



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*



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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

August, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

The thermometer reads in the 90's and there are plenty of baseball games on TV, so it must be summertime! And, with that in mind, I am reminded of a story entitled *Modern Parable* by Ray Montgomery. It goes like this:

Behold, a ball team went forth to play a game of baseball. Just as the umpire was saying "Batter up," the catcher for the home team arrived and took his place. The center fielder didn't show up at all but later sent his regrets. The third baseman, likewise, failed to come to the game, having been up late the night before. The shortstop was present but left his glove at home. Two of the substitute fielders were away on a little weekend trip, but were there in spirit.

Verily, when the pitcher went to the mound he looked around for his teammates and lo, his heart was heavy, for their places were empty. But the game was announced and the visitors were in the stands and there was nothing to do but to pitch the ball and hope for the best. But he had to serve as pitcher, first baseman, third baseman, and cover short and center field. When the absent members of the defeated team heard that their team had lost, a decision was made to get a new pitcher!

The obvious lesson is that it takes all of the baseball players to be present and play their assigned positions in order to make the team function at its very best. If the team has a chance to win, it will take the concerted effort of every baseball player showing up and doing his very best so that the team can come together and play at its highest level.

What's true of a baseball team is equally true for a congregation. Everyone is needed to do her or his part so that the congregation can be at its very best in service to God and the community. We see glimpses of this truth in the midst of our life together.

As I am writing this article, our church is hosting the Vacation Bible School, along with four other area churches. I have marveled time and again at this first-class venture of faith because so many people have worked hard and long in prior months to bring this program together. Since I have a hard time even drawing stick figures, I admire and appreciate those who have designed, made, and painted the various scenes and figures around the church to fit the theme of *Pandemania – where God is wild about you!* Others have participated by leading the opening exercises, teaching in the various classrooms, coordinating fun, recreational activities, serving up delicious snacks, and so on. There are lots and lots of children along with youth and adult workers. It is absolutely wonderful to see the various parts that make up the whole, the many people that work together to make this time another successful, fun, and meaningful Vacation Bible School. I am proud of our many church members (of all ages), along with our friends from the other churches and the community, who have made this VBS into a very special week for all.

I am also grateful for the many people, who serve on the Session or one of its committees (or sub-committees, task forces or ad hoc groups). We joke about how many committees exist within a Presbyterian church. In fact, I have a bumper sticker on my bookshelf that reads: "God so loved the world...God didn't send a committee." But, the reality is that one person, or a few folks, can't do it all in the church. It takes many, many people meeting together in various groupings to provide for the entire congregation.

Thank you for your participation in the life of the First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, VA. I am grateful for your involvement and investment in our communal life, which means a great deal to our Lord, the congregation, the community around us, and to me. I give thanks to God for each and every one of you.

In Christ's love,
Randy

Happy Birthday in August to.....



- 1 David Chittum, Anne Peterson
- 2 Lynne Beeler, Allan Miller
- 3 Marge Dunn, Libby Goldstein
- 4 Liz Goldstein
- 5 Bob Richeson
- 6 Ann Crouch, Bunny O'Neal, Elizabeth Chapman
- 8 Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Beth Lawson, Carrie Buffkin
- 13 Chuck Cundiff
- 15 Caroline Harris
- 17 Maggie Pilson, Martha Pilson, Elizabeth Walsh
- 18 Cindy Nease, Madison Powell
- 19 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
- 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
- 3 Shirley Nease
- 4 Nancy Davis
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Richard Huff
- 10 Brooke Sanders
- 11 Hilde Chappell, Victoria Esarey

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Congratulations to Troy and Gwyndolyn Imler on the birth of their son, Wyatt Barry Imler, on July 18, 2011, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Patsy Stanley is the proud grandmother.

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated for Norah Jill Cundiff on Sunday, July 3, 2011. Norah is the daughter of Chuck and Brooke Cundiff.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ralph Shank and the Ralph Shank, Jr. family on the death of Ralph's sister, Margaret Shank DeLong Sprinkle, on July 26, 2011, in Daleville, Virginia.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jim and Nancy Baker on the death of Jim's sister, Ann Styron, on June 12, 2011, in Pine Level, North Carolina.

Please bring your donations to the purple *Citizens Against Family Violence* Collection boxes located around the church. Right now, CAFV is in need of paper towels, toilet tissue, all-purpose cleaner spray, dish detergent, gallon size Ziploc bags and trash bags. Thanks for your continued support of CAFV!

BLOODMOBILE VOLUNTEERS

Eight years ago, our church, through the Mission Committee, accepted an invitation from the Red Cross to assist them with their Bloodmobile on the fourth Thursday of every month.

