

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

November 2013

Martinsville, Virginia

From the Bridge Pastor

I Love to Tell the Story

At the October Supper and Committee Night, the Evangelism and Outreach Committee provided folks with an opportunity to reflect and write responses to “Why I am a Presbyterian.” I enjoyed that these little colorful handouts brought forth all sorts of fun responses. Some people remarked that they were Presbyterian because of a spouse, or because they just grew up that way. Certainly, one way to engage that question is through “explanation,” reflecting on the history of how one came to be Presbyterian.

Another way to engage the question is through “intention.” I shared with the folks at my table that I recently read an article entitled, “Why I am (still) a Presbyterian,” written by Christopher Joiner, a Presbyterian pastor as he reflected on recent decline and divisions with the PC (USA). He offers several excellent observations, culminating with this: “The world needs our witness... The world and the universal church need to see a group of people who know how to stay together even when they do not always agree, a group of people who believe at the core of their faith that they will never know all of God there is to know... That’s why I’m PCUSA. Still. Because my primary identity is Child of God, a God so much bigger than the categories we seek to impose.”

That brings me to my own little story, my four-year-old Gwendolyn was delighted to find her own piece of paper at her seat, and has been working very hard to learn to write her name in her Weekday School class. She wouldn’t even eat dinner until she had filled every line of her “Why I am a Presbyterian” paper with her name.

“Gwendolyn ...G...G...Gw...Gwendolyn... Gwe...Gwendolyn.” I admit I didn’t turn that one in to the committee. I kept it and it’s hanging on my desk in the office. It is a reminder to me, that before we can even choose God, before we can even write our names, God has chosen us. God has made us a part of the greatest story ever, God’s story. We can never know all of God there is to know, but we can know our story. We can hallow our history, and boldly keep writing new chapters in our lives of faith, because through the power of the Holy Spirit, God’s story is living right now among us.

The old hymn sings in my mind, “I love to tell

the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old, story, of Jesus and his love.” This is our call, to tell our stories, to tell God’s story. We do this in worship, and will particularly on November 24, and again as we re-tell and re-live the story of joy in Advent once again. Thanks be to God!

- Jenny

Upcoming in Worship

Sunday, Nov. 3 – *All In*; Deuteronomy 6; Israel’s central and core affirmation of one God, to whom we give our whole beings - heart, mind and strength - in love and service. *We will remember and give thanks for those brothers and sisters in Christ who died in the past year, as we read the Roll Call of the Saints.*

Sunday, Nov. 10 – **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**, *Don’t Forget to Call*, Deuteronomy 26; As the people near the promised land, Moses instructs them to remember and give thanks for God’s providing. As our congregation looks forward to a new era of ministry with a new pastor, we too are invited to pause to remember and give thanks for God’s providing – and to recommit ourselves to living generous and thankful lives.

Sunday, Nov. 17 – *Life Goes On*, Deuteronomy 30 -31; Moses exhorts the people of Israel to choose life, an abundant life in God’s covenant and promise, even as he knows his own earthly life is drawing to a close. The choice is set before us too: to choose the way of life or death, and the way of life leads far beyond our individual earthly lives, into life everlasting.

Sunday, Nov. 24 – *The Never-ending Story*, Revelation 21:1-6; On this the final Sunday of the Liturgical Year (and the traditional celebration of **Christ the King Sunday**), we will remember that Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. As the church year draws to a close, we remember our story with Christ is always ongoing, and each end is also a new beginning!

Sunday, December 1 – **First Sunday of Advent**, As we begin the season of preparation for the birth of the Christ child, we will explore the meaning of traditional Christian and Christmas symbols during the Hanging of the Greens service.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee

“Why I am a Presbyterian” cards were passed out at the October Committee supper, and they will be available for others to fill out and displayed in the Church building.

Sunday, November 24, following the 11o'clock service, the Evangelism Committee will sponsor a “Christ the King” luncheon and continue the conversation “Our Faith Story and Journey”.

Sunday, December 8 in the afternoon, several Committees will sponsor a Family Workshop with hands-on activities involving “Sharing our Journey”.

For more info please contact Nancy Moore
nbmoore@comcast.net
276-638-7777 (home) 276-732-3400 (mobile)

Stewardship Committee

In a recent letter to the congregation which included a pledge card and request for financial support for our church programs in 2014, we are reminded of the many good things that are happening at First Presbyterian Church. Individually and as a church family, we have been richly blessed by God. Now, “tiz the season” to reflect on those blessings and in gratitude and acknowledgement that ALL that we have comes from God, we respond generously with a portion of our own financial resources.

First Presbyterian Church has a legacy of selfless giving. Earlier saints nurtured our church and bequeathed portions of life earnings for its maintenance and mission. How can we NOT value those generous expressions of stewardship? A brochure designed to suggest an estate gift to First Presbyterian Church accompanies this year’s letter and pledge card, and is a useful vehicle for financial gifts that will keep on giving. Church trustees will be happy to help with that process if so desired.

