



Presbyterian Web Sites:

Presbytery of the Peaks: Hwww.peakspresbytery.orgH
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: Hwww.synatlantic.org
Presbyterian Church (USA): Hwww.pcusa.org
Pby. Disaster Assistance: Hwww.pcusa.org/pda/
Presbyterian Today: Hwww.pcusa.org/pcusa/today
Pby. News Service: H www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem



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

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S T E E P L E V I E W S



STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

May, 2007

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

Most of the calendars we use in our homes, schools, and businesses begin with January and end in December. However, the Presbyterian Church (USA) publishes a Presbyterian Planning Calendar, which runs from June to May. It is a very useful tool of the trade for ministers, educators, musicians, and other staff members. Inside the calendar is lots of information such as the seasons of the church year and a liturgical color chart that shows what color of paraments to use and when; the suggested Scripture readings for each Sunday and/or holy day; contact information for various resources such as the General Assembly offices, all of the presbyteries, and other institutions within the PC(USA); there are programmatic emphases and descriptions of special offerings and events; and so much more. My planning calendar is indispensable as it contains a great deal of personal and church related information. I would be lost without it.

Anyway, the new 2008-2009 Presbyterian Planning Calendar arrived here this week. I enjoyed flipping through the pages and looking at the artwork. As I did so, I found myself wondering what the new year (from June 2008-May 2009) holds in store for me, my family, and this church family. Looking at the blank monthly calendar pages, I realize that before too long these pages will be covered with my small, hard-to-read handwriting, which will inform me as to what meeting is coming up, where it will be held, and when. Before too long, these pages will contain the dates and times of Session meetings, committee meetings, staff work, counseling appointments, weddings and funerals, and other important events.

Of course, some things in life cannot be predicted and thus scheduled within the year ahead. As I near the time when I will flip from the month of April to the month of May on my calendar, I inevitably remember two personal phone calls, which I took at my desk during the month of May. The first one occurred on May 2, 2005; it was from my son, Andrew, who called to let me know (amidst deep sobs) that he had just received the news that he had stage 4 colon cancer. That day and the next three years changed our lives greatly. The other phone call came 364 days later on May 1, 2006; it was from my brother, Rick, who called to tell me that our dad had died unexpectedly in his sleep earlier that morning. Never could I have imagined those events showing up on my calendar!

After rambling for a while, here's the point to all of this: whatever happens, whether scheduled or unexpected, the one thing you can count on is that God will be there with us. While the pages on my brand, new calendar are still blank, at the same time, God has already "scheduled us in" and God will keep the appointments with us! We are never ultimately alone or apart from God. God will come to us by way of the risen Christ, the Holy Spirit ("God in the present tense" as someone has said), or perhaps God will speak to us and comfort us through some other fellow traveler. But, God will meet us there in the future as sure as God is with us today and will be with us beyond death. Whatever these next twelve months have in store for us, God will be there with us and for us, and we will get through whatever comes our way! Surely that is Good News!

In Christ's love,
Randy

Word from the Associate Pastor:

April has been a great month for our youth! Our youth group showed amazing teamwork as they worked together for three consecutive weeks on a video based on Micah 6:8, the Scripture passage that tells us how God wants us to “seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.” The youth came up with the concept for the video, assigned roles, wrote the script themselves, and did a wonderful job performing. I am grateful that Ann Marie Franck edited the video for us. Our skit is entitled “Christian Idol” and is based on the popular television show American Idol. The video has now been entered into a national Presbyterian contest. The top 3 videos win \$25,000 for their youth programs: talk about a huge prize! So please go and watch the video and make sure you vote for our church. The video can be found on the website www.ymilive.org.

Many, many thanks to all who were involved with our very successful Youth Fundraising Dinner “Beach Bound for God.” It was a fun evening! We had over 130 people eat dinner on April 13. Twenty youth assisted as waiters, waitresses, cooks, decorators, and clean-up crew. Thank you to Wendy Seamon, who planned the event, JoAnne Sanders, who designed the menu and was our primary chef, and Susan Pilson, who organized the decorations. The youth advisors and several other parents worked tirelessly and faithfully in the kitchen. Thank you to several people who did not attend the dinner, but were thoughtful enough to send us a donation. Due to your generosity, we made a profit of \$1,560: those funds will be applied to the cost of the Youth Group’s Summer Mission Trip to Morehead City, NC. The mission trip will take place June 15-20, 2008. Thank you, thank you! I am proud of our youth and all

their hard work on both the video project and the fundraising dinner.

