

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 16 Ryan Abernathy  | 21 Vicky Gamage<br>Carol King<br>Matthew Magill<br>Piper Miller | 25 Kaleigh Smith  |
| 17 Betty Ann Abernathy<br>Robert Billings<br>Charlie Leonard<br>Cookie Wilkinson | 22 Joshua Everly<br>Morgan Huss<br>Jamie Revels                 | 27 Charles Ottinger<br>Marsha Skidmore<br>Jamie Stewart               |
| 18 Josh Addington<br>Danny Wallace   | 23 Debbie Friday<br>Don Sapp<br>Marc Sharpe                     | 28 Rhoda Davis<br>Ruth Stanway  |
| 19 Jacqueline Hall   | 24 Trevor Burgess   | 30 Renee Abernathy<br>Scott Burgess<br>Kathryn Cavin<br>Jackson Tyler |
| 20 Sarah Jane Griffin<br>Wendy Ham   |   | 31 Nathanael Prather  |



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: fpcstanleync@carolina.rr.com web site: www.fpcstanley.org

Senior Pastor, Dan King • Associate Pastors, David Nelson and Scott Deneen  
Worship 8:30 and 11:00 AM • Sunday School 9:45 AM

First Presbyterian Church  
512 Old Mt. Holly Road  
Stanley, NC 28164

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bulk Rate  
U. S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 12  
Stanley, NC 28164



THE CHURCH FAMILY  
*Presenting Everyone  
Complete in Christ*

Vol. XXXVI, No. 1

January 7, 2009

## Sunday School Breakfast

Sunday, January 18

9:15 AM

Founders Hall



Stop by for a bite to eat, a cup of coffee,  
and a uplifting dose of fellowship before  
heading to Sunday School at 10:00.

# FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

I'm very grateful to our Deacons, led in this instance by Scott Burgess, for helping us celebrate retirement of the debt on our 1994 building addition. All the indebtedness on Founders Hall and the ten associated classrooms and other facilities was paid off last month.

The Deacons, who have as part of their official duties promotion of stewardship and care of our facilities, staged a nice celebration last Sunday morning. It gave all of us a few moments to savor the blessing of God's generous provision. In our busy lives we are tempted to rush on to the next thing, taking too little time to enjoy present circumstances and revel in the good we are experiencing right now. This debt retirement celebration was a conscious effort to recognize and appreciate – if only briefly – the good place the Lord has set us.

Taking on a construction loan of \$600,000 was a big step for us back in the early 1990's. The debt service which eventually rose to \$6,000 per month was a real stretch, if judged solely by the arithmetic. But faith was also in play. The need was obvious – long lines at the restrooms on Sunday mornings, crowded classrooms, inadequate dining facilities. But our total budget was only around \$200,000 in those days. Seventy-two thousand dollars in loan payments out of a two-hundred-thousand dollar budget. Well, you see the difficulty. The church had to grow and income had to grow if we were going to manage it.

God was good. As my favorite hymn goes: "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me." And now the building is debt-free.

The only debt we have left is a small remaining balance for our new church bus – less than \$12,000 – which we actually owe to ourselves. As with the building addition, we borrowed from the John Adams Missions Fund to finance the bus purchase, and we are paying that fund back. This last indebtedness is scheduled to be retired by the end of 2009.

To God be the glory! (And thank you, Deacons, for helping us say it.)

Affectionately,

Dan

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Doris Rhyne** has been hospitalized through the holidays for surgery at Gaston Memorial Hospital. She expects to undergo short-term rehabilitation following her discharge.

We also encourage your prayers for **Doris Herd** as she has returned home after being hospitalized at GMH last Sunday, and for **Evelyn Accipiter** who underwent surgery there on Tuesday.

Christian sympathies are extended to **Reid and Laura Evans and Family** following the death of their grandmothers. Laura's paternal grandmother, **Maxine Putnam**, died December 20 in Kings Mountain; and Reid's maternal grandmother, **Carrie Haigler**, passed away December 29 in Kannapolis.

Condolences are also offered to **Mae Belle Glenn** whose sister, **Edith Glenn Carpenter** of Mt. Holly, died December 21, and to **Nancy and Percy Raleigh** in the death of Nancy's mother, **Margie West**, 78, of Altus, Oklahoma. Mrs. West passed away January 6.

Congratulations to **Melodie Garrison** who has completed work for her nursing degree. Melodie has received the Associate of Science in Nursing from Queens University and expects to work as an RN at Presbyterian Hospital.

## MERCY MINISTRIES

Thank you for your help in supplying us with items for the **Food Pantry**. We are still seeing a large number of families that need help with groceries. Thanks to your faithfulness, we've been receiving a steady supply of food to replenish the pantry each week. We are currently in need of the following:



- |                       |               |                 |                  |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| crackers              | peanut butter | spaghetti       | canned meat/fish |
| cereals (hot or cold) | gravy mixes   | spaghetti sauce | canned fruits    |

Thank you for your continued support!

# With Loving Thanks

Dear Christian friends,

Just a note to thank you all for the beautiful Christmas flower you sent my way. It's beautiful.

I remain,  
Doris Rhyne

---

Dear Church family,

Thanks to each one that prayed and asked about my sister. The comforting words said to me since her death have been a blessing. Also, thank you for the beautiful plant.

