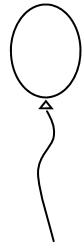


# HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER

1 Jeff Black  
Jean Cavin  
Betsey Neely

3 Chris Baity  
Ginny Haley  
Charles Hamrick  
Elizabeth Prather

4 Lynn Burrell  
Judy Lucas



5 Chris Abernathy  
Charlene Hager  
Annalise Jessen

7 Libby Chaney  
Harrison Revels

8 Mary Madeline Black  
Daniel Deese  
Trey Strickler

11 Ed Faggart  
Debbie Smith

12 Janet Ratchford

13 Jessica Burgess

14 Sharon Morton  
Tori Teague

15 Jacob Garrison  
Kendall Garrison  
Kevin Rhyne



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Senior Pastor, Dan King • Associate Pastor, 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. 22

November 17, 2010

## LIVE CHRISTMAS SCENES

Wed., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - Fri., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>



Prayerfully consider how you will participate this year. Sign-up sheets are posted on the main bulletin board (across from the church office). We hope you will plan to participate each night!

# FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

Our campaign to enlist our entire membership in the work of missions has been at the forefront of congregational life recently. The 2010 Missions Conference has come and gone. We've asked you to pray and give and go in order to "Carry the Light" of Jesus Christ to every nation. The enormity of the task – whether actually blanketing the world with the good news, or simply mobilizing one church to missionary action – casts us back on the grace of God. We are entirely dependent upon God for these things.

No mere human effort will ever be enough. Our hope is not in the plans or strategies of men. Our expectations are not based on working hard enough or being smart enough. The simple truth is that I can't do it, and you can't do it. All of us together can't do it! If it gets done – the completion of the task of the Great Commission– it will be by the grace of God. **“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.”** (Zechariah 4:6)

How are people motivated to pray for missionaries? How are people led to trust God for Faith Promise missionary support? What makes people give up their vacation time to go on mission trips? What leads some to surrender an entire lifetime to missionary service? Men may present opportunities, persuasive speakers may add some motivation, but ultimately the moving force has to be the Spirit of God. (At least, it better be, or we'll be reduced to flash-in-the-pan efforts that soon fall flat and disappoint.)

That's why we are commanded to **“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers”** rather than simply to send them out ourselves. That's why it is such a comfort to remember how Jesus said, **“Go ... and I will be with you.”**

Today, our Faith Promise commitments stand at **\$133,284**. Our prayer commitments total **358**. We are grateful for every single one. We hope and pray that what we have so far and anything we may yet see will be viewed initially and proved over time to be all by God's grace.

Affectionately,

*Dan*

# WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Alan Yoder** has enlisted with the U. S. Army and is in basic training in Missouri. It was good to see his new bride Shannon (formerly Cozart) worshipping at FPC Sunday. We hope to be able to publish Alan's military address here soon.

Please pray for members of our church family hospitalized this week: **Alfred Rhyne** has spent several days at Gaston Memorial Hospital being treated for sodium depletion and pneumonia. **Roxi Smith** had to go back to Carolinas Medical Center yet again with complications from back surgery. **Harrison Revels** continues at the Levine Children's Hospital after undergoing his second liver transplant. And **Garry Lucas** had outpatient surgery on Monday.

**Will Hager** spent one night in Gaston Memorial two weeks ago, but was back in church Sunday and looking good.

**Jimmie Mitchell** is scheduled for surgery Thursday (11/18) at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte and will appreciate your prayers during the period of his recovery.

To keep up with **Roger Wagstaff's** condition, go to his CaringBridge website [www.CaringBridge.com](http://www.CaringBridge.com) and read his journal. In the box "Visit a Website" enter his website name: rogerwagstaff. You can leave your own messages for him in Roger's "Guestbook."

First Presbyterian Church is currently receiving resumes from applicants for the position of Director/Pastor of Outreach and Assimilation. This full-time staff position is available immediately, and the job description has been written to allow consideration of either ordained or non-ordained applicants. For more information, contact the church office or any member of the Search Committee: Chairman Ron Ensley, Vice-Chairman Stewart Neely, Debbie Harper, Mark Beatty, or Dan King.

## OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	59,246.32
Received in October for budget .....	60,287.85
Needed to date for budget .....	592,463.16
Received to date for budget .....	588,329.55
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	13,806.50
Received in October for Faith Promise .....	12,637.50
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	138,065.00
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	108,438.65

# DECEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
<b>Dec. 5:</b>	Judy, Zane and Chloe Billings	Paul and Holly Seufert
	<u>5:45 PM</u> - Sharon Morton	
<b>Dec. 12:</b>	Wendy and Casey Ham	Joyce Burt and Hope Levasseur
<b>Dec. 19:</b>	Kevin and Cathy Rhyne	Rhonda and Elizabeth Prather
<b>Dec. 24:</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM</b> - Sherry Teague	
<b>Dec. 26:</b>	Sally and Dawn Ormsby	Jonan and Rachel Bynum

## CHILDREN'S SERMONS

<b>Dec. 5:</b> Reid Evans	<b>Dec. 19:</b> Scott Burgess
<b>Dec. 12:</b> Jimmie Mitchell	<b>Dec. 26:</b> Kevin Rhyne

A **Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **10:30 AM Sunday, December 5** for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Directors of the Stanley Total Living Center and FPC Elders and Deacons.

Candidates for Elder: Ed Faggart, Clyde Haley, Dan Ormsby, Allen Stowe, Jim Tilley, Andy Tinsley.

Candidates for Deacon: Scott Burgess, Garry Lucas, Johnny Smith.

All communing members are eligible to vote.

# WIC NEWS

The **Ladies Christmas Dinner** will be held on **Monday, December 6** at 6:30 PM in Founders Hall. Each lady is asked to bring a covered dish. We will need main and side dishes as well as desserts. No sign-up is necessary. We will have a surprise guest for our entertainment!



**Cookies needed:** Each Circle is asked to supply 3-4 batches of cookies for the Christmas Scenes to be held December 15, 16 and 17.



**Attention SOAR Prayer Partners:** The Basketball and Cheerleading Finale is this Saturday (Nov. 20th). SOAR is thrilled to have **Dribble4Destiny** be a part of the Finale events this year. Sherri Odlevak (Dribble4Destiny) is a Christian and works with Bill Glass and Champions for Life, Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship, Scottie Barnes and Forgiven Ministries, as well as various other prison ministries sharing her testimony with inmates all over the world. Locally she speaks at churches, banquets, and schools. She also performs numerous ball handling shows and demonstrates her phenomenal basketball techniques. While entertaining the audience, she shares her testimony about attitude and, most importantly, her relationship with Jesus Christ.

Have you ever attended one of our Finales? This would be a great one to attend and will give you a better understanding of how SOAR wraps up a season, providing a unique opportunity for the players and spectators to hear the Gospel message and have a chance to respond to it. Finale Starts at 10:00am.

Special thanks to our Volunteers and our Basketball and Cheer committees for a job well done! Basketball Committee is Grover Rodgers and Johnny Smith. Cheer Committee is Melodie Garrison and Kristen Waters.



**SOAR Sunday is November 21!**  
*Impacting Our Community for Christ*  
*Celebrating 20 years*

All SOAR Volunteers should make plans to attend our special event during the Sunday School hour. We'll meet in the gym at 9:45am for refreshments and a special program.

# FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Youth and Families,

Seen any Christmas commercials yet? Although Thanksgiving hasn't arrived, some retailers are beginning to plant their seeds in hopes of a better shopping year than 2009. But thinking of Christmas prior to Thanksgiving isn't altogether bad, rather, it's the attitude we have when we think of Christmas that may be the real problem.

