

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Scott Deneen

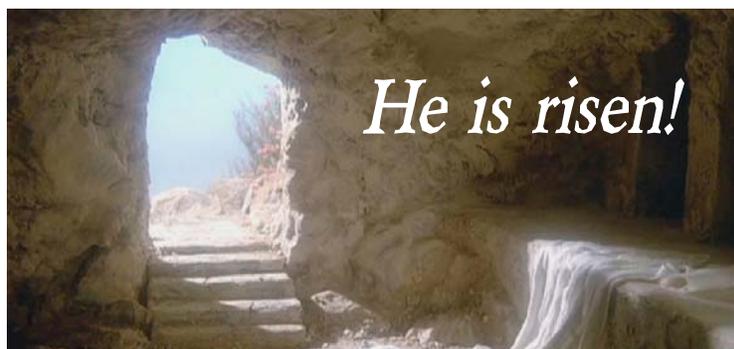
The resurrection of Jesus Christ is foundational to the Christian faith, and yet, oftentimes, we only give it real thought around the Easter season. But the resurrection of Jesus is so important that Paul writes, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:17). So as we prepare for the Easter Season, let us consider some glorious truths about the resurrection.

- 1) **Jesus had a bodily resurrection** (John 20:12, 27; Acts 1:9), and will always have a bodily existence. The fact that Jesus still has a body testifies to the dignity of the human body. In other words, since Jesus’ human body mattered to God, so do all human bodies; therefore, they are to be protected, honored, and cherished.
- 2) **Jesus had a justifying resurrection.** Paul writes in 1 Timothy 3:16b, “[Christ] appeared in a body, [and] was vindicated by the Spirit.” The word translated “vindicated” is typically translated “justified” elsewhere in the New Testament, and represents the removal of the verdict of condemnation and the affirmation of his righteousness as our Substitute. So as God raised Christ from the dead He was declaring Christ’s work to be sufficient for our justification.
- 3) **Jesus had a “first fruits” resurrection of ours to come.** Paul describes Jesus’s resurrection as “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20). First fruits is an agricultural metaphor that points to the initial quality of the harvest. Paul is saying the resurrection of Christ and of believers cannot be separated. Why? Because, to extend the metaphor as Paul intends, Christ’s resurrection is the ‘first fruits’ of the resurrection ‘harvest’ that includes the resurrection of believers. So as surely as Christ was raised from the dead, you that are united to Him by faith shall be raised as well.

What glorious realities these are! Our Savior has come for us and succeeded in God’s Redemption plan displayed in Christ’s powerful resurrection!

Grace,

*Scott*



## PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the bedrock of our faith. Romans 10:9 instructs us *“that if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* If we confess Jesus as our Lord and believe in his resurrection from the dead then we are saved, it is that simple.

This is the powerful truth that we will celebrate on Easter Sunday this April 16. The message of the resurrection gives life to those dead in their sin and brings hope to the lost. If this truth is the starting point for our spiritual journey with Jesus, then there is no better Sunday to invite someone to come to church.

We are encouraging everyone in our congregation to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to someone you know to join us on Easter. To help your guests feel welcome we are planning a special time of refreshments and fellowship that will run from 9:45 until the start of the service at 10:15. (Sunday School will be dismissed at 9:35 that Sunday.) This exciting event will take place in the front of the church and in Founders Hall in case of rain.

The best way for a church to grow is when friends bring friends. Start praying for someone in your life who might consider visiting our church on Easter. For several weeks leading up to Easter we will be passing out invitations for you to use as you invite others. And remember you are not just inviting them to church, you are inviting them to meet the risen Jesus!

*Steve*



**YOUTH  
RETREAT**

**RIDGE HAVEN  
May 19 - 21**

**SIGN UP  
DEADLINE  
MAY 7!**

**EASTER EGG HUNT  
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2:00 PM**



**BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!**

Children 0-11!

Snack provided and friends welcome!

Begins with a short Easter program and then outside to hunt!

**OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE EASTER AT FPC**



**PALM SUNDAY  
SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

Our FPC children will sing during the morning worship.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 7:00 PM**

Join us for worship and communion.



