



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



Day of Pentecost, May 27, 2012

First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

Address Service Requested

STEEPLEVIEWS
May 2012

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Presbyterian Today: www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today
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*Our Mission is to:
Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other.*

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

May 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

On Sunday, 29 April, we began a journey of Interim Ministry. We will journey in the wilderness for some months until we arrive at the "Promised Land" of this congregation's future ministry where you will settle with the leadership of a new Pastor whom God will call through your voice and vote.

As your Interim Pastor, I am here to assist you, as a congregation, and especially your leadership, in evaluating your past mission and ministry so your leaders can make improvements in the administration and oversight of your programs for the future. By looking at both your past successes and your failures, then making plans for improvements, your leaders will begin to form a vision of your congregation of ten to twenty years into the future. Using this vision you will all be able to identify the skills and strengths you will need in a new Pastor, to accomplish the goals your Elders will set for the future of your congregation.

It will be my function, in part, to assist your leadership in examining the values and principals which guide your congregation and the ministry you share in Christ. I am here to assist you and your leaders, in looking at your church with new eyes. I am here to provide a more objective view, to help open lines of communication within the Session and congregation in order to begin to create this new vision of the ministry that will involve a new generation of Presbyterians. If this is not accomplished, if no goals are set, if no vision for the future is developed, then First Presbyterian Church will, in the words of the Proverbs (29:18) perish!

I am also here to be your Pastor in this period change. I am here to preach and proclaim the Gospel, to administrate the sacraments, to give counsel, as appropriate, to do all those "Pastor things" and to share in the important times of this congregation's life. I am here to be your Pastor, to help you manage the anxieties that will naturally arise in a time of change and transition. I am here to share in life and faith

with you, to share in the joys and sorrows, the tears and the laughter and, for myself, to share in the fun this Family of Faith, as Christ's sisters and brothers.

To accomplish these things there are Five Basic Tasks of Interim Ministry. These are: 1) Coming to Terms with your History. This will involve looking at the ways in which you have worked, relationally, as a congregation, in the past and how effective you have been in accomplishing the goals you set for ministry and Mission. This will also include an evaluation of your leadership and programmatic structures making changes where needed. This will ensure that your new Pastor will not have to begin a ministry with you by having to make big changes, which could lead to big conflicts. 2) Discovering a New Identity. This means developing a new vision and program of ministry based on the needs for the future you will identify. 3) Processing Leadership Changes. This will include dealing with the loss of past Pastors. This may be difficult for some given the recent death of your previous Pastor. Some within your congregation may still be grieving over the reality that a pastor who served 30 years or more ago is no longer here. This is NOT a bad thing; it is simply being human. As human beings we miss people and things that have been meaningful and important to us. We cannot move forward; however, until we have resolved our grief and made the decision to allow and accept new things. 4) Renewing Denominational Linkages. In these days of hearing of so much turmoil within our beloved denomination, this becomes especially important. To reaffirm the value of our being Presbyterians, to renew commitments to the Reformed Tradition and the Presbyterian Church USA, has deeper significance than it would ordinarily. In this interim period your Session will ensure that there is a strong connection to the Presbytery of the Peaks and that this congregation is indeed committed to being a member of the Presbyterian Church USA. Since you will be calling a Pastor who will be a Minister Member of the Presbytery, it is clear that this would be neces-

sary and important. 5) Making a Commitment to New Directions in Ministry. This goes back to making plans for the future to identify needed strengths and skills in a new Pastor. This also involves your Session identifying the ability of your congregation to plan and implement needed changes in keeping with the injunctions of the Gospel that we live in peace, relying on God's guidance. You will experience times of change in this interim. How we manage our anxieties in the face of change is important. The sense here is if a congregation can manage change in the interim well, they will most likely be able to manage the change involved in calling a new pastor equally well. This is important because a new Pastor will be a BIG change, simply because (s)he will be new!

