



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.htm



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

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

March, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

In the very first page of the Bible, when God created the heavens and the earth, the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible translates Genesis 1:2 by stating: “The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God (or the Spirit of God) swept over the face of the waters.” However, I prefer the translation, which renders the Hebrew into English by stating that “... the Spirit of God brooded over the waters.” In fact, Eugene H. Peterson translates Genesis 1:2 in this fashion: “Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God’s Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss” (The Message, p. 20).

I like that rich imagery of God’s spirit brooding over the creation much like a mother hen brooding over her eggs waiting for them to hatch. That image really resonates with me because I have this strong sense of the Spirit of God brooding over our congregation and certain events have begun to hatch!

After months of planning, *The Magnetic Church* conference, which was led by Andy Weeks, became a reality in February. About 50 of our members, along with some other friends and guests, attended this event; and, according to the evaluations, it was a big success. Andy Weeks came here and helped us to look at ourselves from a totally different perspective – not as the pastor or church member, who knows how to find his/her way around the church’s facility but as a first-time visitor trying to locate the church office, the restroom facilities, or the sanctuary. And, if one is a non-churched person, who has had little or no experience inside any church, words like “narthex, sanctuary, or chancel” may have no meaning at all. We talked about how to greet visitors, our signs (or lack thereof), and how to market the church so that we are more “visitor-friendly” to folks who don’t know much about us. It was a worthwhile weekend and, as a result, we will become a more welcoming church.

Plans are underway for our four Sundays in March. The last Sunday in February we will distribute flyers to the 300+ homes in the surrounding neighborhoods and invite our neighbors to come and join us for breakfast at either 8:00-8:30 a.m. or 10:20-10:50 a.m. and then attend one of the worship services if they so desire. The invitation is also being extended to family members and friends as well as church members, who have drifted away over time. It will be exciting to see where the Spirit is leading us in this new venture of faith.

It is always a personal privilege of mine as pastor of the church to spend quality time with the young people in the Confirmation Class and share with them the Christian faith from a Presbyterian perspective. I have begun to meet with Stuart Beard, Annie B. Boyd, Dyer Pace, William Seamon, and Mary Catherine Stegall, and we will be meeting until the end of April when they will be given the opportunity to meet with the Session and make a profession of faith and formally join the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Please join with me in praying for these young disciples.

These are just a few of the activities that are beginning to hatch and grow under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It’s an exciting time to be at the First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA. I hope you agree!

In Christ’s love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in March to....

- 3Ruth Thompson
- 4Margaret Hurt
- 5Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore Smith
- 6Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
- 8Harriet Mattox, Bill Garrett
- 9Tyler Price
- 11Carol Darnell, Don Richman, Nicholas Young
- 12Bill Peterson, Bob Clark
- 13Alan Robertson
- 17Dick Sowdon, Rachel DeBusk, Alanna Ferguson, Anna Kate Jennings
- 18Catherine Bridges, Rick Renz, Steve Edgerton
- 19Matt Johnson
- 20JoAnne Sanders
- 21Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
- 23Diane Clark
- 25 Daniel Whitener
- 27Pam Mason, Kenzie Rakes, Charles Toothman
- 28Christiana Campbell

And in April to:

- 2Nick Carter
- 3Claude Young
- 4Max Pinkston
- 5Kate Judson
- 7Bob Davis, Kisean Adams
- 8Troy Lee Rakes, Mary Catherine Stegall
- 9Marty Davis
- 10Bobby Wilson

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Joseph Elsenheimer

May 12, 1923 – February 6, 2010

Ralph Earl Davis, Jr.

September 29, 1925 - February 19, 2010

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Lyn Davis and family and Milt and Nancy Davis on the death of their husband, father and brother, Ralph Davis, in Martinsville. Ralph, a member of First Presbyterian since

July 13, 2003, joined the Church Triumphant on February 19, 2010.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Esther Elsenheimer and family on the death of her husband, Paul Joseph Elsenheimer, in Martinsville. Paul, a member of First Presbyterian since July 9, 1995, joined the Church Triumphant on February 6, 2010.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Sally Cook on her death December 4, 2009, in Melbourne, Florida. Sally was a long-time member of our church and sang in the Chancel Choir for many years.

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir will present a Music-Worship Service, "Emmanuel, God With Us", on Sunday morning, March 21 at 10:55 a.m.

