

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 18 Anna Prather
- 19 Seth Abernathy
Kavin Garrison
Dave Strickler
- 21 Candace Chucci
Ruth Kerley
- 22 Grace Madzia
- 23 Stewart Neely
- 24 Zoe Evans



- 26 Geoff Dixon
Tegan Smith
- 28 Malorie Haithcox
Meghan Haithcox
Lisa Revels
- 29 Mary Ruth Heffner
- 30 Nolan Buck
Melissa Ensley
Katherine Madzia

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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

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THE CHURCH FAMILY
*Presenting Everyone
 Complete in Christ*

Vol. XXXVI, No. 11

June 3, 2009



Registration Deadline
 for
Son Rock Kids Camp
 is
Sunday, June 14.

See bulletin board across from church office for details and registration information.

**Vacation
 Bible
 School**

JULY 26—30



See page 3 of this issue for some important details.

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

Our church family lost one its finest servants and dearest friends last week when Pastor Fred Murphy succumbed to Multiple Myeloma, a form of blood cancer. He was 81. Born Christopher Douglas Murphy on July 23, 1927, Fred received his nickname from his grandmother. He had been an ordained Presbyterian minister fifty years at the time of his death.

After he and his late wife Anne retired from full-time ministry, Pastor Fred served this congregation twelve years – 1993 to 2005 – as Assistant Pastor for Pastoral Care. He was a welcome visitor in our homes and hospital rooms, always ready with a comforting word from Scripture and a thoughtful prayer.

When our Session called Fred as a part-time addition to our staff, I knew we were getting a good pastor. I felt he would make a significant addition to what Pastor Tim Barton and I were able to do in pastoral care of this flock. Little did I know what a wonderful preacher we had also gotten in the bargain.

First impressions are often deceiving, and such was true of Fred's manner in the pulpit. Stoop-shouldered and appearing frail, he'd start out with that quaky little voice of his, and you'd wonder what you had gotten yourself into. But in a minute or two it would become apparent to anyone paying the least bit of attention that what you'd gotten yourself into was a masterful exposition of God's word. I was always refreshed, edified and challenged by Fred's messages. His preaching ministry was truly anointed by God.

We are blessed that as part of Fred's legacy to us, he has left behind multiple bound volumes of his sermons and other writings.

We thank God for the life and ministry of Pastor Fred Murphy. We are better for having known him – better as a church, better as persons, better as followers of Jesus Christ.

Our condolences are extended to his wife Louise, who accompanied and assisted him during the latter part of his ministry here; to his five children – Ruth Anne, Mary, David, Martha, Rebekah – and their families; and to his surviving brothers and sister – Dewey, John, Carl and Ruth.

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



Christopher Douglas (Fred) Murphy

July 23, 1927 – May 25, 2009

Our sympathies are extended to **Rick and Sharon Herd and family** and **Doris Herd** in the death of **Sue Herd** in New York. The deceased was the wife of Rick's brother and Doris' son **Dennis**.

Thea Friesenhahn is recovering at home following outpatient surgery earlier this week.

It was a joy to worship again with **Morgan Huss** who was back in church for the first time this Sunday after his near-death experience and extended hospitalization. We also rejoice that **Tim Featherstone** was with us in church, too – the first time since his open-heart surgery.

MERCY MINISTRIES

Wow...the Food Pantry looks great...and just in time for the summer. Now that school is ending and children will be eating more meals at home, I feel we will see an increase in requests for groceries.

If you would like to bring some groceries this month, below are some suggestions as our stock is lower on these items:

canned vegetables	peanut butter	spaghetti
cereals (hot or cold)	canned meat/fish	spaghetti sauce
canned fruits	rice	crackers

Thank you for keeping the pantry stocked.

DEATH SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY

by David Nelson

In 1 Corinthians 15:54 Paul wrote, 'When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."' What does he mean that death *has been* swallowed up in victory?

For Sunday school prep, I've been steeped in the *problem of evil*. This *problem of evil* is posed as a question, *If God is good and all powerful, why does He allow evil, pain, suffering, and death in the world (for His people/ for 'innocent' children/ for 'good' people/ etc.)?*

Smart men have worked together through the ages to provide the answer to this question. The answer is, 'We don't know.' That is, regarding specific cases of evil, pain, suffering & death (as well as all these things at large) we don't know the calculus of God's goodness, God's almighty power, and God's Glory in such events. That's why it's called, *the problem of evil*.

