

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Scott Deneen

Thanksgiving is a counter-cultural holiday. In fact, it's so contrary to our modern culture they haven't come up with a non-religious alternative. Christmas has Santa Claus, Easter has the bunny, but Thanksgiving is, well, Thanksgiving.

And so it should be. The first American Thanksgiving was in 1621. The Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast in celebration of God's mercy, blessing, and provision. We are still celebrating Him and His faithfulness today.

Psalm 100, a hymn written for the expressed purpose of giving thanks, calls us to give thanks to God as a loving, gracious, Creator, and Provider. So abundant is His Fatherly care for us that He has claimed us as His people – recipients of His kindness forever and ever.

His overflowing blessing to us then, should give rise to our exuberant singing, praises, celebrating, and serving Him as Lord and God. No time to hold back. No need to be reserved. No, like the Cub fans after game 7 of the World Series, it's time to scream and shout in delight and glee.

So, as you sit down to celebrate Thanksgiving this holiday season, remember the Lord your God, give Him vocal praise, tell your family of all His goodness and kindness, celebrate His Fatherly tenderness to you, and above all, let it be known that these good gifts have come to you because of Jesus Christ.

Keeping the "Thanksgiving to God" in Thanksgiving,

Scott

Time Capsule Reveal is this Sunday, 11/20!

After an abbreviated Sunday School hour, we will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am for a special time of viewing the contents of the time capsule buried 25 years ago!



PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

Christmas Scenes Update:

Plans for our Christmas Journey are well under way! A big THANK YOU to all who have already invested their time and talents to make this wonderful outreach possible. God is honored by your efforts.

Invitations will be available on Sunday Nov. 27. Please take a few and invite your friends, neighbors and coworkers to "A Christmas Journey- Discover the Joy of Jesus." The production will run **December 14, 15 and 16 from 6:30-8pm.** The 14th will be our VIP by invitation only night and the 15th and 16th will be open to the public.

In order for the show to go on, we need actors and actresses of all ages! Families can participate together! This is your chance to shine (for Jesus) in the spotlight! You don't have to be an Oscar winner; acting coaches and training will be provided and most speaking parts are minimal.

Calling all Prayer Warriors! We need you to pray during the event for a 30 minute time slot. Sign up is on the bulletin board outside church office.

For **everyone** involved we will roll out the red carpet as you will be pampered and appreciated for your dedication with a private Cast and Crew Break Room featuring delicious food prepared especially for you. Friday night everyone is invited to stay after the final curtain call for a big Cast and Crew Pizza Party!

So if you haven't already... find your "part" by contacting Pastor-Director Steve at steve@fpcstanley.org. Lights, camera, action!



*Children's
Ministry
Christmas
Party!*

**Sunday, December 4th
6:00 – 7:30 PM**

Children ages 3 and UP!

Come build your own Gingerbread House!
(We have a large paper version for our preschoolers.)

Dinner will be provided.

**WIC CHRISTMAS DINNER
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
6:00 PM**



Cost is \$5.00 per person (any age)
Sign up **no later than November 27!**

Menu: smothered chicken, stuffed pork tenderloin,
salad, roasted new potatoes, green beans, rolls



Angel Tree gifts need to be brought to the church by November 28! Place the wrapped gifts in Room 109 (across from the church office).

If you have one of the following tags, please call the church office to advise your name and tag number: 29, 77, 233, 283.

We will observe
Communion
during the morning worship service



Sunday, December 4

COLLEGE BOXES



The deadline for college box donations has been extended. Bring in items no later than this Sunday morning, 11/20.

MISSIONS NEWS

CONFERENCE GOALS UPDATES:

FAITH PROMISE

Goals: Level 1 - \$165,000
Level 2 - \$170,000
Level 3 - \$175,000

PRAYER

Goal: 375 people

***Prayer Commitments to Date: 362**

***Faith Promise Commitments to Date: \$165,117**

**Make your commitments now.
Both Faith Promise and Prayer commitment cards are available at the church.**

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY:

A. J and Krista Babel are expecting another little girl. Lydia Claire should be arriving in January! Pray for continued health for Krista. Pray for the college freshmen with whom the Babels are working to grow as they get them into discipleship groups.

Pray for **Kevin Bentley** as he undergoes hip replacement surgery on November 21. Pray for the Bentleys as they provide leadership for the Winter Conference for college and high school students the week after Christmas in Greensboro.

Pray for **Michael and Lindie Wadhams** as they face spiritual battles in their ministry among the Lummi in the state of Washington.