Youth Sunday will once again be on Mother’s Day, which is May 11. I look forward to hearing our graduating seniors speak on: “What the Church Means to Me.” The youth will lead the entire worship service, including the prayers, the call to worship, and the anthems. Come support our youth and worship God on this meaningful day in our church’s life. **On May 11, there will not be an 8:45 a.m. Contemporary Service so we can encourage everyone to attend the Youth Sunday service at 11:00 a.m.**

Pentecost Sunday actually falls on the church calendar on May 11. Both Youth Sunday & Pentecost are big events in our church. The Worship Committee has approved waiting a week to celebrate Pentecost until May 18. That way we can devote our full attention to Youth Sunday on May 11 and then we can shift our focus to Pentecost on May 18. Make sure you wear red & come with an appetite for birthday cake when we commemorate Pentecost. The confirmation class has been going extremely well. Randy and I have been fortunate to meet with six very bright and fun seventh graders, who have kept us on our toes by asking some good questions. I have really enjoyed the nine weeks that we have been meeting with these youth. When the class is over, I will miss not seeing them every Tuesday. The confirmation class will be stand before the congregation as new members at the 11:00 a.m. service on May 18. It is appropriate that we celebrate the birthday of the church on the same day we receive the confirmands as new members. Welcoming our confirmands will make May 18 a very special day!

Peace in Christ,
Jody



Happy Birthday in May to

- 1 Logan Esarey, Janet Fentress
- 3 Carson Nease, Jerry Bishop
- 5 Sonny Benfield, Amy Mason, Kellene Wotring
- 6 Kim Phillips
- 8 Bill Manning, Olivia Jessup
- 10 Sandra Shank
- 11 Bonnie Price, Mandy Prichett, Emily Beard
- 12 Paul Elsenheimer, Pearl Richardson, Monica Stevens
- 14 Jon Tatum, Farrell Pace
- 16 Becky Miller, Kemp Newnam
- 17 Margaret Ann Irby
- 19 Taylor Shank, Anne Banks Boyd
- 20 Colleen Dallas, Doris Treakle, Jeff Adkins
- 22 Curtiss Lester, Elizabeth Pritchett
- 23 Randy Bumgarner, Annie Grace Payne
- 26 Peggy Ford
- 27 Margaret Smith, Kent Williams, Virginia Seamon, Jacob Wingfield
- 28 Ginny Newnam
- 29 Christine Fraser, Ed Linker

and in JUNE to:

- 1 Sami Easley, Cynthia Dobrinski, Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 2 Suzanne Lacy, Cole Rothrock
- 3 Bob Knighton
- 4 Laura Beth Eanes, Mike Eanes, Pat Wilson
- 5 Meredith Bumgarner
- 6 Nancy Plonk
- 9 Lori Hurt, Josh King, Susan Smith

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Williams Lovell
August 18, 1920 - April 1, 2008
SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to the family of Margaret Williams Lovell on her death in Martinsville. Margaret, a member of First Presbyterian since January 26, 1992, joined the Church Triumphant on April 1, 2008.

2008 Adult Summer Sunday School Series: The Topic is "The Question of God and The Quest for God." With the assistance of a PBS Video Series, and looking through the lens of our Christian faith, we will contrast the writings and opinions of C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud. In the latter half of the summer, we will use a PBS Video Series to illuminate the life and witness of the Reverend Billy Graham. The class will meet every Sunday in June, July, and August in the Session Room at 9:45 a.m. (Also include in the Bulletin on May 11, 18, & 25 & June 1 & 8).

Did you know that at its September 2007 stated meeting, the Session of our congregation has approved using our church facilities as an Emergency Feeding Center for the Red Cross? What can you do to help? We need volunteers to work here at the church in the event that we are "Called to Action" as a Feeding Center. The Mission Committee is trying to collect a list of people ready to serve. We need volunteers to help with breakfast, lunch, or dinner each day. Volunteer jobs include: Kitchen/General Volunteers, Facilities coordinator, & Kitchen coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Sarah or Jody in the church office.



Pentecost will be celebrated at First Presbyterian Church this year on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

Pentecost is the third most important Christian holiday of the year (Easter and Christmas are the two most significant holidays). Pentecost is the birthday of the church, when the early church recognized the gift of the Holy Spirit. The

liturgical color of Pentecost is red, which represents the tongues of fire and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our church is doing something extra special to celebrate this important day. We are inviting everyone in the congregation to wear red this Sunday, so there will be a "sea of red" in the congregation. The choir will process into the sanctuary during the first hymn at the 11:00 service. Also, following worship, there will be refreshments served on the lawn, including a birthday cake with red icing to commemorate the church's birthday! We are particularly excited that the 7th Grade Confirmation Class will be presented as new members of our church at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



The early morning worship service is near at hand! The contemporary worship service will begin Sunday, May 4, at 8:35 a.m. with gathering music and the service will

run from 8:45-9:30 a.m. While all are welcome to this more streamlined, informal service of worship with a different musical feel to it, it is hoped that many of our members, who do not attend the 11:00 a.m. worship service, will attend this service as well as people in the community who are not currently involved in a church. Please note that the following Sunday, May 11, there will be no early worship service. This second Sunday in May is Mother's Day and that is Youth Sunday in the life of our church. Thus, we hope all will be on hand for worship and to support our children and youth as they lead the congregation in worship. The early contemporary worship service will resume on Sunday, May 18. Please support this new venture with your prayers!

