



**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)

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



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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

June, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

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## From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

In October of 2007, I received an invitation through the Presbytery of the Peaks to be part of a group called *Rehoboth 4*. I had no idea what a Rehoboth was but I soon found out what it meant and what it was intended to do. *Rehoboth* comes from the Hebrew and it means “broad places, room, or wide, free spaces” (see Genesis 26:22). In its modern context, the *Rehoboth* program was funded by the Lilly Endowment to sustain pastoral excellence, and it was administered through Union-PSCE in Richmond. Pastors and Christian Educators were selected in ten presbyteries in the Virginias and Carolinas for peer learning and sharing, support, and accountability.

I was one of eleven persons within the Presbytery of the Peaks (from various sized churches) that showed up for that first *Rehoboth 4* meeting. I had served on a task force with one of the pastors and I recognized some others, but a few were strangers to me. Every one of us wondered what we were getting into and what was being asked of us. We made plans to meet again, and the project’s design was that we would come together for three retreats (four days each time) over a period of eighteen-months. We did that and, even though the money and the formal commitment has ended, our group has continued to meet for periodic one-day planning meetings and checking in with each other along with one retreat a year, which we enjoyed this past April 9-12.

These ten colleagues have become very dear friends with whom I enjoy “the grace of Christian fellowship” (to borrow from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his small but powerful book, *Life Together*). I think there are several key factors that made our group click and become one. From the very beginning, we entered into covenant with God and one another to be very honest, open, and vulnerable with each other. We wouldn’t hide behind a mask and pretend everything was just fine when it wasn’t really that way at all. We risked being authentic with one another and sharing our personal and professional joys, struggles, and pains. We discussed what was working in our various churches and what wasn’t. We worshipped, discussed helpful books and movies, and listened deeply to one another’s story. We cried together when moved by each other’s pain, and we enjoyed playing some board games (Balderdash and Apples to Apples) to the point that, at times, we laughed so hard we cried. Moving and living together between those extremes of utter seriousness and silliness, we bonded, by the grace of God, in ways we never could have imagined. We have experienced the deep joy of fulfilling the new commandment to “love one another,” and our lives are enriched by each other.

What is good and genuine about *Rehoboth 4* is also available right here within the fellowship of First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA. It is the very same grace of God that has called and brought us together in Christian fellowship. God has given us as gifts to one another so that, as we bless one another, we are blessed in turn. There are many opportunities to gather in small groups to learn from each other, to laugh together, and to engage one another on a deeper, spiritual level. I am profoundly grateful to God for the rich blessings I have received through our *Rehoboth 4* group and this congregation of God’s people. “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1). Thanks be to God, through the crucified-yet-risen Christ, for the gift of Christian community wherever it abounds.

In Christ's love,  
Randv

### Word from the Associate Pastor:

Later this June, a wonderful group from our congregation made up of youth and adult advisors will participate in a Mission Trip to Charlotte, NC. It is hard to believe that it has been a year since our last Mission Trip, which was at the very beginning of my ministry here at FPC! We have a great group of young people going on this trip, some who have been on previous Mission Trips with the church before, and others for whom this will be their first mission experience.

I remember back to the first Mission Trip that I participated in when I was in Middle School. The group from my church traveled to Tennessee to help out with a service program that provided camping opportunities for adults who were developmentally disabled. It was exciting to travel with a group of friends from church and have fun together, and to realize that we were helping to be the hands and feet of Christ to those we met! We worked in a poor area near the Appalachian mountains, and I remember our pastor and leader talking to us and helping us to realize that many of the folks we met and worked with didn't even have extra money to buy candy bars and snacks like we often purchased at our rest stops. Little realizations like that, as well as stories and memories of people and experiences, have stuck with me throughout the years. Mission Trips are opportunities for us to help other people in the name of Christ, but also those people help us to grow in our faith and can be powerful signs of Christ to us! Please keep all of our youth and adult participants in your prayers during the trip, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with you when we return!

