

### Upcoming Youth Events

#### Youth Group

Middle & High School

**Sunday Night Bible Study**  
Beginning Sept. 7th

6:00 - 7:30pm

**Wednesday Night**  
Beginning Sept. 10th

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

#### Children's Ministry

Ages 3 - 6th grade

**Lazy 5 Ranch**  
August 14th

**Back to School Celebration**  
August 23rd

**Imagebearers**  
Beginning Sept. 7th  
1st - 5th grade  
Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm



Meet the Nelsons  
Laureen & Dave  
Isaiah, Micah Gideon & Lydia

### Words from God

by Dave Nelson

Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship

There is debate about the Bible. Is it God's Word, OR is it man's words about God? Is the Bible perfect and completely correct OR is it flawed and of questionable reputation? People inside and outside of the Christian church land on both sides of this argument. So, can one know for sure whether or not the Bible is Words from God or man's words about God?



In our tradition (conservative Presbyterian) we believe that the Bible is God's Word - without error or need for correction as it was given to the original authors in the languages in which it was written (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). I don't have space here to provide all the evidence we find to support this claim; but, in summary - there is vast external evidence (facts from outside the Bible) and compelling internal evidence (the Bible's own claims to be God's powerful Word) we use to support our belief.

Externally there is vast evidence that scripture has seen little change since the original books were written between 2000 and 3500 years ago. There is also a growing list of archeological discoveries which support the Bible's historical accounts (some archeologists even use the Bible to direct their efforts in uncovering the past). There are journals and books on all of this.



One recent find which verifies Bible accuracy is the dead sea scrolls. These scrolls, originally discovered in abandoned caves by a shepherd boy in 1947, were written before 100 B. C. and show how our Hebrew Old Testament used to make modern translations is virtually unchanged from the text of 2200 years ago.

Internally, the Bible contains self-verifying words like these:

Through the prophet Isaiah God says,

*'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.'* **Isaiah 55:9-11**

Apostle John explains how Jesus is the Living Word of God,

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**John 1:1-4, 14**

And the apostle Peter explains,

*We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My Son, Whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* **2 Peter 1:16-21**

On a practical level, I like to think - *If God can't get His Word to men and preserve it through the ages, then what kind of God is He? How powerful is He if He can't do that? How can I trust Him to raise the dead or get me to heaven if He can't even communicate and preserve His Word in the world?*

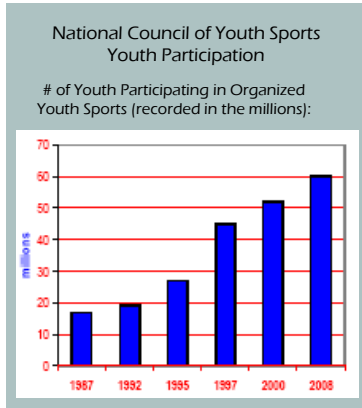
In short, we believe, when your shepherd coaches do their team devotions and share scripture with your children, your children are hearing the very *Words from God!* I hope they're listening.

The National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS) is a multi-sport, nonprofit corporation established to strengthen the performance of youth sport leaders through education and to advocate the values and preserve the integrity of youth sports. This 2008 study reveals a ten year comparison providing important data and trends in the marketplace.



2008 Survey Findings

- Although the total number of participants – both boys and girls – increased, the percentages of boys and girls involved in the programs showed little change at 66% boys and 34% girls.
- Girls participation increased significantly in the 16-18 age group since the 2000 study.
- Boys participation remained about the same in every age group other than an increase in the 10-12 age group.



National Council of Youth Sports  
Distribution of Participants by Age Group w/i Gender

2008

	6 & under	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18
Boys	64%	60%	70%	73%	63%
Girls	36%	40%	30%	27%	37%

2008 Fast Fact Survey Results

Youth Sports Organizations Participating: 63 provided complete breakdowns  
112 organizations responded

Total Youth Participants/Registrants: 60,316,548 participants

Duplications exist 44,031,080 actual boys/girls

Youth Participants/Registrants: Boys 66%, Girls 34%

Average Length of Time in Program: 5 Years



Photos compliments of James Guffey

*Psalms 107:1*

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

Baseball/Softball News

End of Season Finale

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August, 16th**. Your coach will have information about the finale soon to share with you. Our finales include:

- A guest speaker
- Trophy Presentation
- Team Verses
- League Evaluations



**Parenting Class this Fall**

Would you be interested? Our Children's Ministry team is considering hosting a class just for parents! Please contact the church office by phone (704.263.4275) or by email at [fpstanleync@carolina.rr.com](mailto:fpstanleync@carolina.rr.com) to let us know if you'd be interested in attending a class like this.



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

- Team Rosters
- Game Schedule
- Parent's Corner