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

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# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

April, 2007

Martinsville, Virginia

## **From My Perspective Within The Kingdom**

In a recent issue of *The Christian Century* (February 20, 2007, p. 33), I came upon this story told by James Howell, who is the pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC. He writes: "I remember my sixth-grade Sunday school teacher, Floyd Busby. Mr. Busby would score a flat zero on teaching technique or age-appropriate planning. He was old and had a whiny voice, and his "technique" was to open his Bible and read – for an hour. But I remember Mr. Busby's name and the profound moment when he simply stopped reading. We suspected that he had died. But when we looked up, we realized that he was crying back in the O60s, when men didn't cry. We were tempted for a nanosecond or two to poke fun at him but even as 11-year-olds we knew the moment was to be revered. Mr. Busby gathered himself and read further, about how they arrested Jesus, mocked him, beat him, pressed a crown of thorns into his forehead. He stopped again, looked up at us boys with tears streaming down his face and dripping onto his open Bible, and pleaded with us: "Don't you boys see what they did to my Lord?" I will never forget it. This was my first encounter with someone who was so deeply in love with Christ.

As we turn the page of the calendar, from March to April, Holy Week immediately greets us. As we move through this last week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry - beginning with his entry into Jerusalem seated atop a donkey, watching as he washes his disciples feet and breaks the bread and pours the cup at his last supper with his disciples, following

him through his "kangaroo court," his subsequent sentencing, beating and humiliation, and finally watching him die on the cross (only to rise again from the dead on the third day!) are we, like Mr. Busby, deeply in love with Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior? When we reflect on all that Jesus went through, for our sakes and for the sins of the world, how can we help but love him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength?

Several years ago, Jody and I, along with some 50 other pastors in the Martinsville-Henry County area, were invited to a preview screening of *The Passion of the Christ*. We were totally unprepared for that heart-wrenching experience. It was unfathomable to think of the pain and suffering that Jesus endured throughout that last week of his earthly life, particularly the events from his arrest to his last breath and death on the cross. I started to write that it was so quiet in the movie theater, you could have heard a pin drop. But, no, that's not true at all. All you could hear were people quietly sobbing and blowing their noses throughout the theater. I was wasted! Jody and I drove back to the church in silence, and then I went home to be alone with my thoughts for another 2-3 hours. My senses were on "system overload."

When we are moved powerfully by all that Christ endured during the last week of his life for you, and me, and an entire world I hope our love for Jesus Christ only grows by leaps and bounds. Furthermore, like Mr. Busby, I hope we will do our part to tell others how much our Lord means to us. After all, why keep good news to ourselves?

In Christ's love,  
Randy

### **A Word from the Associate Pastor**

April, the final month of Lent in 2007, has now arrived. During the last week of Lent, which is Holy Week, there will be a number of special opportunities to praise God through worship. On Palm Sunday, April 1, we will leave from the narthex at 9:45 a.m. to walk over to the Wilson Park for our annual Palm Sunday in the Park. One of my favorite parts of that service is at the very beginning, when we see people walking into the park from all different directions, from all the different area congregations. It is a powerful symbol of the fact that, even though we go to different churches around the community, we are united in our faith in Christ and our belief that serving him can bring God's kingdom to this earth. Then at the 11:00 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, our seventh grade confirmation class will be presented as members of this church.

Then on Maundy Thursday, April 5, we will have a pot-luck supper in fellowship hall at 6:00. Bring enough to feed your family and enjoy the delicious spread. After we have been well fed, we will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for worship, including the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We will take communion by intinction, where you tear off a piece of bread from the common loaf and dip that bread into the cup of grape juice.

I am excited that for the second consecutive year, we will have a Good Friday worship service, on April 6 at noon. Good Friday is really a quite somber day because we remember Christ's sacrificial death on the cross that took place on that day. Christ's death was painful, humiliating, and difficult, yet our Lord was willing to endure that hardship for our sake. Five local Presbyterian pastors will join Randy and I in leading the Good Friday service, as each one of the seven of us will talk briefly about Jesus' Seven

Last Words on the cross before his death.

