

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

17 Hope Levasseur
Kyle Lineberger
Will Robinson

20 Jared Hamrick
Matt Ormsby

24 Anita Chambers
Blain Friesenhahn

18 Andrew Deese
Moe Sanderson

21 Tamara Burrell
Kaitlyn Mesimer
Harrison Mueller

25 Janet Redding

19 Steve Cavin
Alice Jessen
Alfred Rhyne
Jean Robinson
Max Rust
Samantha Stowe

22 Chase Blackburn

28 Kate Meeks
Kelsey Smith
Jan Williams

23 Julie Black
Charlie Davis
Laura Evans
Jacob Musick

29 Sarah Smith



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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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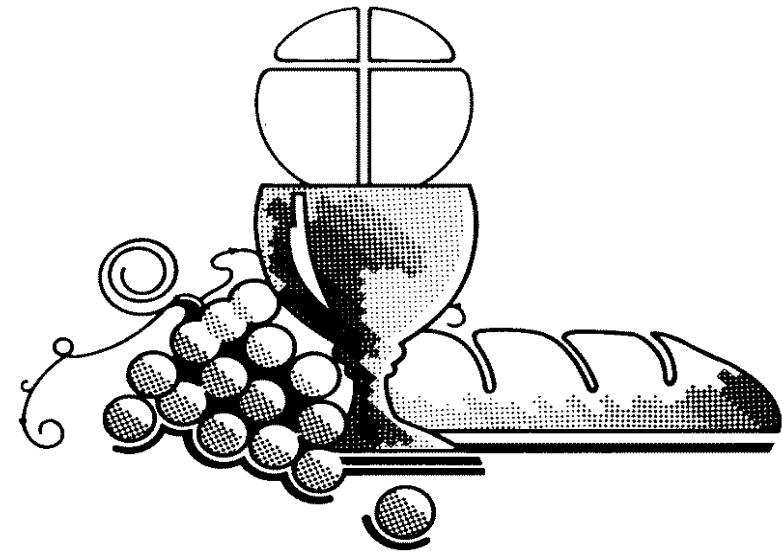


THE CHURCH FAMILY
*Presenting Everyone
Complete in Christ*

Vol. XXXVII, No. 3

February 3, 2010

THE LORD'S SUPPER



will be observed during both
morning services on Sunday, Feb. 7th

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

With Heritage Christian School scheduled to open here this fall, we are entering a critical period in the development of this ministry. Our plan is to open with Kindergarten first and add one grade a year until we are offering K through 5. In order to have a strong launch, however, we need to know by April 1 that we have enough students to make a go of it. Our business plan indicates that we need twenty Kindergarten students to be financially viable.

April 1 is not that far away, and frankly, student sign-ups are running very slow: just one paid registration so far.

When we announced this new ministry we were aware that the economy was weak and that in business terms the timing was poor. Nevertheless, your leadership felt we were on the Lord's timetable and that we should move ahead. Were we right or were we wrong? We'll see. But as for now, we're still seeking the Lord's enabling as we press on.

I don't know whether this thing will take off this year or not. But one thing I *do* know: I don't want it to fail for lack of prayer. Let it not be said of us: *"You do not have, because you do not ask."* ~ James 4:2

To rally around the need for focused prayer we are designating **Thursday, February 25** as a *Day of Prayer for Heritage Christian School*. We're calling upon all of you, our members and friends, to pray in particular ways for the School on that day. I plan to preach along these lines between now and then, and we're going to give you reminders and prayer suggestions. Then, besides what we *all* can do by praying specially some time that day, we're going to recruit *some* of you to join us in a two-part prayer vigil. From 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, and again from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, we're going to pray continuously in 15-minute periods specifically for this ministry. Sign-up opportunities will be posted soon.

Watch for further information. But as for now, mark February 25 on your calendars and plan to bear down with us in prayer on that day.

