

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM PASTOR STEVE

by Steve Jessen

This past Sunday I set the stage for some sermons in the coming weeks on the book of Psalms. These divinely inspired songs are precious to our faith and have a way of softening our hard hearts with their beautiful verses and precious words. The Psalms are bursting with honesty, wisdom, comfort and of course, praise of God. But there is one challenge that I want to highlight as we begin to mine the precious jewels contained in this glorious book. It comes from Psalm 16:8 and says this *“I have set the Lord continually before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.”* What a wonderful and difficult challenge, but one that will change your life forever.

Listen to these words by Robert Cawdray a Puritan minister who suffered persecution for his preaching. *“A faithful Christian man, whether he abound in wealth or be pinched with poverty, whether he be of high or low degree in this world, ought continually to have his faith and hope sure built and grounded upon Christ, and to have his heart and mind fast fixed and settled in him, and to follow him through thick and thin, through fire and water, through wars and peace, through hunger and cold, through friends and foes, through a thousand perils and dangers, through the surges and waves of envy, malice, hatred, evil speeches, railing sentences, contempt of the world, flesh, and devil, and even in death itself, be it never so bitter, cruel and tyrannical, yet never to lose sight and view of Christ, never to give over faith, hope, and trust in him.”*

I need this reminder every day. How easy it is to focus on myself and my circumstances and how hard it can be to walk continually in the awareness of God’s presence. This is also a challenge for us as a church, to *“never lose sight and view of Christ.”* When we adopt the practice of setting the Lord as our constant priority the result is that: *“we will not be shaken.”* Let’s embrace this practice as individuals and as a church and watch how God will use that to change us, change our church, and change the world.

Steve

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “WISH LIST”



JUNE 19 - 22
6:30 - 8:30 pm

We are in need of the following items for VBS. Items can be placed in Lauren’s office. If you would like item(s) to be returned, please label it with your name.

Flower garlands

Vine garlands

Wreaths with flowers

Animal skins or rugs of any type/size

Awning Canopies to use as basis for each tent (looking for at least four more than I have already signed up to loan us one)

Wooden bowls / utensils

Items hand made out of leather

Cast iron pans

Items made out of metal

ARE YOU COMMITTED TO PRAY?

Prayer is the greatest gift we can give our pastors and our Session. It is crucial to their spiritual health and the spiritual health of their families and our church. They need committed intercessors to lift them up in fervent, specific prayer that surrounds them with protective armor against Satan's attacks.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 says "Brothers, pray for us."

Suggestions for praying for our pastors and their families:

- Earnestly seek God's will and be committed to instant and complete obedience
- To be nourished and strengthened in daily quiet time in the Word
- To be filled with God's wisdom and discernment
- Godly leadership in the home and family protection from accepting worldly values
- Good health habits in diet, exercise, rest, and relaxation
- Spiritual unity in the church staff and leadership - that the enemy will not be allowed to create divisions, strife, or misunderstanding
- God's working to be evident in his life and the life of the congregation



Understanding God's command to pray for our pastors and the need for armor bearers to surround them with God's protection, the Session is asking that you join them in a commitment to prayer daily for each of our pastors. Please pick up a yellow Prayer for Our Pastors commitment card from the church office or the literature display. Sign the card and drop it off in the church office or give it to one of our elders.



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

ANNALISE JESSEN

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 3:00 - 5:00 PM
IN FOUNDERS HALL**

Annalise and Angel are registered at: Bed, Bath & Beyond, Walmart and Target.

Hostesses are: Ashley Abernathy, Janice Barton, Debbie Boggess, Caitlin Bumgardner, Jonan Bynum, Libby Chaney, Suzy Deneen, Linda Faggart, Anna Friesenhahn, Ginny Haley, Debbie Harper, Julie Jessen, Deana Lamb, Sandy and Rebecca Lasley, Alyssa Lowery, Teresa Neely, Freida and Sarah Robinson, Ann Smith, Leslie Smith and Phyllis Withers.



We would like to recognize those in our church family that are Class of 2017 Graduates. Please complete the following and leave on Sandra’s desk or call (704-263-4275) or email (info@fpcstanley.org) her with this information no later than May 28.

