



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



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Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)  
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STEEPLE VIEWS

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

# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

September, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

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

As I sit down to write this article it's been a month and a day since my total left hip replacement surgery on July 19 at Memorial Hospital here in Martinsville. As I reflect on the past month, here are some of my thoughts about my various experiences.

Nothing makes you appreciate good health like poor health. About a week after my surgery, I realized that the pain I had lived with on a daily basis was finally gone and I was pain free at last. I marvel as each new day continues to bring strength to my body.

I give thanks to God for the gift of my healing. And, I am profoundly grateful for the many people - doctors, nurses, aides, and therapists - God used to bring me back to good health. While I have made many pastoral visits at our local hospital and the Stanleytown Heath Care Center over these past 8 1/2 years, I experienced both places from a totally new perspective - as a patient; and I was most impressed with both.

I have always said that I will never preach on patience from the pulpit because I would be a big hypocrite. By nature, I am not a patient person because I am action oriented. But, there are times when we have to be patient because we really don't have a choice in the matter! At times, I had to dig deep within myself to summon forth the necessary patience to simply endure the passage of time while my body healed, slowly but surely. I found that I could be patient when I had to be patient.

What really helped to pass the time were the many visits, cards, and phone calls that I received during my stay at the hospital (3 1/2 days), Stanleytown (2 weeks), and home (2 weeks). I discovered that I am in no danger whatsoever of getting hooked on daytime television! When a familiar face appeared in the doorway, I really perked up as I enjoyed our visit. And, it helped that I love to read; I think I read at least ten books.

At Stanleytown, I made a number of new friends. There was a great deal of camaraderie and support as we shared our pain and cheered on each other as we regained our strength and ability to be more mobile. Although I was there only a short time, we really did experience a sense of community with one another and with our therapists. I look forward to future visits to Stanleytown (as a pastor, not as a patient) to see my friends there and to once again thank the therapists for pushing me to get better quicker.

I want to say a final word about home. It was great to finally come home to see and be with Monica and Laura and our dog, Toby (and, I guess, Laura's cat, Lazlo). Truly, there is no place like home. I have never been in danger of taking my family for granted but I certainly do have new appreciation for Monica and Laura and our home.

And, what a joy it was for me to return to our church home on Sunday, August 8, to be in worship with you. Having felt your prayers and support throughout my time away, I was glad to be in your presence and to let you know that your prayers had been heard and answered. Thank you for the outpouring of your love on my behalf.

Finally, we are never apart from the Lord. We are always and forever at home with the Lord, whether here or there, whether in the hospital, Stanleytown, home, church, or anywhere else. God is present with us and stands beside us to comfort us or strengthen us, to fill us with hope or to give us the peace that passes all understanding, to bless us or to challenge us. Most of all, I am profoundly grateful to God for all that I have experienced within the past month, and I look forward to what's ahead.

In Christ's love,  
Randy

## Associate Pastor's Column

The combined Adult Sunday School class has been studying the Book of Confessions this summer, starting at the beginning with the Nicene Creed and moving all the way to the most recent confession, A Brief Statement of Faith, which received final approval by the PC(USA) in 1991. This series has been a wonderful opportunity to hear from “the great cloud of witnesses” as the writer of the Book of Hebrews calls it, the voices of the saints in generations that have come before us.

In many and diverse places and times, ordinary people have gathered together to confess, or publicly and corporately declare their faith. We call many of these statements “confessions,” a word which sometimes carries negative connotations. We also use the word “confession” to describe our corporate prayer during worship, in which we acknowledge our sin and ask God for forgiveness. I know of churches that have stopped saying unison Prayers of Confession because people thought they were “downers.” But I can think of no better action in prayer than to come before God openly and honestly to admit that we are indeed human, and we make mistakes. It is from such a starting point that we are freed, over and over, from the powers of sin and death, and restored to right relationship with God and with one another.

Yet, the act of confession is more than simply admitting our sins through prayer, it is affirming and declaring what we believe to be true. And so, the church over the centuries has gathered together to articulate the heart and depth of our faith. The confessions share many things in common: the unity of one God in three persons, the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ, the reality of sin, the authority of scripture, and the mission and ministry of the church. But each confession is also delightfully unique, because people authentically spoke in their own specific time and place about how they understood God to be present and working in their lives.

