



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



First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

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STEEPLEVIEWS
November 2012

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

November 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN MESSAGE

***Presented by Lang Mauck at worship on
October 14, 2012***

Recently, several negative comments regarding our church, from outside of our church, brought to mind Mark Twain's humorous quotation: "The report of my death is an exaggeration!"

Friends, our church is very much alive and fully engaged in serving our Lord Jesus Christ. Even in transition, we have an active and vital ministry where in gratitude for God's many gifts to us we use OUR gifts to support this church and the needs of the larger community.

Consider the monthly stewardship stories we have heard from Manly Boyd, Cindy Edgerton, Judy Ware, Judy King, Elizabeth Harris, Jim Stegall, Pearl Richardson Minter, and others – stories of stewardship within our own church family.

And, consider our vital church programs: exciting new ones like *Cooks who Care*; the monthly Community Breakfasts; the *Prayer Shawl Ministry* in addition to older programs like the *Red Cross Bloodmobile*, *Grace Network*, and our energetic children's music program. Church member volunteers give their time and energy to these programs in joyous thanksgiving for the blessings this church family enjoys. As Monica Stevens wrote in her letter to the congregation last week: "There is much that is good and wonderful in our life together as a church and in our mission to the larger world. There is much that is vital, healthy, and life-giving in this congregation."

As members of First Presbyterian Church we represent God's family in this place. As we claim this membership, we gratefully acknowledge it as both a PRIVILEGE and a RESPONSIBILITY to support the programs and mission with our finances, our talents, our time, and our energy.

This week each church member received a letter and pledge card in the mail. In gratitude for God's individual blessings and

innumerable gifts for this church, I challenge each person to prayerfully consider your membership in this particular family of God, and respond generously and deliberately with a financial pledge in support of the programs and ministry of this church for 2013.

Witness for Stewardship

***Presented in worship by
Pearl Richardson Minter
September 16, 2012***

Today, I would like to tell you about some important people in my faith journey. First of all, my Mother, Ruth Richardson, who played the piano at Irisburg Presbyterian Church, where I grew up. As Mom was practicing at home for Sunday service, I would listen to many hymns being played beautifully on the piano. Sometimes she would sing along, and other times she would just play one hymn after another. So early on, my love for church music was born.

Later as a young mother caring for two daughters, plus my niece, I didn't find much time to sing in choir or play the piano. But my love of music was still there.

Then my journey of life took me to another church where I did sing in choir for a short time.

Years passed and I came back to First Presbyterian, where my Mother still attended. We sat on the same pew with Walter and Connie Anderson. One Sunday, Connie asked me to join the choir here, and I will always be grateful to her for that little nudge she gave me.

Under the direction of Bob Chapman, and now Cynthia, my choir family has enriched my life in so many ways. And it's something my daughter Deborah and I can do together.

I'll close with a quote from Wynn Dorsett of The White Memorial Presbyterian Church:

When asked "what has it meant to you in your faith journey to be an integral part of worship at White Memorial?" Wynn affirmed that choir participation has tremendously deepened her spiritually. As she shared, "I have discovered the song in my heart. It is such a pure joy to sing, not as a performance but as a means to

enhance worship for everyone. If we all do our part to be the best of our ability, a beautiful sound is created. This is a metaphor for the church...all working together as one.”



**Happy Birthday in
November to:**

- 3 Elizabeth Harris, Bill Hensley, Mildred Moorman
- 5 Neil Tatum
- 8 Donna Lawhon
- 10 Kathy Washburn
- 11 Leon Gunter, Elizabeth Wotring
- 13 David McConnell
- 16 Sharon Rakes
- 18 Ruth Easley, Donna King
- 19 Susan Bowles
- 21 Henry Moore
- 22 Cliff Campbell
- 23 Sue Benfield
- 24 Judy Ware
- 25 Jean Hill, Ed Pace
- 27 Leanna Blevins, Joe DeVault, Margaret Knight, Analisa O’Toole
- 28 Katie Krauss
- 30 Steve Mahoney

.....and in December to:

- 1 Anne Viperman
- 2 Margaret Hotchkiss, Erik Stegall
- 3 Dru Rothrock
- 4 Ashby Pritchett
- 5 Mary Mac Knighton
- 6 Ken Wilson, Keith Sanders, Katherine Lester
- 8 Lyn Davis
- 9 Joan Montgomery, Chris Wingfield, Jack Adkins
- 10 Betsy Haskins, Marion Miller
- 11 John Kuhn
- 14 Merv King
- 15 Kim Boyd, Mason Peck
- 17 Matthew Mason
- 18 Bill Kirby
- 19 Beth Chapman
- 20 Claire Adkins
- 22 Jeb Bowles, 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

Cooks Who Care Ministry Fundraiser

During the first three months of the *Cooks Who Care* Ministry, the cooks will have prepared and delivered 48 meals to individuals and families. The money given for the food for these meals has been donated by individuals. On Saturday, November 17th from 9:00-11:00 and Sunday, November 18th after each service, the CWC will have a fundraiser to raise money to buy food in order to keep this ministry moving forward. The cooks will sell casseroles and other items that have been donated by the individual cooks who give of their time and talents at the monthly cooking sessions.



