

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM PASTOR STEVE by Steve Jessen

Ezra was a priest and a scribe who led a group of Jews out of the Babylonian captivity back to Jerusalem in 458B.C. In the book of Ezra we read an interesting note about their journey that is recorded in Chapter 8:21-23.

*Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.*

The Jews refused a royal escort to protect them on their perilous voyage, putting their trust in God's hand to protect them along the way. But how did they petition God for this protective shield? Their cry for help and safety came by fasting and by imploring (pleading) God to fulfill their request.

We have the opportunity to be a part of the same process that Ezra and the Jewish Exiles utilized to bring their petitions before God. On **Wednesday, September 27**, the Session has called for a dedicated **Day of Prayer and Fasting** for our church, culminated by a special time of worship in the church sanctuary at 7:00 pm. The challenge is to fast something (food, your favorite drink, social media, TV, etc...) and to use that time for prayer for our church. The purpose is to ask God to lead us safely in the journey that lies ahead of us as a church, for His perfect will to be done.

The result of the fast led by Ezra was that God heard their prayers: "The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambushes by the way." (v.31) May God hear the prayers of the people of First Presbyterian and bring us safely to the destination He has chosen for us.

*Steve*





**Remember...**

**Best Years "Country Fair"  
Saturday, September 23  
5:00 - 7:00 pm  
at the Linebergers' home**

*Enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, Bingo, clogging, door prizes and more!*

**Sponsored by the Ruth and Grace Circles**



**Budget Request Forms  
for the 2018 Budget  
are due by October 1.**

Contact the church office  
if questions.



**You are invited to a  
Baby Shower  
honoring  
Betsey (Neely) Theodossiou  
Sunday, October 15  
2:00 - 3:30 pm  
in Founders Hall**

Betsey and Patrick are registered at Target and Amazon.

Hostesses: Anne Abernathy, Janice Barton, Linda Faggart, Cathy Rhyne and Missy Smith.

## PULPIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pulpit Committee has met three times. The committee has organized itself with Ron Ensley serving as Chairperson, Dan Ormsby as Vice-Chairperson, and Ryan Abernathy as Secretary.

Scope of work to date has been a review of Session directed requirements for our Senior Pastor, review of other church profile pastor search documents, protocol for pastoral search within our presbytery and denomination wide, along with prayers for wisdom and direction.

The committee has broken into two sub-committees to prepare needed search documents. Amanda Huss, Ryan Abernathy, and Dan Ormsby are preparing a FPC profile of FPC Beliefs and Mission Statement, church history, church statistics, current ministries, Senior Pastor Job description, along with non-negotiable required skill set for FPC Senior Pastor. This electronic document will be used to advertise our Senior Pastor position and send to prospective candidates. Lennie Burrell, Teresa Neely, and Ron Ensley are preparing a standard set of questions for interview of candidates.

We expect to be actively interviewing candidates within the next few weeks. The committee has agreed to the confidentiality of their work to protect candidates interviewed and reduce rumors in the church body. We ask that the members be respectful of this confidentiality.

The committee requests prayer for wisdom and that God would lead us to the man of His choosing for Senior Pastor.

In service to Jesus Christ,  
The Pulpit Committee

## WIC NEWS

### OCTOBER CIRCLE MEETINGS:

#### Monday, October 2:

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Linda Faggart.  
Readers Circle meets at the home of Lennie Burrell.  
Ruth Circle meets at the home of Susan Mesimer.

#### Tuesday, October 3:

Denver Circle meets at the home of Vickie Smith.  
Grace Circle meets at the home of Wendy Ham.

\*\*\*All circles meet at 7:00 pm except Grace which meets at 6:00 pm.\*\*\*

### REMINDER:

The next scheduled WIC Council meeting is Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

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If you are not on the WIC emailing list contact Sandra in the church office and give her your email. Even if you are not in a circle, you can still be on the prayer chain, help out with benevolence meals and other needs, and participate in special activities.