By action of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, a new confession has received initial approval to be sent on to the presbyteries for their

vote. It is called the Belhar Confession, and it is not exactly new. It was written in the 1980s in South Africa in the midst of the struggle to end apartheid. I find it a powerful witness to God’s reconciliation to a people experiencing alienation and division. Whether or not it ends up in the Book of Confessions, I appreciate its spirit and witness. Also, this opportunity to reflect upon a new confession, has reminded me of the importance of our continual need to articulate our faith. After all, as Presbyterians, we acknowledge we are the “church reformed, always reforming, according to the Word of God.” I hope and pray we might always be open to God’s Spirit speaking to us, and be ready to respond in faithful witness.

## Happy Birthday 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
- 11 Hilde Chappell, Victoria Esarey
- 14 Allyson Rothrock, Randy Lawson
- 15 Lang Mauck
- 16 Mike Boswell, Judy King
- 17 Donna Young, Allyn Ann Campbell
- 19 Mary Lawhon
- 20 Ed Newnam, Jean Williams
- 23 Maddie Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Caroline O’Toole, Gavin Russell
- 27 Bob Chapman
- 29 Jim Ford



.....and in October to:

- 1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston,
- 2 Myra Stegall
- 4 Will Mahoney
- 5 Connor Dunnigan, Nancy Baker, Mike Powell, John Abercrombie
- 6 Jane Ford
- 7 Ralph Shank
- 8 Brian Mason
- 9 Debbie Brown, Cole Tatum
- 10 Grey Ferguson



**The Tempo  
"Our Musical Pulse"**

**Chancel Choir**

Rehearsals for the Chancel Choir resumed on Wednesday evening, August 11. Leisure time on that evening is a thing of the past. Terms like *Installation Service*, *Service Music*, *Thanksgiving*, *Advent*, *Christmas Music Service*, *Christmas Eve*, have crept into our consciousness. Mysteriously, octavo and cantata titles which match these terms have arrived in choir folders.

On Wednesday evening, August 25, at 7 p.m., there was a kick-off rehearsal for the New Year which followed a 6 p.m. pot luck dinner. The choir members and their families, part time singers and prospective members were invited. (By the time you read this, it is history.)

The dates have been set for our Christmas Music Services. The Children will present their music on December 3, and the Chancel Choir will present their music on December 19. What happened to December 12? That is the night the Roanoke Symphony comes to town and presents their *Christmas Pops* at MH

Our new Associate Pastor is an Alto and a Handbell Ringer. She asked me what singing voices we need in the Chancel Choir. I, of course, replied, "Altos, Sopranos, Tenors, and Basses." That is my stock answer to that question about what OUR choir needs. What do you, as a talented church member or prospective

member need to give, in your pilgrimage of life, and what abilities can you invest for your satisfaction and for the good of this redeemed fellowship? Check out choir membership. Sing with us all the time or twice a year in our programs. Let me hear from you! (Please) By the way, we welcomed Gene Stanley back into the choir this month.

**Sanctuary Ringers**

Rehearsals for this Adult Handbell Choir will resume on Wednesday evening, September 8, from 6:00-6:55 p.m. Hopefully, in the next edition of the *Steeple Views*, I can report that we have enrolled a new ringer in our choir and several substitute ringers.

We look forward to another fine year of ringing in worship together.

**The Congregational Choir**

What can I say to you, our largest choir. We meet regularly in our worship services and sometimes we rehearse. From time to time, you will encounter hymns with which you are familiar and can sing by "letter", open your mouth and let 'er fly. Also, along the way, you will encounter hymns which are less familiar and even unknown. When that happens, listen to the choir, the organ, or, perhaps your neighbor and join in when you can.

Congregational singing is a very important part of each service and a time when you have opportunity to join with other worshippers in expressing the faith from the depths of your being. It is one time you can have a voice in what your church is doing. Do it WELL!

*Bob Chapman*



# Youth and Children's Music News



Dear Friends,

I am planning a great year of music for all babies, children and youth!! The only thing that I need is.....YOUR CHILD'S REGISTRATION FORM!!! I really need to know about your children's involvement so that I can finalize our plans. Please call, fax or email me your intentions today.

## **Fall Schedule is as follows:**

The schedule for the fall takes into account that we have children coming from five different school systems, each of which has a different time schedule 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 mem-

bers 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 I singing, drama, games, and play for 4-year olds. The children bring their lunch 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 dulcimer and recorder). 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 the 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 six 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 following page 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.