Steve and Rita Williams ask for prayer as Steve travels to Vanuatu, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand for a time of strategic planning.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MISSIONARIES!

12/02 – Jose Chuc (2005)	12/19 – Ellie Casson (2008)
12/05 – Elijah Knott (2007)	12/21 – Liviu Lepadatu
12/08 – A.J. Babel	12/22 – Celia Williams
12/10 – Beth Knott	12/27 – Hudson Dye (2000)
12/11 – Kimberly Wadhams (2004)	12/28 – Emma Wadhams (2001)
12/12 – Marty Clark	12/30 – Rita Williams
12/13 – Victoria Weaver (1998)	

DECEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

NURSERY

December 4: 10:15 AM - Amanda Huss
6:00 PM - Angel Ross

December 11: 10:15 AM - Julianne Griffin

December 18: 10:15 AM - *Volunteer Needed...* Call the church office or sign up online.

December 25: 10:15 AM - Stacey Hall

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

Proverbs 22:6



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

December 4: Communion

December 11: Matt Ormsby

December 18: Special Christmas
Music

December 25: Christmas Day

RELIEVING YOUR FAMILY OF FUNERAL PLANNING BURDENS

One of the great gifts we can give our families – especially as we age – is a written statement of our funeral preferences. The death of a loved one is always stressful, but that stress is needlessly compounded when surviving spouses or children must, amidst the trauma of loss, start from scratch in funeral planning. How much better when our loved ones have guidance already in hand! They don't have to guess what we would want. Confusion, worry, and yes, sometimes even conflict, can be avoided when our families know "this is what Dad wanted," "this is how Mom wanted her service to be."

Our church offers printed guides to help you think through the planning process. These forms allow you to answer basic questions about what kind of arrangements you prefer. You can be as general or as specific as you wish, considering details such as your preference for officiating minister, Scripture, musicians, and visitation plans. Information about cemetery preferences or pre-arrangement transactions with funeral homes can be included so all your family needs to know will have been incorporated into a single document.

Once this two-page form is complete, it is reviewed by a pastor to make sure everything is clear. When finalized, a copy is maintained in confidence at the church and you are given a copy to place with your important documents. Then you can feel satisfied that you have given thoughtful guidance on your preferences and have relieved your loved ones of a burden they need not carry at an emotional time.

Advance funeral arrangement forms are available from the church office upon request.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulation to **Paul and April Marsh** on the birth of their son, **Dawson Robert**, born November 2. We are blessed to have Dawson's grandparents, **Wes and Julie Marsh**, and great-grandmother, **Gloria Marsh**, as part of our church family. Congratulations to all!

We are thankful for God's protection over **Sue Homesley** this week. She took a fall and fortunately suffers from only bruising and soreness, no broken bones!

OFFICER ELECTIONS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 9:45 AM

We are blessed to have 17 men that were nominated for Church Leadership. We will have a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4 at 9:45 am in order to vote on these nominees. Please visit the bulletin board across from the church office to familiarize yourself with our nominees. Then pray for God to lead you in your voting.



Do you have an old mattress you could donate? We have someone in need of 2 mattress sets...any size!

Please call the church office if you can help.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	60,397.79
Received in October for budget	70,938.84
Needed to date for budget	603,977.88
Received to date for budget	607,887.81
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	16,517.75
Received in October for Faith Promise.....	15,086.10
Needed to date for Faith Promise	165,177.50
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	142,554.10

Birthdays to Celebrate in December

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Betsey Theodossious | 5 Chris Abernathy
Charlene Hager
Annalise Jessen | 12 Hannah Jessen
Janet Ratchford
Sarah Robinson |
| 2 Calen Rayner | 7 Libby Chaney
Harrison Revels | 13 Jessica Heffner |
| 3 Chris Baity
Peyton Clevenger
Ginny Haley
Charles Hamrick
Elizabeth Prather | 8 Daniel Deese
Billy Roberts | 14 Sharon Morton
Tori Teague |
| 4 Lynn Burrell
Judy Lucas | 11 Ed Faggart
Debbie Smith | 15 Jacob Garrison
Kendall Garrison
Kevin Rhyne |

Happy Birthday!!

