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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

June, 2007

Martinsville, Virginia

## From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

As the school year winds down and Standards Of Learning tests and final exams gear up for many, I am reminded of the following story. "You will have exactly two hours," said the professor as he handed out examination papers to a roomful of students. "Under no circumstances will I accept a paper given to me after the deadline has passed." Two hours later he said, "Time's up," but one student continued on furiously. The professor was glaring out from behind the pile of exams when the tardy student approached him, almost 15 minutes later, with his exam clutched in his hand. When the professor refused to accept it, the student drew himself up to full stature and asked, "Professor, do you know who I am?" The professor answered, "Son, there are two hundred students in this class. I don't have a clue as to who you are!" The student responded, "Terrific!" as he stuffed his exam into the middle of the stack and raced out the door.

You can draw whatever conclusions you want to from that story. For me, I suppose there are times when it is beneficial to be anonymous, to simply be faces in the crowd. On the other hand, I believe in giving credit where credit is due. In order to be a church, a congregation of God's people, it takes all of us being and working together. To that end, I want to pause, recognize, and give thanks to all of you for the part you play in helping to fulfill our calling to love God and serve others.

Where do I begin? I am grateful for all of our members and especially for those who make it a priority to attend worship, Sunday School, and the other activities of the church. I appreciate

those who give of their gifts financial, time, energy, and abilities to support the fellowship and the ministry of this member congregation of the body of Christ. I give thanks for those who teach, lead, and nourish our youth in Sunday School and the youth groups or who volunteer with the ELI, Weekday School, or other schools out in the community. I rejoice in all who serve whether on the Session or one of its seven committees (sub-committees or task forces), within Presbyterian Women, and for the many ways we reach far beyond these walls and serve out in the community. I am proud of those who serve on the boards of many agencies and institutions here in Martinsville/Henry County or beyond this region. I am thankful for the many children, youth and adults who sing in our various choirs or ring in the hand bell choirs. And, I am thankful for our church staff members, who are dedicated and highly professional in carrying out their assigned responsibilities to help this church be and do all that God desires of us.

Many of you quietly serve in your own way, doing what you can to be the hands of Christ ministering in and to the world. I am mostly aware of who you are and what you do. But, rest assured, God knows you by name and by deed. You are not anonymous to God.

Thanks be to God!

In Christ's love,  
Randy



## **A Word from the Associate**

### **Pastor:**

I have always marveled at the beauty of the mountains. I love to hike and feel close to God when I am standing on a mountain peak, high above the earth to enjoy all of the wonders God has made. I am a recreational hiker, but I really admire the daring of serious mountain climbers. Ben Patterson has written about his experiences as a mountain climber in the book Waiting. Patterson's writings teach us about the nature of faith. Patterson tells us about a time in 1988 when three friends and Patterson climbed Mount Lyell, the highest peak in Yosemite National Park. They had a difficult climb from their base camp to the top of the mountain; it would take the better part of a day.

As the hours passed, the two more experienced mountaineers opened up a wide gap between Patterson and his less-experienced companion. Being competitive by nature, he began to look for shortcuts to beat them to the top. Patterson thought he saw one, so he went, ignoring the protests of his companion. Patterson soon realized that he should have known better, for thirty minutes later he was trapped in a cul-de-sac of rock atop the Lyell Glacier, looking down several hundred feet of a sheer slope of ice, pitched at about a forty-five degree angle . . . Patterson was only about ten feet from the safety of a rock, but one little slip and he wouldn't stop sliding until he landed in the valley floor some fifty miles away! It was nearly noon, and the warm sun had the glacier glistening with slippery ice. Patterson was stuck and scared.

It took an hour for his friends to find Patterson. Standing on the rock he wanted to reach, one of them leaned out and used an ice ax to chip two little foot-steps in the glacier. Then his friend gave

Patterson the following instructions: "Ben, you must step out from where you are and put your foot where the first foothold is. When your foot touches it, without a moment's hesitation swing your other foot across and land it on the next step. When you do that, reach out and I will take your hand and pull you to safety."

That sounded real good to Patterson. It was the next thing his friend said that made him more frightened than ever. "But listen carefully: As you step across, do not lean into the mountain! If anything, lean out a bit. Otherwise, your feet may fly out from under you, and you will start sliding down."

Patterson did not like precipices. On the edge of a cliff, his instinct was to hug the mountain, not move away from it! But that was what his friend was telling him to do. For a moment, based solely on what Patterson believed to be the good will and good sense of his friend, he decided to stifle his impulse and attempt to traverse the ice to safety. It took less than two seconds to find out if his faith was well-founded, which it was.