The 2008 Confirmation Class, which has been meeting weekly with Jody and Randy since mid-February is nearing the end of their class time and the beginning of their commissioning as disciples of Jesus Christ. Claire Adkins, Caroline Harris, Michael Mason, Ben Pinkston, Jacob Wingfield, and Virginia Zentmyer will be meeting with the Session on Monday, April 28, in order to answer questions, recite memory work, and make their profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Then, on Sunday, May 18, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, they will stand before the congregation and be received as full, active members, fellow disciples on the journey of faith.

We are very proud of Claire, Caroline, Michael, Ben, Jacob, and Virginia, and all of their hard work. Please keep these youth in your prayers and be sure to welcome them with open arms when you see them on May 18, which will also be our celebration of both Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

Children and Youth Music



I hope all of you are enjoying these beautiful days in God's creation. Earth day yesterday only serves to remind each of us that we are the caretakers of this beautiful earth.

Youth Sunday-Mother's Day, May 11th!

All children will sing and ring that day. The Orff gang will be ringing a wonderful song of joy and singing an anthem that is appropriate for the high school seniors. It is entitled, "We Go Forth." And so they shall! The Cantabile ringers will be ringing and singing that day as well. It is always a highlight of the church year for all of us!! Lots for which to be thankful!

End of Year Celebrations

Once again, our music classes are drawing to a close after a very good year. There are important dates for all groups, so please read carefully.

Orff I and II will celebrate the end of a great year on Monday, May 12th with a big party!!

Music Together families are doing great things. Our combined group is filled with Moms, Dads, Grandmoms and especially those singing infants and children. My grandson Landon is now among them! We will continue our class through the end of May and celebrate our year with a picnic on Tuesday, May 27th!

Kindermusik I will complete the year on Tuesday May 13th. We have learned so much and have had a very good year.

All parents are invited to attend! If the weather is nice, we will picnic outside!

Kindermusik II will complete the year on Tuesday, May 13th. We will celebrate that day the accomplishments of this very special class.

Cantabile Ringers will continue throughout May as well.

This has been a great year and I know we will finish with a great flourish!

See you at church!!!

Betsy



**Coming Home.....
..IS COMING!!!**

Mark your calendars right now for a fun fellowship weekend in August!! On Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17, we will celebrate with friends, old and new! All past members and friends of the church are welcome and are encouraged to join us in "Coming Home."

The focus of the weekend is to come together as an extended church family and just enjoy one another's company as we reconnect in fellowship and worship.

Here is the scheduled. On Saturday, we have rented two large shelters at Fairy-stone Park for swimming, games and a big picnic lunch. If you haven't seen Fairystore lately, you will be amazed at how lovely it is. There is a nice mbeach, swimming, paddle boats and lots to do.

There will also be some of us who just want to bring a book or have some good conversation with friends and enjoy a good meal together.

On Saturday evening, we will convene at church for dinner and an evening of entertainment. The Chancel Choir and friends are going to provide a program of popular music for us to enjoy. There will also be cool games for the younger Presbyterians to enjoy after dinner.

Sounds like a great evening!

On Sunday, we will meet for Sunday school together and see a DVD that is being made for this special time together. It will contain pictures from long ago, a little whole ago and NOW! Then we will worship and enjoy fellowship over lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

The Committee has worked hard to come up with a schedule that has something for everyone. We have some

needs and requests as well.

Connie and Walt Anderson are heading up the committee to come up with addresses for past members. If you can help with addresses or know someone that we should invite, please let them know.

Susan Pilson is working on the food angle of the weekend. Please contact her if you can help with the logistics. **THIS IS A NON-COOKING WEEKEND FOR THE WOMEN!!!**

Bonnie Price is working on a remembrance to give our attendees. If you have ideas, I know she would love to hear them.

Meliossa Wingfield is working on the DVD. She really needs pictures of activities in the last three years. Please let her know if you have some good ones.

We are very excited! Please let me know if you have ideas that will make "Coming Home" even better!!

Betsy

A Survey from the Administration Committee

May we have your e-mail address?

Would you be willing to receive your Church Newsletter (Steeple Views) by e-mail if it could save the Church mailing expenses?

Our Church website is:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Do you have any suggestions that would make the website more user friendly or better serve the needs of the entire congregation?



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