



Presbyterian Web Sites:

Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
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

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Randall Stevens, Pastor rstevensfpc@juno.com
Joseph Moore, Associate Pastor assocpastor@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
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
Robin H. Keys, Bookkeeper fpc@mail.kimbanet.com
Church Web Site <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>



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

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

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

Non-profit (bulk rate)
US Postage
PAID
Martinsville, VA 24112
Permit No. 108



1901 Patrick Henry Avenue ♦ Martinsville, VA 24112 ♦ (276) 632-3431, Fax: (276) 632-3802
office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org ♦ www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

September, 2007

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

I was wondering what in the world I would write about for the September newsletter when an idea literally came into my field of vision. I was driving in Roanoke when a very sleek, red sports car (with the top down) moved over into my lane of traffic just ahead of me. We came to a stop at the red light and I happened to glance at the car's license plate, which read: ONCLGY. I filled in the missing vowels and came up with the word "oncology." I wondered if the man driving the car was an oncologist at the hospital. Then, I noticed something else: to the left of ONCLGY was a picture of a tobacco stalk and underneath were the words: "Tobacco Heritage." Think about that one for a moment.

I'm not sure what message the car's owner was trying to convey to the general public but all I could come up with was one big mixed signal! I'm still mulling that one over. That experience reminded me of another time I was sitting in traffic at a red light when we lived in Richmond. I was in line behind this huge SUV. As I sat there waiting, I noticed a sticker on the rear bumper of the SUV. There was a caricature of the world (as seen from outer space) and to the right were these endearing words: "Love Your Mother!" I thought to myself, "That's great that this person is into ecology and being a good steward of Mother Earth." Next, I looked up and I saw a big plume of cigarette smoke escape out the rolled-down window of the driver's side. I again thought to myself, "Oh no, don't tell me, surely you're not going toŠ" and, just then, I saw the driver take one last drag off of his cigarette and flip the butt into the opposite lane of traffic,

which, thankfully, was empty at the time. I kid you not! That actually happened!

So, here I am wondering about what kind of mixed signals do we send to people? Are there times when we "talk the talk but don't walk the walk?" Do I say one thing and then do another? Probably. If we aren't careful, our lives can be hypocritical, paradoxical. I'm reminded of the time my dad was teaching me to drive at the age of sixteen and he said to me, "Randy, if I ever catch you driving the way I drive, I'll ground you for a month!"

And so it is that one of the bands of my generation lamented this fact as they sang: "Oh, the games people play now, every night and every day now, never meaning what they say now, never saying what they mean" All too often, if we are not careful, we can easily speak with "forked tongues" and fake folks out! If we are intent on living with paradoxes, we would be in much better shape if we followed and lived the kind of paradoxes that Jesus taught his disciples, saying: "It is more blessed to give than to receive. My yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." He also reminds us that in losing ourselves, we truly find ourselves; when we are slaves to God, we are most free. And who can forget the Apostle Paul's great paradox that "when I am weak, then am I strong" or "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ who lives in me." Other paradoxical mysteries include: there is more through less; those who humble themselves will be exalted. You get the idea! Let us strive to live in Jesus' paradoxical manner for, as we seek the Christ-like life, we will surely find it. Plus, we will

discover the abundant and eternal life that God has in store for us!

In Christ's love,

Randy

Word from the Associate Pastor:

I have a wonderful report to share from Montreat. This year, several youth from Forest Hills joined the youth from our church. It was great to partner with Forest Hills this summer. I want to thank the other adults at Montreat, Carrie Sanders, Laura Stevens, Judy Ware, and Marcy Heffinger (the new Director of Christian Education at Forest Hills), who gave their time, energy, and love to our youth. The theme this year was "Turn the Page" and overcome the ways we judge and exclude others. The youth openly discussed the ways they have felt left out and the ways they have been tempted to exclude others. It was clear that the keynote presentations, music, small groups, and sermons hit home and made a big impact. I was proud of our youth and how they looked out for one another and listened to one another during the week. Several times during the week, the youth said in their own words that this youth group felt like a family to them. In worship here on August 12, two of our youth who went to Montreat, Parker Gunn and Elizabeth Pritchett, spoke eloquently about their own personal and meaningful experiences at Montreat.