*Betsy Haskins*

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Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Music Group \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Music Group \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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 cannot be  
reached:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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. [iluvpiano.emh@gmail.com](mailto:iluvpiano.emh@gmail.com)

## ***PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS***

The Annual Gathering of the Presbyterian Women (Presbytery of the Peaks) will be held Saturday, September 25, at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please call Victoria Esarey at 956-4745.

*The First Presbyterian Women's General Meeting* will be held in the Fellowship Hall on September 13 at 10:00 a.m. All women in the church are invited to attend!!

## ***Contemporary Worship***

We have had a great summer in Contemporary Worship. Powerful services were very well attended. Right now, we are regrouping. We need the following:

Keyboard player-we miss Sandra Ford

Drummer-We miss Josh and are looking forward to William Seamon's return

Guitarist-We are thankful for Ernie Bremner, but another would be great.

Tech Stewards-Stewards to run the slides; run the sound; run the camera on Sunday morning. Sam Smith is going to college and Melissa Wingfield and Ashby Pinkard are working hard. None of these jobs is difficult!! We will train you!!

After 2 and a half years, we are still trying to get a large enough team that we can "spell" each other. You do not have to be here on practice nights and Sunday. One or the other would be a great help. These are great opportunities for youth, young adults or retirees to really make a difference in our worship. Please let me know if you would like to know more.

Many thanks. I really appreciate the wonderful support so many of you gave me by coming to my concert August 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful day with good music and fellowship afterwards around the table. Darla Main-Schneider did a magnificent job catering the goodies for our fellowship time. I really, really appreciate my church family!!

In Joy,  
Betsy

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study class** will resume meeting on September 7, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The class will be taught by Rusty Reaser, Randy Stevens, and Jenny Spivey.



### **Rally Day will be Sunday, September 12.**

**Breakfast!** We will begin with **breakfast** in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. On the menu will be pancakes, fresh fruit, pastries, orange juice and coffee. At 10:00, classes will be announced at which time we will go to various classrooms for Sunday School. Set your alarms early and meet us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast.

### ***FALL FESTIVAL at KING'S GRANT***

on Saturday, September 18, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be Arts and Crafts, Antique Cars, Jewelry, Pottery, Wood Working, Food Local Cultural Exhibits, Live entertainment and more! Rain Date: Sunday afternoon, September 19 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Sponsored by King's Grant Residents. Come join the fun!!

The **Annual Church Picnic** will once again be held the first Sunday in October. Please mark your calendars for **October 3** and join us at 5:00 p.m. on **our own front lawn** for good food, good fellowship and fun and games!



## Back to School Weekday School News

Hello everyone!

The Weekday School is very busy getting ready for the upcoming school year. Our enrollment numbers are looking good and our teachers are busy getting their classrooms ready for the children. School will begin on September 7<sup>th</sup>. There are a few spaces still available, so if you know of anyone looking for a half-day pre-school program, please send them my way!

We are adding a class this year which means that we have to outfit a new classroom. In addition to the new classroom, the Weekday school is in desperate need of some children's items that you may have stashed in your basements or attics. The teachers and I have compiled a wish list of items needed to update our classroom environments.

Gently used Baby Dolls

Baby doll clothes

Dress-up clothes (old dance costumes are great, small dress clothes, old hats, Halloween costumes, purses etc ...)

Little Tikes people

Plastic animals (farm animals, jungle animals etc...)

Matchbox cars and trucks

Small indoor playhouse

Wooden blocks

Kitchen and or housekeeping toys (vacuum, grocery cart, baby stroller, etc...)

Beanie babies

We appreciate all of your support and look forward to getting back to work!

Thanks,

Melissa White

Weekday School Director

## **BOOOOO! IT'S PUMPKIN PATCH TIME AGAIN!!**

**Milt and Nancy Davis** are looking for 6 people to work three 2-hour shifts at the **Grace Network Pumpkin Patch** on Monday, October 4.

Shifts are: 11:00a.- 1:00p

1:00p - 3:00p

3:00p - 5:00p

5:00p - 7:00p

Please call Milt or Nancy at 632-1403 and let them know which shift is convenient for you..



Looking for more **Red Cross** Feeding Center Volunteers! If you have not already signed up to volunteer when our church operates as a Red Cross Feeding Center, we could still use your help. Contact Sarah in the Church Office to volunteer.

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