



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 9 - 13

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Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: www.synatlantic.org
Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org
Pby. Disaster Assistance: www.pcusa.org/pda/
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Church Web Site <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>



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

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STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

July, 2007

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

As I write this article, I am aware of several factors: yesterday (June 17) was Fathers Day; my dad died just over a year ago; the next holiday is July 4th; and, I have been trying to think of something to write for the pastor's article in the July newsletter. With all of those thoughts running through my mind and needing to meet the newsletter deadline for today, as I drove into work this morning I had the following thought, which, in turn, became this article.

It seems hard to believe but the following event took place at least fifty years ago. It doesn't seem possible to be describing something in my life that occurred more than a half century ago but it's a fact. Anyway, I was 6-7 years old and I was riding in the car with my dad and older brother. We were driving to my grandparents place in the country, which was about 120 miles south of St. Louis, MO. My grandparents, mom, and two sisters were already there and all of us were looking forward to spending the 4th of July weekend together at our home away from home. At a certain point, we were driving on a state highway when Dad saw a fireworks stand by the side of the road. It was a Mom and Pop setup that an older couple ran to bring in some extra money. Dad bought the usual firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles, and punks and then we headed on down the road. Several miles later, Dad reached in to his pockets and counted the change that the lady had given him; he realized that she had given him five dollars too much. As soon as he was able, Dad made a U-turn in the road and drove back to the fireworks stand. He explained to the woman that she had given him too much change in

return and handed her the five dollar bill. To this very day, I can still remember the look of utter surprise on that woman's face. Dad didn't make a big deal out of it because, for him, it was the right thing to do. Period. Some fifty years on down the road, I'm still remembering and thinking about that event. It may not have been a big deal to my dad but it sure was to me! I find myself thankful for having the kind of grandparents that taught my dad the difference between right and wrong. I'm grateful that, in turn, Dad taught his own children to have that same kind of integrity when dealing with others. I have tried to live by the code of honesty, and, as a father, I hope I have instilled that same virtue within our three children. Five dollars isn't a lot of money although way back when it would have purchased twenty gallons of gas (there I go again dating myself!). However, five dollars is a lot of money when you are talking about setting an example and instilling a lifetime of integrity in a very young and impressionable child. You really can't put a price tag on that kind of influence.

Thanks, Dad, for teaching me a valuable lesson fifty years ago that still works! And, thanks again, Dad, for helping me to write a pastors article for the church's newsletter fifty years later! In Christ's love,
Randy

A Word from the Associate

Pastor:

I affirm strongly that we meet God in our everyday life. We are not just Christians on Sundays: we are Christians seven days a week! You will often hear me say that we are called to

live out our faith in our everyday lives, whether we are at the gas station, or the drugstore, or at work, or at school. A faith that has taken root deep within us changes who we are so that we are constantly thinking about what God is asking us to do, even in the most mundane situations. Who knows? When we are receptive and open to the Holy Spirit, God may surprise us and allow us to do some amazing things! But even though God meets us in the ordinary moments, there are those significant mountaintop experiences: those special times and places where we feel like we've experienced a little slice of heaven. Two of those special places for me and for the youth of this church are Massanetta Springs and Montreat.

Massanetta Springs is home to the annual middle school conference. By the time you receive this newsletter, our six youth and two adults will have already returned from Massanetta. For four sessions each summer, several hundred youth from as far away as Michigan, Kansas, Florida, New York, and yes, even Martinsville, VA, gather together for a week of fun, fellowship, and faith development. Middle school youth have a chance to do all those fun summer activities like dancing, canoeing, and swimming, but they also get a chance to study the Bible, wrestle with issues of faith together, pray together, and grow as Christians. When we returned from Massanetta Springs last summer, one youth told her sibling that he had to go to Massanetta because it was such a great experience. Another youth had two events she had to decide between this summer. She could either go to Massanetta or go to another favorite activity; she enthusiastically picked Massanetta because it was the highlight of her summer last year! Please ask our youth who have returned about Mas-

sanetta: they would love to tell you about it!

Then later on this month in July, we will have a group of 13 senior high youth and 5 adults attending the Montreat Youth Conference. We will be attending the conference from Sunday July 22-Saturday July 28. I am excited that 3 of the youth are from our sister church Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. During the 2006-07 school year, our church participated in several joint youth group meetings with Forest Hills, including a service project with the shoeboxes from Samaritan's Purse and a pumpkin carving and campfire night around Halloween. This summer at Montreat we will be able to continue our partnership with Forest Hills. Please pray for the youth going to Montreat: that they will have their own mountaintop experience of faith. And by the way, a big thank you to all of the advisors who are so selflessly giving their time, their energy, and their love to these youth at Montreat and Massanetta Springs this summer. Please keep us in your prayers!

