



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.hem



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

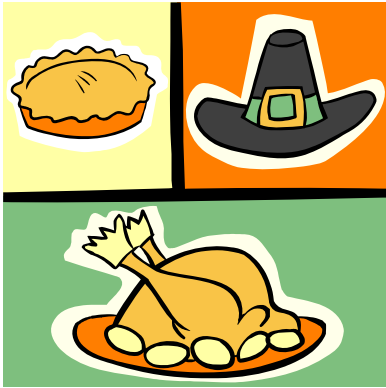
First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Randall Stevens, Pastor rcstevensfpc@juno.com
Rusty Reaser, Parish Associate
Robert Chapman, Director of Adult Music adultmusic@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Betsy Haskins, Director of Children/Youth Music haskinsbetsy@yahoo.com
Cynthia Dobrinski, Organist
Debbie C. Youngman, Librarian
Sarah P. Altizer, Church Secretary office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Nancy Erikson, Bookkeeper
Church Web Site <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>

Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Phone: 276-632-3431 *Fax:* 276-632- 3802

office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org



First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112
Address Service Requested

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



Our Mission is to:

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

November, 2009

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

I was doing some research for my 10/27/09 sermon, and I came upon this quote from a sermon that I had preached on Sunday, October 27, 1985 on the same Scripture lesson from Mark 10:46-52. While I do not like to re-preach old sermons, this quote bears retelling.

In his book, *The Church*, Wallace M. Alston states that we caricature Martin Luther's position on the priesthood of all believers by interpreting it only in its vertical dimension, i.e., each individual serving as his or her own priest; each person having direct access to God and needing no ordained intermediary. But this is only one part of the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. It does not only mean that each person is his or her own priest; it also means that each person is his or her neighbor's priest. We are God's representatives to each other, and we are each other's representatives before God. It means that we should try to become increasingly responsive to one another, tending each other in God's name and offering to each other practical and constructive help for Christ's sake. In conclusion, it might be noted that the one word that best describes the priesthood of all believers is the word *service*.

I like the idea that the priesthood of all believers has both a vertical dimension and a horizontal dimension. Each one of us has direct access to God and do not need to go through a human mediator. At the same time, all of us are connected to one another as we respond to, care for, and serve each other.

What is occupying a lot of my thoughts and energies lately is the upcoming Presbytery of the Peaks meeting here at our church next Thursday, October 29. In fact, by the time most of you are reading this article, the meeting will be over. It is both an honored privilege and a tremendous responsibility for us to host the presbytery. We will have close to 225 ministers and elders on hand to worship and do the necessary business at hand in this part of God's kingdom on earth. Obviously, there is a great amount of work that goes in to taking care of that many people. At times, I find myself getting anxious about all that needs to be done before next week. However, in my better moments, I remember that we are indeed a priesthood of all believers and that it's not entirely my sole responsibility.

I am grateful to the many, many priests who will be on hand to help with the food preparation and serving, registration and greeting, directing traffic on the parking lot, singing during the worship service, communion preparation, electronic and technical support as well as the church clean-up on this Saturday before the presbytery meeting. We will host presbytery and the day will go well because so many of you have answered the call to pitch in and help out and be priests to both me and our sisters and brothers throughout the Presbytery of the Peaks.

I am grateful to God for the priesthood of all believers. And, I am particularly grateful for all of you as we strive to live out our calling together and take care of each other and our neighbors!

In Christ's love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in November to....

- 3 Elizabeth Ferrell, Bill Hensley,
Mildred Moorman
5 Neil Tatum
8 Donna Lawhon
10 Kathy Washburn
11 Leon Gunter, Elizabeth Wotring
13 David McConnell
15 Hank Moore
16 Sharon Rakes
18 Ruth Easley, Donna King
19 Susan Bowles
21 Jim Baker, Henry Moore
22 Cliff Campbell
23 Sue Benfield
24 Judy Ware
25 Jean Hill, Ed Pace
27 Margaret Clanton, Margaret Knight, Joe
DeVault, Analisa O'Toole, Leanna Blevins
28 Katie Krauss
30 Steve Mahoney

And in December to.....

- 1 Anne Vipperman
2 Margaret Hotchkiss, Erik Stegall
3 Dru Rothrock
4 Ashby Pritchett
5 Mary Mac Knighton
6 Ken Wilson, Keith Sanders, Roslyn Ram-
sey, Katherine Lester
8 Lyn Davis
9 Joan Montgomery, Chris Wingfield, Jack
Adkins

Congratulations and best wishes to Sarah Elizabeth Talbot and Samuel Turner Kirby on the occasion of their marriage, October 10, 2009, in Lovingson, Virginia.