If Christmas conjures up materialism or a "me, me, me" attitude, those thoughts are probably less than God-glorifying. However, if thoughts of Christmas remind us of God sending His Son into the world to save us from our sins, those thoughts are wonderful!

But how many people in our community keep Christ central to Christmas? How many people focus primarily and specifically on the coming of Immanuel during the holiday season? Probably not as many today as a decade ago. And in a another decade probably fewer still.

That's where the **Live Christmas Scenes** play a vital role in our church life and community – keeping Christ's birth before our people and before our town. From the angel's announcement to Mary all the way through the resurrection, the Live Christmas Scenes proclaim the coming of the Son of God into the world and call people to remember Him, to trust Him, to marvel at Him.



What's your role? We need you (and your family) to participate in the scene of your choosing so that both our church and the community are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. The Christmas Scenes make much of God's plan of salvation through the sending of the Son of God into the world and, therefore, express our desire to make Him known to others. The Christmas Scenes are a "broad stroke" evangelistic tool in the life of our church that presents Christ in a non-threatening way and can be participated in by those nervous about direct personal evangelism.

So sign up your family today! We have places for all age levels!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Scott".

# LOCAL MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

We are recruiting help for a project in Gastonia this Saturday, Nov. 20. Wavey Williams with Partnership Ministries attended our missions conference and he is planting mission homes and churches in Gastonia. We are helping Bro. Williams to finish two rooms on a house in order for worship services to be held there.



Items to do: Hang sheet rock and finishing, sanding of wall panels for painting, trim work on windows and casing in a doorway, finishing and sanding of floor.

You do not need to come the whole day...only a couple of hours would really help. If you can help, please contact Rick Herd. This will a great way to do mission work in our own back yard.

*With loving thanks.....*

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thanks to everyone for the cards, visits, gifts and prayers. I would appreciate your continued prayers during this time.*

*Nancy Franks*

---

*Thank you to all for the clothing, shoes, food and supplies given for the Wings of Faith Ministry in West Virginia. We have concluded this project and will not be collecting any more items at this time.*

*FPC Missions Committee*



The *Our Daily Bread* winter devotionals are here! Stop by the literature display in the main hallway and pick up a free copy!

## NEWS FROM AMBER RHYNE - MY JOURNEY TO BELIZE!

Keep up with Amber on her blog at <http://patchakanpost.blogspot.com>

Hola amigos! : *"Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."* Psalm 106:1 I arrived in Belize around 10pm on October 31. We (my mom, dad and Kasey) woke up around 4am and arrived at the airport at 4:45am. There was only one lady at the international ticket counter. Both of my bags were a little overweight. It's amazing how much a pillow weighs! She had us move something to another bag to make only one bag overweight so they would only charge me one fee. She also informed me that because I was flying to Mexico first, I would have to have a visa if my return flight was more than 180 days out (mine was more than that). She changed it for me and waived the ticket change fee of \$100! She told my dad that she wasn't supposed to be working that counter that morning, but we believe she was. After sitting for a few more minutes with my family I went through security with no problems. My friends Justin and Cassandra who got married the night before were heading out for their honeymoon and met me on my way to the gate. They were so sweet to sit with me for a few minutes and pray with me! What a blessing!! The flight to Atlanta was uneventful, however, I had to practically run from the end of terminal A to terminal E in order to catch my next flight. I got there just as they were boarding! I slept most of the way to Cancun. When we arrived I got my bags and got in the customs line which wrapped around the entire baggage claim area twice! It took me an hour to get to the scanner. Once there, I had to open my bags for them and explain that I was going to be traveling through Mexico to Belize and not staying in Mexico. One of the customs ladies opened the zipper wrong on my bag, so I wasn't able to get it closed again. I toted them out to where Garry and Anita were waiting and we took a shuttle to the bus station. Garry grabbed some packing tape to wrap my suitcase in. Anita tried to sew it up to keep things from spilling out of it. It looked like quite the frankenstein creation, quite appropriate for halloween. The bus trip was long (about 5.5 hours with 2 stops). It was nice and cool though. Once we arrived in Chetumal, we met Chayo and Amy (Garry and Anita's son-in-law and daughter) and had dinner at a little restaurant a couple miles from the bus stop. Then we headed to the border and through customs in Belize with no issues. Well, that is the story of my journey. Thank you again for praying for me!!