These steps in the interim journey may seem like a great challenge that will take far too much time, as we look at this journey from the point of beginning. I think this perspective will tend to change as we make the journey; however. Once we have arrived at your destination and it is time for me to depart, the most common experience I hear is that the time seems to have flown past. So, as we journey together let us not rush and hurry and at the same time let us not delay. Let us move forward with confidence and hope enjoying the moments of this journey together until we reach your destination.

This journey in all its many facets is designed to accomplish one, primary thing: To ensure your congregation's strength and health, as a Family in Christ and that the best, most qualified Pastor will be called to serve and lead you to that Promised Land, flowing with the milk and honey of meaningful witness, mission and ministry in Christ's name.

In the midst of all this, I want you to know what a joy it is for me to be with you and to get to know some of you and learn of your community the past two weeks. I will not actually begin here "officially" until 1 May; my being able to get a bit of a head start these past two weeks has been a wonderful experience for me. I am looking forward to the time we will share and I am grateful to God for the work we have before us to prepare for the arrival of your new Pastor. For it will be this Pastor who will provide lea-

dership into that future to which God is calling us all. I hope to see you this Sunday in worship. Blessings & peace – Joe

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR...

Youth Sunday – Sunday, May 13, 2012

The youth and children of our congregation will lead worship on Sunday, May 13 at 10:00am. The youth have been learning about worship, writing prayers and are planning to share their faith with the congregation through the worship of God! Our graduating high school seniors will share reflections on what the church has meant to them. *Please note that we will only be having ONE service meeting in the middle at the 10:00am time, in order that all of us can gather together to worship and support our youth.

Youth Fiesta Fundraising Dinner to benefit Mission Week – Sunday May 20, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

The whole congregation is invited to come and support our youth in their upcoming Youth Mission Week (see related announcement). The theme for the evening will be Fiesta! Dinner will be prepared and served by our youth, parents and advisors. There is no set cost for the dinner, but offering baskets will be available for you to make donations to support our youth.

Youth Mission Week

This June, our youth are bringing mission home to Martinsville! Instead of traveling to do mission projects, we are going to do a whole week of local mission projects with partners including Citizens Against Family Violence, Grace Network, King's Grant and Habitat for Humanity. The week will begin with a commissioning on Sunday, June 17, and our projects will be June 18-22, with a fun day trip on Saturday, June 23. Be on the lookout for more information and for ways the whole congregation can be involved!

Parents of Young Children

Picnic, Park, Games and Fun...

Bring the whole family to our next gathering on Sunday, May 6 at 1:00pm at Jack Dalton Park.

We are looking forward to getting together again to allow kids to play and have fun while the adults get to have some good friendly conversation and devotion. We ask that every family attending bring a finger food or snack of some kind to share with everyone. The church will provide drinks. We hope to get a volleyball and/or softball game going for all those who would like to participate. So, come in comfortable clothes and bring balls, bats and gloves if you would like. Please feel free to call Carrie Wilson or Jenny Spivey at any time if you have any questions. Also, please extend this invitation to any other families you feel may enjoy and benefit from this time with us.

A Note from Monica Stevens.....

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

When I was asked what scriptures I wanted to be read during Randy's *Witness to the Resurrection* service, the first passage that came to mind was *1 Corinthians 13*. I know that may have seemed an odd choice, but if I had to sum up Randy's life and ministry in one word, it would be *love*. Randy was profoundly aware of the love and grace of God working in his life, and he lived every day of his life to share that love with others---here at home with his family, in a hospital room, or, in the home of a church member, at the church, and in the community. That sense of God's love was the source of his strength and his joy.

However, I also chose that scripture passage with the congregation in mind. When our family lived through the difficult days of our son Andrew's illness and subsequent death, you were there to pray with and for us, to care for and support us, to surround us with God's love through your love. When Laura was so very ill before her kidney transplant, and during her prolonged recovery from her pancreas transplant, you were there to support us when we were weary, and to cheer us when we were worn down. Your love and support gave us all the strength we needed to persevere.

