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



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STEEPLEVIEWS

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Our Mission is to:

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

November, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

The prolific author, Dr. John Killinger, who has written over fifty books, tells the following story on himself. "When I was twelve or thirteen, I began spending a lot of time wandering the fields and creeks where I grew up, thinking about God and trying to love God with my small heart. I was often frustrated because there was so little I seemed to be able to do for God. I had almost no money. I didn't have a very good education. I had no influence of any kind. I wasn't even an athlete, so that I could bear witness in that way. I was just a poor boy who loved God.

Years later, when I was a pastor and had a lot of influence in the community and had written a number of books, I was praying about my life and what I should do with it. I tried to empty my mind and then to set it out like a bowl to receive the impressions God's Spirit wanted me to have. And you know what I heard God say, 'I want my little boy back again. Not the man who had been a teacher. Not the man who was pastor of a big church. Not the man who had friends and influence across the country. Not the man who had written all those books.' God's little boy, who had walked the fields and loved him. That's who God really wants in each of us. Not the person of power and prestige. Not the person with a lot of money and influence. The child, with the child's heart for loving."

I am reminded over and over again that our Christian faith is so much more than a religion or a bunch of rituals that we follow throughout the liturgical year of the Church. The Christian faith is centered on a loving relationship with the Lord our God, who created us in the divine image, redeemed us through the Son, and dwells within us as the Holy Spirit. It's not a coincidence that, when asked, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus immediately answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'" Then Jesus quickly attached another piece to the first and greatest commandment when he said, "'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Mark 12:29-31). Jesus well understood both the vertical and the horizontal dimensions of our need to be in relationship with God and with others. God's love enables us to love and serve others.

It's good for us to return to the basics. John Killinger realized that what the Lord wanted more than anything else was God's "little boy back." God didn't want a list of all the books Killinger had written; God wasn't impressed with the big churches he had served; God wasn't overly awed by Killinger's influence and all of the important friends he had. Instead, the Lord God yearned for the child, who had loved God early on in life, to continue to be in a loving relationship with the Almighty.

God desires the very same love from us. Created in God's own image, God hopes that we will love God for who God is - just as God does with us. And, because God so loved the world and gave us His Son, God delights in us whenever we share God's love with our neighbors (especially those in need) and enjoy God's love for ourselves as well.

Let me encourage all of us to be open to and on the lookout for God's love, which is lavished upon us. In response, let us love the Lord with every fiber of our being and with all that we have. And, be sure to pass God's love on to others. After all, "there really is no other commandment greater than these!"

In Christ's love,
Randy

Word from the Associate Pastor: A Worshipping Community For ALL Ages

As a community of faith – the “church” – one of the most central acts that we do is worship together. When we gather to worship each Lord’s Day, we take time to direct our focus to God, and through the act of worship reorient our lives so that all we do may be to the glory of God. When a child is baptized and received into the family of faith, the whole congregation promises to guide and nurture the child by word and deed, with love and prayer, and to encourage them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his Church. One way that we live out that promise is by showing children *how* to worship. According to John Westerhoff, a scholar in the field of Christian Education, children’s presence in worship is not only important, but it is necessary if we are to be the whole people of God. He writes that faith is “caught” not “taught,” and that children therefore learn the central act of worship by *doing*. Children watch and practice faithful worship precisely by being with the adult role models around them. In worship they learn that they belong to Christ and are welcome in his church. In worship they participate in prayer and praise, and hear scripture read and proclaimed and they come to know the presence of God through all these acts. One of the delightful ministries of this congregation is the Children’s Worship program, which provides a time and place for young children (ages 3 through 1st grade) to “practice” worship and ask questions and learn from caring adults who lead them. As they “graduate” from this program and rejoin the larger worshipping community, they have learned the Lord’s Prayer and other pieces of our service, so they can feel comfortable and at home as par-

ticipating worshippers. I hope and pray that we all can receive the gifts of having these young worshippers in our midst. Their energy, joy and enthusiasm are contagious and they can indeed be signs of God’s presence in our midst. As our Lord Jesus welcomed the children to come to him, let us also embrace and celebrate our gift of children and give thanks to God for their presence!



Happy Birthday in November to....

