



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

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STEEPLEVIEWS
October 2012

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

October 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY: October is the traditional season for Stewardship in the church. It is the time when we talk about money and budgets. This is unfortunate since stewardship has little to nothing to do with money and budgets! We have heard this reality reflected in the many wonderful stories told by members of the congregation in our *Stewardship Moments* over the past few months. These are stories of faith and hope and family and how the sharing and care that are found within this congregation have supported and nurtured people in their life's journeys.

There is a story found in all three of the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke about a rich man who comes to Jesus to ask how one might enter the Kingdom of God/Heaven. In the story it is clear that this man has kept the Law of Moses to the letter. Jesus tells him that the only thing left to do is to sell all he has, give it to the poor and come and follow him. In the story the rich man goes away, saddened by Jesus' invitation, because he was unable to part with his wealth. In the story Jesus responds with the great aphorism of "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for someone who is wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God."

Over the years this story has been interpreted to make this aphorism less difficult for those who are wealthy. In such interpretations the needle becomes a small gate in the wall of the city of Jerusalem through which a camel could pass, with some difficulty. (It has always been interesting to me that this interpretation has been accepted for many years, even by those who insist that the Bible must be interpreted literally!) In the tradition of the stories of the synoptic Gospels, however, it is clear that Jesus, in using this aphorism, is using hyperbole and is making reference to the impossibility of a camel passing through the eye of a sewing needle.

So does this mean that God does not like rich people, or that rich people will not go to heaven? You will need to attend worship on the 21st to hear the answer to these questions,

on Stewardship Sunday. (Hint: It will not be about giving money to the Church!) For now, I would ask you to remember that Stewardship is not about money and budgets. Instead it is about money and relationships! It is about our human tendency to seek security over adventure and control over serendipity, having a happy accident or finding a pleasant surprise in our journey of life. Stewardship is about allowing ourselves to seek, find, build and enter the Kingdom of God/Heaven.

I invite you to participate in your Stewardship Program this month and to join with your Elders and your sisters and brothers in Christ to consider the relationship we share with one another as a Church Family and the relationship we share as a Church Family (and as individual Church Members) with God.

I hope to see you in Worship this Sunday. Blessings & peace – Joe

PS – I will be taking some time this month from around the 11th or 12th to the 20th for a little vacation. I will be going to Florida to visit family members who are friends and friends who are family members. I will also be snorkeling in several of the springs (an activity I highly recommend - please talk to me if you don't know about the springs). I am also going to eat large quantities of seafood at numerous back water places! If you need to contact me, please feel free to do so via e-mail and/or phone. You already have my number! It might take longer than normal for you to reach me; nonetheless please contact me if you need to do so.

Word from the Associate Pastor

What to Expect When You're Expecting

In case any of you still don't know, I am going to have a baby. Apparently there was some sense of confusion surrounding the news, leading to some speculation if I was sick, why the Session approved a time of leave, and so on. I was somewhat confused with the confusion, and wondered "what's going on here?"

Actually, during pregnancy there are many times when I wonder, "what's going on here?" Now, this is my second time around, so some things are not as shocking as they might be, and I'll spare our male readership from the more strange details of being pregnant. It has occurred to me in the past couple months how there are some similarities between being pregnant and being in a time of "expectation" as a church, as we look ahead and prepare ourselves for the arrival of a new pastor. Like pregnancy, this season of expectation has been uncomfortable for many people within the church. Faced with changes that have impacted our church body, I have heard many people wonder, "what's going on here?"

There are times I wish I had an answer to that question, just as sometimes I wish I could get an answer to how to prevent swollen legs, or soothe back pain, or what to do when I feel I could just eat a horse. But I've come to realize, while I may not find answers to these curious bodily changes, I can notice and be aware of how all these changes are affecting me. I am much more attuned to how I feel exhausted, or anxious, or not ready for the baby to get here yet!

So, try the metaphor on, are *we* pregnant? This is certainly a time of transition, change and expectation. Like lots of parents-to-be, we may wonder, "Are we ready?" or even question whether this whole business was such a good decision after all. We cannot "solve" or "fix" the discomforts and challenges of pregnancy. But, consider, too, the hopefulness and promise of what we are doing. We are looking ahead to new life, new relationships; and as any of you who have children will attest, life will never be the same again. And in Jesus Christ, that is God's promise, and that's good news.



