

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

Have you ever thought of how certain Missions is? Seriously, we joke about the certainty of “death and taxes” but what about Missions? How certain is it?

Well, listen to Jesus speak authoritatively on the matter: **“This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”** (Matthew 24:14)
I don’t know any more inspiring missionary promise than this word from Jesus.

He doesn’t say, “This gospel *should* be preached.” He doesn’t say, “This gospel *might* be preached. He says, “This gospel *will* be preached.” In other words, Jesus Christ, the great Conquering Hero and Lord over all, *will* have His gospel preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to the nations.

This is not a great commission, nor a great commandment. It is a great certainty, a great confidence.

Question: How can He be sure the church will not fail in its missionary task?

Answer: The power and grace of missionary service is as irresistible as the grace of regeneration. It’s a Sovereign work. God is behind it. Christ can promise universal proclamation because He is dedicated to accomplishing it. He knows the future success of missions because He makes the future. All the nations will hear!

And remember a “nation” is not a modern “country.” “Nations” are ethnic groups with their own peculiar culture. Psalm 117:1: “Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!”

As the sovereign Lord of the Church, Jesus simply took up this divine purpose and stated it as an absolute certainty: “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations.”

The cause of world missions is absolutely assured of success. It cannot fail. Is it not reasonable, then, that we pray with great faith, that we invest with great confidence, and that we go with a sense of sure triumph?

Yes. So let the ‘nations be glad!’ and let us give ourselves to this work of absolute certainty!

Grace and peace,

Scott

Let the nations be glad....



**WORLD MISSIONS
CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 12 - 16, 2016

See pages 3 – 5 for details.

PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

For many folks the fall is their favorite time of year. Breathing in the crisp air, the brilliant colors of the changing leaves, the sounds of Friday night high school football games, and the aroma of pumpkin pies and caramel apples. Before the 1600's the word that was used to describe this season was harvest, since most people in that time were farmers and this was the season of harvesting their crops. This reminds me of the verse in Luke 10:2 where Jesus says *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

The first challenge for us as a church is to pray. And what should we pray for specifically? We are to pray for laborers. We need as many as possible to become farm workers for Jesus. People willing to go into the world to work the fields, planting seeds of the gospel, and ultimately working with the Lord of the harvest to bring the lost into the safety of His barn.

I rejoice that you all answered my prayer for laborers for Christmas Scenes, a "harvest" event of our church. Right now over 90 people have signed up to help!!! (Stay tuned...we are currently putting together teams based on your area of interest to begin preparations. You will be hearing from our team leaders this month and work will begin in November. Also it's not too late to sign up. See the bulletin board outside church office.)

We also pray for laborers to be called to mission work around the world during our annual Missions Conference October 12-16.

And finally I am praying for men to serve "in the fields" during our Men's outreach on November 5. (Sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway.)

"The fields are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35) Let's pray that we are faithful in the fields where God has planted us.

Steve



Calling all able bodied men for a work day Saturday, November 5, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm. We will have various jobs including places for all skill levels. If possible, plan to come back to the church afterwards for a Low Country Boil! Sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

MEN'S LOW COUNTRY BOIL



ALL men are invited to join us Saturday, November 5, 12:28-2:58pm by the church gym. Come out and bring a friend to a taste of the South. If you have never been to a Low Country Boil, you are in for some fine dining - man style! We will also have many activities and feats of strength! So sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

2016 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

“Let the Nations Be Glad”



*“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.” Psalm 67:3,4*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday Night, October 12

6:00 pm Supper for everyone*
7:00 pm Prayer Service; Children’s Conference

Thursday Night, October 13

5:30 pm BBQ supper for everyone*; Missionary Speaker
7:00 pm Opening Ceremony/Special Music; Worship Service with Keynote Speaker; Children’s Conference
8:15 pm Snacks; Missionary Booth Visitation

Friday Morning, October 14

9:00 am Missionary Guests Breakfast* with Best Years (Founders Hall)

Friday Night, October 14

5:30 pm Evening Meal (Italian Night) for everyone*; Missionary Speaker
7:00 pm Worship Service with Keynote Speaker; Children’s Conference
8:15 pm Snacks; Missionary Booth Visitation
8:30 pm Drawing for Mission Trip Support

Saturday, October 15

5:30 pm Covered dish supper for everyone*
We will have a talent show following the meal. Be sure to sign up to show off your talent...whatever it is!

Sunday, October 16

9:00 am Sunday School with Missionary Guests
10:15 am Worship Service with Keynote Speaker

***Sign up sheets for all meals and the talent show are located just outside of the church office.
Be sure to stop by and sign up. You can also call Sandra in the church office to sign up!**

CHILDREN'S MISSIONS CONFERENCE! "HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS"



It is very important for children to understand that God is in control of our universe. He is carrying this old world and all of the people in it lovingly and firmly. The strength of our Father protects and sustains us. He also calls us out to tell people about who He is! The Children's Missions Conference theme this year is "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". The children will have several sessions where they will meet and study His word and His call on their lives. Children are able to spread the gospel and we aim to teach them how. Don't forget our traditional hay ride and bonfire on Friday night during our second session! See schedule on page 3 for dates and times.

2016 MISSIONS CONFERENCE DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

Pray daily before and during our conference:

Monday: That visiting missionaries will have good health, spiritual strength, and safe travel as they come to FPC. Pray for: Jim/Carin Fredere (MTW, New York City), Heath McGlaughen (RUF @ UNCC).

Tuesday: That God will give us glad and joyful hearts that his word is going to the nations. Pray for conference participants: Guercy Meme (Haiti), and for Gaston County Crisis Pregnancy Ministry (Ancil Overbey).

