



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*

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



STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

October, 2008

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

It's officially autumn, which makes it my favorite time of the year. I grew up in St. Louis, MO, which has four distinct seasons. Then, after college, I moved to Texas to go to seminary and serve my first two churches, and I discovered that the parts of Texas where I lived had basically three seasons of the year - cool, hot, and hotter! So, I'm glad to be here in Virginia and experience the four seasons of the year once again - and especially fall! I love the crisp, early morning hours, the leaves starting to change and fall, and the respite from much of the heat and humidity of the summer months.

There are many different reasons why I love autumn, and one of them has to do with a theological reflection. The first Sunday in October (this year, it's Sunday, October 5) is designated as World Communion Sunday. It has been noted that on this particular first Sunday of October more Christians within the one body of Christ will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper throughout the world, from one time zone to the next as the sun rises over the earth, than at any other time during the year. While there are many differences and divisions among Christians - between the many denominations and even within our own denomination (the Presbyterian Church USA) - at our best, we are united through Christ Jesus within his body, the Church. Throughout my ministry, I have maintained that when Christians profess Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Lord and Savior, which is the very core of the Christian faith, then, we have far more in common than all the lesser issues that tend to divide us into various camps and groupings. Whenever and wherever Christ is acknowledged as Lord, we are in communion with our sisters and brothers in Christ! Thanks be to God!

World Communion Sunday further reminds me of a rich experience in my first pastorate. In that small town, the Presbyterians and Methodists already participated in a joint Vacation Bible School. One day in late summer, I was talking with Richard, who was the pastor at the Methodist church. We were talking about World Communion Sunday, and, in the midst of our conversation, we decided we needed to act on our beliefs. We both approached our respective church boards with the prospect of having a joint World Communion Sunday worship service, and both boards wholeheartedly agreed to the idea, which became a reality that was celebrated every year. The first year (1980), Richard preached in our church and communion was observed in the Presbyterian fashion by serving people in the pews; the next year, the Methodists hosted the event, I preached, and all of our people came up front to the rail to receive Holy Communion; and so on.

On one occasion, Richard and I were officiating at the Table. Richard recalled how Jesus, after taking the bread, blessed and broke it and said, "Take and eat ye all of it." Then Richard said, "Did you hear that? Jesus said to eat all of it! In other words, don't just take a nibble of the Christian faith. Don't just dip your toe into the waters of baptism. Jesus said, 'ALL of it!' Eat all of it and be sure to live all of the Christian faith in its totality." By my count, that was twenty-eight years ago, but I remember it as if it were yesterday. Richard's words still come to me across the decades, and I share them with you because they are still worth remembering and, even more importantly, those words are still worth living today, tomorrow, and always.

Let us strive to do our best to live ALL of the Christian life to the glory of God!

In Christ's love,
Randy

Word from the Associate Pastor:

This fall, the Tuesday morning Bible study class is studying the book of Acts, which is one of my favorite books of the Bible. In the church, we tend to spend a lot of time on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which is appropriate since these four books are the narrative center of our faith. The book of Acts is also invaluable because it shows us how the early church lived together. And they did some exciting, amazing things through the power of the Holy Spirit that was given to them at Pentecost! Those believers put all their differences aside to live in community together, selling each other's possessions and using their money whenever anyone had needs. Apostles like Peter and John healed the sick and the lame in Jesus' name. These early Christians were so committed to their faith, that they were willing to take a stand and face persecution and even death, as Stephen did. And this early church was open to listening for God's will and reaching new understandings of what God was calling them to do, as they realized that Christ came for not just the Jews, but for the entire world (Jews and Gentiles alike).

Reading those stories grounds us, as Christians, and reminds us to keep our focus on the mission and purpose of the church. I have a vision for the church universal and for our church in particular: that we, like the early church, would live as disciples who have a vibrant, meaningful, growing relationship with the Lord. As we read Acts, we can receive inspiration from the many role models of the faith.

One of the most important verses in the entire book of Acts is 2:42, which says, "They (the members of the early church) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." That verse lists four basic, essential, and timeless practices of the church: teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. For a well-balanced spiritual life, we need all four components.