"Trunk or Treat" Halloween Party

Sunday, October 28th, 5:30-7:00pm

We are planning to have our 3rd annual "Trunk or Treat" Halloween Party on Sunday evening October 28th for children involved in our various ministries and from the neighborhood. This is an excellent way to *share God's love and embrace our neighbors* in a fun way! We need your help to make this possible! You can help by, 1) Bringing your vehicle and decorating your trunk and handing out candy, 2) Donating some extra candy (bring to the church office), or, 3) Helping in the kitchen preparing and serving hot dogs. There is a sign up for volunteers on the youth bulletin board near the church office. Please sign up by Monday, October 15th, so we can know if we have enough helpers to hold the event.

Youth Sunday "Thank You"

On Sunday, September 9th, 18 talented young people shared in the leadership of worship at our 11:00 Service. They shared from their summer experiences at camp, Mission Week and Montreat Youth Conference. Each of them gave his/her time and talent in preparing and sharing their faith and so we say ***thank you*** to: Cameron Aaron, Emilee Aaron, Claire Adkins, Stuart Beard, Annie B. Boyd, Basil Boyd, Olivia Evans, Margie Feng, Matthew Mason, Michael Mason, Dyer Pace, Ben Pinkston, Max Pinkston, William Seamon, Jacob Wingfield, Mattie Wingfield, Bonnie Xue, Virginia Zentmeyer!

Upcoming Youth Group Calendar

Sunday, October 7 – Church Picnic 5:00pm, Come with your families to the church picnic on our front lawn, and bring your best tossing skills, because the youth are going to take on our elders on the Session in a Cornhole tournament. Who will come out on top?

Sunday, October 14 – Dinner and Youth Group, 5:30-7p.m. Activities with music and creative worship.

Saturday, October 20 – Trip to Greensboro to Woods of Terror. Laura Stevens will be sending out more information for sign-ups and chaperones to help.

Sunday, October 21 – Dinner and Youth Group, 5:30-7pm. Set up and organize for Trunk or Treat.

Sunday, October 28 – Trunk or Treat Halloween Party, Youth Group will coordinate games. Set up 4:30, Trunk or Treat from 5:30-7pm.

From Our Music Department. . .

Cynthia Dobrinski

Fall activities in the Music Department are off to a great start but we do need some more help! The Chancel Choir is in need of some more singers. Anyone who can carry a tune is welcome. If you have to be out of town a lot, you can still stake your claim to a seat in the choir loft. All we ask is that you come to practice enough to learn the music. Choir meets at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Both short-term and long-term help is needed, so please come and help us praise the Lord through music.

The children's G.P.S. (Grow, Praise, Sing *Mapping a Life that Follows Christ*) is off to a great start with 18 children present at their first rehearsal. G.P.S. meets from 2:45 – 5:00 p.m. on Mondays and we welcome children from Kindergarten through Fifth grade to join these two groups. One hour is spent in musical activities, and the other hour in learning Bible stories and enjoying crafts and games. There is still room for more children, so please invite the children in your neighborhood to come and join us for a fun time.



The Sanctuary Ringers have begun their fall schedule at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays. We still have room for one more ringer. Anyone interested should contact Cynthia Dobrinski. No prior experience is necessary. Come join us –bells are fun to play!



G.P.S. Is Here

Grow, Praise, Sing! – Mapping a Life That Follows Christ

G.P.S. is up and running, and we are off to a great start! We have many wonderful volunteers graciously giving of their time and talents, to help the children and to ensure that they have a wonderful time.

During our first few weeks, we have had over 15 children participating in the program. Children are engaged in singing through repetition and movement songs. They are also learning simple but useful singing techniques. Hopefully, they will be ready to make their debut in church sometime in October.

The children are also engaged while attending “Bible Trackers.” Here, the children are on a journey to explore the Bible through many different ways, including stories, snacks, and crafts.

Please come join us and see what we are all about! G.P.S. meets every Monday afternoon in the Fellowship Hall, from 3:00 until 5:00. You, too, can come Grow! Praise! Sing! With us.

For more information, please contact Laura Stevens at 2760632-8075 or at LBelle@aol.com

By Laura Stevens



*A Note from
Monica Stevens...*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I felt compelled to write this letter, not as the wife of the former pastor but as a church member who loves this congregation and who has had some experience with pain. Whether we acknowledge it or not, we are a church in pain. Many of us feel the pain of grief and loss due to Randy's death. Many of us feel the pain of change that has come unbidden and, in some instances, unwelcomed. Many of us are feeling the burden and pain of new responsibilities that are falling square on the shoulders of our congregation members--especially on session members.

