



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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S T E E P L E V I E W S



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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

February, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

The other day I received a letter from the church where I did my optional internship (in between my second and third years of seminary). It's hard for me to believe that thirty-five years have passed by since I served as the intern of the First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, Missouri from September of 1974 through May of 1975.

Just as an aside, Fulton, MO is important for a number of reasons: it's the site where Winston Churchill made his famous "iron curtain" speech; there is a Presbyterian college there – Westminster; a fictional book entitled Kings Row (by Henry Bellman) was set in Fulton – the book was made into a movie and young Ronald Reagan played one of the main characters; and, Fulton is the county seat of Callaway County – during the Civil War, Callaway County wanted to remain neutral (much like modern day Switzerland), and thus, it withdrew from any association with the North or South and declared itself to be the independent Kingdom of Calloway.

But, I digress! The letter I received was notifying me that the church is honoring the Rev. Dr. Cecil Culverhouse, who served the First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, Mo as pastor for twenty-five years; Cecil has probably been retired from the church for the past fifteen years. He will preach at the church on Sunday, April 11, which is the Sunday after Easter. As part of the festivities for that weekend, the church is also inviting all twenty of the interns (and their spouses), who served with Cecil, to come back "home" for that special occasion. I am excited to return to the First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, MO to see and be with Cecil and his family, members of the church, and as many of the interns as possible as there is quite a bond between all of us, and that bond is Cecil. Cecil is a well-loved pastor, colleague, mentor, and friend to all of us.

Halfway through my intern experience, Cecil co-officiated, along with the pastor of our Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, MO, at our wedding thirty-five years ago on January 11, 1975. Cecil is an author, a leader at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s governing bodies, and a real scholar. In seminary, we were taught that preaching is depicted as holding the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other; Cecil is that kind of preacher. Besides his keen mind, he has a wonderful sense of humor and laughs often and well. I was truly privileged to serve with Cecil. I gained a lot of practical advice and experience from Cecil that served me well as I went through my last year of seminary and my first years in the pastorate. Like many friendships, we haven't seen or talked to one another often through the years; but the one or two times we do connect each year, it's as if we had talked only last week. I greatly love and admire this saint of the church, and I look forward to spending a long weekend with him and many others in April.

Having reflected on Cecil and the impact he has had on my life and especially upon my faith, let me ask you, "Who has influenced your life in a positive way? Assuming that many of us have been greatly moved by the faithful witness of our parents and grandparents, who else helped to give shape and substance to your life of faith?" And, perhaps equally important, is this question: "To whom are you a role model for the Christian faith?"

Let us take time to reflect and give thanks to God for the various persons God has brought into our lives, who have touched our lives in a positive way and enabled us to grow in our understanding and our experience of the Christian faith. And perhaps, by the grace of God, we have gone and done likewise! Also, I would love to hear your stories of those saints, who mean so much to you and why. We not only believe in "the communion of the saints," we have experienced that communion first-hand. Thanks be to God!

In Christ's love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in February

- 1 Carolyn Lackey, Logan Jennings
- 2 David Seamon
- 3 Andy DeVault, Harold Lamm, Lillie Willis, Doris Renno
- 5 Michael Mason
- 6 Charlie Miller
- 7 Emily Goldstein
- 8 Frances Leavitt, Guy Stanley
- 9 Marshall Chaney, Hannah Fraser
- 11 Jo Dykes
- 13 Connie Anderson, Amy Fraser
- 15 Bob McLachlan
- 18 Dana Mahoney
- 19 Sandra Ford, Zack Sanders
- 20 Mary Layton Truitt

And in March to:

- 3 Ruth Thompson
- 4 Margaret Hurt
- 5 Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore Smith
- 6 Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
- 8 Harriet Mattox, Bill Garrett
- 9 Tyler Price
- 11 Carol Darnell, Don Richman, Nicholas Young

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Katherine and Stacey Eanes on the death of their Dad, Michael Ray Eanes, January 1, 2010, in Martinsville, Virginia.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Betty Hoyt Arnold on her death in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Betty, a former member of this church, was a teacher in our Kindergarten program years ago.

As you know, **Haiti** was recently devastated by an earthquake. According to reports, the damage in Port au Prince, and areas around it, is terrible. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has posted an account number

(DR000064) to direct your contributions to the current crisis in Haiti. Put the account number on your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (USA), P. O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15264-3700

Parents of Young Children Group: Parents of children from newborn to elementary school age are invited to attend a casual and fun monthly meeting that includes fellowship, food, and baby-sitters. Our next meeting is Friday, February 5, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Leanna Blevins at 632-6084 or blevinsleanna@yahoo.com.

Please be reminded that our church is hosting The ***Magnetic Church conference*** on Friday and Saturday, February 12-13. The speaker will be Andrew Weeks, who offers practical advice about evangelism, welcoming visitors and prospective members, and how best to market the church (i.e., how to make the signs, property, buildings, and communication more inviting and welcoming). We hope a large number of members from our church will be in attendance along with folks from other Presbyterian churches and neighboring churches in the Martinsville-Henry County area.

The Souper Bowl of Caring Offering Will be taken by or youth on Sunday, February 7, 2010, which is Super Bowl Sunday. The Souper Bowl Offering is a part of a national program: over 14,000 congregations participated last year to raise money for hunger. Youth will be standing by the doors of the church on February 7 with pots and pans. Drop in a few dollars and help alleviate hunger! Recipient of our offering will be **Grace Network**.

