



**Presbyterian Web Sites:**

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org](http://www.peakspresbytery.org)  
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: [www.synatlantic.org](http://www.synatlantic.org)  
Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)  
Pby. Disaster Assistance: [www.pcusa.org/pda/](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/)  
Presbyterian Today: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today](http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today)  
Pby. News Service: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem](http://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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PERMIT NO. 108

STEEPLE VIEWS



*Our Mission is to:*

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

# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

August, 2009

Martinsville, Virginia

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

I am writing this article for the August 2009 newsletter right before I head out for a week of vacation. Even more, I am writing shortly after my thirty-third anniversary of ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and just before my fifty-ninth birthday. Both of these significant passages prompt me to reflect on where I've been and what's ahead. Here's what I am thinking – for what it's worth.

More than anything else, I am grateful to God for the blessings and the privileges in my life. I rejoice regarding my family of origin – my parents, my three siblings, their spouses and children, and my grandparents. I am thankful for Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, MO where I was nurtured in the Christian faith and the Presbyterian perspective, discerned God's call to go into the ministry, met and married Monica. I am profoundly grateful for our marriage, our long-standing friendship, and for her tremendous support and encouragement over the years. Together, we are blessed in our own family with our three children and our daughter-in-law. We have been on a remarkable, grace-filled journey that has taken our family from Itasca, TX to McKinney, TX to Richmond, VA, and now Martinsville, VA.

When I reflect on my ministry, I truly cannot remember a single day of boredom. Each day is different, unique, and filled with God's gifts. As you have heard me say over the past four years, each day is a precious gift from God to be enjoyed and shared with others. The span of time from the earliest days of ministry to the present has been marked by God's faithfulness and, in turn, personal and professional growth; sometimes the growth comes in terms of "two steps forward, one step backward, and repeat." And, I realize there is a lot more growing in store for me to do. There were times I have made mistakes along the way. I wish I could have had a "do-over" or a "mulligan" but, since that's not possible, I have tried to learn from those experiences as much as possible and I strive not to repeat them. I have really tried, more than anything else, to be a pastor, who loves and tends to each flock God has called me to serve. I feel privileged that I get to do what I do and that I get to rub elbows and share faith with you. Even when vacation is over and it's time to head back to work, I don't drag my feet. Instead, I am excited to catch up with everyone and get back in the flow.

I'm sure there are more lessons that I have learned along the way but those are the ones that come immediately to mind. As I look forward, I realize that retirement is just over the horizon; I wonder what that will look like and feel like. In recent months I have had some physical aches and weakness in my lower back; I don't know what's in store for me in terms of addressing and relieving the problem. I realize there is so much that I do not and cannot know at this point. Thus, I am trying my best to simply trust God.

I am hopeful about our congregation. Yes, we have experienced some hardships along the way but I feel that we are on the verge of God's promise being realized in our midst: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19). If I have learned anything in 59 years of living and 33 years of ministry it's that God is faithful! God is in our midst. And, even though we don't know what's going to happen, God does and we can rely on the strength of the Lord. God will be there with us and for us, and, nothing but nothing will ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for the divine promises that are being fulfilled in our lives!

In Christ's love, Randy



### Happy Birthday in August

- 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 Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Andrew Bowles, Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Phyllis Reynolds, Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Beth Lawson, Carrie Buffkin
- 13 Chuck Cundiff
- 14 Tony Gunn
- 15 Caroline Harris
- 17 Maggie Pilson, Martha Pilson, Elizabeth Walsh
- 18 Cindy Nease, Madison Powell
- 19 Alison Parker, Bill Plonk
- 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
- 7 Jamie Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Richard Huff

**SYMPATHY** of the congregation is extended to John and Anne Abercrombie on the death of Anne's mother, Billie Russell Thompson, July 22, 2009, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### Memorial Contributions

#### *Music Memorial Fund*

In Memory of Henry Cook Reed

By: Lucy R. Burnette

Roy and Jacqueline Ferguson

Lang Mauck

Kitty Neil

Gordon and Mary Smyth

William F. and Cathy Stone

In Memory of Catherine Jones

By: Louisville Seminary

Let's roll up our sleeves and have a **Church Workday** to help the Facilities Committee get ready for the meeting of the **Presbytery of the Peaks** (scheduled for October 29, 2009)! Put **August 22nd and 29<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar (with official date to be decided later). Stay tuned for more information.