Congratulations to Matt and Katie Fulcher on the birth of their son, Grant Matthew Fulcher, October 9, 2009, in Columbia, South Carolina. Bill and Mary Manning are the proud grandparents and Mary Page is the proud great-grandmother!

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Bill and Cathy Stone and family on the death of Cathy's father, Charles Thomson Roy, on October 3, 2009, in Greenville, South Carolina.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Gary and Pat Hokanson on the death of Pat's mother, Kathleen Grant Lawson, on October 3, 2009, in Martinsville.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Joe and Jerri DeVault, Andy and Elizabeth DeVault on the death of their daughter and sister, Melissa DeVault McGrath, on October 7, 2009.

Roll Call of the Saints is November 1: During the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we will have our sixth Annual Roll Call of the Saints, where we will recognize our church members who have died over the last year including the following: Walker Edwin Shank, Jack Minor Richeson, Norma Lea Mason Cumberledge, Peggy Gillespie Ford, Joe Campbell, Henry Cook Reed, Catherine Bergendahl Jones, Melissa DeVault McGrath.

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" Chancel Choir

Langley Winds In Concert

For over 10 years the Langley Winds have been inspiring audiences and enhancing Air Force esprit-de-corps with superb artistry in a broad range of musical performances. Under the leadership of hornist MSgt Ellen Polacheck, the ensemble performs classical recitals, college master classes, school assemblies and official military functions.. Members have performed with the Waco Symphony, Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony, and Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra. They are a class group.

They will be in concert in our Sanctuary on Friday Evening, November 13, at 7:00 o'clock. This fine ensemble of United Air Force personnel consists of Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, and French Horn. Anne Epperly, daughter of Judy Mattox and the late John Epperly plays Flute. These players are a part of the Heritage of Amer-

ica Band in Hampton, Virginia.

This ensemble was in concert a couple of years ago in our church and were well received by the audience. We will have the pleasure of providing dinner for them following the concert. They are in concert at other places in our general area. On Thursday, November 12 they are at Kirk Avenue Music Hall in Roanoke. On Saturday, November 14 they are in concert in Rocky Mount, time TBD. On Sunday, November 15 they are in Palmyra, at the Carysbrook Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. On Monday evening, November 16, they are in Crozet, time TBD. On Tuesday, November 17 they are at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro at 7:30 p.m. Their final program of this tour will be in Anthony-Seeger Auditorium of James Madison University, Harrisonburg, at 8:00 p.m.

If you have friends in Martinsville, please invite them to accompany you to this concert on Friday evening, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. If you have friends in any of the places listed above, call them and invite them to hear the Langley Winds in their area.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir is busy preparing music for the fall season and for the Lessons and Carols Service on December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Several singers are joining with us for this program.

Several of our members are joining with singers from Forest Hills and First Presbyterian of Collinsville for the Presbytery meeting on October 29. Cynthia Dobrinski is the organist and accompanist for that service. We still invite interested singers to join the Chancel Choir this fall.

The Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers rang in worship, for the first time this season, on October 18. Since one of our ringers was out that Sunday, Kimberly Seamon substituted for her. We still have a couple of positions open for interested musicians and ringers. It will be a positively different choir with you in the

choir. Check with Mr. Chapman soon!



If you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary during the year 2010, please call Nancy Betz (276-632-5439) or Patsy Stanley at (276-647-7611).

Announcing!

**A Lessons and Carols Service
Sunday Evening, December 20, 2009
7:00 in the Sanctuary
Presented by the Chancel Choir**

Contemporary Service News

Contemporary Band has some great new songs to present by Robin Mark. Robin is one of the foremost Contemporary Christian musicians from Belfast and his songs are amazing. Before long you will be hearing and singing *Revival* which is a stirring, heart filling song and *The Wonder of the Cross* which is a marvel.

Please join us on Sundays at 8:35 for Gathering Music or at 9:45 for Praise music. Bring friends and family. JoAnne Sanders is leading the youngest attendees in a new program called *Bible Buddies* which is going wonderfully well

As we all celebrate *New Consecration Sunday* on November 8th, there will be no Contemporary Service that day. We will all join as one at 11:00 am.



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Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer; Mailing Staff: volunteers

Magnetic Church is On the Way!!!!!!!!!!

All of us are concerned about the drop in attendance at worship and the lack of new members joining our church.

To try to help us understand the reasons and **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT**, Andrew Weeks

will be with us in February to present fresh tried- and-true methods to help us grow our membership and keep new members. We will meet as a church with other friends of the church on Friday, February 12th, from 6-10 and Saturday, February 13th, from 9 – 4 pm.

