



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*



*Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
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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

July, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

I am really enjoying our Combined Adult Sunday School class this summer as we work our way through the book, *Reformed Worship*, by Howard L. Rice and James C. Huffstutler. While I was preparing to teach the fourth chapter on the Sacrament of Baptism for Sunday, June 26, 2011, I came upon this story and I thought it was worth sharing with you.

Nanette Sawyer, who is the founding pastor of Wicker Park Grace in Chicago, which is a missional faith community of the Presbyterian Church USA, tells about her baptism as an adult. She writes: Then it was my turn to sing, as was the tradition in our church, everyone who was old enough to sing at his or her baptism sang "I have decided to follow Jesus." I began to sing. As I looked out at the faces of those who had welcomed and loved me to this moment, I knew that I was being embraced into community – not only into this community, but also into a larger community of faith, one that stretched back into history and into the future. As I sang... I was overcome by the magnitude of what was happening. My voice began to tremble and crack as I sang, "I have decided..." The congregation was right there. The people began to hum when my voice grew weak. They came in under me, lifting me up, and supporting me.... I began to cry and my voice broke. Again the community was there to put words to the humming and to my crying. "We have decided to follow Jesus, we have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back. No turning back." They sang for me when I couldn't sing. They sang while I healed, and after a while I could sing again. That is what we do for each other. That is what it means to be the body of Christ and baptized into it by the Holy Spirit of a Creator God. We sing for each other. (*Christian Century*, June 14, 2011, page 20)

We sing for each other. We help one another. We bear one another's burdens, and in this way we fulfill the law - "to love one another" - of Christ (see Galatians 6:2). This, in part, is the meaning of baptism. We are church. There, we love one another, support each other, and are accountable to our Lord as well as our sisters and our brothers in the faith.

I have shared with you before how, just prior to my ordination and installation as pastor in my first church, I met with the retired pastor, who had baptized me as a baby. In the course of our conversation, I asked Dr. Smylie if I could see the entry of my baptism in his ministerial record book. I watched as he flipped through a number of pages until his finger came to rest on a certain line and he read aloud: "Randall Clair Stevens, son of Clair and Connie Stevens, born July 14, 1950, and baptized on October 15, 1950." While I don't remember that event at all, nevertheless, I was greatly moved by the very fact of God's love vividly expressed to me through the love and nurture of my home church. They sang for me. They told me the stories of the Bible. They helped me to grow as a disciple of Jesus. They encouraged me as I sought to follow God's will for my life. And, they surrounded Monica and me with their love and joy when we married in that church in January of 1975.

Let us remember that we are baptized into a holy covenant with God and with God's family. Let us continue to be there for each other, to celebrate the joys and uphold one another in the difficult times. And, if necessary, let us sing for each other. After all, when we love and support one another, surely that must be music to God's ears!

In Christ's love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in July to.....

- 1 William Seamon
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 6 Barbara Stanley
- 8 Clara Hartley
- 8 Dyer Pace
- 10 Mildred Bishop
- 12 Betty Carol Lamm, Betty Stanley, Heidi Pinkston
- 15 Dickie Pilson, Kimberly Seamon, Jim Stegall
- 17 Jerri DeVault
- 18 Duke Ferrell, Buck Kester, Ashby Pinkard
- 19 Lee Eden
- 20 Nancy Betz, Connor Wotring
- 21 Bill Brown, Elena King
- 22 Chuck Marshall, Lil Wall, Jessica Showalter
- 23 Carl Bishop, Anne Lackey, Chris Beeler
- 25 Teri Ferguson
- 27 Laura Stevens
- 29 Bill Franck
- 31 Capers Zentmeyer, Laura Chiudioni

.....and 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

The Tempo

"Our Musical Pulse"

The Chancel Choir

The first month of our Summer Stretch is off and running. We appreciate Betty Stanley singing on June 12 while the Chapmans were on vacation.

Our next Soloist will be our Associate Pastor, Jenny Spivey. You will hear her on July 10. June 19-25, Jenny is at Music Week I at Montreat. This is always a lovely week of worship and music. I am surprised that more of our musicians don't take advantage of this week. It is only a couple hundred miles down I-40 in Black Mountain, North Carolina. There are two Music Weeks, usually the last two weeks in June each year. They begin on Sunday evening and conclude with the Friday evening concert. You can hear most of the instrumental, singing and ringing organizations of the week.

Back in Martinsville, there will be no Wednesday evening rehearsals during July. There will be 10:15 a.m. rehearsals on Sundays, July 17, 24, and 31. We are not very far into the second month of the Summer Stretch, but, only August remains.

