



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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Grace Network's Pumpkin Patch is coming...October 4, 2009! They need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the Pumpkin Patch, please contact Jennifer Jamison at 638-8500. The location is at First Baptist Church in the lot facing Mulberry Road. Be sure to go to the Patch to buy your pumpkin, too!!

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1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112
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Our Mission is to:

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

October, 2009

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

Change is in the air! When my dog, Toby, and I step outside the door at six o'clock in the morning, we can sense the change of one season giving way to the next. There are subtle changes in the coloring of some of the leaves from green to yellow and brown, and some of the leaves are already beginning to fall.

Change is in the air here at the church as well. The hallways are once again filled with the sound of children talking and laughing as the Weekday School and ELI (Early Learning Intervention) programs are in full swing. I delight in hearing the wonderful sound of the children's voices. All of the choirs – both vocal and handbell – are gearing up and we look forward to enjoying the “fruits of their labors.”

This past Sunday we had our annual congregational meeting, which always brings the element of change with it. We elected six new elders to serve on the Session's Class of 2012 and they are: Laura Buffkin, Duke Ferrell, Harold Lamm, Heidi Pinkston, Forrest Truitt, and Judy Ware. We elected two new persons to serve as Trustees in the Class of 2012 and they are: Milt Davis and Dru Rothrock. And, we elected an Associate Pastor (or Director of Christian Education) Nominating Committee made up of Kim Boyd, Victoria Esarey, Duke Ferrell, Billy Kirby, Johnny Pinkard, Matthew Price, Gavin Russell, Wendy Seamon, and Denise Unterbrink. Yes, change is in the air.

The month of October is looming on the horizon and there are more changes to come. Nancy Dawson, the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Peaks, will lead our Officers' Retreat on **October 9-10** and the theme will be *Discover your spiritual gifts and learn how to use them*. We will be starting the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Class on **Tuesday, October 13**, with a look at the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. We will have our fall clean-up here at the church on **Saturday, October 24**, and then our Mission Fair luncheon will follow the 11:00 a.m. worship service the very next day, **October 25**. Last, but certainly not least, we will be hosting the Presbytery of the Peaks' quarterly meeting on **Thursday, October 29**, here at our church; our sister churches – Grace Presbyterian, Forest Hills Presbyterian, and First Presbyterian/Collinsville – will be on hand to help us host.

Of course, one of the changes I am grateful for the most takes place in worship when we honestly repent of our sins against God, one another, and even our truest and best selves. Then, whether it's said explicitly or implied, we hear the Good News: “So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-18).

One last thought: our task as Christians is to change (be transformed!) and grow more and more into the likeness of Christ. I commend the fourth stanza of *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* as an excellent prayer: “Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee; Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise. May it be so. Amen.

In Christ's love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in October

- 1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston,
Lucille Keys
- 2 Myra Stegall
- 4 Will Mahoney, Esther Elsenheimer
- 5 Nancy Baker, Mike Powell, John
Abercrombie, Connor Dunnigan
- 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
- 22 Claudia Phillips
- 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,
Sally Stanley
- 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 Adam and Jane Ronan on the birth of their daughter, Amelia Jane Ronan, September 2009, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Will and Cindy Franck are the proud grandparents, Ann Franck is the proud aunt, and Bill and Carolyn Franck are the proud great grandparents!

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Leon and Margee Gunter and family on the death of Leon's brother, Edward Rogers Gunter, September 19, 2009, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Tempo **"Our Musical Pulse"** **Chancel Choir**

ADULT MUSIC REPORT-9/20/09 (This report was made to the congregation in the business meeting on September 20, 2009, and is repeated here for those who were not present.)

Once each year I have the opportunity to speak during this hour. Most of the time you see me using my arms to conduct our choir family in their God-given ministry to serve and witness to the faith they know in Christ. Many of them, as I have discovered, have done this through long years of service with many different directors. They, along with you, have experienced worship through the music both sung and played. They have known the fellowship of their brothers and sisters in Christ through full choir loft times and through partially filled choir loft times. They have known how it is to work for hours on a 3 minute anthem or a 90 minute service. They have experienced losing a choir companion to the heavenly choir, to declining health, or to a church across the ocean. This is life for us. But in all of this, there is a deep, abiding joy and, hopefully, an occasional "well done, you good and faithful singer or ringer."