# October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <b>AM Communion</b></p> <p>6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups</p>	<p>2 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>7:00 Elizabeth, Readers &amp; Ruth Circle Meetings</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Grace Circle Mtg. 6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group 7:00 Denver Circle Mtg.</p>	<p>4 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.</p> <p>6:30 Abernathy Care Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 CE Committee Mtg.; MTW Committee Mtg. 7:30 Officers' Prayer</p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">← Officers' Retreat → Fri., 6pm - Sat, 12N</p>	<p>7 7:00 Founders Hall-AHG</p> <p>2:00 Men's Basketball</p>
<p>8</p> <p>6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 Outreach Comm Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group</p>	<p>11 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.</p> <p>6:30 Abernathy Care Group Tech Team Mtg.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Officer Training</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>2:00 Men's Basketball</p>
<p>15</p> <p>2:00 Baby Shower for Betsey Theodossiou</p> <p>6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups</p>	<p>16 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">←————— WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE —————→</p>						
<p>22</p> <p><b>MISSIONS CONF.</b></p> <p><i>No Evening Activities</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 SOAR Comm. Mtg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group</p>	<p>25 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Grp.</p> <p>6:30 Abernathy Care Group Calendar Planning Mtg</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 AHG Unit Meetings 7:00 Officer Training</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2:00 Men's Basketball</p>
<p>29</p> <p>4:00 WIC Council Mtg.</p> <p>6:00 Children's Ministry, Youth, Care Groups</p>	<p>30 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 Barton Care Group 7:00 Burrell Care Group</p>				

## THE POWER OF A PERSONAL NOTE by Dan King

Have you ever considered the power of coupling a personal note with your on-going prayer for our missionaries? A correspondence ministry is simple, yet it can have unimaginable impact.

FPC member Mae Belle Glenn died in 2010. But for years prior, this widow wrote notes to missionaries Andy and Karen Weaver ministering in distant and exotic Papua, New Guinea. What did that mean to them? Karen explains:

*These hand-written notes send a personal touch that is rare in today's world. All these letters ended by saying, "I pray for you every day." Sometimes when I'd had a rough day, I'd think to myself, "At least I know Mae Belle is praying for me today!"*

*When we saw Mae Belle on furlough, she greeted us and each of our kids by name, and I believe she had been praying specifically for each one of them.*

A simple gesture, costing only a few pennies and a little time, but these occasional notes helped sustain the heart of a burdened missionary half a world away.

Garry and Anita Chambers went out from our church as missionaries to Belize in 2002. They carried with them notes of encouragement from our congregation. Anita, who says she is not one who saves many mementos, was glad she saved those.

*It wasn't until we were in Belize after a few weeks when we felt very lonely missing our church family that I pulled out the cards and read through them again. Their words of encouragement and Bible verses were so profoundly inspiring to me and helped to fill my "all-alone" heart. One thing about the written letters and cards, they can be held and read over and over again, repeating their messages to a thirsty heart, helping us feel that we are not alone.*

Missionaries may be our priority in a correspondence ministry, but the benefits are not limited to them. Scott Burgess and his family paid their first visit to FPC nearly twenty years ago. Scott remembers what happened a few days after:

*The next week, we received a small note (about the size of a thank you card). It was hand written: "I want to thank you for visiting our church this past Sunday. We always are excited to see visitors in our church to worship with us. I hope you'll come back again and see us, Sincerely, Alfred Rhyne."*

*I had no idea who Alfred was at the time, however I was so impressed that someone would take the time to hand write a note to us! It seemed like such a personal and genuine message. We eventually became members at FPC, and yes, after attending a few services I wanted to find out who this man Alfred Rhyne was! He and I enjoyed a wonderful and loving friendship for many, many years until his death.*

A note-writing ministry. Simple and inexpensive. But carrying the potential for great impact. Won't you consider making this part of your commitment to missions? Names and addresses of all our FPC missionaries are updated regularly and published in each church directory. Pick a missionary, pick up your pen, and make a difference for the Kingdom.

