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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



*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

May, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

In my February 2010 newsletter article, I wrote about my planned trip to St. Louis and especially Fulton, Missouri, to the First Presbyterian Church where I served as an intern thirty-five years ago. Now, as I write my article for the May newsletter, I have just returned home from my trip to Missouri. I am delighted that I was able to do all that I hoped and expected to do. Along the way, I was able to see both family and friends.

I arrived in St. Louis mid-morning on Thursday, April 8. I rented a car and drove around familiar parts of the city. I stopped at our home church where both Monica and I grew up; I met the pastor and saw five or six members that I had known since I was a small child. I drove by the two houses I grew up in, the schools I attended, and the grocery store where I worked as a clerk, and other familiar sites. The next day I drove to the Missouri Ozarks to my grandparents' place in the country; I went to the cemetery where my grandparents, parents, and other family members are buried; I drove by the old house, several places where we use to swim in the Black River, and other sites of interest. I ended Friday by sharing quality time visiting with Monica's side of the family – a brother and his family and another brother and his girlfriend. On Saturday morning, before I left St. Louis, I had a wonderful time visiting with my uncle (my dad's twin brother), his wife, and two of his three sons, who are very close cousins to me.

Then, it was on to Fulton, MO. I arrived early so that I could drive around town. I went by the upstairs apartment of an old two-story house where Monica and I began married life thirty-five years ago. I drove by the house that I lived in with three other guys and remembered our crazy times together in that haunted house. Then I went to my host's house and had a good visit with her and her two daughters, who were in my youth group many years ago and are now married with grown children. From there it was on to the church where ten of the former twenty-four interns of the church (and some spouses) had supper with our beloved mentor and colleague, Cecil Culverhouse, and his wife. The stories flew back and forth as we "remembered when." The next morning was Sunday and all of the interns went to Sunday School so we could sit and be fed once again by Cecil, who at the age of 86 still teaches an adult Sunday School class. In worship, Cecil preached, and the interns were asked by the Session to serve communion to the congregation. Then, there was a luncheon and each former intern spoke on where we had gone after we left Fulton and what the church has meant to us. Afterwards, it was time to head home. I walked into our house at 12:30 a.m. Monday morning – tired but happy!

The trip brought to mind my roots. I am proud to be from St. Louis and I appreciate the Midwest values that were instilled in me. I am grateful for all the places I have been, the things I have done, and the people whose lives have touched and influenced mine in such a powerful way. And, I am grateful to be home, to be here in Martinsville, Virginia at First Presbyterian Church. Looking back on my internship in Fulton, MO, thirty-five years ago, I didn't have a clue as to where my journey would take me, but God did, and God has been faithful throughout my journey. In light of God's steadfast love and faithfulness to me throughout my past, I can definitely trust God with today and the future and wherever that leads me. I am profoundly grateful to God for where I have been and where I am going. And, I hope you can say and feel the same.

In Christ's love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in May to....

- 1 Logan Esarey, Janet Fentress
- 3 Carson Nease, Jerry Bishop
- 5 Sonny Benfield, Amy Mason, Kellene Wotring
- 8 Bill Manning, Olivia Jessup
- 10 Sandra Shank
- 11 Bonnie Price, Mandy Pritchett, Emily Beard
- 12 Pearl Richardson, Monica Stevens
- 14 Jon Tatum, Farrell Pace
- 16 Kemp Newnam
- 17 Margaret Ann Irby
- 19 Taylor Shank, Annie B. Boyd
- 20 Colleen Dallas
- 22 Curtis Lester, Elizabeth Pritchett, Joanna Wood
- 23 Randy Bumgarner, Annie Grace Payne
- 27 Margaret Smith, Kent Williams, Virginia Seamon, Jacob Wingfield
- 29 Ginny Newnam, Ed Linker, Gavin Muse

And 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
- 5 Meredith Bumgarner
- 6 Nancy Plonk
- 9 Susan Smith
- 10 Allyson Campbell, Cindy Edgerton

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Virginia Treakle
May 20, 1922 – April 1, 2010

Esther Edwards Elsenheimer
October 4, 1927 – April 5, 2010

Gloria Wright Rhodes
July 20, 1922 – April 9, 2010

Sympathy of the congregation is extended Harriet Mattox and Anne Lackey on the death of their sister and aunt, Doris Virginia Treakle, in Martinsville. Doris, a member of

First Presbyterian since October 27, 1985, joined the Church Triumphant on April 1, 2010.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Esther Edwards Elsenheimer on her death in Martinsville. Esther, a member of First Presbyterian since July 9, 1995, joined the Church Triumphant on April 5, 2010.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Gloria Wright Rhodes on her death in Augusta, Georgia. Gloria, a member of First Presbyterian since July 26, 1964, joined the Church Triumphant on April 9, 2010.

