

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 16 Shannon Cozart<br>Jodie Graham               | 22 Daniel Hinson<br>Laureen Nelson<br>Sarah Tyler               | 27 Rick Haithcox<br>SaDara Tilley   |
| 17 Linda Abernathy<br>Elizabeth Madzia          | 23 Evelyn Accipiter<br>Eric Beam<br>Anna Rhyne<br>Jill Wagstaff | 29 Alan Yoder                       |
| 18 Jane Black<br>Luke Levasseur<br>Houston Rust | 24 Christiana Friesenhahn<br>Eloise Murphy                      | 31 Timothy Humphries<br>Maelin Huss |
| 19 Clint Gamage<br>Rick Moss                    | 25 Chris Boggess<br>Robert Rhyne                                |                                     |
| 21 Doug Tadlock                                 |   |                                     |



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 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

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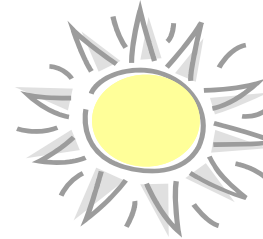
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**THE CHURCH FAMILY**  
*Presenting Everyone  
 Complete in Christ*

Vol. XXXVII, No. 9

May 5, 2010



**Get Ready for  
 FAMILY-FRIENDLY  
 SUNDAY EVENINGS at FPC**



**Sunday Evenings in June, July and August will  
 offer worship in a Family-Friendly setting.**

**Children, Youth and Adults will enjoy  
 Dinners, Music, Come-as-You Are Communion,  
 "Ask the Pastor" Nights, and  
 Special Bible Messages tailored for all ages**

# FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

Not long ago, I was listening to a young seminary student describe his devotional life. He said he doesn't really set aside special times for prayer but just prays whenever he thinks about it all through the day – especially when he is driving.

I've long believed that praying while doing something else is a bit like talking with your wife while reading the paper – indifferent tokenism at best, snubbing insult at worst.

My response was to assure the young man that I understand that the Bible says to "pray without ceasing," and that we can pray anywhere, anytime. Yes, it's good to have a constant attitude of prayer and to make quick resort to prayer, perhaps many times in the course of a day. (A friend of mine used to call those "arrow prayers.") But that isn't all there is to it. Those concepts of prayer were never meant to replace dedicated times of focused prayer – times when prayer is the only business at hand.

The Lord Jesus certainly practiced dedicated times of prayer.

**Mark 1:35** - *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

If such was necessary for Jesus the Son of God, then how much more necessary for sinful mortals like us!

In fact, it was Jesus' habit of dedicated prayer that made his disciples want to imitate him.

**Luke 11:1** - *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray...."*

Times of crisis and decision-making also found the Lord devoting himself to concentrated prayer. We're all familiar with his agonizing prayer in Gethsemane. There was also the occasion when He was preparing to select the twelve disciples: **Luke 6:12** - *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.*

So yes, pray continually, whenever, wherever. But don't swap a focused, dedicated prayer time for a slapdash "when I think of it" approach, no matter how well-intentioned or pious-sounding it may be.

Affectionately,

Dan

# WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our sympathies are extended to **Mark Beatty** in the death last week of his maternal grandmother. **Mrs. Alberta Mitchell**, 94, of Youngsville, NC passed away Saturday, May 1.

Condolences are also offered to **Charlie and Jamie Stewart**. Charlie's maternal step-grandfather, **John Dalton**, of Gastonia died Monday, May 3 at the Robin Johnson Hospice in Dallas.

**Bryn Smith**, 13-month-old daughter of **Duane and Sarah Smith**, underwent outpatient surgery last week at Presbyterian Orthopaedic Hospital. She was bouncing around by the next day, giving her parents a run for their money.

**Joseph Deese** and **Mark Beatty** are both scheduled for surgery later this week. We hope they'll soon be doing some bouncing, too.

## With Loving Thanks

*Thank you so very much for the prayers and support during the difficult time of our grandchildren's accident. This was the most terrifying news we had ever received. God is GOOD! He placed us at Palmer Home surrounded by His love and our family in Christ. We are so thankful to have been at Palmer Home with our Mission Team! They all immediately surrounded us with love and prayers. God placed many people in our path along our travels (24 hours!) to Oklahoma City.*

*All three children are back in school and mending, praise be to God!*

*Percy and Nancy Raleigh*

## UPCOMING ACTIVITY REMINDERS...



Thursday, May 6:

6:30 pm - CE Committee Meeting

7:30 pm - Officer Prayer

Saturday, May 8:

7:00 am - Deacons' Meeting

10:00 am - Haiti Mission Team meeting and lunch in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 9:

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all our moms!