Finally, Holy Week will culminate with a glorious Easter service where we proclaim that Christ is risen; he is risen indeed. As I thought about the theme of resurrection for Easter, I came across this story. A father and his seven-year-old daughter were driving around on a beautiful spring day. A great big yellow bee flew into the car. The seven-year-old girl was very afraid, and so was the father.

They tried desperately to get the bee out of the car. But they were unsuccessful. The bee kept buzzing in front of them, which made the girl hysterical. Her father shouted at her to calm down and not be afraid, which only made her scream louder.

About that time, the bee landed on the father's neck and stung him. And now the little girl became petrified and cried and cried. The father finally said to her: "You don't need to be afraid anymore. The bee has lost its sting. Its stinger is right here in my neck. So the bee has lost its sting."

On that first Easter, Jesus essentially said, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where O death is your sting?" On Easter, the sting of death was overcome. The stinger is located in the marks on Jesus' hands since he was nailed to that dreadful cross. So as we move toward Easter, I invite you to join us in worship, in services that will allow you to grow in your knowledge and appreciation of our Lord and Savior who has removed the sting of death.

Jody

## HOLY WEEK

Since Holy Week takes place the first week of April, here is a heads-up on what to expect. The week begins with the annual Palm Sunday in the Park on Sunday, April 1, as we join with other Christian friends from neighboring churches in remembering Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem; as before, we will gather in the narthex of the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. and then walk to the park for the 10:00 a.m. worship service, which will last a half hour. During our 11:00 a.m. worship service we will celebrate the Confirmation-Commissioning service for six of our youth; there will not be the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper since it will be observed later in the week.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 5, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. and worship (with communion by intinction or served in the pews) will follow at 7:00 p.m.

On **Good Friday**, April 6, we will have a worship service in the sanctuary at noon; seven Presbyterian ministers will offer reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross.

**Easter Sunday** (April 8) we will gather for breakfast in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., and a special, joy-filled worship service at 11:00 a.m. Please make plans to attend these special events and make your Holy Week experience more meaningful as we approach the cross and prepare to encounter the empty tomb and the risen Christ!



**Palm Sunday in the Park:** We will gather on the front porch of the sanctuary on Palm Sunday (April 1st) at 9:30 a.m. We will receive our

palms and proceed to the park for a worship service beginning at 10. This is an ecumenical service: several other churches in the surrounding neighborhood also participate.

## Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 8  
9:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.

Please join us for Easter Breakfast!

Menu

Assorted Pastries

Ham and Sausage Biscuits

Boiled Eggs

Fresh Fruit Salad

Juice and Coffee



Adult Sunday School  
Classes will meet at 10:00  
following the breakfast  
and the children will have

an **Easter Egg Hunt!**

## Weekday School News

Spring is eagerly anticipated in the Weekday School right now! The month of April ushers in the start of The Discovery Room. This is one of my favorite activities. From April 23rd through May 10th the children will experience many of the wonders of nature. We will attempt to hatch some baby chicks, tadpoles are in the process of morphing in my office, we will be watching caterpillars grow into butterflies, watch ladybug larvae transform and study a host of other nature related subjects. This is always an exciting time at the Weekday School.

Registration is in full swing and we are almost full for the 2007-2008 school year. If you know of anyone who is interested in registering their child please encourage them to do so as soon as possible to assure their child's place in the

program for next year. With Easter rapidly approaching, the children are making lots of Easter related projects and preparing for their class Easter egg hunts and parties. The fours are practicing their special Easter songs in preparation for their next visit to King's Grant on the April 2nd. Parent conferences are scheduled for April 4th and 5th, so the children will not be in school on those days and then we will be on our Spring Break April 9th-15th. When we return from Spring break it will be a quick slide to summertime!  
Melissa White



