

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

In an average week, people who are coordinating, planning, assisting, coaching, refereeing, and assisting with field prep spend a combined total of 88 hours making sure that the "sport of the season" [soccer in this case] is AWESOME. But why?

Why does First Presbyterian spend so much time/effort/resources on our Sports League (SOAR)? There are several answers that could be given (and to some degree all are true). 1) We want to provide an unapologetically Christian atmosphere for our children to play sports. There is nothing wrong with being competitive - we should all use our gifts and talents to the best of our ability - but sometimes competitiveness turns into 'mean spiritedness.' We want to provide a place where young people can learn a sport, enjoy being competitive, but be free from the negative atmosphere associated with sports.

2) We want to provide a ministry to our community. Your presence is a testimony that our community wants a well-run, Christian sports league, and through the leadership of our Church elders, we have chosen to provide this ministry. Other churches (as well as ours) serve the Stanley area in multiple ways so that our community is blessed, and sports are just one aspect of this Christian ministry.

But if we stopped there, all our reasons would be 'man-centered,' i.e. based on the needs/wants of men. And that would fall well short of our main reason for providing this wonderful ministry! Simply put, the main reason for spending 88 hours/week (and it's probably much higher than that) is for *the glory of God*. He is so great, so wonderful, so loving, so compassionate, so worthy of all our affections and labor that we cannot help doing everything we can to make Him known.

In fact, so central is the glory of God to our ministry that if we lost that aspect, we wouldn't/couldn't go on. God's great character, His loving kindness, His mercy to us in Christ are so motivating/nourishing that if we lost sight of Him, we would eventually find other ways to spend our 88 hours/week.

So, if you enjoy the Sports ministry, I think you will enjoy the One who inspires the Sports Ministry. If you enjoy



the way the coaches minister to your children, I think you will enjoy the God who motivates those coaches to be such servants. And if you enjoy how blessed you and your children are through this ministry, I think you should begin a deep, purposed study into the God of these blessings. If you do, you will find a Magnificent, Glorious Creator who is "the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin" through Jesus Christ.

All that being said, we'd love to have you worship this Great God with us. Please consider this your invitation to join us every Sunday morning at either 8:30 AM or 11 AM to delight in and worship the True & Living God.

Upcoming Youth Events

Summer Happenings

Children's Ministry

Summer Weekly Schedule will be available at the Finale.

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Stanley Square Youth Nights
May 13th, 20th, & 27th
6:30 - 8:00pm

Youth Baseball / Softball

June 13 - August 16, 2009
Ages 5 - 16, evenings

Summer Sports Camp

June 22 - June 26, 2009
Ages 6 - 12
9:00am - 12:15pm
Soccer, Basketball & Cheer

Vacation Bible School

July 26 - July 30, 2009
Ages 3 - 6th grade
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Mark your calendars!

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23

Kids ask tough questions...

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



Q. Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

This is the question of the ages! According to God's Word, there are no good people, for instance: "...there is no one who does good, not even one... all have sinned..." (from Romans 3:12 & 23)

The better question is, *Why does God allow good things to happen to bad people?*

Based on this 'problem of evil,' as it is called, some question God's power while others question His goodness; but, neither of these questions are from the right perspective. God sent His perfect sinless Son to experience evil and suffering to pay the ransom for bad people. All we need do is trust in Jesus Christ and we'll be treated as if we were good.

Do you trust Him?

Soccer News

Finale Schedule

Division I Sat., June 6th 9:30 - 11am

Division II & III Sat., June 6th 1:30 - 3pm

Charlotte's Pro Soccer team, the Charlotte Eagles, confirmed their plans to have members of the team attend our season Finale on

Saturday, June 6th.

The Finale is the perfect way to end the season! We'll have the trophy presentation and hear the team Bible verses.



Meet in the Gym

* Uniforms, Socks & Tennis Shoes *

No Cleats

Looking for the perfect way to thank your coaches? Have your child write them a note: a small treasure of unspeakable worth.



All moms experience moments when they feel unequal to the responsibility of motherhood and think: *I just can't do this! I don't have the strength and wisdom for raising this child.*

Cheri Fuller wants moms to have the confidence and support they need to connect with their kids. The process starts when parents begin to understand their children and value them for who they are. Discover how you can start the connection today.

- Understand your child's temperament. Do you wonder why your child acts the way he does? The way your child behaves is influenced, in many ways, by his temperament.
- Discover your child's learning style. Even with a toddler, you can find out how he learns best. All it takes is reading a story to him.
- Pass on a love of learning. A few simple suggestions are all you need to make learning a fun process for your child. He will catch your enthusiasm.
- Teach your child to pray. When kids start to realize that talking to God is as natural as talking to their friends, they begin to enjoy prayer. Make conversation with God a part of your day-to-day routine.
- Listen to your child. Invest in your relationship with your child and take the time to actively listen. He will know he is a valued member of the family when you do so.
- Delight in your child's wonder. Take advantage of nature in your own backyard and capture your child's imagination.

Adapted from *The Mom You're Meant to Be* by Cheri Fuller (Focus on the Family/Tyndale House, 2003).



Div II



Div III

Pictures courtesy of Bill Ward
Ace Sports & Action Photography
www.bwasap.com



Div I



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

Beginning in June

6:30 Family Worship

On the first Sunday night each month, we'll have a family meal at 6pm & worship at 7pm

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters

Game Schedule