

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

16 Courtney Greeson
Dorcas Murphy
Jacob Rhyne
Brad Skidmore
Charlie Stewart

23 John Abernathy
Jim Blackburn
Karen Ensley
Jane Robinson

27 Bud Murphy
28 Austin Buck
David Carpenter
Sharon Herd
Emily Revels

17 Melodie Garrison

24 David Marsh
Charleen Schrum

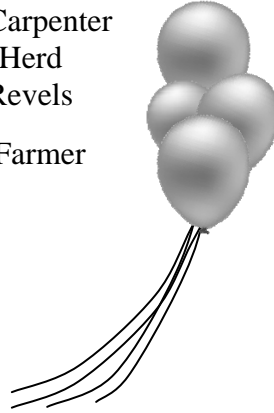
30 Selena Farmer

19 Ellen Deese

25 Karissa Davis

20 Kale Baity
Brent Grice

26 Mike Abernathy
Monnie Blackman
Joseph Deese
Lisa Grice
Percy Raleigh



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THE CHURCH FAMILY
*Presenting Everyone
Complete in Christ*

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 7

April 6, 2011

UPCOMING EASTER SERVICES



MAUNDY THURSDAY
COMMUNION SERVICE

featuring

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER

APRIL 21, 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

APRIL 24

8:30 & 11:00 AM

NO EVENING ACTIVITIES



FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

Mercy toward the poor has always been God's way. Special provision for the poor such as gleanings - allowing the poor to gather leftovers of the harvest - trace far back into Old Testament ethics. Israel's kings were blessed by God for defending the cause of the poor and needy. Likewise, God reserved some of his harshest condemnation for those who oppressed the poor.

Jesus encouraged his followers to sell their possessions and give to the poor. He himself was anointed to preach good news to the poor. The Apostle Paul traveled many miles to deliver special gifts to the poor and commended those churches who were especially generous toward the poor.

Obviously, the poor have a special place in God's view of things. That's why I am so pleased to note the on-going efforts to meet the needs of the poor through our congregation's Mercy Ministry. This ministry operates quietly but vigorously, receiving requests for various types of assistance from the needy of the Stanley community, researching the legitimacy of those requests, and dispensing help as generously as possible. Food. Rent. Medicine. Power and heat. These are the kinds of things we provide in Jesus' name.

It's wonderful to see the faithful, conscientious labors of our deacons and their assistants through Mercy Ministry. This is deacons' work in one of its purest forms. Many deacons and their assistants have served in this ministry down through the years, but now the effort is carried out by Mark Beatty, Tracy Withers, Jan Williams, Ann Davis and Gary Neely. Playing a big support role is Sharon Herd, who organizes the inventory of our food pantry. Recently, when unusually large quantities of food were received, Freida Robinson and others helped stock our shelves. Our Administrative Assistant Sandra Houser does an excellent job of guiding needy folks through the application process.

If we are to be "complete in Christ" we will most assuredly be required to exercise mercy toward the poor. And I for one am grateful for the steady ministry that these workers carry out in behalf of us all at FPC - and in the name of Jesus - through Mercy Ministry.

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memoriam



Robert Weldon (Bob) Smith

August 11, 1956 - April 5, 2011

Pastor Eulice Thomas is a resident at Brian Center in Mooresville following a stay at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury. He is being treated in a rehabilitation program to determine whether he can gain enough strength and mobility to return home.

After a short while at home, **Harrison Revels** has been readmitted to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte. He has needed treatment for complications stemming from his liver transplant.

Two more of our little ones, **Kaden Baity** and **Cora Belle Stewart**, had outpatient surgery recently. It is hoped the tubes put in their ears will clear up their numerous ear infections.

Ann Davis was relieved of a troublesome appendix last week after a couple of days of discomfort. The surgery was done with a scope allowing for a quick recovery. We're glad that Ann is feeling fine now.

A large congregation was on hand in our sanctuary for the wedding of **Heather Abernathy** and **Jeromy Rumfelt** on Saturday, April 2. The couple will be living at 324 Louise Drive in Stanley.

With Loving Thanks

First Presbyterian Congregation,

I just wanted to thank whoever is responsible for sending the care packages to me. They are very much appreciated and enjoyed! As some may know, Alan has been gone for military training for close to months now and receiving these packages is a cheerful treat! Thank you very much!

Shannon Cozart Yoder

NEWS FROM TIM AND CARYANN BARTON

March 24, 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

We would like to give you an update about our trip to Belize last month. It was a great trip and we enjoyed being part of the ministry going on there for three weeks. We stayed with Caryann's parents who live next door to the Presbyterian Medical Clinic in Patchakan, Belize. We enjoyed spending time with them. Garrison and Justin especially enjoyed many fun times with Grandma and Grandpa.

During our visit, Caryann was able to help her sister Amy finish her packing as Amy and her husband were preparing to move back to Jackson, MS. Caryann spent some time tutoring some of the elementary school children at the Presbyterian Day School. She also stayed busy with the boys. They enjoyed things like visiting friends in the village, hanging laundry on the clothes line, and going to the neighbor's chicken farm to buy fresh eggs.

