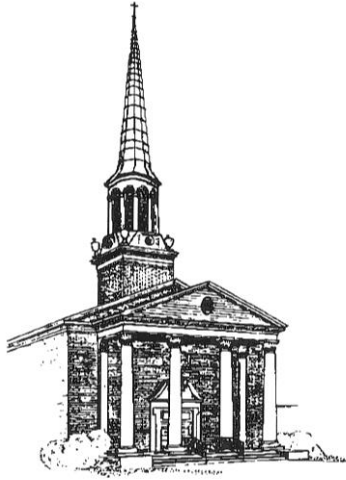


First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

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STEEPLEVIEWS
August 2013

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Our Mission is to:

Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other.



Our Summer Sunday Schedule:

8:30 Contemporary Worship

9:30 Fellowship Reception

(join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall)

9:45 Adult Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Worship

Presbyterian Web Sites:

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: www.synatlantic.org

Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org

Pby. Disaster Assistance: www.pcusa.org/pda/

Presbyterian Today: www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today

Pby. News Service: www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Jenny Spivey, "Bridge" Pastor pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com

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CDMartinsville@aol.com

Sarah P. Altizer, Office Manager sarahfpcoffice@gmail.com

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STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

August 2013

Martinsville, Virginia

Transition of Pastoral Leadership

At the Called Congregational Meeting on July 14, 2013, the congregation approved a new Terms of Call for Associate Pastor Jenny Spivey. The following highlights are provided by the Clerk of Session, Joan Montgomery.

Congregational Meeting Highlights

July 14, 2013

12:05 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to present and vote on a new Terms of Call for the Associate Pastor, to take effect the day after the Interim Pastor's departure.

Information was provided to the congregation about the transition period and the change from a Pastor and Associate Pastor to a Solo Pastor.

Questions were received and answered from the congregation about the proposed compensation and a new job description for Jenny as she moves to being the Bridge Pastor until and new Pastor is called.

The congregation approved the new Terms of Call with a unanimous vote. MSP (Motion made, seconded, passed)

At the time of the Congregational Meeting, the date for Joe Reggin's departure had not yet been finalized. Joe's last Sunday was July 28, 2013, and his last day in the office was July 31. Jenny Spivey's first day as "Bridge" Pastor was August 1, 2013. With the approval of both the Session and Presbytery, she will assume the role and function of Pastor for the congregation: preaching and leading worship, administering the sacraments, moderating the Session and serving as acting Head of Staff.

Message from the Outgoing Interim Pastor

By the time you read this I will have left Martinsville, to begin my new position working as an Interim with the congregations of the Synod of Metro Washington DC of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. I will continue as a Minister of Word and Sacrament with the

Presbyterian Church and will be a member of National Capital Presbytery. I would like you to know that I have enjoyed my time with you and have been especially honored to work with a wonderful staff, dedicated Elders and a highly skilled colleague, your former Associate, now "Bridge," Pastor the Rev. Jenny Spivey. It was also my great pleasure to meet each week with a number of the members of this congregation in various classes of Bible Study. I am especially grateful to those who attended and openly and honestly shared their understanding of our mutual faith in Jesus, as Lord and Savior. As I said in the context of my first sermon here, there is no better way for members of a congregation to become acquainted with a Pastor, and a Pastor with the members, than in the context of the study of Scripture. I have been truly blessed and am grateful for the relationships that have grown with those who participated in our Bible studies.

Even though I have gone, your time of Interim Ministry has not ended. It will continue with the capable leadership of the Elders of your Session, Clerk, Joan Montgomery and your Pastor, Jenny Spivey. The importance of continuing the work of completing the tasks of Interim Ministry, although difficult, is obvious to those who hold leadership positions within this congregation and to many members. This work will be critical to your future relationship with your new Pastor and the programs of ministry and mission you will seek to build and continue with your new Pastor. The difficult reality that congregations face is that, if the interim work is not done in one transition, it will need to be done in another, which will occur in the wake of a failed pastoral relationship and program of ministry and mission. Of course this means there would also be a significant loss of resources, especially time.

I have been asked why I have left my position as Interim Pastor if the work of interim ministry is not complete. I would like to address this

question here so that every member has the opportunity to understand what is at stake in the coming months of your transition to new Pastoral Leadership and a new program of mission and ministry with that new Pastor.