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY in April to**

- 2 Nick Carter
- 3 Claude Young
- 4 Max Pinkston
- 5 Kate Judson
- 7 Bob Davis, Kisean Adams
- 8 Troy Lee Rakes, Mary Catherine Stegall
- 9 Marty Davis, Jody Moore
- 10 Bobby Wilson
- 11 Pansy Olson, Mary Ragland
- 12 Tom Unterbrink
- 14 Judy Garland
- 15 English Ford, Sherrill Dailey, Rhonda Casey, Briana Tatum
- 16 Chip Lackey, Reed Moore
- 17 Glenna Harmeyer, Barbara Tatum, Ruth Florell
- 18 Mary Manning, Meredith Seamon
- 19 Mary Catherine Lawhon, Jean Linker
- 20 Manly Boyd
- 21 Tracey Lawhon, Patrick Edgerton
- 22 Matthew Price, Roni Johnson
- 23 Jack Richeson, Gene Stanley, Forrest Truitt, Barbara Parker
- 24 Ed Porter
- 25 Ethan Jessup

- 26 Patrice Newnam, Sarah Beeler, Doug Walsh
- 27 Margaret Gunter, Doug Goldstein
- 28 Aynsley Renz
- 30 Lynn Pritchett, Evelyn Clark

and in MAY to:

- 1 Logan Esarey, Janet Fentress
- 3 Carson Nease, Jerry Bishop
- 5 Sonny Benfield, Amy Mason, Kellene Wotring
- 6 Kim Phillips
- 8 Bill Manning, Olivia Jessup

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Hugh and Corinne Haskins on the birth of their son, Landon James Haskins, March 14, 2007, in Eden, North Carolina. Jim and Betsy Haskins are the proud grandparents!

**SYMPATHY** of the congregation is extended to the family of Frances B. Morton on her death in Raleigh, North Carolina. Frances, a member of First Presbyterian since April 16, 1950, joined the Church Triumphant on February 28, 2007.

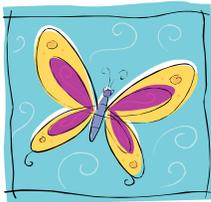
**IN MEMORIAM** Frances B. Morton March 10, 1916 - February 28, 2007

### **Youth Group Bike Trip**



The youth group will be going to the Virginia Creeper Trail in Damascus, VA, on Saturday April 21. Please sign up by Wednesday, April 11.

**Special Sunday School Program on Stress:** As our society becomes more complex and more threatened, stress management becomes more challenging! Join us in exploring useful strategies for managing stress presented in a Christian framework. The class will be taught by Claudia McCoy, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who works at the Presbyterian Counseling Center in Greensboro, NC.



### The Butterfly

**Trees** are back!

Looking for a way to help needy children in our community? The butterfly trees will be

up in the narthex and in the hallway outside of the church office starting on Easter Sunday, April 8th. You may attach the butterfly to your gift and return it to the church office by Monday April 30th.

The **JOY Fellowship** will have a mystery outing on Wednesday May 2nd. We will meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided in the church bus as we go to an unknown, mystery location for dinner. We should return to the church by 7:15, while there is still daylight. JOY Fellowship, which stands for Just Older Youth, includes older adults from our congregation. We are always looking for new members; so if you are an older adult, who enjoys fellowship and a meal with other church members, please join us for this mystery outing. Let the guessing begin about where we will be heading for dinner!

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

### The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse"

Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers rang this morning. This article is being written on the afternoon of March 18th after we rang in the morning service. We had some help from a couple of very talented substitutes, Cynthia Dobrinski and Lynn Stegall. We are always looking for talented ringers to join with us in our ministry. Most of the time we need persons who are willing to step in, like these ladies did, and fill a position for an absent ringer in a rehearsal or at a service. If you fit that description please let Mr. Chapman hear from you. We do have one open position if any ringers are interested.

If you want to learn to ring handbells you might mention that. It would be nice to have several who want to learn at the same time. Instruction can be arranged to suit the person or the group.

Please express your appreciation to those who regularly ring in the Sanctuary Ringers. They usually spend at least six hours each month in rehearsal and in service. Thank you ladies! Remember, we will accept male handbell ringers.

### Spring Worship-Music Service, April 22, 10:45 A.M.

Our Chancel Choir will present a Worship-Music Service, "God So Loved the World", on Sunday morning, April 22, at 10:45 a.m.

In this service anthems will be substituted for most of the spoken parts of the service. The Sermon, "A Celebration of the Resurrection", will use a suite of hymns, arranged by Mark Hayes titled "A Resurrection Suite", and conclude with the reflection anthem, "God So Loved the World" by John Stainer.