When attempting to help us, God often tells us to do things that are the opposite of our natural inclination. At those times, we have to answer some important questions. For example, is God merciful and dependable? Can we trust God? It seems natural, at times, for us to resist God because we think we know better. We want to trust our own instincts rather than relying on the Lord. Through my life, I continue to reaffirm that, yes, I believe that God is loving and faithful. We can trust the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Peace in Christ,  
Jody

**Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference News:** Our Middle School Youth Group will be joining almost 300 other middle school youth in Massanetta Springs, VA for their Middle School Conference June 26-29, 2007. Presbyterian youth gather together from places as far away as Kansas, Rhode Island, Michigan, and Texas for worship services, games, other fun activities, and a rich, spiritual experience. The following youth and adult advisors will be attending from our congregation: Emily Beard, Jordyn Berglund, Alanna Ferguson, Katherine Lester, Jody Moore, Matthew Price, Kimberly Seamon, and Laura Stevens. Please support us by praying for our group!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN  
June TO**

- 1 Sami Easley, Cynthia Dobrinski
- 2 Suzanne Lacy, Cole Rothrock
- 3 Bob Knighton
- 4 Laura Beth Eanes, Mike Eanes, Pat Wilson
- 5 Meredith Bumgarner
- 6 Nancy Plonk
- 8 Juliet Pichirallo
- 9 Lori Hurt, Kyle Woolard, Josh King, Susan Smith
- 10 Sherri Haley, Allison Campbell, Cindy Edgerton
- 12 Edmund Haskins, Wilson Young, David King
- 13 Eleanor Woody
- 14 Colin Woolard
- 15 Waid Lester
- 16 Karen DeBusk, Ainsley Russell
- 17 Dyer Rothrock, Ken Knight
- 18 Courtney Newnam, Susan Pilson
- 19 Taylor Johnson
- 20 Drew Parker, Spencer DeBusk
- 22 Raven Adams
- 23 David Price, Harold Wells, Virginia

- Truitt, Basil Boyd  
 24 Bill McDonald, Denny Casey  
 26 Lyell Knighton, Vicki Wells, Virginia Whitener  
 Katie Ryan Snyder  
 27 Ibbey Gunter, Ed Snyder, Louie Judson, Steve DeBusk, Lynn Stegall, Clyde Hill  
 28 Ed Whitener  
 29 A. C. Wilson, Andy Parker, Caroline Kirby

**and 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

**SYMPATHY** of the congregation is extended to Emily Parker and Tony Gunn and Parker Gunn on the death of Tony's mother, Virginia Jackson Gunn, May 13, 2007, in Reidsville, North Carolina.

**SYMPATHY** of the congregation is extended to Sam and Lori Hurt and family on the death of Sam's mother, Elizabeth Harshbarger Hurt, April 25, 2007, in Roanoke, Virginia.

**Children's Worship**

On Wednesday, May 30, Randy and Jody will meet with the first graders (who will be completing Children's Worship) and their parents to talk to them about baptized children coming to the Lord's table to receive communion. The first graders are: Spencer DeBusk, Caroline O'Toole, Sarah Toothman, and Lanie Walsh. Then, on Sunday, June 10, at 10:40 a.m., an opportunity will be given to the children to meet with the Session in order to be invited to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

(beginning July 1); also, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service these children will receive Children's Bibles. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they take this important step in their journey of faith.

### **The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse"**

Spring Worship-Music Service, April 22, 10:45 A.M.

Even though this service was over a month ago, because of Steeple Views deadlines, my comments on that service are being made in this issue. God's timing is interesting and always right and relevant. How could we have known when this worship experience was being planned that the service would come at the beginning of the week following the Virginia Tech tragedy. And, according to many, the message of hope which our service presented could not have come at a more beneficial time. Praise God from whom all timing flows.

I think that most of those who presented the service had a worship experience. Tunes from the service and texts from the service have run through my mind and the minds of many of our choir members both before and following the service. When one learns music as well as we learned these anthems, their meaning will be remembered when they can do the most good in life applications.

We were privileged to have guest singers and instrumentalists assist us in this service. The playing of the instrumentalists was superb and the eight vocalists who joined with us made such a positive contribution. Let me thank the Chancel Choir for their months of hard work in preparing this service. They started this music in January and kept up their usual Sunday morning responsibility.

Seldom does a month pass that I do not make a plea for musically talented

and church musically interested persons to join us. There are persons in our congregation who, in my opinion, could join us and make a needed contribution to the ministry of our choir.

Where does the Chancel Choir go from here. Service #2 for this year will probably be a Service of Lessons and Carols on December 9 or 16 at 6:30 in the evening. To get to that preparation time we have to pass through the "Summer Stretch". Please join with us this summer or join us in September, either as a full choir member or one who wants to sing only service #2 with us. You can read about it in "The Tempo" in your monthly Steeple Views.

