

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

One of my favorite places to be is high on a mountain looking out over the scenic view spread out before me. Beams of sunlight illuminate the scenery and puffy white clouds cast patches of shadows on the earth below. From the strokes of God's creative brush, shades of color and varieties of texture give dimension to the tapestry stretching as far as the eye can see.

In Genesis 13:14-16 Abram (whose name later changes to Abraham) is brought to such a place with a broad panoramic view. The LORD said to Abram...“Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.” This vision came after a previous vision in Genesis 12:3 that promised “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God's Kingdom vision does not always make human sense. Abraham and his wife Sarah were childless and were well beyond child bearing years. How could he father a multitude beyond counting? Jesus said it best: “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26). It took a miracle conception by a 100 year old father and a 90 year old mother, but it came to pass just as God promised. His offspring indeed inherited the land, and all the families of the earth are now being blessed by the saving power of Jesus Christ a descendent of Abraham and the Son of God.

God gave Abraham a great gift: a Kingdom vision. A view not of what Abraham would achieve, but what God was going to accomplish through him. As we gather on the mountain top, I pray that God will give us a Kingdom vision as well. Not a vision of what we can achieve through our own human power and wisdom, but what God can accomplish when we pray for His Kingdom to come in our lives and in our church. As God commanded Abraham, he commands us to lift up our eyes and look to see all that He has for us!

Praying for Kingdom vision,

*Steve*



**QUESTIONS FOR SELF EXAMINATION  
IN PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION  
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 10:15 AM**

- (1) Do I really acknowledge myself to be a sinner?
- (2) Do I recognize that it was my sin which caused Christ's death?
- (3) Do I understand that I cannot contribute one thing to my salvation, that it is all God's free gift to me?
- (4) Do I believe that Christ's work--and it alone--is what saves me?
- (5) Have I believed in Christ Jesus to the extent that I have put my full trust and reliance in him as my only assurance of salvation?
- (6) Have I committed myself to show true thankfulness to God in my whole life?
- (7) Am I sincerely trying to walk faithfully with him?
- (8) Am I honestly endeavoring to live an upright life and to live in love and peace with my neighbor – especially those other members of the church, the “body of Christ”?
- (9) Do I earnestly desire to follow Christ and leave my sin behind? In other words, am I living a life marked by true repentance?



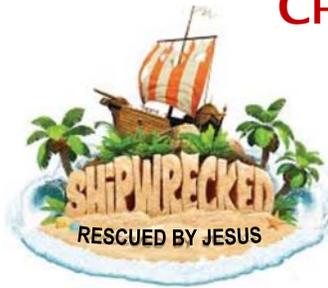
**BEST YEARS OUTING TO ASHEVILLE  
THURSDAY, MAY 17  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**



Come spend the day with us in Asheville! The bus will leave the church at 9:00 am and plan to return around 4:00 pm. We will eat lunch at the Moose Café (Dutch treat!). After lunch, we will spend some time at the Farmers Market and Jesse Israel and Sons Garden Center.

Look for sign-ups in the Sunday School classes this Sunday. You can also contact Kathy Lineberger at 704-922-8714 to sign-up. Be sure to sign-up by Sunday, 5/13 to reserve your spot on the bus.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



The Children's Ministry Team will meet on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to complete planning for Vacation Bible School. Please save the date (June 25-29) in your calendar and pray about your involvement. If you have helped in the past, one of the team members will be contacting you this month!

Our Children's Sunday School teachers will be pulled out of their classes on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> for an enrichment session with Lauren Henderson. Members of the Children's Ministry Team will be filling in for them in their absence.



## YOUTH NEWS

**SUNDAY, MAY 6 IS THE DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP FOR THE YOUTH RIDGEHAVEN RETREAT, MAY 18 - 20!**

Cost is only \$60.00. Sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. Sign up no later than Sunday, May 6!

If you need additional information, please contact Joel Jessen.



We would like to recognize those in our church family that are Class of 2018 Graduates. Please complete the following and leave on Sandra's desk or call (704-263-4275) or email ([info@fpcstanley.org](mailto:info@fpcstanley.org)) her with this information no later than May 27.