Choral music for this service will be sung by the Chancel Choir and accompanied by Organ, Piano, and Instrumental.

talists. The Call to Worship is, "Come Into His Holy Place", by John Parker. The Confession is, "Create In Me A Clean Heart", by Allen Pote. The Declaration of Pardon will be "O Come Thou Sweet Redeeming Fire," by Daniel E. Gawthrop. A women's quartet will sing the Word for Children, a Michael Burkhart setting of the William Blake poem titled, "The Lamb." The Old Testament Readings will be, "Springs in the Desert", by Arthur Jennings, and "Behold, I Make All Things New", by Allen Pote. The Anthem will be "I Am His Child" by Moses Hogan. The New Testament Reading will be, "Consider the Lilies", by Emma Lou Diemer. The Pastoral Prayer will be, "Day by Day", by Mark Hayes. The Benediction will be "Bless Us With Your Peace" by Kenneth Lowenberg, and the Charge, "You Shall go Out With Joy" by Mark Hayes.

Guest Singers joining with the choir will be Sopranos, Patricia Clevenger, Jenny Hensley, BreAnna Martin, and Judy Mattox; Alto, Sara Blaha; Tenor, David H. Lewis; and Bass, Charles Dameron. Brass instrumentalists will be Jeff Kresge and Steve Hedrick, Trumpets; Joe Blaha and Erik Stegall, Trombones; Kathryn Bridwell-Briner and Tiffany Woods, French Horns; Shelly Hypes will play Oboe; Jen Garber, Flute; Brian Joyce, Percussion; and Beth Chapman and Janet Fentress, Handbells.

Bob Chapman will be the conductor and Cynthia Dobrinski the organist and accompanist. Worshipers from the community are invited to join with us in this Worship-Music Experience.

### Children and Youth Music



There is quite a lot going on in the music wing these days! Treat yourself and come by for a visit!  
The two Music Together

groups are enjoying new musical activities and songs from the "Drum" collection. Our group is large and has children from 7 months up through 3 years of age. We are rocking and rolling with the best of them. We will have one new member...our new grandson Landon and his Mom, Corinne. You can imagine how thrilled I am about this!

Kindermusik I students are playing their glockenspiels with enthusiasm and musicality. We are learning rhythm patterns and first note reading and sight singing! They are doing really well.

The Kindermusik II students have really good intonation on their recorders. They are playing 5 notes and playing them very well. We are studying music of other cultures and other times. Lots of drums and percussion are sounding off! We have studied my favorite J. S. Bach and the organ and harpsichord that he played upon as well.

Orff I and II did a really fine job with "The Tale of the Three Trees," on March 11th. It was a worshipful experience for the children and for the congregation. These children were very young to take on such a challenge. They stood tall and were superb worship leaders. This is very important in their growth in the church, and I am glad our church supports such endeavors that are outside the mainstream. The help of Amy Mason, Laura Stevens, Kimberly Seamon, Emily Beard, and Michael Mason is so appreciated. These folks are here every Monday for our group and at all extra rehearsals as well. Michael was very dignified and took seriously playing the role of Jesus. This is extraordinary in a 6th grader. We all also appreciated the talents of Parker Gunn who served ably as our narrator.

This group as well as the Handbell Quintet will take part as worship leaders on Palm Sunday, April 1st, and again on May 20th. On May 20th, you will

hear a special anthem that our beloved Sandra Ford wrote for us, entitled “Sing for Joy.” I think we will do just that. I wish you blessings and joy this Easter season and always.  
Betsy Haskins



Meet Buc, our first day Bible Buddy. He will help us remember “**God is with us**”, our Bible Point for that day. Most of you know the story of God parting the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape

Egypt. But do you know the story of God parting the Jordan River so they could enter the promised land? You can read about it in Joshua chapters 3 and 4. I can’t wait to see how Laura will do that trick during Bible Adventures. Our verse for the day is “For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”. Isn’t that a wonderful promise? Be sure to circle July 9 – 13 for this year’s VBS adventures. We will again be at Christ Episcopal Church this year. And yep, Chadder will be there too.