

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

17 Judy Billings
Mae Davis
Jimmie Mitchell

22 Rachel Gamage
Richard Rhyne

29 Linda Faggart
Helen Lieurance

18 Anne Abernathy

23 Brody Heffner
Julie Marsh
Ed Wallace

30 Amanda Marsh
Chrissy Teague

19 Stacey Hall
Rhonda Prather
Ann Marie Roys

24 Cindy Davis
Casey Paramore
Mason Withers

31 Elijah Prather

21 Roland Hager
Connor McMinn
Cindy Sanderson

26 Whitney Black
Mark Hines
Jamie Williams



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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. 5

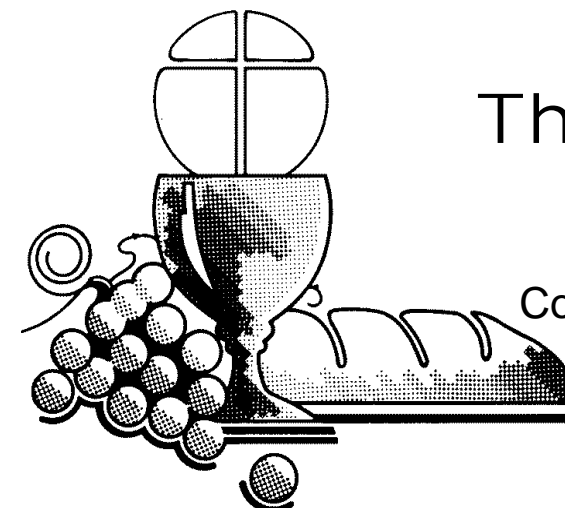
March 3, 2010

Sunday School Breakfast

Sunday, March 14 at 9:15 AM
in Founders Hall



Stop by for a bite to eat, a cup of coffee, and an uplifting dose of fellowship. Adults will remain in Founders Hall for a special Sunday School at 10:00.



We will observe
The Lord's Supper
Sunday, March 7

Covered dish dinner at 5:30 PM
Communion at 6:30 PM

in Founders Hall

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

The church office is now equipped with an automated telephone calling system. This system named PhoneTree has been used already on a couple of occasions. Most of you received a call last week reminding you of our Day of Prayer for Heritage Christian School. A week or so before that, on one of those dicey-weather weekends, we used the PhoneTree to let you know that we were going ahead with Sunday services.

For a long time we've been lacking adequate means to notify the congregation of important news. Now we have that capability with this new system. For the most part, we expect to use it when there is news everybody in the church needs to know about. Weather-related schedule changes, deaths of church members, and reminders of congregation-wide special events are examples of such situations. On occasions like these, a message is recorded here at the church, and a computer dials all 200 numbers in our directory one after the other and plays the message to you or to your answering machine. If there is no answer, it calls back later. The process takes about four hours to complete.

We think these calls will be welcome by most if not all of our members and regularly-attending friends. However, we do not want this to be annoying to anyone. Therefore we are taking steps to avoid unwelcome contacts. First, we have programmed the system to call only between the hours of 8:30 AM and 8:30 PM. Early-morning and after-bedtime calls are thus eliminated. Secondly, we will limit use of PhoneTree to those occasions when a call is truly needed. And finally, we are giving all of you the option of having your number removed from the call list. If for any reason you wish to opt out of this notification system, just let us know. Call or email the church office or speak to any of us on the staff, and we will delete your number immediately, no questions asked.

Our aim is to strengthen church relationships and increase ministry effectiveness through wise use of this new tool.

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Christian sympathies are extended to **Doug and Margaret Gladden** following the death of their son **Mike Gladden**. Mike, 54, passed away from cancer last week.

Condolences are also offered to **Doug and Gertie Hudson**. Gertie's brother died in their native Germany, and Gertie has returned there to be with family for several days.

Harrison Revels continues to progress at Carolinas Medical Center. Doctors are generally well-pleased with his recovery from open-heart surgery.

It's good to see **Diane Rhyne** out and about after an unscheduled trip to the hospital. Diane spent most of the day February 23 at Presbyterian Hospital Huntersville for some tests.

Congratulations are in order for **Scott Burgess** upon his recent retirement after 30 years' service in the NC Highway Patrol. Scott's last workday was Sunday, February 28; so if you see him wearing a trooper's uniform at any point in the future, pull him over for impersonating a police officer. Scott is using some of his newly-captured time serving as Chairman of our Board of Deacons.

