

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

Have you ever been discouraged because your labor for the Lord appears to have been in vain?

Nothing is more difficult than laboring, working, striving, giving effort while thinking all is for naught. Looking for immediate, God-inspired results without getting them can seem frustrating if not downright discouraging.

But Paul gives us the remedy for Kingdom building discouragement in 1 Corinthians 15:55-58, **"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."**

The reason we need not be discouraged in our labors for the Lord is because Christ has crushed Death, vanquished sin, and destroyed the work of the devil; therefore, as we give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord – Great Commission activity – we can rest assured our labor is not in vain. Jesus will bring about His desired outcome at the proper time.

So as we begin another school year of ministry – Care Groups, Image Bearers, Youth Group, Child Development Center, SOAR, Outreach Events, Men's and Women's ministry, Mission trips, etc., we do so with full confidence in Christ's indomitable power to bring everything to a glorious conclusion in His perfect timing.

Let that truth encourage your greatest efforts!

Grace and peace,

Scott

2016 Missions Conference: October 12 - 16

Let the nations be glad....

Watch for all the details in the coming weeks!



If you plan to attend and need nursery care for your child(ren) up to age 3, please contact Heather Ormsby at hormsby1022@gmail.com.

PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

This week Julie and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary! I remember when Julie's parents celebrated their 25th anniversary, they seemed really old to me at the time. Now that we are there, I'm thinking that maybe they weren't that old after all.

Celebrating milestones in our lives is part of God's design. The people of Israel had festivals and celebrations throughout the year as reminders of God's deliverance, his faithfulness and His commandments. There are seven feasts celebrated by the Jews commemorating different aspects of the historical work of God. Leviticus 23:2 says "these are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations they are my appointed feasts."

The Church has also adopted "holy convocations" special days set apart to remember and to celebrate. We celebrate Lent/Easter, Pentecost, and Advent/Christmas. And then each particular church has its own celebrations, homecomings, special anniversaries and annual traditions. At First Presbyterian we have some special traditions that we have each year, our Mission Conference, the Labor Day camping trip, Sunday School Breakfast/Promotion, VBS, annual youth retreats, mission trips, sports camp, to name a few.

This fall our church has a couple special 25th anniversaries we are celebrating: First, the Anniversary of our SOAR sports outreach program on September 24-25. Second, the opening of the time capsule 25 years after it was sealed at our church's 100th anniversary! We encourage you to come and celebrate God's goodness and the work of Jesus in and through our church.

And finally let us keep in mind that the purpose of all "holy convocations" is ultimately to point us to God's redemptive work throughout all of history through Jesus Christ. So there is no better place to bring someone you know who is not a believer, than to a party that celebrates Jesus and His work in the life of the Church!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE: CHRISTMAS SCENES PLANNING TEAMS

Come be a part of an *exciting new vision*. We need you this fall to plan and prepare for Christmas Scenes 2016. If you can give some of your time to this church-wide outreach event, please **sign up this Sunday on the bulletin insert**. (You can leave your sign up sheet with the attendance pad at the end of the pew.) Also be sure to check out the bulletin board outside the church office for an artistic preview of the new vision. You can sign up there as well.

GYM ROOF REPAIR!!!

You may have noticed some work taking place on our gym roof! This upgrade to our gym roof will stop the leaks that have been a problem for a long time. The existing metal roof is being covered with a new rubber membrane roof that comes with a 20 year warranty. We are thankful to the deacons who have worked hard to be good stewards of our facilities and to provide a safe environment for ministry in the years to come!



You are cordially
invited
to attend
the wedding of

Danz Wurster
&
Heather Wallace

October 1, 2016
Noon
Commonground
5481 Hickory Grove Road
Stanley, NC
Reception to follow



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO A
BRIDAL SHOWER
HONORING
SHELBY WINCHESTER
(FIANCÉE OF PATRICK RHYNE)
SEPTEMBER 18, 2016
2:00 - 3:30 PM
IN FOUNDERS HALL**

Shelby and Patrick are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Pottery Barn and Crate & Barrel.