We are at a crossroads as a congregation. There is much that is good and wonderful in our life together as a church and in our mission to the larger world. There is much that is vital, healthy, and life-giving in this congregation. On the other hand, our pain is getting in our way. Instead of sharing our concerns in a mutually respectful dialogue, some have become contentious, or even worse, silent. Instead of coming closer together in our hour of need, some are pulling away, becoming fragmented. Instead of hearing one another out with an open mind, some have become entrenched in their own perspectives. Instead of throwing our arms around each other with the love of Christ, some have turned their backs.

Will we acknowledge our pain and allow it to motivate us toward positive action, or will we become stuck and allow our pain to destroy us? At the time of Randy's death, several people referred to Randy's death as a tragedy. It certainly isn't for him. He is face to face with the Lord whom he has loved and served all of his life. As much as our family misses Randy and feels his loss daily, his death is not a tragedy for us. How will it be with this congregation? Will Randy's untimely death become a tragedy for this church, or will it be the stimulus that moves us into positive action?

No matter how well loved, the church is not the minister. It is not the building, the budget, or the programs. The church is the people who are called together as part of Christ's body to minister to one another and the larger community in his name. Relying on the grace, love, and strength of our Triune God, I firmly believe we will take positive action to overcome our pain, squarely face the challenges that lie ahead, continue to love and support one another with the love of Christ, and embrace the "new thing" that God is doing in our midst. I am excited to see what the future holds for us.

In the spirit of Christ's Love,
Monica Stevens

TOP Martinsville

On Sunday, September 30, our FPC Youth coordinated and served a meal in Wilson Park as part of this *Teens Opposing Poverty* initiative. Many thanks to our church's coordinators Annie B. Boyd and Virginia Zentmeyer. Below is a description of TOP written by Liza Moore, a member of Forest Hills Presbyterian Church: "Teens are coming together to feed the needy in Martinsville, Virginia. Youths from multiple churches in Martinsville heard about *Teens Opposing Poverty* and were excited to see what God was asking of them. Giving the homeless people someone to talk to, share their ideas with, and simply love is our number one goal, but we wanted to start with giving them a place to get clean; that meant showers. But after prayer, we realized that we must first build relationships and what better way is there to anyone's heart, much less a homeless person's heart, than food? We began with a monthly meal in the city park, but recognized more need and now serve food twice a month. Through heartfelt conversations with the guests that attend, we have learned their personal stories, as well as hearing about their finest, and sometimes funniest moments. We have all learned about the true and tragic issue of poverty and homelessness - even in our small seemingly close-knit town. Though our meal is only every other week, it fills people not only physically, but spiritually, with love and acceptance through caring teens attempting to keep their eyes on Jesus."--Liza Moore, TOP Martinsville

Youth President, TOP Martinsville



Witness for Stewardship

Elizabeth Ferrell Harris

As some of you may remember, back in May, my son George was baptized. The morning of George's baptism, our family was quite preoccupied and nervous – first and foremost, we were focused on how he'd behave (after all he was teething). We worried about what he would be wearing. Haze and I reviewed and rehearsed what we would say as parents. We were concerned about what family and friends would be attending the service and where they would sit. We had even coordinated a family luncheon for after the service. My family and I believed we had planned out every last detail for George's baptism, but after the day had come and gone, it was clear we had not thought of everything...

Short of his birth, George's baptism has been my favorite moment in his life to date. Not only did Haze and I have a huge gathering of family and friends supporting us, but my father stood with us as our elder, and my son was baptized in the same place where myself, my mother, my brother, and many other family members had been baptized years before. Not to mention, I was very proud of my usually rambunctious George as he had behaved perfectly! And yet, we had no photographs to remember the momentous event...

At the Session meeting following George's baptism, my father received a CD from Judy Ware containing 50 pictures of George's baptism. And I'm not exaggerating when I say 50 because I counted all of them. Without us even realizing it, Mike Ware, quietly in the background, had been snapping away on his camera during the entire baptism, documenting every special moment.

Mike is a great example of stewardship. He quietly works behind the scenes offering one of his many talents in such a generous way, day after day, when something special is going on in the life of First Presbyterian. Mike doesn't have to be asked, he just does his thing, contributing his time and talents for the betterment of this church and its congregation. Just look around the church, from the bulletin

boards to the church website and more, you will see evidence of his hard work.

There are so many other members of this congregation that make similar generous gestures like Mike, but today I'd like to recognize Mike and say thanks from our family for his commitment to First Presbyterian Church and its ministry.