Based on this, before you turn to the paths of unbelief or despair, consider with me a few things about this *problem of evil*.

First, while *the problem of evil* is a problem for Christians, it's a bigger problem for unbelievers. Unbelievers, if they're consistent, don't even have the right to have categories for evil and injustice or reasons for pain, suffering, and death. When they talk of such things they're borrowing from our world view and fall into severe inconsistency.

Natural selection, survival of the fittest, and mother nature are cruel, unrelenting forces which have no compassion or discretion - they do what they do without reason or mercy - that's just the way it is. Thus, unbelievers have no reason to get angry when a hurricane kills, or a cancer invades; nor can they say such things are *tragic, wrong, unjust, or evil* - but they do.

Secondly, when pain, sorrow, or death strike Christians, we're sad, we grieve, we strive to alleviate our misery; but we also have hope and confidence that there's purpose and meaning behind our circumstance which we don't understand. We also know that any pain and frustration here will make the glory and perfection revealed when everything is made right that much more glorious and perfect. We know our troubles are *light and momentary*; thus even our deaths will be turned into glorious victory.

For the unbeliever, pain, sorrow, suffering, and death hold no purpose or meaning. For the unbeliever, chaos and evil lead to despair; for the believer chaos and evil provoke confidence, hope, and longing for the better day we know is to come.

Finally, Christianity is the only faith in which God entered into evil, pain, suffering, and death. He made Himself subject to all of it so He could bring His people through it and into glory.

Believing and growing with you,

David

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2009



HIGHSCHOOL GRADS

- Hannah Black
- Rebecca Brown
- Nick Boggess
- Daniel Deese
- Adam Huss
- Michelle Magill
- Josh McGinnis
- Garrett Tyler
- Alan Yoder

COLLEGE GRADS

- Debbie Boggess
- Melissa Ensley
- Melodie Garrison
- Stewart Neely
- Matt Ormsby

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We still need help....especially with Family Leaders. A family leader will be in charge of 5-6 children. The only responsibility they will have will be to take their 'family' from one point to the other and make sure they behave. Please see bulletin board to sign up (age 15 or older).

We are in need of the following items to use during VBS. If you can loan us any of these items, please email Lauren Fox at familygirl22@hotmail.com or speak with Frankie Henderson. All items will be returned after VBS is over:

- 8 'shot-put' or 'work-out' balls
- 2 kiddie pools (hard plastic kind)
- wooden bowls to put food in
- old white twin bed sheets
- Canopies...ESPECIALLY need these



FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Ones,

In the hours before Jesus' crucifixion, He prayed for all who would believe in him. **“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it”** (17:15-16). A simple prayer yet within a century of his resurrection Christians were disagreeing over how to apply it to their lives. Dick Keyes points out in *Chameleon Christianity* that Christians can be tempted to react to a fallen world in two unfortunate—and unbiblical—ways.

The first reaction is to withdraw, to pull back from the world into a subculture where life seems safer and purer. Daily life is busy, and involvement in Christian activities keeps us in a closed circle where the sinful world is not allowed (think of the Amish).

The second reaction is to simply go with the flow of the culture... to quietly blend in, convinced we aren't worldly so much as refraining from aspects of faith that turn non-Christians off to the gospel.

There are problems with both reactions. One compromises our distinctive beliefs and way of life in order to reduce our conflict with society while the other maintains our separateness but loses contact with the society we are called to love/serve. Both are motivated by fear or defensiveness.

Both reactions are inadequate for Christian faithfulness. There is no reason to withdraw if the gospel is the power of God; there is no reason to accommodate culture for the very same reason (Romans 1:16). “Like rocks dropped into a pond,” Keyes says, “Christians are dropped into society. ***Jesus calls us to make waves that are positive and transforming while we simultaneously keep our distinctively Christian identity.***”

What kind of waves are you making?

Grace and peace to you,



NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Two additional grants totaling \$35,000 have recently been made from the John Adams Missions Fund of First Presbyterian Church. Both are directed toward new church development.

