

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

As the Volleyball Season draws to a close, allow me, on behalf of the Volleyball Committee, the Session and Pastors, our congregation, and all coaches, to thank you for playing, watching, supporting, and cheering through our 2007 Volleyball Season! We have had such a **GREAT** time!! As I write I am thinking of many of you - your smiles, encouragements, and stories - how blessed we (I) have been to know you.

The sad part is not that the season is ending; no, the sad part is that we won't see many of you as often as we have these past few weeks. Although the games have been fun, it is **you** we will miss. Prayer requests, close games, family struggles, etc. have all been shared with Team members and parents alike. God has knit our hearts and lives together. We have been brought into community with one another and we will miss that sweet fellowship. "Parting is such sweet sorrow" as Shakespeare once said.

HOWEVER... that doesn't have to be the case. There doesn't have to be a break of relationship or fellowship! Let this be your invitation to stay on, become a part of the community at First Presbyterian Church on a regular basis. Why not make gathering together to worship our great and glorious God an ongoing part of your family's weekly routine. If gathering together for volleyball and sharing our lives has been a blessing, how much more will gathering together for worship, prayer, and fellowship around God and His Word be!?

So, if you've been looking for a place where love and acceptance dwell; if you've been looking for a place to belong; if you've been looking for a place where you're valued just because you're who God made you to be; a place where you can make a difference, let this be the time and place for you. God Himself invites you into His company. He extends an invitation to "come and worship."

The whole of Christianity is this: God is bringing people into the infinite and eternal joy that He experiences. He wants to share His pleasure with others. He accomplishes this through the person and work of Jesus. So God wants you to have joy, and not only joy, but the greatest joy imaginable. And in order to give you this type of blessing - this indescribable gift - he gives you... Himself. All creation trumpets the beauty, wisdom, majesty, and glory of God. Every amazing thing in creation - sunrises, supernovas, volcanoes, roller coasters, snow covered mountains, the beach, etc - shout the same message... "if you think I'm amazing, you should see my Maker!"

Your **delight** in God is the desire of First Presbyterian Church as well. (Since it's God's goal, it better be the church's too!!) We want your soul to be satisfied, blessed, encouraged, and stirred - but not with the world. No, that wouldn't even be second best. God desires to give you lasting, immeasurable joy **in Him**.

Isn't this your deepest desire? To have a joy that endures through hardship, strife, and difficulty? To be loved unconditionally? To hear the One who matters most saying, "I love you!" The Lord is just such a God - gracious, loving, long-suffering, kind. Why keep Him at arms length? Why do yourself such injury? Enjoy Him, rest in Him, take pleasure in all He is and all He has for you in Christ, and then come, make yourself at home... just like you've been doing. As Tom Bodett says, "We'll leave the light on for ya!"

With All Affection,

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
Middle & High School
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
1st—5th grade
- **Soccer Registration**
Saturday March 31st
10:00am—12:00pm
Ages 4.5—11



Pastor Scott & his family!
(L-R) Suzy, Emma, Micah & Scott

My Answer *by Billy Graham*

Q: My grandmother gave me a Bible for Christmas, and I know she hopes I'll start reading it like she does. But I never realized how big the Bible is. Where should I start? I'm in high school, and I don't have a lot of extra time. — J.K.

A: Dear J.K.,
Yes, the Bible can seem overwhelming when you first come to it—and no wonder, because it covers the entire history of the world, from before its creation until the end of time (and beyond).

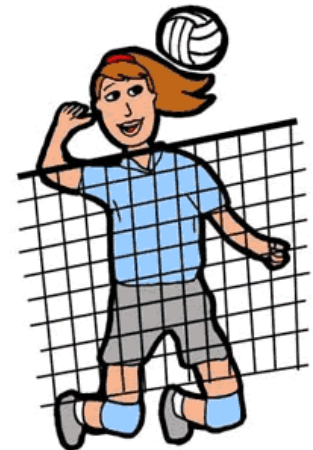
Whenever people ask me a question like this I often

think of the old quip about eating an elephant. How do you eat an elephant (it asks)? The answer is simple: one bite at a time. In other words, if you tried to swallow an elephant all at once, you'd never succeed—but if you took it little by little, you just might be able to get the job done!

And the same is true with the Bible. Don't try to "swallow" it all at once; instead, "eat" it a little at a time. How can you do this? First, set aside a few minutes each day—perhaps only five minutes at first. (Even the busiest person can find an extra five minutes if

they really want to.) Then make it your goal to read a small portion of the Bible during that time—perhaps only a paragraph or two at first. I often suggest people begin with one of the Gospels (such as John).

The most important thing, however, is to ask God to speak to you as you read. The Bible is God's Word, and He wants you to come to know Christ and His will through its pages. The Bible says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word" (Psalm 119:9). This is God's promise to you.



Volleyball News

Finale FAQ

When should my child be here?

Players should be here 15 minutes early in order to warm up before their finale begins.

Is there anything I can bring?

Yes, thanks for asking! Each family should bring a snack and/or a drink. Homemade snacks, chips, cookies, fruit, etc. are always a hit!

What can I expect? Each division will have a round-robin style tournament. After the tournament, we have a special guest speaker. He'll be followed by the presentation of team verses and trophies.

The 13-14 division will have a slightly different format as we'll be hosting 2 teams from the Lake Norman Volleyball Club.



Finale Info

15—HS Division

Friday, March 23rd @ 7pm

Finale expected to last 2-3 hrs

13—14 Division

Saturday, March 24th @ 9am

Finale expected to last 4 hrs*

10—12 Division

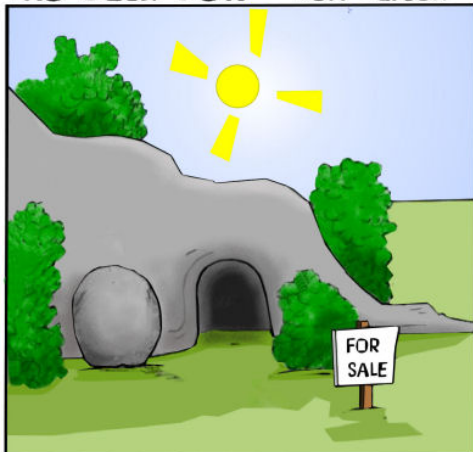
Saturday, March 24th @ 2pm

Finale expected to last 2-3 hrs

1 John 4:19

*We love
because
He first
loved us.*

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

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


**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