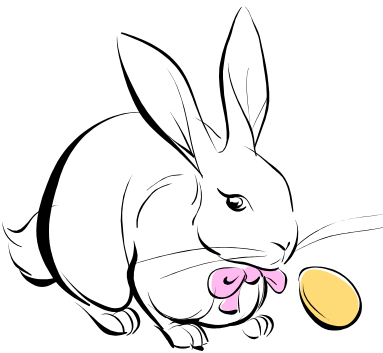




*Join us for a cup  
of coffee every Sunday  
morning in the kitchen  
before Church School*



First Presbyterian Church  
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue  
Martinsville, VA 24112

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STEEPLEVIEWS



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

**Presbyterian Web Sites:**

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

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# STEEPLE VIEWS

to

First Presbyterian Church

April 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

### A “Death and Life” Situation

*“Christ died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them...So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17*

In cases of critical illnesses, disasters, or accidents, people often speak of someone being in a “life or death” situation. The reactions and responses of the person his/herself, emergency personnel, and health care providers are said to make the difference between survival or death. Over the past few weeks, there has been much conversation surrounding decisions made and directions set by the Session at their March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was a special meeting called not only to consider and review the current deficit operating budget, but also to prayerfully consider the larger issues of our mission and ministry as a church in this time and place. Some people, in receiving the Session’s letter, may have wondered if our church is in a “life or death” situation. There have been many concerns shared and feedback received. The process of listening and sharing in this time is not only important, it is a sacred and faithful conversation as we together seek to discern God’s will for us going forward.

I have found rich meaning and connection that these conversations have been taking place during our holiest of seasons in the Church: Lent, Holy Week and Easter. For the very issues we are struggling with – confusion, fear, loss, uncertainty – are so powerfully present in the experience of Christ and his disciples in those final days. In fact, to the eyes of the crowd, the authorities, and even his own disciples, Christ’s passion and crucifixion was a “life or death” situation, and it looked like death won. But to everyone’s surprise, on Easter morning the situation was turned on its head. The powers of sin and death were ultimately broken, and life – not death – was God’s triumphant Word. Christ’s death and resurrection

through times of confusion, fear, loss, and uncertainty, trusting that a new creation is being born in us, in our very midst. Through Christ, we can move beyond the crisis of a “life or death” situation, to a situation where everything is being made new. And living in the promise of the resurrection we must hold together the “death and life” situation at the heart of our Christian witness.

In Christ,  
Jenny Spivey

## News from---

### The Interim Pastor Search Committee

The Interim Pastor Search Committee is pleased to announce, with the full support of the Session, the calling of William Joseph (Joe) Reggin as our Interim Senior Pastor. Though he will move to Martinsville earlier in April, Joe’s first “official” day as the Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church will be when he leads us in worship on Sunday, April 29, 2012.

With over 30 years of service in the ministry, Joe has extensive experience as both an installed Senior Pastor and Interim Senior Pastor, having served churches in the Southeast, Midwest and Northeast. Sharing his gifts of teaching, preaching, spiritual development, organizational leadership and planning and congregational redevelopment and transformation, Joe will guide us during this period of transition as we honor our history, examine where we are today, and seek to be led by the Holy Spirit as we discern God’s vision for our church.

We are indeed blessed to have Joe Reggin join us at First Presbyterian Church as we continue to live out our mission to share God’s love, embrace our neighbors and nurture each other.



### Happy Birthday in April to.....

- 3 Claude Young
- 4 Max Pinkston
- 5 Kate Judson
  
- 7 Bob Davis, Kisean Adams
- 8 Mary Catherine Stegall
- 9 Marty Davis
- 10 Bobby Wilson, Pansy Olson
- 12 Tom Unterbrink
- 14 Judy Garland
- 15 English Ford, Rhonda Casey,  
Briana Tatum
- 16 Reed Moore
- 17 Glenna Harmeyer, Barbara Tatum
- 18 Mary Manning, Meredith Seamon
- 19 Mary Catherine Lawhon, Jean Linker
- 10 Manly Boyd
- 21 Tracey Lawhon, Patrick Edgerton
- 22 Matthew Price
- 23 Gene Stanley, Forrest Truitt
- 24 Ed Porter
- 25 Ethan Jessup
- 26 Patrice Newnam, Doug Walsh
- 27 Margaret Gunter, Colin Walsh
- 30 Lynn Pritchett, Evelyn Clark,  
Will Kirby

