

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM PASTOR STEVE

by Steve Jessen

This past week our church hosted our annual Sports Camp. We had 88 children participants with over 30 volunteer helpers! It was a wonderful week of ministry. The theme of this year's camp was "Go The Distance." It was based on the verse from II Timothy 4:7 that says "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." This verse has a special place in my heart. The day after my Grandmother passed away I was doing my Scripture reading for that day which "happened" to include this verse. As I read the verse I realized that my Grandmother had fulfilled this challenge from the apostle Paul. She had come to the end of her earthly race, but she had fought well, and she had maintained her faith in Jesus Christ to the end. It should be the desire of all of our hearts to have this said of us, when our life on this earth is over.

I have heard it said that the Christian life is not a sprint but a marathon. In order to "go the distance" in our Christian faith it takes perseverance and steadfastness. I love the title of the book by Eugene Peterson called "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." He says "In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness."

As I think about the 4 and 5 years old campers reciting the words to this verse on the last day of camp, I pray that they will "go the distance" in their walk of faith. I am hopeful that they will sign up for that "long apprenticeship" with Jesus. Whether you are just starting the journey like those little campers, or have been walking this road for a while, keep fighting for Jesus, and stay true to him. Following Jesus is not easy, but there will be no sweeter words to hear than these: "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master."

Steve

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

will be open

AUGUST 6 - 20!

Be in prayer for
prospective nominees.

NOTE FROM YOUR SESSION

The following are the minutes from the Congregation Communication shared on Sunday, July 16:

Introduction

Good morning Church Family! Your elders asked me to provide an update on what's next for our church. This past Thursday evening the elders met to discuss and make decisions regarding a number of issues that we share with you now.

Church Pastoral Leadership

The Session asked, and Steve has agreed, to continue to serve as our interim senior pastor. We also asked that he look toward providing additional consistency in pulpit supply.

In recognition of added responsibilities and the fine job that Steve has done in shepherding our church family for the past three months, way beyond his call and pay grade, the Session voted to provide him a \$1,000 monthly bonus retroactive to April 1.

Search for Senior Pastor

The Session has begun contacting potential pulpit committee nominees whose names will be presented to the congregation for consideration and vote at a soon to be scheduled congregational meeting. Plans are to recommend a committee consisting of 5 members and 1 alternate. The nominees will represent a cross-section of our church membership, officers and members-at-large.

Search for Director of Youth & Sports Outreach

A search committee for the position had been at work but paused for several months awaiting resolution of recent events, but have now restarted the work. Members of that committee are: Chris Baker, Martha Sue Mitchell, Lorie Hamrick, Steve Jessen, and Ed Faggart. The Session agreed with their recommendation to broaden their search to candidates outside the church, from our presbytery and greater denomination.

Renovation of Founders Hall

A ladies group made a presentation to the Elders requesting a needed update of 20-year old Founders Hall. Plans are to repaint, replace window treatments, add a large storage cabinet, and buy new chairs. The plans await further detail consideration before approval.

Security Policy for Youth and Children's Ministries

We all know one form of evil present in today's society is child abuse. Soon we plan to implement a formal policy to ensure a high level of responsible care for children participating in church programs like SOAR sports, youth groups, American Heritage girls, Sunday School, and even nursery care. Policy implementation will include annual staff and volunteer training, background checks, and signed acknowledgement forms. You will hear more soon.

Church Organ

A decision was also made to remove the organ from the sanctuary. We know some of you will be disappointed to lose the organ, which has been a fixture here since it was first purchased back in the early 70s, but the rationale is based on the following realities.

- Organists are a vanishing resource from the American church scene. Few young people aspire to learn to play an organ. The last organist to play regularly for our worship services was Paula Saunders, who retired a year and a half year ago.

(Continued on page 3)

Note from Session Continued...