## **The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse"**

### **Chancel Choir**

We are in the final month of our "Summer Stretch". Our summer rehearsal schedule has included some rehearsal relaxation time during the month of July. Regular Wednesday rehearsals of the year will resume Wednesday evening, August 5. To celebrate that occasion, the choir will have a Pot Luck Dinner at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship hall for members, families, and prospects.

There is one "Solo Sunday" remaining in our "Summer Stretch" Schedule, August 16. On that Sunday you will hear a Women's Quartet sing. We appreciate these musicians sharing with us in worship this summer.

You have heard several instrumentalists play with the Chancel Choir as a part of the anthem accompaniment this summer. Maggie Pilson will play Flute again on August 30. If you are a singer or a ringer, please share your talent as a part of the Chancel Choir or the Sanctuary Ringers. Do not hide it under a basket. You will be glad you did.

### **Chancel Choir Service**

Last month, I wrote in an article about the Henry Reed Service, that Henry had served over 50 years in the Chancel Choir and other members were approaching that. I neglected to check and was given the information that Marge Dunn and Ed Linker have both exceeded the "big 50" in their service years. We congratulate them and thank them for their contribution to our Ministry for over a half century.

### **Sanctuary Ringers**

The Sanctuary Ringers will resume their rehearsal schedule in September after Labor Day. We will have one, perhaps two, positions open for new members this coming year. If you are interested in ringing with the choir, please contact Mr. Chapman.

### **Streaming Video**

This Summer I have become involved in watching "Streaming Video" on my home computer. The Hymn Society in the U.S and Canada is meeting at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. At St. Olaf, they regularly make campus evening available on their Web Site, [st-olaf.edu/multimedia](http://st-olaf.edu/multimedia). The four Hymn Festivals of the Hymn Society will be on the week of August 12. They and other events at the college are in the Archives listed on the site. Check it out! You will be glad you did.

### **Schedule**

#### **Summer Sunday Organ Recitals**

4:00 P.M. – A/C comfort - Free admission - Casual dress

Martinsville, Virginia

**August 2**-Casey Whaley, ECU Student  
1st Methodist Church

**August 9** A. Robert Chapman  
Bassett Memorial United Methodist Church  
2805 Riverside Drive, Bassett, VA

**August 16**  
Judy Minter, Rebecca Smith  
Baxter Jennings, Whitney Melton  
Peter Ramsey, A. Robert Chapman  
1st Baptist Church, Martinsville, VA

**August 23** Peter Ramsey  
Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church  
Bassett, VA

For up-to-date music information  
[www.broadstreetchristian.com](http://www.broadstreetchristian.com)

### **Library Corner. . .**

We have several memorials which are listed as follows:

**TITANICAT** by Marty Crisp given in memory of **Elizabeth T. Hensley** by Circle No. 25.

**LONG-DISTANCE HIKING: LESSONS FROM THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL** by Roland Muesar given in memory of **ANDREW STEVENS** by Circle 6

**THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL: HOW TO PREPARE FOR IT AND HIKE IT** by Jan D. Curran given in memory of **Andrew Stevens** by Circle 6

**50 HIKES IN SOUTHERN VIRGINIA** by Leonard M. Adkins given in memory of **Andrew Stevens** by Circle 6

**A WALK IN THE WOODS: REDISCOVERING AMERICA ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL** by Bill Bryson given in memory of **Andrew Stevens** by Debbie Youngman

**BEAUTY AMONG THE ASHES** by Cheryl McGuinness given in memory of **Norma Cumberledge** by Norma's Bridge Clubs

**EVERY PROPHECY OF THE BIBLE** by John F. Walvoord given in memory of **Norma Cumberledge** by Norma's Bridge Clubs

**WILL GOD HEAL ME** by Ron Dunn given in memory of **Norma Cumberledge** by Norma's Bridge Clubs

**ON THIS SPECIAL NIGHT** by Claire Freedman given in memory of **Norma Cumberledge** by Norma's Bridge Clubs.

We are grateful for all of these gifts to the church library.

Debbie

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009**

With shouts of "FEAR NOT!!" ringing out from almost every corner of Forest Hills Church, anyone could tell there was a lot of fun going on at this year's Vacation Bible School. It seemed like everyone was having a great time and some parents were having trouble dragging their kids away on Friday. We had a different schedule this year which seemed to work really well (thanks Bonnie!)

and included a new station for music. We had some participants from Christ's Church located on Spruce Street Extension who had such a good time that they have asked about joining with us next year. We had about 45 kids this year but almost that many helpers of age 12 and up. Marcy Heffinger of Forest Hills did a great job organizing everything this year. Super-Bonnie again did a fabulous job with crafts. Laura Stevens outdid herself with story time even creating special T-shirts with each day's theme on them. Oh, and ask Sam Smith why he's the hero of that station. I did Chadder's Theater again complete with a swamp pond full of snakes and alligators and lots of bugs hanging from the lights. The video was corny as ever but still taught a lesson and the kids loved it. The popcorn box is about ready for retirement though. Here's a big thanks to the folks from our church who helped: adults were Bonnie Price, Laura Stevens, Janet Fentress and Sandra Ford. (If you see Sandra, ask how her granddaughter liked it) And we couldn't have VBS without all the great teen helpers: Meredith, Kimberly and William Seamon; Matthew and Tyler Price; Emily Beard, Sam Smith, Alanna Ferguson; Carrie Buffkin (who had a group all to herself); Katherine Lester; Farrell Pace; Grace Anne Edgerton; Amy Fraser. That was just the group from our church.

Okay folks – guess where VBS will be next summer?? If you say "our church" you will be correct. I expect every able body, or semi able body, to line up with a smile and be ready to help. As soon as the date is announced, put it on your calendar. If you think VBS is anything like when you were growing up, you would be totally wrong. So plan to be there and see what all the fun is about.

Janet Fentress

STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year. Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer; Mailing Staff: volunteers
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*Children's and Youth Music*  
*Music Drama Camps!!!!!!!!!!!!*

In August, I am starting two music drama camps! I am very excited about this!!

August 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> will be a great time for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We will be using a wonderful program that will inspire our children and be a great learning experience as well. It is called **WAM!!**, and is a combination of Arts, Music and the Word. It is a chance for your child to be a part of a great drama and music experience all in one week!! We will present our performance on Friday!!

Beginning August 10<sup>th</sup> and going through the 14<sup>th</sup>, it will be the kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades' turn. We are going to present an Opera, the title of which is ***The Three Piggy Opera***, which is a blast. It is not operatic in the sense of the Met, but we will be making the music, the sets, the props and presenting our performance on Friday.

Our members have the priority for signing up and I encourage you to do so ASAP. I will be opening this up to friends of the church as well!! Please use the blank below to sign your child up!!

Call and register today!! You can bring friends as well!! The more the.....well you know what!!

**FALL 2009 MUSIC GROUPS**

I am looking forward to a great Music Year. September is always an exciting time around here....when we hear the voices of young people during the week again! Below is the collective list of offerings. Please sign up ASAP, so that I can make plans for the FALL. We will begin the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. Due to Labor Day, Orff will not meet that first week, but will begin on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Monday 2:40 to 4:30 **Orff-Kodaly I and II** for children in grades 1 through 5. The activities include singing, working on plays, handbells, games, crafts and all sorts of musical activities. The van will pick up Carlisle students just as we did last year. I need additional help each week, so please volunteer if you can. It is a lot of fun!!

Tuesday 11:00 **Music Together**- This class will meet at the same time as last year. This is a nationally recognized research based program for children from infancy through 3 and one-half years and a parent or caregiver. The activities include singing, rhythmic fun, dancing, mime and fellowship for all. This is very popular in the community, but church members always have first priority.

