

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

February 2014

Martinsville, Virginia

Upcoming in February

New Sunday School Class

A new Sunday School class for adults is forming in February in the Chapel. This class is designed to accommodate the schedule of choir members but is open to anyone. The first series is a video study on the Gospel of Matthew by Dr. Mickey Efrid, a very engaging professor at Duke Divinity School. The class will begin at 9:45 and end just before 10:30 a.m., when choir rehearsal starts. For more information, speak with Gael Chaney.

The other ongoing Adult Sunday School classes continue to meet: Study on Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey*, in the Session Room; and a class studying Sabbath Practices in the Irby Classroom, led by Jenny Spivey.

Congregational Care

The members of the Congregational Care Committee would like to invite all parents and children of POYC (Parents Of Young Children) to a Sweetheart Social on Saturday, February 8th, at 5:30 p.m. A delicious spaghetti dinner will be provided! While the parents are socializing, the Youth Group will be with the children making Valentines Day goodie bags and cards to deliver to homebound members and members over 90 in the church! This will be a wonderful opportunity for the parents to catch up with one another while their children are having a great time as well! Talented members of the church will be playing live music to accompany dinner! Please contact Susan Hatchett (276-618-4383) or Carrie Buffkin (276-734-2697) if you have any questions!

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee will host the supper for the **Congregational Supper and Committee Night on February 10th at 6:00 p.m.** Steve Minter will work his magic in the kitchen to prepare your meal. Don't miss this chance to enjoy good food and fellowship. Committee meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m.

The Fellowship Committee needs your help with Coffee Time refreshments served between Early Worship and Sunday School on Sunday mornings. This involves making coffee and a light snack. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the kitchen on the refrigerator. Coffee and snacks are served at 9:30 a.m. Any volunteers for this time of fellowship may contact Pearl Minter at 650-8690.

SAVE THE DATE!

Church Family Retreat
Massanetta Springs
June 5-8

The Mission, Congregational Care and Outreach & Evangelism committees are busy planning an exciting "all church family" retreat. Details are still being worked out, but we wanted to get the word out early so that you can "save the dates" for this outstanding opportunity. If you can't be there for the entire time, we hope that you will come for whatever amount of time that you can!

When: Thursday, June 5th - Sunday, June 8th

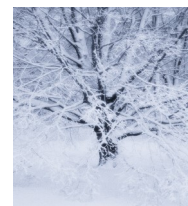
Where: Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center near Harrisonburg, VA
(<http://www.massanettasprings.org/>)

Who: The whole church family - singles, families with young children, couples, teens, empty-nesters & full-nesters, seniors - all are welcome!

What: A time of fun & fellowship, mission work, spiritual growth and sharing in a beautiful and peaceful setting.

Inclement Weather Closing Information

If the weather outside is frightful on a Sunday morning, there are several ways you can find out if we are having church services. Cancellations will be announced on the church's website (www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org), Facebook page, WDBJ channel 7 from Roanoke, or the local radio stations WMVA and WHEE. We are also looking into setting up a voice-mailbox for announcements on the church telephone answering system so that people can call the church for information.



From the Bridge Pastor

“So what?”

The beginning of February represents a milestone on this phase of the interim journey that I have been serving in the role of “bridge pastor” for six months now. Days, weeks and months are certainly one measure of our time and experience, and a common measure at that. But I’ve also been thinking of other markers, for example: in this time Eleanor has learned to crawl and almost walk, the Pastor Nominating Committee began receiving PIFs and has been hard at work seeking our new Pastor, and I’ve preached 26 sermons.

One thing I’ve discovered is that I do enjoy preaching, but I’ve also discovered it takes time and energy, attention and reflection. This new weekly discipline has fed me through a deeper connection to the unfolding story of scripture, but has also challenged me. Sometimes, the words don’t come; sometimes it feels like the words drop with a thud, other times they soar. Eliza Doolittle in the musical *My Fair Lady* sings, “Words, words, words, I’m so sick of words. I hear words all day through, first from him now from you... Don’t talk of stars burning above, if you’re in love *show me*.”

The upcoming cycle of readings from the Gospel of Matthew is drawn from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, and contains some of the most well-known teachings and illustrations of Jesus (the Beatitudes, turning the other cheek, loving your neighbor). Yet, what I realize even reading again these familiar words is that the power of them comes not in that Jesus *said them*, but that he also *showed them, did them, lived them*. The apostle Paul put it this way, “if I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or clanging cymbal.” (I Cor 13:1) So, it’s not about the words. I remember my seminary preaching professor challenging us with one question as we created our sermons – “so what?” The “so what?” is for all of us. I’ll admit, one thing I struggle with the most is the monologue nature of preaching within our tradition. Even as I understand my call, and discern my gifts and skills to preach, I believe the proclamation of the Word belongs to all of us. We now take our turn to embody the words, to let the Word of God take flesh in us. We can let the words change our hearts, move our souls, and direct our lives. So, this month, don’t be surprised if I ask you to preach with me. Let’s together re-define “sermon” and take it beyond the dictionary definition of “a speech on conduct or duty.” Let’s *show it, live it, share it* – it’s good news for us all to tell!