**EASTER SUNDAY  
SUNDAY, APRIL 16**

We will have a time of fellowship  
and refreshments at 9:45 am.  
(Sunday School will release early.)  
Worship will begin at 10:15 am.



**THE COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES**

continue each

**WEDNESDAY AT 12 NOON**

The locations for the remaining 2 services are:

**March 29** - Frontline Worship Center, 324 North Main St.

**April 5** - Mt. Pleasant United Methodist, 2717 Dallas-Stanley Hwy.

## MISSIONS NEWS

### PRAYER NOTES FROM TIM AND VICKI BARTON

A large number of our church family pray regularly for **Tim and Vicki Barton** and their ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church in **Utah**. Here is their most recent prayer letter to guide us in our praying for them and the Grace Church. Please pray for:

- Deacons – New deacons Troy and Michael. They are getting their feet under them in regards to maintenance issues and mercy ministry. We didn't have any deacons last year so the session shoulders the load of both offices. We are so grateful to have these men.
- Session – With our newfound freedom we are seeking to focus more on the Word and prayer and shepherding our people. We need wisdom and creativity to create service opportunities for our people. We are growing and it's hard to keep up.
- Intern Project – We are at 70% of our goal to hire a new pastoral intern. He grew up in Utah and converted from Mormonism about 7 years ago. Thanks to First Presbyterian for all your generosity in this through Faith Promise.
- Missions Committee – We are starting up a Missions Committee. Pray for guidance.
- Praise – Grace Church is once again a happy and joyful place. Pray that the Lord would protect this beautiful harmony.
- For Vicki and me – We just celebrated our 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We enjoy each other more than ever. Continue to pray as always that the Lord would protect our hearts from fear and pride and open doors for our message.



### *HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

*TO THOSE IN OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL!*

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 – Katy Janicek        | 14 – Bill Troutman         |
| 3 – Ana Santana         | 21 – Jane McLaughen        |
| 4 – Carrie Dirks        | 22 – Garry Chambers        |
| Michaela Wadhams (2007) | 24 – Robin White           |
| 5 – Melissa Hunt        | 26 – Suzanne Scott         |
| 6 – Michael Cochran     | 27 – Jonathan Jones (2013) |
| 9 – Karen Weaver        | 29 – Fox Cochran (2009)    |

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2:00 Men's Open Basketball 2:00 Children's Easter Play/ Egg Hunt-Sanctuary
2 4:30 Communicants' Class 6:00 Children's Ministry; Youth; Care Groups	3 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 1:00 Balance Class 6:00 Grace Circle Meeting 7:00 Elizabeth, Readers & Ruth Circle Meetings	4 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	5 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 12:00 Lenten Service @ Mt. Pleasant UMC 6:30 Youth; Abernathy CG	6 1:00 Balance Class 6:00 AHG Planning Mtg. 6:30 MTW Committee Mtg. 6:30 CE Committee Mtg. 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball 7:30 Officers' Prayer	7	8 2:00 Men's Open Basketball 4:30 Lineberger/Lamb Wedding
9 4:30 Communicants' Class 6:00 Children's Ministry; Youth; Care Groups	10 1:00 Balance Class 6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg	11 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	12 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 6:30 Youth; Abernathy CG; Children's Min Team; Tech Team Mtg.	13 1:00 Balance Class 7:00 Maundy Thursday Communion	14 12:00 Cross Walk 6:30 Tenebrae Service at Commonground	15 9:00 Called Session Mtg for Communicants 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
16  <b>Easter Sunday</b>  <i>No evening activities.</i>	17 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> Church Office and CDC closed 1:00 Balance Class	18 6:30 Barton Care Group	19 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp. 6:30 Abernathy CG	20 1:00 Balance Class 7:00 Joint Officers' Mtg.	21	22 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
 <span style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 2px;">Palmer Home Mission Trip (Bus gone all week.)</span>						
23 4:00 WIC Council Mtg. 6:00 Children's Ministry; Youth; Care Groups	24 1:00 Balance Class	25 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group	26 6:30 Youth; Abernathy CG	27 1:00 Balance Class 6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Adult Rec. Volleyball	28	29 2:00 Men's Open Basketball
30 6:00 Children's Ministry; Youth; Care Groups						