When I arrived in April of 2012, your Session had already taken action to reduce the expenses of this congregation by down-sizing your music program, over the objections of some members. I know this decision was difficult for your Elders because those on the music staff were their friends. I saw the struggle many on the Session experienced in the weeks that followed their action. Although this action was difficult, your Session took the most responsible course in regard to their responsibilities as the leaders of this congregation. This action saved tens of thousands of dollars. As a result of these savings, a more secure financial future and a more responsible stewardship of resources may be expected for years to come.

Within a few short months after this change in the budget for the music program, the Stewardship Committee began its work of securing pledges for this year. The projections for the pledges for 2013 showed that even though there were significant cuts in the budget in addition to the cuts in the music staff, there would have to be additional cuts. It is another difficult reality that significant budgets cuts must be made at the point of highest costs for a given organization. Of course this usually means cuts in salaries to paid staff members.

In the first six months of my work with your Session as the Interim, a focus was given to the work and job descriptions of both the Pastor and the Associate Pastor. After several months of study, conversation and prayer, Jenny and I came to the conclusion that there was a high level of redundancy in the work of the Pastor and Associate Pastor. In addition, due to declines in program, membership and resources, the need for two Pastors could no longer be justified.

Once the Stewardship Program had been completed (thanks to the work and dedication of El-

der Lang Mauck and the members of her committee and others within the church who assisted this committee) it became clear that if two Pastors were retained throughout 2013, expenses would over-take income by October 2013. This became one of the focal points of the Session's work during a weekend "retreat" near the end of January of this year. During that weekend the Session heard the report concerning the annual budget and the danger of deficit spending. For a number of reasons the decision was made by the Session, in consultation with me, to explore my leaving by July of this year and having Jenny, as your Associate Pastor, to take over as a "bridge" Pastor. In the context of this plan to cut pastoral staff costs, Jenny was asked to provide pastoral services and leadership to the Session and congregation until a new Pastor could be called. A focus of Jenny's work as the "bridge Pastor" would then be to complete the task of the transition/Interim period with a focus on helping the congregation and Session make the transition from having two Pastors to having one.

I think it is important for me to report that it was clear to all involved in these decisions that this congregation has received many gifts and blessings through the leadership of past Pastors and in the gifts, skills and dedication of Jenny Spivey. This reality seems to have been made especially clear in the wake of the untimely death of your former Pastor, the Rev. Randy Stephens.

As a result of this decision to downsize the Pastoral Staff, the Presbytery was consulted and permission was obtained for Jenny to move once more into the functional role of Pastor of First Church. Since this decision necessitated my leaving as the Interim Pastor, I began seeking a new position in April of this year with the consent and support of the Session and Presbytery.

This means that my leaving is not the result of my wanting to leave. I did not leave because people have been mean to me, or not appreciated my ministry with your congregation. Nor did I leave because I wanted to move to a larger

city, or to become a Lutheran. (Although I will work with the Lutherans, I will do so as a Presbyterian!) I am leaving for one reason and one reason only; this being that after much prayer, study, discussion, thought and care, your Session reached the conclusion, as it did in regard to the music staff, that additional cuts needed to be made and, as the Interim on this field of ministry, I was the most expendable staff member. It was then and is now also true that because I am an Interim Consultant/Pastor my finding a new position and moving would have a small impact on me, as opposed to Jenny, especially since she and Clint had just provided Gwendolyn with a new baby sister!

My leaving this congregation would have been difficult for me under the best of circumstances. I enjoyed my time with you. My difficulty in leaving was increased; however, because I will not be here to continue the vital work that is needed in the remainder of the time of your transition to a new Pastor. That will be left in the capable hands of others. In addition, I will not be with you to celebrate the call of your new Pastor and the new era of ministry that will begin with your new Pastor's installation. I will also not be here to continue our Bible Studies, the training of Elders and the sharing of the Word and Sacraments in worship. I will also not be here to enjoy the fellowship shared in my many encounters with members, visitors and friends of this congregation. For me it was difficult to leave; however, knowing that you can now move forward without the anxiety of deficits, knowing that you have a competent, capable and caring Pastor and knowing that you have dedicated leaders who accept the difficult work and the heavy responsibilities they have been called to take upon themselves in this interim period, greatly lessens my difficulty and transforms any sadness I have had in this parting into a genuine joy and hope regarding your future. So, with this letter, I leave you with a quote from Marge Dunn, "I will not say goodbye, only see you later!" May you be well as individuals, as families and as a family of faith. May God's blessings be with you and reside with you now and always – Joe

From the Session: Church Roll "Tidy-Up"

Members of First Presbyterian Church rejoiced when the Pastor Nominating Committee announced that our church information paperwork had been completed, had been approved by presbytery, and was placed on-line, enabling the committee to begin receiving and reviewing pastor information forms from interested candidates across the country.