This service will consist of congregational singing, scripture and music which will highlight Jesus' time on earth between His Birth and Resurrection. Choral music for this service will be sung by the Chancel Choir and accompanied by Organ and Piano,

The Call to Worship will be "From the Rising of the Sun", by David Lantz 111. The Confession will be "Thou Knowest Lord", by Henry Purcell. The Declaration of Pardon will be "It Is Well With My Soul" by Sandra Ford. The Old Testament Reading is "Fear Not" (Isaiah 43: 1-4) by Carl Nygard. The New Testament Reading will be "Consider the Lilies" (Matthew 6:28, 33-34a) by Emma Lou Diemer. The sermon will be sung by a solo women's quartet. They will sing "Hear My Prayer", by Felix Mendelssohn. The Response of Dedication will be "I Believe In The Sun" by Jonathan Adams. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Fred Mallory will be the Charge.

Guest Singers joining with the choir will be Sopranos, Connie Anderson, Lynn Anderson, Patricia Clevenger, and Judy Mattox, and Alto, Sara Blaha. Bob Chapman will be the conductor and Cynthia Dobrinski the organist and accompanist.

Worshippers from the community are invited to join with us in this Music-Worship experience.

Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers were snowed out on January 31 in their first scheduled worship service of the new year. Hopefully this will be the only cancellation in this new year.

Our next scheduled service is February 28. I am pleased to announce that the choir plans to ring on Easter Sunday, April 4.

We continue to need one additional ringer in order to have a full choir. If you have interest in being this ringer, please let Mr. Chapman know.

Are You Magnetized?

The Magnetic Church conference was well attended and enjoyed by the 57 in attendance. Andy Weeks, the leader, had a certain charm as he pointed out many changes that we can make to be more welcoming and more accessible to those who come in our doors.

I want to thank Smith Chaney for all the talents he provided, Laura Buffkin, Lynn Pritchett, Victoria Esarey, and JoAnne Sanders for great help in the kitchen, Darla Main-Schneider for great baking skills, and Randy, of course, who led us in worship. If you missed coming and want to know more, I will be glad to show you the materials and fill you in.

Meanwhile, stay tuned for what is next for our church as we move together through 2010!

Session Highlights for February:

- Laura Buffkin gave the devotional and opened with prayer
- Approved the Session's minutes of January 25 (stated meeting) and February 21 (called meeting)
- Received Doug Knighton by transfer of letter from Hillcrest Baptist Church in Ridgeway
- Discussed *The Magnetic Church*

conference here at our church on February 12-13

- Approved the 2009 annual statistical report
- Victoria Esarey gave a report on the February 20th meeting of the Presbytery of the Peaks
- Hired Laura Buffkin to work in the nursery every other Sunday
- Heard reports from the moderators of the Session's various committees, including the Strategic Planning Steering Com. and the Associate Pastor Search Com, and the moderator.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

On Palm Sunday, March 28, and Easter Sunday, April 4, we will receive the annual *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*. The purpose of this offering is to meet human needs and is administered through three programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA): the Presbyterian Hunger program, Presbyterian World Service, and the Self Development of People. Please give generously to this offering which is a witness to the unity to which Christ calls us.

All-Church Clean Up on Saturday, March 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Facilities Committee will have an all-church cleanup day. An all church cleanup means all the members and visitors of the church are invited to help spruce up our building. We have stand-up jobs, sit-down jobs, move-around jobs and boss jobs. Please join your friends here at 1901 Patrick Henry Avenue on March 27 and find out how much fun it is to join in for a few hours to make our facilities shine!! Lunch will be served afterwards.



Join us for our Lenten suppers and worship services! We begin eating at 5:45 p.m. with worship at 6:20 p.m. Remaining speakers are Rusty Reaser (March 3), Hank Baumann (March 10), Bob Button (March 17), Randy Stevens (March 24). Call the Church Office to make reservations for the suppers. On **April 1, Maundy Thursday** (when Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples in the upper room) we will

have a covered dish supper at 5:30 in the fellowship hall, and everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite casserole or special dish, and a dessert to share with others. We will then move upstairs to the sanctuary for the worship- service at 7:00 p.m. During worship we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by intinction--people will come forward to the Table to sup by taking the bread and dipping it in the juice, and then they will return to their pews. If you prefer, you can either receive communion from the bread and juice trays on the front Table or an elder can serve you the communion elements in your pew.