When Laura and I returned home from the hospital the day Randy died, my first instinct

was to walk Toby. I needed that time to try to make sense of what had just happened. By the time I got home, church members were already there to see what they could do to help us. In the blur of talking to family and making arrangements, I remember gratefully turning my kitchen, the front door, and the telephone over to Virginia Truitt, Cindy Franck, and all of the other wonderfully kind folks who shared themselves with us, brought food, warmed the food, made sure we ate, and took care of us while we were trying our best to do what needed to be done. In the subsequent days and months so many from the congregation have blessed us with their prayers, calls, visits, guidance, and help. There is no way we can adequately thank or repay all of the many kindnesses we have received, but please know that Laura and I love this church and all of its members. We are committed to this church, its people, and its mission.

Our church is starting a new chapter in its life that is full of opportunities to share God's love with each other and with our community. We thank God every day that we are blessed to be part of such a loving and dynamic part of the Body of Christ.

With much love and appreciation,
Monica and Laura Stevens



**Happy Birthday
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 Jon Tatum, Farrell Pace
- 19 Taylor Shank, Annie B. Boyd,
- 20 Colleen Dallas, Jeff Adkins?

- 22 Elizabeth Pritchett, Joanna Wood
- 27 Margaret Smith, Kent Williams,
Virginia Seamon, Jacob Wingfield
- 29 Ed Linker, Clint Spivey

.....and in June to

- 1 Cynthia Dobrinski, Gage Lawson, Reid
Lawson
- 2 Suzanne Lacy, Cole Rothrock
- 3 Riley Wood,
- 4 Pat Wilson
- 9 Susan Smith
- 10 Allyson Campbell, Cindy Edgerton
- 12 David King,
- 13 Eleanor Woody
- 15 Waid Lester

Farewell Reception for Betsy Haskins

Please join us on Sunday, May 20th as we celebrate the many years of service Betsy Haskins has given this church as Director of Children's and Youth Music and Contemporary Music Leader. We will have a chance to express our love for and thanks to Betsy at a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the eleven o'clock service.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to a love gift for Betsy may do so at the church office.

THE TEMPO

"Our Musical Pulse"

Chancel Choir

The Lent and Easter Seasons are passed. The Chancel Choir is to be commended for their contribution to these times of worship which is so meaningful to us as Christians. Music helps us to gain a deeper perspective on our faith as we remember Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death, hell, and sin. He was and is our victorious Savior. Music helps us express our deep and heartfelt thanksgiving.

I appreciate the work and loyalty of those who are a part of our Chancel Choir. Week after week and Sunday after Sunday, they are faithful in their commitment to God and to this congregation. Their service is so important to the life of our congregation. One only has to read the scriptures to see that music has been important throughout Bible times and Church History.

The Spring Worship-Music service March 25 was well done and well received. The Ladies' Quartet sang the Sara and Joe Blaha's setting of Psalm 23. Our thanks and appreciation to the Blahas, to Lynn Anderson, Beth Chapman and to Patricia Clevenger.

This was program number 32 the Chancel Choir has presented in my sixteen-year tenure here at First Presbyterian.

It's Anniversary Time

When May arrives on our calendar, it reminds me that I came to First Presbyterian Church on the last day of April in 1996. This May begins my seventeenth year as Adult Music Director for this congregation. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you as one of your Church Musicians. As is true in most positions of Music leadership, there are many lovely, talented and dedicated persons who have served with me in the music task here at First Presbyterian. I take the privilege of thanking my wife Beth, who has been beside me all the way as a Handbell Ringer, an Alto Choir Singer, a soloist, a planner, a listener, and a support. This August we will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary.