TO: Our Dear Church Family

Thank you so very much for the honor you afforded me on Sunday, July 29, to Preach the Word and lead you to God's Throne in worship and Prayer. Perhaps the statement above is a good summary of that experience we shared.

Ann and I thank you also for the reception, the kind words and the gift which honored and valued our ministry among you for much of the past decade and more.

God's Love, Joy, Peace and Harmony to you all!

Rusty and Ann

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Returns

The Tuesday morning Bible Study group will begin a study of the Gospel of Luke starting on Tuesday, October 9th at 10:00am. The group will meet on Tuesdays through December in the Irby classroom, with the leadership of Rusty Reaser and Jenny Spivey. Everyone is welcome to join in.

First Presbyterian Weekday School



They're back! The Weekday School is once again alive with the sounds of children engaged in fun and learning. Our first day of school was a bit of an adventure when the power failed at 8:50 at exactly the time the children started arriving! But we were back up and running around 10 o'clock so all was well. We currently have 43 children enrolled and I continue to receive inquiries weekly. What a great problem to have!

There have been a few staffing changes this year with the departure of Hila Foutz who has moved to Rocky Mount. We will miss her infectious enthusiasm and energy and wish her all good things in her new hometown. Her departure has prompted changes in assignments for some of our current staff. Brenda Cassady has moved up an age group and will be teaching the 3's and Kym Tatum has moved into Brenda's position as the teacher in the 2's. We also welcome Mary Manns to our staff. Many of you may know Mary from the ELI program. We feel fortunate to have her here in her new role with Mother's Morning Out and as an aide in the 2's. While I am talking about Weekday School staff I would like to recognize two of our longest tenured employees. Donna McGarry is beginning her 19th year of employment with us! Over the years she has taught 2's, 3's and 4's. Susan Smith is beginning her 15th year as a teacher. In her tenure she has been a teacher's aide, Mother's Morning Out teacher and 4's. These two have touched the lives of many children over the years and are an integral part of the ministry of The Weekday School.

As I begin my 8th year as the director of The Weekday School I feel blessed to be involved with such a great group of women and am confident that we are making a difference in the lives of the families that we serve. Child-like enthusiasm is infectious--if you want to find out, swing through the halls sometime and take a listen!

Melissa White



Happy Belated Birthday in September to:

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 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 Allyson 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 Caroline O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 27 Bob Chapman
- 29 Jim Ford

.....and in October to:

- 1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston
- 2 Myra Stegall
- 5 Nancy Baker, Mike Powell, John Abercrombie
- 6 Jane Ford
- 7 Ralph Shank
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Cole Tatum
- 10 Grey Ferguson
- 11 Fran Hensley, Richard Lawhon
- 14 Walt Seamon, Bennette Zentmeyer
- 15 Sarah Krauss, Joe Smith
- 16 Liz Knighton
- 18 Betty Hendricks
- 21 Mary Page
- 23 Helen Hawkes, Nancy Brown
- 24 Virginia Zentmeyer
- 16 Jana Jennings, Melissa Jessup, Ralph Shank, Jr.
- 28 Gwen Sowdon, Jenny Spivey
- 29 Walt Anderson
- 29 Mary Ann McConnell
- 31 Rusty Lacy



Cooks Who Care Ministry

The Marge Dunn Kitchen was buzzing on Sept. 18, 2012 with the first cooking sessions of The Cooks Who Care Ministry in full swing. Twenty eight cooks prepared eighteen meals that were put in the freezer, ready to be delivered for those who could use a meal in time of need. Each meal contains a casserole, salad, dessert and bread. Each meal is delivered in a basket and is labeled with ingredients and instructions for heating.

If you know of anyone who would like a meal delivered to them, continue to call Barbara Tatum at 956-3985 and she will contact those cooks who are designated to deliver the meals. The food that will be prepared for the first three months has been donated by individuals. We are accepting and are very appreciative of any donation to keep this ministry moving forward. You may write a check to First Presbyterian Church, in the memo note: Cooks Who Care. Our plans for the future include: after church luncheons, casserole sales and bake sales.

This ministry will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on October 2, 2012 at 10:00 am and at 5:30 pm. If you were unable to attend the first cooking session, please come and join us at our next meeting.



Veterans Day

Since Veterans' Day, November 11, falls on a Sunday this year, the Worship Committee has planned some special events for that morning.

Prior to the traditional worship service, at about 10:50 a.m., the Martinsville-Henry County Honor Guard will present the colors in our sanctuary. You will want to arrive at church and be seated early in order to witness this ceremonial presentation of the American and Christian flags. Our own John Brown is a member of the Honor Guard.