That is GOOD news and we pray for the search committee and their dedication and diligence!

In the meantime, however, the rest of us have a job to do, too!

In preparation for a brand new pastor leader, we need to "TIDY UP" our church membership roll. We need to have an accurate and up-to-date accounting of the members of our church family. Who on our roll have left the area? Whose adult children have moved away and are possibly members of another congregation? Whose addresses have changed, causing undeliverable church communications?

To rectify these inaccuracies and keep our roll credible and useful, the Session has requested a LETTER to every church member to ascertain the valid status, number, and whereabouts of the persons currently on our church lists. The letters were mailed on August 2, 2013 with REPLY cards due back to the church promptly.

As we joyfully anticipate and prepare to welcome a new pastor to our church, we hope that these letters will provide an accurate First Presbyterian membership roll. If there are members who have not received a "church roll letter", please contact Clerk of Session, Joan Montgomery, by telephone at 276-632-1157 or e-mail jandmmontgo@embarqmail.com The Session appreciates the help of all church members with this important task in preparation for welcoming our new pastor.

From the Music Department



Thank you to all who voted for their favorite hymns for our special favorite hymn emphasis at the 11:00 a.m. service during July.

There was a huge diversity of favorites and we will continue into August with the singing of more of them in order to cover the top twenty-two. There was a four-way tie for the last two places in the top-twenty list. Almost every hymn sung during the month of July was voted a favorite.

As you may recall, each person's number one favorite hymn received three points, their second choice received two points, and their third choice received one point. "Amazing Grace" received more number one votes than any other, with five people rating that as their top choice. In the total tabulation, though, (a compilation of all first-, second- and third-choice votes for a particular hymn) "Here I Am Lord" was voted number one. The following is a list of the top 22 hymns: (1) Here I Am, Lord (2) Great Is Thy Faithfulness (3) I Danced in the Morning (4) Amazing Grace (5) Morning Has Broken (6) A Mighty Fortress (7) Holy, Holy, Holy (tied) (8) How Great Thou Art (tied with no. 7) (9) Spirit (10) Lift High the Cross (11) Be Thou My Vision (tied) (12) For All the Saints (tied with number 11) (13) Come Thou Fount (three way tie) (14) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (tied with numbers 13 and 15) (15) O Jesus I Have Promised (tied with numbers 13 and 14) (16) All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (three way tie) (17) Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (tied with numbers 16 and 18) (18) This Is My Father's World (tied with numbers 16 and 17) (19) Eternal Father, Strong to Save (four way tie) (20) Faith of Our Fathers (tied with numbers 19, 21, and 22) (21) Jesus Loves Me (tied with numbers 19, 20, and 22)

(22) Our God Our Help (tied with numbers 19, 20, and 21)

There were 34 more hymns that received a few votes.

The Chancel Choir will return to the choir loft in August. Rehearsals will resume at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7. We are in need of singers for all choir parts and would be thrilled for you to come and give us some help. No musical training or solo voice is required. If you like to sing please come and visit choir practice. We practice for an hour and a half and we practice music in advance so if you need to be out of town sometimes it is okay. Short-term and long-term help is welcomed. If you have children that need to get to bed early and you want to only come to the first part of choir practice that is okay also. Please come and help us serve the Lord through music.

The Sanctuary Ringers will be resuming practice on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:45 p.m. We still have room for some ringers so please contact Cynthia Dobrinski or leave a message in the church office if you are interested. No prior experience is required and both youth and adults are invited to participate.

A big thank you goes to all those volunteers who have worked with the children's music program (GPS) over the past year and to those who came and helped with cleaning out the cupboards and organizing in the children's music area. We had steady attendance with a good group of children in both the younger and older age categories and they enjoyed learning music and Bible stories and doing creative projects. Please spread the word about GPS.

A big thank-you goes also to those volunteers who have helped with the music library, with filing, and with cataloguing.

Remember, each person is important, and we are thankful for the large group of volunteers who have helped in the music program. Bravo!



What are Prayer Shawls?

