

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

Summer is fast approaching and that means we begin thinking about hot weather, vacations, and care-free days. Most of us probably view summer as a time for relaxation and rejuvenation – a sabbatical of sorts – and since many of us are so busy throughout the school year, having some “down time” is always welcome. But it’s not like we’re completely idle; rather, we trade one set of commitments (others directed/work) for another set (self-directed/leisure).

As a church we’re constantly “moving” – worship, Sunday School, Care Groups, SOAR coaching, missions, service opportunities, ministry meetings, etc. (and that’s a good thing!), but when summer rolls around, we often look forward to a little “down time” here as well.

But is there a way to both rest *and* do ministry at the same time? Are there activities where we could be rejuvenated *and* bless others? Are there opportunities where we can come together as a church, enjoy one another’s company, laugh, share a meal, and go away more rejuvenated than when we arrived? Yes, there are. Two main areas...

1. **Church-wide events**... this summer as a church we’re going to host some “together” times with no binding structure and no pressure – just the joy of fellowship, conversation, and being a family. And we’re going to invite our friends from the community (VBS participants, church visitors, SOAR participants) to join us. So please mark the following events on your calendar and make plans to relax among friends.

- ⇒ Friday, July 1 – Family Fun Night (Inflatables and a Movie on the Upper Field)
- ⇒ Saturday, July 30 – Pool Party at the Stanley Rec Pool
- ⇒ Saturday, August 20th – South Mountain (picnic, hiking, etc)

2. **Personal opportunity**... have people over for dinner at your house. It doesn’t have to be a big deal, fancy, elaborate, or even with total strangers (although our newest members/regular visitors would truly enjoy this!) – just several folks getting together over a meal. Personally I think these are some of the most valuable and fruitful things we can do. There’s something about sitting around a table, talking, sharing, and getting to know people that both blesses them and us. So please consider when you might host a couple or two and then invite them over. Suzy and I are hoping to do this at least three times this summer. Won’t you join us in seeing how God might strengthen our church family through these enjoyable times?

Grace and Peace,



PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

As many of you know I have been studying for my examination before the Presbytery to become a part of the Catawba Valley Presbytery. The word “study” is associated with schoolwork and often brings up negative memories. We had to learn things that we didn’t care about, and memorize information we were sure we would never use again.

This has not been the case for me as I prepare for my Presbytery examinations. I have been studying the Bible, theology, and church government. This is not wasted time, and this type of study has eternal value. We are encouraged in 2 Timothy 2:15 to do just what I am saying: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” This is not just for pastors; this is for all believers. Studying God’s Word to be prepared is crucial for our spiritual growth.

But there is another benefit to studying the Word of God, it allows us to more effectively witness to others. “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” I Peter 3:15 When we can defend our faith with accurate use of the Scripture, and do it in a gentle and respectful manner, we will be able to powerfully communicate the hope that is in us. As you pray for the lost around you, be prepared when God opens the door to share with them the good news found in God’s Word. And the best way to be prepared: study and memorize God’s Holy Word.

Your servant in Christ,



Wow, what a great job you are doing to keep our Food Pantry full. The following are some items currently needed:

Grits	Peanut Butter	Soups	Gravy Mix
Oatmeal	Pasta Sauces	Rice	Pasta Side Packets

As you are able, place donations in the designated bin in the main hallway. Thank you for helping to keep our Food Pantry well stocked!!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR MOMS!

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We are glad to report that **Richard Benoy** is doing well after facial surgery April 20 to remove some cancer. **Vickie Gamage** underwent surgery on April 22 to remove a mass from her kidney. **Freddie Smith** remains at CMC Rehab for care of a fractured hip. **Barbara Rhyne** suffered a fall last week. She was admitted to Caromont Regional on May 3 for treatment of an infection in her leg and headaches she's dealt with since her fall. **Kathy Lineberger** is scheduled for knee replacement surgery Monday, May 9. Please keep all of these in prayer as they continue to recover or prepare for surgery.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Charles and Bonita Davidson are missionaries with Mission to the World in Monterrey, Mexico. Charles's role is to minister with the Church Planting Center, training and mentoring men throughout northern Mexico. The Davidsons' first field of service was with a church-planting team in Lima, Peru. After 15 years they moved to El Paso, Texas to join the MTW border ministry in education and mentoring. They were invited to join the Northern Mexico team in Monterrey in 2012. The Davidsons have three grown daughters – Elise, Anna and Ila.

David and Myra Hamilton grew up near Fairmont, West Virginia where they live and serve with Mission to the World. Their ministry entails meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people through home repair, day camps, back yard Bible clubs and one-on-one evangelism. They interview families, determine their needs and assign a short-term team to work with them. First Presbyterian has sent four teams to West Virginia to work with the Hamiltons. The Hamiltons have three adult children – Tara, Thomas and Tracy.

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

We are once again participating in the **Baby Bottle Campaign** to help the **Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County**. If you would like to participate, you can pick up a baby bottle in Sunday School on Mother's Day, May 8. Fill the bottle with silver change and return it to the church on or before Father's Day, June 19. This is a great project for the entire family!

The Crisis Pregnancy Center gains much of its financial support through this campaign. Here are just a few of the things helped by this campaign:

- To help save the lives of unborn babies
- To provide free supplies as well as maternity and baby clothes up to 12 months
- To provide help in managing family relationships during pregnancy
- To provide free ultrasounds
- To provide abstinence education
- To tell others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the hope that exists through Him



For more information visit the Crisis Pregnancy Center's website (<http://www.cpcgaston.net>).

Birthdays to Celebrate in May

16 Jodie Graham

17 Linda Abernathy
Ashlin 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

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512 Old Mt. Holly Road, Stanley, NC 28164 • Phone 704-263-4275 Fax 704-263-0498
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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Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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