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of coffee every Sunday  
morning in the kitchen  
before Church School*

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STEEPLEVIEWS

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

# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

August, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

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## **From My Perspective Within The Kingdom**

Many years ago, in a high school Sociology class, I was introduced to the concept of “role expectation.” The idea behind role expectation is that whatever image is projected onto another person, he or she will often become that expectation we have of him or her. For example, if we repeatedly tell someone that he is lazy, we shouldn’t be too surprised if he then accommodates our image of him by making that idea his reality. Or, think of a classroom where a teacher encourages her students by often telling them how bright or how special they are; surely, the class average will go up. Conversely, if another teacher is constantly telling her students how sorry they are and how they will never amount to much, it’s not too surprising if and when her students aim their sights too low. If we repeatedly tell our baptized children that they are God’s special delight, we hope and expect that our children will grow up with very healthy self-images and discover and develop their many gifts.

Now then, with this notion of role expectation in mind, I want to take to task a myth that is said about Presbyterians, a myth that perhaps you and I have chuckled about and repeated often enough that we have begun to believe it and accept it as reality. Most of my adult life, I have heard it said, many times and in many places, (and, I confess that I have said it as well), that “Presbyterians are God’s frozen chosen!” That’s a cute and whimsical statement about Presbyterians but don’t you dare believe it, accept it, or live out that expectation for one moment because it is a lie!

Let me do my best to debunk the myth that Presbyterians are God’s frozen chosen. First, let me say that there is some truth found within that claim. As we have been studying The Book of Confessions in our combined adult Summer Sunday School class, we have learned repeatedly that we Presbyterians are elected by God. In other words, God took the initiative and chose us; we did not choose God for ourselves. Thus, we truly are chosen by God and saved by grace and faith alone. That part is significant.

Presbyterians affirm the stewardship of the mind. After all, Jesus commanded us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31a). We love God in every way possible and that certainly includes loving God on an intellectual basis. John Calvin, who gave shape to Reformed theology during the Protestant Reformation, was an intellectual, and he put his stamp on our faith perspective. From Calvin on, Presbyterians have always stressed education and the life of the mind. However, that is not to say that we are frozen, “stuffed shirts” about our faith and our practice of the faith.

Here at First Presbyterian, we are certainly not frozen. You only have to look as far as the community cookout on June 19 to see how warm we really were/are (and, I’m talking about far more than the weather!). We welcomed and conversed with, we mixed and mingled, we fed and enjoyed being with more than a hundred of our neighbors from throughout the Martinsville area. By our actions, we said loudly and clearly that we are not frozen. Instead, we are warm-hearted and outgoing Presbyterians, who love and serve the Lord and our neighbors with genuine compassion. So, don’t live the lie that we are the frozen chosen of God. Keep up the good work, First Presbyterians!

In Christ’s love,  
Randy

## Associate Pastor's Column

Grace and peace, welcome and hospitality, love and learning. All these are wonderful words that describe my first month here at First Presbyterian Church. These weeks have been joyful and exciting ones to begin my time as your Associate Pastor. My family and I are so thankful to everyone who welcomed us here by helping around the house and bringing delicious food, which we heartily enjoyed! What a *joy* it was to share in the Community Cookout and have the opportunity to meet everyone and enjoy food, fellowship and music. It was also my great *joy* to be able to travel along with eleven youth and five adults on the Mission Trip to Galilee-by-the-Sea in North Carolina. We sang and worshipped, painted and cleaned, and most importantly, formed new relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ we met there. And I will not soon forget the incredible energy and excitement of our recent Vacation Bible School. Thanks to Janet Fentress and a wonderful and dedicated crew, over 90 children embarked on a "High Seas Expedition" to learn about God's Word, and they *enjoyed* every minute!