The purpose of a Prayer Shawl is to give someone a tangible example of God's love and care. The shawl is made of soft yarn so the recipient can wrap in it and feel God's arms around him or her. A Prayer Shawl is made with prayer. The maker of the shawl prays before, during, and after working on the shawl. Shawls are presented during the church's worship service and the congregation prays for the person receiving the shawl. Shawls are delivered to recipients with a tag saying:

This shawl was knitted for you by a member of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church Martinsville. The shawl represents the love we have for you and the hope that it offers. We ask that you wrap it around you knowing that the congregation prayed for you and dedicated this shawl as a symbol of God's love for you and the love of our church.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our prayer shawls are not limited to church members but can be given to anyone. If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please stop by the pastor's office and sign out a shawl. We have several beautiful ones that are waiting to comfort someone. A note was recently received from the mother of one of our church members. It read:

"Many thanks to you and your church for the beautiful prayer shawl our daughter brought to me today from First Presbyterian Church. I wrap the shawl around me and feel God's love as well as the love of your church. What a blessing you are sending my way. May God's love be with each of you and especially the knitters of your Prayer Shawl Ministry."



Did You Know?.....

Did you know that "one of our own" is currently in medical school in South Carolina AND recently returned from a mission trip to North Africa?

Jennifer Stanley, daughter of Patsy Stanley and her late husband, Barry, spent part of her early years here before Barry's job with DuPont sent him and his family to other places. When Barry died in 2005, Patsy returned to Henry County and we once again established contact with Jennifer.

After graduating with Honors from the Honors College of Clemson University, Jennifer spent two years in East Asia with Campus Crusade, through Clemson. She continued to take classes while there and when she returned, spent a year readjusting and preparing to take the MedCAT and working on applications to medical schools.

She was accepted to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and began classes there last fall. Completing her first year in May, she was given the opportunity to go to North Africa with Medical Campus Outreach.

Our church was able to help her with prayer and financial support as she and her team, composed of both students and professionals, saw approximately 1200 people in just two short weeks there. People came from the town where the clinic was located and from surrounding mountain areas with many and varied complaints.

From her letter to the Mission Committee upon her return, Jennifer says, *"While we were selective in overtly sharing the Gospel and our faith with our patients for security reasons, by being Americans it was assumed that we were Christians, which we used to our advantage. We were able to share Christ's love with our patients simply by treating them with love and respect...The Lord used my team to meet tangible needs of the people of North Africa and to bring glory to His name, and I thank you for joining with me to be a part of it all."*

We hope to continue our relationship with this remarkable young woman as she visits her mother this summer and on subsequent vacations here.



Another **Vacation Bible School** is over and it was a great success. I have heard many positive comments and the kids seemed to have a super time. By my figuring, we had 102 kids that came at least 1 day. We went through a lot of snacks! All my worrying about help was for naught as Monday morning about 30 folks showed up from Christ Church and 2 other churches doing VBS as their mission project for the week. They were great along with all the other folks who helped – probably close to 70. Although the other churches sent a few helpers and leaders, First Pres far outdid them. Please read each name I have listed below just from our church and I give them each a big THANKS!!

Manning the craft station was once again Bonnie Price assisted this year by Susan Smith and my daughter-in-law Maria Fentress. Laura Stevens did another great job with the stories and decorating her room to set the atmosphere each day. Helping her were Carrie Buffkin, Mattie Wingfield, Dyer Pace, Emily Kelly, and her friend Julia. The snacks were delicious planned by JoAnne Sanders. Susan Hatchett (and son) was her right hand help in the kitchen each day along with Ashley Sessor, Pearl Minter, Cathy Stone, Elizabeth Wotring, Connie Anderson, Marge Dunn (of course), Joanna Wood and Virginia Truitt. Several ladies from the other churches helped also. Thanks to Carrie Wilson and Tonya Bredamus for a fun week for 17 4-year olds. Brooke Cundiff did a great job leading the 5th and 6th grade group. Her mother-in-law, and former church member, Margaret Cundiff, manned the nursery with a couple of helpers and had her hands full. Kym Tatum led the 3rd and 4th graders – the largest group. Barbara Tatum and Ashby Pinkard took care of registration including the extra 40+ kids that showed up Monday morning and had not pre-registered. Whew!! Lynn Pritchett did another great job keeping all the paperwork straight and heading off a few problems (very little this year). You really missed a treat if you didn't see the ferris wheel built by Tyler Price. By Friday it also had lights on it. Additionally there was a roller coaster, another smaller ferris wheel and a set of swings in the craft room. He

can build just about anything. More of our youth who were invaluable help were Virginia Zentmeyer, Olivia Evans, Grey Ferguson, Kimberly Seamon, Max Pinkston and Farrell Pace. Daryl Wilson helped acquire and worked with the bounce house and slide. Thanks to John Brown who demonstrated the Congo drums on the day we traveled to Zimbabwe in Africa. I hope I haven't left anyone out.