Palm Sunday is March 28, the day when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our community holds an annual Palm Sunday in the park worship service, where a group of churches in the area walk to Wilson Park for a brief ecumenical worship service. We will meet in the narthex of the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. that Sunday morning to walk as a group to the park. All Sunday school classes that day will be cancelled.

Good Friday Worship Service will be held at noon, on April 2, in our sanctuary. Once again, the service will focus on the *Seven Last Words of Christ* from the cross. Various hymns and prayers will be interspersed throughout the service. Preaching at this service will be Hank Baumann, Ken Hughes, Bill Plonk, John Wiederholt, Rusty Reaser, Bob Button, and Randy Stevens. This service is very meaningful; and everyone is urged to attend.

Weekday School Registration 2010-2011

Registration for the 2010-2011 Weekday School year is upon us! Weekday School will continue to offer classes for children ages 2, 3, and 4 years, as well as the Mother's



Morning Out program for infants and toddlers. Current students will register the week of March 1-5. Church members and siblings of current students will register March 8-12, with the week of March 15 being open registration for the public. **Church members who wish to reserve a space must register and pay the registration fee no later than March 12 in order to have priority.**

Four Sundays in March

Bringing our Mission Statement to Life
Food, Fellowship and Worship with our Friends
and Neighbors

Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other.

We developed our mission statement, we talk about our mission statement and we include our mission statement on all of our printed material. But a question still lingered - what are we, as members of the Church, doing to live out our mission statement? It was in this spirit that the members of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee came together to develop ways of carrying out our mission statement and meeting our strategic goals. After a long committee meeting of brainstorming, the concept of Four Sundays in March was born!

On each of the four Sundays in March, 2010, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church is extending an invitation to our "neighbors" (those living in an approximately eight block area around the Church) to join us for a free continental breakfast and then, should they choose, to attend one of our worship services. The continental breakfasts will be served at two separate times - from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. and from 10:20 a.m. until 10:50 a.m.

In addition to extending this invitation to our neighbors, we are encouraging you to invite any of your friends who may not have a church home to come for breakfast and worship on one or more of these four Sundays. Flyers are available for you to take home in the Narthex and the hallway near the Church office – take as many as you need.

Please note that this invitation is also extended to you – the members of First Presbyterian Church. This will be a wonderful opportunity for

fellowship among our members and will allow you to meet and greet any visitors to the Church in a casual setting. Darla Main-Schneider of Rising Sun Breads will be catering the breakfasts each Sunday, so please come for great food and fellowship.

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, February 28 at 3:30 p.m. to help distribute flyers giving details of Four Sundays in March to our neighbors. Also, volunteers are needed each Sunday in March to help with serving the breakfasts. Lastly, volunteers are needed each Sunday in March to assist visitors with parking and to guide them to the Fellowship Hall and to the Sanctuary.

If you are interested in helping with the distribution of the flyers, serving breakfast, or being a parking assistant or Church guide, please call the Church office or sign up on one of the volunteer sheets in the Narthex.

Let's all join together as good neighbors and as a unified body of the Church to truly live out our mission statement.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee

News from Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to all of you who helped pack *Operation Christmas Child* boxes at last November's Advent Workshop. Samaritan's Purse has just informed me that our boxes went to Togo. Togo is a long, narrow country in West Africa between Ghana and Benin, with just 32 miles of coastline on the Gulf of Guinea. Although there are sizeable Christian and Muslim minorities, most of the people follow native animist beliefs and do not know Jesus. Most of the people make a living through small farms in a dry, tropical climate. About half the population lives below the poverty line. Samaritan's Purse has been distributing OCC boxes in Togo since 1997, for a total of about 390,000. Each box brings a child and family the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.

Gael Chaney

Children/Youth Music



WAM musicians are preparing for Palm Sunday with gusto. The children will be leading the musical portion of the service with some very moving pieces for the Lenten season.

The Kinder crews are moving through their new materials with gusto. The first-year group is learning new notes to sing and play on their glockenspiels while the second-year group is gaining good proficiency on their recorders.

Winter is a great time to learn-there are so few distractions.