- The small modern keyboard that Eric plays can create the same large organ sounds. Most of you have probably heard it playing during some of our recent hymn singing.
- One significant benefit will be a reduction in clutter around the piano side of the platform by relocating the musical instruments (keyboard, drums, guitar) and their related sound equipment (speakers, monitors, microphones, wiring) to the choir loft. The loft modesty wall will serve to hide most all of the equipment that was previously visible.
- Another significant benefit is elimination of the considerable effort required to dismantle and reassemble the equipment to support special events around the platform, like weddings, funerals, and conferences. You may not be aware but it takes a team of people about 6 hours remove and reassemble the equipment, and perform the needed sound checks in order to be ready for use again.
- Knowledgeable musical sources have told us that parts cannot be found and that the organ itself has “no” resale value. It’s likely the wood paneling of the organ cabinet has the most salvage value. So, the organ will be given away to whoever desires it. If you have an interest, please leave a note in the church office. If more than one person desires it, the new owner’s name will be drawn from a hat of names.
- Further, a complete assessment of the platform, pulpit, and choir loft area is planned. Additional enhancements will likely flow out of that review.

Prayer Request

Please be in prayer as we move forward with plans based on the above decisions and others still being considered. Particularly pray for the Lord’s guidance in selecting a pulpit committee and then leading both staff search committees to bring the right person, the ones of God’s plan, to fill each need that will bless this congregation.

SAFETY AND SECURITY POLICY TRAINING



If you are interested in working with children or youth at our church during the 2017-2018 year (in any capacity), you are encouraged to attend our Safety and Security Policy training session on Sunday, August 13th, immediately following the worship service. Lunch and a coffee bar will be provided! During this session, you will be provided with the information you need to serve in our ministries. We will explore the policy and what it means for your area of service, sign your Code of Conduct forms, and prepare for a new year!

Please email Lauren if you plan to attend – lauren@fpcstanley.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Two Children's Ministry trips are quickly approaching. Please email lauren@fpcstanley.org if you would like to attend with us so that transportation plans can be arranged.



Wednesday, July 26th - for all ages
Schiele Museum, Gastonia, NC + Picnic

Depart: 9:15 AM Return: 2:00 PM

Bring a picnic lunch.

\$5 each person

Wednesday, August 2nd - for all ages
Dan Nicholas Park, Salisbury, NC

Depart: 9:00 AM Return: 3:30 PM

\$8 per person

Wear bathing suit; bring a change of clothes, towel,
picnic lunch



WIC NEWS

AUGUST CIRCLE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday, August 1: Denver Circle meets at the home of Sara Robinson.

Monday, August 7:

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Cookie Wilkinson.

Readers Circle meets in the Church Parlor, Missy Smith hosting.

Ruth Circle meets at the home of Kathy Lineberger.

Tuesday, August 8:

Grace Circle meets at the home of Wendy Ham.

All circles meet at 7:00 pm except Grace which meets at 6:00 pm.

REMINDER: The WIC Council Meeting for July has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is August 27.

There will be a **Card Making Workshop** with Jodie Graham on **Saturday, August 5th** from 9:00 - Noon. A Sign-up Genius email will be sent out within the next week for ladies who are interested to sign up. There are 10 spots available for ladies 16 years old and up. You will need to bring your own scissors, double stick tape and markers or colored pencils. The cards will be mailed to our shut ins.

If you are not on the WIC emailing list contact Sandra in the church office and give her your email.

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 Children to Dan Nicholas Park	3	4	5 Man Day
		← Paraguay Mission Trip →				
		7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.		6:30 CE Committee Mtg. MTW Committee Mtg. 7:30 Officers' Prayer		2:00 Men's Basketball
6 AM Communion <i>Officer Nominations Open</i>	7	8	9 10:30 Children to Bessemer City Pool	10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Preschool Summer</div>	11	12 7:00 Deacons' Meeting 2:00 Men's Basketball
6:00 Children's Ministry;	7:00 Elizabeth, Readers & Ruth Circle Meetings	6:00 Grace Circle Mtg.	6:30 Tech Team Mtg.			
13 11:30 Safety & Security Training	14	15	16	17	18	19 Baseball Finale 2:00 Men's Basketball
6:00 Children's Ministry;	6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg			7:00 Session Meeting		
20 <i>Officer Nominations End</i>	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24	25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">CDC Summer Program ends</div>	26 8:00 Founders Hall set up for Sunday! 2:00 Men's Basketball
	7:00 CDC Committee Mtg.			6:00 AHG in Founders Hall		
27 SS Promotion Sunday and Breakfast	28 <i>Gaston Co. schools begin.</i>	29	30	31		
4:00 WIC Council Mtg.	6:30 SOAR Comm. Mtg			6:30 AHG Leaders Mtg.		

