



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

September 2015

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Congregational Meeting, Sunday, Sept. 20, 12 Noon

This is the annual congregational meeting to elect new elders and trustees.

Community Service Project

Help Clean Up Wilson Park on Sept. 12



Please join us as we work with our friends from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to clean up J. Frank Wilson Park on Saturday, September 12, 9:00–11:30 AM, as a part of the International Coastal Cleanup 2015 and "God's Work, Our Hands" service project. In addition, we will be joined by the Southwestern Piedmont Master Naturalists and Friends of Wilson Park. Please park in the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot on Church Street Ext. across from the park.

Coffee, drinks, donuts, and rolls will be provided in the social hall. Here you will pick up your score cards, gloves, trash grabbers, bags and instructions.

After we fill our trash bags we will meet at the stone shelter to separate the recyclables and get a tally of the different items found and amount collected for future educational programs for Clean Virginia Waterways. For more information, contact Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net, 276-224-3906).



Rally Day Kicks Off Fall Programs

Sunday, Sept. 13, Breakfast at 9:30 AM

Fall is coming and with it church programs and activities new and old. Rally Day is Sunday, September 13, and features our traditional breakfast at 9:30 AM hosted by the Christian Education Committee. Adult Sunday School classes will continue, but Christian education for children now takes place on Monday afternoons with G.P.S ("Grow, Praise, Sing! Mapping a Life that Follows Christ") instead of Sunday mornings. Every child in grades K-8 is invited to participate. See the separate article for more information on G.P.S.

School-age children are invited to bring their backpacks to church on Sept. 13 for special blessings for students and for teachers. Also during the Traditional 10:55 service that day, second-graders will receive Bibles, Children's Worship will resume, and third-graders will be welcomed to the full worship service. As always, there is a nursery for infants and toddlers during the entire service.

Congregational Care

Adopt-a-Student Ministry Needs You

For Parents of College and Boarding School Students

Please help your students and us by sending the following information to the church office (**632-3431**) or to Judy Ware (**je_ware@yahoo.com**) as soon as possible:

Student's name

Name of college or school

Current address where Postal Service mail is received (including packages)

Email address

Please do this even if it is the same as last year.

For the Congregation

The goal of the Adopt-a-Student Ministry is to connect our college and boarding school students with another caring individual or family from their church home. Adopters agree to pray for their student and communicate throughout the school year via cards, letters, phone, or email. The entire congregation can get involved by contributing to the care packages that will be sent around exam time at the end of each semester. The Presbyterian Women's Valentine Cookie Project sends cookies to our students as well. Judy Ware is signing up people to adopt students; please contact her at **je_ware@yahoo.com** if you can help.

Our College Students

Claire Adkins, James Madison U.,
Junior

Emily Beard, University of Mary
Washington, Senior

Stuart Beard, Virginia Tech,
Sophomore

Annie B. Boyd, Washington & Lee
U., Sophomore

Olivia Evans, Patrick Henry
Community College, Sophomore

Alana Ferguson, Radford U., Senior

Michael Mason, Virginia Tech, Junior

Dyer Pace, James Madison U., Freshman

Ben Pinkston, Virginia Tech, Junior

Matthew Price, Virginia Tech, Senior

Alyssa Prilliman, Belmont U.

Kimberly Seaman, James Madison U.,
Senior



Will Seamon, James Madison U.,
Freshman

Jacob Wingfield, University of North
Carolina, Greensboro, Junior

Capers Zentmyer, University of Virginia
at Wise, Senior

Virginia Zentmyer, University of Virginia,
Junior

Please let us know about any errors or omissions.

Pastor's Corner

Don't Let Life Pass You By, Show up!

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad it.

Psalm 118:24



The other night I was watching a show about how impersonal and disconnected our families have become through the innovation of technology. A selected family showed one month's texting of almost 5,000 text messages. Between computer time, virtual reality gaming, and other high tech usages, the family was left with less than 30 minutes a day of actual face to face time with each other. The show reminded me of my time in Seminary where I encountered some classmates not wanting to attend classes, turn in papers, or even take examinations in any other manner than through e-mail. I was appalled to think that these were individuals who were training to be pastors and saw no need for personal contact!