Name of graduate: _____

Graduating from: _____

Sunday, June 4, 10:15 am Future Plans: _____



“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”
Colossians 3:23

Baseball/Softball Registration will begin soon for ages 5-16. We are currently seeking coaches, skills and spiritual, as well as umpires. The season runs from June 10 - August 19.



We are once again holding a **SOAR Summer Camp**. The camp will be held July 10-14, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. There are many options to choose from this year: Cheer (ages 6-12), Soccer (ages 6-12), Basketball (ages 7-12), Volleyball (ages 9-12), Ultimate Frisbee (ages 8-12), and Team 45 (ages 4-5). Registration will be open online from June 1 - July 6.

We are looking for volunteers, high school youth and adults, to assist during our camp. We need coaches, preschool sports program staff, snack coordinators and a prayer coordinator. We also need a volunteer to prepare or pick up lunch for our workers each day. You can volunteer for one day or five, and the cost of the meal(s) will be covered by SOAR.

Do you have a spare room at your house? We are in need of host homes for the UW interns.

If you are interested in volunteering in *any* capacity, contact Luke Bynum by emailing him at lukebynum@fpcstanleysoar.org. Luke can provide more detail and answer any questions you may have.



Baby Bottle Blessings “Change for Change”

From now until June 19th, 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 (newborn to 12 months)
- ✓ To provide free supplies (food, formula, blankets, baby wash...) for babies up to 12 months (& diapers & wipes up to 24 months)
- ✓ To provide help in managing family relationships during pregnancy
- ✓ To provide an after-hours Helpline for information and appointments
- ✓ To provide free ultrasounds
- ✓ To provide abstinence education
- ✓ To provide women/teens support groups
- ✓ TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE HOPE THAT EXISTS THROUGH HIM.

How can your spare “pocket change” do ALL of the above and more??? By collecting your change for *The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County* from Mother’s Day, May 14th through Father’s Day, June 18th you can help change lives. This is a great project for the entire family. Please join us as we collect “change” in this fight for life and stand with us as we proclaim the truth of God’s Word!

Look for baby bottles in your Sunday School room starting Mother’s Day, May 14!



REMINDERS

- Man Day is this Saturday, May 6!
- Communion will be served this Sunday, May 7!
- Deadline to sign-up for the Ridge Haven Youth Retreat is this Sunday, May 7!
- Camp Scholarship requests are due by June 4. Contact Ronnie Smith or the church office if you have any questions.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



Charles F. Davis
February 23, 1949 - April 26, 2017

Christian sympathies are extended to **Cindy Davis** on the death of **Charlie Davis**. **Charlie** passed away April 26 from injuries sustained from a fall at his home.

The April 19 edition of With Our Church Family incorrectly identified **Charlie Stewart's** grandmother, **Anne Dalton**. We apologize for this misprint.

Helen Lieurance has returned home after a stay of a few weeks with her daughter **Gay Aridas** in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Having completed rehabilitation at the Stanley Total Living Center, **Barbara Rhyne** is living at home again and enjoying somewhat improved mobility.



FROM OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Kevin and Alisa Bentley are first time grandparents! Lily Mae Creagh was born on April 4.

Bobbi Jo Brooks praises God for getting her visa renewed. She has just completed two years of ministry in Germany.

Salatiel Chuc graduates from Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte on May 20.

The **Cosners** return to Belize on May 27th after a time of home ministry assignment in the USA.

Cody and Katy Janicek are busy with ministry to college students in the Czech Republic. They write, "Would you take 30 seconds to join us in thanking God for his continued kindness toward us and students here in Prague?"

Joel McCall is in Northern Uganda until May 12 on a teaching mission for the pastors there.

Happy Mother's Day!

to all the FPC moms

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
Daniel Hinson

23 Evelyn Accipiter
Eric Beam
Jill Petro
Anna Rhyne



24 Christiana Friesenhahn
Eloise Murphy

25 Chris Boggess
Robert Rhyne

27 Madison Abernathy
Rick Haithcox
SaDara Tilley

31 Josh Clevenger
Theresa Dunn
Maelin Huss

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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e-mail: info@fpcstanley.org • web site: www.fpcstanley.org

Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen • Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED