



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



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

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School starts this month

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STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

August, 2008

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

One day last month, I went on a hike with my son, Dan, and my brother-in-law, Karl. We were doing an eight-mile hike that begins at the Rocky Knob overlook off of the Blue Ridge Parkway; we would walk west a bit and then turn and go down the mountain to the Rock Castle Gorge trail's starting point. Karl and I rode in my car and Dan followed behind in Monica's car. We parked Monica's car at the bottom of the hill; then Dan got into my car and we drove to the top of the mountain and parked my car at Rocky Knob. Afterwards, we would end up at Monica's car and drive her car back up the mountain to pick up my car and head home. At least that's the way it was supposed to work but it didn't!

About two hours into the hike, I discovered that when Dan had given me Monica's car keys, instead of putting them in my pocket, I absentmindedly put them in the pouch of the driver's side door in my car. Thus, it dawned on me that we had no way of opening her car and driving back up the mountain to get my car! I shared this disturbing news with Dan and Karl, and I told them I would hitchhike back to my car; fortunately, when I discovered the key was missing, the hiking trail was about forty yards off of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

They voted against me and said we shouldn't split up. Dan, who is an experienced hiker, felt that he should hike back and get the keys out of my car, but I countered that that would take a good two hours. Due to my stubbornness and strong sense of responsibility (after all, I was the one who forgot Monica's car key in the first place!), I said I would hitchhike and I did. Five or six cars

passed by without even slowing down; and one of those cars was a taxicab with a passenger inside.

After about ten minutes, the taxi cab driver reappeared after dropping off his fare. I explained our predicament to him and he said he would take me back to my car. Ten minutes later, I had re-joined Dan and Karl with both sets of car keys in hand! I asked the taxi cab driver what I owed him and he said ten dollars.

I had several twenties on me and I gave him one of them saying, "How about a twenty; it's worth the extra money for me that you stopped and gave me a ride." He was fine with that arrangement. Then I said to him, "Sir, I'll bet you didn't realize that you were going to be the answer to someone's prayer today, did you?" "No," he said, "I sure didn't." "Well, you are! I sure do appreciate your help!" I got out of his car and the hike continued. All in all, we were only off of the trail less than a half hour.

I've told that story to several friends and they have responded by saying that, in all of their years on the parkway, they have never seen a taxi cab up there.

Some might call it luck, fate, chance, happenstance, or coincidence. But, I am too biased in my thinking. I know that it was divine providence! God was looking out for me and providing a way to deal with the situation at hand. I continue to be amazed it never gets old! at how God takes care of us and provides for us. I have one more reason for which to be thankful and pour out my gratitude to the Lord.

I hope this story will "prime the pump" and cause you to remember those certain times in your life when the Lord provided for you as well. If so, please tell me your story, as I would love to hear it.

Oh yes, by the way, - let's be on the lookout for those opportunities when we

can be someone else's special angel (i.e., messenger of God).

In Christ's love,

Randy

Word from the Associate Pastor:

At Vacation Bible School this July, through the theme of "Power Lab," we experienced God's power. This year's theme was my favorite of the five years I have been working with Bible School. In Power Lab, we got to see some pretty cool experiments and we learned about Jesus' miracles. I am proud of how this congregation and our three neighboring congregations, Forest Hills Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Lutheran, and Christ Episcopal Churches, have been able to work so well together on Vacation Bible School for several years. Together we are able to put on a much more impressive week of Bible School than any of the churches would be able to do on our own. In the body of Christ, we are much stronger when we are working together, behind a unified purpose, than when we try to work on our own. At VBS, the decorations are always colorful and captivating, snacks are delicious, and the children are energetic as they learn the Bible points through fun, interactive programs. We will be back at Forest Hills again next year, but in 2010, it will be our turn to host Vacation Bible School once again.

Everywhere I turned, there were members of First Presbyterian pitching in with Bible School: working with games outside, as crew leaders, helping with snacks, telling the Bible story to us, showing us videos about a crazy chipmunk named Chadder, organizing creative Arts and Crafts projects, and doing so much more. Thank you to all the children who participated in Vacation Bible School and all the youth and adults

who so generously volunteered their time to make the week such a big success!