In my opinion, 90% of being a pastor is just being present to a congregation. It's hard to hold someone's hand at their hospital bedside through a computer screen or deliver a sermon by pushing a button on your PowerPoint presentation and leaving the pulpit! Being a part of a Christian community should mean exactly that, being in community on a very personal level with each other. This congregation has shown a true desire to stay in community with each other by

visiting one another in times of sickness or grief with hospital visits and funeral attendance. You have stepped up to reach out to the less fortunate through Grace Network, the Community Breakfast, Cottage Place Nights, the Dick and Willy Trail cleanups, and other community outreach projects.

In all that we do together to step up in tough times, let us also remember to take the time to celebrate the gift of friendships, family, and the joy of communing with each other. As First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville re-emerges, be reminded of where we came from and who we still belong to, Jesus Christ! That personal relationship we so desperately seek to have with Him should also be the same relationship we have with each other. Love the Lord God with all that you are and love your neighbor as yourself. Don't let life pass you by, show up!

Grace to all of us,

Pastor Mark

Christian Education

G.P.S. Is Back on Mondays with Handchimes!

Grades K-5, 3:00-5:00 PM

Grades 6-8, 3:30-5:00 PM

G.P.S. ("Grow, Praise, Sing! Mapping a life that follows Christ") has started, but it's not too late to join the fun! All elementary and middle school students are invited to come at 3:00 PM (or after school for middle school) until 5:00 PM for music, Bible study, snacks, and crafts. This is our only Christian education program for children. Bring friends!

As we continue our journey through the Bible with our music and worship program, the children will spend the first several weeks learning to play the handchimes, ably taught by two of our Sanctuary Ringers, Janet Fentress and Sarah Robertson. Later in the fall, the children will start singing and prepare to sing in worship.

Leaders will walk students from Patrick Henry Elementary to the church. Children from other schools will need their own transportation.

Volunteers are needed to fix snacks and help with music and Bible instruction. More information and the registration form are available in the office. To volunteer or learn more, contact Cathy Stone (**276-638-1846, bncstone@comcast.net**) or JoAnne Sanders (**276-340-6913, sandersva@comcast.net**).



Music Department Notes 

Let's Make Music Together

The Chancel Choir has returned to the loft after their summer break and invites you to come be a part of the choir. Singers are needed for all choir parts, and we would be thrilled to have you. Short-term help is just as welcome as long-term.

Chancel Choir practices at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays for an hour and a half. Music is practiced in advance, so if you need to be out of town occasionally, you can still be a part of the choir. Being able to carry a tune is the only requirement. There are no auditions. You need not have a solo voice or musical training. Child care can be arranged if needed. If you have children that need to get to bed early and you only want to come to the first part of choir practice and then leave early, that is okay also. Please come and help us serve the Lord through music.

The Sanctuary Ringers resume practice on Wednesday, September 2, at 5:45 PM There are several openings in the choir this year. If you do not read music or have never played handbells, Cynthia will give you help in a separate session before you start in the choir. Many people who could not read music at all have learned to read music through playing handbells and have found it to be a lot of fun. Regular attendance at bell practice is important as there is no one else playing the same part, and if you are gone, those notes are not played. Bell choir is open to both adults and youth. Please contact Cynthia Dobrinski or leave a message in the church office if you are interested.

Praise Band, which practices contemporary music and leads congregational singing at the early service, continues to rehearse every other Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. We welcome singers of all ages, and you need not have a solo voice or music reading skills to participate. Instrumentalists are also welcome.

If you play an instrument or have a family member who plays an instrument and would like to offer music for a prelude at the 10:55 service, please contact Cynthia Dobrinski or leave a message in the church office. Even out of town players who come for a visit are welcome to share their talents.

New Church Directory Is Almost Complete *But we still need YOU*

Our new church pictorial directory will be printed soon, and we want everyone to be a part of it. The last Sunday that our photographer, Peter Marshall, will be in the Narthex before and after the 10:55 service is August 30.

The Stewardship Committee has scheduled two dates in September for taking pictures in the Narthex: **Wednesday, September 2, 5:00-6:00 PM**, and **Saturday, September 12, 10:00-11:00 AM**. People do not need to sign up or make an appointment for these dates, but just show up any time during the hour.

If anyone wants to set up a specific appointment for a day, time and place, they can email Peter at **peter_marshall@email.com** or call or text **434-953-3458**.

At its June 29 meeting, the Session voted to charge \$10 each for printed copies of the pictorial directory to defray copying costs. Copies will also be placed in the pews for reference on Sunday mornings.



