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## Guiding Principles



March  
2006

New Sterling Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church

# The Stirling

In our denomination, we identify the Holy Scriptures as our most important guiding instrument. The Bible reveals God's Holy Word given to the people so that we might come to know him and ourselves. We hold the Scriptures to be sufficient for all matters of faith and practice. Secondly, we promote the Westminster Confession of Faith as a document that outlines what the Bible teaches. It is a document, which was written in the mid 1500s and provides a very systematic way of presenting what the Bible has to say about salvation, God, the Scriptures, death, God's providence, etc. With these two documents, it may be hard to think that we need something else, another document to provide direction for our church.

In Matthew 28:19, we find the Great Commission for the church universal. It says to go and make disciples, which is the mandate for the church at large. Since a local church cannot be all things to all people and we are placed within a very specific social context and community, what part of that commission do we fill? A church in the suburbs of Atlanta will do what they do very differently that what we do here in the rural foothills. So how do we know what we are to do to fulfill the Great Commission?

That question is to be answered by the leadership of the local church. They are to look at the commission and then look at the church setting and plot the direction. Using the Bible as their primary tool and then the Confession as a supporting device, they are to determine the what, how and to who based on the environment surrounding them. Again, what part of Christ's body is within our local church and what particulars need to be considered so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is presented accurately, soundly and in a way, that ultimately brings glory to our Lord?

We need another level of guidance. I am proud to say that your leadership here at New Sterling has done these things in a document called Guiding Principles and they want to present to you the direction they believe God has called us.

Someone asked a very good question when these Guiding Principles were presented to the Leadership Team. The question was basically, why? Why do we need these Guiding Principles? As I said it was a very good question because it would seem that we have been doing well and we have the Bible to give us direction. My response to the question was simple. When

there is a gathering of people such as we have at New Sterling and there is not a clear direction then the individuals tend to do whatever they feel is the best. Well, we have been blessed here at New Sterling with some very good people so the work here has seen its rewards. But we also may be going in many different directions at the same time. All that is done may be good but are all these activities good at same time? Inefficiencies and duplications are produced which can lead to confusion if we are not on the same page with all our resources. With Guiding Principles that present a Vision, Purpose, Values, a Target and Actions a clear path for an organization is established and with that brings a greater sense of accomplishment for those involved.

Personally I have been praying, watching you, reading, watching you some more and praying some more for about 2 years in this area trying to determine our niche, trying to recognize what God has called us to do. Henry Blackaby said in his study *Experiencing God*, 'watch what God is doing, and join him.' In short, what Blackaby meant is that we should watch for what God is doing, join him and pray for him to continue to bless that work rather than to establish our own work and ask him to bless that. Here at New Sterling that is what I have been doing. I have been watching for what God is doing here and I have seen very clearly, by your actions what he is busy doing. These Guiding Principles are a product of what you have been involved in for many, many years. We simply are now putting these actions on paper with a desire to concentrate more clearly on these activities. When you read through them do not think this is a change in direction. It is simply a presentation of our direction that I have been seeing over the 4 years which is a reflection of what has been going on here for years.

I have seen that we are a family-oriented church, which means God is bringing families together here to be a part of his body to worship him and then also to be instructed, encouraged, and disciplined in the ways of being a family. I have had comments from some young men who are starting their families and they have identified to me that they want to raise their children here. This is a testimony of what God is doing here.

For me that starts with the individual. The individual must be a disciple of Christ, seek to know him, and seek to live their life for him in all ways at all times. Then if the individual has done this, then their family will reap the benefits and be the family that God will honor. Our vision statement reflects this point of beginning

and encourages every person ... To live the full spectrum of life in obedience to the complete counsel of God. This is what we want to be and to do. The statement portrays our desire to live our complete lives whether at work, at school, at home, hanging out with friends, shopping at Wal-Mart, driving along the roads, at all times according the full and complete counsel of the living God. There is nothing in God's Word that we will overlook, not preach, not identify as having impact in our lives. I will preach the full counsel of God's word. This is a tall order. Are we doing this now? I think probably not. However, we do have the desire. Moreover, as we live our individual lives to this vision our families, our churches and our communities will be blessed by God for our obedience.

Let me interject here that although we see our niche as being associated with families this does not mean there is not a place here for the unmarried. The unmarried individuals within our body will add a great deal to our congregation as a vital member of our family. In addition, remember as I said this all starts with the individual and your relationship with

Christ. After that, it is our charge to lead everyone to be what God has called him or her to be. If you choose to remain single, as Paul of the Bible did, then I pray that you continue to find that you are an irreplaceable part of our family.

