



*Join us for a cup  
of coffee every Sunday  
morning in the kitchen  
before Church School*

**Presbyterian Web Sites:**

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org](http://www.peakspresbytery.org)  
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: [www.synatlantic.org](http://www.synatlantic.org)  
Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)  
Pby. Disaster Assistance: [www.pcusa.org/pda/](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/)  
Presbyterian Today: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today](http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today)  
Pby. News Service: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem](http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem)

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STEEPLE VIEWS

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*Our Mission is to:  
Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other.*

# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

June 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

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## Happy Birthday in Juneto:

And in July to.....



### **The Tempo “Our Musical Pulse”**

#### **The Chancel Choir**

Christmas will be here before we can turn around three times and shout “Merry Christmas” and a “Happy New Year.” Well, it seems like that anyway. We sang our Christmas Music Service on December 19 and, by the time you read this, we will have sung our “Isaiah Speaks” Spring Worship Service.

This music has been a joy to prepare and I trust we had a crowd of worshippers who involved themselves in the service. Early in the preparation, I asked the choir to read through the book of Isaiah and note the context of the particular passages we are singing as texts of the hymns and anthems in the service. So many of Isaiah’s writings have great meaning for us, especially the ones which prophesy about Jesus’ birth.

I always appreciate the hard work of the choir members on a project like this one. Please express your thanks to them as well.

#### **The Langley Winds**

It is always a pleasure to have this ensemble of fine musicians perform in or church. They represent the United States Air Force in a very creditable manner. It is nice to have TSgt. Anne Epperly with us. I have known Anne since her birth. She grew up in the Music Ministry of First Baptist Church where she sang in the Graded Choir program from age four and up. We thank her mother, Judy Mattox, for entertaining them in her home for a late dinner.

#### **The Sanctuary Ringers**

What a fine group of musicians and a flexible one. This Handbell Choir for adults and youth altered their rehearsal schedule for several weeks so that, on Wednesday evenings, it would not conflict with the Lenten Services. They also added fifteen minutes to their 55 minute rehearsal time. It makes a positive difference and I am glad that we have it.

Only a couple more months in their season. The choir rings on Palm Sunday and on May 15.

I have not heard of any vacancies in the choir, but we always need subs when our members have to be away. If you are a ringer and would like to be on our short sub list, please let Bob know. Cynthia Dobrinski, Sam Smith and Kimberly Seamon have helped us this year, and we thank them for their assistance.

#### **The Congregational Choir**

I am almost sure that each of you has a special hymn which has meaning for you. Only you know exactly why. Perhaps it was during a high spiritual experience, a hymn sung during a worship service when you were a youth, or one which spoke to your grief when a loved one passed away.

Hymn singing aids us in expressing our spiritual beliefs and ideas in worship. You might say that the hymn writer puts words in our mouths which are expressions of great saints of the past and present.

Hymn singing enables us to speak to God directly. We sing our praise, our faith, our confession and our dedication.

Hymn singing proclaims our faith to others. When we sing with feeling and enthusiasm, we can have a spiritual impact on other people. It is not difficult to be moved in a service of worship when a great hymn is sung. In fact, we trust it happens frequently in our worship. John and Charles Wesley were ordained Methodist Clergy who were on a ship to Savannah, Georgia. It had stormed all Sunday afternoon. At 7 o’clock, in the midst of a Moravian Vesper Service, the sea broke over the ship and split the mainsail and seemingly swallowed the ship. The English screamed but the Moravians calmly sang on. Perhaps this experience led directly to the Wesleys’ later Al-

dersgate conversion experience where their "Hearts felt strangely warmed." From that experience their ministry transformed the heart of England.

We trust that our hymn singing has a similar effect on persons in our worship services, expressing the faith from the depths of your being. It is one time you can have a voice in what your church is doing. Do it WELL!



### Youth and Children's Music

#### **WAMMERS ready for *The Three Trees***

Our WAM group is preparing for our April 10 presentation of *The Three Trees*. This music drama is a personal favorite of mine because of the music, the message and the meaning that is within it on many different levels. It will be presented during the 11:00 service and will stand as the message for that day. The rest of the music that day will be presented by the children and youth as well. It is a wonderful Sunday to worship together in such a meaningful way, with Easter so close at hand.

#### **New Season of Music for *Music Together* Crew**

The youngest musicians and their parents are preparing for our Spring music unit in Music Together. We are starting the "Maracas" unit which has some wonderful music and activities. At present, there are two openings for new families and I will be happy to explain the program to any and all! Just let me know. We meet on Tuesdays from 11:00 to 11:45!

#### ***Kindermusik* Kindergartners Love the Organ**

As part of the Kindermusik program for our kindergarten crew, we study the life and music of J. S. Bach. In concert with that, I always take

them into the sanctuary for a demonstration and then let each child experience the joy of choosing their sound and playing. They are always thrilled. Hopefully, we will have some new organists in a few years.

#### ***Contemporary Worship***

We bid adieu to two of our wonderful members. Betty and Gene Stanley have given so much time and talent to our Contemporary service. We will miss their wonderful gifts and the joy they bring to all, as they retire from actively singing in the service. Betty, along with Gene, led the group through the preparation for the first service and through the first nine months with joy, grace, and love. They are dear friends and we will all miss them so much! Please thank them for all they have done when you see them!

Mattie Wingfield will be joining us again with her wonderful voice and demeanor. We can't wait. I am happy to talk with any of you who would like to know more about being part of this group who has wonderful fellowship together as we prepare music on Tuesday evenings and Sunday morning. It is a Christ-centered group that is welcoming and very loyal. Interested?? Please give me the opportunity to discuss the great possibilities with you; whether you like to sing, play an instrument, would like to be part of the tech team or would like to pray for us. We welcome all Comers!!

