



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

**June 2015**

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*Focus on Youth*

## **Heading to Arkansas and Heifer Ranch**

Heifer Ranch, a farm run by Heifer International near Perryville, Arkansas, is the destination of our youth educational mission trip this summer. Pastor Mark and two other adults will take five of our high school youth in the church van. Leaving Martinsville on June 20, they will stay overnight at a church near Nashville, TN, halfway there. They will return on June 27.



Heifer International has been working to lift people out of poverty in countries around the world for over 70 years. Its development projects give people the training and resources they need to provide for themselves and their families and give to others in need around them.

The Global Village at Heifer Ranch has several authentic villages from countries where Heifer International has projects (i.e., African, Asian, Guatemalan, Appalachian, etc.) On arriving, the group will participate in Alternative Break, a five-night program which combines experiential learning with service activities. The service allows participants to give back while experiencing something for the first time, like milking a goat or harvesting vegetables. One of the experiential learning programs is Global Gateway, which creates an existence in which nothing—shelter, food, water or cooking fuel—can be taken for granted. Participants prepare a meal with limited resources and spend a night in the Global Village (from Heifer International's website: [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)).



As of this writing, donations and proceeds from the auction have raised all the program expenses for the group. Still needed is money for gas and other travel expenses. God bless you, church!

—Pastor Mark

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### *Administration Committee Memo*

**A friendly reminder:** Through the first four months of 2015, our pledge receipts were approximately \$83,500 versus a budget of \$104,500, a shortfall of \$21,000. As we enter what are historically the slow summer months, please help us stay current with our pledges. Thank you!!

—Chris Beeler

## Pastor's Corner

**The Request**

*Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied."* Luke 18:40-41

Most of you have heard me say, many times, to think of the Lord as our very best friend. So when we would share our deepest thoughts with our best friend we probably are not going to use a lot of stiff "King James" language in that conversation. A prayer should express first a grateful heart for blessings already received and then our requests on behalf of yourself and others. Our prayers should reflect our true thoughts and not what we think someone else wants to hear, because after all God is the intended recipient!

A while back I heard a story about a man who was taking his family out to eat. When the man's six-year-old son asked if he could say grace, the child was quickly given the honor. He began his prayer with familiar words, "God is great. God is good and let us thank him for our food." He then began to add some words, "I thank you for this food and would thank you more if we got ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!" While there was some laughter from customers nearby, one woman remarked, "That's what's wrong with kids in this country. They don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why I never!"

Hearing this, the man's son burst into tears and asked his father, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As his father held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an old man who had observed the whole thing approached the table. He winked at the boy and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" "Cross my heart." Then in a quiet whisper the old man added, "Too bad she never asks God for a little ice cream because sometimes ice cream can be good for the soul."



The man in the Luke 18 Scripture was a blind beggar who simply asked for what he desired. In his day, there were no ophthalmologists or Lasik eye surgeries. Without a miracle, his life would never change. So, in an act of desperation the beggar cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The crowd rebuked him, but Jesus stopped and took notice. A gentle request of a slight longing never really taps the power of God, but the passionate, intense desire of the very depths of our human hearts will never be ignored by God!

Our faith is too often so proper, and we let what others think of us determine our actions, even our relationship with Jesus himself. Today, may we be more like the blind beggar and share our deepest desires with our best friend Jesus!

In Christ's loving grace,  
*Pastor Mark*

## Music Department Notes

**Many Thanks**

A huge thank-you goes to each volunteer who has participated in the music program of the church. Many have given of their time and talents to sing, ring handbells, play an instrument, help with GPS (Grow, Praise, Sing! children's music program), sing a solo, give computer support for the early service and praise band, and help with the music library. All have made important contributions and are appreciated.

Laura Stevens deserves a special thank-you for her hard work and dedication in making the children's music program a real blessing to many children. Laura has served as music leader for GPS for the last three years. As she moves into a new phase of her life, we wish her well and want her to know she will be missed!

Now that the school year has ended, the Chancel Choir, Sanctuary Ringers, and GPS will be enjoying their summer break. The Chancel Choir will resume practice in August and the Sanctuary Ringers and GPS will resume practice in September.

The Praise Band will continue during the summer at the 8:30 a.m. service.

—Cynthia Dobrinski

**An Ending (of Sorts) and a New Beginning**

The GPS (Grow, Praise, Sing!) children sang with their mothers during the Youth Sunday service on May 10 and enjoyed a pizza party the following Monday, celebrating the end of a successful program year.



Up to sixteen children in Kindergarten through fifth grade have gathered each Monday afternoon to learn about the stories of our faith and praise God with song. The children have been ably led by Laura Stevens, JoAnne Sanders, and Janet Fentress, plus a faithful group of volunteers who fix snacks, assist in the Bible study classroom and in the music sessions. A heartfelt "thank-you" goes to each one of these ladies who minister to our children. As Cynthia mentioned, we regret that we have to say good-bye to Laura as music leader.