I asked the Bible study class, what would it look like for a church to live out these four practices. A member of the class wisely observed that we did all four practices at Bible Study each and every week! We study the Scriptures together, seeking to understand what happened two thousand years ago and how it applies to our lives today (teaching). We visit with each other and are genuinely interested in what is going on in each other's lives (fellowship). We go over the list of joys and concerns within our church, community, and world and pray together (prayer). After the Bible study is finished, several members of the class will often go out to lunch together (breaking bread). I think it is always healthy for us to ask ourselves, as individuals or as the body of Christ, why it is we do what we do. It is important to take stock of our lives and to understand how what we do is connected with God's plan and purpose. If we are constantly reevaluating our lives, looking for ways God is active, our faith never becomes stale. If we focus on asking the big questions, we will not get distracted by the smaller, petty issues. This month, during our session retreat, our elders will be meeting together to discuss the vision for our church. Please be in prayer for our session and our church as we seek God's will together. I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit, which did amazing things at Pentecost, is alive today and present in our midst.

Thanks be to God!

Peace in Christ,

Jody Moore

Donations to the Memorial Fund:

- Casio Synthesizer from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomson Roy, Jr.
- Lift tables and banners for early worship service: Anonymous
- Donation in honor of Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Irby from Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. McLachlan.
- Donation in memory of Betty Estes Traumann by Mrs. Mary Crenshaw.



Happy Birthday in August to

- 1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston, Lucille Keys
- 2 Myra Stegall
- 4 Will Mahoney, Esther Elsenheimer
- 5 Nancy Baker, Mike Powell, Anne Abercrombie, John Abercrombie, Connor Dunningan
- 6 Hayden Renz, Jane Ford
- 7 Ralph Shank
- 8 Brian Mason
- 9 Debbie Brown, Cole Tatum
- 10 Mike Haley, Grey Ferguson
- 11 Fran Hensley, Richard Lawhon
- 14 Dwayne Williams, Walt Seamon, Bennette Zentmeyer
- 15 Sarah Krauss, Joe Smith
- 16 Liz Knighton
- 18 Betty Hendricks
- 19 Mitzi Dailey
- 21 Mary Page
- 23 Helen Hawkes, June Irby, Nancy Brown
- 24 Virginia Zentmeyer
- 26 Jana Jennings, Melissa Jessup, Ralph Shank, Jr.
- 27 Katherine Eanes, Stacey Eanes, Matthew Johnson
- 28 Gwen Sowdon
- 29 Walt Anderson, Mary Ann McConnell
- 31 Rusty Lacy, Lindsey Unterbrink, Chelsea Pruitt

and in November to

- 3 Elizabeth Ferrell, Bill Hensley, Mildred Moorman
- 5 Neil Tatum
- 8 Donna Lawhon
- 10 Kathy Washburn

Congratulations to Carol Steele and Dwight Christenbury III on the birth of their son, Dwight Olin Christenbury IV. Olin made his debut on September 18, 2008, in Asheville, North Carolina. The proud grandparents are Dwight and Pat Christenbury Jr.

The Tempo

“Our Musical Pulse”

Usually in September the staff has an opportunity to speak to the congregation and review the previous year’s work. Since September 21 has come and gone and since I usually reprint my comments in this column, here is my 07-08 Adult Music Report.

Last October I returned to work in time to begin preparation for the Fall Music Schedule as well as the Christmas Music Program. The Chancel Choir presented a beautiful, traditional service of Lessons and Carols. During Lent the Chancel Choir combined with the Youth and Children to present a service which centered on Jesus’ Passion Week. Many expressed the hope that this would not be the last time for this combination.

The good news about the membership of the Chancel Choir is we gained some new members. The flip side of that coin is that some members decided not to serve with us any longer. We miss them. Several persons have sung the programs with us and I certainly commend them for this. Of course we want to invite interested singers to join our choir family either full time or for program times.

Our Sanctuary Ringers had a good season this past year. We had a regular substitute who made a big difference from week to week. We rang each month from October thru May in worship and wound up the year with a family cook-out at the Chaney’s lake house. We do have one open position for a Handbell Ringer who has an hour on Wednesday evening and wants a place to serve God through our ministry.

This year both the Singers and Ringers presented a program for our “Coming Home” Fellowship in August. With the Spirituals, Broadway Music, and some old fashion group singing, a good time was had by all.

I want to commend those who blend their talents in our ministry in music in this

church. It would be hard to imagine a service without music. We perform for God and trust He is pleased with our offerings.

Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir is busy preparing repertoire for this season of the year. The Advent and Christmas Lessons in Scripture, Reading, and Music is planned and most of the music is in and will be in the folders before October

1. There are several singers who will be joining us for this program. If you want to join us for the program or as a full-time singer, we invite you to come on in.

Our Christmas Music Service will be on Sunday evening, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. Our special guest musicians will be the Roanoke Chamber Brass, a quintet in which our own Erik Stegall plays. Make your plans to come to the service and to bring friends with you.

Sanctuary Ringers

We have eleven ringers this year and one open position. We hope to fill this vacant position so we can do justice to the music we are ringing. If you are interested in being a regular ringer or a substitute, I would like to talk to you.

You will be hearing this fine choir in worship on October 12, November 16, and December 14 at the 11:00 worship service. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m.

Youth Jam October Schedule: Here's What is ahead this month for our fourth, fifth, and sixth grade youth, which meet together on Monday afternoons.

October 6th: 4:30-6:00 p.m. Treasure Hunt/Scavenger Hunt at the Franck Family Farm.

October 13th: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Field Trip! Pick Up Pumpkins from the Grace Network Pumpkin Patch

October 20th: 4:30-6:00 p.m. King's Grant Service Project

October 27th: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Halloween Party: Carving and Smashing Pumpkins with Halloween Food and Snacks.

The elders, who are currently serving on the Session, the elders-elect, who will come on board in January 2009, and the pastors will have their annual Officers' Retreat on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25. The retreat will start with supper at 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by a program until 9:30 p.m. The next morning a continental breakfast will take place from 8:30-9:00 a.m. There will be a working session until noon, followed by lunch, and then a final session, which will wrap up no later than 2:00 p.m.

Our retreat leader will be the Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, who is the General Presbyter of our Presbytery of the Peaks. Nancy will lead us through a process which will help us to articulate our mission as a congregation and we will choose the 3-5 value words that we deem to be most important in our shared life. We will also look at the three priorities we set for ourselves as a Session for 2007 as well as the three priorities we set for 2008 and evaluate our progress with those priorities. The retreat is shaping up to be a very important event in the life of our congregation, both now and in the years to come.

(Editor's note: Nancy Dawson will marry Richard Menconeri on Saturday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m., at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, in Lynchburg. Please keep Nancy and Richard in your prayers as we share together in their joy!)

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



It's Picnic Time, Sunday, October 5!

Each fall, the congregation is invited to the annual picnic sponsored by the Fellowship Committee of the church. This year it will be, once again, at the Jack Dalton Park located behind the Henry County Court House, just off of King's Mountain Road. We have reserved the park from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. with the picnic beginning at about 5:00. The drinks, plates, ice, etc. will be supplied, so all you have to bring is a covered dish.

If you would like to come early, please do. Bring your Frisbee, softball equipment or other games you enjoy playing. If you have guests visiting your home or if you know of a potential member (or members), please bring them. The more the merrier, and we know it will certainly be merrier with a large turnout.

Don't forget! Sunday, October 5, rain or shine...but you know us Presbyterians...it will be "shine"!



Weekday School News

Weekday School is back in full swing! Most of the tears have subsided and the teachers and children are busy getting to know one another and starting to have fun! We almost have a full house, there is just one opening in our Mother's Morning Out class on Monday/Wednesday. If you know of anyone who has a child 12 months to 2 years of age who may be interested in Weekday School, please let me know.

There has been a change in our Wendy's Night Out. This year it will be on every third Tuesday evening from 5pm to 8pm at the Wendy's in Ridgeway. Please join us each third Tuesday night for fun, fellowship and dinner!

The 4 year old class will take their first trip to King's Grant on Monday, October 27th. Preparations are already underway for our Fall Open House to be held on Thursday, October 31st @ 6:30.

I would like to make a request of church members with sewing skills. We desperately need to replace our dress-up play clothes. If you are "sew" inclined, I would like to have some new clothes made for this purpose.

Also, if you have children who have outgrown their dress-up clothes or dance costumes and the like, we would love to have them. Baby dolls, new or gently used, would also be appreciated.

As always, if you have a special talent or any ideas for fun activities for The Weekday School I would love to hear them. The teachers and I look forward to a fun and productive year!

Melissa White
Director

Spaghetti Sauce Needed!



Grace Network has experienced a significant increase in the number of clients requesting food in the last two months.