During both services, a roll-call of the veterans in our congregation will be read, and those who are present will be asked to stand and be recognized as their name is called. All veterans will be given a red, white, and blue ribbon to wear in commemoration of their service to our country. Church members who are veterans are asked to call Sarah in the Church Office and tell her of your service so your name can be included in the roll call. Please be sure to do this as we don't want to inadvertently leave anyone out who should be included!

Also, we would like to create a display of photographs of veterans, living and deceased, who are/were church members or immediate family members (grandparents, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren) of our congregants. Please bring any photographs you would like included in the display to church on Sunday, November 4. I will have a table set up on the narthex to receive them prior to both services that morning and promise to take good care of them for you! Additionally, I will receive photos in the session room on Friday, November 2, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the morning and from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon for those who prefer not to bring them to church on Sunday, November 4. Please include a tag with each submitted photo listing the following information: name of veteran; relationship to church member, if applicable; branch of service; rank and/or job description as desired; time and place of service.

Example: Donald Bell
Father of Barbara Tatum
U. S. Army
Gunner Sergeant
European Theatre
World War II

Opportunities for Service for the American Red Cross

For several years our church members have provided assistance with blood drives at the Red Cross Facility at Liberty Fair Mall sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. Volunteers serve as greeters to welcome and register donors and provide them with the necessary information to begin the donation process. Others serve as Donor Aides whose responsibility is to assist the collection staff by observing donors waiting to donate and talking with donors to ease the donation process. Some volunteers serve in the canteen.

A volunteer is needed from 12:00-3:00 or from 3:00-6:00 the 4th Thursday of each month except November.

To volunteer, contact Doris Marshall, 276-638-2996 or canddmarshall@va.net

Blood donors are always needed and blood drives are held each Thursday 12:00-6:00. Call the Red Cross office 276-632-5127 to make an appointment or you may drop by the Red Cross facility at Liberty Fair Mall.

At the request of the Red Cross and with approval by the session in 2007 our church may be used as an Emergency Feeding Center should the need arise. We may be called to action in the event of power outages, apartment fires, or natural disasters. We will only be a feeding center and not housing overnight guests at our church. The guests will be here for meals provided by the Red Cross and will be staying at a Red Cross overnight facility. We will typically be asked to serve meals for one or two days, but in certain emergencies, we may operate a feeding center for as long as seven days.

We need to update our team lists. If you could serve on one of the teams should a need arise, call Nancy Baker (276-638-7923).

Nancy Baker, Moderator
Mission/Evangelism Committee

Do You Knit or Crochet? Would You Like to Use Those Skills to Help Others?

Then You Might be Interested in the new Prayer Shawl Ministry at First Presbyterian!

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 will be presented during the church's worship service and the congregation will pray for the person receiving the shawl. Shawls will be delivered to recipients informing them that the shawl is from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.



How will the Prayer Shawl Ministry begin at FPC?

- The Session approved this ministry through the Worship Committee;
- Monthly meetings will be a time to share tips, to teach, and help new knitters or those who are learning to crochet, and to enjoy fellowship. If persons are unable to attend, shawls may be made in the comfort of homes and brought to the group for dedication;
- Shawls will be presented at a worship service by the knitters or a representative of the group.
- All congregation members may take part in the ministry by actually making Prayer Shawls or by making monetary donations to purchase yarn and supplies;
- If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Joan Montgomery at 632-1157 or jandmmontgo@embarqmail.com
- An organizational meeting will take place when interest is assessed.

This is an opportunity to share God's love and nurture each other. Please consider being a part of this ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Marti



The celebration of Communion is the sharing of the family meal of the Church, the Body of Christ. Traditionally we at First Presbyterian Martinsville have celebrated the sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of each month and at certain special times during the year such as Maundy Thursday.