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Eloise Murphy was hospitalized at Gaston Memorial recently for diagnostic work. We're glad to report that she is home now, although still looking for answers to her health problem.

Our condolences are extended to **George and Jean Robinson** and family in the death of a second of George's brothers-in-law in recent weeks. **Steve Gabriel**, 80, of Asheville, NC died January 15.

Karen Greeson will undergo surgery on Thursday to repair her broken wrist. Karen sustained the break in a slip on icy pavement.

We are saying goodbye for a while at least to **Fred Haithcox**. Fred is relocating to Seattle, WA to be cared for by his daughter as he recovers from hip surgery.

MERCY MINISTRIES

We have been tremendously blessed by your generosity with donations to our Food Pantry. Thank you to all who faithfully bring in items to stock the pantry. Although we continue to help lots of area families each week with groceries, it seems the food is coming in faster than it is going out. What a problem to have! With this in mind, we are asking that you refrain from bringing in groceries for a short while. We will keep you well informed of when we are ready for you to bring in new items. Again, thank you for always remembering this important ministry of FPC.

YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS

Year end giving statements are ready and can be picked up from the brochure display in the main hallway. Be sure to take a moment and stop by to retrieve your copy.


LIBRARY NEWS

We have some Bible study books available for anyone who would like them. They are located on the right side wall in the workroom. (Look for the signs!) If you are interested in using any of these books, please help yourself. You do not need to return these items to the church.



If you have books that you want to donate, please do not bring them to the church. The Library Committee asks that you contact one of them first. They have very strict standards for any books placed in our church library.

Library Committee: Debbie Boggess, Ann Davis, Cathy Petersohn, and Jim Tilley





The Sunday School Breakfast

(originally planned for January 31)

has been rescheduled

for March 14!