I look forward to seeing familiar faces later this month at our Coming Home Celebration the weekend of August 16 and 17. As I have been thinking of this celebration, I have been reading back through Jim Stegall's excellent book *Grace Upon Grace*, both laughing at some good stories and feeling inspired by the amazing kindness members of this congregation have shown to one another and to this community. This church has so much to be proud of, especially of how we have nurtured so many people in the faith throughout the years. I hope this Coming Home Weekend will be an opportunity to cherish where we have been and also to look forward at all the wonderful things I believe God has in store for this congregation.

Peace in Christ,

Jody Moore



**Happy Birthday in August
to**

- 1 David Chittum, Anne Peterson
- 2 Virginia Becker, Lynne Beeler, Allan Miller
- 3 Marge Dunn, Libby Goldstein
- 4 Liz Goldstein
- 5 Ruth Garland, Bob Richeson
- 6 Ann Crouch, Bunny O'Neal, Elizabeth Chapman
- 7 Byron Price
- 8 Libby Miller, Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Andrew Bowles, Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Tyler Bumgarner, Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Carrie Buffkin, Beth Lawson
- 13 Tyler Stone
- 15 Caroline Harris
- 17 Margaret Pilson, Martha Pilson,

Elizabeth Walsh

- 18 Cindy Nease, Madison Powell
- 19 Alison Parker, Bill Plonk
- 20 Peggy Foard
- 21 Ron Fentress, Bill Stone
- 22 Laura Buffkin, Johnny Pinkard, Troy Rakes, Kym Tatum
- 23 Anne Abercrombie, Carol Ann Mahoney
- 24 Nan Smith
- 25 Margaret Lester
- 26 Gentry Zentmeyer
- 27 Ray Pruitt
- 28 Bob Bledsoe
- 29 Joe Williams, Stuart Beard
- 31 Dot Bryson, Bill Nease

and in September to

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 2 Trula Campbell, Clark Eden
- 4 Nancy Davis, Vance James
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall, Julie Handy 7 Jamie Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby

SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to Jody Moore and family on the death of his grandmother, Louis Zauber, July 8, 2008, in Raleigh, North Carolina

SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to Marge Dunn and family on the death of her uncle, Warren Lipscomb, June 22, 2008, in Martinsville.

WELCOME into the fellowship of our church! Charles "Chuck" Cundiff of 5404 Rives Road, Martinsville. Chuck, the grandson of Henry Reed, comes to us by transfer from the First Presbyterian Church in Newton, North Carolina. Chuck is married to Brooke and they have a son, Hayden.

Library Corner. . .



I love to read nonfiction and biographies in particular. I have recently read two books that I enjoyed and decided to buy copies for our church library. IF YOU LIKE US, TALK ABOUT US: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROBERT H. PORTERFIELD by Robert L. McKinney. Robert Porterfield as most of you know was the founder of the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA. Barter is the State Theatre of Virginia. Having grown up in Bristol, I was fortunate to hear Mr. Porterfield say those words on several different visits to that great theatre before his death in 1971.

If you are a country music fan like myself or even if you are not, you will enjoy Denise Jackson's book IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM. This is about her relationship with God and how it has strengthened her relationship with and marriage to country singer Alan Jackson.

MY FIRST BIBLE. Edited by Annette Reynolds. Given in memory of Lois Manning (mother of Bill Manning) by Dee Moore.

THE CONFIDENT WOMAN by Joyce Meyer has been given in honor of Marge Dunn for Mother's Day by her daughter Lynn Turner.

I hope you have had a chance to enjoy some relaxing summer reading.

Debbie

Rally Day will be September 7, 2008! Come catch the Spirit as we kick off another church year. We will be celebrating our Sunday School program that morning with a breakfast in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m., immediately after the early service ends. There will be an opportunity to hear about our Sunday School classes for the 2008-2009 year.

Chancel Choir and the Summer Stretch

The Chancel Choir has been singing throughout the Summer months. They have had an abbreviated rehearsal schedule with early Sunday rehearsals replacing the Wednesday rehearsals during July. Wednesday rehearsals will begin again on July 30. If you have an interest in becoming a member of the Chancel Choir, August is a great month to begin.

Sanctuary Ringer

The Sanctuary Ringers will begin their preparation for the "Coming Home" Fellowship on Wednesday evening, July 30, at 6:00. They will be preparing a medley of three songs from "The Phantom of the Opera", by Lloyd Webber and arranged by Douglas Wagner.

There will be two open positions available in the Sanctuary Ringers when the new season begins on September 10 at 6:00 p.m. There is always room for substitutes as well.

Coming Home Fellowship

Both the Chancel Choir and the Sanctuary Ringers will contribute music to the Saturday evening dinner/fellowship event on August 16.

Some singers and ringers who do not sing and ring regularly are joining with us for this fellowship. In addition to the choirs, there will be group and quartet singing. Rehearsals for singers are on Sunday morning in July at 9:45 a.m. Regular Wednesday evening rehearsals resume on July 30 for both singers and ringers.

At the fellowship the Chancel Choir will be singing a medley of two spirituals titled "Swingin' With The Saints", arranged by Mark Hayes and the spiritual, "I Am His Child" by Moses Hogan. The choir will also sing a Sandra Ford

song about the Commonwealth titled "I'll Always Love Virginia"..

There will be group singing and a quartet or two. The Sanctuary Ringers will ring a medley from "Phantom of the Opera". Join with us in this festive event in the life of our church. Good Food, Good Fellowship, and Good Music!

Lemonade on the Lawn



will be held after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on August 10, 2008. Join your church family for refreshments and fellowship!

Please pray for Jennifer Stanley, who will be returning this month for another year as a missionary to East Asia. Thanks to Jennifer for sharing with our congregation about her experiences as a missionary at the reception on July 27!

The combined **Adult Sunday School** class will spend most of August watching a video regarding the life and ministry of Dr. Billy Graham. However, on Sunday, August 17 (which is part of the Coming Home weekend), please remember that all children, youth, and adults are invited to go to the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. and watch an audio-visual presentation featuring hundreds of slides of our church's members through the years. We hope you will make plans to be present for this enjoyable and meaningful program.

When the **Tuesday Morning Bible**

class reconvenes in September after a break

during the summer months, the Bible study will focus on the Acts of the Apostles. As before, the class will meet most Tuesday mornings, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., in the Reed classroom, and will be co-taught by Jody Moore, Rusty Reaser, and Randy Stevens. Stay tuned for more details to follow in the September Steepleviews' newsletter.



**Deadline for
"Coming
Home" Has
Passed!**

"Coming Home" is just around the corner! If you haven't replied, please do so ASAP! Your "Coming Home" committee is putting the final touches on a great weekend! Please encourage your grown children to reply! We are hoping for a super turnout of our church family. You can e-mail or call the church office with your replies.

Friends of our church are also invited.

We have added a new activity at Fairystone! World renowned hiker Doc Altizer is going to lead a hike for all your nature lovers. The hike will begin at 9:00 A.M. from Shelter #2.

Please let the church office know if you are interested so that we are prepared for the group.

I still need volunteers to make a cake for Sunday evening! Please let Susan Pilson or me know if you can do that. I am making mine ahead of time and popping it in the freezer!

The program for Saturday night is just

amazing! Lots of great singing by groups, large and small and there will be group singing for all of us. Special handbell pieces will be showcased as well. Bob has done a masterful job of planning an evening that will be fun and fulfilling at the same time..

Sunday is full of worship and fellowship opportunities as well. The early service begins at 8:35 a.m. and will be followed by one of the great highlights of the weekend. Melissa Wingfield has put together an audio visual show that is filled with pictures of....YOU! It is one of the best presentations I have ever seen. Remember when you and your young family joined the church 50, 40, 30, 20, 10, 5, or one year ago? Well, you are there!

There are hundreds of pictures to make you smile. After coffee and light refreshments, we will be ready for the 11:00 traditional service. We want all of you to stay for a beautiful catered lunch in the Fellowship Hall to cap our weekend.

The bottom line is that it will only be fabulous if you are there! Pick up that phone today and put your names on the dotted line for a great weekend of fellowship and renewal!

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