CORE VALUES AT FPC

God-honoring WORSHIP

Every member a MINISTER

Intentional EVANGELISM

Authentic MEMBERSHIP

Every member MATURE IN CHRIST

IMPORTANT REMINDERS...

- Thursday, 3/4: 7:30 PM - Officers' Prayer
- Friday, 3/5: 3:30 PM - Youth leave for ski trip
- Saturday, 3/6: 8:00 AM - Men's Bible Study
- Sunday, 3/7: 5:30 PM - Covered Dish Dinner
6:30 PM - Communion
- Monday, 3/8: 10:00 AM - Esther Circle meets in the Church Parlor
7:00 PM - Readers' Circle meets at the home of Anna Friesenhahn
Ruth Circle meets in the Church conference room
- Tuesday, 3/9: 7:00 PM - Elizabeth Circle meets in Founders Hall
- Wednesday, 3/10: 12:00 PM - Lenten Service/Lunch at First Baptist Church
- Saturday, 3/13: 7:00 AM - Deacon's Meeting
- Sunday, 3/14: 9:15 AM - Sunday School Breakfast
3:30 PM - MTW Committee Meeting
- Monday, 3/15: 7:00 PM - Children's Ministry Team Meeting
- Wednesday, 3/17: 12:00 PM - Lenten Service/Lunch at Springfield Baptist Church
- Thursday, 3/18: 7:30 PM - Session Meeting
- Sunday, 3/21: 3:30 PM - Palmer Home Mission Team Meeting



CDC NEWS

by Debbie Smith, Director

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the **Pre School/Mothers' Morning Out Program** for the 2010-2011 year, call the daycare office. We are limited on spaces. We are also accepting registrations to fill openings in our **Afterschool Program** now and for the summer.

The Pre School children have been involved in several projects. Most recently we have:

- donated items to the Crisis Pregnancy Center
- donated items for Operation Christmas Child
- supplied food for the church food pantry
- collected cans to recycle for money and collected food items to send to Haiti

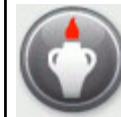
We have so many things for which we are thankful. We want to thank our Church Family who prays for us and sends in all kinds of things for the children to use for crafts. Many thanks to Mr. Alfred Rhyne who makes us blocks and other things all the time from his wood scraps. We are thankful for all the many guys who help out with maintenance issues around the daycare. We are also thankful for the CDC Committee who spends lots of volunteer hours to minister to the daycare.

CDC Sunday will be March 21. Our children are working very hard on a song to sing during the 8:30 worship service.

We love you and appreciate our Church Family!

**Thanks to all who participated in the
Day of Prayer for Heritage Christian School!**

Keep praying as we approach a critical deadline for registrations.



The Gideons International

Thank you to all who gave to our special Gideon Offering recently. The total offering received was \$854.00. This offering enables the Gideons to purchase 171 Bibles or 657 Testaments! Let's pray that these Scriptures can touch searching hearts and for souls to be saved!

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

by David Nelson

This past Sunday, nine students, one much appreciated adult observer/ helper and I completed the classroom learning for this year's *communicant class*.

In this class, we have lessons on man's sinfulness and *our need of salvation; God's plan of salvation, covenant theology and baptism; covenant theology and the Lord's Supper*, how to give your testimony, and how to be a good church member. This year, we also added a new lesson to learn a little about how Presbyterian church government is based on apostolic principles and practices from the Bible.

As part of their requirements, communicants also interview their shepherd elder to learn about Elder qualifications, how men become Elders, and what Elders do.

Year in and year out, this is for me, a master review of these vitally important lessons - the main ones being - God is love, He's in control of all history, He orchestrates all things for His own glory, and His Gospel is powerful to save people from His anger!

Communicants are given the privilege to learn and ponder these truths by an assortment of Bible verses and Westminster Shorter Catechism answers they are required to memorize as part of the class. Personally, I am a "memorization" rock; but, these kids aren't. This year, I told them over and over how the older I get, the things I have memorized mean more and more to me each year... I only wish I'd memorized more when I was young.

I have vague memory of a story I heard in seminary how 50 or 100 successful Scottish businessmen were asked, '*What learning has been the biggest positive influence on your life and business success?*' or something to that effect. Though most of these men were no longer active in church or organized religion, an astonishing majority said, '*The Westminster Confession & Catechisms have been the most influential learning for my life and success.*' That's something to think about. The things in and on our minds matter.

