



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



First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

Address Service Requested

STEEPLEVIEWS
July 2012

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First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Joe Reggin, Interim Pastor ipjoe1147@gmail.com
Jenny Spivey, Associate Pastor pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com
Robert Chapman, Director of Adult Music
adultmusic@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Cynthia Dobrinski, Organist
Sarah P. Altizer, Office Manager
office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Phone: 276-632-3431 *Fax:* 276-632- 3802
office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

July 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

From the Interim Pastor

There has been a rumor circulating around the church, that predates my arrival, I think, that the Session's decision to reduce the members of the music staff had nothing to do with the church budget and/or deficits in the budget. As I mentioned this past Sunday, I would like to invite any and all members who might think there is any factual basis for such a rumor to contact the Clerk of your Session and be placed on the docket for the next (or any), regular meeting of Session as a visitor. You will be given time in the context of the meeting to ask any questions you like about the budget (or any other matter) and will be given a copy of the budget (in as much detail as you like) for your study.

It is important to me that every member of this congregation, as well as friends and visitors here, know that you are always welcome to attend meetings of the Session. You are welcome to review the minutes of Session: however, you are not permitted to take the Session minute book home, or leave the building with it, without permission from the Session, for obvious reasons. You are also welcome to receive a monthly Church Treasurer's Report any time you would like one. There are no secrets in the Session and there is nothing that the Session does that cannot be reviewed in public; other than the specific information given by candidates for employment in the church. Again it is obvious why personal information would be held in confidence, though not as a secret.

There are other rumors about Sessions that I have heard most of my career, which I have always found amusing. One of my favorites is that a Pastor has stacked the proverbial deck of Session members with his/her supporters. This implies that the Pastor cannot be trusted and is prone to deception, in which case the Pastor should be reported to the Presbytery so that his/her ordination might be revoked for cause. (In such a case, if such a charge was proven, a Pastor would be guilty of breaking the vows taken at Ordination.) This also implies that the Congregation's Nominating Committee and the Congregation as a whole is so unaware, so slow

of mind that they cannot determine when, or if, they are being fooled/hood-winked/deceived! I have never met a congregation yet, in over 30 years of my service as a Minister of Word and Sacrament that I would consider to be any of these things. Quite the contrary in fact, since my experience tells me that most congregations tend to be on top of situations in the Church Family and, generally speaking, are always pretty bright and have lots of common sense.

I would like to ask your help in putting a stop to such rumors in this congregation and to join with me in showing your Elders a (for me) deserved measure of respect and gratitude for their service to you, as a Church Family, and to the Church of Christ, as people called by God to represent Jesus Christ, as Ruling Elders and members of your Session.

I would like you to know that, while many of us will take this coming weekend (June 22nd to the 24th) to pursue our own interests and perhaps rest up a bit for the work week ahead, your Elders will be here, at the church, in a Training/Planning weekend with me. This will represent an individual, minimum time commitment somewhere between 17 to twenty hours. I am quite sure every member of your Session who attends this weekend meeting has many other things they would rather do!

I am telling you this because I experience your Elders as decent, caring, intelligent, dedicated individuals who have committed themselves to the Gospel and to moving this Church Family to a position of success in ministry and mission. I am telling you this because I think these fine people, who are your friends and neighbors, and your sisters and brothers in Christ, deserve your respect and your prayers of support and thanksgiving to God. I commend them to you and I am proud to serve with them as the Moderator of this congregation's Session! I am telling you this to ask you to make a commitment to help stop any and all rumors you hear that might denigrate your Session and/or congregation. I think you are all much better than this and I would hate to see rumors that begin who-knows-where and who-knows-for-what-reason,

to damage the reputation of this congregation and its almost 158-year history in this community.

In this, I commend to you the words of Paul to the Church in Rome: "Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." (Rm.14:19) I hope to see you in worship this Sunday. May the blessings & peace of Christ be yours – Joe

Witness for Stewardship

Judy King

I have been in a church environment most of my life, being raised in a small Baptist church, accepting Christ as my savior and being baptized at age 12. My childhood involvement in church was rather routine as my Mother was very committed to the church. Becoming a college student away from home, I was the norm and attended church occasionally. After marriage and starting a family I moved my membership to First Presbyterian as this was my husband's church and I wanted us to worship together...

About 40 years ago as many of you know, I gave birth to triplets. Needless to say my life changed drastically in many ways. My oldest daughter was enrolled in kindergarten here at that time. We lived 15 miles from the church therefore I had to transport her both ways. We were going to pull her out of school as it was unrealistic for me to transport her with three babies and a two year old with medical problems. Circle 5 of which I was a regular member heard me crying out for help. They set up a schedule and brought Kay home each day and many of them brought food and stayed and helped with babies. This went on from January to the end of May.

What an outreach to a young member of the church. I definitely saw God working through this group of ladies. This mission definitely confirmed my faith and commitment to the church for many years to follow. Although now I divide my worship time on Sundays between First Presbyterian and a couple other churches because of traveling, my devotion and commitment will always be with First Presbyterian.