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164 ♦ Phone 704-263-4275 ♦ Fax 704-263-0498
e-mail: info@fpcestanley.org ♦ web site: www.fpcestanley.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

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – December 2016

First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

What think you, my beloved fellow-disciples! Would it not be just what we need, to ask the Master for a month to give us a course of special lessons on the art of prayer? As we meditate on the words He spoke on earth, let us yield ourselves to His teaching in the fullest confidence that, with such a teacher, we shall make progress. Let us take time not only to meditate, but to pray, to tarry at the foot of the throne, and be trained to the work of intercession. Let us do so in the assurance that amidst our stammerings and fears He is carrying on His work most beautifully. He will breathe His own life, which is all prayer, into us. As He makes us partakers of His righteousness and His life, He will of His intercession too. As the members of His body, as a holy priesthood, we shall take part in His priestly work of pleading and prevailing with God for men. Yes, let us most joyfully say, ignorant and feeble though we be, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’

From “With Christ in the School of Prayer” by Andrew Murray
(Recommended reading from Pastor Steve)

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 **Percy Raleigh:** Pray that God will guide us in the election of new elders and deacons for our church.
- 2 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for the officer nominees along with those that are currently serving.
- 3 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray for peace in all our families as we come into the holiday season.
- 4 **Johnny Smith:** Please pray for Kaleigh's back as it has not healed as well as expected.
- 5 **Chris Baker:** Pray for the teachers and leaders of our children and for the children's choir.
- 6 **Tommy Barton:** Pray that as a church we will seek first the Kingdom of God in they year ahead.
- 7 **Clyde Haley:** Pray that our Church pastors and officers will have God's wisdom in our decisions and oversight of the congregation.
- 8 **Charles Hamrick:** Pray for unity under God in our nation.
- 9 **Mark Harper:** Pray that God will give me wisdom as a leader on the Deacon board through the rest of this year and that 2017 will be a year filled with continued blessings and unity.
- 10 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that I would always commit whatever I am doing to the Lord.
- 11 **Leon Lineberger:** Pray for good weather and a good participation in Christmas Journey Scenes.
- 12 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that God would use me to encourage others to consider Christ as Savior.
- 13 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for all the work being done on the Christmas scenes, that God would help it all come together and we would change lives through presenting the story of our Savior.
- 14 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray that those visiting our Christmas Journey/Scenes, Dec. 14-16 will hear and respond to the gospel of Christ.
- 15 **Jerry Ratchford:** For our country's transition: for outgoing and newly elected president. May we unite and support our newly elected officials.
- 16 **Percy Raleigh:** Pray that God will bless all those who participate/attend the Christmas Journey with a greater joy of Jesus and his love.
- 17 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray comfort for those missing loved ones who have passed on this past year.
- 18 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray that as church officers we will always pray for unity in Christ and that unity will be front and center in all church decisions.
- 19 **Johnny Smith:** Pray that our college students who are home during this season will be strengthened in their faith for their new terms.
- 20 **Chris Baker:** Pray that the families of our church will experience the true meaning of Christmas.
- 21 **Tommy Barton:** Pray for Christmas services, that those who attend or visit our church will be drawn to Jesus Christ.
- 22 **Clyde Haley:** Pray for our members who are home bound that God will give them healing and strength dealing with various health issues.
- 23 **Charles Hamrick:** Pray for our newly elected deacons and elders.
- 24 **Mark Harper:** Pray for safety and quick learning for our girls as they are now driving.
- 25 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that our family would seek Christ first during the holiday season.
- 26 **Leon Lineberger:** Pray for Anna-Kathryn and Dillon as they plan for their marriage.
- 27 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that I might be subject to authorities and do whatever is good.
- 28 **Dan Ormsby:** That God will work in us what is well pleasing in his sight this coming year.
- 29 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for our officer candidates and the transition of leaders.
- 30 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for much needed rain.
- 31 **Percy Raleigh:** Pray for God to guide and lead us thru a New Year of faithful service and witness.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Thank God for our newly elected Elders and Deacons and for their willingness to serve, and SPECIAL THANKS for those completing their terms of service.
- Praise God all those who are participating in the new Christmas Journey outreach to our community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

You are invited to attend the class of your choice.

BIBLE

Room 119

Teacher: Chuck Jessen

Theme: Amos

Join the Bible Class as they continue exploring the book of Amos. This Old Testament prophet towers as a defender of the poor and an accuser of the rich who use God's name to make their sins sound religious.

EQUIPPING MEN FOR SERVICE

Activity Building

Teachers: Chris Baker, Steve Jessen,
Kevin Rhyne, Ronnie Smith

Theme: The Beatitudes: Men of the Kingdom
What do the beatitudes have to say to men seeking to live for Christ? This study based on Matthew 5 is a challenging study for all "Men of the Kingdom."