The cost for each **8x8** casserole will be only **\$8.00**. The casserole will be wrapped and can be heated for immediate use, or frozen for a later date, or given as a gift of kindness. There will be a nice variety. Some cooks will prepare the casserole recipes that have been prepared at the monthly sessions or other casseroles that are the favorite of the individual cook. The cooks may also donate baked goods that will be priced by them at a very good cost.

If you would like to place an order for a casserole, please call Cindy Franck @ 336-209-7244 cfranck@mindspring.com, or Virginia Truitt @ 276-634-5648 mbeachgal@yahoo.com or Judy Ware @ 276-666-2269 je_ware@yahoo.com
Checks may be made to: First Presbyterian Church - % Cooks Who Care. If you are unable to pick up a casserole on those dates, let us know and we will deliver it to you.



Since Veterans' Day, November 11, falls on a Sunday this year, the Worship Committee has planned some special events for that morning.

Prior to the traditional worship service, at about 10:50 a.m., the Martinsville-Henry County Honor Guard will present the colors in our sanctuary. You will want to arrive at church and be seated early in order to witness this ceremonial presentation of the American and Christian flags. Our own John Brown is a member of the Honor Guard.

During both services, a roll-call of the veterans in our congregation will be read, and those who are present will be asked to stand and be recognized as their name is called. All veterans will be given a red, white, and blue ribbon to wear in commemoration of their service to our country. Church members who are veterans are asked to call Sarah in the Church Office and tell her of your service so your name can be included in the roll call. Please be sure to do this as we don't want to inadvertently leave anyone out who should be included!

Also, we would like to create a display of photographs of veterans, living and deceased, who are/were church members or immediate family members (grandparents, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren) of our congregants. Please bring any photographs you would like included in the display to church on Sunday, November 4. I will have a table set up on the narthex to receive them prior to both services that morning and promise to take good care of them for you! Additionally, I will receive photos in the session room on Friday, November 2, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the morning and from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon for those who prefer not to bring them to church on Sunday, November 4. Please include a tag with each submitted photo listing the following information: name of veteran; relationship to church member, if applicable; branch of service; rank and/or job description as desired; time and place of service.

Remember to set your clocks back an hour on November 3, so you won't miss a minute of worship on Sunday, November 4!!



Yes!!! Our Associate Pastor Jenny and her family are expecting a new little girl at their house! (Can you tell?) Gwendolyn's new little sister is expected to arrive in December, and the Presbyterian Women are planning a Baby Shower for her on **Thursday, November 8, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. **Everyone** in the church is invited to attend!

If you don't like to shop but would like to participate, never fear, you may donate to a fund and it will be applied to any large item the family may need for their new little bundle! Just send your donation to the Church Office. Let's have a big crowd to honor Jenny and her family.

Weekday School

October 2012



Time flies when you are having fun! That seems to be holding true for the staff and me and our days in The Weekday School. It seems like we just got started and here we are in full swing with all things fall and Halloween with Thanksgiving and Christmas lurking just around the corner.

Here is a rundown of some of the activities we have planned in the near future. The three and four year old classes will be taking a walking field trip to the Grace Network Pumpkin patch on Wednesday, October 24th to "wake up" the pumpkins. Mrs. Johnston's class will be making their first trip of the school year to King's Grant on Monday October 29th. Practice has begun for our Fall Open House. This year it will take place on Thursday, November 15th at 6:30. The children are practicing their songs that they will perform for their families that evening in the Fellowship Hall. Turkeys, Pilgrims and Native Americans will be in abundance! You are all cordially invited to join in on the fun and celebration of our Weekday School children with their families. Hope to see you there!

Melissa

Mission Committee

Children's Thanksgiving Offering

The Apostle Paul teaches us that part of living together in community is reaching out to our brothers and sisters when they face hardships, temptation or sorrow.

This Thanksgiving we have an opportunity to remember children and families experiencing pain, hunger, hopelessness, separation from loved ones. Three ministries started by leaders in the Presbyterian Church serve our communities and address the needs of thousands of children each year. By participating in the Thanksgiving Offering Program November 18, 2012 and November 25, 2012 we help sustain the valuable services provided by

- Edmarc Hospice for Children
- Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands
- Presbyterian Homes & Family Services and the Family Alliance

In addition, our prayers, encouragement and support are deeply appreciated by the children and staff of these organizations.

Angel Tree

You may remember the comment made by a child at Patrick Henry a few years ago when asked if Santa came to see him. His response was "No, but the church did." This comment



helps us realize the impact small efforts can make in a child's life.