Congratulations to Tom and Melanie Manning on the birth of their daughter, Zaidée Gray Manning, March 19, 2010, in Orlando, Florida. Bill and Mary Manning are the proud grandparents and Mary Page the proud great grandmother!

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" Chancel Choir



Another Lent and Easter Season is history. Chancel Choir is to be commended for their contribution to these times of worship which are so meaningful to us as Christians. Music helps us gain a deeper perspective on our faith as we remember Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death, hell, and sin. He was and is our victorious Savior. Music helps us express our appreciation and our heartfelt thanksgiving. I appreciate the work and loyalty of those who are a part of our Chancel Choir. Week after week and Sunday after Sunday they are faithful to their responsibility to God and to this congregation. Their service opportunity is so important to the life of our congregation. One only has to read the scriptures to know that music has been important throughout Church History. Each time I write this *Steeple Views* article, or at least most times, I include an invitation to musically talented individuals in our congregation who could add their voice to those who already serve. Please consider this invitation and join us!

It's Anniversary Time

When May arrives on our calendar it reminds me that I came to First Presbyterian Church on the last day of April in 1996. This May begins my 15th year as Adult Music Director in this congregation. I will not bore you with statistics and recollections of people and events. I will only thank you for the opportunity to serve this congregation as one of your Church Musicians.

In May 2001, Cynthia Dobrinski came to serve as the Organist. She is a very talented church musician with marvelous credentials. Her contribution to the Handbell field both in Composition, and as a Guest Clinician, is well known. Her experience also includes being a Seminary Educator and Church Organist. I hope that both of us continue to serve this church well throughout our tenure.

The Sanctuary Ringers

The handbell season is close to being history. We ring in church in May and then not until the fall when we regroup. Sam Smith has been ringing with us a couple of years. He is a delightful and talented young man. Next fall he will leave us to begin his college life at Roanoke College. Although he drives, I do not anticipate Sam will make a trip each week to ring with us. Knowing our need for substitute ringers, we will be checking with him for the Sundays he might be home to ring with us. Thank you, Sam. You have been a pleasure for us all. By the way, Sam has also rung in the Cantabile Ringers, our Youth Handbell Choir.

On Easter Sunday we used our low chimes which were given to honor the memory of Jack Lester. My across-the-street neighbor was very complementary of the sound those chimes added to the sound of the choir. I think there will be, or may already be, pictures on the church web site of the new chimes, thanks to Mike Ware.

I want to express my thanks to each member of our Sanctuary Ringers for their contribution to the worship life of our congregation.

The Summer Stretch Begins in June

If you are interested in singing with the Chancel Choir during the summer, please express that interest to Mr. Chapman. Without laying our schedule out, most Summers the choir does not rehearse in July, except before Sunday morning services. Other cancellations will be announced before they arise. Also there is a solo Sunday each month when a soloist or an ensemble fills the anthem slot. RLC

Parents of college graduates (Class of 2010): Please call the church office and let us know your child is graduating as well as his/her major and from which school.



Children/Youth Music

I hope that you are still rejoicing in the Resurrection and the joy that is ours in our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am very proud of the job that the WAM children did on Palm Sunday. The anthems went very well and our ringers did well also. Many thanks to Cantabile for their assistance as well. We appreciate the Chancel Choir allowing us to be the music worship leaders for this special day in the life of our church.

Analisa O'Toole is such a wonderful helper. She brings the children from Carlisle to WAM each Monday without fail! She is always around on Sundays to help with whatever needs doing and pitches in for all parties! Many thanks, Analisa!

Two other unsung heroes are Emily Beard and Sam Smith. They graciously give their time on Monday afternoons to help in so many different ways. The children absolutely love them and I can fully understand why! They are helpful, yet fun; they roll with the punches and make Mondays a joy. Many thanks to you both! We will really miss Sam next year as he moves on to Roanoke College!! Emily is looking around for a replacement!!

Our next big Sunday is Youth Sunday, May 16th. It is a wonderful celebration of our Seniors and youth in the church as they lead

worship in its entirety. We have anthems and bell pieces ready to go!

We have two new families in Music Together, Katie Waddell and her son Gabriel and Jennifer Wulff with her children Rhyan and Boone! Such a joy to have new friends!!

The Kindermusik children are really enjoying our last months. The Year I class is really doing well reading their first four notes, singing them, playing songs on the glockenspiels and creating their own songs. The older group is perfecting their five notes on the recorder. It has been a great year.

I hope this spring is filled with joy, love and God's gracious grace to all of us.

