



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



Join the Flock at Sunday School!

First Presbyterian Church  
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue  
Martinsville, VA 24112

Address Service Requested

*STEEPLEVIEWS*  
September 2012

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**First Presbyterian Church Staff:**

Joe Reggin, Interim Pastor [ipjoe1147@gmail.com](mailto:ipjoe1147@gmail.com)  
Jenny Spivey, Associate Pastor [pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com)  
Cynthia Dobrinski, Organist and Music Director  
Sarah P. Altizer, Office Manager  
[office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org](mailto:office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org)

Our Web Site: [www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org)  
Phone: 276-632-3431 Fax: 276-632- 3802  
[office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org](mailto: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

September 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR:

### Session Highlights

*August 27, 2012*

- Joe Reggin, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer.
- The Session voted to forgo the usual agenda in favor of an agenda that provided a model for future meetings, using the concepts of Bowen Theory as a paradigm for Session leadership.
- Ann Reaser and Duke Ferrell were appointed to attend the installation of Bradley Long as pastor of Forest Hills Presbyterian on August 12, 2012.
- A policy for voting by email was approved.
- The Session approved the Mission Committee's request to apply for a 2-cents-a-Meal grant to assist with the monthly Community Breakfast.
- A Family Leave request by Jenny was approved for eight weeks, per the Presbytery Family Leave Guidelines, to begin at her discretion.
- A motion was approved, on second read, to take \$12,000 from the Capital Endowment Fund to replace air conditioning units in 3 areas of the church that are currently used by staff.
- The concept of self-differentiation was introduced to the Session by the Moderator as a self-help that is integral to positive leadership. On the basis of discussion by the elders in the context of this model the following actions were approved per majority vote:
  - 1)The Session approved the adoption of the use of Bowen Theory as a paradigm for leadership within the Session.
  - 2)The Session approved the reduction of the number of elders from 18 to 9.
  - 3)The rotation of elders on a program schedule (serving September to September rather than

6)

7)January to January) was approved.

8)The Session accepted, with gratitude for their service, the resignations of elders Nancy Davis, Harold Lamm, Joan Montgomery, Lynn Pritchett, and Ann Reaser effective at the adjournment of the meeting.

9)A Called Meeting of the Session is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to work on issues related to the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), the writing of a Church Information Form (CIF) and the task of calling a Pastor.

- The meeting was closed with prayer.



### G.P.S. Is Coming

*Grow, Praise, Sing! – Mapping a Life That Follow Christ*



## *Witness for Stewardship*

*Jim Stegall*

When my wife and I lived as newlyweds in Toledo, Ohio, we awoke daily to soft music on our radio alarm.

One day a perfectly-timed commercial aroused us. It went like this: "GOOD MORNING AMERICA! MCDONALDS IS FIXING BREAKFAST FOR YOU!"

And as a sleepy-headed teenager, my days started with two words from my mama. "GET UP."

With amazing regularity the scriptures are filled with the words, "Get Up."

"Get up, take your mat and go home," Jesus said to the paralyzed man.

"Get up and pray," Jesus complained to sleeping disciples.

Looking over this congregation, I see the Smith and Gael Chaney's and the Marge Dunns. And we all remember Randy Stevens, Jim Baker, Dr. Irby and other saints who answered the call to "GET UP."

But today our church isn't healthy. The rolls are dwindling. We have made painful staff cuts, eliminated programs and dipped into our endowment reserves.

A few days ago I read about a church growth specialist. He was asked to diagnose declining membership in a certain church. After attending church for several weeks, he met with the church board of elders. Here is what he said – PUT A FENCE AROUND THE CHURCH. THEN CHARGE ADMISSION SO PEOPLE CAN COME AND SEE HOW CHURCH WAS DONE IN THE 1950s.

In other words, he was saying the church was "Hopelessly Behind." So, where do we go from here? Do we want to be God's chosen Presbyterians, or God's frozen Presbyterians? Are we just putting a positive spin on things and ignoring evidence to the contrary. Attempting to make progress while turning a blind eye to reality is like treading water. Eventually you drown. I don't think we want to put a fence around our church. And we certainly don't want to charge admission.

I remember hearing brother Mark Mason's suggestion at a recent Stewardship Committee

meeting. "The only way our church is going to survive," he said, "is to bring more members into the church." I couldn't agree more. I will simply add to that these words!!!!

"Get Up! Get up when you see a newcomer in our church, shake their hand and give 'em a welcome. Get up! Get up and invite a neighbor, friend, or new person on the block to visit our wonderful church. Be friendly with one another. Show some spirit! Get Up! Get UP! Get Up!

### 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



*FROM THE MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT.....*



## Happy 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* Cooking Soon!

*Cooks Who Care* is gearing up for a fall season of cooking and we'd love for you to join us! FYI, CWC is a group of folks who will gather in the kitchen once a month to cook casseroles, salads, and/or desserts that will be frozen and later taken to those who could benefit from the delivery of a meal due to illness, death in the family, birth of a baby, etc. CWC cooks will enjoy fun and fellowship, a sense of purpose, and introduction to some new recipes!

