

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

Recently I was talking with my parents about the busyness of life and it reminded my Dad of an old song that he started singing called "The Banquet Song." You may know the chorus:

*I cannot come, I cannot come to the banquet, don't trouble me now,
I have married a wife, I have bought me a cow,
I have fields and commitments, that cost a pretty sum,
Pray hold me excused, I cannot come.*

This song is based on the parable of the great banquet from Luke 14 and the excuses that are made by those invited to the feast as to why they can't come.

Every Sunday we have the great opportunity to gather with our church family to enjoy a celebration banquet in the presence of the King. But we are all prone to getting caught up in our worldly concerns and don't make time like we should for the Lord.

I would like to give you two great reasons for coming consistently to church. First, it is good for you and your family! You may be surprised to know that in the not-too-distant past I had little desire to go to church. I attended mainly because I wanted my girls there. I felt distant, disconnected, and disillusioned. During that time I was full of excuses that justified my lack of attendance and commitment to the church. It was one of the unhealthiest seasons of my life spiritually, emotionally, relationally and even physically.

Slowly over several years I re-engaged with the church, we started attending care group, and began getting more involved in the ministry of the church. And through that recommitment process there has been much healing and restoration. This is my desire for you and your family: that through your participation in our church you would be strengthened spiritually, encouraged in your faith, challenged to serve, and equipped in God's Word to stand firm.

The second great reason for regular connection with your church family is that it is good for us. Picture a special family event, like Thanksgiving, where one of your beloved family members is not able to attend. Of course you can still enjoy your time together with those who are gathered, but it would be more complete, more fulfilling if that missing family member was there. I know there are many reasons for not coming to church (some very legitimate), but I want you to know that your presence at church makes a difference in my life, and in our church life- it just isn't the same without you! I am encouraged when I see your faces, and it makes my heart glad to see all of our church family gathered in worship.

I close with this challenge from Hebrews 10:25 *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..."*

We are better together,

Steve

BEST YEARS FALL EVENT
will be
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15
12:00 PM

Let's Eat!



This will be a **COVERED DISH LUNCH**. Plan to bring a dish or two and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9:45 AM

This meeting is called for the purpose of electing elders and deacons to the class of 2021.

The following officer candidates have been nominated:

Elder
Ron Smith

Deacon
Jeremy Abernathy
Dillon Lamb
Matt Ormsby



COLLEGE BOX COLLECTION

Our fall College Box collection continues through this Sunday morning, November 11. Thanks to all you who have brought in items to fill the boxes with goodies for our 13 college students living away from home! If you would like to help out with this project, please return your items to the designated bin in the main hallway no later than Sunday morning.



Shoe Box Donations
are due no later than
Friday, November 16.



First Presbyterian Church
is hosting the
STANLEY COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING SERVICE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 7:00 PM



Our Children's Ministry Department
 will present
A Charlie Brown Christmas
 on
Saturday, December 1
6:00 PM

The children are really excited about this play and they are working hard to learn their parts. Make plans to come out and support our children as they share the gospel "Charlie Brown" style.

WIC NEWS

You're Invited!

Annual Ladies Christmas Dinner
Monday, December 3 at 6:30 PM

Concert by Redeemed by Grace in sanctuary

Dinner will follow in Founders Hall featuring a Parade of Tables

\$5/person

Sign-up slips are located on the table in the main hallway.
 Please place sign-up slip and money in the designated box.

Deadline to sign up is November 26!

THE ANGEL TREE IS UP!



Would you like to adopt an angel for Christmas? It's easy. Stop by the Christmas Tree in the main hallway and:

- * Take an angel from the tree.
- * Write your name and angel number on the sign-up sheet.
- * Purchase gifts for your angel.
- * Place all the wrapped gifts into a large bag and attach the colorful angel tag including your child's number to the bag. If a gift is too large for the bag, attach the child's number to the top of the gift or in a prominent place.
- * All gifts need to be returned to the church and placed in Room 104 (next to the Parlor) no later than Sunday, 11/25.

All of these steps are very important to ensure your angel gets their gifts. If you have any questions, contact Sally Ormsby (aaatrophiesllc@gmail.com) or Sandra in the church office.



YOU AND MISSIONS

Praying: The #1 request of each of the 51 missionary families that we help support is that we pray for them. 250 people have already made commitments to pray regularly for one or more of our missionaries in 2019. Will you join that number? Our goal is to have 300 people praying. Young, old and in-between – every believer should and can pray.

