

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Kelsie Dixon | 8 Nick Boggess |
| 2 Deana Lamb | 9 Caroline Mesimer |
| 3 Frank Davis | 11 Roger Burt |
| 4 Karen Greeson | 13 Ron Ensley
Rick Heffner |
| 6 Freida Robinson
Sherry Wagstaff | 14 Alfred Homesley |
| 7 Stephanie Youngblood | |



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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 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. 24

December 22, 2010



Friday, December 24
7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Service



Friday, December 31
7:00 PM
New Year's Eve Communion



Sunday, January 9
6:30 PM
Officer Installation Service

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

“For nothing is impossible with God.” – Gabriel

The angel’s words were more than just pious speech. More than religious talk. These words were meant to be tested. And so Gabriel uttered his iron-clad assurance into the midst of the most impossible-looking circumstances imaginable.

Elizabeth was old, and although her marriage to Zechariah had been long, she remained childless. But nothing is impossible with God. And now she is six months along in her pregnancy.

The young virgin had never been with a man. Yet she conceived a son – not just a son, but one who would be called the Son of the Most High. For nothing is impossible with God.

And Israel, the people of God, were hopelessly in subjection to the mighty Roman Empire. Judea was nothing more than a speck of dust in Caesar’s vast domain which stretched from Britain to North Africa and Arabia. Still, a kingdom would be established in Judea which would last forever. The Roman Empire would crumble and disappear, but not this kingdom. Because nothing, absolutely nothing, is impossible with God.

As Christmas approaches this year, you may be staring at some pretty impossible-looking circumstances. A marriage that appears dead-on-arrival. An addiction that’s hanging on like a bad tattoo. Money problems threatening to smother the life right out of you. Failed health. Dwindling faith. Personal failures reaching back as far as you can remember.

Let me encourage you. Remember how Gabriel’s promise turned out? A barren old woman became pregnant. An unmarried virgin sinlessly conceived a child. And the Son of God came to earth establishing a kingdom that would never end. Why? Because nothing is impossible with God.

Gabriel’s testimony was not meant for Mary alone. It wasn’t just for Elizabeth either. Or for Israel. It was also for you and whatever impossible situation you’re facing.

So don’t give up. Hope in God. Look to him in faith. And if your plans aren’t exactly working out right now, try his for a change. You just might be in for the best Christmas surprise you ever got.

For nothing is impossible with God.

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

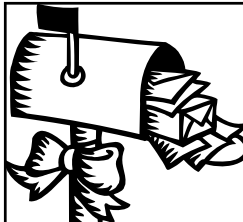
Christian sympathies are extended to **Chet and Karen Greeson, Courtney and Lindsey**, in the death of Chet’s grandmother. **Mrs. Ruth Freeze Greeson**, age 96, passed away December 15 in Concord, NC.

Roxi Smith has been transferred from Carolinas Medical Center to the Brian Center in Gastonia for rehabilitation. And **Rick Moss** has also been discharged from CMC to return home.

Janet Devir is home, too, having completed her rehabilitation at Carolinas Rehabilitation in Mt. Holly.

Jacob and Carolyn Rhyne’s grandson, **Jason Jenkins**, was seriously injured in a traffic accident December 20 on the Stanley-Dallas highway. He is hospitalized at Gaston Memorial with numerous broken bones and other injuries.

Congratulations to **Melissa Ensley** and **Josh Clevenger** who were married here Saturday evening, December 18. The couple’s new address is 153 Antelope Drive, Mt. Holly, NC, 28120.



The FPC P-mail boxes are filled with Christmas blessings. Remember to check the appropriate box for mail being sent your way!