The first cooking sessions for CWC will be offered **September 18th at 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.** You may choose to sign up for either the morning or evening session, or, if you like, you are invited to both! The same recipes will be prepared at both times. Oh, and if you have a funny, or special apron, wear it! For questions, or to sign up for *Cooks Who Care*, call Judy, Virginia, or Cindy. Let's get cooking!!

## Memorial Donations August 2012

### General Memorial Fund

#### In Memory of Jim Baker

Mr. and Mrs. James Ford

**In Memory of Margaret Clanton**

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Snyder  
Ms. Paige Donnal  
Mr. and Mrs. James Stegall  
Ms. Mary Hunter Barrow  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith

**In Memory of June Irby**

**In Memory of Mary Lawhon**

Mrs. Mary Page  
Mrs. Jane Thomasson  
Mr. and Mrs. James Stegall  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Dudley Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. James Ford  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Flythe  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Benfield  
Mrs. Marjorie Dunn  
Mrs. Ruth Chaney  
Mr. and Mrs. Shane Pinkston  
Mr. and Mrs. John Franck  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Jordan  
Mr. and Mrs. David Mitchell  
Mr. and Mrs. John Abercrombie  
Ms. Judy Mattox  
Mrs. J. Clyde Hooker, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McLachlan  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hensley and Family Mr.  
Reed Moore  
Ms. Myrtis Lester

**In Memory of Rev. Randall C. Stevens**

Mr. and Mrs. James Stegall

**In Memory of Ruth Thompson**

Mrs. Marjorie Dunn

**Music Memorial Fund**

IMO Jim Baker Mrs. Carl H. Bach, Jr.  
IMO Mary Lawhon Mrs. Carl H. Bach, Jr.  
IMO Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Bach, Sr.  
Mrs. Carl H. Bach, Jr.

**General Memorial Fund**

***In Memory of Jim Baker***

Mrs. Adelia Moore Smith

***In Memory of Margaret Clanton***

Mrs. Nancy Baker  
Ann, Elizabeth and David Wendt  
Mr. Reed Moore  
Mrs. Melanie Hoeferkamp  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Altizer  
Ms. L.S. Vinson  
Mrs. Lang Mauck  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Darryl Holland  
Mrs. Ruth G. Chaney  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank McNally  
Mrs. Mary Page  
Ms. Donna Kaye Leahey  
Mrs. Pat Featherstun  
Ms. Susan Deatherage  
Mrs. Marge Dunn  
Ms. Martha Edmiston  
Mrs. Iliene Hite  
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Groves  
Mrs. Mary Lou Riggs  
Mrs. Josephine DeShazo  
Mrs. Margaret Clanton Breece  
Mr. and Mrs. James Frith, Jr.  
Ms. M. Elizabeth Gee  
Ms. Mary Ann Dee  
Mrs. Susan Ellis  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hensley  
Mrs. C.K. (Kitty) Sparrow  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Flythe  
Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Kohlbeck  
Cheryl, Meredith and Kristen Muscatello  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Winston Salem, Sanctuary Choir

***In Memory of June Irby***

Ms. Debbie Youngman  
Mrs. Adelia Moore Smith

***In Memory of Rev. Randall C. Stevens***

Ms. Debbie Youngman



*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 still feel the pain of grief and loss due to Randy's death. Many of us feel the pain of uncertainty about what the future holds for our congregation. Many 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 and especially on session members.

Pain is a natural response to unpleasant life-changing events. The purpose of biological pain is to move us into positive action away from the source of the pain and into a situation more conducive to preserving and sustaining life. When the warning of pain is heeded, pain becomes a blessing. However, pain can also cause us to become immobile – stuck in a frame of mind that does not allow healing and wholeness. Severe pain can drive a person to do things they would never do if they were in their right minds. Unrelenting physical pain can cause a person to shut down vital functions one by one until life cannot be sustained and he/she dies.

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, we have become contentious, or even worse, silent. Instead of coming closer together in our hour of need, we are pulling away, becoming fragmented. Instead of hearing one another out with an open

mind, we have become entrenched in our own perspectives. Instead of throwing our arms around each other with the love of Christ, we turn our backs.

We are at a crossroads. 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 was not a tragedy for us. We were blessed to share our lives with him and still carry much of him with us. When we get together, his loss, but also his presence, is multiplied among us. How will be it with this congregation? Will Randy's untimely death cause tragedy for this church, or will it be the stimulus that moves us into positive action? Will we remember that the Christ who lived for us, died for us, and continues to live with us has called us together to be his Body? Will we pray for his Spirit to infuse all that we do so that we can overcome our pain and our difficulties? Will we move forward from our pain into the new life that God, through Christ and with the strength of the Holy Spirit, wants to unfold for us? The choice is ours. I pray that we choose life.

In the spirit of Christ's love,  
Monica Stevens

*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, Martinsville!*

**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!**

STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.  
Editors and Publishers: Marian Campbell and  
Sarah Altizer

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](mailto:jandmmontgo@embarqmail.com)
- An organizational meeting will take place when interest is assessed.