

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

Enjoy some funny Church Bulletin announcements – they're sure to make you laugh!!

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale . It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Sunday Nights

Bible Study
6:00 - 7:30pm

Wednesday Nights

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

Children's Ministry

Infant - 5th grade

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

Misunderstandings can be hilarious – like these Bulletin Announcements. But misunderstandings can also make people feel uncomfortable or embarrassed. Take for instance attending a gathering with inappropriate clothing on. I was once invited to a friend's house for "supper" so I showed up wearing camouflage pants and a t-shirt but everyone else had on suits and ties. Oops!

Likewise, many of us misunderstand what "Church" is and therefore, we fear showing up with the wrong clothes on, or doing/saying something inappropriate, or we don't like 'church' because we think it's supposed to be one thing when in reality it is something completely different.

So what IS the Church and what is its role? (in 250 words or less, please!)

The Church is a community of people who God has separated out of mankind to receive His merciful grace and through whom He will display His glory. These people are no different than anyone else except they have been set apart by God – i.e., they're messed up, selfish, vain, needy but God has chosen to bless them as a demonstration of His grace. God has united them by faith to Jesus Christ who is both Lord & Savior.

Not only is the Church a community in general, it is specifically a worshipping community with Jesus Christ at its center. Because Jesus is the 'meeting place' between God and Man, the Church is brought near to God through Jesus Christ and maintains her position before God due to His continuing ministry in Heaven.

Therefore, God gathers the Church every week to praise and exalt Himself as the author of such a great salvation. The Church acknowledges the Triune God as the only true God, submits to God's Word as the only instruction for faith and daily living, and makes no apologies for openly and joyfully worshipping Jesus Christ. And since the Church is the recipient of God's grace, she wants to share this news with others.

The Church welcomes all who want to worship Jesus and who submit to His rule in their lives – regardless of their past mistakes, regardless of their race, class, or clothing, regardless of their current struggles. A wise Christian pastor once said, "The Church is a hospital for sinners."

So, if you're nervous about coming to church, fear not! It's just a bunch of people (like you) who have received God's mercy and want to say "Thank you." Join us... won't you?!

Pastor Scott

Kids ask tough questions...

At the Volleyball clinics, 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 so much suffering in the world?**

So much suffering exists because rebellion against God is in the world.

When people were leaving Jesus because of a hard lesson He taught; Jesus asked His disciple, Peter, why he stayed. Peter responded, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God." [John 6:68-69]

Likewise, when you see or have suffering, you can be mad at God and run from Him OR you can pray to God and run to Him! God uses suffering to bring people His way. In heaven, there will be **NO** suffering!!

Volleyball News**Important Dates****Ice Cream Social**

Friday, March 6th

After your match

Season Finale

Friday, March 13th

Division III Finale 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, March 14th

Division I Finale 9am - 11am

Division II Finale 2pm - 4pm

Finale Events

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



Psalm 127:3

**Sons are a
heritage from
the Lord,
children a
reward from
Him.**

**SOAR Youth Soccer**

☺ Registration is Sat., March 28th
10:30am - 12:00pm

☺ Ages 4.5 - 11

Division I Ages 4.5 - 6

Division II Ages 7 - 8

Division III Ages 9 - 11

☺ More info and Registration Forms
available at the Church Office or visit
us online at www.fpcstanley.org.

☺ Registration Fee is \$35

☺ Season runs through June 6th

**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

Team Rosters

Game Schedule