Giving: You can help support our missionary family financially by making a Faith Promise. What will you trust God to provide for you to give to missions in 2019? Our top goal is to have \$170,000. We have reached the first level of \$160,000 (\$161,775 committed to date) and are moving toward the second level of \$165,000 and the third level of \$170,000.

Going: Maybe God is calling you to go on a short-term mission trip. Here are the opportunities:
Palmer Home for Children, Columbus, MS, April 22 – 27, 2019, Cost:\$200
Palmer Home for Children, Columbus, MS, June 9 - 15, 2019, Cost:\$200
Chuburná, Mexico (near Mérida), June 15 – 22, 2019, Cost \$635 plus travel
Luque, Paraguay, July 25 – August 2, 2019, Cost: \$1,000 plus travel
Wilmington, NC – Hurricane Florence recovery - Any dates, Any length of time

So how can you partner in the missionary work helping spread the gospel around the world? Pick up a Prayer Commitment card and a Faith Promise card at the church and turn them in today!!! If you can't pick up a card, call the church office and ask them to record your commitment. Sign up to go on a short-term team on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. Call Jimmie Mitchell or Tracy Withers for more information about teams. The bottom line is that God can use each one of us.....ALL can pray, MANY can give, SOME can go.

CARE GROUP NOTE

Did you know that we offer a care group that meets on Wednesday mornings? Renee Abernathy is teaching this group through the gospel of Matthew. It's never too late to join a care group so if you are free on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM stop by the church!

TECH TEAM UPDATE

The Tech Team has recently divvied out responsibilities within the team:

PCs/Macs/Network – Ken Dake
Sound System – Chris McAllister
Cameras/Recording – Craig Messimer
Website/Facebook – Rachel Bynum (in training)
Inventory/Room 118 – Jim Tilley
ProPresenter/Booth SignUps/Team Admin – Phyllis Withers



These primary contacts are responsible for training, budget, upgrades, etc. for their area of responsibility. Please contact one of these with questions or comments about any of the named areas.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathies are extended to **Jim and SaDara Tilley** in the death of Jim's sister in Ohio. She passed away October 20 after a 12 year battle with Alzheimer's. Some good news for the Tilleys on that same day was their grandson in the Air Force in Florida – Matthew Tilley and his wife – gave birth to a daughter, Chloe.

We also extend sympathies to **Don and Becky Hensley**. Don's dad, **Aron Glen Hensley** passed away October 16 in Hickory, NC and then Becky's brother-in-law passed away in Denver, NC.

We still have several of our members in local hospitals. **Jimmy Abernathy** and **Lynn Holcomb** remain at Caromont Regional in Gastonia for ongoing treatment. **Carol King** is completing her physical therapy at Courtland Terrace in Gastonia. She is hoping to go home this week! At the time of this printing, **Ellen Beam** was packing for her move to the TLC for rehab.

WITH LOVING THANKS

Dear Church family,

Thank you for all the cards, calls and kindness that was sent my way for my 92nd birthday! It was unbelievable! I love you all and wish I could be around more often.

Ailene Friday

Freebies!

We have 2 desks and 2 black bookshelf components. You can view one of the desks in the kitchen near the sanctuary and the other items in the rear hallway. If you, or anyone you know, can use any of these, please contact Jim Tilley at (704) 263-5394 or bjtcharlotte3090@att.net. **He will gladly deliver them to you!**



CHRISTMAS SCENES THURSDAY, DEC. 13 - SATURDAY, DEC. 15

If you haven't signed up for a part in our annual Christmas Scenes, stop by the bulletin board across from the mailroom and look at the many opportunities available. There is something for everyone!

We are also looking for golf carts to use during the scenes. If you have a golf cart you are willing to loan us for a few days, please contact Ronnie Smith or the church office.

Birthdays to Celebrate in November

16 Lennie Burrell

18 Melissa Smith

19 Rachel Bynum
Cameron Cozart
Jacob Greenly
Taylor Mundy
Charlotte Riopel

20 Lorie Hamrick

21 Gloria Marsh
Trevor Redding



22 James Magill

24 Jason Bryant

25 Steve Smith
Brandon Youngblood

26 Jeremy Abernathy
Becky Hensley

29 Michaela Brooks
Rob McMinn
Susan Mesimer

30 Mark Beatty
Chet Greeson
Ronnie Smith

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e-mail: info@fpcstanley.org • web site: www.fpcstanley.org
Pastor Steve Jessen
Sunday School 9:00 AM • Worship 10:15 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED