



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 Ryan Abernathy | 20 Sarah Jane Griffin
Wendy Ham |  | 25 Kaleigh Smith |
| 17 Betty Ann Abernathy
Cookie Wilkinson
Robert Billings | 21 Carol King
Vicky Gamage
Matthew Magill | | 27 Jamie Stewart
Marsha Skidmore |
| 18 Josh Addington
Danny Wallace
Anna Lewis | 22 Jamie Revels | | 28 Rhoda Davis |
| 19 Leon Lineberger | 23 Don Sapp
Debbie Friday |  | 30 Renee Abernathy
Jackson Tyler
Scott Burgess
Kathryn Cavin |
| | 24 Trevor Burgess
Kim Hamrick | | 31 Nathanael Prather |

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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. XXXIX, No. 1 January 4, 2012

**Elders and Deacons of the Class of 2014
 will be installed in a special service
 Sunday, January 8, 6:30 pm.**

The entire congregation is encouraged to attend.

Our Leadership Team

**E
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D
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CLASS OF 2014
 Tommy Barton
 Rick Herd
 Mike Prather

CLASS OF 2013
 Ed Faggart
 Dan Ormsby
 Allen Stowe
 Jim Tilley
 Andy Tinsley

CLASS OF 2012
 Don Hensley
 Jim Ramsey
 Kevin Rhyne

**D
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C
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S**

CLASS OF 2014
 Leon Lineberger
 Paul Seufert
 Graham Smith
 Rodney Wilkinson
 Tracy Withers

CLASS OF 2013
 Scott Burgess
 Garry Lucas
 Johnny Smith

CLASS OF 2012
 Brian Abernathy
 Mark Beatty
 Percy Raleigh
 Bill Robinson
 James Teague

FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

There are many reasons I'm glad to be a Presbyterian, but one of those reasons comes front-and-center this time of year. In January we ordain and install newly-elected elders and deacons; that is to say, we reorganize the government of our church. The very word "Presbyterian" identifies the form that government will take. "Presbyterian" is from the Greek-derived term *presbyter* which means "elder." Thus, by definition, a Presbyterian church is a church governed by elders. I'm glad it's that way.

Fundamentally, there are only three forms of church government throughout Christendom. And each form is defined by where the power to govern lies.

In the **episcopal** form, the power lies with bishops. Once again, the Greek language supplies our term. *Episcopos* means "overseer," also translated "bishop." (*epi* = "over" and *skopeo* = "to keep an eye on") The episcopal form is exemplified most clearly by the Roman Catholic Church which is overseen by bishops, chief among them the "Bishop of Rome," the Pope. The episcopal form, then, constitutes a hierarchy in which power is exercised "from the top down."

At the other end of the spectrum is the **congregational** form of government. In this most democratic of all church governments, power flows "from the bottom up," (in theory at least). We see this "grassroots" idea of government most clearly in Baptist churches.

A Presbyterian government lies in between these other two, being **representative** in form. Elders (presbyters) exercise power in the church as representatives for the congregation. The elders, sitting together as a Session, receive their power to govern from the church members who elect them. However, the *authority* by which they govern (a very different thing) is the authority of Jesus Christ, the "only King and Head of the church."

When we elect elders (and deacons who serve under them), we are saying, "We want you to administer the authority and rule of Jesus Christ over us. We recognize your calling and giftedness to do this, and by our vote we 'empower' you to do so."

That being the case, we should diligently pray for our elected representatives, follow their work with interest, and submit to them as they submit to Christ.

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Christian sympathies are offered to **Tracy** and **Phyllis Withers, Maxton** and **Mason Withers** and **Chris McAllister**. Tracy's mother, **Hope Withers** of Stanley, passed away December 28 at the Stanley Total Living Center.

We are concerned for **Jean Cavin** whose hospitalization for surgery has been extended by some complications. Jean has been a patient at Gaston Memorial since December 27.

Bud Murphy spent a few days in the hospital before Christmas, also at Gaston Memorial. We're glad he is able to be home now.

Robin Mueller-Ryan and husband **Chris Ryan** announce the birth of a daughter, **Mia LeaAnn**, born December 21 in Tallahassee, Florida. **Harrison Mueller** is the big brother, **Dan** and **Carol King**, the proud grandparents.

Congratulations to **Parke and Darlene Sweigart** who are now great-grandparents. Their granddaughter Jessica gave birth to Alexander Matthew Patterson on Christmas Day.

2012 Budget Summaries

are available on the
literature display in the main hallway

YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS



- ⇒ Progressive Dinner – Saturday., Jan. 14th
- ⇒ Ski Retreat to Winter Place – Feb. 3-4th
- ⇒ Super Bowl Party – Feb. 5th



See youth bulletin board for more information!