For several years, our church has participated in an Angel Tree project at Christmas time and a Butterfly project in the spring. At these times gifts of clothing and a toy for children along with a food basket for the family have been given to some families each year at Patrick Henry Elementary and Albert Harris Elementary Schools. Counselors at these schools select well deserving students who may not be eligible to receive other means of support. In addition in previous years, some students from our Eli program were chosen to receive this support.

Angels for the 2012 project will be placed on the trees which were made by Clyde Hill and available for your selection November 25, December 2, and December 9. You may drop your gifts by the church office or session room any time before December 10. Gifts will be delivered to families in their homes the week of December 17. If you would like to participate in delivering the gifts, contact Nancy Baker (638-7923).

Thank you for your continued support of the program as we attempt to reach out to others in our community.

Opportunities for Service for the American Red Cross

For several years our church members have provided assistance with blood drives at the Red Cross Facility at Liberty Fair Mall sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. Volunteers serve as greeters to welcome and register donors and provide them with the necessary information to begin the donation process. Others serve as Donor Aides whose responsibility is to assist the collection staff by observing donors waiting to donate and talking with donors to ease the donation process. Some volunteers serve in the canteen. A volunteer is needed from 12:00-3:00 or from 3:00-6:00 the 4th Thursday of each month except November. To volunteer, contact Doris Marshall, 276-638-2998 or cndmarshall@gmail.com

Blood donors are always needed and blood drives are held each Thursday 12:00-6:00. Call the Red Cross office 276-632-5127 to make an appointment or you may drop by the Red Cross facility at Liberty Fair Mall.

At the request of the Red Cross and with approval by the session in 2007 our church may be used as an Emergency Feeding Center should the need arise. We may be called to action in the event of power outages, apartment fires, or natural disasters. We will only be a feeding center and not housing overnight guests at our church. The guests will be here for meals provided by the Red Cross and will be staying at a Red Cross overnight facility. We will typically be asked to serve meals for one or two

days, but in certain emergencies, we may operate a feeding center for as long as seven days.

We need to update our team lists. If you could serve on one of the teams should a need arise, call Nancy Baker (276-638-7923).

Nancy Baker, Moderator
Mission/Evangelism Committee

Upcoming Youth Events

Sunday, November 4 – TOP meal in Wilson Park, We will meet at 1:30 to prepare the meal and take it over to serve in the park from 3-5pm

Sunday, November 11 – Dinner and Youth Group, 5:30-7pm

Sunday, November 18 – Dinner and Youth Group, 5:30-7pm Pack shoeboxes for TOP and CAFV.

Sunday, November 25 – Dinner and Youth Group, 5:30-7pm

NEW Shoebox project to benefit local Organizations and ministries

In the past couple years, the youth group has packed gifts and candy to be sent with the Operation Christmas Child project overseas. This year, after making connections with local ministries during our Mission Week, we are going to do a different shoebox project, to provide gifts and needed supplies to residents at CAFV and guests at the Teens Opposing Poverty (TOP) meals. The youth group will pack these shoeboxes on November 18 and 25, to be distributed during the Christmas season. You can help provide gifts for the boxes by donating money, or by bringing toiletries, socks, underwear, and small gifts to the office by **November 18**.

Our Family Meal

The celebration of Communion is the sharing of the family meal of the Church, the Body of Christ. Traditionally we at First Presbyterian Martinsville have celebrated the sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of each month and at certain special times during the year such as Maundy Thursday.



In order for our church family to gather at the table of the Lord more often, the Session has approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper on several holy days during the year in addition to the first Sunday of the month. The holy days for the current program year on which we may celebrate Communion are:

March 31	Easter
December 24	Christmas Eve
February 13	Ash Wednesday
May 19	Pentecost

Welcome New Member!

At the September Session meeting, **Susan Hatchett** was received into membership of First Presbyterian Church by letter of transfer from Princeton Presbyterian Church in Princeton, WV. Susan is a lifelong Presbyterian, and moved to this area after she and her husband John were married in 2010. Susan and John, a native of the Bassett area, live at 246 Meadow Green Rd, Bassett, VA. They are expecting their first child, a son, in December 2012.



WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Wendy Seamon and John Luther on the occasion of their marriage on October 20, 2012, at their home in Martinsville.



PLEASE NOTE: All submissions for the Newsletter are due no later than noon (12:00 PM) on the 20th of each month. All submissions are to be made electronically. If you do not have a computer, or cannot use a computer, please contact the Church Office to make sure there will be someone on staff who can either help you use a computer, or can schedule time to type your article as a Microsoft Word Document so it can be inserted into the Newsletter within the given time frame. Thank you for your help and cooperation as we try to publish the church newsletter in the most efficiently and timely manner possible. Sincerely – The Management