Name of graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduating from: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, June 3, 10:15 am** Future Plans: \_\_\_\_\_

# Happy Mother's Day!

to all the FPC moms



YOU ARE INVITED TO A  
**BABY SHOWER**  
HONORING

**HAYLEY RUTKOWSKI**

**SUNDAY, MAY 20,**  
**2:00 - 3:30 PM**  
IN FOUNDERS HALL

Hailey is requesting Target gift cards, diapers of all sizes and wipes.

Hostesses are: Suzy Deneen, Julianne Griffin, Lisa Grice and Teresa Neely.



Join us for a  
**COVERED DISH LUNCH**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 27**

immediately following the morning service.

We are celebrating Pastor Steve's installation  
as Sr. Pastor, to be held that Sunday.

At the same time, we will be re-dedicating Founders Hall to commemorate the completion of the recent renovations. This amazing make-over included new paint, new chairs, beautiful linen cabinet, new window treatments, and lovely wall hangings.

The meats and drinks will be provided by the church. All you need to bring is a side dish (or two) and/or dessert. Be sure to bring a little extra to accommodate for our visitors and special guests.

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Gloria Marsh** suffered a broken hip recently. She spent several days in the hospital but is doing well now as she is recovering at home.

Congratulations are in order for two of our church families as they have each welcomed a new baby into their lives. **Gavin Russell Hare** was born April 20 to parents **Eric and Crystal Hare**. The proud grandparents are **David and Donna Hill**. On April 26, **Liam Hunter Robinson** was born to parents **Will and Sarah Robinson**. **Bill and Freida Robinson** are the proud grandparents.

**Harrison Revels** is in need of extra prayers this week. He was admitted to the hospital on May 1 for treatment of a respiratory illness.

Christian sympathies are extended to **Ellen Deese** and family in the death of her uncle. **Jack Tysinger** passed away Sunday at the age of 90. Ellen's uncle was extra special to her as he became her father-figure after her dad passed away when she was only 2 years old.

## MISSIONARY NEWS

Congratulations to **Garry and Anita Chambers** on the birth of their 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild. Their youngest daughter **Rebecca** and husband **Stephen** welcomed **June Edith Spalding** on April 18.

This is a time of transition for **Clyde and Jennifer Comer** and their three children **Katelynn, Claudia and Ellis**. At the end of May they are moving from Holly Springs, NC to Spartanburg, SC where they will continue their ministry with Cru in South Carolina and Georgia.

**Chuck and Celia Williams** are celebrating the completion and approval of his dissertation for his Doctorate of Ministry Degree titled "The Role of Religious Principles to Restore the Ethical Foundation of a Military Profession Morally Adrift."

**Becky White** asks for prayer as the board meets on May 19 to select a new president for Christ College in Taipei, Taiwan.

## CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER OF GASTON COUNTY

### BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS

From now until June 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting silver change in baby bottles for a very special project that will change countless lives...

- ✓ To help save the lives of unborn babies
- ✓ To provide Christian peer counseling to women facing an unplanned pregnancy
- ✓ To provide free pregnancy testing & ultrasounds
- ✓ To provide maternity and baby clothes as well as free supplies
- ✓ To provide free ultrasounds
- ✓ To provide abstinence education
- ✓ To provide women/teens support groups
- ✓ TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!



Look for baby bottles in your Sunday School room starting Mother's Day, May 13<sup>th</sup>!

# Birthdays to Celebrate in May

16 Jodie Graham

17 Linda Abernathy  
Ashlyn Treat

18 Jane Black  
Houston Rust

19 Clint Gamage

21 Doug Tadlock

22 Lauren Henderson



23 Evelyn Accipiter  
Eric Beam

25 Chris Boggess  
Becky Foster  
Robert Rhyne

27 Madison Abernathy  
SaDara Tilley

29 Natalie Helms

31 Josh Clevenger  
Maelin Huss

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



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