With Loving Thanks

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for remembering me with a basket full of “goodies.”

Most Sincerely,
Dorcas Murphy

I wish to thank the church for the nice fruit basket you gave us. Thanks for remembering us.

Ailene Friday

Dear church family,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful care package! It was such a blessing to receive all of the wonderful goodies during the hectic exam week! I appreciate the thoughts and encouragement!

Love,
Kristen Cozart

Thank you to those who baked a cake for the Prison Ministry Christmas Party. This is always a wonderful time for us as this is the only time we are able to share the Gospel with all the prisoners. Thank you for being a part of this important event.

Jim Ramsey

WIC NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR by WIC Co-Presidents Mary Ruth Heffner and Teresa Neely

Welcome to 2012! It is so exciting to start another year and see what God has in store for us! We want to encourage each of you ladies to pray about your involvement in a circle this year. This is our special ministry, ladies, a place where we make friends, build meaningful relationships with each other, support and encourage each other, serve our church and community, and most importantly grow in our knowledge and understanding of God’s Word!

Here are the meeting times for the January Circles:

Monday, January 9:

1:45 - Esther Circle meeting for visitation

7:00 - Readers Circle will meet at the home of Freida Robinson

Ruth Circle will meet at the home of Anne Abernathy

Tuesday, January 10:

7:00 - Elizabeth Circle will meet at the home of SaDara Tilley

You will be warmly welcomed at any of these circles! Please make plans to attend! We will also be having a “Special” Sunday School class for all ladies on Sunday, January 22. We will have refreshments and learn about our ministry here in Stanley and in our community. We are all excited about this class!

We look forward to serving the Lord together with you in 2012! Happy New Year and may God bless each of you this year.

Elizabeth and Ruth Circle members may pick up your study books beside the literature display in the main hallway.

CARE GROUPS

I pray that you have been blessed during Christmas and New Years. On January 15th we will be starting care groups back. With the new year always come new goals, and this year I challenge everyone to find a care group and get involved. It's a great opportunity to grow in Christ through community fellowship. For information on care groups and times please call or email Chris Baity at 704-263-4275 or baity@carolina.rr.com. May God bless you in 2012!

MISSION NOTES

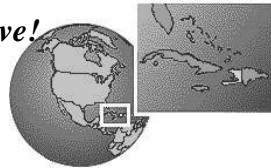
We pray, we give and we go!

A big **THANK YOU** to the short-term mission team - Rick Herd (team leader), Chris Baity, Daniel Deese, Kavin Garrison, Jacob Garrison, Kendall Garrison, Jason Herd, Leon Lineberger, Jimmie Mitchell, Gary Neely, Stewart Neely, Dan Ormsby, Mike Prather, Ronnie Smith - who went to Forest City, NC last week to put a new roof on **Harold and Brenda Bracken's** house. The Brackens who serve with Equip International are part of our missionary family. Well done, team!!

Another opportunity to go and serve!

Can you go to

HAITI



on **March 3 – 10** to help build a house for a pastor and minister to the Haitian people? We would like to have two or three more men to join our team. Contact Jimmie Mitchell if you think God might be calling you to go.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

by Lauren Fox



We are extremely excited about the curriculum from January-April in Image Bearers. The school-age children will be taken on a "Journey With Jesus." They will walk through towns in which Jesus ministered: traveling through Jordan, Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum, Galilee, Bethsaida and many others. They will hear (from first-hand accounts) the miracles that Jesus performed and the instructions He left for us at each stop along the way.

Come on Sunday evenings (beginning January 15th) at 6:00 PM to begin the adventure!

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

at First Presbyterian on
Tuesday, February 28
7 – 9:30 p.m.

Cost:\$10 per individual
Scholarships available

Child Care Provided

Speaker:

Dr. Gary Chapman

Dr. Chapman speaks extensively throughout the USA and internationally on marriage, family and relationships. He is the author of numerous books including the best seller **The Five Love Languages.**

Plan to attend.

Invite others to come with you.

Registration begins soon!

20-SOMETHINGS LUNCH MINISTRY

You have an opportunity to be a blessing! Our 20-Somethings group would like to continue their monthly Sunday lunches and they need hosts. Please consider hosting this group of young adults for lunch one Sunday. All you have to do is prepare a meal. They will provide the conversation as they discuss the sermon and other topics relating to their lives. There is a sign-up sheet on the Ministry Opportunity bulletin board in the main hallway. Choose a date and sign up today! Not only will you be a blessing, you will be blessed.