### .....and in May to

- 1 Logan Esarey, Janet Fentress
- 3 Carson Nease, Jerry Bishop
- 5 Sonny Benfield, Amy Mason,  
Kellene Wotring
- 8 Bill Manning, Olivia Jessup
- 10 Sandra Shank,
- 11 Bonnie Price, Mandy Pritchett,  
Emily Beard
- 12 Pearl Richardson, Monica Stevens
- 14 Farrell Pace
- 17 Heath Russell

## Session Highlights

March 26, 2012

- Forrest Truitt led the Session in a devotional and opened with prayer
- The Interim Pastor Covenant/Contract between William Joseph Reggin and First Presbyterian Church, with concurrence of The Presbytery of the Peaks, was approved. The contract begins on April 29, 2012.
- The Session accepted the retirement of Bob Chapman as Adult Music Director, effective August 1, 2012.
- The following changes in membership were noted: Transfer of Colin and Laura Dunnigan to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, and with sadness the deaths of Richard Blythe Sowden, James McCall Baker, and Dr. Jethro Irby.
- Dru Rothrock and Joan Montgomery were elected as ruling elder commissioners to the May 10, 2012 Presbytery meeting in Danville, VA
- Reports were received from Session Committees.



## Holy Week and Easter Worship

The observance of Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday on April 1**, marking Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will have our normal worship services at 8:35 and 11:00a.m.



in our sanctuary that morning. At 10:00 we will again join with other local churches for the **Palm Sunday in the Park** service.

Meet in the narthex at 9:45 a.m. to walk over to that joint service together. On **Maundy Thursday, April 5**, we will have a congregational meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m., followed by 7:00 p.m. worship service, and we will welcome several guest preachers to reflect on the last words of Christ from the cross. On **Easter Sunday, April 8**, we will have our **TWO** worship services at 8:35 and 11:00 a.m. Everyone is also invited to our traditional **Easter Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the children's **Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 a.m.** on the playground.

### Stewardship half-minute reminder

March 11, 2012

This week's Trade Show was a festive and eye-catching way for area organizations and businesses to create EXHIBITS to show off their products and services. The show was judged a great success by many folks in the community.

As a member of our Stewardship Committee and charged with developing a March Stewardship Reminder, I was struck with the thought that our own First Presbyterian Church was similar to those Trade show exhibitors. Just as it takes the skills, time, energy, and financial resources of 127 exhibitors to create a successful exhibit portraying each organization's "product," so it takes each member of First Presbyterian with God's gifts of talents, time, money, and Spirit to show off our "Product": a vibrant and energetic church, "sharing God's love, embracing our neighbors, and nurturing each other." Let's use OUR resources to

help OUR CHURCH become a prize-winning exhibit for God's own Trade Show.

## The Butterflies are Fluttering

It's spring and once again the BUTTERFLIES are making their way to First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville.

Just as the angel trees at Christmas reflected the giving spirit of our church family, the spring multicolored butterflies, which will appear on Sunday, April 15, and remain until April 29, represent the gifts of clothes, shoes, games, and money to purchase food. The gifts will be distributed by the Mission Committee to needy families.

Once again we will share our blessings with others within the community.



Wrapped gifts with butterfly tags attached will be due in the Session Room on May 6; and delivery will take place on May 9 or 10.

We rejoice that our church family can share with the less fortunate of our community. The Mission Committee looks forward to a generous response to the Butterfly Tree project once again.



### Grace Network

As you all know First Presbyterian's *assigned food* for Grace Network is spaghetti sauce and pasta. We understand that our shelves at the agency are bare (of both items but especially pasta)! As each church has the responsibility for providing certain items, please help us restock our shelves for those in need. When you go to the grocery store, please stop by the pasta/spaghetti sauce shelves and *stock up to stop hunger!*

## First Presbyterian Weekday School

Spring has sprung early this year at The Weekday School! We are currently registering for the 2012-2013 school year. Please refer your friends and family with small children to us. Space will be limited as usual.

In March the leprechauns were busy wreaking their Irish mischief on the classrooms. The children and teachers were trying their best to catch the crafty sneaks! The fours have plans to take a field trip to the Virginia Museum of Natural History for a program on dinosaurs. Spring break will be April 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> and then we come back geared up for Discovery Room.

The school year is flying by and we look forward to hatching baby chicks, praying mantis and butterflies. We hope to have a turtle and maybe some tadpoles. If you are in the church during the end of April and early May, stop by the Discovery Room and check out our progress!

Melissa White, Director



### IN MEMORIAM

*James McCall Baker*

*November 21, 1930 - March 20, 2012*

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Nancy Baker; Albert, Tracy, Rose and Tom Baker; Mac, Mary Beth, James and Ellie Baker on the death of their husband, father, and grandfather, James McCall Baker.. Jim, a member of First Presbyterian since September 23, 1973, joined the Church Triumphant on March 21, 2012.

