



**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*

**First Presbyterian Church Staff:**

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STEEPLE VIEWS



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

# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

January, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

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

In an article within *The Christian Century* (December 15, 2009), John Ortberg reflects on his daughter's graduation from college. He writes: "My wife spoke at commencement, so we gathered with a group of faculty, alumni and administrators before the ceremony. At one point, university president Jon Wallace pulled three seniors into the center of the room and told us all they were going to be serving under-resourced people in impoverished areas after graduation. Then Jon turned his back to the rest of us, faced the three students, and said, "Somebody you do not know has heard about what you're doing. He wants you to be able to serve without any impediment, so he's giving you a gift." Then he turned to the first student and looked her in the eye. "You have been forgiven your school debt of \$105,000." It took a few moments for the words to sink in. The student shook her head, then began to cry. Jon turned to the next student. "You have been forgiven your debt of \$70,000," then to the third student, "You have been forgiven your debt of \$130,000." All three students were trembling. Their lives had been changed in a twinkling by the extravagance of someone they'd never met. For those of us who watched, it was as if we had experienced the forgiveness ourselves. There was not a dry eye in the room.

"An unpayable debt. An unseen giver. An unforgettable gift. The freedom of the debtors becomes a blessing to the world. There is a bigger debt we all labor under. We give it labels such as regret, guilt, shame, brokenness – sin. But God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. We know what's coming. But we need to hear the words just the same. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

As I write this article, Christmas is only three days away. I am reminded of the angel's visit to Joseph; and in a dream, the angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." We celebrate Jesus' birth in part because he lived up to his name by dying on the cross, and thus forgiving us of our sins, and reconciling us to God.

One of the best gifts we can give our Lord at Christmas and throughout the new year is to forgive others "as the Lord forgave you" (and me). Let us make good the prayer we pray every Sunday: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." This is the road we are expected to travel as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to close with "A Christmas Prayer" by Robert Louis Stevenson: "Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen." May it be so!

I wish for you and yours and our church a blessed Christmas and a joy-filled new year. May the peace of Christ fill and overflow our lives so that we live in peace with all others. And, let us be sure to forgive as we have been forgiven!

In Christ's love,  
Randy



## Happy Birthday in January to

- 4 Marie Thompson, Melissa Seamon  
5 Katherine Earles, Ashley Pruitt  
6 Iliene Hite, John Chappell, Lea Washburn  
7 Buck Flythe, Rob King  
8 Stan Cobb  
9 Jennifer Nease  
10 Jim Beard  
11 Debbie Youngman, Cathy Martin, Olivia Robertson  
13 Alex Lawson  
16 Wendy Seamon, Billy Kirby  
17 Carolyn Franck, Carrie Sanders, Jake Sanders, Grace Anne Edgerton  
18 Hilary Moore, Mary Pilson, Anne Carlyle Hurt  
19 Helen Flythe, Jennifer Eden  
21 Mark Mason, Bonny Pace, Ruth Decker Chaney  
23 Natalie Shoebridge, Milt Davis  
24 Gary Hokanson, Greg Darnell  
26 Chester Buffkin  
28 David Garland  
29 Rusty Reaser, Alan Ferguson  
30 Pat Hokanson, Lanie Walsh  
31 Jim Haskins, Mattie Wingfield

## ....and 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, Ben Smith  
8 Frances Leavitt, Guy Stanley  
9 Marshall Chaney, Hannah Fraser, Emily Parker  
11 Jo Dykes

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to Ed and Jean Linker and family on the death of Jean's brother-in-law, Tom Robin-

son, November 12, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to Troy and Sharon Rakes and family on the death of Troy's brother, Frederick A Rakes, December 6, 2009, in Ridgeway, Virginia.

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to Duke and Liz Ferrell and family on the death of Duke's father, Raymond Duke Ferrell, December 9, 2009, in Martinsville, Virginia.

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to the family of Mrs. Franklin P. Foard on her death. Peg, a member of First Presbyterian since November 30, 1962, joined the Church Triumphant on December 15, 2009.

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to the family of Betty Jane Simpson on her death in Martinsville. Betty Jane, a member of First Presbyterian since January 17, 1993, joined the Church Triumphant on December 20, 2009.

**Congratulations to** Sam and Margaret Mattox on the birth of their daughter, Caroline Grier Mattox, October 9, 2009, in Charleston, South Carolina. Sam is the son of Lucy and A. C. Wilson and Judy Mattox and the late Paul Mattox. Caroline's great grandmother is Harriet Mattox.

**Congratulations to** Chuck and Brooke Cundiff on the birth of their daughter, Nora Jill Cundiff, November 28, 2009, in Martinsville, Virginia.