AUGUST RESPONSIBILITIES



NURSERY

- August 6:** 10:15 AM - David and Donna Hill
- August 13:** 10:15 AM - Julianne, Shanna and Gab Griffin
- August 20:** 10:15 AM - Sandy Lasley and
Caitlin Bumgardner
- August 27:** 10:15 AM - Josh and Stacey Hall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- August 6:** Communion
- August 13:** Chris Graham
- August 20:** Ron Smith
- August 27:** Ed Faggart

WITH LOVING THANKS

Dear Church Family,

God is good all the time - All the time God is good! My family was so richly blessed by such a godly, faithful woman - our Momma. We will miss her terribly, but we cannot be sad for her. She is in heaven praising our Lord Jesus! Hallelujah! To all of you who have brought food, sent cards, called us, and prayed for us, we again are so blessed and grateful for your love. Please continue to keep us, my Daddy especially, in your prayers. The days ahead will be hard, but Jesus loves us so much - HIS grace is sufficient.

*In Christ,
Chris, Jodie, Kate and Luke*

PRAYING WITH AND FOR OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Our last short-term mission team of the summer leaves for Luque, Paraguay on Thursday, July 27. Team members Tommy and Janice Barton, Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell and Melissa Smith will join seven people from Virginia to begin work on a building for a new mission outreach in Marin. In addition, they will do several days of VBS at two missions and in the Christian school at the mother church.

We wish a happy birthday to our missionary family with birthdays in

August

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 03 – Salatiel Chuc | 14 – Bill Scott |
| Jill Piteo | 17 – Raylene Casson |
| 04 – Cody Janicek | 18 – Joel McCall |
| 06 – Tim Barton | 20 – Eliza Hunt (2012) |
| Brenda Bracken | 23 – Andrew Nachtergaele (1997) |
| Adriana Wood | 26 – Carol Druen (2010) |
| 07 – Millie Druen (2012) | William Druen (2010) |
| 10 – Ken Cross | Amanda Weaver (2003) |
| 12 – Laura Cochran | 30 – Michael Lee |



WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to two young couples in our church family on their recent marriages. **Hannah Jessen and Pierce Conway** were married on Saturday, July 8. Hannah is the daughter of **Pastor Steve and Julie Jessen**. **Mark Hines**, the son of **Jerry and Janet Ratchford**, and **Kaylee Painter** was also married on July 8.

Christian sympathies are extended to **Jodie and Chris Graham** and family in the death of Jodie's mother. **Dot Schronce** died unexpectedly on July 8.

We officially welcome **Brittany Ross** into our church family. Brittany was presented for membership by Profession of Faith this past Sunday.

Several of our members have had surgery or been hospitalized recently. **Ellen Beam** spent one night in the hospital following back surgery. She continues to be in severe pain as she recuperates at home. **Clyde Haley** had outpatient surgery to remove a tumor behind his ear. He is at home awaiting further treatment options. **Percy Raleigh** had a stroke last week and was released from the VA hospital in Gainesville, FL on Tuesday, July 18. Let's continue to pray for each of these as they continue to heal and possibly undergo further treatment.

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are currently working on an updated church family directory. If you have not already done so, be sure to get any updates and changes to your household to Sandra by Monday, July 24. You can call the church office, email Sandra at info@fpcstanley.org or note changes on the attendance pad. Updated directories should be available by the end of the month.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE COMMUNION CLOTHS?

