

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

September 2013

Martinsville, Virginia

Rally Day and KICK OFF Sunday September 8!

Be on hand as we KICK OFF First Presbyterian's winning 2013 - 2014 program year. We will "kick off" the KICK OFF of our new program year with a pancake and sausage breakfast in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. Your dining experience will be accompanied by uplifting music from the Pep Band (a.k.a, the Praise Band)! Following breakfast, we will KICK OFF the Pep Rally, featuring exciting & informative presentations from our team coordinators (Session Elders and PNC representative), who will share more about the work of the PNC and the exciting educational, worship and ministry programs on the 2013 - 2014 schedule. Also, your All-American team of Sunday School teachers will be introduced. Last, but certainly not least, we will be blessed with some parting words of wisdom from our future Hall of Fame head coach - Jenny Spivey.



Upcoming September Events

Ordination and Installation of Elders

At the 11:00 Worship service on Sunday, September 8th, we will ordain and install the new class of elders that will be serving on the Session for their upcoming terms. We will ordain Virginia Truitt, and install previously ordained elders Nancy Moore, Pearl Minter and Chris Beeler. Surround these elders with your prayers, support and encouragement as they officially begin their ministry as ruling elders of this congregation.

On September 8th, we will also recognize and express thanksgiving to the outgoing class of elders: Laura Buffkin, Duke Ferrell, and Forrest Truitt.

Parents of Young Children (POYC)

The Parents of Young Children group will meet Sunday, Sept. 15, 3:30 p.m., at Lee Eden's home for a pool party. Hotdogs and buns will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share with the group. And don't forget your swimsuit!!



Upcoming September Events

Congregational Supper and Committee Night Resumes

On Monday, September 9th., we will resume the Committee Night supper and meetings. Supper begins at 6pm, and the Stewardship Committee will be hosting for September. EVERYONE is invited to come and share supper. (You don't have to be on a committee, but you *may* get recruited!)

Committees disperse to rooms around the church for their meetings beginning at 7:00pm.

Presbyterian Women General Meeting

All women of the church are invited to the first fall PW General Meeting on Monday, Sept. 9th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. There will be refreshments and time for fellowship, followed by a brief meeting and beginning of the PW Bible Study for the fall: *An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy* by Janice Catron.



Community Breakfasts

Our community breakfast schedule resumes September 21 from 8:00-9:30. We plan to continue these the third Saturday of each month through May. About 80 people came for breakfast in April and again in May. It is important that we have folks to welcome them. Call Nancy Baker if you can help cook, serve, clean up, or meet our visitors.



Sunday Sept. 29th—Church BBQ

What could be more exciting than walking out of an uplifting worship service to join together for food and fellowship on the front lawn of the church? The Congregation Care and Fellowship Committees invite you to a BBQ lunch with all the fixins immediately following the 11:00 service on Sunday, September 29th. All Care Groups are encouraged to meet following the lunch. In the event of bad weather this will be held in the Fellowship Hall. BBQ provided by local pigs. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there!!!

From the Bridge Pastor Jenny Spivey

Since the departure of Interim Pastor Joe Reggin, many folks have noticed the term “Bridge Pastor” to refer to my function and role in the congregation. So, what’s a Bridge Pastor? That’s a great question. If you go looking in the Book of Order, you won’t find it, it’s not there. Officially speaking, I continue to be your Associate Pastor, the position to which I was called and installed just over three years ago. But with the departure of the Interim Pastor, the Presbytery of the Peaks has appointed me to moderate the Session, and serve as acting head of staff until a Solo Pastor is called and installed.

We continue to be in an “interim period.” The interim period is an in-between period, generally the time between the departure of one installed pastor and the arrival of the next. But for our congregation, this interim time will mark a larger transition: an in-between period that involves the transition from having a Pastor and Associate Pastor, to being a Solo Pastor church. This decision was made by the Session earlier this year, through a process of discernment involving pastoral functions and redundancy, budget and stewardship considerations, and ministry and mission direction for the future.