Peace in Christ,
Jody



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN July TO

- 2 William Seamon
- 3 Andrea Lawhon, Sarah
Toothman
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 6 Barbara Stanley
- 7 Clara Hartley
- 8 Dyer Pace
- 10 Mildred Bishop
- 12 Betty Carol Lamm, Betty Stanley,
Heidi Pinkston
- 14 Randy Stevens
- 15 Dick Pilson, Michelle Unterbrink,
Kimberly Seamon, Jim Stegall
- 17 Jerri DeVault

- 18 Duke Ferrell, Buck Kester, Ashby Pinkard, Johnathan Phillips, Ainsley Phillips
- 19 Lee Eden, Anne Kiser
- 20 Nancy Betz, Gloria Rhodes
- 21 Bill Brown
- 22 Chuck Marshall, Lil Wall, Jessica Showalter
- 23 Carl Bishop, Anne Lackey, Chris Beeler
- 25 Henry Reed, Teri Ferguson
- 26 Tommy Martin
- 27 Elizabeth Hensley, Melissa Renz, Laura Stevens
- 29 Bill Franck
- 31 Capers Zentmeyer, Laura Chiudioni

and 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 ONeal, Elizabeth Chapman
- 7 Byron Price
- 8 Libby Miller, Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Andrew Bowles, Liz Ferrell

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER! On Sunday, June 3, 2007, the Session welcomed into the membership of our church:

CONNIE SHERMAN GARRETT, 106 Dove Lane, Martinsville (6380-1446). Connie is the wife of Bill Garrett and comes to us by transfer of letter from First Baptist Church, Martinsville.

TRANSFER: On June 11, 2007, the Session transferred the memberships of Chad and Mandy Horsley to Stone Memorial Christian Church in Collinsville. We will miss Chad, Mandy and Peyton here at First Presbyterian.

CONGRATULATIONS to Randy and Beth Lawson on the birth of their twin sons, Grayson Reid and Joshua Gage Lawson, born June 1, 2007, in Eden, North Carolina. Gene and Betty Stanley are the proud grandparents!

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Kristen Leigh Pruett and Jon Andrew Tatum on the occasion of their marriage June 16, 2007, in the sanctuary.

IN MEMORIAM

William P. McDonald June 24, 1924 - June 11, 2007 SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to the family of William P. McDonald on his death in Bassett, Virginia. Bill, a member of First Presbyterian since June 2, 1963, joined the Church Triumphant on June 11, 2007.

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" Sanctuary Ringers

Summer Stretch With The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir will be singing throughout the Summer months. The rehearsal schedule during June and July is abbreviated with two early Sunday rehearsals replacing the Wednesday rehearsals.

If you are interested in singing with the Chancel Choir for the Summer or on a more permanent basis, we invite you to mention that to Mr. Chapman. We are always glad to have youth, college students, and adults join us.

There will be no Wednesday evening rehearsals through August 1. The two early Sunday rehearsals, 10:00 a.m., will be on July 1 and July 22. On all other Sundays, the choir will meet at their usual pre-worship rehearsal time of 10:30 a.m. Solo Sundays yet to happen are July 29, Bill Plonk, and August 19, Womens Ensemble.

The Sanctuary Ringers
Our Sanctuary Ringers will not play in worship or rehearse this Summer.

There are two things which may interest persons who want to learn to ring handbells and brush up on Music Reading skills. At least one person has indicated an interest in being a part of such a happening. Sessions will be scheduled during July and August to teach these things. If you are interested, please call Bob Chapman.

The Sanctuary Ringers will meet on a Sunday afternoon in August for a New Music Reading Session. If you ring handbells, please come and participate in this session. The time will be announced later. The fall rehearsal scheduled will be discussed at this meeting as well.

Regular rehearsals for the Sanctuary Ringers will begin following Labor Day. There are at least two regular positions which need filling as well as ringers who are willing to be substitutes during the year.

Worship Planning

This article first appeared in the January Steeple Views. It is important for you to realize that this kind of planning takes place and that your input into these sessions is appreciated.

Perhaps you are not aware that once each month there is a staff planning meeting when the Pastors and Musicians come together to talk about the sermon topics and seek to fit congregational hymns into these themes. The meetings are highly productive, enlightening, and enjoyable. Please rest assured that every effort is made to select hymns which will enhance and deepen our Sunday morning worship experiences.

In most of the meetings upcoming events and the church calendar get additional attention. If you have suggestions you would like offered at this monthly meeting, please write them down and give them to a staff member,

drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, or put them in a mailbox in the church office.