In order for our church family to gather at the table of the Lord more often, the Session has approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper on several holy days during the year in addition to the first Sunday of the month. The holy days for the current program year on which we may celebrate Communion are:

- November 25** Christ the King Sunday-
- March 31** Easter
- December 24** Christmas Eve
- May 19** Pentecost
- January 13** Baptism of the Lord Sunday
- February 10,** Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Currently we have two dedicated teams of church members who prepare Communion, filling the trays with the bread and juice, setting them up in the sanctuary and cleaning up after the services. **We would like to add at least two more teams of at least 2 members to share this responsibility.** The set-up can be done the day before Communion. Training will be available for all those interested. If we have enough people to help, we may be able to have separate set-up and clean-up teams. **Please contact Gael Chaney at gael.chaney@alumni.duke.edu or 638-3542 or contact Cathy Stone at bncstone@comcast.net or 638-1846 by Monday, October 22 if you are interested in serving our church in this way.**

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A Request from Children's Worship

A longstanding program of our church has been the Children's Worship Time during the 11:00



o'clock service, following the pastor's Time with Children. As the children 4 years old through first grade leave the sanctuary, they go to their own worship center with trained leaders to "experience and praise God," and recognize Him in "a sacred time and place." This time is different from Sunday School in that it is geared for children to learn to worship according to their needs in order "to become able to worship meaningfully *with* the congregation." *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman.

For the past two years Susan Pilson has enthusiastically coordinated and been a leader for this program with the assistance of Kim Boyd and Beth Lawson. Susan will be continuing as coordinator of the program, but will not be able to continue on a weekly basis as the primary leader. **In order to continue the program, she will need to have a minimum of six volunteers by Monday, October 22nd** to lead the children on Sundays. Training will be arranged for those who have never participated in the program or who need to refresh their skills. These volunteers will serve on a rotating schedule on Sundays, November through May.

If you feel called to serve our children in this way, please contact Susan at 647-1419 or email her at spilson@courts.state.va.us

PLEASE NOTE: All submissions for the Newsletter are due no later than noon (12:00 PM) on the 20th of each month. All submissions are to be made electronically. If you do not have a computer, or cannot use a computer, please contact the Church Office to make sure there will be someone on staff who can either help you use a computer, or can schedule time to type your article as a Microsoft Word Document so it can be inserted into the Newsletter within the given time frame. Thank you for your help and cooperation as we try to publish the church newsletter in the most efficiently and timely manner possible. Sincerely – The Management

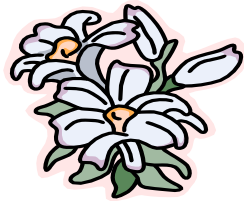
Congratulations to Carson and Jennifer Nease on the birth of their son, Lane Campbell Nease, on July 31, 2012, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Shirley Nease and Bill and Cindy Nease are the proud grandparents and Trula Campbell the proud great-grandmother.



Session Highlights

September 24, 2012

- Laura Buffkin opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.
- Susan Hatchett was welcomed and received as a new member of FPC as a transfer from Princeton Presbyterian Church, Princeton, West Virginia.
- The Session voted to give the Early Worship Committee more autonomy in making decisions about the early service while also giving them direct access to the Session.
- It was noted with sadness the death of Doris P. Renno on August 31, 2012.
- The Session approved the transfer of Colin and Laura Dunnigan to Westminster Presbyterian in Dayton, Ohio.
- Carrie Buffkin was approved as an as-needed nursery worker, contingent on current hiring practices.
- It was noted that there will be one service at 10:00 a.m. on the following dates: October 14, November 4, and December 2, 2012.
- Repair and tuning of the organ was approved.
- The Session reviewed work being completed on the Church Narrative, Values of the Church Family, Goals and Objectives for the coming program year, and a Vision Statement, all to be shared with the congregation when completed. These are being done in preparation for calling a new pastor.
- JoAnne Sanders was approved to moderate the Elder Nominating Committee. The committee will work on nominating elders for upcoming classes.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.



In Memoriam Margaret Wayland Clanton

November

27, 1918- July 29, 2012
Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the

family of Margaret Wayland Clanton on her death in Stuart, VA. Margaret, a member of First Presbyterian since January 13, 1991, joined the church triumphant on June 29, 2012.

In Memoriam Ruth Edna Thompson
March 3, 1920 – July 23, 2012

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Ruth Thompson on her death in Martinsville. Ruth, a member of First Presbyterian since February 19, 1995, joined the Church Triumphant on July 23, 2012.

In Memoriam Mary Lewis Lawhon
September 19, 1923 – August 10, 2012

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Richard and Donna Lawhon and family on the death of Richard's mother, Mary Lewis Lawhon on August 10, 2012. Mary a member of First Presbyterian from September 23, 1962 – December 8, 1987, and again from February 6, 2000, joined the Church Triumphant on August 10, 2012

In Memoriam Doris Pearl Renno
February 3, 1915 – August 31, 2012

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Doris Pearl Renno on her death August 31, 2012. Doris , a member of First Presbyterian since September 19, 1993, joined the Church Triumphant on August 31, 2012