One of my favorite Old Testament scholars Terrance Fretheim observed, “metaphors matter.” He observed how, in relation to God, language, images and metaphors shaped belief. I believe the same is true for us in this period. We are not simply in-between, but moving into a new model for ministry. Part of my role as Bridge Pastor is to metaphorically “build a bridge” from the two-pastor model to a Solo Pastor model. To employ the title (and metaphor) Bridge Pastor, we acknowledge a shift in my pastoral function and responsibilities. The metaphor of a bridge is a rich one, that implies a connection and link to the past, as well as a moving toward the future.

We are on a journey together in this bridge time that requires strength and courage. Our relationships with one another are strengthened as we worship, study and “play” together. As Pastor, I do a lot of worship and study, AND I love to play (and so do my girls). I invite you join me in worship, join me in Bible Study and Sunday School, and last but not least—join me to play. In addition to my office hours at church, I am going to invite you all to join me for lunch each Wednesday at Chick-Fil-A, about 12:30-1:30. Nothing formal, just to share time, share table, and, yes, play.

- Jenny

From the Session

At a special Session meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, August 25, the Session discussed and agreed upon the following description of pastoral functions and responsibilities, and accompanying estimation of allocation of hours for the Bridge Pastor. This is a tool to help structure the relationship between Pastor, Session and congregation. The expectation of the Pastor is to work 45-50 hours per week, with the following major areas of responsibility. This is shared with the recognition that these are approximations, and that there is some flexibility from week to week depending on the circumstances.

Bridge Pastor Functions and Responsibilities

Worship and Preaching 15 hrs per week
(preparation, leading, delivery)

Teaching 5-10 hrs
(preparation for and leading Sunday School,
Bible Studies, other studies)

Administration 12-15 hrs
Divided into two areas: Head of Staff function
(staff meetings, coordination)
Moderating Session, resourcing and equipping
elders, lay leaders; committee meetings

Visitation 5-7 hrs
(Home visits, hospital, counseling)

Presbytery commitments 5 hrs

Social/Community Functions 3-5 hrs

Personal Spiritual Practices 5 hrs
(Study and reading, prayer, discernment,
spiritual development)

The Session discussed and made note that “Youth Ministry” is not a major category, but that the Pastor’s involvement with the youth ministry would be through teaching (leading occasional, but not all, youth programs and resourcing Youth Sundays), administration (resourcing through CE and equipping youth advisors) and visitation (ongoing relationship with youth and families).

From the Session

Response to People Seeking Financial Assistance

People from the Martinsville/Henry County area regularly call on the phone and come into the church building seeking financial assistance. Often these requests for assistance are made during office hours, and the Office Manager refers them to Grace Network. Occasionally, and a couple times very recently, people come to the building during other church functions seeking assistance. At times, they have entered even when doors should have been locked. In some situations, church members or other individuals have given small amounts of money to people. In situations where unknown people are in the church building, whether during normal hours or at other times, there is a concern for the safety of people in the building (staff, preschool, and members) and for the security of the facility.

FPC values responding to people in need in our community. One expression of that value is our participation in the ministry of Grace Network through planned financial support from our budget, through regular collections of items for their food pantry, and through the active participation of FPC members at Grace Network's facility. We choose to respond to, and feel we can best serve, people in need in our community through our cooperative efforts with Grace Network.

Our response to people who call on the phone, or come to our church building, shall include two points: 1) that we do not provide financial assistance directly to individuals, and 2) that we refer people to Grace Network as the agency which we support financially and through volunteers.

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
Outreach and Evangelism: Nancy Moore

Church Membership Review

Thank you to all who returned the postcard mailed on August 2 indicating your relationship with the church. As was stated in the accompanying letter, in preparation for calling a new pastor, the Session is attempting to determine a more accurate accounting of the church's active membership since inactive membership is no longer an option.