Under the leadership of Doris Marshall, who is a member of the Red Cross, First Presbyterian has had many faithful volunteers.

We are now very much in need of additional volunteers who can work on a regular basis, or as substitutes, when needed.

The hours for volunteering are:
12:00pm – 3:00pm and 3:00pm – 6:30pm

using three volunteers for each time. This is held once a month on the last Thursday at Liberty Fair Mall. The three jobs are as follows:

1. greeting and signing in the donors
2. medical helper for donors
3. Canteen: offering donor juice, water, and snacks after donating and signing them up for another time, if they desire.

Please let Lang Mauck (638-1486) know if you can help.

! Three Hours a Month!

MEMBER BADGES

In an effort to make our church more friendly and open, we are now offering Member Badges for all of our members. Each badge has your first name (or nickname) and last name in bold letters, along with the name of the church. Just tell us how you would like your name listed and spelled. Also, let us know whether you prefer a clip-on or a magnetic badge. With these more permanent badges, you will no longer need to fill out one of the stick-on badges, which can be hard to read, messy and inconvenient. We are looking into providing a badge rack in the Narthex where you can leave your badge as you leave Sunday services.

To request your badge, there are some small forms on the table in the narthex that you can fill out and place in the offering plate or you can turn in your request to the church office. You can also e-mail Duke Ferrell at dukeferrell@hotmail.com to order your badge. Badges will be placed on the table in the Narthex for you to pick up.

Sunday Drivers: During the months of August and September, we need extra volunteers because vacation schedules take so many people out of town. If you could provide transportation between King's Grant and First Presbyterian on one or two Sundays, please call Victoria Esarey at 956-4745. The Congregational Care Committee thanks you!

Associate Pastor's Column

In worship on Sunday, June 26, twenty-two youth and adults were commissioned and sent forth to share in God's mission in Charlotte, NC. Once we arrived in Charlotte, we were welcomed into our home for the week, at Avondale Presbyterian Church's Family Life Center. Our host, Associate Pastor Brad Clayton (and a college friend of mine), provided an orientation and talked about how God's mission is indeed lived out not only by helping people with our hands and energy, but also shared by simply being a friend, and assuring people that they are valued and loved children of God. On Monday, the group spent time at Crisis Assistance of Charlotte, helping sort through and hang up donated clothes that would be made available as part of a free clothes closet for those in need. In the afternoon on Monday and throughout the week, our group helped lead games and activities with the children and youth attending the Freedom School, which was also located at the Avondale church. The Freedom School is a summer enrichment program that focuses on reading and learning skills for at-risk students, to provide them an opportunity to perform better in school. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, we broke into smaller teams which did a variety of service projects such as yard work, painting, house maintenance, and hauling bricks from the foundation of a burned home. One of the most meaningful projects of the week was cleaning, painting and helping out an elderly woman named Rosita. She suffered from macular degeneration, and was nearly blind, and therefore needed a lot of assistance around her house. Our group painted, cleaned the siding, did yard work, and replaced some faulty plumbing. Rosita loved to talk to us, and shared stories about her family, and her life; she was a model in her youth, and became a teacher and professor of chemistry as an adult. Each day the group came, she

gathered us together to express her appreciation to us, and give thanks to God for sending us to her. Her faith and life inspired us all. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, we participated with members of Avondale's Mission committee and volunteers in preparing and delivering bag meals to the homeless. This is a ministry their church has done twice a week, all year long, for over five years. Some who came were indeed homeless, and some just really needed a meal that night. When we got off the bus to deliver meals, we didn't just drop off meals and leave, but everyone talked with one another. It was clear that Lynn and other church members had built relationships with them, they knew and trusted each other.

Throughout the week there was another, though perhaps unstated, mission going on – and that was building community and friendships with each other as a mission group. Every day each smaller team helped by taking turns preparing meals for the whole group and leading evening devotions. We reflected on our experiences and gave thanks to God for the ways we each had seen the face of Christ in those we encountered that day. On the last evening we took time to think about how this experience had changed us, and how we could share that with our families and friends back home. We hope to share our experiences in many ways with our church family - picture displays, sharing in worship, and possibly new ideas for mission at home! But, too, ask us –take time to greet some of the young people on Sunday morning and hear what they have to share. Many thanks to the church family for all your support of this trip!

Jenny

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse"

The Chancel Choir

It is the middle of July and half of our Summer Stretch is history.

August 10 at 6 p.m. the Chancel Choir will have a Kick-Off Pot Luck Dinner. At 7:00 p.m. regular rehearsals resume. The Candlelight Carol Service music will be in the folders that evening and the first 30 minutes of the rehearsal will be spent in looking at a portion of this music.