- Jenny

Upcoming in Worship

During the month of February in worship, we will focus on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. Following on the lectionary readings in January that explored the theme of light and revelation, we will consider how God’s Word proclaimed and embodied in Jesus Christ continues to light our way and speak to our lives of faith. Each week, we will read a portion of the well-known sermon, and as I mentioned in my Pastor’s column, ask the “so what?” question about how we can embody these words in our actions and daily lives.

Sunday, February 2 – “Best or Blest?”

Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, February 9 – “Use it, Don’t Lose It”

Isaiah 58:1-9a, Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 16 – “More than Words”

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 23 – “A New Logic of Love”

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Matthew 5:38-48

Sunday, March 2 – *Transfiguration of the Lord*.

“Stop, Look, Listen; Go, Show, Serve”

Matthew 17:1-13, 14-21

Worship Committee

On January 6, the hats, gloves, and socks collected as a part of our Christmas Eve offerings were taken to the Salvation Army. The staff person who received them was most grateful. As you may recall the weather forecast was for that night to be one of the coldest in years. The Salvation Army was preparing to open their facility to men who might otherwise be on the street or in poorly heated buildings to give them protection from the cold. The warm accessories you provided would be distributed that very night to any in need. Heartfelt thanks to all who brought their offerings of money or tangible items to benefit the patrons of the Army.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It is a day of repentance and public act of confession as we recognize our own mortality, A time to reflect and examine our lives in the light of God’s grace. A time to pledge ourselves anew to live unto God’s word in Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey culminating in Easter. We will mark this day with a worship service for the imposition of ashes as a symbol of humility and grief. Please join us as we embrace the rituals of Ash Wednesday on March 5th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Mission/Service Committee

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone for the response and support of the recent Angel Tree Project. The project requires a lot of work and organization from many. Hearing the expressions of gratitude from the families and this note from the staff at Albert Harris makes all our efforts worthwhile.

“Thanks so much for your kindness and support through this year’s Angel Tree. Your gifts will be such a blessing to our students and their families. It’s because of generous organizations like yours that children in our community will have a merrier Christmas. Thanks again for all that you do!”

“Dear members of the congregation of First Presbyterian: I do not know where to begin nor could I express in words our gratitude for making this possible. I am very honored and blessed that my child was selected for this program. I think that it is a wonderful thing that you all are doing. Please know that you have touched our family and truly will be awarded and blessed for all that you have made possible not only for my children, but to numerous families and children. Many wishes for your church to prosper and grow! Blessings and thank you so much. With love, hope, peace, joy and faith.”

Local Benevolence Funds in 2013 were distributed to 16 agencies this year. Some comments and thank-you notes are as follows:

“Thank you so very much for your generous donation! With your support, local youth continue to have a Fun and Safe Environment to attend after school. We greatly appreciate the support. Thank you for being a part of the impact.”—Boys and Girls Club

“Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated and your gift will be used to purchase dental supplies which will directly improve the oral health of those who receive services at the clinic.” —Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Foundation.

“Thank you First Presbyterian Church. Your generous support will put volunteers and homeowner to work building safe, affordable housing. Together, we can give families the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty housing and raise their children in safe, healthy environments. It is humbling to know we live and work in a community that helps neighbors in need. Most touching of all is the realization of what we can accomplish when we work together to make a lasting difference in our community. Just as we have done for 25 years, we pledge to keep working until no child in Martinsville and Henry County sleeps on a cold floor, no family has to choose between food or rent, and all of our neighbors have a safe affordable place to call home.”—Habitat for Humanity

“We hope you know how much your donation means to those we serve.” —American Red Cross

“It is leaders like you who are a vital link to our future and have been most generous and supportive of our efforts. We thank you for caring about the future of our organization and demonstrating your trust and support in our efforts.” —MARC Workshop.

“Through your contribution, you directly impact on the organization’s ability to serve the community. Be assured that your donation enriches every part of the experience here at CAFV. Without you and others like you, CAFV could not be successful. Thank you for being an integral part of CAFV.” —CAFV

“We have had the privilege of caring for people overlooked by society ever since 1865. That’s when our founder, William Booth, began sharing God’s love with needy souls living in alleys and shanties. The tradition has continued, thanks to generous friends like you, people with a heart for helping those who are suffering.”

