



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

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

*Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
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STEEPLEVIEWS

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

May, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

I'm in the midst of Holy Week and I am working on two devotionals for our Good Friday worship service here at noon, a devotional to be given at the Agape Bible Christian Fellowship that Good Friday evening, and my sermon for Easter. As I thought about what to write for this column in our May 2011 *Steepleviews* newsletter, I remembered a story that I used years ago in another Easter sermon. Granted, the story is from another era but the point it makes is eternal.

Margaret Slattery told this true story about a family she knew. That family lost three children in less than a week by diphtheria. Only the little three-year-old escaped death. When Easter came the parents and their remaining child were at church. The mother taught her class of girls that day in Sunday School; the father went to the S. S. superintendent's desk, led his school in worship, and read the Easter story with only a break now and then in his fine voice. Amid the faces lined by suffering, rebellion and despair, amid the badges of sorrow and mourning and the silent voices of the Easter congregation, they had seemed a miracle. "How can they?" men and women said to each other as they left the church. A fifteen-year-old boy walking home with his father from the Sunday School hour said hesitatingly, for he did not talk much with his father, "Dad, I guess Mr. and Mrs. Jones really believe it, don't they?" "Believe what?" the father asked. "The whole big thing, all of it, Easter, you know." "O course," answered the father, "all Christians believe it." "Not that way," said the boy, and he began to whistle lest his father should say more.

Again, that story is dated, and yet, the message contained within the story is powerfully true in every age. By the grace of God, we can believe "the whole big thing, all of it, Easter." It doesn't make sense; it's not logical; it is hard to grasp. And yet, by grace and faith and scripture alone we believe that God raised the crucified Jesus from death and he arose in triumph over the enemies, sin and death. While we can't explain the resurrection, we have certainly learned from the biblical record and have experienced it in our own lives that with God all things are possible!

That's what caught the fifteen-year-old boy's attention. There was something different about Mr. and Mrs. Jones because they not only believed the Good News of the Gospel, they lived it! Even in the midst of their deep sorrow after the death of three of their children, they were sustained and comforted by their belief that, because Christ lives, their children live as well in the eternal kingdom of God; and, by that same grace, they would be reunited with their loved ones beyond the grave.

We are mistaken, however, if we think of Jesus' resurrection and focus solely on its eternal benefits beyond death. Jesus' resurrection enables us to come alive here and now. Instead of simply existing and going through the motions day after day as we await death, "the whole big thing of Easter" empowers us to experience the new, abundant, and eternal life that Christ Jesus offers us today. By God's grace, we are Easter people. And, we are called to live, really live (like Mr. and Mrs. Jones!), the resurrected life even now as we await the life to come. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

In Christ's love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in May to....

- 1 Logan Esarey, Janet Fentress
- 3 Carson Nease, Jerry Bishop
- 5 Sonny Benfield, Amy Mason, Kellene Wotring
- 8 Bill Manning, Olivia Jessup
- 10 Sandra Shank
- 11 Bonnie Price, Mandy Pritchett, Emily Beard
- 12 Pearl Richardson, Monica Stevens
- 14 Jon Tatum, Farrell Pace
- 15 David Reynolds
- 17 Margaret Ann Irby, Heath Russell
- 19 Taylor Shank, Annie B. Boyd
- 20 Colleen Dallas
- 22 Elizabeth Pritchett, Joanna Wood
- 27 Margaret Smith, Kent Williams, Virginia Seamon, Jacob Wingfield
- 29 Ed Linker, Clint Spivey

.....and in June to:

- 1 Cynthia Dobrinski, Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 2 Suzanne Lacy, Cole Rothrock
- 3 Bob Knighton, Riley Wood
- 4 Pat Wilson
- 6 Nancy Plonk
- 9 Josh King, Susan Smith
- 10 Allyson Campbell, Cindy Edgerton

Congratulations to Rob and Shanna King on the birth of their daughter, Isla Indigo King, on February 2, 2011, in Salem, VA. Judy King is the proud grandmother!

