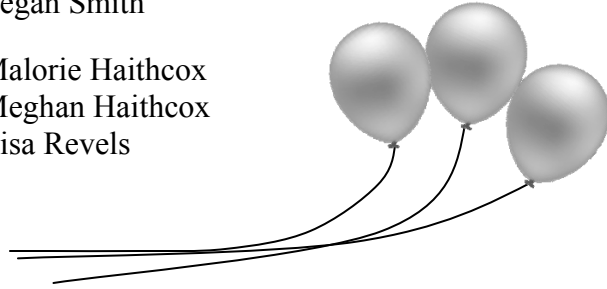


# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 18 Anna Prather                                       | 23 Stewart Neely                                      | 29 Mary Ruth Heffner                                |
| 19 Seth Abernathy<br>Kavin Garrison<br>Dave Strickler | 24 Zoe Evans  | 30 Nolan Buck<br>Melissa Ensley<br>Katherine Madzia |
| 21 Candace Beal<br>Ruth Kerley                        | 26 Geoff Dixon<br>Tegan Smith                         |   |
| 22 Grace Madzia                                       | 28 Malorie Haithcox<br>Meghan Haithcox<br>Lisa Revels |   |



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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. 11

June 9, 2010

## FPC KIDS ...

get ready for



# SUMMER CAMP

and



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SEE PAGE 3 OF THIS ISSUE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION!

# FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

My thoughts turn today to those suffering because of the circumstances they have found in life. So many things can go wrong – and often do. Health fails. Death separates. Friends disappoint. Finances vanish. Dreams die. Marriages collapse – even whole families. In these trying circumstances we sorrow, for the pain is real. Our faith is tested, and often we cry out, “Where is God?”

The truth is, of course, that He is there – in the midst of it. Our Lord is sovereign over all. No trial or temptation comes to us without having first passed through His hands. This in itself is great comfort, for we know that God loves us. (The cross proves it.)

*Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.* (Lamentations 3:32, 33)

Such love will not wrong us. Therefore, there will be no needless suffering. It is always in order to achieve some great good in us that our loving Lord sends pain.

Our trials – causing us to despair of delivering ourselves, causing us to give up on the leaky cisterns we ourselves have dug – draw us close to Christ. He becomes more clearly our Hope.

In the face of a great calamity, the prophet Joel wrote: *Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing.* Then God said: *I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten....* (Joel 2:13, 25)

In a single day the Lord can make up for years of grief and hardship. Remember Job who lost everything? How the man suffered! But there came a day when everything turned around. From that day forward Job was better off than before.

So in your case, the Lord may have withdrawn his mercies for now. If so, it is only on account of His great love. Meanwhile, fix your hope on Him. He who gave you those mercies, and who also withdrew them, long ago gave you His Son. And He has not withdrawn that best gift. Nor will He ever.

Affectionately,

Dan

# WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Jake Teague, Kindyll Killian, and Isaac Jessen** recently made public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and were received into the communing membership of the church. All three had been baptized in infancy. Jake is the son of **James** and **Sherry Teague**; Kindyll, the daughter of **Angie Killian**; and Isaac, the son of **Joel** and **Kim Jessen**. Welcome!

The Lord has graced us with the birth of two little ones into our church family. **Brooklynn LeighAnna** was born to **Paul** and **Candace (Chucci) Beal** May 25. Grandparents are **Henry** and **Shirley Chucci**; great-grandparents are **Buddy** and **Jean Cavin**. **Madison Grace** was born to **Jeremy** and **Ashley Abernathy** May 27. **Renee Abernathy** is the grandmother; **John** and **Betty Ann Abernathy**, the great-grandparents. Both births were at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

Three members of our church family are scheduled for surgery on Friday of this week (6/11): **Mark Haynes, Andy Murphy, and Harrison Revels**.

As part of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, **Don Sapp** was invited to throw out the first pitch when his alma mater NC State hosted Duke May 21. Don took the mound wearing his 1944 NCSU letter sweater. In the seasons of 1943-44 Don served as Head Student Manager for Wolfpack baseball. His daughters **Ellen** and **Ruth** and a number of friends were on hand for Don's return to Doak Field. The honor was engineered by fellow NCSU alums and athletes **Kasey Rhyne** (women's volleyball) and her dad **Robert Rhyne** (football).