#### Summer Stretch

The Chancel Choir will be singing throughout the three Summer months. The choir will have an abbreviated rehearsal schedule during June and July with some 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 June 13 through August 1. Early Sunday rehearsals, 10:00 a.m., will be on July 1 and August 5. On all other Sundays the choir will meet for their usual pre-worship rehearsal at 10:30 a.m. Solo Sundays will be June 24, Betty Stanley, July 22, and August 19. All of the music for the "Summer Stretch" will be in the choir folders and rehearsed prior to June 13.

#### The Sanctuary Ringers

Our Sanctuary Ringers will not play in worship or rehearse again until September. We need regular ringers and substitutes. Please call Mr. Chapman.

## Children and Youth Music



The first through fifth graders did a wonderful job as worship leaders on May 20th. The first and second graders rang and sang so well. The 3rd, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th graders did a beautiful job on their bell piece as well. The service was to the glory of God and praise abounded. These children have worked hard all year and their care and musical talents really showed. The Handbell Quintet played one of my favorite pieces, "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship." With mallets and great rhythmic interest, it was an exciting piece. These five young people bring so much to their church. It is uplifting to see teenagers with so much faith and caring for their church.

We all appreciated the lovely reception in honor of the children and their parents as well. Many of you attended to extend your good wishes to the children and their parents, and I appreciated this so much. Catherine Bridges, Sandra Ford, Glenna Harmeyer, Leanna Blevins and others outdid themselves in preparing a wonderful table for us. Thank you so much.

I am making plans for Music Together classes throughout the summer and some bell classes as well, that I think will be well received. I will have information about this in a separate mailing which will be out the first the month.

I am so happy about still being the Children and Youth Music Director. The work of Randy, Bill Manning, Anne Vipperman, and the Session has made it possible for me to continue the work which I love. Thank you all for your support and good wishes. I look forward to continuing working with the wonderful children and youth of our church and their parents.

Come by and see me! It is all too quiet.  
Betsy



## OUR GRADUATES 2007

Bassett High School  
Mary Elizabeth Pilson

Carlisle School  
Lindsey Marie Unterbrink

Martinsville High School  
Elizabeth Annie Clark  
Stacey Elizabeth Eanes  
Katherine Ann Eanes  
Mary Catherine Lawhon  
William Michael Mahoney  
Chelsea Leigh Pruitt

Colleges and Universities  
Whitney (Whit) Payne Altizer, MA, History, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC.  
Bennett Smith Chaney, MA, Architecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA.  
Malcolm Wallace Haskins, BS, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL  
Elizabeth Granville Kirby, MS, Human Nutrition, Food, and Exercise, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA.  
Byron Thomas Price, BS, Aerospace Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA.  
Jennifer Barrie Stanley, BS, Public Health Science with concentration in Pre-professional Health Studies, Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

CONGRATULATIONS to all graduates on their accomplishments!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JULY 9 - 13**



**9 - 12AM  
CHRIST  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

Here's Ranger  
- our Bible  
Buddy for day  
3. Doesn't he

look strong? He will remind us of our Bible Point for the day "God is Strong". There isn't anything God can't do and in the story for the day we will learn about how the walls of Jericho come crashing down. Most of you probably already know that story but you can read up on it in Joshua chapter 6. Our memory verse for the day is "The Lord is my Strength". Registration forms are in the pews at church so fill one out soon. It helps us a lot in ordering materials. You can also sign up by calling the church office. Moms, Dads, teenagers - we need you a lot! Please sign up too as all those kids need lots of guidance throughout the week. It's only about six weeks away so don't delay. Yahoo!

**Mother's Day/Father's Day  
Offering**

In our hearts and memories, our parents and other caring individuals have shaped our lives. There is no better way to revere loved ones than to perform an act of compassion in their honor. Despite prudent living and planning for growing old, some older adults find they have outlived their resources. Their future would be uncertain were it not for the benevolence of churches and individuals to the Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering. No one in a Sunnyside Community-King's Grant, Martinsville; Summit Square, Waynesboro; Sunnyside, Harri-

sonburg-is made to leave when their funds are depleted. Instead, the resources in the Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering are utilized on their behalf. Consider making a contribution on June 17 or 24 to the Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering.

**Congratulations** to Mary Pilson, Stacey and Katherine Eanes, who are this year's recipients of the John and Vera Jane Kuhn Scholarship. The scholarship money, which is in the amount of \$1,000, will be forwarded to Virginia Tech where all three girls will be enrolled as a freshmen next school year. Congratulations, Mary, Stacey and Katherine! And, "Thank you" to John and Vera Jane Kuhn for their generous gift and ongoing financial support of this scholarship!

**Weekday School News**

Summer has arrived! The last official day for the First Presbyterian Weekday School was May 24. We had a great year. It has been a joy to watch the children grow and change. They make every day an adventure! The teachers, aides and myself will be busy closing up the classrooms for the summer. School will resume on September 4th. If you know of anyone with interest in The Weekday School, you can leave a message for me in the church office and I will be happy to get back with you. Have a safe and happy summer!

Melissa White  
Director

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