from knee surgery on January 5. His knee became infected and he had to have his previous knee replacement removed. Once the infection has cleared, he will be scheduled for another knee replacement.

**Eloise Murphy** was admitted to the hospital on January 15. After several tests, the doctors are suspecting the problem is COPD, her heart and kidneys having checked out OK. She was released after a few days.

Christian sympathies are extended to **Darwin, Kathy and Casey Paramore** in the death of Darwin's father. **Darwin Paramore, Sr.** passed away on January 11 in Winterville, NC. He was 72 years old.

Congratulations are in order for **Kevin and Cathy Rhyne** who became 1<sup>st</sup> time grandparents this week! Their daughter, **Carly White**, gave birth to **Reese Olivia** on January 21. Carly, former life-long member at FPC, and her husband, Drew, reside in Winston Salem, NC.

We are already missing **Charleen Schrum** and she's only been gone a couple of weeks. Charleen moved to South Carolina to be closer to her family. She is currently living with her son's family until she can find just the right place to call her own. Charleen did a lot of ministry behind the scenes at FPC. One big job she has done weekly for many years, along with the help of her good friend **Renee Abernathy**, is to clean the sanctuary pews and be sure they are stocked with all the essentials. She has also been a faithful part of the group that assembles the newsletters and prepares them for mailing. Charleen's new address is 108 Saxons Ferry Drive, Lexington, SC 29072.

## DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	63,544.35
Received in December for budget .....	76,597.80
Needed to date for budget .....	762,532.17
Received to date for budget .....	748,309.64
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	14,323.09
Received in December for Faith Promise .....	22,071.30
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	171,877.08
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	175,428.30

# *Birthdays to Celebrate in February*

1 Jake Fox

3 Chris Ham  
Justin Jurina

5 Isaac Jessen  
Dan Ormsby

6 Grace Kopka  
Leslie Smith



7 Jack Revels

10 Maria Bailey  
Howard Graham

12 Naomi Treat

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Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen  
Worship 10:15 AM ♦ Sunday School 9:00 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# **ARMORBEARER**

**Prayer Calendar – February 2018**  
*First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC*

Armorbearers were personal attendants of a warrior chieftain who accompanied him in dangerous missions; they held huge shields sometimes surrounding their leader to protect him. **Intercessory prayers** by church members can **protect** their leaders from “the flaming arrows of the evil one” and uphold them “that words may be given to me [Paul] in opening my mouth boldly to **proclaim** the mystery of the gospel” (Eph 6:16, 19).

## **Prayer Promptings from God’s Word for February:**

*“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength; even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*  
*Isaiah 40: 28-31*

## **Prayer for Our Pastors**

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for our pastors. Some suggestions for prayer are included, but pray also as you are aware of other particular needs and concerns they may have.

**Monday:** To love God with all their heart, and to love others as themselves. (Matt. 27:37-39)

**Tuesday:** To trust the Lord completely for their wisdom, so that he will direct their daily path. (Prov. 3:5,6)

**Wednesday:** To pray always, putting on the armor of God to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Eph. 6:11ff)

**Thursday:** To love their wives and manage their family in ways that honor Christ. (Eph. 5:25, I Tim. 3:4,5)

**Friday:** That God’s word will be their reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. (II Tim 3:16)

**Saturday:** To care faithfully for the flock and have compassion for lost sheep. (John 10:16, Lk. 15:4)

**Sunday:** To empower them to preach and teach the Gospel in the power of the Spirit. (Matt. 4:23, Rom. 10:15)

## **Prayer for Our Ministry Leaders and Staff**

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff:

**Monday:** Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center

**Tuesday:** Global Outreach, Adult Ed/Care Groups  
Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell

**Wednesday:** Lauren Henderson, Children’s Ministry

**Thursday:** Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

**Friday:** Eric Beam, Music Director

**Saturday:** Pray that **all** who preach, teach and lead on the Lord’s Day at FPC will bring God’s word in the power of the Spirit to bless his people and glorify Jesus Christ.

## Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Ken Dake:** Pray that those working with the technology systems will be guided and helped in this important ministry of our church.
- 2 **Andrew Deese:** Pray for me and my family as my work schedules fluctuate and I begin some out of town work.
- 3 **Ron Ensley:** That I serve the Lord in humility, doing all I do to honor the name of Jesus Christ for the love and forgiveness given to me.
- 4 **Ed Faggart:** For time to complete home projects, finish my taxes, and serve as an elder; also for Sarah to be actively involved in her church in Chicago and live her life as pleases God.
- 5 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for me in my work as a deacon in the church, and my responsibilities at work and home.
- 6 **Mike Gamage:** Continued prayer for healing of my knee and especially for Vicky in her demanding role as my primary caregiver.
- 7 **Chris Graham:** Pray for wisdom in using and pursuing my spiritual gifts.
- 8 **Mark Harper:** Please pray that our church officers and leaders will make all decisions prayerfully, be united and honor God in all we do.
- 9 **Rick Herd:** Pray for wisdom to make decisions on future employment/retirement.
- 10 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that I might hide God's word in my heart that I might not sin against him.
- 11 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray that the SOAR volleyball ministry will be a strong witness for all involved.
- 12 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray the Lord will provide us a pastor who is grounded in the Word, not afraid of preaching the truths of the gospel, and not influenced by fads or popular opinion.
- 13 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for me to serve the Lord and be faithful at church and with my family.
- 14 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for the continued good health of my daughter Carly, husband Drew, and new baby granddaughter Reese.
- 15 **Robert Rhyne:** Prayer for Godly wisdom in decisions relating to both family and work.
- 16 **Will Robinson:** Prayer for a good pregnancy for Sarah, and for me to be a Godly father.
- 17 **George Ross:** Praise that my MRI came back normal and pray my vertigo continues to diminish.
- 18 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray that I would spend more time in the Word and prayer.
- 19 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray for strength to keep up all my responsibilities of home, work, and church.
- 20 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for God's guidance as I try to get my knees healed or replaced.
- 21 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray for the SOAR volleyball season that we may spread God's message to many players and their families during the season.
- 22 **Chris Baker:** Pray that I can keep up with the demands of family life, work, and church.
- 23 **Tommy Barton:** Pray that we will spend more time with Jesus.
- 24 **Mark Beatty:** Please pray that my shoulder will heal quickly from recent surgery and that I will have full range of motion without pain.
- 25 **Lynn Burrell:** Thanks and prayers for the staff and leadership at FPC: for maintaining and even bringing growth with limited staff. It shows how great God is and his continued watch over us all.
- 26 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for wisdom for our elders in decisions that we will be making in the days ahead to lead our church in God's way.
- 27 **Ken Dake:** Pray that our youth ministry and its leaders will be led by God's Spirit week by week.
- 28 **Andrew Deese:** Pray for a friend who is struggling to cope with permanent disabilities from a stroke.

## Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise for love and faithfulness of our church family. Definitely feeling the love and the power of prayer in my life right now  
Mike Gamage
- Praise for the witness of the Soar Volleyball program to the youth and families of our community.