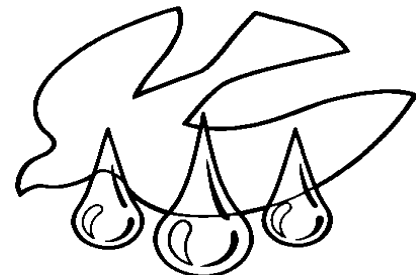
I hope you can tell I am excited about this direction set by our session. I see God's hand in it and I hope you can catch the excitement of what God is doing here at New Sterling. In the following pages, I want to present to you the Guiding Principles and explain a little about them. Starting on Feb 19, I will visit a Sunday School class each morning to go over these things with you and take your questions and feedback.

This is a great time for New Sterling because God is blessing our work. Let us not grow weary as we march on for our Lord!

In His service,  
Pastor Tim

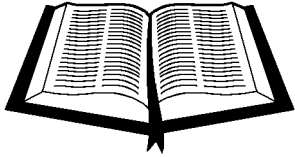


**Paisley Jordan Graham was baptized February 5, 2006. Paisley is the daughter of Scott and Jessica Graham.**



# Be Prepared to Give a Defense

This is the definition for the word *apologetics*. It is a Greek word and we use it to identify being able to give a defense or a reason for what we believe or how we act. If you are asked to give a reason for your belief in Jesus Christ or to give a defense for why you live according to a Christian ethic then you would respond by giving an apology. It is not to say you are sorry but to explain why you act or believe the way you do.



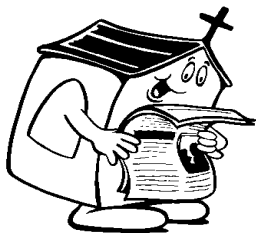
1 Peter 3:15 says to be prepared 'to give the reason for the hope you have.' The word reason in this sentence is the Greek word *apologia*; give a reason, or defense. Well, this is something that the Health Implementation Team has identified as being an area where improvement is needed. We need to be able to better give a reason and defend why we are believers and why we conduct our lives as we do. In the end, this will help us improve our evangelistic efforts as well.

Our dear friend Joseph Alghrary has agreed to help us with this. Joseph's major in seminary was Apologetics so he is very qualified. Beginning on Sunday evening, March 12 at 6 and continuing for several weeks, Joseph will teach Apologetics in a way that we can understand and grasp. This is something that is very dear and close to Joseph so he jumped at the chance to share this with a group of people he cares so much about.

Please plan to attend. Regular Sunday-nighters we expect to see you. If you have never made Sunday evenings a part of your week, now may be the time. We will sing just a bit, listen to Joseph's wonderful teaching and then share a meal together. What could be greater? There are also other events going on for all ages, so bring the whole family, and join in the good fellowship.

This is important to us as a church so please come and do your part to help us improve sharing the gospel with our neighbors. If you have questions please do not hesitate to call Scotti McCulloch or me.

Pastor Tim



## Family Worship

One of the goals of the Worship Committee in 2006 is to promote and help develop family worship time. One resource is the Upper Room which many of you already read daily.

Just a reminder that the new copy of the Upper Room for March/April is in the church vestibule.



Nursery and  
Childrens Church  
Volunteers Needed

If anyone is interested in helping in the nursery during the 11:00 Worship Hour, please contact Pat Price. This can be High School age, young adults, parents and grandparents. All help is welcome.

Also if you would like to help out with Children's Church during the Worship Hour, please contact Patti Gryder. Good teachers are always needed.

# Guiding Principles for New Sterling Ministries

## Biblical Theme

Fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness ... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord Joshua 24:14-15

## Vision

To live the full spectrum of life in obedience to the complete counsel of God

## Purpose

We are God's children, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love and serve Jesus Christ; to preach and teach God's Holy Word and to encourage others to follow Christ.

## Values

The Word of God, Prayer, Worship, the Sacraments & Fellowship

## Target

Families...

We seek to bring God's teaching to the forefront for our families ... so that the parents and the children can be raised up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Our neighbors...

It would be misleading to identify New Sterling as a 'seeker-sensitive' church. However, New Sterling has been and will always be a place where anyone can come and worship the triune God in a biblical worship style

New Sterling is a place where those who have experienced difficult situations can find shelter and sanctuary from our people. We offer the forgiveness and love of Christ as we preach the good and sound gospel to those who are starving for the nourishing words of truth directly from the Holy Scriptures.

*All of the above is based on scriptural references. These will be handed out at an information session and will be noted. If you would like more information on these before that time, see Pastor Tim.*

Continued on page 5

## Our Actions

We, the church, will provide the means necessary for our members to fulfill the 4 Levels of the Christian Life. Each believer should have the ability to answer positively about the church's provision of resources and instruction for each level

We, the church, pray that as members of New Sterling each person can say...