### Prayer Requests:

- 1) Continue praying for a doctor for the clinic - Garry and Anita (my team leaders) are currently in the States trying to recruit for this position, as well as other positions needed here.
- 2) Pray for the church in Patchakan. They need a pastor, as they have been without one for a long time. Pray that the church would reach out to the community.
- 3) Pray for the physician coming for a week in December (11-18th). Pray he will be able to see many patients. Pray also for the clinic staff, as we will all be working together for the first time. Pray that we will work together well and the patients would be blessed.
- 4) Pray for me as I adjust to village life and as I am missing family and friends. Pray that I will look to the Lord for comfort and strength.

## CDC NEWS

by Debbie Smith

We are so thankful for our Preschool and all the many Blessings that God has given to us. We are thankful to you for your prayers, love and support.

The Children have been busy and excited about doing several projects. Our Afterschool children collected items over the summer to fill boxes for Samaritan's Purse and we were able to fill 8 boxes. We are now collecting food items for the Food Pantry here at church. Our Preschoolers sang on Friday morning of the Missions Conference.

We appreciate our Child Development Committee Members for all that do for us! They are Lennie Burrell, Anne Featherstone, Janet Redding, Rick Herd and Brian and Anne Abernathy. We are very thankful for you!

We still have openings in our Preschool and our Afterschool programs. If you or someone you know may be interested, just call the Daycare office.

Happy Thanksgiving and may God bless you.

---

## NOW RECRUITING VIDEO OPERATORS

We're seeking video team members...no experience needed! We need people for both the 8:30 am worship service and other events. Necessary training will be provided.

Volunteer requirements for 8:30 am service:

- Able to be at church by 7:45 am
- General familiarity with praise songs
- Interest in learning software used for videos






Volunteers for other events:

- Those with laptops who sometimes create slide shows and other presentations

Please contact the church office or see Phyllis Withers if interested.


# December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 Wed. Morn. Care Group 6:30 Youth, Abernathy Care Group 7:00 Young Adult CG	2 7:30 Officers' Prayer	3	4 2:00 Gym - Men's Open Basketball
5 10:30 Congregational Mtg  <i>Image Bearers, Youth and Care Groups end</i>	6 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  6:30 Ladies' Christmas Dinner	7 7:00 Burrell Care Grp	8 10:30 Wed. Morn. Care Group 6:30 Youth, Abernathy Care Group 7:00 Young Adult CG	9 7:30 Session Meeting	10	11 7:00 Deacons' Mtg.  2:00 Gym - Men's Open Basketball  Best Year's Event Listen for details soon!
12  6:30 Children's Christmas Program	13	14	15 10:30 Wed. Morn. Care Group	16  <b>← Christmas Scenes 7:00 - 8:15 each night →</b>	17 Preschool Christmas Program	18 2:00 Gym - Men's Open Basketball
19	20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	21  CDC (Pre-school and afterschool) closed	22 10:30 Wed. Morn. Care Group	23	24 Church Office and CDC closed  7:00 Christmas Eve Service 	25 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!</b> 
26	27 Church Office and CDC closed	28  Pre-school closed (Afterschool will be available)	29	30	31 Church Office and CDC closed  7:00 <i>New Year's Eve Communion</i> 	

**Community Thanksgiving Service** 

**Tuesday, Nov. 23, 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church**

**Make plans to attend!**

 Give thanks... for He is good! Psalm 107:1

The Church Office and CDC will be closed Thursday, 11/25 and Friday, 11/26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**December 11**  
will be the next  
**Best Years Event.**

**Look and listen for details in Sunday School soon!**