**Congratulations to** Craig and Susan Tatum on the birth of their son, Dawson Gray Tatum, November 28, 2009, in Martinsville, Virginia. Barbara Tatum is the proud grandmother and Neil and Kym Tatum the proud uncle and aunt.

**Congratulations to** Mike and Leighton Richards on the birth of their son, Michael Samuel Richards, born December 2009, in Roanoke, Virginia. Bill and Suzan Kirby are the proud grandparents!

**Congratulations and best wishes to** Dee Moore and Bill Smith on the occasion of their marriage, November 28, 2009, in the sanctuary.

**Congratulations and best wishes** to Elizabeth Stuart Ferrell and George Hazlehurst Harris III on the occasion of their marriage December 5, 2009, at the Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

### Memorial Gifts

#### *General Memorial Fund*

Mrs. Connie Sutton – ELI

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Garrett – m/o Mr. Charles Roy

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Groves – Honor of Smith and Gael Chaney

#### *Pastors Discretionary Fund*

Edward Porter

### **Youth Ski Trip**

**February 5, 2010**

Come with us to Wintergreen!



February 5-7, 2010

#### **Friday, Feb. 5**

-leave First Pres at 5:00p  
Bring money for dinner on the way!

-arrive at wintergreen for night tubing from 9:00-1:00. Reservations are required for this event to get a group rate of \$14 each. Bring/wear snow

gear for that night.

- staying in Lake Monican House.
- Skiing/snowboarding for 8 hours
- Lift ticket/skiing /boarding \$55
- rentals for skis/board \$30, includes free lesson for each (\$85 for lift/rentals)
- purchase snacks, etc. at Wintergreen that day
- dinner at Lake Monican House
- pit fire by lake that night with marshmallow roasting

#### **Sunday, Feb. 7**

- breakfast at Lake Monican House
- depart for First Pres at 10:00, arrive at FPC approx. 2:00p

-lunch on way home, bring money  
TOTAL COST PER PERSON FOR ENTIRE TRIP \$135

(\$105 if not renting skis/board-don't want to ski/board/tube? Cost is \$35)

Youth, youth guests, parents, church members invited!

Questions?? Call Chris or Melissa Wingfield

336-573-1663 home,

Cell 336-580-4324 Melissa 336-580-4580 Chris

email [cluwing@yahoo.com](mailto:cluwing@yahoo.com) or mwing-

field@rock.k12.nc.us

**All money is due to the church office by January 15, 2010**



### **Children and Youth**

As I write this after the snow, it really feels weird. First of all not to have worship on Sunday felt so strange as did not having the Choir program Sunday night. All of which is totally with good reason.....still..... Worship at home is not corporate worship with my church family. By the time you read this, we will have had Christmas Eve and that is all to the good!!

Recapping "Angel's Aware." I was so proud of the children and all that they accomplished. The message was well received and the turn out was spectacular. Many thanks to all who helped make this possible. Smith, as always, is right there to make sure all is well in all regards. I am so grateful to you!

Music begins with a bang on January 4<sup>th</sup>. This is our best learning time so we will be ready to speed out of the shoot on Monday for WAM, and Tuesday for Kinder I, Kinder II and Music Together!! It will be great to see everyone again!!

WAM will not meet on Martin Luther King Holiday.

STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.

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

## **Magnetic Church**

Please take our Magnetic Church weekend as a must do!! This is our opportunity to make changes in our church to become more welcoming to new members, retain our own members and become a real magnet in our community for those looking for a church that is vital, relevant, and growing!!

Please fill out the enclosed flyer ASAP. We are all paying a small stipend to help underwrite the project.

Please feel free to invite members of other churches or anyone whom you think might be interested.

I will need a great deal of help to make this happen, so please contact me if you would like to lend a hand. Thank goodness it is in February and there is not the hurriedness of other months.

Randy and the Session have high hopes for what this can mean for our church, and this can only happen, if you are here!!

Questions, volunteers... call me 632 3431 or email [betsyhaskins@yahoo.com](mailto:betsyhaskins@yahoo.com)

I wish for each of you a peaceful, joyful, healthful 2010.

Betsy

**On Sunday, January 10, 2010**, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we will proceed with the ordination and installation of new elders (Class of 2012) to the Session. The new elders to be ordained are Laura Buffkin, Heidi Pinkston, and Judy Ware. These three will be installed to serve on the Session along with Duke Ferrell, Harold Lamm, and Forrest Truitt. Also, we give thanks to the following elders (Class of 2009) as they rotate off of the Session: David King, Lang Mauck, Bill Peterson, Ann Reaser, Anne Vipperman, and Melissa Wingfield. When you see these folks, please be sure to thank them for a job well done!