In Joy,
Betsy

Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner

What a delight it was to see youth and adults come together to serve the congregation at the *Galilee By the Sea* fundraising dinner! Thanks goes to Lang Mauck and Nancy Moore for their ability to generate ideas for fundraisers and get the ball rolling. Special thanks goes to Laura Stevens who chaired the fundraising event. Thank you to Heidi Pinkston for heading up table decorations, Chris Wingfield and Johnny Pinkard for setting up tables, Gavin Russell, Judy Ware, and Matthew Price for the recorded Italian dinner music, Nancy Moore, Laura Stevens, and Judy Ware for publicity, Mike Ware for photography, Sam Smith and Laura Stevens for grocery shopping, Laura Chiudioni and Melissa Wingfield for cooking spaghetti sauce and noodles for over 100 people, Randy Stevens for washing dishes and helping in many other ways, Marge Dunn for seeing our need for her kitchen expertise and staying all afternoon and night to help out, Bonnie Price for her amazing ability to problem solve and work in every needed capacity, Bonny Pace for her physical labor as well as her ability to head off potential challenges and redirect us, Matthew Price for his gift at running the dishwasher and orchestrating the food service, Victoria Esarey for donating the meat for the spaghetti sauce

and working to help in every way needed, Chris Wingfield for grocery shopping, helping where needed, and keeping us laughing, Darla Main-Schneider for donating the bread, Ed Pace for doing whatever we asked of him and providing some much-needed humor, David Price for being there for support and answering questions about most anything and everything, Gavin Russell for grocery shopping, keeping us on task, and helping in every possible way. And last, but not least, thank you to the YOUTH at First Presbyterian!!!

What a beautiful sight it was to see so many youth in our church working together to make this dinner happen! All youth there worked extremely hard getting the food prepared, dedicating themselves to providing excellent service to the dinner guests, cleaning off the tables after the dinner, and responding quickly and kindly to requests made by the adult volunteers. It was impressive seeing the true Christian spirit among this group who maintained respect for one another and positive attitudes even after working 4-5 hours without a break. Thank you so very much, Michael and Matthew Mason, Mattie and Jacob Wingfield, William Seamon, Annie B. Boyd, Emily and Stuart Beard, Jordan Torrez, Farrell and Dyer Pace, Ben Pinkston, and Matthew Price

Thank you to the families who provided the delicious homemade brownies and desserts: the Masons, Seamons, Prices, Paces, Smiths, Stevens, Boyds, Wingfields, and Beards. If I forgot to mention your name and you helped with the fundraiser, please forgive me and remind me of my oversight.

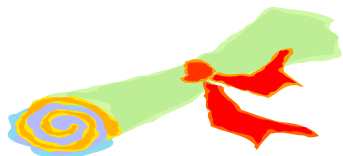
A huge thank-you goes to the congregation for your support! Many of you attended the event and invited guests. What a thrill to see the Fellowship Hall full of people enjoying dinner and conversation. Thank you for the generous contributions on the night of the dinner and for those gifts given before and after the event. The folks going on the trip will be strengthened by knowing that you are supporting them in both a physical and spiritual sense as they face the unknowns of reaching out to serve others.

It was a joy to see youth and adults work as a team to create a night of fellowship and enjoyment for church members and guests. When the tables were cleared, the dishes were washed, and the lights turned out, there was a feeling that something really good had taken place at First Presbyterian church on the night of April 18th. Thank you for the many ways you helped to make that happen.
Cindy Franck

The Session has called the congregation to meet on Sunday, **May 2, 2010 at the close of the 11:00 a.m. worship service.** The purpose of the meeting is to vote to extend a call to the candidate that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is recommending to the congregation to serve as our next Associate Pastor. Please make every effort to be present for this very important congregational meeting.

Sunday, May 16, 2010 is designated as Youth Sunday in the life of our congregation. The children and youth will lead our congregation in worship and the graduating high school seniors will have the opportunity to speak on "What the church means to me." There will not be an early worship service that Sunday in order that all of us can gather together to worship and support the children and youth.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR KUHN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



For several years, John and Vera Jane Kuhn have faithfully provided a \$1,000 scholarship for the purpose of providing financial assistance to students seeking undergraduate education or vocational training. John and Vera Jane, residents of King's Grant, are active members of our church.

The scholarship is paid directly to the institution of higher learning that the recipient is attending. Funds are disbursed no later than July 1 of each year and the scholarship is applied to tuition costs for undergraduate education or vocational training. A recipient may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years. Financial need of the applicant is given primary consideration.

The scholarship is administered by a scholarship committee that reviews all applications. Applications for the scholarship are available now (in the Church Office) and the scholarship committee awards the scholarship by June 1 for the school year beginning in the fall of the same year. **Applications are due by May 15.**

We are very grateful to the Kuhns for their support and generosity!!



BUTTERFLY ALERT

It's springtime, and once again BUTTERFLIES are aflutter in the halls and narthex of First Presbyterian Church.