- 3 Elizabeth Ferrell Harris, Bill Hensley, Mildred Moorman
- 5 Neal 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 Leanna Blevins, Margaret Clanton, Joe DeVault, Margaret Knight, Analisa O’Toole
- 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, Katherine Lester
- 8 Lyn Davis, Joan Montgomery, Chris Wingfield, Jack Adkins
- 10 Betsy Haskins, Marion Miller

A worship service giving Witness to the Resurrection in memory of Virginia (Ginny) Prentiss Newnam will be held at Victory Chapel at King's Grant on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. The family will receive visitors at 1:00 p.m. just prior to the service. Rusty Reaser and Randy Stevens will lead the people of God in giving thanks for Ginny's life here on earth and now within the heavenly kingdom.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Bill and Nancy Brown on the death of their daughter Sara Brown, September 27, 2010, in Germany.

Congratulations and best wishes to Carrie Elizabeth Sanders and Darrell Clay Wilson on their marriage October 16, 2010, in the sanctuary.

Youth Group Updates!

Our youth fellowship has been having a great fall! We had a great lock-in in September, and during the month of October, many youth enjoyed our trips to Roanoke for a Youth Event, the Virginia Creeper Trail, and the Woods of Terror in Greensboro. During the month of



November, we will settle back into our normal schedule of meeting on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00pm. Dinner is served and then

each evening there will be an activity. On November 7 (and possibly continuing onto November 14) we will pack and wrap boxes for *Operation Christmas Child* shoebox project! On November 21 and 28 we will spend some time re-decorating the youth room, and have some time to learn more about how we as youth can help out with our church's ministry and partnership with Citizens

Against Family Violence. Save the date on December 4th, a Saturday morning, because we will again be helping out with Christmas Cheer, packing and assembling boxes. All youth grades 6-12 are welcome at all of our events, so bring your friends! Please contact Pastor Jenny if you have any questions!

Special Children and Parents Sunday School - November 7, 2010

All children, ages preschool through 5th Grade, and their parents are invited to join in a special Sunday School event on November 7, during the 9:45 Sunday School hour, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be talking about how we worship together, and decorating "worship bags" for our children to have during each worship service. Bonnie Price will help us decorate the bags with fabric paint, and we will then use bags (once they are dry!) to hold a clipboard, Children's Bulletins, coloring sheets, and crayons to help children engage in the worship service as they sit with their families. Pastor Jenny will teach us about what we do in worship, and talk with both parents and children about some ways to make worship meaningful for parents and children of all ages. We hope you can join us!!

Save the Date for Advent Breakfast

Our annual Advent Breakfast, hosted by the Christian Education Committee will be December 5 during the Sunday School hour. There will be refreshments and we will trim the tree in the Fellowship Hall!

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

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" The Chancel Choir

Most persons, with whom I speak, who comment, usually get around to statements about the weather and the maddening rate at which time seems to pass. A standing joke in our home is to expect Christmas shortly after New Year's Day. It seems like we just did a Christmas Music Service and we are only two months from today away from the 2010 version. (I am writing this column on October 19.) Quick, mark your calendar and save the date of **Sunday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m.**

As I mentioned in my report last month, we are going to divide the time up into three parts. Part one will be in the Sanctuary and parts two and three will be downstairs in the Hallway and in the Fellowship Hall. Part One will be anthems, carols, and a couple of extended pieces. Part Two will be hot cider and pie, and Part Three will finish with us gathering in the Fellowship Hall Living Room for a sung version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas", a carol, a prayer, and the John Rutter, "The Very Best Time of the Year." My impression is that it doesn't get much better than that.

I am pleased to announce that Jenny Spivey is singing with us as well as Judy Mattox, Lang Mauck, and Connie Anderson.

Put the music date down before you forget it! December 19, 7:00 p.m.

The Sanctuary Ringers

I am pleased to announce that we have an even dozen ringers. Jenny took Sam Smith's position. Welcome! Sam has been courted by Salem Presbyterian Church in Salem to join their Handbell Choir. They will be lucky to get him.

We had about two dozen new handbell gloves to grow legs and walk

off. At just under \$6.00 a pair, that comes to too much to lose. I may have misplaced them but checking all of my places where they might be has yielded no results. If they walk by you, grab them please.