### Level I – Commitment to Christ

I am committed to Christ

I am committed to learning about him and his church

### Level II – Commitment to Maturity

I am attending a periodic small group Bible Study

I am spending daily time with God

I am giving my financial resources to God

### Level III – Commitment to Ministry

I am serving in ministry

I am seeking to grow in my area of gifting

I am instructing others

I am reaching out in love to those around me

### Level IV – Commitment to Multiplication

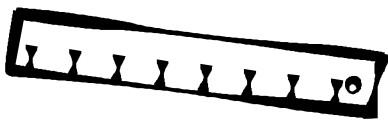
I am living an authentic Christian life

I am fulfilling my covenant responsibilities within my family

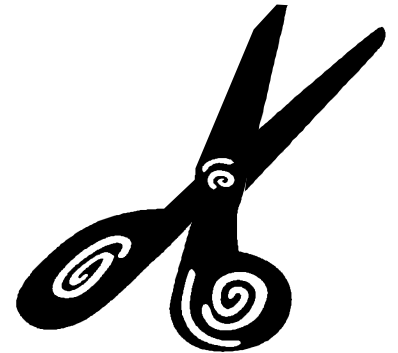
I am sharing my faith stories - 'Sowing the Seeds'

I am bringing my unchurched &/or apathetic friends to church

“Where there is a passion to grow people first, passionate people  
will grow effective ministries” ~ Unknown



**It's time** for all our crafty and talented New Sterling folks to make items for the Bonclarken Gift Shop!!! Our gifts help support Bonclarken ministries. Please place your craft items on the designated table in the fellowship hall on Sunday, April 16th. The craft items will be taken to Bonclarken on April 17th. Thank you!!!!



## Waking Up for Church

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going." "Why not?" she asked. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me, and two, I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll give YOU two good reasons why YOU SHOULD go to church. (1) You're 59 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"



New Sterling Youth Shepherds  
**BBQ Auction**

Where: New Sterling Church

When: Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

BBQ: 4-6 pm (Takeouts available)

Auction: 6:30 pm

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO FUND THE  
HARLAN, KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP IN JULY.**

Any donations should be brought to the  
Fellowship Hall by 5 pm Friday, March 17th.

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**The Senior Adult Spring Fling will be held at**

**First Statesville ARP Church on**

**Thursday, March 30, 2006 from**

**9:00 am—3:30 pm**

**The cost is \$7.00 per person.**

**Please see Betty Godfrey or Pastor Tim to sign up by**

**March 27, 2006**

HERE AND  
THERE!!!!!!



**Jimmy and Andy Gray** held a youth duck hunt at their farms. **Jacob McNeely** and **Harrison Jenkins** were both successful hunters.....Ask **Kim Brady** what she has been feeding her family for the last 4-6 weeks.....If you see **Brent Mauney**, ask him what and who is cooking at Zaxby's.....There were **27 ladies** at the night Beth Moore Study Group the first night and **11 ladies** at the morning session.....There are **35 ladies** signed up for the Women's Beach Retreat.....Ask **Garrett Deal** about the highlight of his basketball season. Could it be the 2 points he scored a couple of weeks ago???...There has been a lot of whinning and crying going on at the home of **Lynn Jenkins** while he has been in Mississippi. Is it **Muriel** or **Peppy**???...If you have not heard the good news, there will be a new addition for **Mamaw** and **Papaw Harper**. **Cindy and Chuck** are expecting in September!!!!...

Bring more news for next month Scotti.....

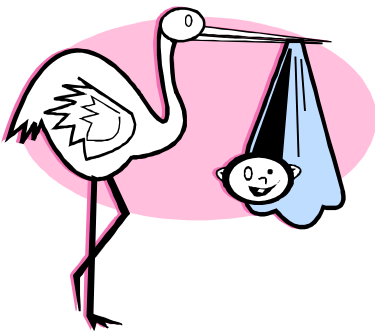
## Perfect Attendance for 2005

We have information that several of our members have perfect attendance for 2005.

**Wayne Waugh** — Sunday School and Worship Hour  
**Lynn Jenkins** — Sunday School and Worship Hour  
**Darrell Elliott** — Sunday School and Worship Hour



Please let the newsletter staff know if your name needs to be on this list. This is a very important acknowledgement and everyone should know. You all should be proud.



**Two stork signs for announcing the birth of new babies have been donated to the church, one pink and one blue. These are located in the small room to the right of the stage in the fellowship hall.**

**They area for any church member to borrow—Just sign them out on the sheet on the refrigerator door.**



The annual event that the members of Sterling Silvers eagerly await each year will occur on the 13 February at 1030AM in the Fellowship Hall. I shall not make any special plea for attendance for revelation of the event will prove enough to have 100% attendance. The WOC of the church will prepare and serve the LUNCHEON. Luncheon is not the word, FEAST would be more appropriate.

Reminder that the Spring Fling will be Thursday, March 30th at the First Statesville ARP church at 9AM. Make sure your name is on the list before March 26. See Betty Godfrey or Pastor Tim to add your name to the list. Pastor Tim will drive the van for those who need transportation.