The love of Jesus Christ continues to shine through the members of this church family here at First Presbyterian. May we be grateful for the gifts we have received and be eager to use them to show our love for God and one another by being good stewards of our time and talents.

Judy



Youth Mission Week

"The Church has left the building"

During the week of June 17-22, an energetic group of youth and adults answered the call to mission and service, by learning about and sharing their gifts with organizations and people in our local Martinsville & Henry County community.

The week began Sunday evening with a "pantry raid" during which our two teams visited over 20 households and collected 450 pounds of food! On Monday, we met for group building and to consider how God calls us not only to "do tasks" of service, but to be in relationship with people to embody the good news Christ came to live in our midst. We made a delicious lunch of salad, fruit salad, mini pizzas and brownies, took it over to the shelter at CAFV, and shared the meal with staff and residents there. In the afternoon, we delivered our food collection to Grace Network and helped organize the food so it could be shelved in their pantry.

On Tuesday, we did preparation for Wednesday's activities and shared fellowship and fun by making t-shirts together and having conversation about our church and future hopes for ministry. Tuesday evening, we took over dessert and helped to set-up, serve and clean up at the Broad Street Christian Church's Community Meal.

On Wednesday, we baked cookies and went out to visit church members at King's Grant and share in worship with residents of the

Health Center. In the afternoon, we went to Edwards Adult Day Center and made crafts, played games and talked with people there. That evening, Lee Eden hosted people for a pool party at her house.

On Thursday, we spent the day at Community Storehouse, assisting with their weekly food distribution and organizing donations for their second-hand store.

On Friday, we had a fun and fellowship trip to Wet 'n Wild in Greensboro.

We had 19 youth participants over the course of the week's events: Claire Adkins, Emily Beard, Stuart Beard, Annie B. Boyd, Tenzi Chacha, Elizabeth Edelen, Olivia Evans, Alanna Ferguson, Grey Ferguson, Matthew Mason, Michael Mason, Dyer Pace, Ben Pinkston, Max Pinkston, Matthew Price, Tyler Price, William Seamon, Mattie Wingfield, Virginia Zentmeyer.

And thanks to the many adults who helped in many ways over the course of the week: Billy Kirby, Lynn Pritchett, Forrest Truitt, Joe and Jerri DeVault, Ashby and Johnny Pinkard, Smith Chaney, Bill Kirby, Nancy and Milt Davis, Bill Plonk, Bill Franck, Ed Pace, Cindy Edgerton, Anne Lackey, and Heidi Pinkston.



Congratulations to Mitch and Clark Seipt on the birth of their son, Eli McGregor Seipt, on May 23, 2012, in Manasses, Virginia.

Liz Knighton is the proud grandmother!

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated on Sunday, June 24, 2012, for Mason Stephen Wood, son of Jerry and Joanna Wood and brother of Riley Wood.

Session Highlights

June 25, 2012

- Joe Reggin, Moderator, led the Session in a devotion and opening prayer
- Minutes of the Stated May 21 Session meeting and the Called Session meeting of June 24 were approved.
- Dru Rothrock's resignation from the Session as an active Elder was received with regrets and gratitude for his past, and continuing, service.
- Changes in Membership: The baptism of Mason Stephen Wood, son of Jerry and Joanna Wood on Sunday, June 24, 2012 was noted. The Session approved the transfer of membership of Elizabeth Geer Goldstein from FPC to Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.
- The Session authorized a love gift/honorarium from church members for retiring Parish Associate, the Rev. Rusty Reaser and retiring Choir Director, Bob Chapman.
- The still forming Early Worship Committee was designated as a subcommittee of the Worship Committee.
- A meeting at King's Grant for all older congregants (70 years and above) was authorized for the purpose of meeting with our Interim Pastor and Ruling Elders for Q and A. This will take place at 2:00 on July 8, 2012. More information will be presented to the congregation.
- Duke Ferrell and Forest Truitt were elected as Commissioners to the Presbytery meeting on Saturday, July 28, and Lynn Pritchett was elected as the alternate.
- *Cooks Who Care*, a group interested in cooking for congregation members, and a \$300 start-up fund, was authorized by the Session. More information will be sent to the congregation for anyone interested in joining the group.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

Questions??? Get Answers!

There will be a reception for all older congregants (70 years and older) next **Sunday, July 8, at King's Grant, beginning at 2:00 p.m.** This will be a meeting with our Interim Pastor, Joe Reggin, and the Ruling Elders for a question-and-answer session. Everyone is then invited to the chapel service where Joe is scheduled to preach.



Congratulations to Benjamin (Ben) Parks Pinkston who received his Eagle Scout Award in our sanctuary on Saturday,

June 16, 2012!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**First Presbyterian Church
July 16 – 20, 2012 9am – 12 noon**

In case you haven't noticed, VBS is returning to First Presbyterian again this summer – very soon. We will be diving under the sea this year and having lots of fun. If you haven't registered please do so soon. There is a form included in *Steeple Views*, forms in the church pews or just call the office and tell Sarah. We will need a release signed but you can do that the first day. As usual we need as many helpers as possible – both teens and adults. Some have signed up already but I know there are more of you around. Places we need help include group

leaders, kitchen, crafts, preschool room and nursery. We would like all helpers to meet at the church at 4:00 Sunday July 15 to decorate a shirt and take part in a short preview of this year's program.

