


JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 16 Rodney Wilkinson | 24 Pam Burgess Clyde Haley Sally Ormsby Melody Rayner | 27 Jayda Killian Sherry Teague Michael Youngblood |
| 19 Ben Leonard Juanita Thomas | 25 Kirsten Abernathy Suzy Deneen | 28 Margaret Gladden Paul Marsh Martha Tadlock |
| 21 Josh Hall | 26 Luke Bynum | 30 Sarah Faggart Lisa Stowe |
| 23 Sharon Bryant Carolyn Rhyne | | |

**Happy
Birthday!**



The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Rd., Stanley, NC 28164 • Phone 704-263-4275 Fax 704-263-0498
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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 12
Stanley, NC 28164



THE CHURCH FAMILY
*Presenting Everyone
Complete in Christ*

Vol. XXXVII, No. 13

July 7, 2010



Ahoy, Matey!

Come and go with us on
a High Seas Expedition!!!

Vacation Bible School
will be July 25-29.

Ages 3 - rising 6th Grade

We are still in need of Crew Leaders for this year.
If you can help, please call Lauren Fox at 704-931-4050.

A crew leader is responsible for around 6 children. You just take them
from place to place and assist in the stations any way you can.
It's a GREAT way to get to know the kids of Stanley!

See page 5 for more Children's Ministry news!

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

At a time of pastoral transition such as we're going through now, it's natural that things would feel a little unsettled. With so many uncertainties, I thought it might be helpful to give you a little idea of the procedure which follows a pastor's resignation. And that's the good news – there *is* a procedure.

When a pastor comes to a church it's by a three-way agreement: the pastor, the congregation and the presbytery must concur in the plan. The same thing happens when a pastor leaves. One party initiates the process, either the congregation or the pastor himself. (In this case it was me by my resignation.) The other party (in this case, you, the congregation) is asked to concur. I have asked the Session to call a congregational meeting in order to give you that opportunity. And then finally, the Presbytery seals the deal with a final judgment on the matter.

Our Session is working through the first stages of the process right now. When the elders are ready, they will give notice of a congregational meeting (at least one week in advance) and advise you exactly what you will be asked to vote on. You will decide and then the matter will be forwarded to Presbytery to be finalized.

Pastors – like good soldiers – do not leave their posts until relieved of duty. But when that time comes, the Session will arrange for the regular conduct of worship services. Sometimes preachers are invited to speak week by week. Other times an interim pastor is named.

Once continuity of pastoral ministry is secured, the next step will be to elect a pulpit committee. That is the congregation's job. The church members you choose will look over the field of candidates and, in time (usually a number of months), recommend a man for your consideration. The congregation will vote, and, again, the Presbytery will have the final say.

In the meantime, you'll be in good hands. Your Session is made up of fine men, not a bad apple in the barrel. They will take care of you. But ultimately, and much more importantly, you're in the Lord's hands, and He will take care of you.

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Elijah Prather becomes the newest communing member of our church family, making his public profession of faith on Sunday, July 4. Like a number of other youngsters, Elijah recently completed the Communicants Class and satisfied the Session as to his readiness to assume the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership.

Mike Abernathy is now a resident of the Stanley Total Living Center, having transferred there from Gaston Memorial Hospital. Hopes are that Mike's rehabilitation at the TLC can restore his mobility.

Congratulations to **Jason and Susan Herd** on the birth of their first child. **Kenlee Ann** was born July 6 at Gaston Memorial Hospital. **Rick and Sharon Herd** are the proud grandparents; **Josh and Stacy Hall**, the equally-proud uncle and aunt.

Our Christian sympathies are extended to **Carolyn Rutledge** in the death of her brother, **Gene Finlayson**.