## APRIL RESPONSIBILITIES

### NURSERY

- April 2:** 10:15 AM - Donna Hill  
6:00 PM - Olivia Fox
- April 9:** 10:15 AM - Lisa Grice  
6:00 PM - Olivia Fox
- April 16:** 10:15 AM - Stacey Hall  
6:00 PM - Olivia Fox
- April 23:** 10:15 AM - Sally Ormsby  
6:00 PM - Olivia Fox
- April 30:** 10:15 AM - Amanda Huss  
6:00 PM - Olivia Fox



### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- April 2:** Chris Graham
- April 9:** Rick Herd
- April 16:** Easter
- April 23:** Joel Jessen
- April 30:** Steve Jessen

*Train a child in the way he should go,  
and when he is old he will not turn  
from it.*

*Proverbs 22:6*

## WITH LOVING THANKS

*Dear Church Family,*

*You have been such a blessing to me! I want to thank you for all the cards, calls and visits. Thank you most of all for all your prayers. It means so much to have a loving church family.*

*Ellen Beam*

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*Words can not express the love and support we felt during the loss of our mother. We could feel the prayers and your loving arms wrapped around us. Thank you for the cards, calls, texts, flowers and most of all your love.*

*Vickie and Steve Smith,  
Kristen and Lee Henderson,  
and the Carroll family*

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We extend Christian sympathies to **Debbie and Ron Smith and family** on the death of Debbie's sister, **Marcella Morrow**. Marcella passed away March 17 at Testa Family Hospice House in Kings Mountain.

## WIC NEWS

### APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Monday, April 3:

- Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Nancy Cozart.
- Grace Circle meets. (6:00 pm)
- Readers Circle meets at the home of Lisa Grice.
- Ruth Circle meets in the Church Parlor, Janet Redding hosting.

Tuesday, April 4:

- Denver Circle meets at the home of Becky Hensley.
- All circles meet at 7:00 pm except Grace which meets at 6:00 pm.



### SPRING HAS ARRIVED AT LAST . . .

And it's time to make plans for the Women In the Church Spring Banquet. Mark your calendar for Monday, May 1 at 6:30 pm. This year we will have a country dinner catered by Sweetfire BBQ from Lincolnton. Featured will be barbequed chicken and the fixings. Watch for sign-up sheets. Meals will be \$5.00 per person with the proceeds going to help fill our food pantry. We will again have a pre-supper program with several of our women answering questions submitted by the girls in grade school and middle school Sunday School classes. You will enjoy hearing both their questions and the answers.

## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	63,544.35
Received in February for budget .....	51,871.24
Needed to date for budget .....	127,088.70
Received to date for budget .....	115,288.29
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	16,517.75
Received in February for Faith Promise .....	11,145.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	33,035.50
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	45,630.00

# *Birthdays to Celebrate in April*

1 Keith Black  
Kate Heil  
April Marsh

2 Terri Fowler

3 Sallie McAllister

4 Tony Beam  
Brad Heath  
Chris McAllister

5 Michelle Gillespie  
Cathy Rhyne



8 Tommy Deese

10 Doug Lamb  
Brandon Rodgers

11 Casey Ham

12 Rachel Baker  
Mary Rankin

15 Alyssa Lowery

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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

# ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar –April 2017

First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

In the month of April we are blessed and privileged to remember Jesus' death and to celebrate his resurrection. Our belief in the facts that Jesus died and rose again shapes the way we think about everything, including our prayers. The Apostle Paul declares, "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain". "If Christ has not been raised your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (I Cor. 15:14,17). The resurrection is God's visible stamp of approval that our sin is forgiven at the cross. That being true, we now have full access into God's presence!

The writer of Hebrews assures us: "Since then we have a great high priest...Jesus the son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted (tested) as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (4:14-16). May the provision and privilege of entering God's presence for grace and help stir us, and spur us to pray.

Pastor Chuck

## *The Armorbearer Intercession*

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).

## **AWARE PRAYER For Ministry Leaders and Staff**

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff: Areas of prayer may include special ministries you may be aware of that they are doing in a particular week, or special concerns about their health/strength, families/relationships, etc. You may pray for the fruits of the Spirit in their lives and for fruit from their labors. You may be led to pray for vision, wisdom, grace and protection from enemy attacks that would discourage or hinder their service of the Lord. Pray for them as God may bring things to mind and lay them on your heart. The Holy Spirit is our helper as we pray for those who serve him.