In August of this year the program staff will meet together to calendar for the upcoming year. Your input is welcomed and necessary.

Children and Youth Music



Dear Friends, I truly hope that you are enjoying summer and all the delights the Lord has provided. Hopefully your summer plans include

something musical. There are so many opportunities around. Check out the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro which offers a full slate of musical treats. The quality is superb and the price is so reasonable. There is nothing like live music to enrich our musical souls. I suspect that most of you parents are not thinking about fall plans yet, but I am! I want to try out a new schedule that has just a few tweaks to it. Here is what I am suggesting:

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.

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 a 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 cur-

riculum 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 groups needs

Handbell Quartet will meet on Friday afternoon or Sunday afternoon as we did this year. This group is for high schoolers. 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 families schedules. Please let me have feedback about the groups listed above and any other ideas you have.

You can call me at church (632-3431, ext. 317, at home (632 3119) or email me at betsyhaskins@yahoo.com.

Have a blessed July!

Betsy

Our combined **Adult Sunday School** class for the summer has been looking at **Snapshots of Faith: A Journey Towards Understanding**, which has been taught by Jody Moore, Rusty Reaser, and Randy Stevens. During the month of June we have discussed the Trinity, divine inspiration and the Word of God, and when and why the Bible was written (two sections for both Old and New Testaments).

Here's the schedule for July:

July 1	What happens when we sin?
July 8	What happens when we sin? (part two)

July 15 How did Jesus save us?

July 22 Is there life after death?

July 29 Are you saved?

Once again, these lessons come from The Thoughtful Christian website. We hope you will join us for some stimulating discussion on important aspects of the Christian life.



Annual Ice Cream Social

Join other members of the church on Sunday, July

15, immediately following the worship service, for an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. The Fellowship committee will serve lunch, which will be Subway sandwiches and all the fixings, to be followed by homemade ice cream for dessert. In the next few weeks we will be asking church members to get out your ice cream makers and show us your ice cream specialties. This event is a congregational favorite so please mark July 15 on your calendars!

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ON June 24, at the close of the worship service, there was a called congregational meeting to elect the 2007-2008 Officer Nominating Committee. This Nominating Committee will meet several times throughout the summer months in order to select eight nominees for elders (to serve on the Sessions Class of 2010) and two nominees for trustees (to serve on the Board of Trustees Class of 2010). Then, when our congregation has its annual meeting on the third Sunday in September (9/16/07), the Officer Nominating Committee will present its

slate of nominees to be elected.

Please be in prayer for these members of the church as they carefully seek to listen to and for Gods Spirit guiding them in this very important process.



On **Sunday, June 24**, the Session will meet with Spencer DeBusk, Caroline OToole, Sarah Toothman, and Lanie Walsh (who are graduating from the Childrens Worship program); and, the Session will invite these children to come to the Lords table and partake of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper (beginning on Sunday, July 1st) with their parents and the rest of their church family. Also, during the same worship service, each of these children will be presented with a Bible. June 24 will be a very special day in the lives of these children and all the rest of us!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

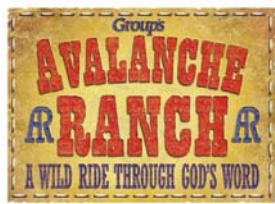
JULY 9 - 13

9 - 12AM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

To register or volunteer please call the First Presbyterian Church Office at 632-3431 or click on the below link to do so online

<https://www.groupvbs.com/myvbs/?churchid=3556>



VBS is for children ages 4 by July 1st, 2007 through rising 6th Graders, youth who are rising 7th through 12th Graders are Crew Leaders and Station Helpers. Young Adults and Adults are Group Leaders and Station Leaders.

Have you ever seen a happier looking critter? This is Skye our day 4 Bible buddy. He is telling us “God is awesome” our Bible point for the day. Our fourth day is always centered around the resurrection and saving grace of Jesus in our lives. Our verse for the day, “For the Lord Most High is awesome” certainly fits that theme. This year’s story comes from Mark chapters 15 and 16. Registrations have been very slow coming in this year but it’s not too late – sign up now and don’t miss any of the fun. More volunteers are always welcome. Also, if anyone has any ranch related items (hats, boots, saddles, etc) they would like to lend us for decorations it would be great. Be sure your name is on anything you could spare for the week. You may leave it in the church office and ask Sarah to call me (Janet) or I will be glad to come to your house. We could also use lots of evergreen trees, aka: Christmas trees minus the decorations. If you happen to have a spare snow-topped mountain, it would make a super background.

So saddle up your horses and get ready for a “wild ride through God’s Word!”

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