Hostesses: Anne Abernathy, Janice Barton, Teresa Neely, Missy Smith.

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS OF
SOAR
WITH ALL PAST SOAR
PLAYERS & COACHES

SEPT 24 // SATURDAY

ALUMNI GAMES

6pm // Meet at the gym and we'll split up to play volleyball, basketball, softball and soccer.

SEPT 25 // SUNDAY

**SOAR CELEBRATION
& COVERED DISH**

10:15am // SOAR Celebration in Sanctuary as part of the service.

11:30am // Covered dish lunch and SOAR presentation in Founders Hall. Don't forget to bring a covered dish for your family.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The Stanley Total Living Center has an opportunity for someone who loves Jesus and wants to share with others. They are looking for someone to lead a weekly Bible study. Due to declining health, the volunteer that has been doing this had to step down. The time of the Bible study can be set to accommodate your schedule. Contact Jennifer Benton in the Activities Department at the TLC for more information.

The TLC is also looking for candy donations for their upcoming Community Trick or Treat Extravaganza to be held October 31. The residents really enjoy seeing all the children in their costumes and having candy to give to them. Candy can be dropped off at the TLC or in the church office.

VOLUNTEER PEER COUNSELOR TRAINING



Do you have a special place in your heart for the unborn? What about a young woman facing an unplanned pregnancy? Has there been a desire placed within your heart to help others come to know the Lord's unconditional love for and acceptance of them? If so, we have the place for you!

We would love to have you join us for the fall session of our Volunteer Peer Counselor Training to begin September 27, 2016 at 700 Robinson Rd., Gastonia. Training last for 5 weeks and will be held every Tuesday night from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm.

The Volunteer Application can be downloaded on our website, cpcgaston.net. Please contact Rhonda Gottfried at 704-867-3706 or rhonda.gottfried.cpc@gmail.com for more information or if you have any questions.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



Betty Jo Sisk Shelby
July 14, 1930 - August 26, 2016

We extend Christian sympathies to **Milton Shelby** and family on the death of **Betty Shelby**. Betty passed away August 26 after several months of declining health. The Shelbys were married for over 66 years!

Our heartfelt sympathies are also extended to **Doug and Cindy Stelzig**, former FPC members and MTW missionaries in South Africa on the death of their son, **Kurt**. Kurt, age 21, died from injuries sustained after a fall a couple of weeks ago. A funeral service will be held this Saturday, September 10, 11:00 AM at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill. Visitation is at 10:00 AM in the church's parlor.

Eloise Murphy continues a slow recovery process at home after spending a few days in the hospital at the end of August.

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Kevin and Alisa Bentley serving with Cru in Raleigh

In November, the Bentleys are connecting with the Cru City ministry in Prague and looking for men and women to join them to share Christ with Czech business and professionals. Please pray for people to go with them. Also in November, Kevin is scheduled to have hip replacement surgery. Pray for successful surgery and quick healing.

Paul and Marty Clark serving with Scripture Union in Peru

Paul and Marty now work mainly with the older boys and their families who used to live in their street boy homes as well as doing training and consulting in other areas. Pray for Marty's ministry with the women in Peru and for Paul as he prepares to be the keynote speaker at our Missions Conference in October.

Charles and Bonita Davidson serving with MTW in Monterrey, Mexico

Travel plans for the next two months see Charlie on the road to three different cities in September and early October. Pray for his continuing ministry to train and equip pastors and church planters in northern Mexico .

Birthdays to Celebrate in September

17 Andy Murphy
Kathleen Ottinger

18 Claudia Forbes-Robinson
Dillon Lamb

19 Kary Kopka

22 Tracy Withers

23 Judy Dixon
Ann Featherstone
Gracie Hager
Mark Harper



25 Austin Abernathy
Darlene Sweigart

27 George Ross

28 Pam Cole
Crystal Hare
Abigail Jessen

30 Jim Tilley

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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