Jenny



### Happy Birthday in June to....

- 1 Cynthia Dobrinski, Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 2 Suzanne Lacy, Cole Rothrock
- 3 Bob Knighton, Riley Wood
- 4 Laura Beth Eanes, Pat Wilson
- 6 Nancy Plonk
- 9 Susan Smith
- 10 Allyson Campbell, Cindy Edgerton
- 12 David King
- 13 Eleanor Woody
- 15 Waid Lester
- 16 Karen DeBusk, Ainsley Russell
- 17 Dyer Rothrock, Ken Knight
- 18 Susan Pilson
- 20 Spencer DeBusk
- 23 David Price, Harold Wells, Virginia Truitt, Basil Boyd
- 24 Denny Casey
- 26 Vicki Wells
- 27 Louie Judson, Steve DeBusk, Lynn Stegall, Clyde Hill
- 29 A. C. Wilson, Caroline Kirby

### and in July to.....

- 2 William Seamon
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday
- 6 Barbara Stanley
- 7 Clara Hartley
- 8 Dyer Pace
- 10 Mildred Bishop
- 12 Betty Carol Lamm

**Congratulations** and best wishes to Sally Stanley and Randy Hoffman on the occasion of their marriage on April 30, 2011, in Martinsville.

**Last Chance! Showtime at First Baptist** - In an effort to make it more convenient for our congregation to attend, the Stewardship Committee has changed the date and time of this outing. It's a delightfully fun trip to Ferrum College and the **Blue Ridge Dinner Theater** on Satur-

**day, July 23.** The event includes a dinner, followed by the play *Showtime at First Baptist*. The play is about a time when lightning strikes the Ivy Gap Baptist Church, prompting church ladies to raise money for a new sanctuary. Along the way they support and encourage each other facing some of life's problems, lacing it with love and laughs. Participation is limited to 14 – the maximum we can transport on the church van. However, reservations **MUST** be made with Sarah IN the church office. The price is **\$28 per person**. Participants will be provided information on the trip, departure time from the church, and approximate time of return. Please make your reservation(s) ASAP. The Blue Ridge Dinner Theater must have ample notification to insure the availability of seats.



**College Students:** Remember to apply for the John and Vera Jane Kuhn Scholarship. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office and may also be printed from the web

site.

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

### The Chancel Choir

What would you like to read in this month's Steeple Views Tempo column? Rain would be a current subject, the Summer Stretch begins shortly, and of course the ever present commercial pitch for new choir members.

Let us begin with the Chancel Choir Summer Stretch Schedule.

1. No Wednesday Evening Rehearsal 6/8 and 6/15, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, and 8/3
2. Regular Rehearsals Resume 8/10 (Possible date for Kick Off Pot Luck Dinner) Choir decides!
3. 10:15 Sunday Rehearsals 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7

The Summer Stretch includes soloist Betty Stanley on June 12. Any takers for July and August. The Women's Quartet will sing September 18.

If you are a choir singer and are back home from college this summer or you are a member of the Congregational Choir who wants to move into the Chancel area for the summer, please let Mr. Chapman know. That handles the commercial.

For you musical gardeners, I am sure that you would like to be "Singing In The Rain" during the dry summer months.

By the way, thank you Chancel Choir members who stick with us week in and week out serving God with glad and tuneful music.

### The Sanctuary Ringers

This even dozen members have done well this season. (September-May) We found out that, for most of us, an added 15 minutes added to the weekly rehearsal time cut back on stress and enabled us to get more accomplished.

I have a commercial for interested bell ringers who would like to get in shape to ring during the summer in preparation for Season 16. . Let Mr. Chapman hear from you and set up a schedule with him for help in getting in shape.

### A Langley Winds Note

Judy Mattox dropped me a note the other day about the Langley Winds. This Woodwind sextet has been accepted to play in the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival at Julliard this summer. Congratulations and best wishes from you friends at First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA.