*Dr. Jethro Hurt Irby, Jr.*

*October 23, 1917 - March 26, 2012*

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jim and Jeff Irby and Pru Swerlik, and families on the death of their father, Dr. Jethro H. Irby, Jr. June, a member of First Presbyterian since

September 21, 1947, joined the Church Triumphant on March 26, 2012.



## Births

**Congratulations** to Hugh and Corinne Haskins on the birth of their son, Gavin Wallace Haskins, on March 14, 2012, in Richmond, Virginia. Big

Brothers are Landon and Cooper. Jim and Betsy Haskins are the proud grandparents!

## Youth and Children's Music

By the time you read this, *Good News from a Grave* will have been presented by the **WAM players**. We have had a wonderful time working on this project, which is so worthwhile for these young people. This group is such a blessing to me in so many ways-I am very thankful for each of them!!



The plays that are presented simply would not happen without Smith. I won't embarrass him further by enumerating all the ways he helps, but suffice it to say, his talents are huge and his heart is big. The children really love him! Jim Ford and Gael Chaney are wonderful additions to the technical team as well! Emily Beard, Mary Catherine Dionne and Sam Smith are amazing in the way they relate to the children and keep.....shall I say....some semblance of order!!

We will be singing and ringing on April 22<sup>nd</sup> so be on the lookout for us!!

**Music Together** is growing by leaps and bounds! Every week, we have new children and mothers! It is a really full house and is going so well. It is exciting to see the number of families that see the importance of early musical experiences for their children. We will be starting our new quarter soon, with new music, fun and excitement.

**Kindermusik I** children are learning to read their first 3 notes and play them on their glockenspiels and sing them as well. This is a fun loving group that really enjoys one another and is coming along very well indeed!

**Kindermusik II** children are proficient on the recorder with 5 notes. I am very proud of them. We are coming into the home stretch so to speak with our curriculum. After almost 2 years, they are very proficient at reading, singing and playing 3 instruments-the glockenspiel, dulcimer and recorder. Kindermusik really does prepare them for the new musical experiences that they will find as they move along their musical way.

**Cantabile Ringers** did a wonderful job on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We appreciated Janet Fentress stepping in and assisting us so ably. We will be ringing in April and May with some wonderful new pieces to explore!

Many thanks for the good wishes for our newest Angel, Gavin Wallace Haskins who arrived on March 14<sup>th</sup>, all 9 pounds and 8 ounces. Mommy, Daddy, Landon, and Cooper are thrilled to pieces as are the Grandma and Grandpa!!

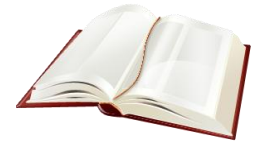
Please note: Music classes will not meet on April 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>!

### **Contemporary Worship March 18**

We had an exciting time during the Contemporary service this morning: The slides which had been loaded had disappeared (Ashby Pinkard and I got them back),

My music was out of order (I fixed it); the keyboard sound failed after the first two songs, (we sang the next one acappella which sounded really good) ..and it decided to come back on of its own accord; the battery in Jenny's head set died (she just preached more loudly). The moral of this is that the Lord was praised none the less, and with joy and great love! Thanks Be to God!!

### **Grace Network Feinstein Challenge 2012**



For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide one million dollars among agencies fighting hunger. Grace Network has been one of the Agencies to receive a portion of these funds thanks to your generosity during the months of March and April. We have this opportunity again.

All donations received by Grace Network from March 1, 2012 - April 30, 2012, will be counted. The more donations received by Grace Network, the more of the Feinstein money Grace will get. This includes not only monetary gifts but also all donations of food. Each food item is valued at \$1 per item and will be added to our count when reporting March and April donations.

### ***Grace Upon Grace***

Inspired by the words of John 1:16---“and from His fullness have we all received grace upon grace.” This is the book that chronicles the spirit, caring and love that transformed the tiny Henry Church into the First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Virginia. We are fortunate to have an abundant supply of copies of this wonderful book and the session has determined to seek ways to share them with members of the congregation and the community. We would like to make copies available to members of the congregation, and copies will be placed in several areas around the church. Please feel free to pick up a copy if you do not already have one or would like to give one as a gift. We are suggesting a donation of your choice. An envelope will be included in the book. In addition, we would like to place complementary copies in places where people might be able to enjoy them such as offices, waiting rooms, other churches and libraries. If you have a suggestion regarding placement for one of these copies, please contact Smith Chaney.

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