

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
Middle & High School
Begins Sept. 10th
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
1st—5th grade
Begins Sept. 10th
- **Carowinds**
August 23, 2006
For info, contact Pastor Scott
at 704.263.4275



Photo by James Guffey

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

Did you watch the Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe movie that came out last year. I did and it was awesome. I've read the books several times, and although no movie can ever match a book exactly, the director did a pretty good job. [Please forgive me now if you've not watched the movie. Go rent it. Watch it yourself first and then, if appropriate, watch it with your kids. Help them see how love overcomes a multitude of sins!]

It's amazing how the special effects & computer graphics make it hard to determine what is real and what is make-believe. A dilemma: My son cannot discern reality from make-believe in the movie. He can get past talking animals, yes, but since the children are real, the professor's house is real, and there's a real place called "England," he can't fathom the thought that the movie is the imagination of author C. S. Lewis during the 1960's. It boggles his mind. As a child, actors, movie sets, and imagination are above him. So, he lives according to what he believes rather than according to reality. By God's grace, he will grow past this stage of life.



We laugh at children when they do this because it's so, well, childish. We'd never talk to a make-believe friend (I hope!), or sit and have tea with our dolly (I hope!), or carry on serious discussions with co-workers about the healing properties of unicorn horns (I hope!).

But this we do: We try to live in God's world according to our terms, and this is like my son trying to live in the fictional land of Narnia rather than the USA. It just doesn't make sense.

Most of us live as if we're in a lifeboat, and, in order to survive, we must get rid of someone else. We spend all our time trying to impress others, form alliances, and move to the top of the pecking order. So prevalent is this mentality among us that someone made a TV show called "Survivor" and millions tune in to watch each week!

But is the "lifeboat" mentality actually *reality*. I don't mean, "Do people live like this?" Yes, we do. No, I'm asking, "Does God see things like this and is this the way it will be for eternity?" No. Jesus did not go about trying to impress others, get a leg up, point out others' missteps in order to move up the ladder. He didn't form alliances with the rich, powerful, or beautiful so as to gain favor with the "movers & shakers" in order to avoid 'elimination.' Why?

Because Jesus didn't believe He was in a lifeboat where another's demise saved His neck. Jesus didn't look around the "boat" and go, "Let's see, I'm better than him. She's a mess. Those will never make it! Therefore, I'm O.K. today." Silly to think huh? No, Jesus understood that God made mankind in His own image and that we all have value, worth, and meaning. The doctor, the mechanic, the lawyer, the garbage man, the painter, and the housewife are on equal footing before God. Jesus understood that significance, self-worth, value, and acceptance came from what His Father said about Him rather than what anyone else said.

It's the same for us. God's setting His love, acceptance, and forgiveness on us in Christ is what matters. We live in God's world, but often try living according to make-believe rules. By God's grace, we will grow past this stage of life.

Scott

Five Fingers of Prayer

www.parentsforChrist.com

Jesus gave us a beautiful gift when he gave the disciples their first lesson on prayer. Through the Lord's Prayer He has given us the perfect model containing the 5 Fingers of Prayer. It is with these fingers that we can teach our children to go from 'palm to palm' to 'heart to heart' with God. We can use the model prayer that Jesus gave us to develop our own words of prayer. Here are the 5 Fingers of Prayer and how they work to create the perfect prayer model.

1. Addressing our Father in Heaven *"Our Father which art in heaven..."*

Biblically we are shown how Jesus always began his prayers by addressing his Father. In Matthew 6:9, he uses "Our Father in heaven." In his great intercessory prayer in John 17:1, and in his prayers on the cross in Luke 23:34,46, Jesus addresses God as "Father." Mark 4:36 tells us Jesus addressed God as "Abba, Father," and in both Mark 15:34 and Matthew 27:46, Jesus used "My God, my God" to call upon his heavenly Father. In this first finger of prayer, Jesus teaches us to call upon the name of the Lord.

2. Offering Praise to God *"Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."*

Jesus always gave the praise, honor, and glory to God, and it is important to teach our children to praise his holy name in their prayer time. It is a way to show our humility, thankfulness, and love

3. Laying needs before the Father *"Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil ... "*

This is the heart of open prayer where healing, intercession, needs, and our need for forgiveness all come together in a powerful plea to the Father.

4. Praise and Glory *"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever"*

This is a wonderful time to thank God for answered prayers and for the promises he has made and will keep in his faithfulness. This is the part where children can really say: "I love you, God"

5. Closing in his name *"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 16:23, NIV)*

Jesus teaches us that we are to ask in his name and our heavenly Father will hear and answer. We close our prayers in the name of Jesus, amen!



Photo by Mimi Zachary

More photos at
www.fpcstanley.org

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Finale Schedule — Saturday, August 26th

T-Ball

9:00 Games Begin
Tarheels vs. Cubs
Panthers vs. Astros
10:15 To Founders Hall
Refreshments
Special Program
Trophy Presentation
Team Verses
11:30 Conclude

Coach Pitch

10:30 Games Begin
Patriots vs. Reds
Wolfpack vs. Braves
11:45 To Founders Hall
Lunch
Special Program
Trophy Presentation
Team Verses
1:15 Conclude

Softball

10:30 Games Begin
Intimidators vs.
Bat House
11:45 To Founders Hall
Lunch
Special Program
Trophy Presentation
Team Verses
1:15 Conclude

Basketball
Registration

September 9th
10am - 12pm

Ages 6-15



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

Team Rosters

Game Schedules

Parent's Corner