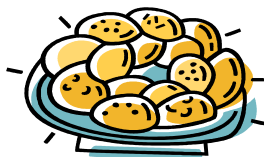
In May 2001, Cynthia Dobrinski came to serve as Organist. She is a most talented church musician with marvelous credentials. Her contribution to the Handbell field both in Composition, as a Guest Clinician, is well known. Her experience also includes being a Seminary Educator, and Church Organist. RLC

The Sanctuary Ringers

This handbell season is close to being history. After we ring in church in May it will be. I appreciate the work of each ringer this season. In my mind, this has been our finest season of the sixteen many of us has served together. In

addition to the twelve regular ringers, let me thank our substitutes; Cynthia Dobrinski, Sam Smith, Kimberly Seamon, who is now a regular, Carrie Buffkin, and Jenny Spivey. Hopefully I did not leave anyone's name out. We could not have done it without you.

This has been our first complete season in the Handbell Room. It is a joy to have this room and not have to set up and break down equipment every week.



The Youth Group will have a Bake Sale on Sunday, May 13, before the 10:00 Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall, and following worship on the front steps and lawn. The bake sale is being held to help defray costs for the Youth Group's Mission Week this June 18-22. Anyone who would like to donate a baked good for the youth to sell should bring them to the kitchen on Sunday morning. Please put your goodies in a disposable container or plate that will not need to be returned.

Session Highlights

April 29, 2012

- Cathy Stone led the Session in a devotional and opened with prayer.
- A request from Elizabeth and Haze Harris was approved for their son George to receive the Sacrament of Baptism on May 20, 2012.
- The transfer of John T. Pinkard, Jr. to All Saints Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia was approved.
- A job description for the position of Music Director/Organist was approved.
- A policy was approved for Sundays when the early service and traditional services are combined. The service will be at 10:00 a.m. and will be announced to the congregation in advance.
- Youth Sunday was changed from May 20 to May 13, 2012 with one service at 10:00 a.m.
- Interim Pastor, Joe Reggin, was given permission by the Session to offer a Bible Study at two different times, Sunday evenings from 6:00 until 7:30 pm and Monday mornings from 10:00 until 11:30 am. The book for this study, Who Wrote the Bible by Dr. Richard Friedman, was also approved to be used in this study, which will begin the first Sunday in June.
- Reports were received from Session Committees.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Birthday general meeting will be **Monday May 7 at 7pm**. Circle 3 is in charge of refreshments which will include birthday cake and punch. Rusty Reaser will be leading our final lesson. The three organizations scheduled to receive the birthday gift this year are:

1. *Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc.*; Living Water for Girls; Peachtree City, Georgia
The Circle of Friends equips women to help other women and youth. Their newest program, *Living Water for Girls*, will rescue, rehabilitate and provide safe refuge for young American girls who are victims of sex trafficking and exploitation.

2. *New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children (NOROC)*, Gymnasium and Activity Center, Tulcea, Romania

NOROC facilitates the spiritual, social, physical and emotional development of vulnerable orphaned children. A birthday offering grant will help make possible the purchase of land and the construction of a gym/activity center for the roughly 400 children served by NOROC.

3. *Synod of the Sun; Solar Under the Sun (SUTS)*; Irving, Texas
SUTS trains lay people to lead teams in the installation of solar-powered energy systems. Half of the Birthday Offering grant will be used to install a variety of solar panel equipment at Ferncliff Camp in Arkansas. The other half of the grant will match funds for the purchase of solar panels and related hardware for projects in Haiti where SUTS currently focuses.

Looking ahead, our study book for 2012-2013 is titled *Dispatches to God's Household, The General Epistles*. The General Epistles are 1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John, and Jude. These 6 books teach us what it means to live in community, what it means to belong to the household of God. During the time in which these letters were written, believers regarded one another as members of God's family. The letters were meant to inspire and comfort the faithful in first-century Asia Minor, and they continue to speak to us today as we grapple with how to live in community as disciples of Christ.