Love and thanks,  
Ailene Friday

---

Dear Women Joined in Heart,

Thank you for your generous gift to the children's ministry. We used it to provide those very special and precious costumes you saw on our preschoolers for the Christmas program. Libby Chaney did the shopping and the sewing for us. She did an incredible job! Now we have costumes that fit to use for many years to come.

Thank you for your generosity. You have helped and encouraged us and demonstrated your Christ-like love for the children. Thank you!

The Children's Ministry Team

2009 Budget Summaries are available on the Literature table.



# CARE GROUPS BEGIN AGAIN



It's a New Year! Maybe it's time to consider a new commitment to Christian growth and fellowship. Our Care Group ministry provides opportunity for you to "plug-in" to Christian body life with a small group of fellow FPC'ers who meet weekly for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and service. If you're not in a Care Group, look at the insert from last Sunday's bulletin or pick up a copy on the literature table for a list of available groups and meeting times. If you have any questions, contact the Care Group leader or Pastor Dave.

---

## SOAR NEWS



Our **Youth Volleyball** registration will be this Saturday, January 10, 10:30 - 12:00. Church members may pre-register prior to that time by completing a registration form and leaving it in the church office along with the registration fee. By pre-registering, you can bypass the registration line and go directly to the skills evaluation.

If you are interested in helping with our youth volleyball, please contact one of our committee members for details on the many opportunities available for volunteers. The committee includes: Mike Gamage, Chris Graham, and Marcia Rhyne.

The **Adult Volleyball** league starts Thursday, January 8. Anyone interested in playing in this recreational league should plan to be at the gym on Thursday at 7:00 pm.

---

## NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARY FAMILIES



**Joel McCall** will be travelling to **Ghana** in February for two weeks where he will be teaching African pastors on Leadership (a practical study of 1 Timothy).

**Andrés Garza** writes, "It is great for me to tell you.....that Encuentro con Dios Church, our flagship church and Mision al Mundo (Mission to the World **Northern Mexico**) has started a plan to support a Hispanic church planter in Atlanta that just launched a public worship service of a Hispanic church."

**Andy and Karen Weaver** and their four children Stephanie, Walter, Victoria and Amanda have arrived in the United States from **Papua New Guinea** for their furlough.

# FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Youth & Families,

As we move into another year, I would like to encourage each of us to re-evaluate our priorities and commitments. Life is so busy these days that the ‘tyranny of the urgent’ consumes most of our time, so remembering our priorities can help organize our lives again.

How do we evaluate our priorities? Well, what commitments have you made? i.e.; what have you *promised* to do/be? I’m talking about purposeful/willful commitments... like marriage & Church membership.

In marriage we make vows to God and our spouse. Those commitments pledge love and affection to another without stipulation (no ifs, ands, or buts). We pledge to care for them whether or not they are old or young, sick or well, rich or poor, etc. And these are serious because we make them in the presence of God Almighty.

The same is true for our Church vows. We make vows to God and our church family members. Those commitments include living as a follower of Christ, supporting the church (the people) in its worship and work to the best of our ability, and to submitting to the government/discipline of the church while studying its purity & peace.

All of us agree that our marriage vows take precedence over other commitments in our lives but not many think of Church vows in the same manner. I would like to challenge your thinking in this area. Vows are extremely important to God (and men). In fact, the Lord is so serious about vows that He says “it’s better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”

So, as you are making your “New Year’s Resolutions,” add “fulfill my vows” to that list – you’ll be glad you did (and so will your spouse & Church family!).

Grace & Peace,



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Ski Retreat – Feb 6-7 (\$35 deposit due NOW!)

COST: Skiing \$85; Tubing \$35

# A TIME TO REFOCUS

by David Nelson

It’s a new year. For some, the new year is a time of renewed hope and expectation; for others, it’s a time of sad remembrance of ‘*the way things used to be...*’ or some other such treasured ideal. What about you, Christian? How are you supposed to view and face this new year? Is it just ‘*another day in the life?*’ OR, is it something else?

Events of the past year, and particularly events of the last three months of last year may have some fraught with deeper concerns than normal. Whether it’s fear of losing your job, concern over the state of our economy, shell-shock from the November elections, or worry over the future of the United States as an ongoing free society - changes have occurred or are on the horizon which may have some in a deep blue funk.

Whether you’re excited or depressed over the milestone of “new year,” consider these encouraging words from Jesus as you evaluate your approach to 2009.

*“If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it.”*  
**Luke 9:23-24**

So, whether it’s ‘*just another day,*’ a horizon of exciting expectation, or a deep dark uncertainty - if you follow Jesus, this new year can and should be filled with new life, purpose and meaning.

If you know Jesus, there’s no need to be tossed about by the waves of doubt, fear, uncertainty, politics, or national and world events. If you know Jesus, all you need to do is lose your life for Him and you’ll save it!

If you believe - Jesus is your ***rock of Gibraltar***; He’s your ***bright morning star***; He’s your ***confident confidant, counselor, & comforter***; He’s your ***all powerful provider***; and He’s your ***righteous, just, & merciful king***.

Jesus created you, He has complete knowledge and control of every detail of your life, He’s using your life for His Father’s Glory! Can you embrace that and thus enjoy the ride?

No matter what comes in 2009, if you *deny yourself, die to self, and follow Jesus*, your life will be richer and more full of ultimate joy & meaning than any other approach may bring.

Wouldn’t it be great if each of us could grow into the confidence of Paul in 2009:

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* **Philippians 1**

Believing and growing with you,