## OCTOBER RESPONSIBILITIES



### NURSERY

- October 1:** 10:15 AM - Josh and Stacey Hall  
**October 8:** 10:15 AM - Tommi Rust  
**October 15:** 10:15 AM - Lauren Henderson,  
Olivia and Ashleigh Fox  
**October 22:** 10:15 AM - Craig and Susan Mesimer  
**October 29:** 10:15 AM - Lisa and Allie Grice

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- October 1:** Communion  
**October 8:** Clyde Haley  
**October 15:** Leon Lineberger  
**October 22:** Missions Conference  
**October 29:** Jimmie Mitchell

## WITH LOVING THANKS

*We want to thank everyone for all the thoughts and prayers for Sharon while she was in the hospital. God is good all the time. Also thanks for the food and calls. We love you all!*

*Sharon and Junior Bryant*

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*The United in Action of Stanley Churches wish to thank the First Presbyterian Church family for your cooperative spirit, your willingness to serve and share in addition to your generous contribution of time and resources in support of our Second Annual Back to School Celebration. As a result of this combined passionate initiative by the churches of Stanley, more than 250 students and their families from Stanley and the surrounding area were blessed with school supplies and spiritual encouragement.*



## Stanley Cemetery Restoration Project Fundraiser Dinner Saturday, October 14, 3:00 - 7:00 pm \$8.00 per plate\* Christ's Lutheran Church

Meal includes: Flounder or Chicken Tenders, Fries, Hush Puppies, Slaw, and Dessert. Tea will be provided if you eat there. The meal will be catered by Catfish Cove.

**\*Tickets are available in the church office for purchase!**

The Cemetery Restoration Project and Fundraiser Dinner is sponsored by United in Action of Stanley Churches, Inc. Proceeds will go to the restoration project of the Stanley Cemetery on Highway 27 next to Christ's Lutheran.

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Sharon Bryant** is doing well as she continues to recover following surgery on September 5. We were happy to have her back in worship with us this past Sunday.

After spending 10 days at home while recovering from a Tonsillectomy on September 8, **Hudson Rick** returned to school on Monday of this week. **Hudson's** parents, **Heather and Billy Roberts** are hoping this will reduce the frequent bouts of strep throat he has suffered lately.

## PRAYING WITH AND FOR OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Pray for **Les and Maxine Williams** in **Ethiopia** as they seek to take the gospel to those who have not yet heard it clearly enough to make a choice to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, especially those children and youth who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable to abuse.

Pray for **Hernando and Debbie Saenz** as they seek to plant churches who will share the gospel with the growing Hispanic population in the **USA**.

### Celebrating birthdays in October:

02 – Lynn Cross	20 – Jaris Pollorena
07 – Henry Dirks (2008)	29 – Phil F.
12 – Olive Janicek (2015)	31 – Amy J. (2011)
Aaron Zapata	Heather J.



NOTE: Some last names are omitted because the missionaries serve in sensitive countries.

## AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	63,544.35
Received in August for budget .....	47,222.92
Needed to date for budget .....	508,354.78
Received to date for budget .....	491,652.40
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	16,517.75
Received in August for Faith Promise .....	6,869.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	132,142.00
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	111,075.00

# *Birthdays to Celebrate in October*

2 Jennings Black  
Jim Ramsey

3 Emma Deneen  
Darwin Paramore

4 Sissie Kilby

6 Chelsea Deese

7 Zane Billings

8 Wanda Ramsey



9 Ryan Grice  
Maxton Withers

10 Sydney Heffner

11 Henry Chucci  
Jolee Lawson

12 Jonan Bynum  
Grady Rhyne

15 Tracy McMinn

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Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen  
Worship 10:15 AM ♦ Sunday School 9:00 AM



512 Old Mt. Holly Road  
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – October 2017

First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

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)

## Prayer Promptings from God’s Word for the Month:

*<sup>2</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ( I Timothy 2:1-3)*

## Prayer for Our Pastors

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for our pastors. Some suggestions for prayer are included, but pray also as you are aware of other particular needs and concerns they may have.