FELLOWSHIP

Founders Hall

Teacher: Ron Ensley, Rick Herd,
Jimmie and Martha Sue Mitchell

Theme: I Am N (Followers of Jesus the Nazarene)
Christians around the world are being persecuted. How do we best respond spiritually and practically? This powerful video curriculum takes you into the true stories of Christians living in Muslim countries. We will explore the themes of forgiveness, sacrifice, faithfulness, joy, perseverance, and courage

JOURNEY

Room 12

Teacher: Dan King

Theme: Character That Counts

The Journey Class continues in this study that strives to communicate life principles of accountability and integrity to men and women.

NEW EVE

Room 15

Teachers: Suzy Deneen, Kim Jessen, Nancy Raleigh,
Cathy Rhyne

Theme: Oneness Embraced

With the Bible as a guide this study by Tony Evans calls God's people to kingdom-focused unity. This timely topic calls us to live together as God's family across racial and socio-economic divides.

OPEN BIBLE

Conference Room

Teachers: Don Hensley, Robert Rhyne

Theme: Daniel

The Open Bible Class continues to learn from the stories and visions in the book of Daniel. Learn about the sovereign God whom we can trust to bring all people and all things under His rule.

20 SOMETHINGS (anyone post high school to 29)

Room 11

Teachers: Chris McAllister, Joel Jessen, Andrew Elliott

Theme: Apologetics

Current World View Contradictions

What do we believe and why? How do we defend our Christian beliefs in the face of the current world view contradictions? Come join in this lively discussion.

NEWCOMERS

Room – Pastor Deneen's Office

Teacher: Scott Deneen and Ministry Leaders

Theme: Introduction to First Presbyterian

This class is designed for those may be considering membership or who would simply like to know more about First Presbyterian and the Presbyterian Church in America.



Sunday School

Winter

December 2016 - February 2017

Superintendents

Sandy Lasley and Freida Robinson



Merry
Christmas

Sunday, December 25 – No Sunday School
Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Director: Lauren Henderson

NURSERY (Birth to 18 months)

Room 112

Teachers: Rotating Teachers

Judy Billings, Jamie Stewart, Heather Roberts and Heather Ormsby are among the fine ladies who will rotate staying with the youngest members of our church family as they experience God's love.

TODDLERS (18 months-3 years)

Room 114

Teacher: Sherry Teague

Theme: God's Son

Our toddlers and two's will learn about the birth and early years of Jesus. Simeon, Anna, the Wise Men, 10 lepers, a paralyzed man, and Bartimaeus are all people who were touched by Jesus the Christ at some point in their lives. Our three years olds will enjoy exploring these special encounters from Scripture.

4's- 6's (4's – currently in kindergarten)

Room 106

Teachers: Ellen Deese, Julie Jessen

Theme: Living in God's Family

This quarter our children will discover some of the things that Jesus specifically tells us to do in Scripture: love God best, love one another, ask for forgiveness, serve others, etc. They will be learning how to live in a family of believers.



Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

PRIMARY BOYS/GIRLS (Grades 1, 2)

Room 10

Teachers: Stacey Hall, Sandy Lasley

Theme: Knowing Jesus

Our first and second graders will be preparing for Christmas by learning about our Savior. The first unit will teach them about how Jesus' coming fulfilled God's greatest promises. The second unit of study will help them to grow and trust Him more. Finally, they will be encouraged to respond to the love and power of God. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped." Psalm 28:7a

GRADE SCHOOL BOYS/ GIRLS (Grades 3, 4, 5)

Rooms 18/19

Teacher: Lauren Henderson

Theme: God's Design for Worship

This quarter will be a topical study of Tabernacle worship in Exodus and Leviticus and how it was fulfilled in the coming of the promised Savior. The students will build a smaller version of the Tabernacle in the classroom so that they can see how and why God designed each part of it. They will learn what it means for God's people to live in His holy presence and worship Him.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Room 17

Teachers: Dana Baker, Lorie Hamrick

Theme: Jesus My Savior

The students will learn why everyone needs a Savior and how Jesus fulfills that role based on the gospel of Luke. They will be challenged to pray with confidence, to use the Word of God to resist temptation, to show love to Jesus by loving others and to fight materialism by trusting in God alone.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Room 16

Teachers: Ken and Heather Dake

Theme: Jesus My Savior

See description for Middle School Girls.

HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Room 14

Teachers: Chris Graham, Charles Hamrick

Theme: Revelation

Questions about the book of Revelation are common: Does it describe the end of time? Does it apply to my life right now? What are all of those wild symbols? What should we take literally? Why haven't we done a mannequin challenge yet? Well, four out of five of those are common. Join us as we rock through Revelation!