Circles Begin Again Sept. 7 & 14

Our Presbyterian Women have three circles for your convenience. Circles 1 and 5 meet at 10:00 in the morning, and Circle 3 meets at 7:00 in the evening, usually on the first Monday of each month. Every other month is a general meeting at 10:00 AM in the church Fellowship Hall. We are starting a new Bible study this fall on the names of God. We are not using the Presbyterian Women study guide this year. All women are welcome to join us!

Circle 3, Monday, Sept. 7, 7:00 PM, Janet Fentress' home, 906 Corn Tassel Trail, Martinsville, phone: 638-3840 (Yes, we're meeting on Labor Day.)

General Meeting, Monday, Sept. 14, 10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

Congregational Supper 6:00 PM Committee Night 7:00 PM Sept. 14

Our monthly Congregational Suppers will resume Sept. 14 at 6:00 PM. The Fellowship Committee will prepare the meal for our first supper, and other committees will take turns hosting future suppers. Everyone is invited!

All congregational committees will meet after supper at 7:00 PM in various rooms around the church. We would love for you to join one of our committees and help with the work of our congregation. The committees are Administration, Christian Education, Communications, Congregational Care, Facilities, Fellowship, Mission/Evangelism, Stewardship, and Worship.



Helping Others

Free Community Breakfast Sept. 19

Our church's Free Community Breakfast will start back up after the summer hiatus on Saturday, September 19, serving from **8:00 until 9:30 AM**. We need volunteers to cook and set up beginning at **7:00 AM**. If you want to come later, you can help clean up. Everyone is welcome—even if you can't help, you can eat breakfast with our guests. This month's breakfast leader is Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net, **276-224-3906**).

Cooks Who Care and Prayer Shawl Ministry Continue Sept. 1 and 30

Neither Cooks Who Care nor the Prayer Shawl Ministry took a break during the summer, but if you did, September is a good time to join us for service and fun.

Cooks Who Care meet in the Marge Dunn Kitchen on the first Tuesday of each month at **9:45 AM or 5:30 PM (Sept. 1)** to prepare meals to be frozen and available when anyone has a need. You don't need to be a great cook to help!

Making prayer shawls is usually a solitary activity, but the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** knitters and crocheters love getting together on the last Wednesday of each month at **5:30 PM (Sept. 30)** to share their work and enjoy fellowship, food, and prayer together. Come join us! We would be glad to give you lessons if you need them. Contact Joan Montgomery at **632-1157** or **joanmontgo@gmail.com** for more information.



Congratulations to our former Associate Pastor, Jody Moore, and his wife Jeanne, on the birth of twins on August 10, 2015, Joseph Gilbert Moore III and Anna Carolyn Moore. Jody and Jeanne were married in 2012. Jody is pastor at Outer Banks Presbyterian Church in Kill Devil Hills, NC. Their address is Rev. & Mrs. Joseph G. Moore, Jr., 130 Sally Crab Court, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

Congratulations to Mary Mac (Knighton) and JJ Keith on the birth of their son Robert Raymond "Bert" on July 7, 2015. Proud grandmother is Liz Knighton, and great-uncles are Charlie and Doug Knighton. Mary Mac is a manager at Bootleggers Cafe in Rocky Mount, Va.

Congratulations to Sue and Sonny Benfield on the birth of their great-grandson Miles William Taylor on July 7, 2015, in Reston, Va, to grandson Will Taylor and his wife Lori. Barbara (Benfield) and Jim Taylor are proud grandparents.

Congratulations to our church secretary Rita Bateman on the birth of her grandson Barrett William Underwood on July 14, 2015, in Houston, Texas.



Laura Maria Chiudioni
July 31, 1961–July 25, 2015

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Laura's husband Jim Beard, daughter Emily, and son Stuart, and the rest of the Beard/Chiudioni family.

Charles Herman Miller, Jr.
February 6, 1952–July 25, 2015

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Charlie's wife, Marion, his son Allan, daughters Leslie, Libby, and Becky and their families.

Memorial Gifts to the Church

In Memory of Jean Linker

Irving Groves, Jr.
Margaret and David Hale and Peggy Lenderking
John Bullard, Sr.

In memory of Elizabeth "Beth" Ford

Gladys B. Blankenship
Mr. and Mrs. J. Ronald Ferrill
Judge Susan N. Deatherage

FPC Weekday School Begins Sept. 8

The First Presbyterian Weekday School preschool will start its half-day classes on September 8. Teachers are busy getting their classrooms ready in anticipation of the children's arrival! We were so sad to learn that Susan Smith decided to retire after many years of teaching. She will be greatly missed! Mindy Cobb will take her place as a teacher of four-year-olds, and we are in the process of hiring a teacher for two-year-olds. Our enrollment looks great, and I hope that any or all church members will come visit us and see what a fantastic preschool we have here at First Presbyterian Church!

