

**Scott's Thoughts** by Scott Deneen, Pastor to Youth and Families

Jesus was a friend of sinners. What does that mean? That means Jesus met with, loved, hung out with, and befriended UNSAVORY people. Take for instance Zacchaeus (he was a wee little man according to one popular song). Zacchaeus was a tax collector (which is enough to rile most people), but he was worse than a tax collector, he was an extortionist. He stole from people. He would LIE to people saying that they owed \$10 when they actually only owed \$2, then we would keep the profits for himself. And not only did he steal, but he stole from God's people. Needless to say, he was highly unpopular!

The very Son of God offers us His friendship solely out of love for us.

But Jesus befriended him. Jesus went home with Zacchaeus and had lunch with him (an act of friendship in Jesus' day). Why? Did Zacchaeus have something Jesus wanted? No. But Jesus had something Zacchaeus needed.

Then there was Mary Magdalene. She had 7 demons - not someone we'd likely hang out with. But Jesus had compassion on her and healed her. Why? Did Jesus need something from her? No. But Jesus had something Mary Magdalene needed.

In both these cases, as well as every other case, Jesus needs nothing from those he befriends. He lacks nothing. However, He is full to overflowing with compassion and mercy toward those He encounters. He loves people and wants to bless them. He wants to give them what they need more than anything else on earth - more than riches, more than possessions, even more than health. Jesus wants to give them Himself.

That's Good News for people like us. Jesus doesn't need anything from us for sure, but He is willing to befriend us in order to share Himself with us - to heal and restore us. What a wonderful blessing! The very Son of God offers us His friendship solely out of love for us.

First Presbyterian Church wants you to know this kind of love. We want you to enjoy the friendship of Almighty God. We want His favor to rest on you and for you to experience God's mercy. That's why we do volleyball. In the midst of serves and rallies and warm-ups and practices, we want you and your children to be warmly received, loved, and encouraged. We're not all that great, but our God certainly is.

So, if you've enjoyed the friendships and fellowship during volleyball, and you don't have a church home already, why not come and investigate this Jesus-who-loves-unsavory-people? We would welcome the chance to share God's love with you!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Pastor Scott

**Upcoming Youth Events**

- Every Wednesday — Youth Group meets in gym at 6:30 pm
- 3/24/06—Movie Night 6:00—9:00pm "National Treasure"
- 3/31/06—4/2/06 High School Retreat to Doe River Gorge (ropes course, games, mountains)
- 4/7/06—4/9/06 Middle School Retreat to Doe River Gorge (ropes course, games, mountains)

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**Finale Plans**

10—12 Division / 15—HS Division

**Parent's FAQ**

Friday, March 17th

**How long is the finale expected to last?**

This is the pinnacle of the season and we hope to make it as exciting for the players as possible. Please anticipate the finale to last between 2.5 and 3 hours, which includes a round-robin type tournament, snacks, speaker, team verses and distribution of trophies.

**What time should we be here?** The 10-12 division should be at the gym no later than 5:45pm. Games will begin promptly at 6:00pm.

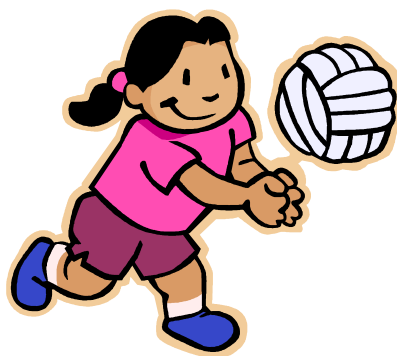
The 15-HS division will meet in Founder's Hall (inside our church) at 6:00pm.

**What can we do to help?** It is very important that your child arrives at their appointed time. This will help keep the event on schedule. The Sports Outreach and Recreation committee (SOAR) will ask you to complete a league survey. Your opinions and suggestions are very valuable to us. Please be in consideration of this and give us your feedback Friday night.

**What should we bring?** Parents and families typically bring snacks and drinks. Because this finale falls close to dinner time, we'll need substantial foods. A team of 10 players might have their families help as follows:

- 3 families bring sandwiches/heavy snacks
- 3 families bring fruit, chips, crackers, etc.
- 2 families bring dessert
- 2 families bring caffeine-free drinks

Your coach or team parent will coordinate this.



Love the Lord  
your God with  
all your heart  
and with all  
your soul and  
with all your  
mind

Matthew 22:37

**Finale Plans**

13—14 Division

**Parent's FAQ**

Saturday, March 18th

**How long is the finale expected to last?**

This is the pinnacle of the season and we hope to make it as exciting for the players as possible. This year we're very pleased to also have a developmental team from the Lake Norman volleyball club join us. This is an opportunity to introduce our players to tournament-style play and give them an opportunity to compete against different teams. Please anticipate the finale to last approximately 4 hours, which includes a round-robin type tournament, snacks, speaker, team verses and distribution of trophies.

**What time should we be here?** Team 4 (SWAT) and Team 5 (Smashers) should be here at 8:45am.

Team 6 (Spikers) and Team 7 (Blockers) should be here at 9:30am.

**What can we do to help?** It is very important that your child arrives at their appointed time. This will help keep the event on schedule. The Sports Outreach and Recreation committee (SOAR) will ask you to complete a league survey. Your opinions and suggestions are very valuable to us. Please be in consideration of this and give us your feedback on Saturday.

**What should we bring?** Parents and families typically bring snacks and drinks. Because this finale falls during lunch time, we'll need substantial foods. A team of 10 players might have their families help as follows:

- 3 families bring sandwiches/heavy snacks
- 3 families bring fruit, granola bars, crackers, etc.
- 2 families bring dessert
- 2 families bring caffeine-free drinks

Your coach or team parent will coordinate this.



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

**Morning Service**

- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Service

**Evening Service**

- 6:30 Worship Service

We're on the web!  
[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

Call us at 704.263.4275