The dinner is for members and families of regular members and for those who plan to join us for the Christmas Music Service. This is not an exclusive choir. All singers who can learn and sing a part are invited.

Thank you to Jenny Spivey for singing a solo July 10. On August 14 Beth Chapman will be the soloist for the 11:00 a.m. service.

Sunday School Study

I was privileged to present the first hour of the music chapter of the Sunday School Adult Worship study on July 17. The first part of the text book chapter on music involved the Congregation and the study included a look at our hymnal and the meaning of various items found on the pages of the book. Betsy Haskins continued the study on July 24.

www.presbyterianhymnal.org

A New Hymnal

The 2006 General Assembly granted authorization for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to research, develop, and produce a new hymnal. In every generation we are called to claim our song and bear witness to what God is doing in the world. A hymnal is very much like a family album which gives insight into our faith throughout the generations.

Since 2008 the process has been under way in partnership with the Office of Theology, Worship, and Education and the

Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The final content list for the new resource will include many hymns and songs that have been part of the song of the church for generations. You can learn more about the project on the web site, www.presbyterianhymnal.org. A complete list of contents will be presented to the 2012 General Assembly in Pittsburgh.

This new collection of congregational song will give us an opportunity to make available a great wealth of hymns and spiritual songs that have arisen since the 1990 hymnal, to acquaint worshipers with wonderful resources from Christian communities around the world, and to review again the great heritage of congregational songs that has been passed on to us from past generations of faithful worshipers.

You can go to the web site above for previous information as well as the latest. I will continue to feature information about this new hymnal each month in "The Tempo".

MISSION IS FOR ALL AGES: A new opportunity for serving together

The Society of St. Andrew's program *Harvest of Hope* sponsors several *Intergenerational Weekends* for participants of all ages to come and learn about hunger, and give their time and energy gleaning fields to collect food to donate to local feeding agencies. There are two weekend events this fall that are close by: September 23-25 in Fincastle, VA and November 4-6 in Shawsville, VA. The programs begin Friday evening and conclude Sunday at lunch. The cost per participant is \$75. Adults, youth and children are welcome! If you would like to learn more about these experiences, please talk to Pastor Jenny. We would love to get a group together from our church to go!

Youth and Children's Music

Summer is still kicking but I am fully charged for Fall. Our classes are fun and exciting and I want as many of you involved as possible. Please share with friends and neighbors. All classes are open to our friends, members or not.

Here is the schedule:

Monday: 2:45-4:30 WAM(worship, arts, music) for 1st through 5th graders. This is a wonderful group that plays handbells, recorders (new this year), prepares two plays, sings, and learns about worship and its' meaning. We play together, create art and follow our faith journey as well.

Note: I desperately need another adult to help. This is a large group and our teens are great, but, because of their school schedules, they cannot be present until later in the afternoon. Would you consider coming for a few weeks? Musical ability is not a prerequisite, just someone who loves children!

There is a 20 dollar refreshment fee (per child) for this group.

Tuesday: 11:00 Music Together for children age birth to 3 and a half years old or so.

This is a nationally revered program of musical experiences for a child and an adult. We sing, dance, play and grow musically together. The fee for this is \$35 per quarter for a set of beautiful materials including two CDs and a beautiful book.

Noon: Kindermusik I This is another nationally known program that is for the 4-5 year old. This is my 22nd year teaching this curriculum that is perfect for every child. We learn to play a glockenspiel, read notes, play wonderful games and grow musically. We begin at noon with a packed lunch and finish at 1:30

2:45-4:00 Kindermusik II This is the continuation of Kindermusik I. This year we study the music of the world. We make and learn to play a dulcimer and learn to be proficient on recorder. By the time children have finished Kindermusik, they have had experience on a string instrument,

woodwind and percussion. It really sets them up for wherever their musical road leads. The children come from three school systems at different times, and we do enrichment til everyone arrives. The fee for members is \$35 and for non members \$150 for the year.

Middle and High School Handbells-Come one, come all, no experience necessary! This is a great group that has a blast making super music and playing together. We practice after church a few Sundays a month and try to play in church about once every six weeks. We had a great group last year and I am sure this year will be the very same!

All groups will begin after Labor Day, the Tuesday groups beginning on September 6th and the first WAM meeting on September 12th.

Early registration is certainly appreciated!!

Name of

Child_____

Birthdate_____

Class_____

Parents' Names

Phone contact_____

Emergency contact person

Mailing address

Child's school

Allergies or issues I should know about to enable me to work more ably with your child._____

Volunteer opportunities

WAM- I can help a lot___, a little___ every now and then___. (This person does not have to be a parent. A grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. will fit right in!!

Looking forward to a wonderful year!!

