

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Group

Middle & High School

#### Wednesday Nights

Open Gym, Dining Out, etc.  
6:30 - 8:00pm

#### Middle School Retreat

Ridgehaven, Brevard N.C.  
May 16th - 18th

### Children's Ministry

Summer Schedule will be available at the Finale

#### Vacation Bible School

July 28 - August 1st  
6:30 - 8:30pm

### Summer Sports Camp

Daily, June 9th - 13th

9:00am - 12:15pm

Ages 6 - 12

Soccer

Basketball

Cheerleading

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

"Inside the ropes." Ever hear that expression? The 'ropes' represent a barrier. The ropes make a distinction between classes of people. I'm a golfer and it describes those who have inside privilege - like the golfers themselves or their friends, caddies, or family. Golfers get to be in the fairway, clubhouse, and special areas. Everyone else is left outside. "Inside the ropes" can also refer to those inside a special dining perimeter; i.e.: Movie star inside the ropes, you and I outside the ropes. Important person inside, loser outside.

I'm not sure if you're an important person but I can tell you that I'm not. There are so many 'movers & shakers' in this world, so many athletic people, beautiful people, so many rich people, so many powerful people, and I am none of those things. Maybe you feel like me. We pick up the paper and read about Bill Gates' next **billion**, or we see in a magazine some movie star's tremendous physical appearance, and we realize that we're never going to get inside the ropes.

But how do they do it? What's their secret? ... and what keeps people from crossing the ropes and becoming 'insiders'? Looks? Brains? Power? Influence? Well, no, bouncers do. Bouncers keep people outside the ropes. Haha

And Jesus' disciples were acting like bouncers one day... *"People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."*

The disciples looked at those kids and thought that they were not important enough for Jesus' time/energy; therefore, the kids weren't getting inside the ropes. But Jesus re-establishes who gets inside privilege.

Jesus **loved** the little children. Get it? He loved **them**. The Greater loved the lesser. The One with much gave to the ones with little. The powerful One ministered to those who were powerless. Jesus delighted to have the little children come to Him for blessing.

The same is true for us. Jesus Christ sits inside the ropes as a person of privilege and invites us to join Him. He's greater than a rock or movie star, richer than Bill Gates, and more powerful than the US Military, and He lifts up the ropes (through His life, death, and resurrection) so that you and I can duck under and sit with Him - enjoying Him and all His benefits. How awesome is that!!

If Jesus 'lifts the ropes' for you, are you willing to humble yourself and receive His offer? Would you risk your reputation, independence, or social standing to be seen 'inside the ropes' with Jesus? I hope so, for His offer is there for all - even a loser like me.



Special thanks to Malcolm & Kristy Mize for photos!

## Soccer News

Saturday, May 24th

### Finale Schedule

<b>Division I</b>	9:30 - 11am
<b>Division II</b>	1:30 - 3pm
<b>Division III</b>	1:30 - 3pm

Meet in the FPC Gym

Players should wear uniforms  
*No Shin Guards or Cleats*

- Activities for the kids
- Keynote Speaker
- Trophy & Verse Presentation

## What Now?

Dear Parents -

Throughout the season, your coach has led devotions and prayer time with the team, teaching the players about Jesus. At our Finale, everyone will be given an opportunity to respond to what they've heard. What would it mean for you should your child make a commitment to Christ? As parents, we all want the best for our child. We are here to help. Come and join us *Wednesday, May 28th*, from 6:30 - 8:00pm and find out how you can promote healthy spiritual growth for your child.

**Pizza & Activities for the whole family!**  
**No Reservations Required!**



## Youth Baseball / Softball

- ☺ Registration is Sat., June 14th  
10:30am - 12:00pm
- ☺ Ages 5 - 16
  - T-Ball Ages 5 - 7
  - Coach Pitch Ages 7 - 10, 11yo girls
  - Softball Ages 12 - 16
- ☺ Registration Forms available at the Church Office or visit us online at [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)
- ☺ Registration Fee is \$35
- ☺ Season runs through August 16th



## This Summer...

The Children's Ministry Team at FPC is excited to announce some happenings for youth, Pre-School through 6th grade, this summer. Lauren Henderson Fox, our Children's Coordinator, will be on-hand at the Soccer Finale with more info, but here are some of the planned events:

June 19th	Big Birthday Bash in Founders Hall at FPC Each child's birthday will be celebrated 3:00 - 4:30pm	FREE
June 26th	Pool Party 12:45 - 2:30pm	FREE
July 10th	Pajama Party in Founders Hall at FPC 10:00 - 11:30am	FREE
July 17th	Trip to Dan Nichols Park in Salisbury 9:00 - 1:45pm	\$8

Be sure to pick up information from Lauren at the Finale!



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

- Beginning June 1st*
- 5:30 Covered Dish Dinner
- 6:30 Family Worship

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at  
[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

- Team Rosters
- Game Schedule
- Parent's Corner