**Patrick Rhyne** was selected to serve as Junior Marshall in the graduation ceremonies of East Gaston High School.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES

*As you pray, remember....*

**Sarah Faggart** and **Betsey Neely** arrived safely in Ethiopia. Pray for them as they serve there until mid-July with veteran missionaries Les and Maxine Williams.



**Stewart Neely** goes to Kusi, Peru from June 24 – July 3 with a mission team from Hickory Grove Baptist.

**Jim Ramsey** is back at home after another missionary stint in Romania.



## YOU CAN HELP...

Our Missions Coordinator has provided 2 needs with which you can help:

- Clothes are needed for the people in the Appalachian communities. These can be for any season, size and gender.
- Items are needed for a family that is setting up a household. This includes furniture, dishes, small appliances, linens, etc.



Any donations you can give for either of these needs will be greatly appreciated. Items can be brought to the Global Outreach office. If you need help in getting items to the church, please see Jimmie Mitchell or call the church office.

## Congratulations 2010 Graduates!

### High School

Haley Black  
Trevor Burgess

Kristen Cozart  
Dillon Lamb  
Brian Lasley

Isaiah Nelson  
Samantha Stowe

### College

Ryan Abernathy  
Whitney Black  
Jessica Burgess

Andrew Elliott  
Clint Gamage  
Sarah Jane Griffin  
Brody Heffner  
Beverly Lewallen

Chris McAllister  
Carly Rhyne  
Heather Wallace

## Children's Ministry



**Saddle Ridge Ranch Summer Camp** is just about here! Stop by the bulletin board in the hallway to pick up an info sheet. Most events are completely free. We have programs on Thursday for school age children (entering 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades) as well as preschoolers (starting with potty trained 3 year olds and up). Our first event is June 24<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there! Invite friends!



A'hoy, Matey! We are gearing up for **Vacation Bible School**. This year we will be taking the children of our town on a High Seas Expedition! VBS will be the week of July 25-29 from 6:30-8:30 PM. We are currently seeking volunteers to help run this wonderful ministry. If you are interested in helping, please call Lauren Fox at 704-931-4050.

## FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

### Youth Bounce U Party



**When:** Wed., June 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** Meet @ FPC at 8:15 AM  
Return by 11:45 PM

**Cost:** \$8 cash (pay at the door)

**Where:** Bounce U facilities  
near Northlake Mall

**Attire:** shorts, shirt, shoes, SOCKS

SEE YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD TO SIGN-UP!

### 20-SOMETHINGS LUNCH

The next lunch is scheduled for Sunday, June 27 at the home of Clyde and Ginny Haley. Make plans to attend.

Hosts are still needed for a couple of dates. Please see bulletin board in main hallway to sign up.



## Jordan Journal

Tim and Vicki Barton in Utah

Some years ago I preached a series through the life of Abraham. It was important to do since our congregation knew so little about him. I told them then that you can't really fully understand much of the New Testament without understanding Abraham. It was one of the sermon series that I enjoyed the most. One of the not so profound lessons I learned from that series was that much of life is pretty mundane. I don't mean boring, just nothing particularly glamorous. Abraham's story stretches over many years. Yet God appeared to him really only a handful of times. So what was this man of Faith doing the rest of the time? He was living and believing and he wasn't doing either perfectly.

I think that is the best way to describe where we are in our ministry here in Utah. It isn't boring at all but it is mundane. There is no glitz and glamour, just a lot of hard work on a daily basis. And that is not a complaint either. God has been very kind to allow me to minister and serve in relative anonymity. But that is not to say it is irrelevant. We are seeing lives changed one at a time and little by little. This is a long haul deal. There is no other way to do it. Having been here now for nearly seven years the "shine" has rubbed off but the commitment to know Christ better and to make him known is the same.

Things have changed a lot. We now have three elders, two deacons and an assistant pastor who is in a tent-making position. We worship in a building that has our name on the sign and the mortgage. On any given Sunday there are between 60-90 people in worship. There are two nurseries, Sunday School for all ages, Community Groups in two locations on Sunday nights and a very small prayer group that meets on Wednesday evenings and regular youth meetings that I get to lead. I also take my turn mowing, and cleaning at the church and make the coffee every Sunday morning. We see new faces and we intentionally reach out to all of them. I continue to go looking for people too. We meet and greet neighbors as people come and go.