12:00-1:30 **Kindermusik I** for the Young Child for ages 4 and 5. This is a nationally recognized 2-year curriculum which includes games, instruments, mime, drama, note reading, sight singing and lots of fun.

2:40-4:00 **Kindermusik II** for the Young Child, for ages 5 and 6. This is the continuation of the program discussed above. The children who have had Kindermusik I are ready for this program and others who have not had Kindermusik I may join as well.

I would like to have a **Middle School handbell** group. We can do this if we have a minimum of 6 dedicated ringers. Date and time will be arranged to suit the group's needs

**Handbells for Highschoolers** will meet on Sunday afternoon as we did this year. We would welcome new ringers who have a love of music and a strong commitment.

My first priority is to have groups which suit the majority of our church family's schedules. Please let me have feedback about the groups listed above and any other ideas you have.

You can call me at church, at home (632 3119) or email me at [betsyhaskins@yahoo.com](mailto:betsyhaskins@yahoo.com).

Have a blessed July!

Betsy

## *First Pres Summer Music Drama Camp*

**Grades 3 through 7** WAM will be our project for the week.  
Time is 9-12 noon. Limited to 20 actors and actresses!

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Grades Kindergarten though 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Three Piggy Opera**  
Time is 9-12 noon. Deadline, I am not kidding, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Limited to first 20 actors and actresses!

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

There is a \$10 fee for non-members.  
Want to help?? Come on down and let me know!!

*Registration for Music Programs during the school year.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone contact \_\_\_\_\_

Email contact \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Other Issues that I should know about \_\_\_\_\_

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## Volunteer Schedule for August

### Ushers

Week of 8/2/09 (Group 9)Week of 8/9/09  
(Group 1)

Ed NewnamMonty & Joan Montgomery  
Bob DavisMilton & Nancy Davis  
Steve DeBuskJoe and Jerri DeVault  
David GarlandBuck & Helen Flythe  
Bill ManningGary and Cathy Nelson  
Shane PinkstonTom and Denise Unterbrink  
Dru Rothrock  
Forrest Truitt  
Kent Williams

Week of 8/16/09 (Group 2)Week of 8/23/09  
(Group 3)

Neil TatumEmily & Stuart Beard  
Sonny BenfieldAnne Banks Boyd  
Buck & Helen FlytheAlanna Ferguson  
Richard HuffLibby Goldstein  
Bill KirbyCaroline Harris  
Lang MauckKatherine Lester  
Jim StegallMichael Mason  
Bill StoneDyer Pace  
Ben Pinkston  
Matthew Price  
Kimberly and William Seamon  
Mary Catherine Stegall  
Jacob Wingfield

Week of 8/30/09 (Group 4)

Monty Montgomery  
Jim Baker  
Bob Bledsoe  
Steve Edgerton  
Bill Hensley  
Harold Lamm  
Joan Montgomery  
Katharine Reid  
Wendy Seamon

### Greeters

8/2/09

*Contemporary* – David King

*Traditional* – Paul Cannaday, Victoria Esarey

8/9/09`

*Contemporary* – Ann Reaser

*Traditional* – Betty Stanley, Manly Boyd

8/16/09

*Contemporary* – Nancy Davis

*Traditional* – Jim Baker, Cindy Franck

8/23/09

*Contemporary* – Gavin Russell

*Traditional* – Joan Montgomery, Bill Kirby

8/30/09

*Contemporary* -Milt Davis

*Traditional* – Catherine Bridges, Bill Peterson

### Elders Serving Communion 8/2/09

*Contemporary* –Cindy Franck and Bill Garrett

*Traditional* – Milt Davis

Victoria Esarey

Cindy Franck

David Garland

Darla Main-Schneider

Judy King

Duke Ferrell

Walt Seamon

Chris Wingfield

### Lay Readers- Traditional

2<sup>nd</sup> – David King

9<sup>th</sup> – Glenna Harmeyer

16<sup>th</sup> – Bill Peterson

23<sup>rd</sup> – Paul Cannaday

30<sup>th</sup> – Catherine Bridges