**In order to keep the program going, new leaders are needed, especially music leaders.** This is the only Christian Education program many of our children attend, so it's vitally important to our congregation. The children's enthusiasm as they learn Bible stories and their growth as worship leaders is evident to our volunteers. We also need more volunteers to commit to one Monday afternoon a month to help out with the snacks or assist the leaders.

A curriculum is available with lesson plans, music CDs and creative ideas to help anyone who is willing to undertake music instruction. While a trained musician would be wonderful, it is not necessary. Music Director Cynthia Dobrinski, is available to work with any music leaders. Our goal is to plan the music program year so that commitments might be in blocks of 8-10 weeks at a time, either with singing instruction or bells and chimes.

Anyone interested in volunteering in any capacity should contact Cathy Stone at 638-1846 ([bncstone@comcast.net](mailto:bncstone@comcast.net)) or leave a message for Cynthia Dobrinski at the church.



***Congratulations, Graduates!***



**Henry Grady (Hank) Moore, IV**

M.B.A., University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School

**Robert Coleman (Cole) Rothrock**

B.A. in Political Science, University of Alabama

He is now Project Manager for Hospitality Purchasing Group, Atlanta

**Dyer Pace**

Carlisle School

Planning to attend James Madison University

**William Seamon**

Martinsville High School

Congratulations to William on earning the Big M Trophy!

Planning to attend James Madison University

**Grace Ann Edgerton**

B.S. in Heath Promotions, Lynchburg College

Will attend graduate program of Public Health at Lynchburg College in the fall

**Evelyn Clark**

B.A. in Political Science, Roanoke College

**Meredith Seamon**

B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, James Madison University

Currently living in Harrisonburg

**Congratulations on earning the Big M Certificate!**

Matthew Mason, Junior

Max Pinkston, Sophomore

Kellene Wotring, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ed Linker and his family on the death of his wife Jean on May 26, in Chapel Hill, NC. Arrangements are incomplete at this writing. Jean had been a member of our congregation since 1952.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Pansy Olson, a member of our church since March 11, 1984. She died Sunday, May 17, at Stanleytown Health and Rehabilitation Center.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Bob and Marty Davis on the death of Bob's sister, Peggy Horne, on May 23, in Washington, PA.



Summer Fun for Kids!

### Da Capo Music Camp at Our Church

Da Capo Virginia will offer a week-long music day camp at our church **July 6–10, 9:00 AM–12:00 NOON**, with a public concert on **Friday, July 10, at 6:00 PM**. Contact Tracee Prillaman ([traceep@dacapova.org](mailto:traceep@dacapova.org)) for more information about *Harmony*.

### Vacation Bible School July 13–17, 9 AM–12 NOON Kick-Off Supper July 12, 5–7 PM

Just a few more weeks before we begin "conquering challenges." Children entering kindergarten to fifth grade won't want to miss out! Registration forms are in the pews or available in the office. You can even call the office to register your child. Easiest of all, print a [form](#) off the church's [web site](#). Registering ahead of the first day not only helps with our planning but also helps minimize chaos on the first morning.



There's a place on the form for adult and teen helpers, and filling that out would be MUCH appreciated. So far we still need 2 volunteers to lead the 4-year-old class and help with leading a group from station to station. While being there all week would be most helpful for these areas, please volunteer for whatever time you may have and perhaps someone else will fill in other days. We always can use kitchen help if you only have a day or two.

The entire church is invited to a Kick-Off supper **July 12, 5:00–7:00 PM**. Come and see our decorations for Mt. Everest (did it *really* snow in July?)!

—Janet Fentress ([jpfentress@hotmail.com](mailto:jpfentress@hotmail.com))



### Camp Peaks Is Coming to Martinsville!

Be sure to register your child for Camp Peaks, the traveling day camp sponsored by Presbytery of the Peaks. All the details are in the May issue of *Steeple Views* and on the church web site:

<http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/news.cfm?ID=462>

Contact JoAnne Sanders at (276-340-6913 or [sandersva@comcast.net](mailto:sandersva@comcast.net)) or Rev. Jeff Binder, Associate Presbyter for Youth & Young Adults ([rev.binder@gmail.com](mailto:rev.binder@gmail.com)). Registration forms are in our church office.

*Pastor Mark passed along this letter he received after our church hosted the Presbytery meeting on May 7:*

Dear Mark,

Please convey again, our deep appreciation to the Session, congregation and staff for hosting the Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church on May 7, 2015. It was a treat to be back at First again!