Tim enjoyed many teaching and preaching opportunities. During our three week visit he had the opportunity to preach four times, teach three seminars to the local congregations, lead chapel at Cornerstone High School, and help out with some things around the clinic and missionary houses. He also had the opportunity to observe his first "Spanish speaking" presbytery meeting. Tim got a real taste of cross-cultural preaching as he had to preach over the shouting of a drunk man, fend off a cat from the communion table and ignore the rats running along the rafters of one of the churches in the Belize City slum area.

Justin and Garrison enjoyed seeing lots of new things. They loved chasing the chickens, watching the chatty parrots and birds, and learning a few Spanish words. Garrison climbed his first Maya pyramid with Mommy and Grandpa. Everyone enjoyed spending some time outside in the beautiful sunshine.

Thank you for your prayers for us! Right now, Tim is still looking for a pastoral job. Please pray with us that God will guide our paths and show us the next place He has for us to be involved in the ministry of the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus! Please pray that we would wait for God's time and place and be able to minister to those around us where we are right now.

Christian Education

For Youth and Adults:

Coming on Saturday, May 21 – a **Crown Money Map Seminar!** Based on biblical principles that really work, this live, fast-paced experience will present what it really means to be financially free.

For Women:

2011 PCA Women In the Church International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia – **October 7 – 9**. Watch the mail for information about how you can register.

SOAR NEWS

SOAR is excited for the 166 players that registered last Saturday for Youth Soccer. We're thankful for the soccer committee and volunteer shepherd coaches. Please consider partnering with us in prayer for these coaches and their players. You can pick up a Prayer Partner magnet in Sunday School or get one from Marcia Rhyne.

TEAM NAME

Germany
Belize
Peru
Chile
Brazil
Sudan
India
Bulgaria
Mexico
Taiwan
Romania
Japan
USA
New Zealand

HEAD COACH

Debbie Harper, Dee & Meredith Hager
Lauren Fox & Luke Bynum
Julianne Griffin & Ronnie Smith
Brian Nichols & Anna-Kathryn Lineberger
Lisa Grice & Scott Webster
Garry Lucas & Mark Beatty
Judy Billings & David Polson
Kim Hamrick & Holly Seufert
Alyssa Lowery & Cameron Rodgers
Joel & Annalise Jessen
Lorie & Charles Hamrick
Jonan Bynum & Khrist Helms
Chris Baity
Monnie Blackman & David Polson



REMINDER:

**Bridal Shower for Macky Tinsley will be
Saturday, April 9, 2:00 - 3:30 in Founders Hall.**

FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Youth and Families,

Life is hard. Sure there may be a few people whose lives are marked with one success after another, but for the bulk of us, each day has difficulty. [And most of us reading this article are Americans who have the easiest lives of any people ever to inhabit planet earth and yet the strain of living in a fallen world still touches us.]

But we have a Savior who has overcome this world and has defeated all His and our enemies. And He has shown Himself faithful to preserve, protect, and keep all those who put their trust in Him. Hebrews ch. 11 lists several Old Testament saints who put their hope in God and His promises and found Him absolutely sufficient and trustworthy. Some noteworthy names are: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. Biblically important men not because of their works but because of their faith.

Therefore, the writer of the Hebrews calls us to this same faith in Hebrews 12:1, ***“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”***

In other words, these great men of the Faith testify (witness) that God is trustworthy and His promises can be counted on. What God promises, He will faithfully do.

So look to Christ daily for strength, help, and grace and do not let the trials and tribulations of life derail you. Rather, cling to Jesus – He who also endured much suffering at the hands of wicked men yet has overcome – and persevere through the fullness of His resurrection power.

Grace and Peace,



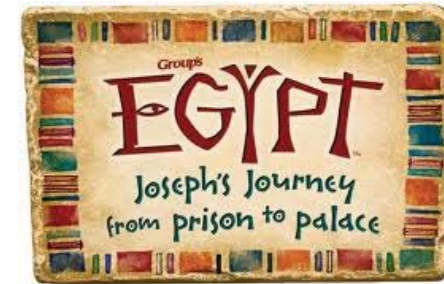
UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Hiking Trip – Sat., April 9th, 9 AM – 3 PM Location: South Mountain
2. Middle School Retreat – April 29 – May 1st to Ridge Haven, Cost: \$45
3. High School Retreat – May 13-15th to Ridge Haven, Cost: \$45

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20-24



We are in need of a few items for Bible School. If you have these, would you allow us to borrow them? We need:

- A full skeleton (to hang in our Physician’s tent).
- We are in need of the use of 9 tents. These tents must be the ‘canopy’ kind that stand up on four legs.



Please see Lauren Fox or call the church office if you have these items available.

EASTER EGG HUNT

All children are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 23rd
2:00 PM



Children from birth -
5th grade are invited

A small snack will be included.

If you are able, the Children’s Ministry Team asks that you donate some candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. We ask for individually wrapped pieces. There is a plastic tub in the hallway where you can drop it off, or you can put it in Lauren Fox’s office.