REGISTRATION

**First Presbyterian Church
July 16 – 20, 2012 9am – 12 noon**

Child's Name

Parent's Name(s)

Address

Home Phone _____ **Cell and/or other emergency phone** _____

Emergency Contact if other than parent

***Birth Date** _____ **School Grade entering in fall 2012** _____

***We are not having a class for 3's this year – child MUST be at least age 4 by July 1.**

Home church

Any allergies or other medical problems we need to know about:

T-Shirt Size _____ **Would you like to purchase a music CD for \$5** _____

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Medical & Liability Release – Valid July 16 – 20, 2012
In the event of sickness or some medical emergency, I request that my child(ren) receive medical attention or treatment deemed necessary. Therefore I give permission to any hospital, doctor, and/or health care provider to transport, treat and/or admit for the care of my child(red). I understand that I am responsible for all expenses and charges for the treatment and care of my child(ren). In the event that I am not present at the time of the emergency or cannot be

contacted, the care of my child(ren) has been entrusted to the staff and designated ministry leadership of First Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and Christ Church. I also hereby release the above named churches of any liability should any injury occur while participating in this Vacation Bible School.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date _____

We need lots of volunteers (adults and teens rising 7th grade and up) to help make VBS a success. Please let us know if you can help:

Name _____

Phone _____

Shirt size _____

I can help all week _____ I can help on the following days: M T W TH F

I would like to help with: _____



Happy Birthday in July to . . .

- 2 William Seamon
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 6 Barbara Stanley
- 7 Clara Hartley
- 8 Dyer Pace
- 10 Mildred Bishop
- 12 Betty Carol Lamm, Betty Stanley, Heidi Pinkston
- 15 Dick Pilson, Kimberly Seamon, Jim Stegall
- 17 Jerri DeVault
- 18 Buck Kester, Ashby Pinkard
- 10 Lee Eden
- 20 Nancy Betz, Connor Wotring
- 21 Bill Brown, Elena King
- 22 Chuck Marshall, Lil Wall, Jessica Showalter
- 23 Carl Bishop, Anne Lackey, Chris Beeler
- 25 Teri Ferguson
- 27 Laura Stevens
- 29 Bill Franck
- 31 Capers Zentmeyer, Laura Chiudioni

and in August to . . .

- 1 David Chittum, Anne Peterson

- 2 Lynne Beeler, Allan Miller
- 3 Marge Dunn
- 5 Bob Richeson
- 6 Bunny O'Neal, Elizabeth Chapman
- 8 Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe

Planning for Children's Choir and Christian Education Program

A group of 11 parents, musicians, former children's choir participants and helpers, as well as others, met Thursday, June 21, to develop a vision for a children's program which will provide a combination of Children's Choir and Christian Education. Several volunteers stepped forward to help lead such a program and others will be recruited soon. Our new Director of Music, Cynthia Dobrinski, will train music volunteers in August. More information for parents will be forthcoming so please stay tuned to learn about the exciting plans for these programs which will take place after school on Monday afternoon.



**Coming in September!
Cooks Who Care**

A cooking interest group, is being formed for the purpose of bringing folks together who enjoy cooking, and preparing meals to be frozen and made available to the congregation as needed. What a great opportunity for fun, fellowship, and nurturing each other!

Contact Judy Ware at 666-2269 (je_ware@yahoo.com), or Virginia Truitt at 634-5648 (mbeachgal@yahoo.com), for more information and to sign up



Please join us on Sunday, July 15, as we celebrate the many years of service Bob Chapman has given this church as Director of Music. We will have a chance to express our love for and thanks to Bob at a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 service. Anyone wishing to make a contribution

to a love gift for Bob may do so at the Church Office.

Memorial Donations May/June 2012

General Memorial Fund

In Memory of Jim Baker

Ms. Anne Lackey
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Flythe
Mr. and Mrs. Will Franck
Mrs. Judith King
Ms. Ellen Campbell
Dr. Donald Holsinger
Ms. Wendy Shook
Dr. and Mrs. John Engel
Circle #1
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Williams
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Garrett
Dr. James K. Muehleck
Mrs. Roslyn Wingett
Dr. Donald Richman, MD
Mrs. Barbara M. Amburn
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Judson
Mr. and Mrs. Forest Truitt
Mr. and Mrs. J. Ronald Ferrill
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Smith
Drs. Paul and Margie Eason
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Teague
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Scott Dias
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Mr. and Mrs. Doug Riddle
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Mrs. Katherine Neil
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Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hill

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Mr. Sean Hoskins
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Ms. Carolyn Sowdon
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In Memory of Rev. Randall C. Stevens

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