

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN APRIL

16 Courtney Greeson
Dorcas Murphy
Jacob Rhyne
Bradley Skidmore
Charlie Stewart

23 John Abernathy
Caryann Barton
Jim Blackburn
Karen Ensley
Jane Robinson

25 Karissa Davis
26 Mike Abernathy
Monnie Blackman
Joseph Deese
Lisa Grice
Percy Raleigh

17 Melodie Garrison

19 Ellen Deese
Corey Petersohn

20 Brent Grice

22 Garry Chambers

24 David Marsh
Charleen Schrum

27 Bud Murphy

28 Austin Buck
Sharon Herd
Emily Revels

30 Selena Farmer



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Senior Pastor, Dan King • Associate Pastors, David Nelson and Scott Deneen
Worship 8:30 and 11:00 AM • Sunday School 9:45 AM

First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, NC 28164

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THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone
Complete in Christ*

Vol. XXXV, No. 7

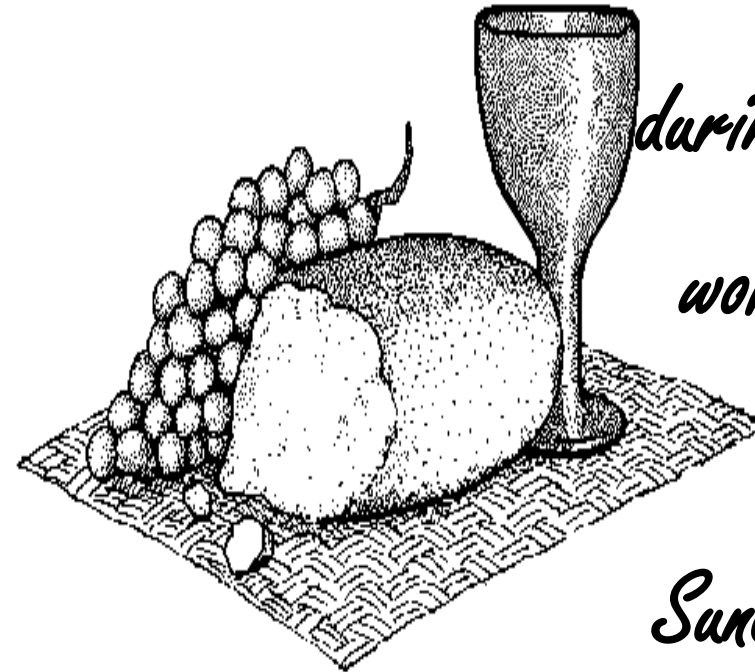
April 9, 2008

*The Lord's Supper
will be observed*

*during both morning
worship services*

on

Sunday, April 13



FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Dan King

We're all familiar perhaps with the Bible passage which urges us to pray for a missionary force to be called, equipped and sent to serve. **"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."** Sending Christian workers out is one thing, but keeping them out is another. Prayer is crucial in both endeavors.

Consider the very real needs of some of our missionary friends who have come up against huge challenges just recently.

In Bolivia MTW Missionary **Earl Adams** gets word in late March that his beloved younger brother Randy has suffered a massive heart attack while being treated for throat cancer. Earl rushes to make travel arrangements to fly back to Alabama, arriving one day before his brother dies.

In Mexico MTW Missionaries **Kenton and Karen Wood** learn in late January that a spot on Karen's arm is stage 4 melanoma, an aggressive cancer. Work is set aside while the couple travels from Guadalajara to Los Angeles for Karen to undergo surgery. No spreading of the cancer is found, but the doctors recommend chemotherapy as Karen is a high-risk patient.

In suburban Atlanta MTW Coordinator **Dr. Paul Kooistra**, the top man in our denomination's missionary force, gathers with his children around his wife **Jan's** bedside as she passes away this past Sunday morning, April 6. Mrs. Kooistra battled cancer for many years.

All of these missionary servants - Earl Adams, Kenton and Karen Wood, Paul Kooistra - have visited our church in the past to help and encourage us in our missions involvement. Their recent griefs and hardships remind us of the ever-present need our missionary force has for prayer.

May these friends and all the missionaries we support be able to say with the Apostle Paul, **"[God] has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers."** (2 Corinthians 1:10-11)

Affectionately,

Dan

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In the ancient tradition of the Christian Church, Easter Sunday was set aside as the day when new members were received. The following new members were received at FPC this Easter: **Madison Black, Sylvia Forbes-Robinson, Michael Prather, Brad Skidmore, Kelsey Smith** and **Chrissy Teague** made public professions of faith, having been baptized as infants. **Robert Billings, Judy Billings, Zane Billings** and **Houston Rust** made public professions of faith and were baptized. **David** and **Tommi Rust** were received into membership on reaffirmation of faith. **Chloe Billings**, daughter of Robert and Judy Billings, and **Max Rust**, son of David and Tommi Rust, were baptized as covenant children. We welcome all these new members into the church family.