Joy and Peace to you as we walk toward the Empty Tomb together.

Betsy

**All-Church Clean-Up on Saturday, April 16, from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon.** The Facilities Committee will have an all-church cleanup day. An all-church cleanup means all the members and visitors of the church are invited to help spruce up our building. We have stand-

up jobs, sit-down jobs, move-around jobs and boss jobs. Please join your friends here at 1901 Patrick Henry Avenue on April 16 and find out how much fun it is to join in for a few hours to make our facilities shine! Lunch will be served afterwards

### ***Continuing Ecumenical Lenten Series***

Our ecumenical Lenten Series, which began in March, will have its final meetings on April 6 and 13, hosted at Christ Episcopal Church. The theme for the series is *Christian Discipleship: Instruments of Peace, Channels of Grace*, inspired by the Prayer attributed to St. Francis. Christian discipleship is a call to become instruments of peace and channels of grace, reconciliation and renewal. As members of the faith community in Martinsville and Henry County, we are called to exercise discipleship together to promote the welfare and renewal of our community and congregations. Each Wednesday we will focus on a section of that prayer through devotional time, a presentation from a community speaker, and by conversation around table during supper.

The schedule each Wednesday will be:

5:30-6:15p.m. Devotion and

Community Speaker

6:15-7:00p.m. Soup supper and conversation

The remaining locations and speakers will be:

**April 6**-Christ Episcopal Church, speakers, Sammy Redd, Tom Salyer

**April 13** – Christ Episcopal Church, speakers, Anna Bowe Wells, Brian Williams

### **One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering**

On **Palm Sunday, April 17**, and **Easter Sunday, April 24**, we will receive the annual *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*. The purpose of this offering is to meet human needs and is administered through three programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA): the *Presbyterian Hunger program*, *Presbyterian World Service*, and the *Self Development of People*. This offering is an opportunity to help us all realize the

material blessings we have and reminds us to share our abundance with those in need. Please give generously to this offering and give witness to the unity to which Christ calls us!

**The Good Friday Worship Service** will be held at noon, on April 22, in our sanctuary. Once again, the service will focus on the “Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross.” Various hymns and prayers will be interspersed throughout the service. Preaching at this service will be Randy, Jenny, Bob Button, Clint Spivey, and Rusty Reaser. This service is very meaningful and everyone is urged to attend.

**Easter/Resurrection of the Lord is celebrated on Sunday, April 24.** We will begin with a 9:30 a.m. Easter breakfast in the fellowship hall. The children will participate in an Easter Egg Hunt following the breakfast. Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 10:40 a.m. Then, we will gather in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. amidst the beautiful and fragrant Easter lilies, and “pull out all the stops” as we worship the risen Lord and proclaim his resurrection victory over death! There will be only one worship service this day.

Please join with your church family and friends for as many of these worship and fellowship events as possible. Your presence and involvement will make **Holy Week** that much more meaningful!



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The *First Presbyterian Women's Birthday* will be celebrated in the Fellowship Hall on May 2 at 7:00 p.m. complete with birthday cake. All women in the church are invited to attend!!

### Session Highlights for May 21, 2012

or old toys to donate! We will organize and price the items the week before, and hold the sale Saturday morning.

#### **Sunday, April 10 – 5:00 p.m. at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church: Extreme Egg Hunt.”**

We will join together with the youth at Forest Hills for some extreme egg hunting, and as we open our eggs we will eat candy (of course) and find scriptures that tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

#### **Sunday, April 17 – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

Dinner and Youth Sunday Planning

**Sunday, April 24** – No youth group in evening  
Happy Easter!

**Upcoming in May** – Our annual **Youth Sunday** will be May 8, and we will lead the 11:00 Worship service (there will be no contemporary service this day). Also, May 15, at 5:30 p.m., we will host a fundraising dinner for our Mission Trip. We will cook and serve food to those who attend.

#### **Youth Mission Trip – June 26 – July 1**

This year, we will be traveling to Charlotte, NC to participate in the Avondale Presbyterian Church Urban Work Camp Program. Projects include home repairs, serving meals to the homeless and mentoring children. The goal of this program is “to be inspired, and inspire others as you meet Jesus Christ face to face in our city.” This trip is for youth in grades 6-12, and we are also looking for adult chaperones (especially someone to serve as our cook!).

Registration forms are available in the church office and on the youth bulletin board near the Youth Room. The registration form should be returned to the church office with a \$50 deposit. All deposits are due by Sunday April 3, and a meeting will be held that evening at 5:30 p.m. for all who have registered as well as parents. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Jenny, 632-3431, or [pastorjen-nyfpc@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjen-nyfpc@yahoo.com)

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### **Montreat Youth Conference 2011**

All youth from rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders through graduated seniors are invited to come along with our group to the Montreat Youth Conference from July 24-30. The theme for this year's conference is *Searching for the Signal*. A Youth Conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings where the conference then is explored, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship. Our group will be staying together in the Trevor's Retreat cottage, as in years past. Information forms have been sent out by mail, and are available on the bulletin board downstairs near the youth room. The total cost for church members is \$200, and for non-church members is \$250. A deposit of \$50 is due by April 30. The remainder of the cost is due on June 15. If you need financial assistance, please speak to Pastor Jenny.

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### ***Celebrations***

**Congratulations** to Ryan and Jana Jennings on the birth of their daughter, Grace Caroline Jennings, March 12, 2011, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Lee Eden is the proud grandmother!

**The Sacrament of Baptism** was celebrated on Sunday, March 20, 2011, for Emma Elizabeth Wilson and Evan Ray Wilson, children of Carrie and Darrell Wilson.

STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.

Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer; Mailing Staff: Marian Campbell

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