**Monday:** To love God with all their heart, and to love others as themselves. (Matt. 27:37-39)

**Tuesday:** To trust the Lord completely for their wisdom, so that he will direct their daily path. (Prov. 3:5,6)

**Wednesday:** To pray always, putting on the armor of Lord to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Eph. 6:11ff)

**Thursday:** To love their wives and manage their family in ways that honor Christ. (Eph. 5:25, I Tim. 3:4,5)

**Friday:** That God’s word will be their reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. (II Tim 3:16)

**Saturday:** To care faithfully for the flock and have compassion for lost sheep. (John 10:16, Lk. 15:4)

**Sunday:** To empower them to preach and teach the Gospel in the power of the Spirit. (Matt. 4:23, Rom. 10:15)

## Prayer for Our Ministry Leaders and Staff

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff:

**Monday:** Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center

**Tuesday:** Global Outreach, Adult Ed/Care Groups  
Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell

**Wednesday:** Lauren Henderson, Children’s Ministry

**Thursday:** Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

**Friday:** Eric Beam, Music Director

**Saturday:** Pray that **all** who preach, teach and lead on the Lord’s Day at FPC will bring God’s word in the power of the Spirit to bless his people and glorify Jesus Christ.

## Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Pete Johnson:** Pray for me to be able to serve the Lord in my work as a Deacon
- 2 **Leon Lineberger:** For my family, for my strength in daily work, and my work as a Deacon.
- 3 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that God would help me to be gentle with those in FPC and outside the church.
- 4 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for wisdom and guidance for the two search committees, that God will lead them to the right people to further his kingdom.
- 5 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for God's direction and guidance in the Officers Retreat, Oct. 6 & 7.
- 6 **Jerry Ratchford:** Pray for the youth of the church and guidance for those who leading them.
- 7 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray the Lord will protect and strengthen the faith of our church's college students as they live in today's mostly godless university environment.
- 8 **Robert Rhyne:** Pray for my mom as she struggles with various health issues.
- 9 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for those who are dealing with aging, illness, and health related issues.
- 10 **George Ross:** Please pray that I will remain right-minded as I move into new challenges.
- 11 **Ronnie Smith:** Pray God's guidance as I seek to minister to a family in need.
- 12 **Charlie Stewart:** Pray for our Missions Committee and missionaries traveling to be with us during the Missions conference.
- 13 **Tracy Withers:** Please pray for our Missions Conference and all those who are working so hard to make this a wonderful, God honoring event.
- 14 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray for our Pulpit Committee and God's guidance in decisions we are making to ensure we are searching for the leader that God wants.
- 15 **Chris Baker:** Pray that God will give patience and love to those who minister to our children.
- 16 **Mark Beatty:** Please pray for our Care Groups as we begin a new season of fellowship.
- 17 **Tommy Barton:** Pray for the MTW committee and all those who are a part of leading our Missions Conference.
- 18 **Dean Chaney:** Pray for the new officer nominees as they complete their church leadership training.
- 19 **Ken Dake:** Pray for the youth and search for a new youth pastor.
- 20 **Andrew Deese:** Pray for Hailey and me as we keep up with the demands of family, work, and church.
- 21 **Ed Faggart:** Please pray for traveling mercies for me this fall.
- 22 **Chris Graham:** For continued wisdom and strength as Jodie and I care for aging parents.
- 23 **Clyde Haley:** Pray for the search committees to seek Him, and they will be guided by God who is in control of all things.
- 24 **Mark Harper:** Pray for unity and patience in our church as the search committees look for new leadership and for the new officer candidates and Steve as he leads the training classes.
- 25 **Rick Herd:** Pray for the planning and preparation for the Christmas scenes.
- 26 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that as I travel for work, that the Lord would guard me from temptations and strengthen Kim at home with the kids.
- 27 **Pete Johnson:** Pray for God's direction for the election and service of new Elders and Deacons.
- 28 **Leon Lineberger:** For my family, for my strength in daily work, and my work as a Deacon.
- 29 **Jimmie Mitchell:** Pray that God would enable me to love others as I love myself.
- 30 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for a growing sense of unity and vision in our staff, elders, deacons, and our many volunteers during this time of transition.
- 31 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray for the Outreach Committee and the preparation and plans for the Christmas Scenes—Journey to Jerusalem.

## Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise for Joel stepping up to take leadership in our youth program during the transition time.  
Ken Dake
- Praise for a great golf outreach...49 men participated with 28 who were not from FPC.  
Rick Herd