## **Youth and Children's Music**

As I write this, Kindermusik classes have just completed for the school year. It has been a superb time with some great young musicians.

The younger set, 4 and 5 years old, did a phenomenal job of learning to read our first 5 notes, mastering 7 songs on the

glockenspiel, using those notes; becoming conversant with the instruments of the orchestra, being able to name them and identify them by sound, and having a super time doing all the above. They really bonded with each other. It has been a year of joy and praise.

The second year children, ages 5 and 6 accomplished many tasks as well. The first thing we did was to construct and learn to play our own dulcimers. They sounded really great and after a bit of practice, we were able to play many of the songs from year one of Kindermusik and others as well. Then we began studying music from all over the world-Japan, Germany, Africa for example. We played many instruments that were derived from these countries as well. After Christmas, we began learning to play the recorder! The young musicians played really well. It was a great year. Many of them will be moving up to WAM!!

If you know of children in your neighborhood, who might be interested in joining us in the fall, please let me know. I will be delighted to contact them.

#### Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday was one of our best. The Youth were really energized to say the least and had ownership in the planning and leading of a powerful service for all of us. Cantabile ringers and WAM ringers did a fine job on their combined piece, and Cantabile played masterfully during the Offertory. I am thankful for these dedicated musicians!!

WAM singers provided a wonderful anthem, the text of which unbeknownst to me was also one of the scriptures for the day. God does work in powerful ways. The WAM children all looked at me when the scripture was read. It was very cool!

After our big day, we celebrated with a fun party.

We all appreciate our teen helper, Emily Beard, who has amazing leadership potential. The WAMMERS love you!

#### Summer Music Activities for Children and Youth

I am in the process of formulating fun activities for the summer! A listing will be out by June 1, stay tuned!!

In Joy and Christ's Redeeming Love,

Betsy

#### ***Sunday, June 12,***

**Please mark *Sunday, June 12*, on your calendar for it is a very special day in the life of the church (and our congregation!). That particular Sunday is noted in the church's liturgical calendar as the Day of Pentecost. In his book, *Worship Notes for the Sunday Bulletin*, J. Dudley Weaver, Jr. writes: "Pentecost concludes the celebration of the 50 days of Easter in the church' calendar. On this day the group of cautious and still frightened disciples who gathered in a room in Jerusalem were emboldened and empowered for the work to which Jesus had called them. The promised power of the Holy Spirit came upon them with a force that drove them out of hiding into the streets of Jerusalem to testify to the remarkable love and power of God in Jesus, who was crucified but is now risen to rule. They spoke in the languages of the nations, indicating the worldwide scope of the Christian mission... Pentecost is a day of great celebration, a day when we focus on our empowerment for ministry and renew our commitment to the work of being the church of the risen Christ in the world. The color of Pentecost is red, for flames of fire, for the enlivening power of the Holy Spirit." (Pages 28-29) In light of the above, it is highly appropriate that we will confirm and commission Grey Thomas Ferguson, Emily Rachel Goldstein, Matthew Stewart Mason, and Mattie Mason Wingfield on this special day as they publicly profess their faith before the congregation and are recognized as full, active members within our church. A reception for our newest members is**

planned to follow the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

**Please note:** the Session encourages everyone (members and friends) **to wear red on Pentecost Sunday** as we gather to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit, the birthday of the church, and the joy of witnessing the faith development and journey of Grey, Emily, Matthew, and Mattie!

### Summer Adult Sunday School

The summer months are upon us, and so it's time to combine the adult Sunday School classes for the next three months. Beginning Sunday, June 5 and ending on September 4 (for fourteen Sundays) we will be studying the theology and practice of Reformed worship. We will meet in the Session Room from 9:45-10:40 a.m.