Fifty percent of the postcards were returned. If you have not returned yours, you are requested to do so by September 6, 2013. For questions, contact any member of the Session or Joan Montgomery, Session clerk. For those not returning a card, you will be contacted by phone call or a visit. The Session will review and take action on the membership roll at the September meeting.

Session Highlights

August 26, 2013

- Jenny Spivey, Bridge Pastor, moderated the meeting.
- The meeting was opened with devotion and prayer by Forrest Truitt.
- Pastoral Functions and Responsibilities for the Bridge Period were discussed and approved by consensus. These will be shared with the congregation.
- The Session approved the creation of a new Session Committee, Outreach and Evangelism.
- It was recommended and approved that communion be served on the first Sundays of each month, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, and possibly Pentecost during the 2013-14 program year.
- Financial Statements ending June 30, 2013 were reviewed.
- It was noted with sadness the death of Natalie Nicoll Shoebridge on Aug. 23, 2013 with services held at King's Grant on Aug. 26.
- It was reported that playground equipment has been ordered and installation is expected in late September.
- A policy of Response to People Seeking Financial Assistance from the church was approved. The policy will be reported to staff, the congregation and groups using our facility.
- Outgoing ruling elders, Laura Buffkin, Forrest Truitt, and Duke Ferrell were thanked for their service on the Session.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator.

Ministries News and Updates

Pastor Nominating Committee Busy at Work

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has already received over 55 Personal Information Forms from Pastors seeking a call. It is expected that the PNC will receive over 100 before the process is completed. The PNC has received its second session of training and is now beginning to review the initial batch of PIF's.

From Mission and Outreach/Evangelism Committees

BINGO! was the enthusiastic response when winning five in a row or a full card by clients from Cottage Place who participated in an evening of fun and fellowship at our church recently. This is a project undertaken by the Mission and Outreach committees with support from other committee moderators. The purpose is to give the residents of Cottage Place a chance to socialize in a time away from their home. It was exciting to us to see how much they enjoyed the event and appreciated all that was done for them.



Help is needed in preparing meals for the 6 clients and their 2 caregivers and providing prizes for winners of games. We are currently meeting every other month on the third Monday from 5:30-7:30 pm.

In addition, the group enjoys music as well as arts and crafts. If you have any ideas for a craft or music or could help with these activities, please call Nancy Moore or Nancy Baker.

Grace Network Needs Spaghetti Sauce and Noodles! Ours is the only church providing these items and the shelves are VERY BARE. Please contribute to the hungry in our area by bringing items to the church and placing in the Grace Network containers found around the building!

From Christian Education Committee

The fall season of Sunday School officially kicks-off with the Rally Day/Kick-Off Breakfast on September 8th, with classes resuming to meet the following Sunday during the 9:45-10:40 Sunday School hour.

The classes for the fall are as follows:

- Young Children (preschool and Kindergarten) - Room 11-12, (across from the nursery)
- Grades 1-5 - Room 114 (across from parlor)
- Middle and High School Youth - The Christian Education committee is exploring forming a class if there are at least 3 young people who are committed to attending. Please contact CE Chair JoAnne Sanders to indicate your interest.
- Adult studies:
 - Book Study on *A Geography of God*, by Michael Lindvall, meets in the Session Room. Class leadership rotates, contact Lang Mauck with any questions.
 - Book Study on *A Door Set Open* by Peter Steinke, meets in Room 145 Led by Jenny Spivey. To order a copy of the book, contact the church office by September 9th.

Sunday evening/Monday morning Bible Study

Have you wanted to learn more about the life, history and world in which Jesus lived - and what difference that makes for our time? Beginning Sunday, September 8th at 6pm the Sunday evening and Monday morning Sept. 16th at 10am Bible Study will begin an examination and study of the life, ministry and person of Jesus Christ. Under the leadership of Jenny Spivey, the class will utilize teachings from the scriptures and a resource book by Marcus Borg, ***Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary***. This book is available on Amazon if you would like to order your own digital or print copy or you can contact the church office, the cost is \$11. All are welcome to attend - members, visitors and friends; those who have attended past studies and those who have not; those who may be curious about this topic; and, those who are looking for ongoing growth and depth in their faith journey!