If you are interested in seeing our church grow, it is imperative that you put this on your calendar as a must do. Randy, Betty and Gene Stanley, Janet Fentress, Victoria Easery and Betsy Haskins attended this workshop last May and were bowled over at the possibilities. We must be pro-active about our church, and here is a great opportunity. More about the details later, but until then **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Children/Youth Music

Betsy Haskins



WAM children are busily preparing our Christmas Pageant, *Angels Aware!!*

This will be presented on Sunday evening, December 6th at 7 pm. It is the timely story about why

God chose His own particular time to send Jesus to us. The children are very excited and we are inviting the children from the Kindermusik programs to join us in our Angel throng. Please plan to be with us for a wonderful Advent experience.

Kindermusik children are busy with wonderful music experiences. The Kinder I group is learning about the Percussion family.....by playing them. It is quite a din! Kinder II musicians are attaining a great

proficiency with their dulcimers and are reviewing our note reading!!

Cantabile ringers did a fine job ringing their first time of the year in October. You will be hearing them again monthly.. such a great group.

A Big Thank You to Clyde Hill!! The tables that are in the Children's Music room have to be 50 years old and they looked it! Thanks to Smith Chaney and Clyde Hill, they are been refinished and are shining and gleaming anew!! They look wonderful. Smith transported them and Clyde restored them to a really wonderful condition. This church is filled with people who give so much of themselves lovingly and joyfully. I thank the Lord for their largesse.

Advent Workshop is Coming!!!!

Mark your calendars for November 15th at 5:00!! We have some new great plans for Advent workshops. They are as follow:

Cookie Swap for Adults Bring batches of your favorite cookies



Candle making for the creative artist in you. Make a beautiful candle as a gift for a friend. Homemade gifts are the best. Cost \$7

Christmas Pin Bonnie Price will lead a workshop on making a beautiful pin to give a friend made by a cool technique called needle felting. No experience needed at all!! Cost \$7 and leave with yummy favorites!! No charge

Gift boxes from Christmas cards. Make these beautiful boxes to give with small gifts or with a bit of candy as a favor. They are stunning keepsakes. Cost \$7

Cookie Decorating for children

Joanne will lead our children in decorating cookies to their hearts' content. Cost \$7
Christmas Box Decorate a beautiful star box with the manger scene. It is capped by a beautifully decorated star top. Anyone would love this as a gift. Cost \$7.



Gael Chaney will lead us in making simple and lovely **ornaments** to add to our church's tree from Christmas cards. No charge

We will all meet and enjoy **Shane**



Pinkston and Sons preparation of chili and other foods at 5! Then we will have fun and fellowship at the workshops.

Prototypes will be on view Sunday November 1st and sign ups will be taken November 1st and 8th. The meal is \$10 per family of four or \$3 dollars individually.

Questions: Contact Bonnie Price or Betsy Haskins

Christ the King Sunday: November 22 is *Christ the King Sunday* in the liturgical year. The following week, the new liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. Christ the King Sunday acknowledges that Christ is Lord of all creation. Even though early powers have some limited power in this world, everyone is ultimately subject to Christ's sovereign plan and rule. This Sunday, we celebrate that divine justice will overcome all obstacles and ultimately have its way.



Advent Breakfast: An Advent Breakfast will be on Sunday, December 6, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring the whole family! We will trim the Christmas tree that morning. Please bring any ornaments your family would like to add to the tree.

November duties

Communion (Traditional)

Milt Davis, Captain
Paul Cannaday
Joan Montgomery
Gavin Russell
Betty Stanley
Pearl Richardson
Jim Ford
Neil Tatum
Barbara Tatum

Gene and Betty Stanley (Contemporary)

Greeters (Traditional)

1 Jim Baker, Cindy Franck
8 Joan Montgomery, Bill Kirby
15 Catherine Bridges
22 Nancy Davis
29 Lang Mauck, Gavin Russell

Ushers

1 Monty and Joan Montgomery, Jim Baker, Bob Bledsoe, Steve Edgerton, Bill Hensley, Harold Lamm, Katharine Reid, Wendy Seamon

8 Ralph Shank, Jr., Manly Boyd, Joe and Jerri DeVault, Dick Pilson, Bobby Wilson, Chris Wingfield

15 Monty Montgomery, Steve Edgerton Family, Ed Pace Family, Mark Mason Family, Shane Pinkston Family, David Seamon Family.

22 Ed Pace, Evelyn Clark, Grace Anne Edgerton, Farrell Pace, Cole Rothrock, Brooke Sanders, Meredith Seamon, Sam Smith

29 Monty Montgomery, Ron Dailey, Richard Lawhon, Henry Moore, Mike Powell, Ashby Pritchett, Denise and Tom Unterbrink, A. C. Wilson.