But these events weren't simply about fun, they were about being God's people and participating in God's mission in the world. It reminds me of the first question of the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Confession of Faith "Question: What is the chief end of humankind? Answer: Humankind's chief end is to *glorify* God and *enjoy* God forever." *Glorify* God! *Enjoy* God! This is our call as faithful people of God! In thanksgiving, let us enjoy the many blessings that God has given us in this place: energy, talents, resources, and community. And let us use all these gifts to the glory of God, and to proclaim God's good news to everyone around us!

Jenny Spivey

## Happy Birthday in August to:



- 1 David Chittum, Anne Peterson
- 2 Lynne Beeler, Virginia Becker, Allan Miller
- 3 Marge Dunn, Libby Goldstein
- 4 Liz Goldstein
- 5 Ruth Garland, Bob Richeson
- 6 Ann Crouch, Bunny O'Neal, Elizabeth Chapman
- 8 Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Beth Lawson, Carrie Buffkin
- 13 Chuck Cundiff
- 15 Caroline Harris
- 17 Maggie Pilson, Martha Pilson, Elizabeth Walsh
- 18 Cindy Nease, Madison Powell
- 19 Alison Parker, Bill Plonk
- 21 Ron Fentress, Bill Stone
- 22 Laura Buffkin, Johnny Pinkard, Troy Rakes, Kym Tatum
- 23 Anne Abercrombie, Carol Ann Mahoney
- 24 Nan Smith
- 25 Margaret Lester
- 26 Gentry Zentmeyer
- 27 Ray Pruitt
- 28 Bob Bledsoe
- 29 Joe Williams, Stuart Beard
- 31 Dot Bryson, Bill Nease

## .....and in September to:

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 2 Trula Campbell
- 3 Shirley Nease
- 4 Nancy Davis, Vance James
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Eden Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Richard Huff
- 10 Brooke Sanders

# Youth and Children's Music News



The approach of Fall is always exciting as I look forward to seeing wonderful children, youth, and parents-some that I have already had the pleasure of knowing and some new ones as well.

We will be starting all musical activities the week after Labor Day. All groups will begin on Monday, September 10 and Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Input Please!**

I have had wonderful support from the parents who have so willingly served to help our children and youth in their musical journey. I would like to ask those of you who are interested in helping me mold our program to come to a meeting with other like-minded parents. We have several issues to consider, such as fellowship and mission possibilities. If you would be willing to meet with me once in August, and then probably two more times during the musical year, please let me know. I will find a time that suits the majority. Your time will be used wisely. We will plan to meet early in August.

## **Classes for Fall**

I am really looking forward to fall and getting back with the children, youth and wonderful adults with whom I am fortunate to work. The schedule is basically the same with a tweak here and there

We are always looking for new friends. If you know someone that might enjoy being part of our musical family, please let me know, and I will call them or send a news letter.

Fall Schedule is as follows:

**The schedule for the fall takes into account that we have children coming from 5 different school systems, each of whom has different time schedules for dismissal. The city school children are dismissed first, hence the early beginning time. We will have enrichment activities until all children arrive.**

**Monday:** 2:45-4:30 WAM (Worship, Arts and Music) for 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders (Singing, drama, playing instruments, handbells/handchimes all combined). I pick up the children from Patrick Henry at 2:45. Others come in as their individual school schedules allow. The children will be grouped by grade and will rotate through an exciting afternoon of music, crafts and games. This is the year we have two plays, so that is always a treat!!

**We are going to need significant parental involvement in this group. The work that it takes to put on a Christmas and a Lenten play is enormous and it is simply more than I can handle. If everyone takes on a small responsibility, we have more ownership and no one is overwhelmed.**

**Tuesday:** 11:00-11:45 Music Together (Early musical experiences for children from birth through 3 years with parent or caregiver) There is a limited number of spaces, so please let me know if you are interested since church members have priority. We will be purchasing at-home materials for this group to use at home. There will be 3 quarters, Fall, Winter, and Spring and the cost for the materials is \$35 for each quarter. Please make checks out to the church, ear marked for *Music Together*.