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT	
Needed monthly for budget	59,246.32
Received in November for budget	47,562.10
Needed to date for budget	651,709.47
Received to date for budget	635,891.65
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	13,806.50
Received in November for Faith Promise	22,363.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	151,871.50
Received to date for Faith Promise	130,801.65

DECEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

NURSERY SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | <u>8:30 AM</u> | <u>11:00 AM</u> |
| Jan. 2: | Dean and Libby Chaney | Jennifer Cavin and girls |
| Jan. 9: | Ron and Karen Ensley | Marianne and Michelle Magill |
| | <u>6:15 PM</u> - Sherry Teague | |
| Jan. 16: | Barbara Graham and Ginny Haley | Marcia Skidmore and Sharon Herd |
| | <u>5:45 PM</u> - Sharon Morton | |
| Jan. 23: | Robert and Marcia Rhyne | Ed and Onie Kasper |
| | <u>5:45 PM</u> - David and Donna Hill | |
| Jan. 30: | Leslie Smith and girls | Julie Black and girls |
| | <u>5:45 PM</u> - Tommi Rust | |

A B C



1 2 3

CHILDREN'S SERMONS

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Jan. 2: Special New Year's Service | Jan. 23: Reid Evans |
| Jan. 9: Robert Rhyne | Jan. 30: Ed Faggart |
| Jan. 16: Scott Deneen | |

ON THE HORIZON IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*A big event on Sunday, January 23
Mark your calendars!!*



Children's Teacher Conference at 9:45 a.m.

.....in Fellowship Hall with guest speaker, Helen Holbrook

Special Event for Children (Toddlers through 5th Graders) at 9:45 a.m.

.....in the Gym

Keep listening for more information

MISSIONS – It does make a difference when we pray!

Omari Hill, serving at UNCC with Reformed University Fellowship writes: “Muslim students continue to invite us into dialogues about Jesus. Please keep us in your prayers. “RUFers” are being challenged to speak and live the truth in love while becoming accustomed to a new environment with many worldviews, idols, and cultures.” On a personal note, **Omari and Cherise** are expecting their second child in May.

Peter and Diane Bakelaar write: “I am convinced your prayers continue to have a great impact in Japan. I see it when people we have never met walk off the street and come to the church. I see it when people are hearing biblical truth for the first time and receive it. I see it when the gospel takes root and a caring community is formed. And I see it at times when the challenge is so overwhelming and all I see is my inadequacy and weakness, yet the hope of the gospel remains firm!”

FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Friends & Families,

Luke 2:25 says that Simeon – a righteous & devout man – had been waiting for the “Consolation of Israel.” To console is to make glad in the deepest manner. An example is when the early church was made glad (consoled) with the Gospel by the Holy Spirit and therefore had peace and multiplied. (Acts 9:31)

Simeon was looking to have His heart made glad through the coming of the Messiah, because, as a righteous and devout man and a son of Abraham, he knew his righteousness was not his own but a righteousness given to him by God through faith. Therefore, with great anticipation, he longed to see the One who would save him from his sins and cleanse him from his iniquity resulting in his salvation. For Simeon, Christmas meant celebrating the arrival of the Son of God.

Notice that the “Consolation of Israel” was a person rather than a “thing.” Simeon wasn’t waiting for material circumstances to get better, or for the Romans to leave Judea, or for a better job or more money, and he wasn’t placing his hope in more presents under the Christmas Tree. Rather, Simeon wanted Jesus. So when Jesus arrived on the scene, Simeon said, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in *peace*.” The relevance of Christ and His mission made Simeon’s heart very glad. How about yours?

Christmas is a time to celebrate the “Consolation of Israel” and His arrival on earth. Take time to meditate upon this Truth and discuss it with your family... for the glory of our Savior Jesus and for the making glad of your heart in Christ.

Merry Christmas,



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. New Years Eve Communion Service – Dec. 31st at 7 PM
2. Ice Skating – Pineville Ice Rink, Sat., Jan. 15th \$10 {Families Welcome!}
3. Ski Retreat – Winter Place, WV – Fri-Sat., Feb. 4-5th \$85

With loving thanks.....

My dear Christian friends,

I thank you so much for your kind thoughts, prayers, cards, and acts of kindness. I pray each of you will have a great Christmas.

Alfred Rhyne

To our FPC Family-

I just wanted to let you all know how much Lisa and I appreciate all the love and support you have all shown for our family over this past year. You have all given so much and so freely of yourselves. We are truly thankful that you have shown us your love and we know that our Father’s love and provision is shown through your words and actions. As things often do, we get so busy wrapped up in the things going on in our lives that we often either forget or simply have not been able to take the time to acknowledge you all and let you know how we feel. So, just so you know how much we do appreciate everything, I wanted to take this moment to let you all know how very thankful we are as a family for each of you. We thank you, and we thank God for you; for your generosity, love, support, kind words and friendship. I pray God blesses you all richly for the being the blessing you have all been to our family. Merry Christmas. We love you.