The Session approved the allocation of \$25,000 for construction of a school at the Haiti church established last year through an earlier Adams Fund grant. The Good Shepherd Church of Cherette, Haiti was established in 2008 on the original grant of \$35,000. That money was used to purchase land, build the church building and provide support for the pastor's first year of ministry. In addition, it allowed for the construction of a small store operated on-site. That commercial enterprise will generate income to help sustain the church in future years.



Other donors provided for the construction for an orphanage located on the church property. Our Haiti Mission Team ministered to the 120 orphans living there during a visit to the site earlier this year.

The final piece of the project is the school where these children and others from the community will be educated. This most recent award of \$25,000 will fund construction of the school.

The other grant in the amount of \$10,000 is contributed toward the purchase of a church building in Layton, Utah, to become the first permanent home of Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA). Grace Church, pastored by Rev. Don Krafft, is where Timothy and Caryann Barton have settled after seminary graduation. Timothy is an apprentice church planter there. The vision is for establishment of a presbytery in Utah, incorporating four existing PCA churches, while developing new works in and around the Salt Lake City area.



The Adams Missions Fund was established at the wish of a member of FPC – the late John Adams – who left the bulk of his estate to the church at his death. His stipulation was that the money be used for missions.

WOMEN JOINED IN HEART

All Council members are urged to attend the Council meeting on June 28 at 4:30 PM. We will be discussing plans for our fall outing and for the Christmas Dinner.

The July Council meeting has been canceled, so we will need to get details of these events firmed up.

All ladies of the church are invited to give us ideas for the fall outing. There is information on the WIC bulletin board outside Jimmie's office. Put your ideas in the box provided there. We'll take your suggestions into consideration when planning our event.

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

....in Peru

Paul and Marty Clark write: Mid-July is the date for moving both the Centro Girasoles (Sunflower Center where boys first arrive in Lima) and the offices. We will be tearing down the present building and selling off offices for a huge profit to be used in building a place for the boys and renting office space temporarily. Wisdom and help in finding the right places for the boys as well as offices. S.U. will keep the bottom floor which will be parking. Construction is going on all around and the offices are sought after in this particular area. Pray that the architect keep to his schedule and that progress will be seen soon....plus suitable relocation.

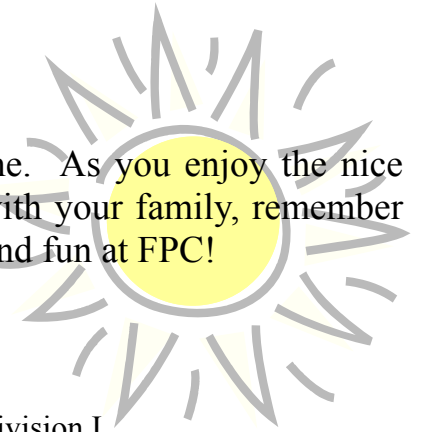
....around the world

Kasey Rhyne is headed to Peru on June 25 with a team from Hickory Grove Baptist Church. **Jimmie Mitchell, Stewart Neely and Mitchell Boughman** are in Mexico working with churches in El Potrero, SLP, Mexico City, Chiapas and Mérida. **Jim Ramsey** is ministering in Romania.



REMINDERS

Summer time is here and normal routine is gone. As you enjoy the nice weather, plan vacations, and spend extra time with your family, remember the many opportunities for worship, fellowship and fun at FPC!



- Thursday, June 4:** 7:30 pm Officers' Prayer
- Saturday, June 6:** 8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Soccer Finale for Division I
1:30 pm Soccer Finale for Divisions II and III
- Sunday, June 7:** 8:30 am & 11:00 am Graduate Recognition
5:15 pm Choir Group III
6:00 pm Covered Dish Dinner
7:00 pm Communion
- Monday, June 8:** 10:00 am Esther Circle meets in the Parlor
7:00 pm Readers Circle meets at the home of Suzy Deneen
Ruth Circle meets in the Church Parlor
- Tuesday, June 9:** 7:00 pm Elizabeth Circle meets at Judy Dixon's lake home
- Wednesday, June 10:** 4:30 pm Best Years leave for Aunt Bessie's
- Thursday, June 11:** 7:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting
7:30 pm Session Meeting
- Saturday, June 13:** 7:00 am Deacons' Meeting
8:30 am Baseball/Softball Coaches' training
10:30 am Baseball/Softball Registration