Wednesday: That God will help and guide Lauren Henderson and those assisting in the Children's Conference. Pray for: Jimmie/Martha Sue Mitchell (Global Outreach), the Kings Daughter's (Sheryl Dorsey).

Thursday: That God uses keynote speaker Paul Clark (Marty) to help us be a vital part of bringing the joy of Christ to the nations. Pray for: Steve/Dianne Hill (Peru Mission), Jim/Wanda Ramsey (PEF Romania/Gaston County Prison Ministry).

Friday: That God will use FPC to bless and be blessed as we encourage our guests through music, worship, meal preparation, hospitality and prayer. That 375 persons will commit to pray for our missionaries in the next year. Pray for: Salatiel Chuc (Mexico) and John Guess (Candidate).

Saturday: That our church will give cheerfully and generously in order to reach our top tier mission support goal of \$175,000. Pray for: Ken Cross (Sports Chaplain's Network), the Gideons (Local/International Bible Distribution).

Sunday: Pray that God will bless and use every word of our speaker, Paul Clark. Pray for safe travel and renewed strength for all of our visiting guests as they leave us and return to their places of service.

2016 MISSIONS CONFERENCE GOALS

Prayer Goal

375

people praying regularly
for a missionary.

Faith Promise Goals

\$175,000 Level Three

\$170,000 Level Two

\$165,000 Level One

Attendance Goal

Make plans to **attend each night**. Be sure to get your card punched each night for a chance at one of five \$100 Trip Scholarships to be given away Friday night!



WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Weather Concerns

In Haiti – Pray for **Guercy Meme** and all who live and work in **Haiti** as they face the effects from Hurricane Matthew.

In Taiwan – **Becky White** writes that **Taiwan** has been hit with three typhoons in three weeks and another was on the way. Christ College has had mostly tree damage, but many have been injured, faced flooding and a few have even died.

Family News

Garry and Anita Chambers, our missionaries in **Belize**, just had the joy of celebrating his mother's 95th birthday with other family members near Philadelphia.

Liviu and Sica Lepadatu, serving Christ in **Romania**, ask for prayer for Sica. She has had two eye surgeries and needs another one.

Bill and Sherry Day, who minister with Hispanics in **SC** teaching English as a second language, report that her recent knee replacement surgery went well.

COLLEGE STUDENT UPDATES NEEDED



WIC is in the process of updating their list for new and returning college students for our fall college boxes. If you have a child away at college, please call Sandra in the church office to be sure we have their name and correct address on our list. We want to be sure **every** college student who is living away from home receives a care package. Help us do this by calling with your child's information.

Also provide us with their email address and we can be sure they receive FPC news while they are away by sending them our newsletters.



ATTENTION MINISTRY LEADERS

Sunday, October 23, is the **deadline** for requests to be included in the **2017 church budget**. Remember to submit your written requests to Church Treasurer Gary Neely no later than October 23.



Friends and family of **Jennifer Friday Brooks** are hosting a **baby shower** in her honor and you are invited!

October 29, 2016
3:00 - 5:00 PM
in Founders Hall

Jennifer is registered at Target.

REMINDERS...

- ◇ Sunday, 10/23, 2:00 - 3:30 pm: Bridal Shower for Michaela Lamb
- ◇ Sign up for Missions Conference meals and Talent Show!!
- ◇ Sign up for helping with the Christmas Scenes planning and designing. See the bulletin board just outside the church office for details!

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



John Barkley Abernathy
April 23, 1929 - September 27, 2016

Our deepest sympathies are extended to **Betty Ann Abernathy** and family in the death of **John Barkley Abernathy**. John, 87, died September 27, 2016 at Carolinas Medical Center in Lincolnton, NC. He was a native of Gaston County born April 23, 1929 to August and Ella Abernathy. John's daughter **Renee Abernathy** and son **Paul Abernathy** are also members here at FPC along with many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We also extend Christian sympathies to **Julie and Wes Marsh, Paul and Amanda** in the death of Julie's father, Frank Sullivan who died September 22.

Prayers are being answered for little **Will Mosely**. Mom and Dad, **Daniel and Catherine Mosely** have gone to the hospital at the time of this printing with plans to bring him home. He has been at Levine Children's Hospital since his birth September 11.



We are once again participating in
the Samaritan's Purse

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.

This year we are asking you to bring in items to fill boxes. Volunteers from American Heritage Girls will then take these donations and fill boxes. Donations can be placed in the bin in the main hallway. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may give a check made payable to Samaritan's Purse. It is preferred that the monetary donation be in increments of \$7.00 as this is the cost of shipping a box. Monetary donations should be given to Sherry Teague or dropped off in the church office. Donations can also be dropped off at the designated table with the Missionary displays during the Missions Conference. **Donations are being accepted now through November 13th.**

Suggested (new) items are:

toys, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring and picture books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, combs, washcloths, wet wipes, t-shirts, socks, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, flashlights with batteries, playing cards, stuffed animals – keep size in mind, small tools

Items **not** to include:

saws, pocketknives, toy guns, military figures, chocolate, liquids, lotions, medicines

Birthdays to Celebrate in October

16 Amanda Huss
Martha Murphy

17 Grover Rodgers
Vickie Smith

19 Debbie Boggess
Jeromy Rumfelt

20 Art Cozart

21 Gary Neely

22 Brian Abernathy
Joel Jessen



24 Ailene Friday
Connor Rowell
Alan Saine
Heather Wallace

27 Chris Graham

29 Caleb Hinshaw

30 Barbara Rhyne

31 Zander Davie
Catherine Mosely

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen • Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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