Monday, May 10:

7:00 pm - CDC Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 11:

4:00 pm - Barium Springs Love Run

It's not too late to join in the car cruise to Barium Springs Home for Children. Contact Chris McGinnis (980-329-5938) or Scott Deneen (704-263-4275) for more information.

Wednesday, May 12:

6:30 pm - Youth to Stanley Square Apartments (continuing each Wednesday in May)

6:45 pm - Disciplemaker Development meets in Founders Hall

Friday, May 14:

3:30 pm - High School Youth leave for Ridgehaven

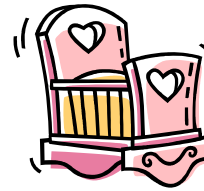
Sunday, May 16:

12:15 pm - 20-Somethings Lunch at the Linebergers'

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Baby Shower for TWO - Stacey Hall and Susan Herd

Monday, May 17:

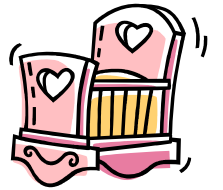
7:00 pm - Children's Ministry Team Meeting





You Are Invited to a  
**Baby Shower Times Two**

**May 16, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**in Founders Hall.**



Mothers-to-be are **Stacey Hall**, daughter of Sharon and Rick Herd and **Susan Herd**, daughter-in-law of Sharon and Rick. These two families are expecting their little girls only one week apart, to arrive the last week of June and first week of July.

 Both moms-to-be are registered at Target and Babies R Us. Stacey is also  registered at Buy Buy Baby in Charlotte.

The Hostesses are Anne Abernathy, Lennie Burrell, Judy Dixon, Becky Hensley, Freida Robinson, and Cookie Wilkinson.



### CHURCH-WIDE HIKE AND PICNIC AT SOUTH MOUNTAINS STATE PARK ON MAY 22ND!!



Pack a picnic, bring the kids, and enjoy a beautiful spring hike at South Mountains State Park in Connelly Springs, NC. We'll caravan from the church at 11:00 AM and travel together to the park. Once there, we'll find a spot to eat lunch together in the picnic area. This is one of NC's most beautiful parks, and it is well maintained for families and groups. It is conveniently situated just past Morganton in the foothills, the drive taking approximately 45 minutes from church. If you've never been, this is a great time to go! Don't miss out and we hope to see you there!

(\*\*Well-behaved family pets are welcomed. Dogs must be on a leash at ALL times. Please adhere to park rules if you choose to bring your pet. <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/somo/main.php> )

Questions? Please contact Reid or Laura Evans at 704-248-8149.

# FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Cathy Lynn Grossman, USA TODAY recently authored an article entitled *YOUNG ADULTS LESS DEVOTED TO FAITH*. In her article, she quotes statistics concerning young adults and their religious faithfulness.

Key findings in the phone survey, conducted in August and released recently are:

- 65% rarely or never pray with others, and 38% almost never pray by themselves either.
- 65% rarely or never attend worship services.
- 67% don't read the Bible or sacred texts.

Many are unsure Jesus is the only path to heaven: Half say yes, half no.

Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources says, "We have dumbed down what it means to be part of the church so much that it means almost nothing, even to people who already say they are part of the church," Rainer says. [end article]

Are these numbers/trends alarming? Yes. Are they new? No. The Bible tells time and again about God's people departing from Him for other gods/greener pastures – read the Book of Judges for a glimpse.

So if today's statistics and the Bible's statistics point to the abandonment of God's people toward God, how are we to interpret these trends? What does this mean!?

Here are few things to consider:

1. ALL of us are prone to walk away from God (not just teens or young adults)
2. God's preserving grace in Christ is our only hope
3. Passing on the Faith to our children is hard work – sin works against us at every turn
4. Christ's purpose for the Covenant Community is vitally important to all of us

What are some practical things to do:

1. fall on your face before God and plead for mercy... for yourself and for your children
2. make the most of the means of grace (public worship, prayer, Communion, fellowship with God's people, Bible reading)
3. live a genuine spiritual life; i.e. allow your children to see what a genuine Christian is/does
4. make sure your children/teens/young adults have regular time with mature Christians – this can occur during worship, Sunday School, Youth Group, Image Bearers, or Small Groups
5. read the Bible to your children a lot (meals, bedtime, etc.) and use the Bible to instruct/teach them
6. plead with God for a deeper understanding of His love for you in Christ and then respond appropriately

May God raise up a Godly offspring by His Grace,



## DID YOU KNOW?

First Presbyterian Church has:

- a new carillon - chiming the hour daily and playing brief carillon concerts at noon and 5:00 pm
- new drums to enhance our worship music at 8:30 Sunday services - Chris Baity is our talented drummer
- plans to install a video projection system in our sanctuary within a few weeks



**1<sup>st</sup> quarter giving statements** are available for pick-up in the main hallway. Be sure to stop by and pick yours up!