Christian sympathies are extended to **Carolyn Rutledge, Mike and Roxi Smith** and **Brandi Lanier** in the death of Carolyn's brother. **W. B. Finlayson** passed away in Myrtle Beach where he had been confined to a nursing home since suffering a stroke.

Please continue your prayers for **Vicky Gamage**, recovering from surgery at Carolinas Medical Center, and **Tim Featherstone**, also hospitalized for surgery at CMC.

We are rejoicing in **Ed Faggart's** return to participation here. Ed was severely injured in an automobile accident January 4, and it was not until this past Sunday that Ed and wife **Linda** were able to be in church together again. He has recovered sufficiently from his injuries to be on his feet and able to drive. Praise be to God!



- Thursday, Apr. 10**
- Children’s Ministry Team Meeting
 - 7:30 - Joint Officers’ Meeting
- Friday, Apr. 11**
- 7:00 - Catherine Hensley & Daniel Mosely Wedding
- Sunday, Apr. 13**
- 4:00 - Palmer Home Mission Team Meeting
 - 4:30 - CE Committee Meeting
- Monday, Apr. 14**
- 4:00 - CDC Committee Meeting
- Saturday, Apr. 19**
- 2:00 - Mark Beatty and Deanna Lowery Wedding
- Sunday, Apr. 20**
- 2:00 - Paraguay & Mexico Mission Teams Meeting

MISSING KITCHEN ITEMS

The burgundy tablecloth that was previously posted as missing has been returned anonymously. Thank you for that return.

It has now been discovered that we are missing the following:



Small Crockpot
(white with flowers)



Large round, white eyelet tablecloth
(used for showers)

If you have taken either or both of these items home for cleaning, please return them to Founders Hall so others may use them.



WIC NEWS

Current Projects

We extend our thanks to all those who contributed items for the **college boxes**. It was a big success! We have an extra special thanks to Pastor Scott and our youth for boxing them up for us. Three cheers for the youth group!!!

The **cookbook** is coming right along. Thank you for all who have turned in recipes. Keep ‘em coming.

Remember to keep a check on the Women Joined in Heart bulletin board next to the Global Outreach Office for current news and activities.

Upcoming Special Events

All ladies of the church are invited to the **PresWic Spring Celebration at Prosperity Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 26** from 9:45 AM –1:30 PM. The guest speaker will be Carmin Byers, New Hope Presbyterian Church’s Senior Pastor’s wife. We will have the traditional “Super Salad Bar” so everyone that attends is asked to bring a salad to serve 8. Beverages and desserts will be provided.



Time is here to mark your calendars for our annual **Mother Daughter Banquet** to be held **Monday, May 5 at 6:30 PM** in Founders Hall. All ladies are encouraged to invite friends, sisters, daughters, aunts, grandmothers, and mothers! We will have some very special guests with a drama presentation. We are going to have a salad meal. Each lady is asked to bring some type of salad (chicken, tossed, tuna, layered bean, fruit, pasta, or whatever variation you choose.) Please make sure what you bring will feed 8 people to ensure we have enough to feed our guests! The council will provide drinks, crackers, and dessert.

Verse of the Month

“By this gospel you are saved...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures...”
1 Corinthians 15:2-4 [Let us all remember to show love to our sisters in Christ.]

FAMILY GATHERING

by Scott Deneen

Dear Youth and Families,

Quiz: Who was the first eyewitness of Jesus' resurrection? ... Peter? ... no. John? ... no. James? ... no. The first eyewitness to Jesus' resurrection was Mary Magdalene. "So?" you say.

Well, if you were going to fabricate a story about the resurrection of Jesus, who would you list as eyewitnesses? In Jesus' day, you would have chosen respectable men to be eyewitnesses. The society respected the testimony of men and theirs alone was admissible in court. For an event to be believed, it had to be seen and attested to by a man. A woman's account or testimony didn't matter or count.

So why does John include Mary Magdalene as the first person to see Jesus after the resurrection?

Because she really was the first person to see Jesus after the resurrection! John wasn't trying to fabricate a story, he was trying to record facts. John let the truth of the events speak for themselves, and if the truth of the events alienated certain people of his society, then so be it. He couldn't deny the truth.

What does this mean? It's just another 'proof' of the integrity and validity of the Bible. Facts were recorded regardless of how odd they *appeared* to the society because that's the way they happened. "Just the facts, ma'am" is the way the gospel writers approached the information of the resurrection, so trust it, delight in it, respond to it... for Jesus has truly risen! (If you don't believe me, just go ask Mary Magdalene!)