Sometimes I feel like Gideon of the Old Testament who was called by God to collect an army and war against the Midianites and the Amalekites. He started with over twenty-two thousand men and by the time God was through cutting the army, Gideon had only 300 remaining. This past year we have lost members from both the Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Ringers. Praise the Lord, we have also gained some. A number of our Chancel Choir members are stretched thin because they have music responsibility in both the early as well as in the late service.

There may be other musically talented persons in our church family who could join with us in our ministry of music. If God calls you he will qualify you. God will use us to help you develop your talent in His service.

I apologize that you don't have a mute button to cancel out the commercials. There is music this Fall you should hear. It will be pleasing and inspiring.

On Friday evening, November 13, at 7 p.m. a Woodwind Quintet, the Langley Winds from Langley Air Force Base in the Virginia tidewater area, will present a concert in our sanctuary. They were here a couple of years ago and were well received by our church. The concert will be free and open to all. On Sunday evening, December 20, at 7 p.m. your Chancel Choir will present a service of Lessons and Carols. This service should help put all of us on track to appreciate the joy and meaning of the season. It, too, is free and open to all so invite your friends and neighbors to accompany you.

To you who are musically talented, open your hearts and minds to God's leadership. Do what He calls you to do. Speak to persons who may not be in this room this morning who might be open to God's call. Thank you for this opportunity. God bless you! RLC

The Langley Winds

This United States Air Force Woodwind quintet from Langley AFB in tidewater Virginia, the Langley Winds, will present a concert in our church on Friday, November 13, in the Sanctuary. The concert is free and open to all. They were here in concert two years ago and were appreciated and enjoyed by the audience who assembled. Please invite your friends to come with you to hear this concert. They are an excellent ensemble of very talented players.

Presbytery Meeting to be Held at First Presbyterian

The *Presbytery of the Peaks* will have their fall quarterly meeting here at our church on **Thursday, Oct. 29**. We will have just over two hundred commissioners (ministers and elders) in attendance. Obviously, it will take a lot of work to welcome and support this many visitors in our midst. Our sister churches in the area – Grace Presbyterian, Forest Hills Presbyterian, and First Presbyterian/Collinsville – will serve as co-hosts with us. We are in need of volunteers to help with a multitude of details such as parking lot attendants, registration, meal tickets, hosts and hostesses to direct the flow of traffic inside our facilities; if you are able to help in these areas please contact David King or Randy Stevens. There is also a big need for food preparation and serving 200+ people in our fellowship hall; if you are able to help, please let JoAnne Sanders know. Thanks for all of your help in making this an enjoyable and successful meeting for all.

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will resume meeting on October 13 with a study of the *Letter of Paul to the Romans*. Paul wrote the letter to the church at Rome to instruct them (and us) about how God saves us by Grace through faith and empowers us for Christian living through the Holy Spirit. Rusty and Randy will share the teaching of this crucially important book of the Bible. Please join us beginning on **Tuesday, October 13th at 10:30 a.m.**

Fall Church Cleanup Day Set Saturday morning, October 24



October 24th has been scheduled as a **CHURCH WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The church needs sprucing up for the Presbytery of the Peaks Meeting on the 29th as well as for the Advent Season.

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated ***World Communion Sunday***. On this Sunday, October 4, more Christians from north and south and east and west around the world will gather at the Lord's table to break bread with the risen Lord and with each other than at any other time in the church's liturgical year.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 12 - 16, 2010
First Presbyterian Church

It's Picnic Time, Sunday, October 4!

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 4, rain or shine...but you know us Presbyterians...it will be SHINE for sure!

Contemporary Service News October 2009

We are so happy to welcome Mattie Wingfield as a soprano in our Worship Band. Mattie is a very talented 6th grader and will add a great deal to our mix! Of course, we already have William Seamon, a seventh grader on drums. He is coming along very well. These youth are exactly what this service should be about.

Randy has meant so much to our group in many ways, and we enthusiastically welcome him back.

As always, we welcome all worshipers to come and join us at 8:35 am for gathering music, praise music, the word and prayers. See you early on Sunday!