Ministries News and Updates

From Worship Committee

Would you like to be a worship leader in our congregation? The Worship Committee is seeking people to be lay readers who will read the scripture during the 11:00 services. There will be a luncheon meeting after the 11:00 service in the near future to explain the program and to train anyone interested. This is an opportunity open to all — adults, children and youth. Please indicate your interest by contacting Cathy Stone by September 16 at 638-1846 or email her at bncstone@comcast.net.

Liturgy as the Work of the People

Liturgy is the “form of worship as we gather as the people of God.” It is the people’s work. The authors refer to Sorne Kierkegaard’s *The Purity of the Heart is to Will One Thing* (New York; Harper Torchbook, 1956, p. 181), in which he claims many current congregations “have it backwards” when they think of the congregation as the audience, worship leaders as the actors and God an unseen prompter. Actually he says, “God is the audience...we (the members of the congregation) are the actors, and the worship leaders serve as the prompters.” If we consider ourselves the audience, worship is “more like entertainment instead of our praise filled response to what God has done for us. From Children in The Sanctuary by Debbie Hough and Mary Emery Speedy, pages 9 and 10.

As the program year begins, the Worship Committee will be focusing on what worship is in the Reformed Tradition, and how we all, as church members, can take more active parts in the preparation, planning for and participation in worship services. In the next weeks you may be getting a call or seeing requests for help with various aspects of our worship services. Please give prayerful consideration to how you might become involved. If you have any thoughts or questions, please feel free to contact Cathy Stone, Chair of the Worship committee, or members Denny Casey, Betty Hudson, Mary Manning, Gavin Russell, Barbara Tatum or Joanna Wood.

From the Worship and Christian Education Committees

G.P.S. Returns!

G.P.S. Returns! “Grow, Praise, Sing! - Mapping a life that follows Christ!” Worship and Music along with hristian Education is pleased to announce that on Monday, September 16, our Music and Worship program for children ages Kindergarten-fifth grad, G.P.S., will resume! All children in those age groups are invited to join us from 3:00—5:00, to grow in their faith, praise God through music.

Bible Buddies and Children's Worship Ministries

Acting on the value of providing appropriate worship experiences for all members of the church family, and our commitment at the time of Baptism to nurture the children of our church, the Christian Education and Worship Committees have planned exciting programs for the younger members of our church family. Age groups have been adjusted for these programs. Children who will be 4 by October 1 through **second** graders are welcome. Children three and under are invited to the nursery.

The **Bible Buddies** program for children during the early service will begin on September 15. Through November, JoAnne Sanders and her team of leaders continue using the curriculum of Bible Stories which they have used in the past. Beginning in December Bible Buddy lessons will follow the lectionary, allowing children to have some exposure to the scriptures being used each Sunday in Worship.

Children's Worship during the 11:00 service will begin September 8. New things are in store! For the first two Sundays children will be refreshing and making new worship bags. Beginning September through November they will be learning about various parts of the worship service: the Lord's Prayer, the Doxology, Communion and Baptism. They will also be discussing being worship leaders and may take part in leading some parts of a service. Beginning December 1 we will be using a new curriculum which closely follows the lectionary. It is an exciting curriculum and one that we think the children will enjoy. One other change is that leaders will be sitting near the front of the sanctuary and children will exit with them through the door near the lectern. We have a great team of leaders! Now all we need to do is to fill our rooms with enthusiastic children!



in September to...