—Mary Lewis Johnston, Co-Director

Vacation Bible School

Thanks to Everyone, It Was a Great Success!



The summit of Mt. Everest has been reached and all had a good time getting there. It was a great week of Vacation Bible School. There were 64 kids who attended at least one day. Our mission project of collecting canned goods for Grace Network was a great success, bringing in 349 cans. All the cans were wrapped in construction paper and became part of a mountain in the Imagination Station. You may have seen the re-creation in the Narthex. Thanks to Bonnie Price for all her hard work with this project. And speaking of thanks, there are many who deserve to be thanked, especially the station leaders, who do most of the work: Mattie Wingfield assisted by Matthew Mason, Bible Story; JoAnne Sanders, Snacks; Bonnie Price, Imagination Station; Nancy Coble (Forest Hills Church), Games; Debbie Norton (Christ Episcopal Church), KidVid Cinema; and Marcy Heffinger (Forest Hills Church), Base Camp singing.

The snacks were creative as usual, and the best one was a camp fire made with rice cake, pretzels, grapes and cheese over which the kids could "roast" their Smores and hotdogs. Mattie did a GREAT job taking over the stories from Laura Stevens. Well, she did have a great teacher. During games the kids slid down the hill on a block of ice and wore T-shirts cold from the freezer. Thanks to Victoria Esarey for help with the barbeque dinner. A fun week? You betcha!

More thanks go to the group leaders who took the kids from station to station. The Kindergarten was led by Beth Lawson and Lynn Henderson (Lutheran Church), 1st grade by Joan Montgomery and Josh McDowell (Fontaine Baptist), 2nd grade by Judy Ware, 3rd/4th grade by Kym Tatum and 5th/6th grade by Brooke Cundiff. Brooke also doubled as Trek, a character in a skit each morning. She might



consider a second career as an actor. Helping JoAnne in the kitchen were Pearl and Steve Minter, Lang Mauck and Ashley Sanders. What's the definition of "chaos"? The first morning of Bible School. And helping with the chaos were Sam Smith, Nancy Baker, Lynn Pritchett and Jo Dykes. Lynn Pritchett was there all week keeping the paperwork straight. Chuck Cundiff did a great job taking pictures for the Spotlight Drama each day. The kids loved seeing themselves on the big screen. There were also several teens from other churches who helped. And what about that mountain on the stage? Jo Dykes spent nearly 2 weeks making the mountain from chicken wire and papier-maché. Her artistic ability is amazing. As you can see it takes a small army to put on a successful VBS. Also notice the many other churches involved. The kids came from 15 other churches and 17 indicated no church. Did we touch their lives? I hope so.

Putting on a Bible School takes a great deal of time, planning and effort. Since 2002 I have either lead a station or been the director (7 years). It has been so rewarding to me to have hopefully touched many kid's lives, but I think it is time to "hang up my hat." I will be glad to share my knowledge with someone else if they would like to step forward. Bonnie Price, who has so ably lead the craft station for only one year less than me is also going into retirement.

—Janet Fentress



More VBS photos can be seen at <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/photoalbums.cfm?ID=271>



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| 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery | 16 Judy King |
| 4 Nancy Davis | 17 Donna Young |
| 7 Jamie Eden Peck | 20 Jean Williams |
| 8 Suzan Kirby | 23 Maddie Sayles |
| 10 Brooke Sanders | 24 Ashley Harris |
| 11 Hilde Chappell | 25 Carolyn O'Toole, Gavin Russell |
| 14 Randy Lawson | 26 Marian Campbell |
| 15 Lang Mauck | 29 Jim Ford |



Thanks to an anonymous donor, our church now has a new permanent sign out front. The scrolling display can be edited by our church secretary, Rita Bateman.

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 (Gael Chaney, Editor) or turn in a paper copy to the church office. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Address: 1901 Patrick Henry Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112, Phone: 276-632-3431

Website: <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

STAFF

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor pastormhinchcliff@hotmail.com
 Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist CDMartinsville@aol.com
 Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager ritaofficefpc@gmail.com
 Francia Brown, Bookkeeper fpcfbrownbk@gmail.com
 Mary Lewis Johnston and Kelly Huff, Weekday School Directors
1stpresbyterianwdsmartinsville@gmail.com

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