The VBS team will be meeting in a couple weeks to discuss this year's event and to choose a date and theme for next summer. I will have the date publicized by this fall so you can plan your 2014 summer vacation around the week

Janet Fentress

GPS (Grow, Praise, Sing) Program News



As we approach the start of the church program year this September, additional volunteers are needed to help with the Monday afternoon program for children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade, GPS (Grow, Praise, Sing!). This program, which began last September, was highly successful, with as many as 18 children attending each week. The program runs from 2:45 until 5:00 each Monday afternoon. Children arrive after school, have a snack and fellowship, then divide into age appropriate groups for Bible Study and activities or music instruction. Laura Stevens, in consultation with Cynthia Dobrinski, music director, and other volunteers work with the music program JoAnne Sanders and Janet Fentress and their volunteers lead the Bible Study. Volunteers are asked for a commitment to help at least one Monday afternoon a month. No advance preparation is necessary. Please give serious consideration to helping with this ministry to children of our church family and the community. We would like to have at least two volunteers a week. Duties might include:

1) Be available at 2:15 one Monday per month September-May to prepare snacks. Food will be provided. Help clean up snacks.

2) Be available at 3:00 one Monday per month September - May to assist in Bible Study classroom, interacting with the children and helping with any craft or other activities.



***Stirring Up Good Food and Fun
with CWC***

Cooks Who Care will kick off their second year on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, in the Marge

Dunn Kitchen. We will again have two cooking sessions with the morning session beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the evening session beginning at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to come help cook, have fun, nurture each other and deliver meals to those who need spiritual and physical nourishment from time to time, come join with us in the ministry of *Cooks Who Care*. You will love this interest group!

Please contact Judy Ware (276-666-2269 or je_ware@yahoo.com) or Virginia Truitt (276-732-6990 or mbeachgal@yahoo.com) for more information or to sign up to join this group.













**Happy Birthday
in August to.....**

- 1 David Chittum,
Anne Peterson
- 2 Lynne Beeler
- 3 Marge Dunn
- 5 Bob Richeson
- 6 Elizabeth Chapman
- 8 Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Beth Lawson, Carrie Buffkin
- 13 Chuck Cundiff
- 15 Caroline Harris
- 17 Maggie Pilson, Martha Pilson, Elizabeth Walsh
- 18 Cindy Nease, Madison Powell
- 19 Bill Plonk
- 21 Ron Fentress, Bill Stone
- 22 Laura Buffkin, Johnny Pinkard, Troy Rakes, Kym Tatum
- 23 Anne Abercrombie, Carol Ann Mahoney
- 24 Nan Smith
- 25 Margaret Lester
- 26 Gentry Zentmeyer
- 28 Bob Bledsoe
- 29 Stuart Beard
- 31 Dot Bryson, Bill Nease

and in September to.....

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery
- 2 Trula Campbell
- 4 Nancy Davis
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 10 Brooke Sanders
- 11 Hilde Chappell
- 14 Ally Rothrock, Randy Lawson
- 15 Lang Mauck
- 16 Judy King
- 17 Donna Young, Allyn Ann Campbell
- 20 Ed Newnam, Jean Williams
- 23 Maddie Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Carolina O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 27 Bob Chapman
- 29 Jim Ford

 '4 SUNDAYS @ 4' SUMMER ORGAN RECITALS Four Sunday Afternoons August, 2013					
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4	SUNDAY, AUGUST 11				
Martinsville Handbell Ensemble <i>"Hymns through the Liturgical Year"</i>  First Baptist Church 23 Starling Avenue Martinsville, VA	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> Peter Ramsey  Organist Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church </td> <td style="text-align: center;"> Mona Hylton  Choral Director Associate Organist Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church Bassett, Virginia </td> </tr> </table>	Peter Ramsey  Organist Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church	Mona Hylton  Choral Director Associate Organist Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church	Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church Bassett, Virginia	
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Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church Bassett, Virginia					
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18	SUNDAY, AUGUST 25				
 John Alexander Associate Director of Music/Organist First Presbyterian Church Greensboro, NC First Presbyterian Church 1901 Patrick Henry Avenue Martinsville, VA	 Dr. André Lash Professor of Organ, UNC-G Organist Christ United Methodist Church Broad Street Christian Church 106 Broad Street Martinsville, VA				