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery
- 2 Trula Campbell
- 4 Nancy Davis
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 10 Brooke Sanders
- 11 Hilde Chappell
- 14 Allyson Rothrock, Randy Lawson
- 15 Lang Mauck
- 16 Judy King
- 17 Donna Young, Allyn Ann Campbell
- 20 Ed Newnam, Jean Williams
- 23 Maddie Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Caroline O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 29 Jim Ford

.....and in October to:

- 1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston
- 2 Myra Stegall
- 5 Nancy Baker, Mike Powell, John Abercrombie
- 6 Jane Ford
- 7 Ralph Shank
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Cole Tatum
- 10 Grey Ferguson
- 11 Fran Hensley, Richard Lawhon
- 14 Walt Seamon, Bennette Zentmeyer
- 15 Sarah Krauss, Joe Smith
- 16 Liz Knighton
- 18 Betty Hendricks
- 21 Mary Page
- 23 Helen Hawkes, Nancy Brown
- 24 Virginia Zentmeyer
- 16 Jana Jennings, Melissa Jessup, Ralph Shank, Jr.
- 28 Gwen Sowdon, Jenny Spivey
- 29 Walt Anderson
- 31 Rusty Lacy

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Natalie Nicoll Shoebridge on her death in Martinsville. Natalie, a member of First Presbyterian since May 4, 1997, joined the Church Triumphant on August 23, 2013.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry met on August 28 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. A light supper was served. Future meetings will always be the last Wednesday of the month so put those dates on your calendar.



If you are a seasoned knitter or a new one, you are invited to attend. We will teach you how to knit and provide patterns from the simple to the more complicated shawl. Yarn is free or you may bring three skeins of your choice with size 13 knitting needles.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has given away 53 shawls. If you know of someone needing a prayer shawl, stop by the church and pick up one. Our shawls are not limited to church members but to anyone in need of comfort or celebration. For more information contact any member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



Cooks Who Care Ministry

Cooks Who Care will be "cooking up a storm" in the Marge Dunn kitchen on Tuesday, September 10th. The morning cooking session begins at 10:00 a.m. and the evening cooking session begins at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in this wonderful and fun ministry of nurture and care. If you are interested in serving as the "head chef" for the September 10th cooking session, please contact Judy Ware or Virginia Truitt.

Also, Cooks Who Care can use your cans. How can that be? Chuck your clean, dry, label-removed tin cans (which are actually steel) into the large receptacle marked *Cooks Who Care* near the freezers in the pantry. The pay-off is low, but the cash generated goes to *Cooks Who Care* for supplies.

Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater Trip

A group is forming to go to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater for the matinee performance of *Almost Heaven* on Wednesday, September 25th. The \$40 per person cost includes your transportation, meal (including tax & tip) and show ticket. Call Barbara Tatum at 276-956-3985. Better hurry though - space is limited!

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

Address Service Requested

STEEPLEVIEWS
September, 2013

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US POSTAGE PAID
MARTINSVILLE, VA
PERMIT NO. 108

*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

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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)

September 2013

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 COMMUNION 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Adult Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship</p>	<p>2 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>3 9a-12p Weekday School</p>	<p>4 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>			
<p>8 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Rally Day Kick-Off! Breakfast 11:00a Trad. Worship w/ installation and ordination of elders 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>9 9a-12p Weekday School 10:00a Presbyterian Woman Mtg 6:00p Supper 7:00p Commit- tee Night</p>	<p>10 10:00a Cooks Who Care 5:30p Cooks Who Care</p>	<p>11 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 3:00p POYC Pool Party 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>16 9a-12p Weekday School STEEPLEVIEWS DEADLINE 10:00a Bible Study 3:00p GPS</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8:00a Communi- ty Brkfst</p>
<p>22 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>23 9a-12p Weekday School 3:00p GPS</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Bus Trip to Wytheville theatre 5:45p Sanc. Rngrs 7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8:30a Early Service 9:30a Fellowship Reception 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Trad. Worship 12:00 BBQ Picnic 6:00p Bible Study</p>	<p>30 9a-12p Weekday School 3:00p GPS 7:00p Session</p>					