## DISCIPLEMAKER DEVELOPMENT

The final teacher/leader development seminar, Biblical Guidelines for Christian Education, will be held May 12 in Founders Hall from 6:45—7:45 pm. See Pastor Dave if you have any questions.

# 2010 CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS

The Session again this year has approved money to help fund your child's participation in a Christian summer camp. The amount will be based on the total number of children who register. If your child is interested, please register them for camp and either send via email or put the registration form in the box of Elder Andy Leonard (wal@panduit.com). Checks will be issued back to you from FPC. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Andy.




Did you know that you can sign-up to place flowers in the church to signify a special occasion or person in your life? All you have to do is call the church office and give Sandra the details. The fresh flowers are a welcome change and we'd love to have your help to beautify our sanctuary.

## YOUTH NEWS

### HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT to RIDGE HAVEN



- WHEN:** May 14 - 16, 2010
- COST:** \$35/person
- WHERE:** Ridge Haven Retreat Center near Brevard, NC
- WHO:** High Schoolers and their friends
- WHAT:** Hiking, exploring, playing, singing, initiative games, Bible Study, movies, food... and lots of laughing!
- WHAT DO I NEED?** A Bible, sleeping bag, money for 2 meals on the road, clothes that can get dirty, extra pair of shoes, a bathing suit, toiletries, towels, etc.
- DEPOSIT DUE:** \$20 May 9<sup>th</sup>. Balance due prior to departure.



## Graduate Recognition

will be

### Sunday, June 6.

We would like anyone graduating to call the church office with the info below or simply leave the information on the Sandra's desk.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduating from:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plans:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# WISDOM IN JUDGEMENT!

by David Nelson

Right after Solomon's dream in which he greatly pleased God by asking Him for wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-15) is a case where Solomon shows the world his new gift and inspires awe.

Two prostitutes and a newborn baby show up in Solomon's court, each claiming to be the baby's mother. Indeed, both women gave birth to live sons within a few days of each other; but, one of the moms lost her baby in the middle of the night.

The first woman to speak claimed the other woman swapped babies that night taking her live son and placing the dead son at her side. The second woman said, "*No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.*" Then the first one insisted, "*No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.*" And so they argued before the king. (v 22) Solomon said, "*Bring me a sword.*" When they brought it, he said, "*Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.*" (vv 24-25)

*The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"*

<sup>27</sup> Then the king gave his ruling: "*Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.*" (vv 26-27) **cf. 1 Kings 3**

There is nothing like God-given wisdom to cut to the truth of a matter!

How can we gain and live with such wisdom? Just like Solomon, we can ask for it. James explains:

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

**James 1:5-8**

As for judging others, scripture can leave us somewhat confused. In one place, Jesus says, "*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*" (Matthew 7:1-2)

But, in another Paul wrote, "*Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?... are you not competent to judge trivial cases? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!*" (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

To judge or not to judge? Another occasion to ask God for His wisdom!

Believing and growing with you,

David

# PRAYING WITH AND FOR OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

**Kevin and Alisa Bentley  
in Raleigh, NC**

We are scheduled once again for Allison's surgery on May 11<sup>th</sup> after she finishes her last exam on May 10<sup>th</sup>. She will be at UNC hospital and will probably be there for 2 nights. We appreciate your prayers for her as the time approaches. She is so ready to get this behind her, but at the same time she is nervous about the whole experience. Please pray too that we would be a good witness for Christ and that He would give us opportunities to share His love with those we come into contact with while we are there.

We leave on Thursday, May 6, to attend Rebecca's graduation from Covenant College and some welcome vacation. When we return the summer short-term teams will begin coming and this year they will be working more with churches rather than the schools. The Cornerstone High School board is advertising for a new principal for the school. Pray that God would bring the person of His choice for this key position. Also, pray for the Medical Board as they are working on weighty issues.

**Garry and Anita Chambers  
in Belize**

## Andy and Karen Weaver in Papua New Guinea

Andy is now working in the Scripture Use Media department. It's not enough for God's Word to be translated into a minority language of Papua New Guinea - SIL's passion is for the people to USE the translated Scriptures. Andy's specific role in the SUM department is to put translated Scriptures into audio and video form. Illiteracy keeps thousands of people from reading God's Word. But when they can hear a recording or see it acted out on the screen, then people can understand God's priceless message to them. We are thankful for the privilege of being able to serve Papua New Guinea in this way.