By the time you read this article the Sanctuary Ringers will have rung their first service of the season. We are looking forward to doing it again after Thanksgiving and a couple of weeks before Christmas.

This first service featured a Prelude by our own Cynthia Dobrinski and was played using Mallets all the way through. The Offertory piece was played on our lovely Choir Chimes and was an arrangement of the hymn "Be Thou My Vision".

The Bucket Choir

Don't hold your breath waiting for the first performance of our proposed "Bucket Choir". The proposed group has zero interest.

Several years ago I was in a Music Conference and the leader started a "Bucket Choir" in his church. To hear him talk, the results were amazing. I am not saying that they made their debut singing Handel's "Messiah", but most who started the project found their singing voices and started singing on pitch. These persons missed that part of their growing up years in a church or school singing choir.

The offer stands. If you are interested, let me hear from you. RLC

Children and Youth Music



WAM children are busily preparing our Christmas Pageant, *Arrest Those Merry Gentlemen!!* This will be presented on Sunday evening, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a nursery and a reception to follow. It is the timely story about understanding the grace and

magnitude of God's love for this earth through the birth of the Christ. 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 out 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.

Advent Workshop is Coming!!!

Mark your calendars for December 12, at 3:30!!! We have some new great plans for Advent workshop. We are having it closer to Christmas to give us the opportunity to make some live decorations that will last throughout the

season. We will also be making gifts for our friends at *Citizens Against Family Violence* which is our church's new partner. We will make our crafts in the Fellowship Hall from 3:30

to 5:00 and then have our dinner together.

Everyone will be out by 6:00 and ready for the Symphony or a quiet evening at home.

Stay tuned for the latest details!!

Contemporary Service News

Contemporary Praise Band has some new great music and two drummers!! Bobby Bryant has been with us for six weeks on the drum set, and we have a new friend! John Brown is our

new drummer and percussionist. We are all thrilled.

Please join us on Sundays at 8:35 for Gathering Music or at 8:45 for Praise music. Bring friends and family.

JoAnne Sanders is leading the youngest attendees in a program called *Bible Buddies* which is going wonderfully well.

As we all celebrate *New Consecration Sunday* on November 14, there will be no Contemporary Service that day. We will all join as one at 11:00 a.m.!

Operation Christmas Child The Shoe Box Project

This year the youth group is again taking part in a unique mission project called *Operation Christmas Child*. *Samaritan's Purse* operates a number of projects including *Operation Christmas Child*, a program where shoeboxes are packed with personal hygiene items, school supplies, toys, and distributed to nearly 8 million children annually in 95 countries. *Samaritan's Purse* is an International Relief Organization under the direction of CEO and founder, Franklin Graham. To date, this organization has collected and distributed more than 69 million shoeboxes to boys and girls in over 135 countries.



People across the country are getting their items and donations ready to send to their churches. Our youth are asking that all families participate in this project in one of several ways:

- 1) by bringing a filled shoebox with suggested items,
- 2) by bringing empty shoeboxes for the youth to pack (you know they are in your basement!)



- 3) by bringing donations of items on the suggested list below (no used or damaged items please!),
- 4) by making donations to help cover shipping cost (a box takes \$7 to ship worldwide)

Please bring your donation/gift to the church by October 31st. Donations of items and shoeboxes can be brought to Pastor Jenny's office, and monetary donations given to the church office. The youth will pack and gift wrap shoeboxes during youth group on November 7th. The boxes will be delivered to our local drop-off center the week of November 15th.

Operation Christmas Child is a great way to bring joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need of hope. What a perfect gift to give in honor of Jesus' birthday.

Gift Suggestions

Designate your box for the appropriate age category below:
 Girl or Boy: Ages (2-4 years), (5-9 years), or (10-14 years)

School Supplies: pens, pencils, and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

A Personal Note: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the

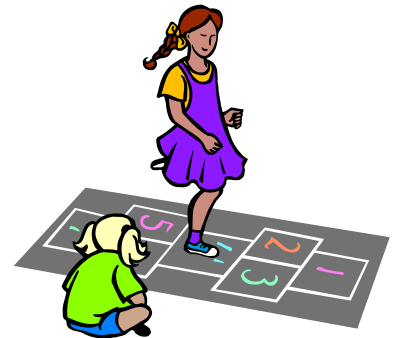
child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

First Presbyterian Weekday School

Greetings to everyone from The Weekday School! The children have settled in very nicely and we have worked out our beginning-of-school jitters.

