

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

Dear Friends,

Can you believe how busy you are? Seriously, when you were young, did you imagine that life was going to go at break-neck speed like this?? ...run to the store, pick up the kids, take them to practice, run an errand, throw the clothes in the washer, pick up the kids, take them to another practice, put the clothes in the dryer, make supper, help with homework, etc., etc., etc. Even though I try to alleviate unnecessary events from my schedule, it seems like I'm always on the go.

Whew! Is life supposed to be like this? Are we supposed to feel this frantic? I don't think so. I don't see Jesus walking through life at such a frantic pace, do you? Most of us suffer from what is known as the "tyranny of the urgent." We feel the "push of the moment" and respond. We are reactive rather than proactive. Life tells us what to do rather than us planning our lives and sticking to that plan.

*"Are you weary & burdened?
Do you crave rest?"*

But Jesus offers us something better. In Matthew, Jesus offers Himself as Master of our lives in lieu of whatever master we currently serve (yes, we all serve someone/something!) – self, career, power, wealth, popularity, personal peace, etc.. And the truth is that these other masters are cruel and relentless. They steal our joy, harass our psyche, treat us as slaves, and then laugh at us as we sludge through life.

Jesus offers this: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Are you weary & burdened? Do you crave rest? Jesus will give you these things when you turn your life over to Him, because He will take control of your life – thereby guiding and directing your steps, your agenda, your course through life. And He will teach you to say "No" to unnecessary things and "yes" to the right things. He will protect you from other masters who seek to disturb and disrupt your life in Him.

Will this mean a care-free life? No, but the life Jesus leads is a fulfilled, worry-free life for those who trust Him with their daily lives, because what He requires from us is 'easy' & 'light' rather than hard & heavy. So, interested in trading in your life for the one Jesus has for you? For your sake... I hope so!

By Grace,
Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Youth Pool Party

Stanley Pool
July 16th
8:00 - 10:00pm

Children's Ministry

Ages 3 - 6th grade

Gaston Co. Museum

Biggerstaff Park
July 24th

Vacation Bible School

July 27th - July 31st
Nightly, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Lazy 5 Ranch

August 14th

Back to School Celebration

August 23rd



Let your kids go on an
Amazon Expedition!

They'll get to explore the "Seven C's of History" ... from dinosaurs to Noah's flood, and so much more!

A life-changing VBS with Biblical integrity, excitement and fun!

Sunday, July 27th - Thursday, July 31st

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Ages 3 - rising 6th graders

Call the church office and **REGISTER TODAY**



Photos compliments of Paul Radley



Attn: Softball Families

You're invited to a
Softball Pool Party

Friday, August 1st

8pm - 10pm

Stanley Pool

Wear Uniform Shirts



Psalms 107:1

Give thanks to
the Lord, for
He is good; His
Love endures
forever.

Teach Your Child to Pray

By Cheri Fuller

When prayer is a natural part of your day-to-day routine, your kids learn the value of going to God with little things as well as the big things.

- Help your kids see things around them as visual aids to prompt prayer. If you're driving and see an ambulance speeding down the street, ask your kids to pray for the person being treated.
- Pray in a conversational way. Instead of saying a formal prayer at meals and bedtime, speak to God as a friend. Use simple, conversational language. Kids will think, I can do that. They will be more likely to talk to God in their own way. Use Bible verses. Have your kids ever said, "I don't know what to say when I pray?" Show them verses that will give them ideas. For example, if they're having a hard time in math, they can use Philippians 4:13 to jump-start their conversation with God.

"Lord, thank You that I can do all things (even my math homework) because You give me strength."



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:30 Family Worship

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner