

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

Dear Parents—

Welcome to the Volleyball League! We at First Presbyterian Church are delighted you're here and we sincerely hope and pray that both you and your family are blessed. If we can ever be of assistance, please let your coach, a League official, or pastor know - we'd be happy to help in any way we can!

Volleyball can be a frustrating sport. Mainly because most people have never played until now. We grow up playing baseball, kickball, basketball, dodge ball, etc. but not volleyball. So as we begin, the level of play isn't what we would like. This is just a reality. Coaches would like to see improvement in teamwork and the mastery of skills; players would like to serve the ball over the net, and parents would like their kids to have fun while getting better.

Sometimes, then, these expectations lead to a 'performance trap'. What do I mean? Well, a performance trap says that I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself. My self-worth, then, is determined by my performance rather than by my being made in the Image of God. My worth to the team is judged on whether I make more points than I miss rather than my relational connectivity to others.

Arising from the performance trap is the fear of failure. Since we determine our value based on the execution of certain skills, we fear failing at those skills. Therefore, we either quit trying so as not to fail (through inactivity) or we blame others when we do fail (based on my observations, kids normally quit trying while parents normally get mad). Either way we miss out on the joy God offers us through sport. The Performance Trap represents a false view of God's design and order.

So, where do we go from here? Well, let me remind each of us (I need to be reminded as well!) that our worth is God given and cannot be added to or taken away. God made Mankind in His image and nothing we do, say, think, etc can make us worth more than God bestows upon us. We can try our best during the volleyball season knowing that God has granted each of us a level of skill, talent, co-ordination, passion, etc. and that our efforts are directed to maximizing the gifts He's given us rather than comparing ourselves with others. He, then, is the audience and Judge of our volleyball playing, and we can enjoy His blessings.

We can also try our best without fear of failure, because the failure is in NOT trying. The failure is in believing the Performance Trap lie. My greatest hope for you this season would be for you to enjoy life under God's gracious eye, and begin to see how freeing His plan and purposes for mankind are and, therefore, what a glorious and compassionate God He truly is.

The best way to see the delightful-ness of God is through Jesus. Over the course of the season, we hope to show you how amazing God is and how walking with Him through Christ brings abundant life!

So enjoy your season, try your best, and take delight in God through Jesus. You will not be disappointed!

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
Middle & High School
- **Youth Group Volleyball**
Wednesdays in the gym
6:30—8:00pm
Middle & High School
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
1st—5th grade



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

Understanding SOAR

What is SOAR? Sports Outreach And Recreation is the sports ministry at FPC. A dedicated committee including 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 volleyball skills and become better ball players.

How do we plan to do that? Our volunteers are very excited to be a part of this ministry. A pre-season training session was held to review rules and regulations. Coaches were trained on how to effectively and correctly teach your child the skills of the game.

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 the game 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.



Volleyball News

Inclement Weather

A broadcast message will be posted on the church telephone system by 5:00pm on days with inclement weather. After 5:00pm, your coach will contact you directly for cancellations. You may call the church office at 704.263.4275. Cancellations will also be posted on our website at www.fpcstanley.org.

Lost and Found

Misplaced Clothing—check in the box underneath the table by the gym door. This box is purged on a regular basis, so please check for missing articles asap.
Misplaced items—such as ear-rings, telephone, car keys, etc. will be taken up to the church office. The office is open M-F, 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Photos

You may notice action photos included in the SOARing newsletter or posted on our website. We hope these pictures capture true emotion and illustrate the fun the kids are having.

We want to assure you that we do not include names or other personal information with these photos. If you would rather we did not post your picture or your child's, please let us know by calling the church office at 704.263.4275.

Team Pictures

Fri, 2/23—Team 12 ('Rillas)

Tues, 2/27—all other teams

Ice Cream Social

We enjoyed this so much last year that we're considering making it a tradition! Save room for a banana split on Friday, March 9th!

Ages 10-12 (after 6:30 game)
Ages 13-14 (after 7:30 game)
Ages 15-HS (after 8:30 game)

League Day

Go ahead and mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 11th**. This will be our League Day and we're planning for you to attend one of our worship services (either at 8:30am or 11:00am). Players can wear their uniforms and sit together with their team!

Colossians 3:23

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

SOAR League Verse

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 info, log on www.focusonyourchild.com

An estimated 30 million children play organized sports each year in the United States, and youth sports help children lead healthier lives and learn character-building values such as teamwork, dedication and discipline.

Experts also estimate, however, that more than 70% of children quit organized sports by age 13.

Source: Michigan State University's Institute for Youth Sports

To keep sports fun for your child:

- Emphasize skill development, not winning.
- Maintain realistic expectations.
- Stay Positive. Avoid criticizing your child's play.
- Keep in mind that if sports become work, they're no longer fun.



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 Schedule
Parent's Corner