

### *Speak the Truth in Love* by Timothy Barton, Jr., Pastoral Intern

"It is not what you say, it's the way you say it!" Have you ever heard that one before? I sure have! I grew up hearing these words from my parents on a fairly regular basis. As my wife and I began dating, I soon began to hear those words from her as well. But it was just recently, that I really began to see the truth of those words in action.

*It's not what  
you say, it's  
how you say  
it!"*

I have a son who will be 1 year old this week. Many of you are laughing already, I am sure. The extent of his vocabulary is da-dy (that's me), baaaaaall (ball), and da-da-da (everything else). This little boy can say any of these things in a manner that will melt my heart, while proceeding one minute later to say them in such a way that will make you wonder if he his is angry at everything in the world. For him, it truly is not what he says, but how he says it that allows him to communicate. However, the opposite is

also true. I could look at my son and say, "I love you," in such a way that my son could really believe it or in such a way that would make him rightfully upset and produce tears and screaming.

Our kids do not always know how to express themselves and are exploring new ways all of the time, so they have a little bit of excuse. But what is our excuse? Well, in reality, we really do not have one...or at least not a good one.

Children are entrusted to us to raise and nurture. It is ultimately the job of the parent to raise their children in the ways they should go. Sure, all of us are going to make mistakes in this process or wish we had done something different along the way. Nevertheless, each of us need to think about how we say things as well as what we say to our children.

The Bible gives us example in Ephesians 4:15 that we are to 'speak the truth in love.' Discipline or speaking the truth is good (though obviously our children may not always see it that way) but we do this in a way to demonstrate to our children that we are doing it out of love.

We are also to show them that we love them by keeping our word to them. When we tell our children that they are important to us and that we want to spend time with them, but we do not prioritize our time in a manner that makes that happen...then what are we really saying as we tell them they are important to us?

Very often, the way we say things by our tone or our actions often overrides the things we are telling our children. I will admit to you that this is a struggle in my life as a new parent that will only become more glaring as my own son grows. Our job is to be as consistent as we are able, to show our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews in words and actions how important they are to us and how much we love them! God, Our Heavenly Father told us he loves us, and he showed us this love by sending his own Son Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins. (John 3:16) How will we show our children on a daily basis that we love them?



Meet the Bartons!  
Caryann, Garrison & Timothy

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Group

*Middle & High School*

#### Sunday Night

Bible Study  
6:00 - 7:30pm

#### Wednesday Night

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

#### Charlotte Bobcats

Bobcats Arena  
February 22

#### Sr. High Beach Retreat

Panama City Beach, Fl.  
July 7 - 12

## Children's Ministry

#### Imagebearers

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

#### Kids Night Out (Pajama Party)

Infant to 5th grade  
February 22  
6:30 - 9:30pm

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Ages 3 - 5th grade  
Saturday, March 22nd  
10:30 - 11:30am  
Bible Story & Refreshments, too!

In it with you,  
Timothy Barton

## Why Believe? EXPLORING THE HONEST QUESTIONS OF SEEKERS

Greg Laurie  
p. 14-15, 1995, Tyndale House

I once heard a story about a distraught and unhappy man who went to see a counselor in search of help and direction. Evaluating the miserable condition of this young man, the counselor said, "Forget about all those things. Go and see the comedian who is performing at the local comedy club. I hear he is keeping everyone in stitches. Go listen to him, and you will forget about all your troubles." There was a moment of silence and then the client groaned, "I am that comedian!"

Clearly, the world's version of happiness is vastly different than God's version. The happiness of this world is dependent upon things happening. It hinges on things going well. If I am in good health, the bills are paid, and I am feeling fine, then perhaps I am happy today. But if something goes wrong, if someone cuts me off on the freeway, or if I get a cold or something worse, suddenly I am unhappy.

But the Bible gives a completely different view of this elusive thing called happiness.

*true happiness  
is never  
something  
that should be  
sought directly*

should be sought directly. It is always the result of seeking something else. Think about it. When we are trying to be happy - trying to be fulfilled - we rarely are. But when we forget about those things and get back to the purpose for

ness. According to the Scriptures, true happiness is never something that

which God placed us on this earth, we find the wonderful by-product of happiness. That's when our lives find their proper balance. Apart from Jesus Christ, everyone is spiritually destitute. Regardless of education, accomplishments or religious knowledge, all are empty without God. And most of us have a hard time admitting this fact. It's hard for us to acknowledge our need to reach out to God.

## Volleyball News

We are SO excited to announce that our Keynote Speaker for this year's finale will be **Miss Kasey Rhyne!**

Kasey grew up in Stanley and played in the Youth Volleyball program at FPC for 9 years.



Courtesy: NC State  
<http://www.gopack.com>  
Kasey Rhyne

After graduating from East Gaston, she went to play first for Brevard College and later for North Carolina State University, where she graduated this year with a Business Degree.

Kasey has shared her testimony about God's faithfulness in her life to groups of young people and is looking forward to sharing her story with us. **Don't Miss It!**

## Important Dates

### Season Finale

Friday, March 7th  
Division III Finale 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, March 8th  
Division I Finale 9am - 11am  
Division II Finale 2pm - 4pm

### Finale Events

- Round-Robin Style Tournament
- Keynote Speaker
- Trophy Presentation
- Bible Verse Presentation

*John 3:16*

*For God so Loved  
the world that he  
gave his one and  
only Son, that  
whoever believes  
in him shall not  
perish but have  
eternal life.*



## How Smart is your Right foot?

Just try this. It's from an orthopedic surgeon.....

This will boggle your mind and you will keep trying over and over again to see if you can outsmart your right foot, but, you can't. It's preprogrammed in your brain!

1. WITHOUT anyone watching you (They will think you are GOOFY) and while sitting where you are at your desk in front of your computer, lift your right foot off the floor and make Clockwise Circles.
2. Now.....while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your Right Hand. Your foot will change direction.

It's true!!! And there's nothing you can do about it!

*From an email*



## FPC Youth Soccer

☺ Registration is Sat., March 15th  
10:30am - 12:00pm

☺ Ages 4.5 - 11  
Division I Ages 4.5 - 6  
Division II Ages 7 - 8  
Division III Ages 9 - 11

☺ 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 May 24th



*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

### Sunday Morning

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

### Sunday Evening

6:00 Care Groups

Image Bearers

Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

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

Team Rosters

Game Schedule