Your warm hospitality set a delightful tone to the day, and the preparation and organization allowed parking, registration, worship, music and business activities to run smoothly. Comments in the evaluations we received from commissioners and guests said:

"Morning refreshments were appreciated!"

"Great lunch!"

"Wonderful people at First—they were so helpful and welcoming"

"Thanks for the gluten-free communion bread and lunch"

"As my first Presbytery Meeting, I thank everyone for making it an inspired and fulfilling experience!"

"Great job! Thanks for all your hard work!"

As you can see, your hospitality was greatly appreciated and helped to "make the day!"



Rev. Fred Holbrook played "Highland Cathedral" on the bagpipes and led a processional of churches founded 150 or more years ago to open the Presbytery meeting in our Sanctuary.

*Nancy*

Nancy B. Dawson, General Presbyter  
[gpres@peaksprebytery.org](mailto:gpres@peaksprebytery.org)



The Fellowship hall was filled with Presbytery delegates enjoying the delicious lunch prepared by members of our congregation. Many volunteers worked hard to make the day a success!



### Handbell Concert May 31

Five members of our own Sanctuary Ringers will be performing with the Martinsville Handbell Ensemble on **Sunday May 31, at 4:00 PM**, at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 824 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. The public is invited to hear exciting patriotic marches, Pirates of the Caribbean, Phantom of the Opera and other works. The choir of 13 ringers, including Janet Fentress, Wendy Luther, Sarah Robertson, Will Seamon, and Sam Smith, performs advanced repertoire, using six octaves of Schulmerich Handbells, four octaves of Malmark Choir Chimes, along with percussion instruments and keyboard. Pam Randall assists director Robert Chapman. Rev. John Fulcher plays percussion and keyboard.



### Session Highlights

#### New Church Sign Coming

At the April 27 stated meeting, the Session received a donation from an anonymous member to erect a new sign in front of the church.

### Memorial Donations

#### In Memory of Suzan Kirby's mother

Joe and Jerri DeVault to Cooks Who Care

#### In Memory of William F. (Bill) Franck

James Richard Franck and Dorothy Senter Franck

Carole G. Kiser

Dr. Mark and Rebecca Crabtree

Dr. Donald Holsinger

### JUNE

- 1 Cynthia Dobrinski, Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 2 Cole Rothrock
- 3 Riley Wood
- 4 Pat Wilson
- 9 Susan Smith
- 10 Cindy Edgerton
- 11 Tracy Hinchcliff
- 12 David King
- 13 Eleanor Woody, Waid Lester
- 16 Ainsley Russell
- 17 Dyer Rothrock
- 18 Susan Pilson
- 20 Spencer DeBusk



- 22 Raven Adams
- 23 David Price, Virginia Truitt, Basil Boyd
- 24 Denny Casey
- 26 Vicki Wells
- 27 Louis Judson, Steve DeBusk, Clyde Hill
- 29 Caroline Kirby

### JULY

- 2 William Seamon
- 3 Andrea Lawhon Murray
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 6 Barbara Stanley



## Dates to Remember

### MAY

- 31 Trinity Sunday  
4:00 PM, **Martinsville Handbell Ensemble Concert**, Wesley Memorial UMC.

### JUNE

- 1 7:00 PM, **Session meeting**  
2 9:45 AM & 5:30 PM, **Cooks Who Care**  
4-7 Retreat at Massanetta Springs  
7 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper celebrated at both services  
8 6:00 PM, **Congregational Supper** hosted by the Facilities Committee  
7:00 PM, **Committee Meetings**  
15 5:30-7:00 PM, **Cottage Place Outreach** Dinner & Fellowship  
16 **Steeple Views deadline**  
20-27 Youth trip to Heifer International, Perryville, AR  
24 5:30 PM, **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, Session Room  
28 **Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering**  
29 7:00 PM, **Session meeting**

### EVERY SUNDAY

- 8:30 AM, **Contemporary Worship**, Chapel  
9:30 AM, **Fellowship**, Fellowship Hall  
9:45 AM, **Sunday School**  
10:55 AM, **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary

*Our Mission: Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other*

Steeple Views is published by First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA. Email articles to [fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com) (Gael Chaney, Editor) or turn in a paper copy to the church office. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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#### STAFF

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#### SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff	Clerk: Joan Montgomery
Administration: Chris Beeler	Christian Education: Victoria Esarey
Congregational Care: Virginia Truitt	Evangelism & Outreach: Nancy Moore
Facilities: Neil Tatum	Fellowship: Pearl Minter
Mission: Denny Casey	Stewardship: Janet Fentress
Worship: Cindy Edgerton	

#### TRUSTEES

Moderator: Dru Rothrock, Members: David Garland, Billy Kirby, Ed Linker, Bill Manning, Kent Williams