First Presbyterian Martinsville is the only church in the community supplying canned spaghetti sauce (12-

15 oz.). Let's make it our goal to bring in at least **100 cans** during the month of **October**.

Please place cans in the boxes located in the narthex, and in the hallway near the rear sanctuary door.

Can't make it to the store? A donation sent to the church will allow someone to do your shopping for you. Let redouble our efforts to help community families in crisis.



Children and Youth Music

Music is in full swing with lots of new friends and the joy of returning ones. We have an ambitious schedule that will provide wonderful music for worship and special programs.

Music Together is overflowing with boys!! We have 11 little boys and one little girl, Sienna King, Rob and Shanna King's little girl, who is brought by grandma Judy. We are enjoying the Bongos collection for our first quarter. It is wonderful to have Beth Lawson's twins, Gage and Reid, who frequently have Grandma Betty Stanley and Grandpa Gene in tow. Cole Tatum, Kym and Neil's little boy is a delight as is my little charge, Landon. The rest of the crew are friends of the church and add so much to our joy and fellowship.

Kindermusik I is a happy place to be. A sturdy crew of 4-year olds troop up the stairs on Tuesdays with book bags, lunch boxes, Kindermusik bags and coats! We have had a wonderful start to our year.

Orff is buzzing on Monday. Our bell ringers are ready amazingly early, thanks to the leadership of Wendy, Kimberly and Meredith Seamon. You will hear them on October 5. Our new third grade bell ringers, Lanie Walsh and Caroline O'Toole are ready to jump into their new pieces as well when they join the older group. Our Christmas play is "Operation Christmas Child". Written to promote the "shoebox ministry" of the Christian relief organization, "Samaritan's Purse", Operation Christmas Child is an interactive musical experience to involve our boys and girls in this worldwide child outreach. Veteran children's writer, Kathie Hill, has created a humorous yet touching scenario to emphasize the gift of Jesus; birth and the motive for sharing our blessings with others. Incorporated into the story line and included in the Director's Aid and Video is a message from Samaritan's Purse president, Franklin Graham, along with footage of children across the globe receiving their Christmas shoeboxes. These images, combined with songs like "Christmas Started With a Present," "First John 3:16 and "Simple Things" will highlight the needs of others while the characters in Operation Christmas Child will touch your congregation's funny bone and challenge everyone to participate in this worthwhile ministry. Amazingly, I did not know that this is a major impetus for our youth. It will be exciting to work on this as a church family for the greater good of the world at large.

Our teenage bell ringers are already..ready. By the time you read this, they will have rung for the first time. Sam Smith, Carrie Buffkin, Kimberly and Meredith Seamon and Matthew Price are a really a great crew to work with.

There is never a better time to join any of the groups listed above.

Just let me know.

Have a wonderful, joyful, thankful October.

In joy,

Betsy

Reformation Sunday is October 26, where we will celebrate our heritage as Protestants, which dates back to the Reformation of the sixteenth century. On Reformation Sunday, we recognize the contributions of the Protestant men and women that have come before us and faithfully followed God's call. That Sunday will also have a Mission Emphasis, as we will (include in bulletin on 10/19 & 10/26).

The JOY Fellowship will have another one of its Mystery Outings on Tuesday, October 28 for lunch. JOY Fellowship, which stands for Just Older Youth, includes older adults from our congregation. We will be leaving after the Tuesday morning Bible Study Class at 11:45. We hope that you will be able to join us for the Bible Study class, which begins at 10:30 and the class will be studying Acts 7 that day. We will be going to lunch together to an unknown, mystery location. Transportation will be provided in the church bus. Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, October 26, if you can attend. (Also include in church bulletin on 10/12, 10/19, & 10/26).

Laity Sunday will be October 12. Gene Stanley will be the preacher at the 8:45 contemporary service and Clark Eden will speak at the 11:00 traditional service. Members of the congregation will lead all portions of the worship service that Sunday, including the call to worship, prayers, and statement of faith. (Include in the bulletin on 9/28 & 10/5).

Roll Call of the Saints is November 2, 2008: During the 11:00 a.m. worship service on November 2nd, we will have our Fifth Annual Roll Call of the Saints, where we will recognize our church members that have died over the past year. We are observing on the first Sunday of November because the Church celebrates All Saints Day on Saturday November 1st. All Saints Day commemorates those whom God has chosen, have died in the faith, and have joined the church triumphant. (Include in the bulletin on 10/19 & 10/26.)