The goal of this series is to better understand the foundations of Reformed worship and its Biblical, historical and theological background, and thereby gain a greater appreciation of our shared worship life as a congregation. We will be using the book, *Reformed Worship*, by Howard L. Rice and James C. Huffstutler as a resource for the class. It is not necessary to read the book to attend the class, but if you would like to have some at-home reading, we encourage you to order a copy. Copies are available online at [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com), or you may tell Sarah in the church office to order you one, the cost is \$15.

The sessions in June will be as follows (a full list of topics covered will be handed out in class):

June 5 – Characteristics of Reformed Worship

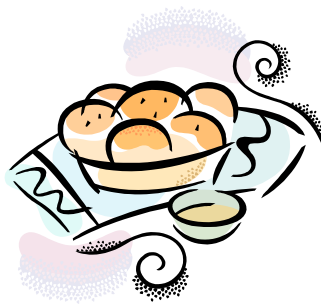
June 12 – Worship from the New Testament to the Reformation

June 19 – Worship from the Reformation to Today

June 26 – The Sacrament of Baptism

### Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Youth Group's Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner on May 15! Despite the rainy weather outside, many folks who gathered together to share a delicious meal and help support our Youth Mission Trip. Special thanks to our organizers and chefs Laura Stevens, Carrie Buffkin, Laura Chiudioni



and Melissa Wingfield and helpers Ruth Anne Parsons, Robin Evans, Bennette Zentmeyer, Bonny Pace! There was quite a set-up crew that transformed the Fellowship Hall into a fancy dining facility,

and thanks to Heidi Pinkston, Gavin Russell, Ed Pace, Chris Wingfield for directing the set-up and decorating. We had a huge group of young people that helped in both set-up and serving: Emily and Stuart Beard, Annie B. Boyd, Olivia Evans, Alana and Grey Ferguson, Michael and Matthew Mason, Dyer Pace, Ben and Max Pinkston, William, Kimberly and Meredith Seamon, Jacob and Mattie Wingfield and Virginia Zentmeyer. And extra special thanks to the hard working clean up crew who stayed around to make sure everything was tidy! We made over \$700 to go towards the Youth Mission Trip to Avondale Presbyterian Church in Charlotte this June.

### Youth Mission Trip

We have a fabulous group of 21 young people and adult advisors that will be participating in our trip June 26-July 1 to Avondale Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Projects our group will do include home repairs, serving meals to the homeless, and mentoring children. The goal of this program is "to be inspired, and inspire others as you meet Jesus Christ face to face in our city." Please be in prayer for all our

participants and their families, as well as those people we will meet and work with during the trip. All of the participants will be commissioned as part of the 11:00 Worship Service on June 26 and will then pack up and depart following worship!

### Traveling Day Camp

Day Camp is coming to our church August 1 – 5. We are offering this exciting program in partnership with the Presbytery of the Peaks Camps & Conferences Committee. Day Camp will run from 9:00am until 3:00pm Monday through Friday. Campers do not need to be members of the congregation – Day Camp is open to everyone!!!



All children entering grades 1 – 5 can enjoy this taste of camp to be held outdoors on our church grounds. Bible stories, worship, games, arts and crafts, singing, fellowship, making new friends, nature study, a cookout and much more will all be included in the Day Camp program! The theme for the week is “Along the Road”. A director and counselors will come from the Presbytery of the Peaks Camps & Conferences Committee to run the program. We will need help from the congregation with several components of the program (mostly involving food) so be on the look-out for these opportunities. Janet Fentress is the local coordinator.

The cost for the week is \$75. This covers all weekly costs; campers bring their own lunches. Brochures with registration forms are available in the church office.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 11 – 15, 2011 9AM – NOON

Pandamania will be here soon! 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. We also need many volunteers – teens and adults - so please turn in your name or fill out the bottom of the registration form. This year we are giving EVERYONE an opportunity to help by purchasing a portion of the snack for one day. Look for Boomer in the Narthex soon. He will be sporting small bears with stickers of items we need. Please take one and bring the item to the church some time the week before VBS begins (July 11).

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