In Joy,
Betsy

Contributions to our Various Funds

General Memorial Fund

Lang Mauck – IMO Ann Styron

Music Memorial Fund

Lucy Wilson

Pastors Discretionary Fund

Mrs. Linda Pickett

Columbarium Fund

Doris Byrd – IMO Harris Byrd

Weekday School News

The Weekday School had a very successful 2010-2011 school year. Now we are gearing up for fall. Where has the summer gone?

We finished up the school year with our annual Art Show and Sale. This year each class painted a one-of-a-kind floor cloth. These beautiful, original works of art were sold in a silent auction. The bidding was fast and furious and the lucky winners were rewarded with an awesome keepsake.

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is ongoing, but space is very limited! The Mother's Morning Out class is very small at this time. Mother's Morning Out is for children from 12 months to 2. Space is available Monday through Thursday. If you have children, or, friends with children, in this age group, please promote our Mother's Morning Out program.

We do have a few needs for Weekday School. If you have any "dress up" clothes, (ie: old dance recital costumes, Halloween costumes or party type dresses) we would love to have them. The dress-up center is always one of the most popular and those clothes take a beating! We also need gently used baby dolls and baby doll clothing. You can drop these items off in the Weekday School Office or in the Church Office.

School officially opens on September 6. We look forward to another fun and exciting year.

Melissa White





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2011

Vacation Bible School 2011 is over along with much fun and enthusiasm. We had approximately 75 kids from not only our church but several others. Besides our church there were 4 other sponsoring churches – Forest Hills Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Christ Episcopal, and Christ's Church. What a great mission statement for our church!

While all 5 churches contributed staff, our church had about 30 volunteers who generously donated time to making this year's VBS successful. Hopefully I won't leave anyone out. The craft station was again led by Bonnie Price who spent many hours trying to prepare crafts that would be meaningful for the children. One of her most helpful assistants was Susan Hatchett who has visited our church often during the contemporary service. Also representing the Price family were Matthew and Tyler. Their help is always critical especially with the electronic equipment and other engineering projects such as the belly of the whale. Tyler is also our official photographer. Thanks to David for his help on various projects.

The story station was led by Laura Stevens. Laura crafts her station to do the most visually to help the children learn and remember the stories she presents. She often makes them a part of the story as though they were really there. Carrie Buffkin was her able assistant helping with sound effects and all the work involved in decorating the room for each story. Carrie

and Laura also helped with overall decorations.

JoAnne Sanders, chef extraordinaire, put together some great snacks for the kids. Each day's snack related to the story in some way. For example for the story of Jonah and the whale, the kids had a "fish" made from rice cakes, triangle crackers, cheese whiz and grapes (bubbles). On Friday over 200 kids, friends and parents enjoyed our closing presentation followed by a hot dog picnic. Some of the great help in the kitchen included Judy Ware, Elizabeth Wotring, Lang Mauck and Nicholas Turner (a regular visitor to our church). Jessica Showalter helped in both the kitchen and the nursery. Victoria Esarey came in on Friday and was great help with the picnic.

The games were led by Jenny Spivey assisted by Jake and Zach Sanders and Darrell Wilson. The kids especially liked getting wet and always looked like they were having great fun. Was there a slight accident the last day??

The 4 year olds were in their own room and led by Tonya Bredamus (Christ's Church) and Carrie Wilson. Barbara Tatum accompanied her grandson and helped out 2 days. Barbara also helped with registration on the first day.

Mattie Wingfield assisted Marcy Heffinger (FHC) with the music station.

any thanks to Brooke Cundiff who kept the nursery by herself the first 3 days and then with some additional help the last 2.

Lynn Pritchett kept up with the registrations and did crisis control when necessary. Two examples were dealing with a screaming 5 year old and calling a parent of a child that came with pink eye.

Other teens that helped with the various groups were Grey and Alanna Ferguson, Kimberly Seamon, Virginia Zentmeyer, Matthew Mason and Ben Pinkston.

As for me, I did a lot of the overall planning, some of the decorating, tended to small details and led the opening and closing each day. Sam Smith was invaluable

helping me with all that's involved in leading a VBS. Thanks to all the volunteers both from our church and the other churches that made it all come together and happen like it was supposed to. And it was all about the children – helping them have fun and learn about God in their lives.

Our mission project this year was local – Grace Network. We purchased 20 canvas bags which the kids decorated and then filled with items which the kids brought each day. About \$85 was also collected during the week for Grace. Thanks to Milt Davis for delivering everything to Grace.

Visit our church's website for many pictures taken at VBS. They represent many hours of hard work. VBS will move to another church for a few years so this will be your best chance to see everything.

We look forward to next year when we move to the Episcopal Church and have fun in their beautiful Parish House. Please consider volunteering even though it's not our church.