Just as the angel trees at Christmas reflected the giving spirit of our church family, the spring multicolored butterflies, represented the gifts of clothes, shoes, games, and money to purchase food which the Mission Committee distributed to six needy families on May 4.

Once again we shared our blessings with others within the community.

We rejoice that our church family can share with the less fortunate of our community.

STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.
Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer; Mailing Staff: volunteers

Sunday, May 23, is **Pentecost Sunday** and, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the members of the Confirmation Class (Stuart Menteth Beard, Anne Banks Boyd, Dyer Christian Pace, William David Seamon, and Mary Catherine Stegall) will officially unite with the church upon their profession of faith. Please be in prayer for these youth as they take this very important step. Also, we will honor the graduating high school seniors Following the 11:00 a.m. worship service we will have Lemonade on the Lawn to honor the members of the 2010 Confirmation Class and the 2010 graduating high school seniors.

Pentecost will be celebrated at First Presbyterian this year on **Sunday, May 23, 2010**. 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. We are inviting everyone in the congregation to wear red this Sunday, so there will be a “sea of red” in the congregation. Following worship, there will be refreshments served on the lawn, including a birthday cake with red icing to commemorate the church’s birthday!

Please continue to be in prayer for the five young people, who are attending the **2010 Confirmation Class** with Randy. They are: Stuart Menteth Beard, Anne Banks Boyd, Dyer Christian Pace, William David Seamon, and Mary Catherine Stegall. The class will conclude on Sunday, April 25 with a review of all of the material covered during the past several months. Then, the youth will have dinner and meet with the Session on Monday, April 26; at that time they will have the opportunity to make their own profession of faith. Then, on Pentecost Sunday, which is May 23, Stuart, Annie B., Dyer, William, and Mary Catherine will be recognized as full and active members of the church.

Congratulations to our Graduates Class of 2010 High School

Bassett High School
Margaret Anne Pilson
Martha Lynn Pilson

Carlisle School
Jack Everett Adkins
Farrell Elizabeth Pace
Robert Coleman Rothrock
Samuel Franklin Smith

Martinsville High School
Rachel Ellen Debusk
Dana Sullivan Mahoney
Brooke Nicole Sanders
Meredith Christine Seamon



.....and to our college grad!
Wake Forest University
Hilary Frances Moore

Session Highlights March 29, 2010

- Forrest Truitt gave the devotional and opened with prayer;
- Minutes from the February 14 (congregational meeting) and February 22 (stated meeting) were approved;
- The church’s mission trip to *Galilee by the Sea*, scheduled for June 23-27, 2010, was discussed. Fundraisers are planned to support the cost of the trip;
- The Session approved a Congregational Meeting for May 2, following the 11:00 worship service, when an Associate Pastor candidate will be presented to the congregation for approval to call;
- Reports from various committees were heard, including the Session’s Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

The moderator/pastor led the session in a closing prayer, which included the joys and concerns of our congregation's members and friends.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING COMMITTEE
SECOND ARTICLE ABOUT PLANNED GIVING FOR STEEPLE VIEWS

AN EASY WAY TO MAKE A BEQUEST TO THE CHURCH

A recent message from the Stewardship/Visioning Committee in Steeple Views mentioned an informational brochure (available from the Church office) about First Presbyterian's existing endowment funds and methods by which interested individuals or couples might seek to increase them. That message then discussed the possibility of naming the Church as a final beneficiary of any funds remaining in an IRA or other retirement account. A more traditional way to make a final gift to one's church is by a provision in one's will, such as, "I give and bequeath the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Virginia for its general religious and benevolent purposes." Here's a way to do the essentially the same thing without having to change your will. Virginia law provides for what is called a "payable on death" (POD) form of account registration. This is most commonly used for accounts at banks and other financial institutions. In such an account any funds or securities remaining in it at the time of the account owner's death pass directly to the POD designated beneficiary without going through the probate estate. A POD beneficiary might be, for example, a family member, friend, or a religious or other charitable organization. Obviously we think that First Presbyterian Church would be a particularly inspired choice. There are several appealing aspects of such accounts. The account owner remains the complete owner of all funds in the account during lifetime and can reduce it, increase it, or terminate or otherwise change it at will, so no control is given up over the account or the money or securities in it. Although one should certainly check with the specific bank or other institution in which the account is created about its policies, generally no additional fees would be incurred by reason of the creation or termination of such an account. If the funds in the account need to be used for the owner's needs, they can be so used without restriction and the Church or other designated POD beneficiary will only receive at the owner's death whatever remains in the account at death. This is a very simple, effective and inexpensive way to join that group of saints who have acted on their faith to make a final and lasting gift to enable First Presbyterian to be a stronger and better servant of God's mission in this world. Thank you for your consideration of this information. As previously noted, the Committee of course cannot offer you tax or other legal advice, just information for you to look into further if you're interested.