What are some of the Bible verses communicants memorize?

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Jesus speaking - "*I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.*" **John 5:24**

All three of these are summary statements of God's Gospel... AND, it is powerful for the salvation of those who believe!! This year, one student of whom I know came to believe these truths for the first time in the midst of our class... that's good news!!

Believing and growing with you,

David

REJOICING WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY



Clyde and Jennifer Comer are new parents! They rejoice in the birth of **Katelynn Emma** on Friday, February 26, weighing 8 lb., 13 oz.

Peter and Diane Bakelaar rejoice in the baptism recently of five new believers in Japan. Please pray that this year many more will come to know of God's love and forgiveness in Christ.

Bill and Sherry Day rejoice in the increase in their ESL students and that Sherry continues to improve from her surgeries.

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER—GASTON COUNTY

The Crisis Pregnancy Center volunteer peer counseling training starts Tuesday, March 23 at the CPC on Robinson Rd. from 6:30p.m. until about 9:30p.m and is for five consecutive Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in attending or need more information please contact the CPC at 704-868-4636.

FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Parents,

Over the next several Newsletters, I will try to explain apathy and boredom. During a recent Youth Pastors' Luncheon, several of the guys stated how their students always looked and acted bored. Unfortunately, boredom is a familiar occurrence among most Americans on a daily basis. Students are bored at school, church and home and adults are bored at work. We all 'suffer' from boredom.

But what is boredom and of what is it a symptom? Let's begin with this understanding: boredom is a *luxury*. People fighting for their next meal or their very survival (think earthquake victims in Haiti & Chile and street boys in Peru) aren't bored. They may suffer from a lot of other things – anguish, fear, anger, desperation, etc. – but boredom is low on the list, because their minds and energies are fully engaged in survival.

But most of us do not fight for survival; rather, we have so much leisure time, entertainment, and food available that our minds are free to think beyond our immediate circumstances. And when our present reality doesn't measure up to the reality we want/desire, we become discontent and bored. Boredom, therefore, is a short-sighted and selfish view of life that fails to appreciate God's providence and blessings. Ultimately, boredom is saying to God that He doesn't provide for our needs in the manner we want, because if we were in charge, life would be much better for us.

However, think through Jesus' life for a moment... walking from town to town; teaching and preaching; debates with enemies; lots & lots of prayer; no iPod; no TV; no cell phone; no texting. Sounds like a recipe for B-O-R-E-D-O-M in today's world. But Jesus was never bored because he saw every moment as a gift from God to be used for God's glory and in contemplation of God's attributes. Every moment was an opportunity to enjoy and demonstrate the sufficiency and adequacy of God in His life.

So when we focus our minds on God like Jesus did, we will always have someone amazing and magnificent upon which to dwell. Boredom focuses on self and selfish desires, whereas the Christian is called to set his mind on Christ and the things above. Then boredom will vanish like a vapor.

May God 'wean' us off self and place our hearts and minds on Christ,



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Crisis Pregnancy Center Banquet Service project – March 11th
2. Middle School Movie Night @ Kelsey Smith's – March 19th
3. EASTER – April 4th
4. Palmer Home Mission Trip – April 5-10th
5. Middle School Retreat – April 23-25
6. High School Retreat – May 14-16th

SOAR NEWS

Youth Volleyball

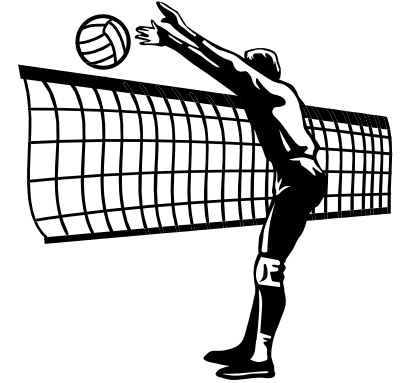
Volleyball Season is coming to a close. Our Finale will be held on Friday, 3/12 and Saturday, 3/13.

Friday, March 12th, 7pm - 9pm: Division III Finale

Saturday, March 13th: 9am - 11am Division I Finale
2pm - 4pm Division II Finale

Finale Events

- Round-Robin Style Tournament
- Keynote Speaker
- Trophy Presentation
- Bible Verse Presentation



Youth Soccer

Registration for our Youth Soccer will be Saturday, March 27th from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM. We are currently accepting early registrations from church members and staff. You can obtain more information and registration forms by contacting the church office or by visiting the church website at www.fpcstanley.org.