Please continue to keep in prayer the **2011 Confirmation Class**, which consists of Grey Ferguson, Emily Goldstein, Matthew Mason, and Mattie Wingfield. These four youth have been meeting with the pastors, Jenny and Randy, during February, March, and April. On Monday, May 23, they will have supper with the Session and then be given the opportunity to make their profes-

sion of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Then, on **Pentecost Sunday, June 12**, they will be received before the entire congregation and will once again make their public profession of faith. Please keep Grey, Emily, Matthew, and Mattie in your prayers as they take this important step in their Christian journey!

2nd Annual Community Cookout Saturday, June 11, 2011 *Back by Popular Demand*



Bringing our Mission Statement to Life
Food, Fellowship and Fun with our Friends and Neighbors

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

Last year's Community Cookout was extremely successful in generating a "new found" excitement and increased fellowship throughout our congregation. In addition, the event drew a large number of visitors, a number of whom were kind enough to write letters of appreciation stating what a great time they had at the Community Cookout. How could we not do this again!!!

The 2nd annual Community Cookout outreach event will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, 2011 and will be free to all who attend. While focusing on our neighbors, through the distribution of flyers, the invitation to join us at our 2nd annual Community Cookout is also being issued to the community at large. An advertisement will be placed in the Martinsville Bulletin and we will post flyers at local businesses.

On the day of the Community Cookout, grill masters from within our congregation will fire up the grills and prepare

what will surely be some of the best hamburgers and hot dogs you have ever tasted. Volunteers from within the congregation will be asked to provide “fixins” to go with the hamburgers and hot dogs, such as chips, baked beans, salads and desserts. In addition to an outstanding meal, there will be games for young and old alike and we in the process of procuring musical groups to provide entertainment. The Community Cookout will be held outside on the Church grounds so as to give the outreach event increased visibility and to provide a casual, relaxed atmosphere.

Also, please don’t forget that this invitation is extended to you – the members of First Presbyterian Church. You are encouraged to attend and to invite your friends to join us at this exciting event. In the coming weeks, reservation forms will be included in the Sunday bulletins where you can indicate both your intention to attend the Community Cookout and the number that will be attending. Additionally, Community Cookout flyers will be made available for you to share with your friends and neighbors – take as many as you need.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship among our members and will allow you to meet and greet any visitors to the Church in a fun, casual setting.

Let’s all join together as good neighbors and as a unified body of the Church to truly live out our mission statement.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee

The Tempo “Our Musical Pulse”

Concert Opportunities

Westminster Presbyterian Church-11th and Floyd Streets, Lynchburg, VA,
434-847-6655

Stephen Hamilton, Virtuoso concert organist, will be presented in concert. He is Minister of Music at the Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City and is Artistic Director of Music at Holy Trinity. He con-

ducts the semi-professional Holy Trinity Choir. He is a member of the artist faculties of Hunter and Queens Colleges and teaches organ in the pre-college division of the Manhattan School of Music. He will be playing the recently restored Westminster organ, comprised of 31 ranks of pipes on three manuals and pedal. This concert is free.

The Raleigh Ringers-This popular Community Handbell Choir, conducted by David Harris, will be featured in concert at Pritchett Auditorium of Averett University at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, May 15, in Danville. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. To purchase tickets, call 434-792-9242. This concert is sponsored by the Danville Concert Association. <http://www.danvilleconcert.org/images/stories/downloads/2010-11.onlineorderform.pdf>

Chancel Choir

The Lenten Season has blended into the Easter Season and soon it will be Ordinary Time and for this service choir it will be the Summer Stretch. We will have soloists, a quartet, and perhaps instrumentalists on a monthly basis during that time in addition to our Chancel Choir. If you are a choir singer and are back home from college this summer or you are a member of the Congregational Choir who wants to move into the Chancel area for the summer, please let Bob know.

Sanctuary Ringers

This choir rang in worship on Palm Sunday this year. They have one more worship service in their season on May 15.

Summer is the time for you who might have an interest in becoming a ringer with us next season to learn the basics of handbell technique. Call Bob or e-mail him at adultmusic@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org.

Happy Anniversary Music Staff

Yes, it is that time again. Chapman is beginning his 16th year as Adult Music

Director and Dobrinski is beginning her 11th year as Church Organist and Chancel Choir Accompanist.