Certainly one of the most important days in the life of our church is COMMITMENT SUNDAY when we present our pledges for the coming year. Commitment Sunday will be NOVEMBER 10, 2013 when we will bring our cards promising to support our 2014 programs and mission. TWO worship services—8:30 AM and 11:00 AM—will be held and pledge cards will be received at both. A celebration reception will be held immediately following the 11:00 AM service.

If there are members unable to attend worship on November 10, we urge you to return your card to the church office the following week.

Mission Committee

Angel Tree



For several years, our church has sponsored an Angel Tree and plans are to do so again this year. Children from 3 families at Patrick Henry Elementary School and 3 families at Albert Harris Elementary

School have been selected by their counselors to be recipients of our gifts.

The Angels will be in place for selection Sunday, November 17, November 24, and December 1. Gifts may be placed in the Session Room on or before December 8 and will be delivered the following week. Call Nancy Baker 638-6923 if you can help with the deliveries.

Cash may be turned in to the office and should not be placed with the gifts. Thank you for your continued support of the Mission Committee projects.

Highlights from the Community Breakfasts

Imagine being a young child sitting in a classroom at Patrick Henry Elementary School 45 years ago watching a church being built. But then seeing the steeple being put into place and beginning to swing out of control and then fall-



ing to the ground. These are the thoughts shared with us by a visitor to the September Community Breakfast. Jamie Davis was that student and was back in town for a class reunion. He and his wife decided to stop by when they saw the breakfast signs while out running. He was excited to see the church and learn more about ways we continue to reach out to the community.

Join us the third Saturday of each month (November 16) from 8:00-9:30 a.m. Help is needed to prepare the breakfast and especially to meet and welcome our visitors.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Ken and Nan Smith and family** on the death of Ken’s brother, Robert S. Smith, October 29, 2013, in Rome, NY.

...and to **David and Judy Garland and family** on the death of Judy’s mother, Emma Jeanette (Jean) McDaniel Sapp, on October 30, 2013, in Martinsville.

Congregational Care Committee

In honor of all veterans and in recognition of Veteran's Day, Congregational Care will be hosting a movie *The Longest Day* at the Rives Theatre on Sunday, November 10 at 2:30 p.m. Free popcorn for everyone! Free popcorn and drink for ALL the veterans! If you need transportation to The Rives Theatre, please contact Joe DeVault at 276-666-3024 or e-mail him devault@embarqmail.com Please bring a can of food to be donated to Grace Network. Mark your calendar and bring a friend or, better yet, a veteran!

Student Addresses: FPC and Congregational Care need addresses for ALL college students and boarding school students. If you gave the address last year to FPC, please confirm the address. That means we need to hear from EVERYONE who wants their child to get an exam goody box in early December. Please call or e-mail Sarah (sarahfpcoffice@gmail.com) with your child's address. If you know when their exams are, that would be very helpful.

Card Ministry: Want to make some beautiful cards for our shut-ins? If so, please join Susan Hatchett on Friday, November 8, anytime between 3:00 – 7:00pm. Congregational Care will be sending homemade Thanksgiving cards to our shut-ins. We will also attach one of the beautiful Christmas cards that you make to the poinsettias when they are delivered in December. So please come and bring your whole family to this fun and meaningful ministry.

Light Show: Put this date on your calendar!! The Congregational Care Committee invites all interested participants to join us as we travel to the Tanglewood Festival of Lights in Clemmons, NC We will meet at the church on Sunday, November 24, at 4:00 and travel in the church bus to Clemmons. Return time is expected to be around 9:00-9:30 p.m. depending on traffic through the park. Box suppers can be ordered ahead of time for \$10 each, the cost to go through the park is \$2. Please call the church office for reservations. If the bus fills up, others are welcome to carpool and follow along!



Worship Committee

Our Children's Worship program with new curriculum is off to a great start. We have enthusiastic leaders: Teri Ferguson, Shanna Francisco-King, Beth Lawson, Kym Tatum, Joanna Wood. This fall the children are studying parts of our Worship service. Beginning in December they will embark on a Lectionary-based study so their time in Children's Worship will correlate with scripture in the Worship service. If you would like to join this ministry as a leader, please contact Joanna Wood at woodjks@yahoo.com or by phone at 632-3077.

A reminder to parents: the curriculum and activities for Children's Worship are especially designed for children age 4 by October 1, 2013 through second grade. Children through age 3 are invited to stay in the nursery. It is expected that children in third grade and above will worship with their families unless they are assisting a parent who is the leader for the morning.

Weekday School News

We welcome our new Weekday School Director, Amy Mateer! Amy has filled the position vacated when our former director, Melissa White accepted a position with the SPCA. Mrs. White led the Weekday School for nearly ten years and we appreciate her capable guidance and wish her success in her new venture.