12:00-1:30 Kindermusik I (Sequential musical experiences ie, singing drama, games, and play for 4year olds. The children bring their lunches and then we have our class together. (Parents come at 1:30 for the wrap up) The fee for church members is \$35. The \$35 covers the child's bag and glockenspiel, but you can borrow them from friends and save yourself some money! The fee for non members is \$150 for the year. Again, if you borrow a bag and glock from someone, your fee is reduced by \$35.

2:45-4:00 Kindermusik II. (Sequential musical experiences in reading, singing multi cultural music and playing for Kindergartners. The children will learn to play their own dulcimers and recorders). This is a continuation of Kindermusik I, but others who have not had Kindermusik I are welcome. Parents come at 3:55 for the wrap-up time) There is no fee for members, and non members' fee is \$150.

**I would like to have a Middle school group. The group can decide if it would like the direction to be handbells, plays, or instrumental. We need 6 dedicated musicians to make it a go. Day and time would be decided on by the group.**

Cantabile Ringers! This is a group for advanced handbell players. We meet on a day that suits the group, usually Sunday after church. This is for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and up.

Please sign up on the right and let me hear from you if you have questions, suggestions or comments. In order for me to be able to order music and materials, I need your completed form by **August 20<sup>th</sup>**. You can mail them, drop them in the offering plate on a Sunday, or put in my box in the office.

**\*\*Classes begin the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>.** (WAM will begin the next Monday)  
I am looking forward to a fantastic year. Feel free to call me at the church or at home with any problem, suggestion or just to chat.....or email is fine too. [betsyhaskins@yahoo.com](mailto:betsyhaskins@yahoo.com).



Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Music Group \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Music Group \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (please list cell phones as well for emergencies.)

Mom's phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School and grade \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency when parents can not be reached:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Other health Issues: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Involvement-Please let me know if you would like to assist in any manner. The more input we have from others, the better the experience for the children and youth.

I would like to help with the following:

\_\_\_ FPC Parent's Music Council

\_\_\_ Organizational tasks

\_\_\_ Robe and music organization

\_\_\_ Brainstorming

\_\_\_ Organizing snacks and parties for a particular group

\_\_\_ Overseeing the schedule for drivers to Carlisle on Mondays.

\_\_\_ Youth helpers for the large group on Mondays:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **from the Stevens Family**

Dear church family and friends,

Thank you for your many prayers and acts of kindness before, during, and after Laura's and her cousin James', respectively, kidney surgeries. Both surgeries were successful and both Laura and James are healing and recuperating nicely.

Also, by the time you are reading this note, I will have had a total left hip replacement on Monday, July 19, at Memorial Hospital here in Martinsville. I expect to be in the hospital for several days and then I will be going to the Stanleytown rehabilitation center for several weeks before going home. I hope to be back at work the latter part of August. Thanks to Jenny Spivey for picking up so many extra duties so early on in her pastorate here; thanks to Sarah Altizer for "holding down the fort" as usual; and thanks to our members and friends for their many prayers and kind thoughts. I hope to see you before too long.

Love,  
Randy

### ***Contributions to Various Funds***

#### **General Memorial Fund**

Wes D. McAllister – IMO Gloria Rhodes  
The Book Exchange Club – IMO Gloria Rhodes

#### **Pastors Discretionary Fund**

Linda Pickett  
Anne Lackey – IMO Doris Treakle

## ***Mark those calendars!***

Jenny Spivey will be installed as our Associate Pastor on August 29, at 4:00 p.m. - reception will follow the worship service

## ***Making a Difference***

On Wednesday, June 23, I had the opportunity to take a mission trip with 10 other youth and 6 adults from our church. We were joined by a group from Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. I am so glad I went. It was a wonderful experience spiritually, and we managed to have a lot of fun. Everyone is encouraged to go on our next mission trip. You will be energized and renewed in the Lord.