The communion cloths are missing from the tablecloth closet. If you have them or know of their whereabouts, please return them to the church office. We need them for Communion on August 6.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	63,544.35
Received in June for budget.....	50,327.14
Needed to date for budget.....	381,266.09
Received to date for budget	365,688.99
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	16,517.75
Received in June for Faith Promise	7,050.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	99,106.50
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	91,812.00

Birthdays to Celebrate in August

2 Chris Baker
Claire Kopka
Tommi Rust

3 Zack Bedford
Cora Belle Stewart

5 Chris Black

6 Maddie Jessen

7 Dean Chaney



8 Frankie Henderson

9 Fynn Petro

11 Deanna Beatty
Heather Roberts

12 Averly Deese
Barbara Graham

13 Kristen Henderson

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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 – August 2017
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 Thoughts From God’s Word for the Month:

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. I John 5:13-15

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 Lord 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 (Paraguay Mission Trip July 27-Aug 5)
- Wednesday:** Lauren Henderson, Children’s Ministry (Upcoming day outings, August 2, 9)
- 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 for the summer youth ministry, and the Soar/Youth Pastor selection process.
- 2 **Andrew Deese:** Pray that I would be more focused during my devotion time.
- 3 **Ed Faggart:** Pray that that my work with Youth and Sports Outreach staff search committee is an aid to finding God's person for the job.
- 4 **Chris Graham:** Pray for the entire church family to encourage and support the Pulpit Committee in their search.
- 5 **Clyde Haley:** Pray that God's will would be done in all of our lives, and that our Church will remain loyal to our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6 **Mark Harper:** Pray that God will give me wisdom and direction serving on the Deacons.
- 7 **Rick Herd:** That the golf outreach tournament will come together for September 16 as we have a number of un-churched invitees come and enjoy the fellowship and hear the word of Christ.
- 8 **Joel Jessen:** Pray for our family as we move into a new school year and Isaac goes off to UNC, that we not lose sight of the Lord's work in our lives.
- 9 **Pete Johnson:** Pray for God's direction in the nomination of new Elders and Deacons.
- 10 **Leon Lineberger:** For my physical and spiritual strength in daily work and work as a Deacon.
- 11 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that God will give me wisdom in shepherding the flock and give the Session wisdom in how to move forward.
- 12 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for wisdom and guidance for the two search committees, that God will lead them to the right people to further His kingdom.
- 13 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the outreach golf tournament on September 16, that it will be successful in exposing people to Christ.
- 14 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for my stepson Mark and Kaylee who were united in marriage July 8th.
- 15 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray good pregnancy health for our daughter Carly and her developing child.
- 16 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray for church leaders and members that we will rely prayerfully on God's will to be clear as we each make daily decisions about our church life and our home life.
- 17 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for the work of our church and guidance for the session for things to come.
- 18 **George Ross:** Pray that the safety and security of our church continue to grow stronger and more unified, so that all will feel at peace coming to God's house.
- 19 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for the Christian Education Committee as we begin Sunday School teacher recruitment for 2017-18 and planning the Spring Conference.
- 20 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray that I would be a Godly leader for my family
- 21 **James Teague:** Pray for my parents to take it easy in this heat and for my daughter as she gets ready for the second year of college.
- 22 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for our upcoming Missions Conference and praise for all that will share their faith through it.
- 23 **Ryan Abernathy:** That God will help me keep focused on making time to study His word daily.
- 24 **Chris Baker:** Pray for parents as our children prepare to go back to school and/or start their college careers. May God bless their studies.
- 25 **Mark Beatty:** Pray that as leaders we will seek God's will in all areas of our life and that God will give our church clear direction in the coming year.
- 26 **Tommy Barton:** Pray for the MTW committee as we prepare for the 2017 Missions Conference.
- 27 **Dean Chaney:** For our Sunday School teachers and the students as they advance and begin new classes.
- 28 **Ken Dake:** Pray for God's watch care over our children and youth in the new school year.
- 29 **Andrew Deese:** Pray for help balancing all the responsibilities of my family and work.
- 30 **Ed Faggart:** Pray that the Sunday evening youth program I presented will have the impact which God wills on those who were present that night.
- 31 **Chris Graham:** For Jodie and our family as we care for our parents.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise for the strong witness of the Sports Camp and for all who participated in it.
- Praise for the witness of our Mission Team to Paraguay this month.