

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
In gym
(6th — 12th grade)
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays at 6:00 pm
(1st — 5th grade)
- **Family VBS**
June 12th—15th
6:30 to 8:30 pm

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Scott's Thoughts

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the members, Elders, and Pastors of First Presbyterian Church, let me say **"WELCOME!"** to our Soccer Ministry. This is our 4th season of soccer and each year gets bigger and better. We are delighted you and your family are here and we look forward to the friendships we'll make.

As far as your children, we can't wait to see their eyes light up through increasing skill and ability on the soccer field but above all else, we want them to see, experience, and enjoy the love of God in Christ. The Scripture says "children are a reward from [God]" and we all know this to be true. Jesus valued and blessed the "little ones" who came to Him. Therefore, as those representing Christ, we want to treasure them, too.

The main way we love others is to help them see Jesus. He is altogether lovely, glorious, and exalted. We were created to look upon His beauty and

splendor. The more clearly we see Jesus, the more satisfied we become in Him, because He is significantly better than any other alternative. So, whatever we do - whether soccer drills, running, games, or devotional times - we want to do it all for the glory of God so that your children can "taste and see that the Lord is good."

So... Let's partner together in helping our youth on their spiritual journey. How wonderful it is that their formative years are spent contemplating and receiving God's

grace, mercy, and love in Jesus Christ. I cannot think of anything better for them than that - to have grown up showered with God's goodness and His grace. This is to God's glory and their lasting joy.

Again, thank you for entrusting your children to us. We look forward to our soccer season together. Let us know if we can serve you in any way!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Scott Deneen
Pastor to Youth and Families



Meet the Deneens! (L-R) Suzy, Emma, Micah & Scott

Understanding SOAR – a look at one of the ministry goals

What is SOAR? Sports Outreach And Recreation is the sports ministry at FPC. A dedicated committee comprised of elders, deacons, pastoral staff, and others from our church family meet on a monthly basis to oversee this ministry.

One of our goals: To help our players improve in their soccer skills and become better ball players.

How do we plan to do that? Our volunteers are

very excited to be a part of this year's soccer league. A pre-season training session was held to review rules and regulations. The soccer committee is also in contact with coaches and referees on a regular basis.

How can you help us?

Your role as parent is critical to the experience your child will have this season. Help them by practicing the skills they learned from their coach. Encourage them to do their best.

And, have them at practice and games on time and prepared to play.

Our prayer: For your child to have a wonderful experience this season learning more about soccer and the value of teamwork... all the while having fun. We pray that your family will experience Christ's love as it is shown through others.

Citizenship Through Sports Alliance (CTSA)

For the first time ever, CTSA convened a panel of youth sports experts from across the country to evaluate youth sports in the United States and articulate its successes and failures.

The panel evaluated only community-based youth sports programs, focusing on those that serve children ages 6 to 14. To do so, panel members relied on their own experiences as youth sports leaders, authors, sociologists, sports psychologists,



coaches and parents, as well as on current research and academic literature.

Some concerns include that, on a whole, youth sports has:

- * Lost interest on the child's experience, more emphasis on adult motives such as winning.
- * Suffered from the actions of over-invested parents
- * Failed to provide adequately equipped coaches
- * Focused on early sports specialization, leading to burn-out, overuse injuries and a hyper-competitive atmosphere
- * Lost the voice of the child, whose goals (according to most experts) include fun, friends, fitness, and skill development.

The panel hopes that increasing awareness will stimulate dialogue about ways to improve youth sports. **

For the complete story, log on to www.sportsmanship.org



T.E.A.M.
stands for
Together Everyone
Achieves More.
Unknown

How to talk to God

Teach your children to cultivate a relationship with God by talking to Him regularly. Prayer is talking to God in Jesus' name. It is something you can do with your child at any age, so that they can learn how to talk to God.

Ages 0-4 From time to time, take a break from prayer itself to remind your child why you are praying—and to whom. Remind them that they don't have to work hard to get their prayers through to Him. He's ready and willing to answer.

Ages 5-6 Encourage your children to be themselves

Log on Together...

Focus on Your Child ministry helps parents raise healthy, confident, and well-adjusted children. You can find out about topics such as parenting teenagers, being a single parent, and helping your child develop a relationship with God. *

For more information, log on to www.focusonyourchild.com

with God. There's a difference between respect and the form of respect. Respect is a matter of the heart, not of the words. Speaking in reverent tones and terms might sound respectful, but God sees the heart. He is much more interested in an honest relationship than in a pious-sounding one.

Ages 7-9 After prayer, instead of rushing straight to goodnight kisses or some other activity, try having a short period of quiet. This reinforces the fact that God is there and that we need to listen in case He wants to

give us wisdom on how to deal with an issue we've prayed about. Avoid implying that children should expect audible answers, but assure them that God responds in His own way and time.

Ages 10-12 It's helpful to make prayer itself the first topic of prayer. Encourage your children to begin by thanking God for hearing them and asking Him to help them pray as He wants them to. This "meeting to plan the meeting" prepares the heart.*

Visit us online at
www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Practice Schedule
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner

Acknowledgements

* Generation to Generation, a publication of Focus on the Family, March 2006

** Citizenship Through Sports Alliance (CTSA)

SOAR League Verse

Whatever you
do, work at it
with all your
heart, as
working for the
Lord, not for
men.

Colossians 3:23

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