If you appreciate the faithfulness and work of the Chancel Choir, Tell them so. A real compliment would be for some of you singers to join our choir family.

The Sanctuary Ringers

I am assuming this choir is resting up for the Fall Season which begins September 10, 5:45-7:00 p.m. Do you realize that 5 members of this ringing choir also sing in the Chancel Choir? I certainly appreciate their talent and their willingness to use it in the work of our Music Ministry. Some of you, who might be reading this article, could fit in with either music group.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered to Norah Jill Cundiff, the daughter of Chuck and Brooke Cundiff (and sister of Hayden), on Sunday, July 3, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please plan to be present for this special and joyful occasion.

Youth and Children's Music

Music classes are going well this summer and it is never too late to join!! Music Together is on selected Tuesdays in July and August. If you have a grandchild or little friend visiting, do call me so I can invite you to join in the fun. Our group is just lovely with all ages!

Music for the kindergarten age and up has an emphasis of instrument exploration this summer. Below are listed the offerings:

Music for the kindergarten, first and second grade is in full swing as well. We are exploring percussion instruments, recorders, orff instruments, singing, gaming and making instruments as well. It would be great for you to join us, just give me a call!

Music for the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders is a small group but mighty! If you would like to join us, I am all ears! We are exploring orff instruments, hand bells and hand chimes, percussion and much more.

I am planning for Fall for our groups!! I cannot wait to see all of you back in action again. This is a great time to

make suggestions about groups, times and other preferences.

In the meantime, have a happy, healthy and restful time!! Hope to see you in church!!

Contemporary Worship Update

Contemporary worship continues to offer another opportunity to praise our God. The service has been in existence for over 3 years and is being evaluated. If you have attended the service, we would appreciate your filling out a brief questionnaire to help ascertain the best direction for this service to proceed. Your opinion counts and is important. Surveys will be available on Sundays in the Sanctuary from June 26th through July 17th. If you need one at other times, you are welcome to call me and I will get one to you.

Joy in Christ,
Betsy



Annual Ice Cream Social

Join other members of the church on Sunday, July 17, immediately following the worship service, for an Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. We will have a covered dish luncheon to be followed by homemade ice cream for dessert. In the next few weeks we will be asking church members to get out their ice cream makers and show us their ice cream specialties. This event is a **congregational favorite** so please mark July 17 on your calendars and decide what delicious dish you want to bring to share!

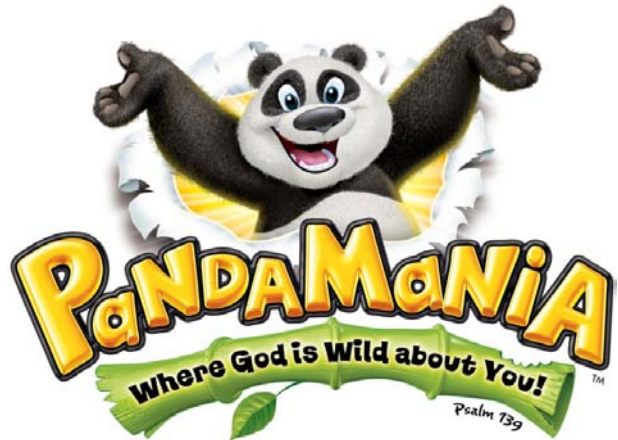


During the called congregational meeting on Sunday, June 12, the following people were elected to serve on the 2011-2012 **Officer Nominating Committee**: from the Session – Catherine Bridges (chair), David Garland (vice chair); from Presbyterian Women – Betty Carol Lamm and Vicki Wells; from the youth - Annie B. Boyd and Dyer Pace; and three members-at-large – Jerri DeVault, Sonny Benfield, and Johnny Pinkard. Please pray for these persons as they meet and come back to the congregation with a slate of nominees (six names to serve as elders on the Session and two to serve on the Board of Trustees, for a three-year term on the Class of 2014.

Lemonade on the Lawn



Immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, July 3, there will be a Lemonade on the Lawn gathering out in front of the church. We hope you will make plans to stay for some delicious refreshments and delightful fellowship with our church members and friends.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 11 – 15, 2011

9AM – NOON

PandaMania is just days away! Don't miss out. Registration is very important to help us make sure every kid will have the supplies they need for a fun time. Find a form elsewhere in this newsletter. Adult and teen helpers are still needed so – fill out a form or call the church office. Decorations are sprouting everywhere on the church's lower floor so please come by and see them. 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.

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