

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

We are very excited to welcome Rev. Steve Jessen as our new Assistant Pastor of Missional Discipleship. Steve and Julie have been worshipping with us for several years and we have witnessed their godliness, commitment to the Great Commission, as well as their love for one another and the church. They have two daughters – Hannah and Miriam. Hannah is currently serving with International Justice Mission in Bolivia and Miriam is a college student at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

Steve received his seminary training from Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte and served in the EPC (Evangelical Presbyterian Church) in Wilmington for seven years before starting a Contracting business several years ago. Following the Spirit's leading to get back into fulltime ministry, he was open to First Presbyterian's Call to Ministry. He will begin full time by the end of March.

Steve's job description includes Men's Ministry, Missions, and Adult Outreach. Steve will be developing a Men's Ministry from the "ground up." (Thankfully he's also a licensed contractor as well as a pastor!) Steve has a heart to see the gospel cross racial, ethnic, and generational boundaries and will help move us closer to God's will in these areas.

Please pray for Steve and Julie as they transition into full time church ministry again, and please pray for God's Spirit to "move" as we begin this new chapter at FPC.

Celebrating the Lord's goodness,



## 2016 SPRING BIBLE CONFERENCE † SUNDAY, MARCH 6

### 8:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

We will all gather in the Fellowship Café for fellowship, coffee and "goodies."

### 9:00 AM Joint Adult Sunday School



Dr. Alison Littauer Brown will speak on Biblical relationships and marriage answering the question "How is the church to think and respond biblically to the homosexual agenda and same-sex marriage?" Due to the sensitive nature of this topic, only the adults (High School and up) will gather together in the sanctuary for a Joint Sunday School. (Middle School and children will have their normal Sunday School classes and then join the adults for worship at the regular time.)

### 10:15 AM Worship

During morning worship, Dr. Alan Myatt will preach about civil authority and elections from a Biblical perspective. He will answer the question "How is the Church to think and respond to the civil government with regard to elections and voting?"





## Daylight Savings Time Change Sunday, March 13

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 12 before you go to bed!

Also, take time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.



### NURSERY MINISTRY

If you are participating in Sunday evening Care Groups or Image Bearers and need the nursery available during the months of April-June, please email Heather Ormsby directly at [hormsby1022@gmail.com](mailto:hormsby1022@gmail.com) by March 15th. She will coordinate nursery volunteers for the quarter if needed.



### Food Pantry Needs

Thank you for helping to keep our Food Pantry well stocked!! We have helped lots of local families due to your generosity. We are currently in need of pastas and pasta sauces. As you are able, place donations in the designated bin in the main hallway.

## DESPERATION by Chris Baity

My friends, partners in Christ, God's beloved, I write to you today in desperation! My heart breaks as I hear the news of the struggles our youth are facing today. The pain, the stress, the overwhelming influence the world is applying, these are the obstacles our young people face. At the same time, I'm very excited. Over the past month, our Wednesday and Sunday night youth groups have averaged two to three youth visitors as a direct result of SOAR volleyball! As we dwell on the struggles our children have, we also know the answer! Christ is the answer!

I now make a sincere plea to you that you may consider partnering with SOAR soccer. Last year we registered 230 kids and youth, and we had turn away over 30. We need your help, not to coach soccer, but to minister to these kids and youth. Your ministry would include sharing a 5 to 10 minute devotion, prayer with the team and building relationships with the players. These players need to hear the Gospel. To do this we must have vessels willing to serve. Would you consider partnering with us? Please pray today for soccer. Pray that the Lord would provide the workers needed for the harvest.



## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Several of our members were hospitalized recently but are now recovering at home. **Mary Rankin** was suffering from an inner ear issue causing her dizziness and nausea. **Debra Wallace** had surgery to remove kidney stones. **Vickie Smith** spent many nights in the hospital for internal bleeding caused by ongoing health issues.

Congratulations to **Sherry Wagstaff** on the birth of another grandchild, **Warren George** born February 18. Proud parents are former members Wanda and Eric Throneburg and the big brother is Walter.

**With  
Loving  
Thanks**

*Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits you made during my recent stay in the hospital. It means so much to have such a loving church family.*

*Mary Rankin*

## LET'S MEET OUR MISSIONARIES

**Ellen Barnett** is a native Tennessean who also claims North Carolina as her home. She got her degree in elementary education from Wheaton College. Ellen accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior before age five. Her first desire to serve in missions came as a result of her early contact with missionaries. In her teens she reexamined that desire and the Lord confirmed her decision. Ellen has served in Acapulco, Mexico since 1975 with Mission to the World. Her ministry has included Bible studies; work with children, youth and singles; leadership training; development and teaching in Maranatha Bible Institute; and teacher training seminars throughout Mexico.

Born in Charlotte, NC, **Becky White** grew up as a PK (preacher's kid) and then became a MK (missionary's kid) when her parents David and Barbara White moved to Taiwan in 1975. Becky has an MA in English and psychology from Covenant College and a MA in cross-cultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has been serving with Mission to the World since 1991 at Christ's College in Taiwan. Teaching English at the college offers Becky an opportunity to educate from a Christian perspective and to build relationships with students for deeper ministry through counseling and prayer. She is the sister of our own David White, Jr. Her parents, now retired, live in Taiwan on the college campus.

Your local Crisis Pregnancy Center has **5 Locations in need of VOLUNTEERS!**

If you want to be part of something greater than yourself, while helping others, come join us!!

### **MAKE AN IMPACT**

**SEMI-ANNUAL TRAINING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS**

**Tuesdays: March 22, 29 and April 5, 12, and 19**

6:30 p.m. at 700 Robinson Road, Gastonia

**LEARN MORE** by calling Nancy at 704-867-3706 or [Nancy.Calhoun.cpc@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.Calhoun.cpc@gmail.com)  
or you can go to [cpcgaston.net](http://cpcgaston.net) and download the volunteer application.

# Birthdays to Celebrate in March

16 Samantha Ashley

17 Mae Davis  
Audra Friesenhahn  
Jimmie Mitchell

18 Anne Abernathy  
Greg Huss

19 Stacey Hall  
Rhonda Prather

21 Roland Hager  
Carl Klutz  
Connor McMinn  
Cindy Sanderson

22 Rachel Gamage

23 Brody Heffner  
Julie Marsh  
Ed Wallace

24 Cindy Davis  
Casey Paramore

26 Whitney Black  
Jamie Williams

29 Linda Faggart  
Helen Lieurance

30 Amanda Marsh  
Chrissy Teague

31 Elijah Prather  
Havanah Roberts

Happy  
Birthday

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church  
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Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen  
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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