We traveled to New Hanover and Brunswick counties. When we arrived we were greeted by the wonderful mission trip leader, Phillip Pennington. He took the boys and girls to their respective homes where we slept. We were made to feel right at home.

The first day we worked at the Yahweh Center for foster and adoptive care children. We painted a shed and a fence for most of the day. After we finished, we went inside and ate pizza with some of the children. One little boy even wrote a touching song saying that God sends his helping angels to those who need Him.

The next few days we spent working on two trailers that were in poor condition. There were holes in the floor, roof, and almost everything needed a new coat of paint. Seeing that people had to live in these conditions was heartbreaking. We also played with the children that were just glad to have someone to play with them for a few hours. This made me appreciate everything I have.

This mission trip showed me things that I will remember for the rest of my life. Everywhere I went I could see that God was working through us to help other people's lives. God has called all of us to go and help our fellow man, and I feel confident that we did just that on the mission trip.

-Michael Mason

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

Our High Seas Voyage has ended and the ship has docked. We sailed over 90 kids through the Mighty Word of God and they had a great time on the trip. Besides our church there were 4 other sponsoring churches – Forest Hills Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Christ Episcopal, and Christ's Church. In addition to those 5 churches, there were also 17 other churches represented. What a great mission statement for our church!

While all 5 churches contributed staff, our church rose above with over 40 volunteers. Hopefully I won't leave anyone out. The craft station (aka The Cutty Sark) was again commanded by Bonnie Price assisted by David, Andrew, and Tyler (also photographer). Others helping in that station from our church were Kym Tatum, Kimberly Toothman, Emily Beard and Jordan Torrez (a member of our youth group).

The story station was led by Laura Stevens (she had major surgery when?? Monica said what??), Sam Smith and Carrie Buffkin assisted by Matthew Price. Sam and Carrie did an outstanding job putting the station together and leading the stories.

The Ship's Galley, which included the snacks every day and the picnic on Friday, was ably guided by JoAnne Sanders. The snacks were theme related everyday and so creative. On Friday over 200 kids, friends and parents were fed. Other great help in the kitchen included Marge Dunn, Judy Ware, Elizabeth Wotring, Nancy Davis and Sandra Ford. Judy Ware also put out breakfast snacks each day arriving before 7:30 and me. On Friday Darrell Wilson (engaged to Carrie Sanders) was our grillmaster. Did he really cook 150 hamburgers and 180 hotdogs by himself outside in the heat?

The games were led by Nancy Coble from Forest Hills Church but assisted by Jake and Zach Sanders and Alanna Ferguson. Nancy said she couldn't have asked for better help.

Mattie Wingfield assisted Marcy Heffinger (FHC) with the music station.

Leading the 3's & 4's (all 23 of them!) were Carrie Sanders, Betsy Haskins, Bob & Marty Davis, and Beth Lawson. Jenny Spivey led the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Other teens that helped with the various groups were Katie Krauss; Grey Ferguson; Meredith, Kimberly and William Seamon; and Virginia Zentmeyer. Darla Main-Schneider loaned us her granddaughter Kiersten Bertram. William Seamon also played drums, did our skit each morning and helped with the Spotlight Drama.

Barbara Tatum manned the registration table which was particularly stressful the first day (25 unregistered kids showed up – next-day shipping is how much??). Judy Ware also helped Barbara. Lynn Pritchett did crisis intervention and helped pull many details together. Dyer Pace and Ron Fentress helped with the decorations. Sarah Altizer ordered materials, ran copies, kept up with money and rang the bell.

What about me? Well, I did a lot of the overall planning, some of the decorating, tended to small details and led the opening and closing each day. But it was really the more than 50 volunteers that made it all come together and happen like it was supposed to. And it was all about the children – helping them have fun and learn about God in their lives.

Visit our church's website for many pictures taken at VBS. Also, Marcy Heffinger has the Spotlight Drama on her Facebook page (Marcy Hutchinson Heffenger).

We look forward to next year and PANDAMONIUM!!

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