

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

*All children need the support of a community of people...*

This is a condensed article by Jerram Barrs... I hope you benefit from it!

The basic context in which we bring children into the world and care for them is the covenant God. He has promised to love not only us, but also our children (Genesis 22:15-18; Exodus 20:5-6; Acts 2:37-39). But, do these wonderful promises mean that we or our children will not go through difficulties, rebellion, and dissolute living? No.

So, with this understanding of our own and our children's sinfulness, we should not be surprised by Jesus teaching a parable like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), because, when we are honest, we must acknowledge that we have all been greedy and ungrateful. But in Jesus' parable, we have a story with a **good father**—a father who represents the goodness, generosity and kindness of God. Yet, his sons have little respect for him. Both receive their inheritance, but neither is grateful or appreciative of their father's generous spirit.

*Yet this troubled family is one that has a **perfect parent!*** You and I are not perfect as parents or in any other way. Therefore, as sinners in desperate need of the Lord's help, we need to commit ourselves to pray for our children as the most important work we can do. Like the apostles who committed themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4), we as parents are to commit ourselves first to prayer and also to the task of parenting. So we rely on God in prayer and we strive to instill Biblical disciplines in our children. A few are:

1. **Building conviction** - We need to be reading God's Word **with** our children, and talking with them about the truth and its implications for our lives. We can find good books to read to them from early childhood to encourage and stimulate their budding faith and understanding.

2. **Encouraging character** - We need to demonstrate honesty, integrity, faithfulness, justice, mercy and generosity in our lives/work. These attributes are to be cultivated, nurtured, and protected both in our lives and in the lives of our children. We should be more concerned with our children's hearts/motives than their grades or sports accomplishments.

3. **The need for community** - All children need the support of a community of people who share their convictions. This is where the Church becomes so important. The New Testament describes the Church as the family and household of God. Every parent needs to be committed in principle to the church as God's family and needs to be open to the relationships established there.

Who is sufficient for all this? Not one of us, but with the help of the Lord and of one another, we can hold on to the promises of God's Word and **He has committed himself to be faithful to us and to our children.**

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Group

*Middle & High School*

#### Sunday Night

Bible Study  
6:00 - 7:30pm

#### Wednesday Night

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

### Children's Ministry

#### Sunday Nights

##### Nursery

Infant - 2 yrs.  
6:00 - 7:30pm

##### Preschool Age

3 yrs. - Kindergarten  
6:00 - 7:30pm

##### Imagebearers

1st - 5th grade  
6:00 - 7:30pm



Photo compliments of James Guffey

## Kids ask tough questions...

At the Basketball clinic, players were given an "Open Mike" opportunity to ask our pastors a question. Here's one answered by Pastor Dave.



### Q. Do we remain the same age in heaven?

I don't know. Heaven is **NOT** bound by time... time is created for us, but *heaven is eternal*. This raises the question, *Does time exist in heaven?*

Some things we do know about heaven - in heaven everything is fixed, there is no rebellion [*sin*] or effects from rebellion so people there will be whole, happy, fulfilled, and satisfied even if they weren't here. *There, there is no pain, frustration or fear* (see *Revelation 22:2-5a*). Will 80 year olds be in 80 year old bodies and 2 year olds in 2 year old bodies? We don't know - but everything will be right!

## Basketball & Cheerleading Finale 2008

Friday, November 14th

6:30 pm

Ages 10 –15 and Cheerleaders

TEAM#	TEAM NAME
8	Redeem Team
9	Wolfpack
10	Warriors
11	Tarheels
12	Celtics
13	Precious Pearls
14	Dazzlers
15	Shimmer Squad
16	God Squad

Saturday, November 15th

10:00 am

Ages 6-9

TEAM#	TEAM NAME
1	Bobcats
2	Tarheels
3	Warriors
4	Glory
5	Cagers
6	Red Raiders
7	Longhorns

We're excited to announce plans for the end-of-season Finale. FPC's own Timothy Barton will be the guest speaker, perhaps his last SOAR speaking event before beginning a pastoral apprenticeship in Utah. The Finale will last approx. 1.5 hours and will include a Free Throw contest and Trophy Presentation.

Make plans to attend!

**\*\* ALL GAMES CANCELLED \*\***

*Ephesians 2:8*

*For it is by  
grace you have  
been saved,  
through faith—  
and this not  
from yourselves,  
it is the gift  
of God—*



Photo compliments of James Guffey



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**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

6:00 Care Groups

Image Bearers

6:00 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

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

Team Rosters

Game Schedule