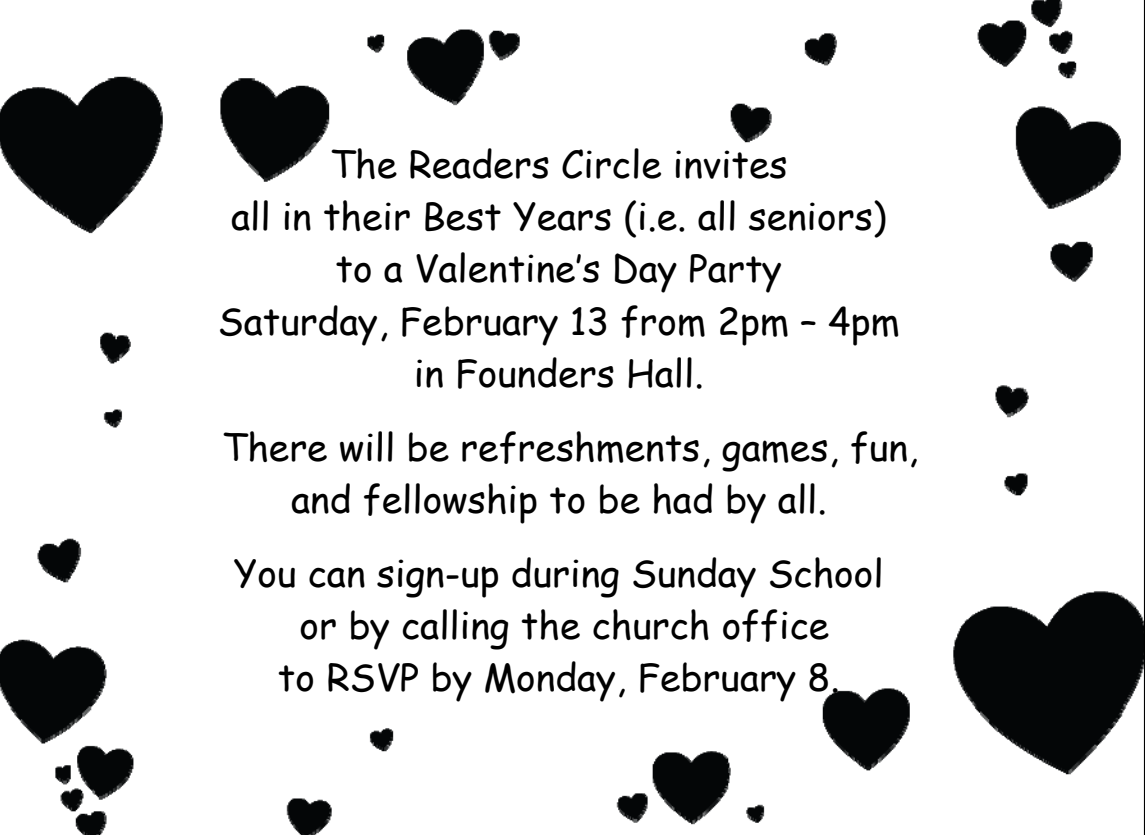



2010 10% CHALLENGE

Our commitment to systematic, proportional, and sacrificial giving continues to grow. Here are results from the "10% Challenge" and "Over 10% Challenge" presented to our congregation at the end of Stewardship Season on January 24. Those in attendance that Sunday indicated these levels of financial commitment through FPC:

Already giving 10%	19
Start giving 10%	6
Already giving >10%	17
Start giving >10%	8
Increase >10% by x%	9
TOTAL	59 persons

If you've not turned in your commitment card, please do so today.



The Readers Circle invites
all in their Best Years (i.e. all seniors)
to a Valentine's Day Party
Saturday, February 13 from 2pm - 4pm
in Founders Hall.

There will be refreshments, games, fun,
and fellowship to be had by all.

You can sign-up during Sunday School
or by calling the church office
to RSVP by Monday, February 8.

DEATH REVISTED

by David Nelson

In my Christian experience, death holds a special place in my heart. I came to Christ on fear of death and my strongest assurance of Christ comes in the face of death.

Recent events have had death much on my mind again.

A few weeks back, I was teaching the communicant's class - a lesson on salvation - and broke into a spontaneous account of my testimony of coming to Christian faith. As I told them my story, the memories of that time flooded back into my head with vivid detail.

In summary, I was talking to a friend's dad (who was also my friend) after church one Sunday, and the next day news came that he was killed in a car wreck on a snow covered highway. His death led me to obsess about death for a few months... *'What if my dad dies? What if I die? Why did he have to die? I was just talking to him one day; and the next, he was gone... just like that.'*

Christ used my obsession and things I'd been learning about Him in the Confirmation Class I'd been in to finally and fully bring me to saving faith.

A few months later, while eating lunch at school, I was overwhelmed with the knowledge, *"It doesn't matter if I die today; I'll be in heaven with God."* Eleven years after that, my crew was landing on a snowy Alaskan runway in a heavy cross-wind. A pilot's over-correction upon landing brought our outside port propeller within inches of striking the runway which would have certainly led to a catastrophic wreck and most likely my death. I watched the whole ordeal unfold as my station was right by a window on the port side just in front of the wing. I still remember those few seconds as if they were minutes; and, I remember the peace and assurance I had - *"It doesn't matter if I die today; I'll be in heaven with God."* Afterward, everyone on the plane was a basket case except for me.

In addition to my story, two weeks ago, a young 4th grader teacher at SouthLake Christian Academy died after complications from a car wreck which happened just moments before she would have arrived at school. The tragedy of her 'untimely' death greatly affected both everyone at SouthLake and everyone at Uptown Church where she was an active member. She was only 25 years old; but, she was a devout follower of Jesus Christ. Upon arriving in Charlotte two days after her death, her father, a career missionary in Taiwan, told the pastor of Uptown church, *"I want her to be as glorifying to God in her death as she was in her life."* From first hand accounts of her funeral, she was. What a testimony to God's Grace!! *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15*

Believing and growing with you,

David



Are you missing some dishes?