I have also temporarily accepted responsibility for being the point person for Mission Utah. It really isn't my strength and I know it. But I love all these families that God has brought to Utah and I don't want to see any of them fall through the cracks. We have received tremendous generosity from Christians in other places and our own church has been very generous to see churches planted here.

So that is what I mean. It's ministry. Nothing fancy but consistent. People will be in heaven because we moved here. If I had to leave tomorrow I would have to thank God for the work He has done in me and through me. We couldn't have come and stayed without your prayers and generosity. Once again, Thank you. Please pray with me for the Holy Spirit to simply break through and show this culture and our congregation the value and the beauty of Jesus Christ.

# WHAT ABOUT THE PRISONERS?

by David Nelson

I had the privilege last weekend to follow Renee Abernathy, our SOAR Soccer Finale keynote speaker, at three finale events with a gospel presentation and challenge to trust in Christ. One of the passages I used was from Luke chapter 4 where Jesus said:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*

After sitting down with everyone staring at Him, Jesus said,

*“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

Luke 4:18-19 & 21

I used those verses along with John 9:39 - *Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”* - to explain that, though Renee is legally blind, she sees clearly with her spiritual eyes because she trusts in Jesus; and, that there are people, like the Pharisees in the Bible, with perfect physical sight who are spiritually blind because they don't.

While giving my talks and since, I've been haunted by another phrase from that passage and the question it raises. That phrase, *He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners;* and the question it has raised, *What about the prisoners?*

During seminary and in my pastoral internship I regularly went to speak to prisoners. I frequently talk with Jim Ramsey who talks with prisoners all the time when he's not in Romania. The past few years I've become a friend of Dion Marshall who was a prisoner for nearly a decade; now he's a PCA pastor in Lincolnton. Its an amazing denomination where you can have the likes of news men, Navy men, and ex-cons - all questionable sorts - serving in the pastorate. Anyway, *‘What about the prisoners?’*

Out of his experience, Dion started **Metanoia Prison Ministries** - now the official prison ministry of the PCA - which many of you heard about at a special joint adult Sunday school Dion taught here in March. *Metanoia* is a Greek word which means, *‘a change of mind.’* In Romans, Paul commands believers, *‘be transformed by the renewing of your mind’* (Romans 12:2b). We know the gospel is powerful to change and convert hearts, minds and souls. Who needs this change more than a prisoner?

*What about the prisoners?* You can volunteer to mentor a prisoner through **Metanoia's** correspondence course ministry. It's anonymous and free to you. Who knows, you might end up mentoring an aspiring pastor? If you'd like to sign up, stop by or give me a call.

Believing and growing with you,

*David*

# SOAR NEWS

**Youth Soccer** wrapped up it's season this past weekend. It was an All-American Finale, complete with a United States cross-country skiing medalist, summer heat and delicious ice cream! Renee Abernathy was our Keynote Speaker ... ask her sometime about her adventures as a legally blind cross-country skier (very remarkable)!

SOAR would especially like to thank the Soccer Committee (Mark Harper, Bobby & Monnie Blackman, Charles Hamrick & Jon Petersohn), along with all the coaches and referees for a job well done! We salute you!



**Sports Camp** is next week (June 14th - 18th). Registration deadline has been extended, so if your child would like to participate simply complete a registration form and submit it to the church office.

Camp training will be held during the SS hour on June 13th.

Please partner with us in prayer for this camp. As always, it's our hope that players will have a great time playing sports AND grow in their knowledge of who Christ Jesus is and what He had done for them.



**Youth Baseball** registration is on June 19th. The Baseball Committee is excited to announce that our league will now include a 'Machine Pitch' division.

T-Ball	Ages 5 - 7
Machine Pitch	Ages 7 - 10, 11 year old girls
Softball	Ages 12 - 16

Baseball Committee: Scott Burgess (Chair), Chris Graham, Gary Neely & Dan Ormsby.

Church members and staff can pre-register now by completing a registration form and submitting it to the church office, Debbie Harper or Scott Burgess.

There are volunteer opportunities still available: Shepherd Coaching, Umpires and Groundskeepers. Join us and make this a summer to remember!