A Thank You Letter

This past week I received a letter from MSgt Julie A. Stockdill and NCOIC of the Langley Winds. She writes: "On behalf of the Langley Winds, I would like to thank you and the First Presbyterian Church for hosting our performance on March 25, 2011. We thoroughly enjoyed performing for your church members and the community residents alike! Their enthusiasm and support for our ensemble made it a wonderful evening for us as well. Also we enjoyed a fabulous meal provided by Judy Mattox. Truly, a welcome treat! We are thankful for her generosity. I hope we have the opportunity to work with you again in the future. Thank you again for everything."

Happy Eastertide to each of you!!

As most of us at church write our articles, we are in the midst of Holy Week. I hope that Easter was a joyous and reflective time for you as we celebrate our redemption by our Lord Jesus Christ!

Children's music classes have been very busy as of late. When we come to the end of the year, many units of study come together as we put all the pieces together, so to speak. Kindermusik I children are finishing their study of the instruments of the orchestra with a wonderful unit on Peter and the Wolf. It is one of my favorites. These children have done a superb job all year!

Kindermusik II students are now proficient on their recorders. They have learned the first five notes and practiced them diligently. We have studied many other cultures and the music that is made in those countries. These Kindergartners are set for whatever musical experiences come their way.

We have begun our new session of Music Together with a full house of children, mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers. There is such a closeness and fellowship in this group. Really amazing!

WAM students did a superb job in presenting "The Three Trees," on April 10th. We have some younger children in this group, and they showed their responsibility and ability to rise to the occasion. We appreciate Jenny's role as narrator and Smith's great abilities in the sound department. Many thanks to you both. We are preparing for Youth Sunday, May 8th with anthems and bells!

Our Cantabile Handbell group is stronger than ever! They did a masterful job with our two pieces on April 10th. We are so happy that Emily Goldstein, who is a fine pianist and singer, and Brett Showalter, who has had handbell experience, have joined us.

I am in the midst of formulating plans for children/youth music for the summer months. All ideas and suggestions are deeply appreciated!!

Contemporary Worship

Our Praise Team welcomes back Betty and Gene Stanley and Melissa and Mattie Wingfield. They are all strong singers and really fill in our group wonderfully.

We are looking for additional tenors and basses to fill in our crew. A bass player and another guitar would be nifty as well! I hope you will contact me if you are interested or know of someone who might be interested. We are trying to get enough people so that we can rotate our group Sunday by Sunday.

5 Reasons to Sing-Even if you can't carry a tune!

The Roanoke paper had a superb article that had the title listed above. Bursting into song lifts your health in ways that even surprised the docs who write this column.

Among them are that singing lowers your blood pressure by releasing pent up emotions and introducing relaxation. Singing helps you breathe easier by just singing twice a week. It helps you find serenity after surviving cancer by calming down the sympathetic nervous system. It helps re-wire the brain after a stroke.

I am not kidding about the above improvements in your life!! I have printed this article and am happy to share it with you!!

In Joy, Betsy

SHOWTIME AT FIRST BAPTIST-

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring an afternoon of entertainment in July for church members and guests. It's a delightfully fun day trip to Ferrum College and the Blue Ridge Dinner Theater Tuesday, July 19. event includes a luncheon at noon, followed by the play "Showtime at First Baptist." The play is about a time when lightning strikes the Ivy Gap Baptist Church, prompting church ladies to raise money for a new sanctuary. Along the way they support and encourage each other facing some of life's problems, lacing it with love and laughs. Participation is limited to 14 - the maximum we can transport on the church van. However, reservations MUST be made with Sarah at the church office by May 10. The price is \$25.50 per person. Participants will be provided information on the trip, departure time from the church and approximate time of return. Please make your reservation(s) ASAP. The Blue Ridge Dinner Theater must have ample notification to insure the availability of seats.

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Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer; Mailing Staff: volunteers

Lemonade on the Lawn - First Sundays in the Spring and Summer

The Fellowship Committee announces the return of Lemonade on the Lawn to provide



an opportunity to enjoy the nice weather and fellowship with one another. We will have Lemonade on the Lawn on **first Sundays** this year (watch for any exceptions) following the 11:00 Wor-

ship service on the front lawn starting Sunday May 1st.

Parents of college graduates (Class of 2011):

Please call the church office and let us know your child is graduating as well as his/her major and from which school.

High School Graduates, Class of 2011
Congratulations to all our graduates! They will be honored during worship on Youth Sunday, May 8.