We are in full "fall" mode here in the Weekday School. All of our classes have been studying about pumpkins, scarecrows, leaves and acorns. The 3 and 4 year old classes took a walking field trip to the Grace Network Pumpkin Patch on October 19th. We walked through J. Frank Wilson Park to the First Baptist Church where we were read a story and got to decorate our own pumpkins. We also received a visit from the Martinsville and Henry County Fire Safety Puppeteers. The children learned about the importance of not playing with fire and what to do in the event of a fire. There was also a special visit from Sparky, the Fire Dog!



The four year old classes will make their first trip of the school year to Kings Grant on Tuesday, October 26th. This is always an exciting day for young and old alike!

The children are gearing up for the Fall Open House scheduled for October 28th at 6:30. They have been practicing their songs and are planning on cooking some spooky treats to serve up that evening.

As always, things are busy as can be here at the Weekday School! Come by and take a look at our scarecrow!
Melissa White



Please remember that **Daylight Savings Time** ends on Sunday,

November 7. Therefore, before you go to bed on Saturday night (or early Sunday morning) be sure to set the clock back one hour. In

other words, we “fall back” an

hour, and thus, we get an extra hour of sleep.

There will not be an early worship service on Sunday, November 14. Instead, following the usual Sunday School time (9:45-10:40a.m.), we will all worship in the sanctuary at 11:00 **a.m.** and be led in worship by our New Consecration Sunday speaker, the Rev. Bob Button, Jenny Spivey, and Randy Stevens. Our time of worship will be followed by a catered luncheon in the fellowship hall. Please put this important date on your calendar and plan to be there.

Stepping Up in Faith

Nineteen years ago, interested parents and other church members inaugurated the Children’s Worship Program at First Presbyterian. The goal of the program is to help young children worship in a special place in a way meaningful to them. In recent years there was difficulty getting adult leaders and helpers. This year an appeal was made to church members, including youth who

have graduated from Children’s Worship, to be leaders and helpers in the program. Many expressed the sentiment that they wanted Children’s Worship to continue to be available to children ages 3 years through first grade.

Several parent-youth teams, as well as other devoted church members, are serving to lead our children. A big thank-you is due to the following for their service to our young children: Susan Smith, Lang Mauck, Bonny Pace, Liz and Mary Mac Knighton, Heidi, Max and Ben Pinkston, Kim, Annie B., and Basil Boyd, Bonnie and Matthew Price, Teri and Alanna Ferguson, Beth Lawson, Bennette and Virginia Zentmeyer, Diane and Evelyn Clark, and Cathy Stone.

Contribution to General Memorial Fund

Connie Sutton – IMO Harold and Norma Cumberledge

Mark your calendars now!!!!

December 5 Children’s Christmas Program 7:00 p.m.

December 12 Workshop and Chili Supper 3:30 p.m.

(so you can attend the Roanoke Symphony program, too)

December 19 Chancel Choir Program and Reception 7:00 p.m.

From the Nursery: We have an over-abundance of toys gathered in the crib nursery room. These are mostly infant to under two years. If you are interested or know someone who might be, call the Church Office or Janet at 632-3840. After a couple of weeks, any remaining toys will be donated to a local charity.



Be an Angel, Take an Angel!

The Christmas season is fast approaching and we will soon have the opportunity to share God's love and embrace our neighbors through our annual **Angel Tree Project**.

Beginning Sunday November 28th, the **ANGEL TREES** will be placed in the narthex and the Sunday School hallway with gift suggestions for boys and girls for six families. First Presby-



terian Church members will take the tree angels, purchase the gifts, and return them wrapped, with the angels taped to the outside of the package, by **December 12th** for delivery on December 15th. For those of you who would prefer to give a gift of money to be used to purchase food, there will be angels

on the trees for that purpose.

The Mission/Evangelism Committee looks forward to this project every Christmas season. With your continued generous participation, we know the 2010 Angel Tree Project will be successful!