Contemporary Service

If you were at the early service on February 14th, you heard our group sing one of our favorite songs, *Revival* by Robin Mark. Our whole group loves this song, but the version we were using had numerous repeats and it was nine minutes long. Whew!

Here comes Sandra Ford to the rescue. She adjusted the piece into a manageable work that we could sing with ease and effectiveness. A project like this takes many, many hours. We appreciate her talents more than I can say. She is so generous with her talent and her time. We really appreciate you!

Can spring come any sooner??

In Joy

Betsy

Don't forget!

The second Sunday of March (14th), Daylight Savings Time begins. Please be sure to spring forward and set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday night. We don't want you to be late for church the next morning!



From Your Stewardship/Visioning Committee

The Session's Stewardship/Visioning Committee, among other responsibilities, is charged to plan not just for our annual stewardship season, but also to make us all aware of ways in which we might act to strengthen our Church's long-term future and the better fulfillment of its mission, which might be described as stewardship of our capital. To that end, it completed work in 2009 on a brochure containing information about the Church's existing endowment funds and methods by which interested individuals or couples might seek to increase them. That brochure was approved by the Session last year and is available on request. A call to Sarah Altizer or Nancy Erikson at the church office is all you need to do to get one sent to you right away.

The Committee proposes in future issues of *Steeple Views* to continue to highlight this important subject. Those who have thought about it and then done something in response have been motivated by a love for the Church and a desire to make an enduring gift to promote its mission and wellbeing. Perhaps you have seen an ad on Public TV seeking endowment gifts which quotes one donor as feeling that her gift has made her feel that she has made herself a tiny bit immortal. Of course we don't see it exactly that way theologically speaking, but this sentiment speaks to a common desire among people of good will to do something with their lives and their possessions to make the world a better place.

Here's a way you might want to consider, if appropriate to your own circumstances, to leave First Presbyterian a stronger and better servant of God's mission – naming it as a potential beneficiary of an IRA or similar retirement account. What this would mean is that, if there were any remaining funds in such an account following your death and, if applicable, the death of your principal beneficiary (usually a surviving spouse), those

funds would be distributed to the Church. What's so great about this? Well, individual beneficiaries who might otherwise receive these funds must treat them as taxable income and of course have to pay income taxes on any amounts received. The Church, being a qualified charitable religious organization, can receive the funds in full without being subject to income tax liability for them. It also is a gift of financial resources which didn't turn out to be needed. Is this idea worth thinking about? Only you can decide and act on it.

Of course the disclaimer: You should rely upon your own trusted adviser before acting on this idea. The Committee, of course, cannot offer you tax or other legal advice, just information for you to look into further if you're interested.

Memorial Contributions

General Memorial Fund

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Chidley – IMO Mary Ragsland

Mrs. Carolyn Rosser – IMO Betty Hoyt

Mrs. Mary Whaley – IMO Betty Hoyt

Library Memorial Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Flythe

Pastors Discretionary Fund

Mrs. Sarah V. Wells



"Galilee by the Sea"

SUMMER MISSION TRIP JUNE 23-27,
2010

*To enable youth and all to express their faith
through missions and the arts.*

Your mission trip will involve working with families in Brunswick and New Hanover County in North Carolina. Your day will include meals, working on site, beach time, singing, worship and cookouts. Everyone in our church is invited.

Registration forms are available in the church office. The registration form should be returned to the church office with the \$50 deposit. We will have fundraising events to furnish the balance of payments. All deposits are due by March 28th, with a meeting to be held that evening at 5:30pm for all who have registered.

Questions: contact Cindy Franck (276)
632-5581 or cfranck@mindspring.com

Take a look at the website for *Galilee by the Sea* our Mission Trip Organizers!

<http://galileemission.com/>

Nancy Moore



EASTER LILIES

The church invites families and individuals in the congregation to place a potted Easter lily in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, **April 4**. All who wish to place a lily in memory of, or in honor of a loved one or friend may do so by contacting the Church Office or by filling out the form below and placing in the offering place with your payment. These names will be included on a special insert in the bulletin on Easter. Each plant is \$14 payable to the Church Office in advance. The last date for ordering and making payment to the Church will be Friday, **March 26**.

Please place my order for an Easter lily:

Name _____

Telephone _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of _____

By: _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____

I will pick up my lily immediately after worship.

I will leave my lily at the church.