Mrs. Mateer brings to the position experience both in business and education. She is an honor graduate of the University of North Carolina – Greensboro, and has been a classroom teacher in the Martinsville City Schools in both 2nd grade and Kindergarten. In addition to her other accomplishments, she is a pianist and accompanist. She is the mother of four daughters, and has two children in the Weekday School program. We are delighted to have her join Weekday School and look forward to her leadership.

We have another exciting announcement. The long awaited playground equipment has arrived and was dedicated by the students, teachers and church members on October 31st!



...November to:

- 3 Liz Ferrell, Bill Hensley
- 5 Neil Tatum
- 9 Donna Lawhon
- 10 Kathy Washburn
- 11 Leon Gunter, Elizabeth

Wotring

- 18 Donna King
- 19 Susan Bowles
- 21 Henry Moore
- 23 Sue Benfield
- 24 Judy Ware
- 25 Jean Hill, Ed Pace
- 27 Leanna Blevins, Joe DeVault, Margaret Knight, Analisa O'Toole

...and in December to:

- 1 Anne Vipperman
- 3 Dru Rothrock,
- 4 Ashby Pritchett
- 5 Mary Mac Knighton
- 6 Ken Wilson, Keith Sanders
- 8 Lyn Davis
- 9 Joan Montgomery, Chris Wingfield, Jack Adkins
- 10 Marion Miller
- 11 John Kuhn
- 14 Merv King
- 15 Kim Boyd
- 17 Matthew Mason
- 18 Bill Kirby, Eleanor Spivey
- 20 Claire Adkins
- 22 Vera Jane Kuhn, Grayson Russell
- 24 Jackie McLachlan
- 26 Smith Chaney
- 27 Nancy Moore, Cathy Stone, Gael Chaney
- 28 Doc Altizer, Brenda Williams
- 29 Ken Smith, Denise Unterbrink, Lucy Wilson,
- 30 Gwendolyn Spivey

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

Session Highlights-October 28, 2013

- Jenny Spivey moderated the meeting which began at 7 pm.
- Virginia Truitt gave the devotion and opened with prayer.
- Billy Kirby, a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), gave an update on their progress. They have reviewed 87 Personal Information Forms (PIFs) and have narrowed the field to 17. PNC Members are in the process of calling the references of the 17 and will be viewing videos of those with posted sermons.
- Members of the Session and other congregants shared their experiences at the Leadership event on October 12, 2013 sponsored by the Presbytery.
- The Facilities Committee presented quotes obtained to increase the security of the church. A motion was approved to seek further information on the cost of moving the current security camera to the outside and providing a keypad system to the carport area and choir room entry.
- Ninety-five members were removed from the church roll by request and no-responses to several contacts; three members moved from inactive to active membership. The church roll now stands at 312 members.
- Upon the recommendation of the Administration Committee, the Session approved the hiring of Claude Young for network upgrades and/or replacement of existing computers to make them more usable for work of the church.
- The Session approved changing the election of the church treasurer and clerk to a program year rather than a calendar year.
- The Session approved additional funds for the PNC to continue its work.
- An engagement letter was received from Garland and Garland for the review and compilation concerning the church's financial statements. The Session authorized the clerk to sign the letter for the review to begin.
- Approved as a recommendation from the Evangelism/Outreach Committee, a Facebook page will be created for the church and maintained by the committee.
- It was noted that the two new playgrounds are being installed during the week of October 21-25.
- It was reported that Jenny Spivey has been elected to the Committee of Counsel on behalf of the Presbytery.
- Nancy Baker and Virginia Truitt reported on the Presbytery meeting they attended in October.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator.

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

Address Service Requested

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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.synaatlantic.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:

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Sandra Brooks, 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)

November 2013

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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3 COMMUNION 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 12:00p Congregational Mtg 6:00p Bible Study	4 10a Presbyterian Women General Mtg	5	6 12:00p Lunch Chic Fil A 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Chancel Choir	7	8 3-7p Thanksgiving Card Making	9
10 COMMITMENT SUNDAY 8:30a Early Service 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 12:00p Reception 2:30p Veterans Movie at the Rives 6:00p Bible Study	11 3:00p GPS 6:00p Supper 7:00p Committee Night	12 10:00a Cooks Who Care 5:30p Cooks Who Care 7:00p Praise Band	13 12:00p Lunch Chic Fil A 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Chancel Choir	14 6:30p Weekday School Fall Open House	15 Steeple Views Deadline	16 8:00a Community Breakfast
17 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 6:00p Bible Study	18 3:00p GPS	19	20 12:00p Lunch Chic Fil A 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 12:p Evangelism/Outreach Luncheon 4:00p Festival of Lights Clemmons, NC 6:00p Bible Study	25 3:00p GPS 7:00p Session	26	27 12:00p Lunch Chic Fil A	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!! Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30