With the beginning of the Church's season of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 17), once again we will plan to have a series of Wednesday night suppers followed by Lenten worship services on February 17, 24; March 3, 10,

17, 24, and 31 (Maundy Thursday). Supper will begin each Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. and most (if not all) of the meals will be catered. Donations are appreciated to offset the cost of the meals and, as usual, the Two-Cents-A-Meal cans (to support the Presbytery of the Peaks' program to fight hunger) will be on the tables; your help is greatly appreciated! Then, we will move upstairs into the sanctuary for worship, which will begin at 6:20 p.m. in time for choir rehearsal and any committees that will be meeting. Please make plans to join us for these special meals and Lenten worship services.



Children and Youth

We have begun the new year with joy, and a lot of sound!! All groups are perking along in high gear. If you know someone who would like to join Music Together, Kinder I, Kinder II, WAM or Cantabile bells, just let me know. All groups are starting new materials over the next 2 weeks and it is a great time to start. I will be glad to contact anyone who might be interested in quality music for his/her child or youth!!

Magnetic Church is Almost Here!!!

Dear Friends, upper most in my mind is the Magnetic Church conference which we are hosting on Friday, Feb 12 from 6 to 10 and Saturday, February 13th from 9 to 4. At this point, we have 12 registrations. I am sure you just have not handed yours in, so please do so and be a part of a fresh movement in our church. The reason I am so keen for you to be there, is the distinct possibility of our coming together as a church group to make the necessary changes that will give our church a presence in this community, and be a welcoming presence for new families and members and extremely vital. I have not talked to any person in our church that is not concerned about issues

concerning our lack of growth. This is our change to be PRO ACTIVE!!!!

Here's who should be present: All Session members, you after all are the spiritual leaders of our church; all Staff, we do significant work and our input is necessary, and all members who love this church and want to make a difference.

I said in the minute for mission in January; fast forward to 2030. If we do nothing, where will we be?

Here's the good news: it is fun; it is exciting and it is a great time to have planning time, fellowship, of course good food and make a difference!!

I will be looking for each of you to be present.

This is not limited to our church. Anyone interested in learning how to make his/her church magnetic should sign up as well.

Questions: Call me!! Betsy Haskins

Contemporary Worship Is Growing

Your Praise Band works really hard to provide musical leadership for our early service. We are averaging between 43 and 50 each Sunday and appreciate all you early birds who come out early to sing the praises of the Lord, to listen for God's word and to pray heartily. If you have not give us a look see, please do!! We have some exciting new music that we have worked quite hard on, by Robin Mark. Look out for some new stirring pieces!!

We have great instrumentalists in Sandra Ford, keyboard; Virginia King, violin; Lynn Pritchett, flute; William Seamon, drums; Ernie Bremner, guitar and I play the clavinova. We are always looking for musicians who would like to join us, or who might be willing to sub on occasion. We could really use a bass player, another guitar and a drummer sub for William when he can't be here. We also have a great conga drum that is looking for someone to step up and play.

Interested.....maybe.... let me know. I can fill you in on what all the joy is about.

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

The Tempo-Our Musical Pulse Chancel Choir

It is January 2010! How fast time moves, especially when you are old and having fun. This is a season of new beginnings, spiritual and musical projects which we pray will bear fruit in the worship of the church which lies ahead.

The Chancel Choir is at full steam ahead looking forward to new and old music challenges. Beside their weekly involvement in almost every 11 o'clock service, the choir has a March worship-music service entitled, Emmanuel, God With Us, for which to prepare. This service will highlight the time between Jesus' birth and crucifixion. Some interesting and challenging music will be presented in the format of our usual worship service. Of course Holy Week and Easter are coming in the weeks following the music service.

We do not want this service to be the best kept secret in our city and county. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come to this service with you and worship through the elements of this "Emmanuel, God With Us" service.

Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers have been hard at the task since January 6. Their first challenge is the service on January 31. February 28 will not be far behind.

We welcomed Deborah Blankenship to our membership in January. Deborah has been singing in the Chancel Choir for a good while. Now she has three hours of rehearsal on Wednesday evenings, and that at the end of a day of work. Several of our musicians give their involvement to that three-hour schedule each week. Be sure to tack onto that an hour and a half each Sunday. Have you thanked a musician lately? Have you thought about using your musical talent? Please give it some thought and prayer.

We need at least one additional ringer and then we will have a full house in the

Sanctuary Ringers. We need at least twenty new singers in our Chancel Choir. I invite you to consider membership.

Weekday School News



Happy New Year from The Weekday School. We made through the Christmas season despite all of the excitement and anticipation that the children were preoccupied with! School is back in full

swing and the children and teachers are busy with all things winter. Miss Janet continues to come to us each Thursday morning from the Blue Ridge Regional Library with story time.

Wendy's Night Out will continue on the first Tuesday of each month. Come on out and have dinner at the Wendy's in Collinsville between the hours of 5 and 8 and help out the Weekday School at the same time. Be sure to fill out a slip and place it in our can at the register so we can get our share of the sales for that evening.

The four year old classes have been going to King's Grant to sing some songs and give the residents a special gift. Their next scheduled trip is February 8th at 10:15. This is always a fun event for everyone.

Registration time will be upon us before we know it. I will let you know the specifics as soon as the schedule is finalized. In the meantime if you know of anyone who is interested in enrolling their child in Weekday School for the 2010-2011 school year please ask them to contact me so that I can put them on the list.

Everyone try and keep warm!

Melissa White

There will be a meeting in the Reed Classroom of **the Friendly Visitors** immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on February 21. The purpose is to revise our current list of those who need visiting and adding new names as needed. All current **Friendly Visitors** and anyone interested in becoming a member are invited to attend.