The Butterflies are Fluttering



Once again we will share our blessings with others within the community. Wrapped gifts with butterfly tags attached are 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 9th through the 13th 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

Youth and Children's Music

With May comes a winding down of Children's and Youth's Music classes. It has been a great year all in all.

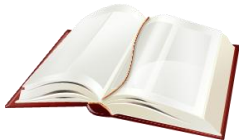
It has been an honor to work with wonderful families, children and youth this year, as in all years.

The Kindermusik I children come to the first class with great expectations for fun and music, and we have really been active. They know how to play 5 songs on their glockenspiels; they are able to read 4 notes well on the staff, and have absorbed a nifty group of rhythm techniques and musical talents and they can all sing in tune!

The Kindermusik II children are adept at playing the glockenspiel, the recorder and the dulcimer. They are all set for whatever musical route they choose, having had a string experience, a percussion experience and a woodwind experience. They are also good readers of one octave of music on the treble clef and can sing so well.

This WAM group has been a very special one as well. They have produced two amazing performances in our Christmas play and our

Easter pageant, besides ringing bells, playing handchimes, and serving as worship leaders once a month. These 24 Wammers are a very unique bunch!!



Cantabile Ringers have had a fine year as well. These teens and young adults are very committed to the music ministry and it shows. They have made a significant contribution to worship throughout the year and will do so again on May 20th. We always appreciate Janet Fentress stepping in to help us when we need a hand....or two.

Music Together continues to grow by leaps and bounds. These young families are a great addition to our church's music program and are very appreciative of the opportunity to learn, sing and laugh together each Tuesday.

May will be a great month for us, and I am looking forward to great music, great performers and a month filled with Joy.-----Betsy

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 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.





3rd Annual Community Cookout
Saturday, June 2, 2012
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Food, Fellowship and Fun with our
Friends and Neighbors

Bringing our Mission Statement to Life
*Share God's love, embrace our neighbors,
nurture each other*

The 3rd annual Community Cookout will continue our mission of community outreach through food, fellowship and fun. Even with the afternoon rain showers, the spirit of fun and fellowship of the members and visitors alike attending last year's Community Cookout could not be dampened.

This year's Community Cookout will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 2nd and will be free to anyone who attends - so mark your calendars now. We will be placing an advertisement in the Martinsville Bulletin and posting flyers at local businesses so as to extend our invitation to the whole community.

On the day of the Community Cookout, grill masters from within our congregation will fire up the grills and prepare what will surely be some of the best hamburgers and hot dogs you have ever tasted. Volunteers from within the congregation will be asked to provide "fixins" to go with the hamburgers and hot dogs, such as chips, baked beans, salads and desserts. In addition to an outstanding meal, there will be games and musical entertainment for all to enjoy. The Community Cookout is scheduled to be held outside on the front lawn of the church so as to give this outreach event increased visibility and to provide a casual, relaxed atmos-

phere. In the event of rain, we will hold the Community Cookout in our Fellowship Hall.

Also, please don't forget that this invitation is extended to you – the members of First Presbyterian Church. You are encouraged to attend and to invite your friends to join us at this exciting event. In the coming weeks, reservation forms will be included in the Sunday bulletins where you can indicate both your intention to attend the Community Cookout and the number that will be attending. Additionally, Community Cookout flyers will be made available in the narthex for you to share with your friends and neighbors – take as many as you need.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and will allow you to meet and greet any visitors to First Presbyterian Church in a fun, casual setting. Let's all join together as good neighbors and as a unified body of the church to truly live out our mission statement.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee

***Congratulations to our
High School Graduates
Class of 2012***

Congratulations to all our graduates! They will be honored during our 10:00 a.m. Worship on *Youth Sunday, May 13, 2012.*

Carlisle School

Alanna Faith Ferguson

Franklin County High School

Matthew Gregory Price

Martinsville High School

Emily Maria Beard

Katherine Moore Krauss

Kimberly Morgan Seamon

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