In Joy,
Betsy

Weekday School News

We're back! After a great summer The Week-day School is back in session. We have had a great start. The children are busy settling into their new routine and the teachers have been busy implementing their lesson plans. This year we welcome two new staff members. Mary Lewis Johnston is teaching one of our four-year old classes and Donna Mason is taking care of the youngest of our students in Mother's Morning Out. We are very fortunate to have these two new enthusiastic teachers!

There is still an opening in our Mother's Morning Out class. If you know of anyone with a child 12 months to 2 years old, in need of a couple of free mornings a week, we would appreciate your steering them our way.

In the next month the 4's will be taking a field trip to Piedmont Arts as well as starting the first of



their visits to King's Grant. The Martinsville Fire Department will be making a visit to our school to talk about fire safety and the 3's and 4's will start chapel visits with Randy in the month of October. If there is anyone in the congregation who would like to take the time to conduct a children's chapel lesson for us we would welcome your involvement.

Wendy's Night Out this year will be the **first** Tuesday of each month at the **Collinsville Wendy's**. So come on out and join us on October 6th from 5 to 8 and help our Weekday School with this fundraiser!

The teachers and I are looking forward to a great year with an awesome bunch of children!

Melissa

Join us for Bible Buddies!

Children, ages 3 years old through 1st grade, are invited to participate in *Bible Buddies*, during the contemporary worship service. Every Sunday, following the Praise music and the greet time, the young children will be led to the ELI classroom (across from the Senior High Fellowship room) for Bible stories and fun activities. Parents may pick up their children following the worship service.

MISSION FAIR LUNCHEON

The First Presbyterian congregation is invited to the annual **Mission Fair Luncheon** in the fellowship hall following the 11:00 worship service on **October 25**. Representatives from five local agencies supported financially by our church will be present to explain their function in the community and how our contributions help with their service.

The agencies which will be represented this year are *Citizens Against Family Violence, Habitat for Humanity, Free Medical Clinic, Stepping Stones*, and the *Community Storehouse*.

Please plan to attend in order to welcome the agency representatives and to learn more about First Presbyterian's outreach into the community.

Henry County Heritage Book

Bassett Historical Center is sponsoring the publication of a Henry County Heritage Book. All residents, former residents, and those with roots anywhere in Henry County are invited to submit a family history of 500 words and one photograph to be printed free in the book. The book itself will be \$55 and must be ordered and paid for in advance of the November 5 deadline. This is also the deadline for any submissions to go in the book. Tom Perry, of Jeb Stuart fame, is chairing the Heritage committee and also conducting the workshops. You can find out many details about the book on his website: freestateof-patrick.com/hchb. Tom is doing the majority of the editing for the book and prefers stories e-mailed to him but they may also be turned in at the Bassett Historical Center. The center will also scan your photo and return it to you as you wait. Since **Janet Fentress** volunteers at the Center and goes there once a week, she will be glad to take any submissions with her when she goes. Consider writing something about your family for the book where it will be preserved in print forever.



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Children/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 musicians!! We have a wonderful crew of children, several infants, trotting toddlers and Moms, Dads and Grandmas complete the group. We are enjoying the Fiddle Collection with wonderful, joyful music. We welcome Elizabeth Wotring and Connor as new participants and other friends of the church which 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. This is an amazing group of young musicians!!

I am delighted that we also have a Kindermusik II group this year. We are learning to play our dulcimers and coming along nicely!!

WAM is buzzing on Monday. I have retired Orff/Kodaly, which no one could pronounce anyway and replaced it with a super program WAM which stands for WORD, ART and MUSIC. It is a curriculum formulated by Kathie Hill who has authored many of our plays. The combination of forms is going really well. We are looking for new "WAMERS"! If you know of anyone, please let me know so we can invite them to join our crew!

Our teen helpers are Meredith Seamon, Sam Smith and Emily Beard. They are amazing and the children absolutely adore them!

Our teen age bell ringers are getting organized. We are preparing to ring in October with Sam Smith, Kimberly, Wendy and Meredith Seamon and Matthew Price. There is always room for more.

Our Middle School bell choir is getting underway as well! We have 4 ringers at present and will be ringing in worship before long. I am very proud of these young musicians!

Have a wonderful, joyful, thankful October.

In joy,
Betsy