

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:30—7:30
Middle & High School
- **Mission Minded Kids**
Sundays 6:30—7:30pm
Ages 3-5
- **Mission Trip**
New York City
July 22-29, 2006
- **Carowinds**
August 23, 2006



Timothy and Caryann Barton

Timothy has been an FPC pastoral intern since October, 2005. He and Caryann have intentions of doing International Campus Ministry when he completes seminary.

The Perfect Call by Timothy Barton, Jr.

It was the bottom of the fifth inning. Both pitchers were having trouble throwing strikes and many batters were getting on base. It was a high scoring game... and was going incredibly slow. It was beginning to get dark and I, the umpire, declared the fifth inning to be the final inning for the game.

The inning began with the score 14-11. The first batter came to the plate and, you guessed it, he walked. Second batter strolled up to the plate...she also walked. The third batter seemed determined not to walk so he hit a ground ball on a mediocre pitch and the defense got the force out at 3rd base. The next girl received a good pitch to hit, but was so surprised by the pitch that she could only ground it to the pitcher... Unfortunately, the pitcher was just as surprised to have the ball coming back his way and bobbled the ball. The runners that started on 1st and 2nd scored and the hitter moved to 2nd base.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Let me reset the stage for you. Now the score is 14-13, a runner on 2nd base and one out. The next batter had been trying to hit the ball as hard as he could all year long, but had only connected well several times. The pitch came and he crushed it! As the batter rounded the bases the outfielders hurried to chase down the ball and get it into the infielders. As the runner rounded 3rd, the shortstop made the relay throw but the catcher was a little out in front of the plate to receive the throw. She caught the ball and quickly swiped at the runner on his way by. I was in perfect position to see that she did not actually touch him and as he stood up from his slide I yelled "SAFE!!"... "BALLGAME!!" The catcher said very respectfully (and quietly) that she was sure she had touched him. I said, "I didn't see it that way."

As I began walking towards my vehicle to leave, I was thinking that a game could not have had a better ending. There was a close play at the plate and I made the correct call. Everyone was happy at this point, even the catcher who had questioned the call. Just then the young man who had made that homerun caught up to me and said, "The catcher actually tagged me... I felt it on my shoulder as I slid." The realization that I mentioned before hit me at that point. "I made the wrong call, I am not a perfect umpire."

Now, most of you who have been to a game where I've umpired likely have no trouble believing that I am not perfect at it. I would also venture to guess that none of you feel as though you are truly perfect at anything. Yet, we often teach our kids that they are supposed to be perfect. We try to make our children the perfect athlete, the perfect student, prepare them to be the perfect husband or the perfect wife while working perfectly in the business world. Why? In our society, it is the dream to make our children's lives better than our own, but this often comes at a price. The price is that we forget to let the children know that we love them for who they are, imperfect as they may be.

One way that we can show our children that we love them even when they are not perfect is to admit we as coaches, umpires, leaders, and yes most importantly parents, make mistakes ourselves. As children get older they are going to learn this truth anyway, but teaching it to them ourselves can benefit the parent-child relationship. When they realize we are not perfect, they are then free to see they can be loved even when they are not perfect.

We can also teach them that we are able to love and forgive others even though they are not perfect and have hurt us. Children watch adults and their behavior, especially their parents. This is how they learn. Teaching them to forgive others imperfections by your own forgiveness of others will go a long way in preparing them to live in this world.

Understanding SOAR

The sports ministry program at FPC began in 1991 with baseball and basketball. In '92, volleyball was added to the program. The recent inclusion of soccer in 2001 gave us the opportunity to have a sport for every season!

On average, 350 children participate in this league each year. We feel incredibly blessed by this and consider it a privilege to work with you and your child this baseball/softball

season.

We believe God's hand is in this ministry and pray, by His grace, that your child will not only become a better ball player, but that he or she will come to know who Jesus is and what He did for them (... and for us, too!).

Take a few minutes after each practice and/or game to ask your child what their team devotion was about. It's a great way to reiterate what they've learned.

Our coaches use a devotional

guide that purposefully begins with who God is and the Creation. From there, they move on to explain Jesus: who He is, His reason for coming to earth, His great sacrifice and then His resurrection. The coach will also share his/her testimony. Coaches have been encouraged to use age-appropriate language and to spend as much time as needed for each lesson.

Please know that we take the opportunity to teach your child about Jesus seriously.



Photo by James Guffey

More photos at www.fpcstanley.org

Stay in Balance

Nancy Thies Marshall was the youngest member of the 1972 Olympic gymnastic team. She is a mother of two who writes this article on some of the questions she faced as a "sports parent".

How can we keep the fun in sports without going overboard on winning and losing? If one of our children becomes a standout athlete how can we nurture that talent? How can sports bolster their faith in Christ?

If sports play a big part in your family, here are several ideas to keep in mind:

Encourage the development of godly character. Character can be strengthened by challenges you face. She writes,

"My parents kept me on an even keel by occasionally placing Bible verses on humility next to my corn flakes. When I did poorly, they would remind me of God's promise that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." (Rom. 8:28)

Don't let sports become more important than church. My parents always helped me make time to develop my relationship with the Lord.

Keep schoolwork a priority. Schoolwork not only balances the rigors of athletics and broadens a child's perspective, but it's also more important in the long run.

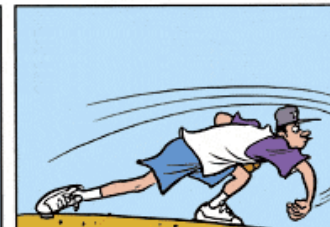
Establish a good relationship with the coach. It's important that you support the coach. Let him or her know that you appreciate the time invested in your child. Ask how you can help.

Don't be a pushy "sports parent". We've all seen them—the dad with the bullhorn voice who constantly rides the referee; the mom who's always complaining to the sports administrators. Kids see that, too. It can kill a child's enthusiasm. I've seen talented children lose their drive because a parent pushed too much.

Pray with your child for God's best. Don't pray to win, but help your child to pray, "Lord, help me do my best." This will help relieve the game pressure.

Marshall, Nancy Thies "Stay in Balance." *Focus on the Family* Aug (1992): 2-3.

TANK McNAMARA



BY JEFF MILLAR & BILL HINDS

First
Presbyterian
Church
Stanley, North Carolina

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

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

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