For Lisa, Emily, Harrison... and baby boy to be!

*Thank you and God bless you all-
Jamie Revels*



Women Joined in Heart

Leading the women's ministry in 2011 are:

President: Gina Tinsley

Vice Presidents: Mary Ruth Heffner, Teresa Neely

Secretary: Libby Chaney

Treasurer: Anna Friesenhahn

Christian Education: Kathy Lineberger

Mission to the World: Anne Abernathy

Historian: Martha Sue Mitchell

Nursery Coordinators: Sandy Lasley, Tommi Rust

Circle Chairpersons:

Elizabeth: Deanna Beatty

Esther: Evelyn Accipiter

Readers: Freida Robinson

Ruth: Ann Featherstone, Mary Ruth Heffner

Begin the new year by attending one of our four circles!

Monday, January 3

Esther Circle meets in the church parlor – 10 a.m.

Readers Circle meets at the home of Suzy Deneen – 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 4:

Elizabeth Circle meets at the home of Deana Beatty – 7 p.m.

Monday, January 10:

Ruth Circle meets at the home of Anne Abernathy – 7 p.m.

****2011 Study books are available in the CE office for a cost of \$7.55.**

SOAR NEWS

Looking for a Reason?

Reason #27 for joining the Youth Sports Ministry's Volleyball program: The field is never too wet to play on! OK, OK, there might be snow issues, but hey--- there has never been a rainout of a volleyball match....!



There are at LEAST 26 other great reasons to play or coach, with Number One being, "An excellent way to serve the Lord, the church, and many young people---all while having fun!" Volleyball is one of our most popular sports at First Pres, and there are many opportunities for coaching, assisting, and officiating. The ages for playing range from (10 to High School)--and church members may pre-register prior to the January 8 deadline. Registration forms can be found on the resource book shelf.

Contact Chairman Mike Gamage, Chris Graham or Marcia Rhyne if you'd like to help! And oh-- Reason #28: Volleyball rocks!





The **2011 Tithing envelope boxed sets** are available for pick-up beside the Literature Table. (It is no longer necessary to log in your name and envelope number.)

FAST FACTS

- There are 1.7 billion people around the globe with little or no access to the Gospel.
- There are 1.5 billion Muslims comprising 22% of the world's population.
- There are 950 million Hindus in the world.
- Less than 1% of China's cities possess a Christian witness.
- Among more than 270 million persons living in the Central Asia region, less than 1% are Christian.

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
<i>2</i>	3 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 Esther Circle 7:00 Readers Circle	<i>4</i> 7:00 Elizabeth Circle	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 6:30 CE Committee Mtg. 7:30 Officers' Prayer	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Youth Volleyball Registration 
<i>9</i> 6:30 Officer Installation	<i>10</i> 6:30 Volleyball Orientation 7:00 Ruth Circle	<i>11</i> 7:00 Burrell Care Group	<i>12</i> 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Group 6:30 Youth, Abernathy Care Grp 7:00 Young Adult Care Group	<i>13</i> 6:30 MTW Committee Mtg. 7:30 Joint Officers' Mtg.	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>  Youth Ice Skating
<i>16</i> 2:00 Baby Shower for Jennifer (Beatty) Hall Care Groups, Image Bearers & Youth Resume	<i>17 Newsletter Deadline</i>	<i>18</i> 7:00 Burrell Care Group	<i>19</i> 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Group 6:30 Youth, Abernathy Care Grp 7:00 Young Adult Care Group	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> 9:45 Children's Teachers' Conference and Special Children's Event	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 7:00 Burrell Care Group	<i>26</i> 10:30 Wed. Morn Care Group 6:30 Youth, Abernathy Care Grp 7:00 Young Adult Care Group SOAR Committee Mtg.	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> 4:30 WIC Council Mtg.	<i>31</i>					