Diane Rhyne underwent outpatient surgery on Tuesday of this week, and **Clyde Haley** is scheduled for surgery this Friday. **Roger Wagstaff** also has surgery coming up on Monday, July 12. They all will appreciate your prayers.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILIES

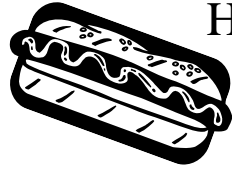
Our second team to Palmer Home in Columbus, Mississippi leaves Sunday, July 11 for a week of ministry. Please pray for Mary Madeline Black, Kathryn Cavin, Joel, Annalise and Issac Jessen, Rebecca Lasley, Chris McAllister, David and Gideon Nelson, Anna Prather, Lacey Puckett, Johnny and Kelsey Smith and Phyllis Withers.

Sarah Faggart and Betsey Neely are scheduled to arrive home from their mission trip to Ethiopia on Friday, July 16. Pray for safe travel.

Andrés Garza writes from Monterrey, Mexico: The cities in northern Mexico have been hit by the organized crime, but the care of the Lord has been with us. These struggles and crime are among the drug gangs specifically. This has been a great opportunity for the ministry. We are trying to minister to people and victims of this problem. Counseling and pastoring are even more important for our ministry today. Thanks for keeping on praying and supporting us.

BEST YEARS EVENT

The Ruth Circle is hosting a



Hotdog and Ice Cream Sundae Social
Saturday, July 17, 5 - 7 pm



in Founders Hall

Make plans to be here and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship!

If you haven't signed up, be sure to look
for sign ups in your Sunday School class.

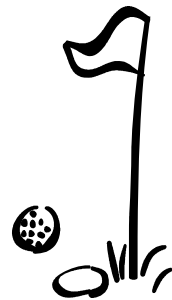
The next

OUTREACH EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

will meet in Scott's office

Tuesday, July 13, 7:00 PM.

Please make plans to attend!



You are invited to

a bridal shower
in honor of

Shannon Cozart,
bride-elect of Alan Yoder

Sunday, July 11, 2010

2:00 - 3:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church Founders Hall

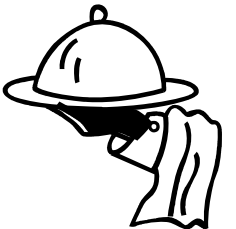
Couple is registered at Walmart, Target,
and Bed, Bath & Beyond

Hostesses: Lennie Burrell, Judy Dixon, Anna Friesenhahn,
Freida Robinson and Cookie Wilkinson.

20-SOMETHINGS LUNCH

July will bring two opportunities for the 20-somethings to fellowship together. The first lunch is scheduled for Sunday, July 11 at the home of Bob and Missy Smith. The second lunch will be July 25.

Make plans to enjoy both if at all possible!



FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Church Family,

I've read much of what C.S. Lewis has written... *Chronicles of Narnia, Mere Christianity, The Screwtape Letters, The Abolition of Man, the Space Trilogy Series*, etc. just to name a few. But I had never read *The Great Divorce* until last week. Interesting, very interesting... and nothing like what I envisioned from the title – I thought it was going to be about God divorcing us because of our sin. How wrong I was.

The basic premise of the book is that there will be absolutely nothing Hell-like in Heaven and nothing Heaven-like in Hell. One day there will be a “great divorce” where two destinies fork and they shall be divided fully and permanently.

The Book is written from the perspective of a ‘ghost’ who encounters various other ghosts. These ghostly encounters have one major theme in common – self. The one overarching thing that has destined people to Hell (and keeps them there through eternity) was their own selfish pride. They loved themselves (and their desires) more than God (and the sentiment has only increased in Hell). So when angelic Beings come to offer them Heaven, they cannot, and will not, take the joy offered them for their eyes cannot glance away from themselves and their foolish desires. Their wills cannot & will not receive the grace of God.

I began to wonder how often I choose my selfish will over God's perfect, wise, and glorious will. And how my sinful decisions ensnare me rather than free me. Do you suffer the same malady? Pursuing self rather than God? Thanks be to God for rescuing us from ourselves through the person and work of Jesus and for removing the “scales” from our eyes so that we can see clearly our sins so as to turn from them to Christ for salvation. To God alone be glory!