**Monday:** Pastor Scott Deneen, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Steve Jessen: Assistant Pastor

**Tuesday:** Lauren Henderson, Children's Ministry  
Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center

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

**Thursday:** Eric Beam, Music Director  
Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

**Friday:** Pastor Dan King: Ministry to Seniors

**Saturday:** Pray for those who preach, teach, and lead at FPC on Sunday.

## Daily Requests for Elders and Deacons

- 1 **George Ross:** Please pray that the Lord continues to guide me on his path through the life decisions my family and I are facing.
- 2 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray for our Communicants Class preparing our young folks for church membership.
- 3 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray that I would use my time wisely in my daily devotions to the Lord.
- 4 **James Teague:** For God to work in us what is pleasing in his sight.
- 5 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for our Palmer Home Team leaving after Easter...safety, strength, and grace in the new settings for work at P.H.
- 6 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray that God uses our new Soccer season as an opening to share the gospel with kids and parents that have never heard it.
- 7 **Chris Baker:** Pray that our SOAR soccer outreach will be a blessing to all those involved.
- 8 **Mark Beatty:** Pray that our Care Group will grow in our knowledge of God's word and how to apply it to our lives.
- 9 **Tommy Barton:** Pray that our invite-a-friend outreach for Easter will enable others to come to FPC and receive the welcome and word of God.
- 10 **Dean Chaney:** For God to give wisdom to those leaders who serve-national, state, local.
- 11 **Ken Dake:** Please pray for the youth and SOAR ministries and especially pray for the committee seeking a staff person to lead those groups.
- 12 **Andrew Deese:** Pray that I would be a good witness to those I come in contact with daily.
- 13 **Ed Faggart:** Pray that I would learn to rely upon God more and less on myself.
- 14 **Chris Graham:** For guidance, wisdom, and love as I coach SOAR Soccer this Spring and for our wisdom and compassion in helping aging parents.
- 15 **Clyde Haley:** Pray for God's will to be done with our homebound people, that they will feel His presence by their side leading and guiding them.
- 16 **Mark Harper:** Pray that I can be, as it says in James 1:19, "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry".
- 17 **Rick Herd:** For help preparing and delivering SS lessons when I teach in the fellowship class.
- 18 **Joel Jessen:** That God would give me a holy resolve to put sin to death and pursue him, and for Annalise and Angel as they work through his visa process and make wedding plans.
- 19 **Pete Johnson:** Pray that as Deacons we can maintain and oversee the property and buildings as facilities useful in God's service and glory.
- 20 **Leon Lineberger:** Pray for Anna Kathryn and Dillon Lamb as they begin their married life.
- 21 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that I would be temperate and self-controlled.
- 22 **Dan Ormsby:** That God will give me guidance and wisdom in caring for the families in my Shepherd group.
- 23 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for Outreach Comm. as we seek to reach the lost in our community and for Missions Comm. to find a conference coordinator.
- 24 **Percy Raleigh:** Pray strength to serve our Lord Jesus Christ however I can.
- 25 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for my stepson Mark, fiancé Kaylee and all those involved in planning their July wedding.
- 26 **Kevin Rhyne:** May I boldly proclaim Christ and his gospel of hope in everyday opportunities.
- 27 **Robert Rhyne:** May the Lord help me recognize and turn away from the things I say and do that break His heart.
- 28 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray that the church will resist all the pressures and threats of the world and culture.
- 29 **George Ross:** Pray for SOAR coaches, refs, and players will follow Christ in their daily lives.
- 30 **Ronnie Smith:** That the word will be preached boldly at FPC and as leaders we will have wisdom in all our decisions and plans.

## Praise and Thanksgivings

- Thanks to God for a great volleyball season and leadership. Rick Herd
- A praise for the way God has provided funding to our family for upcoming mission trips and a "Thank You" to all who made donations. Mark Harper
- Praise for Eric, our musicians, soundboard techs and choir. Jerry Ratchford