Martinsville High School

Evelyn Clark

Parker Gunn

Capers Zentmeyer

Carlisle School

Grace Anne Edgerton

Youth Sunday - Sunday, May 8, 2011

The youth and children of our congregation will lead worship on Sunday May 8 at 11:00am. The youth have been learning about worship, writing prayers and are planning to share their faith with the congregation through the worship of God! Our graduating high school seniors will share reflections on what the church has meant to them. *Please note there will not be an early worship service that Sunday in order that all of us can gather together to worship and support the children and youth.

Youth Fundraising Dinner to benefit Mission Trip – Sunday May 15,

6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

The whole congregation is invited to come and support our youth and learn about the upcoming Mission Trip to Avondale Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Dinner will be prepared and served by our youth (and their helpful parents) and there will also be a bake sale to take home some delicious home-baked goodies to enjoy later.

Youth Garage Sale THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generosity and support of church members and the hard work of our youth and parents, our Youth Garage Sale made over \$1800 to go toward our Youth Mission Trip this summer to Avondale Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Special thanks to all the youth who gave of their time setting up and organizing: Emily Beard, Stuart Beard, Ben Westphalen, Dyer Pace, Annie B. Boyd, Virginia Zentmeyer, Nickalos Turner, William Seamon, Kimberly Seamon, Matthew Mason, Emily Goldstein, Grey Ferguson, Jacob Wingfield and Mattie Wingfield; and to parents and adult helpers, Amy & Mark Mason, Laura Chiudioni, Jamie Turner, Melissa Wingfield, Liz Goldstein, Ruth Anne Parsons, Gavin Russell, Billy Kirby, Ed Pace, John Luther and Wendy Seamon.

Youth Group End-of-year Calendar and Reminders

Sunday, May 1 – 5:30-7:00pm, Dinner and planning for Youth Sunday

Sunday, May 8 – YOUTH SUNDAY!

Meet to prepare and rehearse at 9:00am in the Sanctuary. We will lead the 11:00 Worship service that morning, and there will be no Youth Group that evening, so you can wish your moms a Happy Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 15 – 6:00pm Fundraising Dinner and Bake Sale. Youth and parents

that are able to come early to prepare will meet earlier in the afternoon to set up tables, decorate and make food! We will also need a clean up crew following the dinner. Talk to Pastor Jenny to sign up to help!

Sunday, May 22 – 5:30-7:00pm Youth Group dinner and program.

Sunday, May 29 – No youth group in evening, Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday, June 5 – Youth Group End-of-year Picnic, time TBA

****Reminder** – The deadlines to sign-up for the Mission Trip and Montreat are now past, but there is *grace* (hallelujah!) so if you missed the deadline, talk to Pastor Jenny!

General Memorial Fund

Mrs. Margaret Baumann – IMO Hank Baumann

Mrs. Thelma Boyd – IMO Hank Baumann
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Crabtree – IMO Hank Baumann

Mr. William C. Garrett – IHO Laura Stevens

Mrs. Lang Mauck – IMO Mrs. Eleanor T. Roy

Music Memorial Fund

Mrs. Barbara Tatum – IMO Mr. and Mrs. Roy (Cathy Stone's parents)

Pastors Discretionary Fund

Mrs. Sarah Wells – IHO Suzan Kirby and Monty Montgomery
Dr. Mary Reynolds

Session Highlights for

April 25, 2011

- Manly Boyd opened the meeting with a devotional and Randy Stevens led the Session in prayer;
- The Session minutes for the stated meeting on March 28, 2011, were approved;

- Tom Gillespie, who serves on the Presbytery of the Peaks' Stewardship Workgroup and is an elder at First/Danville, met with the Session; he told us about the work of the presbytery and thanked our church for its participation in the presbytery;
- The treasurer's report, which covered March 2011, was reviewed;
- Approved the transfers of membership for Phil and Candace Payne to the First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, NC, and for Charles and Kimberly Toothman to the Warrenton Presbyterian Church in Warrenton, VA;
- Elected Joan Montgomery and Forrest Truitt to serve as our commissioners to the next Presbytery of the Peaks' meeting on May 5, in Ringgold, VA;
- Heard the reports of the moderators of the Session's committees and the pastors;
- After the sharing of joys and concerns, Jenny Spivey closed the meeting with prayer.