We have several dishes and trays that do not belong to the church. Please look in Founders Hall and pick-up any items belonging to you. Any items not picked up before Monday, March 1 will be donated.

REMINDERS...

- Thursday, 2/4: 6:30 PM - CE Committee Meeting
7:30 PM - Officers' Prayer
- Friday, 2/5: 3:30 PM - Youth leave for ski trip
- Saturday, 2/6: 8:00 AM - Men's Bible Study
- Sunday, 2/7: 4:30 PM - WIC Council Meeting
- Monday, 2/8: 10:00 AM - Esther Circle meets in the Church Parlor
7:00 PM - Readers' Circle meets at Martha Sue Mitchell's
Ruth Circle meets in the front conference room
- Tuesday, 2/9: 7:00 PM - Elizabeth Circle meets at Cookie Wilkinson's
- Saturday, 2/13: 7:00 AM - Deacons' Meeting
2:00 PM - Best Years Valentine Day Party in Founders Hall
- Sunday, 2/14: 3:30 PM - MTW Committee Meeting
- Monday, 2/15: 7:00 PM - Children's Ministry Team Meeting



FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Families,

Ever wonder why marriage can be so difficult? Ever wish that things could be better? Ever wonder how it got to be the way it is? Luke 6 may give us a clue...

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”

Take an apple tree. If the tree gets plenty of sun, the right amount of rain, and has plenty of nutrients to nourish itself, it grows apples. Now, what if the sun doesn't co-operate, or there's a drought that year, or the soil is depleted? What does the tree produce? Oranges? No! Apples, right? It doesn't matter what's OUTSIDE the tree – good weather, bad weather, no weather. What matters is that the tree will produce fruit according to its kind.

What does that mean in terms of marriage? It means that we will produce fruit (attitudes, actions, words, etc) that arise from our hearts. “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” Circumstances do not alter the fruit (like weather doesn't affect the tree's fruit), it only exposes what's in our hearts. So when we get angry, the circumstance doesn't produce that anger – it's already lurking in the heart. Or the flippant response to our spouse – lurking in the heart... or the frustrating feelings – in the heart. We need only look in the mirror to find the difficult partner in our marriages.

Need new responses to difficult situations? Need a heart filled with goodness, righteousness, and compassion? Ask God to change your heart and to continue sanctifying it for His glory. Then you will produce good fruit that honors God and blesses others.

Blessings,

Scott

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Super Bowl Party – Sun., Feb 7th Tim Humphries' [1013 Creek Walk Drive 704-263-6488]
2. POTENTIAL CONCERT – Sun., Feb 14th \$5 WinterBlast @ Flint Groves Baptist, Gastonia
3. Crisis Pregnancy Center Banquet Service Project – March 11th

NEWS FROM HAITI – PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY

NOTE: Dony and Sharon are part of our First Presbyterian missionary family. Our Haiti mission team served with them and Dony's brother Louis who is a pastor in Haiti when we went to Les Cayes last year.

Dony and Sharon St. Germain wrote on January 25:

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow will make it 14 days since this devastating earthquake. The pressure and intensity to get aid to the people have not subsided. Time and resources continue to be our greatest challenges with still not enough food and medical care reaching the people with the greatest need. For example in Les Cayes alone, 150,000 refugees are now there from PAP. **Louis** wrote on Friday: *"I just talked with some key leaders in the south. The demand is so high and we don't have the means to meet it. The churches are crowded. People came from all over and they don't have anywhere to go. Most of the people, before they left the villages, sold their land and everything. So now they have to start again. Please continue to pray with us. We have so much medical need that a whole month of 100 doctors will not be enough to serve everybody. So many people fled PAP with broken bones and severe, life threatening and infected injuries. We have a hospital at Bonne Fin which my father built. It has 300 beds. All of them are occupied and patients are on the floor. We have at Cite Lumiere another Medical Clinic equipped with 75 beds. Same story."*