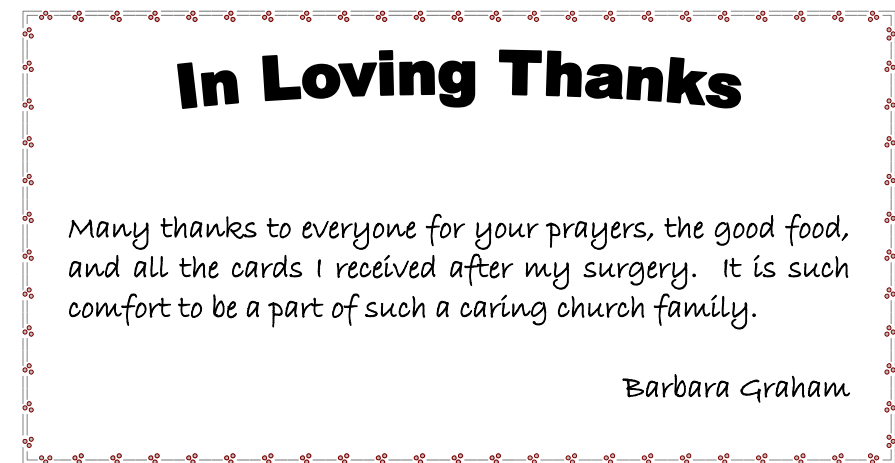
God Bless you on your journey to greater faith,

Scott

Upcoming Events

April 25 - 27: High School Retreat to Ridgehaven - Retreat cost of \$35.00 is due by Sunday, April 20.

May 16 - 18: Middle School Retreat to Ridgehaven - Retreat cost of \$35.00 is due by Sunday, May 11.



WITHOUT EXCUSE!

by David Nelson

Peter instructs - *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have* (1 Peter 3:15). To improve in this, I've read from atheists, former atheists, and those who refute them. Atheism provides extreme anti-Christian arguments - thus learning to refute them will, I hope, equip me to refute less extreme arguments from other anti-Christian camps.

In Romans 1, Paul wrote, *men are without excuse* (v 20c) when it comes to knowing whether or not God exists. He insists that what may be known about God is plain to all men because God has made that knowledge plain (v 19). So, if it's so plain - why don't all men acknowledge God's existence? Paul gives several reasons.

First, men are wicked and suppress the truth of God (v 18). Secondly, even though men know God because *God's eternal power and divine nature are clearly understood from what has been made* (v 20a & b) men don't give God glory or thank Him (v 21a).

So, what happens when men either suppress God's truth OR fail to thank and honor Him? Paul explains - *their thinking becomes futile and their foolish hearts are darkened. Although they claim to be wise, they become fools and exchange the glory of the immortal God for images* (vv 21b-23a).

When I read '*the best the atheists have to offer*' - Paul's description of how things are rings true more than ever!! Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion*, and Sam Harris' *Letter to a Christian Nation*, amaze me at how dull, foolish and illogical *the best and brightest* can be. Though they claim wisdom (Dawkins is supposedly one of the brightest men in the world) in the areas of philosophy and theology they are clearly fools.

In all this I'm convinced that Christian theism is the ONLY completely coherent and rational explanation of the world in which we live... not one of many possible explanations! This truth enables Paul to write the Corinthians with confidence - *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ* (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Finally, a word of caution - though our Christian reasoning is offensive rather than defensive in posture; we are not to use offensive words or attitudes when we share it with others. The answers we provide are to be given with *gentleness and respect* (1 Peter 3:15).

Believing and growing with you,

David

SOAR NEWS

Did you know...

that at the end of every sport, we ask our players, parents and volunteers to complete a league evaluation. Here are a few comments from the 2008 volleyball season:

Volunteers

Q. Can you identify something that specifically correlated with your spiritual growth this season?

- A. I've never been very comfortable at taking prayer requests from players. This season helped me overcome my shyness in that area.
- A. Knowing that others outside of volleyball were praying for us was very encouraging.
- A. I felt the prayers of our Prayer Partners. I was encouraged by the team – how they bonded and encouraged each other. I simply felt God's presence and strength through my weakness.

Parents

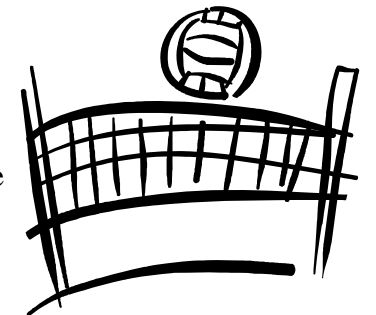
Q. Would you recommend this league to a friend? Why?

- A. By far the best program in our community
- A. Wonderful time. Great coaches. Ronnie learned a lot about volleyball, team work & Christ. Thanks so much!
- A. Wonderful people, love of Jesus passed along
- A. Can't say enough good about your program - equal participation and Christ exalted!

Players

Q. Would you recommend this league to a friend? Why?

- A. It's fun & you learn a lot about volleyball & Christ
- A. It's the best place where I've played sports before
- A. Because my experience was excellent at this place, unlike any other
- A. It's a great experience and a lot of fun
- A. It's so cool!



Thanks to ALL for making the Volleyball season successful!