What good books have you read lately?

Blessings,
Scott

UPCOMING EVENT

Church-wide Pool Party – Friday, July 23rd 7-9 PM Stanley Rec. Pool. All ages invited!! (elementary age children & under need adult supervision)

MERCY MINISTRIES

Our **Food Pantry** is beginning to get low on most of the staples we like to have available for the many families that count on our help.

The following are suggestions of items we could really use:

| | | | |
|------------|-------|---------------|------------------------|
| crackers | soups | peanut butter | canned meat/fish |
| rice | pasta | pasta sauce | macaroni & cheese |
| vegetables | beans | canned fruit | cereals (hot and cold) |

Thank you for your continued support!



The “Gathering of the Saints” Community Choir

is gearing up for the

5th Annual Harvest Musical

to be held on

November 7th



This is an experience you are guaranteed to enjoy. It is not just singing. There is spiritual growth, development of relations, and increasing your walk with the Lord.

If you are interested in being a part of this experience, make plans to attend the first rehearsal on Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 pm. The rehearsal will take place at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church.

For more information you may contact Myra Thornton, Director at 704-674-1653 or tryanother24hrs@aol.com.

WHEN THE TIME HAD FULLY COME...

by David Nelson

Our attitudes toward time and our use of time are interesting. What are some of the most common things we think and say regarding time?

'I don't have enough time to get everything done.' *'24 hours in a day just isn't enough!'* *'Where does the time go?'* *'I can't believe he/ she is already X years old.'* *'If I only had a little more time...'* *'This couldn't have happened at a worse time!'* etc.

But, scripture paints a different picture than our attitudes, words and actions portray about time. Time, along with all creation, is a gift from God. God gives us all the time we need to accomplish all He expects us to do in life... in fact, He expects that we can fully rest from our work for one day in seven and still get it all done!

As we think about God sending Christ to earth about 2000 years ago; most of us think, that's not the time I would've chosen. Had God waited until Radio or TV or the Internet had been invented, Jesus could've preached to the whole world (or most of it) at the same time. But, God doesn't think or act like we do. Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians:

...when the time had fully come, God sent His Son... (from Galatians 4:4)

What does that mean - *'when the time had fully come'*? Other English translations say, *'in the fullness of time.'* *'The fullness of time'* and *'when the time had fully come'* mean Jesus came at the exact time and place God determined. God, in His infinite wisdom knew the best time, culture, level of technological advance and location to send Jesus into the world.

God wasn't going for maximum impact at a particular point in time, He was going for maximum impact for ALL of time and eternity! God lives outside of time. He is not constrained by it, frustrated by perceived 'lack' of it, or limited by it as we are.

It might help all of us to look at time more like God does. Every minute is a gift from God, and every one of them is used to accomplish exactly what He wants it to in each of our lives...

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ⁸ *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*
1 Peter 4:7-8

God gives us time mainly so we can love. Love Him first, and then love others.

Believing and growing with you,

David

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Vacation Bible School

Let us point our compass in the correct direction together for Bible School!



Attention all Volunteers: We will be having a **Training Session** on Wed., July 14th at 7:00 PM in Founder's Hall. This will be the time where you receive information and supplies. This meeting is well attended each year and is crucial in making this experience the best it can be for Stanley, NC. Hope to see you there.

There are still volunteer opportunities available. Call Lauren Fox at 704-931-3050 for details.

Saddle Ridge Ranch in July!

Preschool Kids (Ages 3 – entering Kindergarten)
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM (snack included)

School-Age Kids (entering 1st-6th Grade)
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM (light lunch will be included)



Thursday, July 15 – Saddle Ridge Ranch – Founders Hall

Please note that if you plan to attend the Kid Sense Museum on the 22nd, money is due on this date, July 15th.

Thursday, July 22 – Trip to Kid Sense Museum in Rutherfordton, NC. 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM (\$5 Kids - \$1 Parent) \$ due by July 15