Wearing of the GREEN would help to set the tone of the meeting for it will ST PATRICK day week.

Betty Godfrey (704 872 2940) will fill in as chairman during my absence during the month of March. (I would change my travel plans if not for the birth of my first GREAT grand child by my first grandchild in honor to partake of the WOC gourmet feast.)

Pastor Tim briefed us on the proposal of purchasing a church bus at our February meeting and Jim Dagenhart is our representative for the committee.

Sarge



# THE HOLY ALPHABET

**A** lthough things are not perfect

**B** ecause of trial or pain

**C** ontinue in thanksgiving

**D** o not begin to blame

**E** ven when the times are hard

**F** ierce winds are bound to blow

**G** od is forever able

**H** old on to what you know

**I** magine life without His love

**J** oy would cease to be

**K** eep thanking Him for all the things

**L** ove imparts to thee

**M** ove out of "Camp Complaining"



**N** o weapon that is known

**O** n earth can yield the power

**P** raise can do alone

**Q** uit looking at the future

**R** edeem the time at hand

**S** tart every day with worship

**T** o "thank" is a command

**U** ntil we see Him coming

**V** ictorious in the sky

**W** e'll run the race with gratitude

**X** alting God most high

**Y** es, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...

**Z** ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

# THIS DAY BAND



And the walls of  
New Sterling  
Rocked and the  
Roof was raised.



There was loud and  
joyful music, singing,  
clapping and praise.



There was  
dancing in the  
aisle.



There was testimony  
given.



There was  
Reverence and  
Prayer

# College Student Addresses

**Sarah Watts**

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**Kelly Pugh**

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(University of North Carolina -Charlotte)

**Clifton Mauney**

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**Nolan Winters**

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**Erica Harper**

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**Andrea Clark**

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(Erskine College)

**Preston Tolbert**

prestontolbert@yahoo.com  
(Western Carolina University)

## Our Church Family in Iraq



**PFC Charlie McClure**  
E Battery 13B 2nd Plt  
6204 NW Rothwell Street  
Fort Sill, OK 73502-8112

**LCPL Kirk Dagenhart**  
212 F Company Plt 73075  
FPO AE 09509-3075

(Kirk is in Karma, Iraq which is 8 miles north of Fallujah)

*Kirk is Jim and Eleanor Dagenhart's grandson. His father is Steve Dagenhart.*

**GSGT. David Leonard USMC**  
HMM-266

UIC 77081  
FPO AE 09509-7081

*David is Art and Dixie Waugh's son-in-law.*



\*\*\* Correction

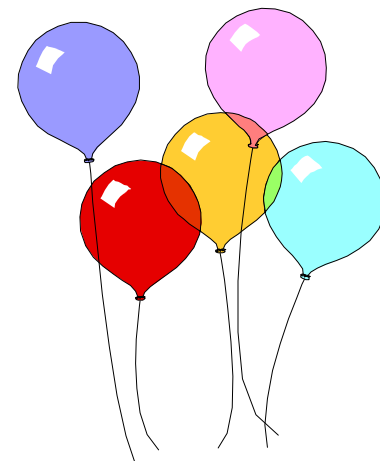
- 1 Dot Dagenhart
- 1 DJ Nugent
- 2 Rachel Gray
- 4 Laura Bailey
- 4 Jim Hartness
- 4 Joe Jenkins
- 4 Wesley Jenkins
- 4 Pat Sherrill
- 5 Clay Price
- 5 Jessica Burruel
- 5 Tim Watson
- 6 Darrell Elliott
- 6 Erin Waugh
- 7 Rick Bustle
- 9 Leah Gryder
- 9 Michelle Hansley
- 11 Brian Caldwell
- 11 Floyd Levan
- 11 Taryn Setzer
- 13 Amy Gray
- 13 Brianna Henderson
- 14 Todd Winters
- 15 Gary Goodman
- 15 Matthew Moose
- 16 Tim Hager
- 16 Dylan Hartness
- 16 Charles Pope
- 20 Nolan Winters
- 22 Wendy Pope



- 23 Sue Fulbright
- 23 Alan Reavis
- 23 Gary Reavis
- 23 Steve Yount
- 25 Betty Levan
- 25 Birchie Pope
- 25 Wayne Waugh
- 26 Ruth Foy
- 27 Robert Boggs
- 27 Cindy Hardin
- 28 Josh Burruel
- 28 Hunter Hansley
- 28 Julia Massey
- 28 Johnny Shoemaker
- 29 Libby Brooks
- 31 Kristal Harding
- 31 Cindy McNeely
- 31 Judy Morrison

# M a r c h

# B i r t h d a y s



**The Will of God never takes you to where the  
Grace of God will not protect you.**