

## *Security for Your Children* by Timothy Barton, Jr., FPC Intern

My wife and I are expecting our first child at the end of this month. This has caused me to think about a great number of things as you can imagine, but one of those is how I am going to give him a sense of security as he grows older. This reminded me of my own childhood.

You see, I was born when my father was only 20 years old. But do you think that mattered to me? As far as I was concerned, he could do anything and take care of me no matter what the situation. When I was young and afraid of the dark, I just had to be reminded that he was near by and everything was okay. When I grew to about nine years old, we moved to an area where I heard about robberies and break-ins. However, as long as I knew my father was there, I was not nearly as scared. No matter what the situation, I was always confident that he would be there to handle it; after all, he was my Daddy.

As you are reading this you are most likely thinking of times when your children have come to you because they trust you and need you. Those days may be more distant memories for some of you as your children are now "independent" high school students, but I have found that most parents remember those times fondly.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7.*

It is, however, a bit ironic that children are so secure in and trusting of their parents. Parents are the same people who are anxious about work, concerned about putting food on the table, insecure about what others think about them, and worrying themselves about protecting their families. Think about my father; do you think at 20 years of age that he was confident in raising a child? Probably not!

No matter how hard we plan and prepare for raising children, the security that we find in and of ourselves is a false one. If we ourselves are anxious, it is eventually going to be difficult to protect our children from being anxious. The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:6-7 that we need to find our security in the one true God, being anxious about nothing and turning everything over to Him.

It is true that as parents we have a great responsibility...but we are not perfect. Let us each find our security in God. After all, each of us meant so much to Him that He sent His perfect Son Jesus Christ to be the sacrifice for our sins. If we meant enough to Him to cause that response towards us, then we should know that He will be with us now. Therefore, let us trust in God rather than ourselves and in turn point our children to the only One that can give them true security forever.

### 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



Timothy and Caryann Barton

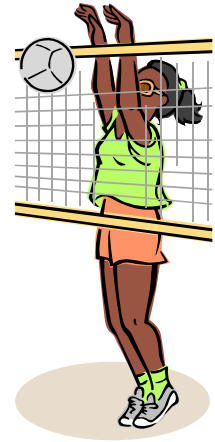
**The Un-Natural** by Chris Graham, 'Rillas coach and VBall Committee Member

A few years ago, Robert Redford starred in "The Natural," a baseball movie about a "naturally" gifted player...even at 45 years old! It's easy to do things in life that come naturally to us---but what about the things that DON'T come easily? For example, it's very easy---and encouraged--- to offer praise to the team you're pulling for, applaud a good play by your child, etc...but how easy is it to praise the OTHER team

when they make a good play? That's something that definitely does not come naturally for many of us.

But---it's not impossible! The Lord has this great way of blessing us when we perform acts of love toward others...i.e., acting like Jesus would. The "natural" person sees the only goal is his/her team winning the game, with no acknowledgment of good play by the oppos-

ing team. But God wants us to be "UN-natural" fans---fans that give praise and encouragement to ALL players, regardless of whose team they play. If you haven't tried it, give it a shot...and experience that great, Spirit-filled feeling that comes with showing love to everyone!



**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](http://www.fpcstanley.org).

**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!

**Lost and Found**

Misplaced Clothing—check the box under the table.

Other Misplaced items—contact the church office. 704.263.4275

**Isaiah 40:31**

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

The **Higher Education Research Institute (HERI)** is part of the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. This group has been collecting an annual study on the characteristics of students attending American colleges and universities as first-time, full-time freshmen. The full 2006 report is at [www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/norms06.php](http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/norms06.php).

This table describes the attitudes of 271,441 students on Social and Political Issues.

The data is used for policy analysis, human resource planning, campus administration, educational research, and guidance and counseling. It is also useful to the general community of current and future college students, their parents, and college faculty.

**Table 1. Percentage of Students Who Agree "Strongly" or "Somewhat" by Political Orientation**

Items	Political Orientation		
	Liberal/ Far Left	Middle-of- the-Road	Conservative/ Far Right
The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution	88.5	79.3	62.5
A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs	83.9	74.2	57.0
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	83.6	63.0	30.4
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	81.8	74.8	62.1
Abortion should be legal	78.3	56.3	31.8
Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces	73.0	62.1	53.6
Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	71.6	57.8	42.2
Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society	68.3	79.9	85.4
Dissent is a critical component of the political process	66.1	59.5	63.2
The chief benefit of a college education is that it increases one's earning power	59.6	68.8	70.8
Marijuana should be legalized	51.5	34.7	23.5
The death penalty should be abolished	48.0	31.7	22.5
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	44.6	46.2	52.7
There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals	43.2	58.3	67.6
Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education	34.0	47.5	61.4
The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit	33.4	24.2	23.3
Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus	28.5	40.6	55.1
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	25.3	28.2	26.4
Federal military spending should be increased	18.4	31.7	50.4
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	12.6	18.7	27.8
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	11.0	22.8	48.5

  
**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](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

- Team Rosters
- Game Schedule
- Parent's Corner