—Salvation Army

And from a non-local benevolent contributor:

“We would like to thank you personally for your generous gifts to our ministry the past year. Gifts like yours make it possible to continue our work. We pray that God will multiply what you give many times over in the lives of refugees.”

—Paul Sydnor, International Association for Refugees

Two Cents-a-Meal is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. All of us—members and friends of all ages—are invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus’ command “You give them something to eat.” When we bring our offering to church on the appointed Sunday, all of those coins “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” as they are received and dedicated.

These small acts of faithfulness can add up: One hundred persons in a congregation contributing two cents a meal adds up to \$2,190 dollars a year. A 217,000-member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$372,000 annually at two cents a meal.

Originating in 1976, “Two-Cents-A-Meal,” is a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Over the years, presbyteries have developed similar programs entitled Pennies for Hunger, Nickel-A-Meal etc., falling under the current title of “Cents-Ability” now used by our denomination when referring to all, including Two Cents-a-Meal. The Presbytery of the Peaks awards Two Cents-a-Meal funds averaging \$100,000 each year, contributed by Peaks’ congregations and individuals, to local, regional, national and international projects.



.... in February to:

- 1 Logan Jennings
- 2 David Seamon
- 3 Harold Lamm, Lillie Willis
- 5 Michael Mason
- 6 Charlie Miller
- 7 Mason Wood
- 8 Frances Leavitt, Guy Stanley
- 9 Marshall Chaney
- 11 Jo Dykes,
- 13 Connie Anderson
- 15 Bob McLachlan
- 17 Jake Sanders
- 19 Zack Sanders, Sandra Ford
- 20 Mary Layton Truitt

...and in March to:

- 5 Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore Smith
- 6 Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
- 8 Harriet Mattox
- 9 Tyler Price
- 11 Carol Darnell, Don Richman, Nicholas Young
- 12 Bill Peterson, Bob Clark
- 17 Rachel DeBusk, Alanna Ferguson, Anna Kate Jennings
- 18 Catherine Bridges, Rick Renz, Steve Edgerton
- 20 JoAnne Sanders
- 21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
- 23 Diane Clark
- 27 Kenzie Rakes

Session Highlights

January 6, 2013

Note: this meeting took the place of the December meeting

Jenny Spivey moderated the meeting that began at 7 pm.

JoAnne Sanders gave the devotion and opened with prayer.

The 2014 church and weekday school budgets were approved, and the Pastor's 2014 Terms of Call was reviewed and recommended for congregational vote at the upcoming annual meeting.

It was noted that the Session approved to call an Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. A packet about the meeting will be available for the congregation on January 12, 2014 in the narthex, fellowship hall, the chapel for Early Service, and the church office.

An expenditure from the Capital Endowment Fund, not to exceed \$5000, was approved to repair church windows for safety and security reasons.

Pearl Minter was elected as commissioner to the Presbytery meeting on Saturday, February 15, 2014 in Lynchburg.

It was decided not to serve communion on Ash Wednesday as it is also served on Maundy Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator.

The Session 2013-2014

Moderator, Jenny Spivey

Clerk, Joan Montgomery

Mission: Nancy Baker

Administration: Chris Beeler

Fellowship: Pearl Minter

Christian Education: JoAnne Sanders

Stewardship: Lang Mauck

Worship: Cathy Stone

Congregational Care: Virginia Truitt

Evangelism and Outreach: Nancy Moore



SAVE THE DATE
Vacation Bible School 2014
July 7-11

First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Ave.
Martinsville, VA 24112

Address Service Requested

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February 2014

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



Presbyterian Web Sites:

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

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Jenny Spivey, Bridge Pastor pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com
Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director and Organist CDMartinsville@aol.com
Sarah P. Altizer, Office Manager sarahfpcoffice@gmail.com
Francia Brown, Bookkeeper, fpc@kimbanet.com

*Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Phone: 276-632-3431 Fax: 276-632- 3802
sarahfpcoffice@gmail.com*

Our Sunday Schedule:

8:30 Contemporary Worship (Chapel)
9:30 Fellowship Reception
(join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall)
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

February 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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<p>2 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>3 2:45p GPS</p>	<p>4 10:00a & 5:30p Cooks Who Care 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Praise Band</p>	<p>5 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 5:30p POYC Sweetheart Social</p>
<p>9 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>10 2:45p GPS 6:00p Supper 7:00p Committee Night</p>	<p>11 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs</p>	<p>12 12:00p Steeple Views Deadline 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8:00a Community Breakfast</p>
<p>16 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>17 No GPS</p>	<p>18 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs</p>	<p>19 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>24 2:45p GPS</p>	<p>25 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs</p>	<p>26 5:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	