Now the fall is starting and that means the kick off to the new church and school year. I have been working with the Christian Education Committee to plan Rally Day. Doc Altizer is full of good ideas for Sunday School, and he will be our new Sunday School Superintendent this year. The theme for Rally Day, which will be September 9, is "Keep the Faith." We will have a Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on September 9 at 9:30 a.m. If you have not been coming to Sunday School for a

while, this is an excellent time for you to get involved again.

As Presbyterians, we affirm that all of us, including young children, youth, young adults, and older adults, have the responsibility and the joy to continue learning as we move through our own journey of faith. I am a firm believer that some sort of small group discussion is essential for our faith development as Christians. That may come in the form of Sunday School or a Bible study or some other small group gathering, such as Presbyterian Women. Going to worship is one important way to keep the faith, but Sunday School offers us an opportunity to be taught in different ways than we are able to learn in worship. In small group discussions, we have the chance to articulate what we believe. In Sunday School, we can look one another in the eye. We can stop the discussion and ask questions if we are confused. We can invite participants to clarify the ideas or thoughts they have expressed. We can support one another by offering words and prayers of encouragement. So I invite you to "Keep the Faith" this fall and to join us for Rally Day and for Sunday School! Peace in Christ,
Jody

On Sunday, September 16, at the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the congregation will have its annual meeting. At that time, we will receive the report of the Officers Nominating Committee and proceed with the election of eight elders and two trustees to serve on the Session and the Board of Trustees (respectively), hear the brief reports of various staff members, and attend to any other pertinent business items at that time. Please plan to be present for this important day in the life of our church.

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will resume in the fall beginning on Tuesday, September 11, at 10:30-11:30 a.m. As before, the teachers for the class will be Jody Moore, Rusty Reaser, and Randy Stevens. The class will start out by studying The Letter of James, and then we will look at The First and Second Letters of Peter before the end of the year. In the new year, 2008, we will turn our attention to The Letters of Paul to Titus and Philemon and we will conclude by studying the Gospel of Mark in the spring quarter. If you are able, we hope you will join us for a meaningful Bible study and warm, refreshing Christian fellowship.



Happy Birthday in September to

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 2 Clark Eden
- 4 Nancy Davis, Vance James
- 5 John Bowles, Jackie Crouch, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Peck, Andrew Stevens
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Richard Huff
- 10 Brooke Sanders
- 11 Hilde Chappell, Victoria Esarey
- 14 Allyson Rothrock, Randy Lawson
- 15 Lang Mauck
- 16 Mike Boswell, Judy King
- 17 Donna Young, Allyn Ann Campbell
- 19 Hampton Snyder, Mary Lawhon
- 20 Ed Newnam, Jean Williams
- 22 David Chittum, Jr.
- 23 Maddie Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Caroline O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 27 Bennett Chaney, Madison Haley, Bob Chapman, Matthew Andrew
- 29 Jim Ford, Ralph Davis

and in October to:

- 1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston
- 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
- 10 Mike Haley, Grey Ferguson

SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to David and Judy Garland and family on the death of Judy's father, J. B. Sapp, June 27, 2007, in Martinsville.

Do you know what the "WHO" list is? Do you remember if you volunteered to help someone in need? Do you remember what you volunteered to help with? Do you know who can and should use the WHO list? "WHO" stands for "WE HELP OTHERS." We are a church family, and family members help each other when someone needs assistance. We have a list of potential needs in our church family, and a list of volunteers willing to help with those needs. So, we all can and should use the WHO list when we need it! The areas of help include meals, yard work, rides to appointments or the airport, babysitting, errands, and so much more. If you need assistance or if you know someone who might need a hand, please contact Joan Ragland at 632-9193 or pjragland@comcast.net. Give us a chance to help you out. If you would like to fill out a new WHO Questionnaire, or have never filled out one and wish to do so, please contact Joan Ragland. You can update your questionnaire anytime or fill out a new form to volunteer your talents to someone who needs them. Joan Ragland will maintain the database of volunteers and

record the date(s) that you are contacted (and your response). In that way, volunteers will be rotated and the same people won't be called all the time.

Children and Youth Music



Classes and Choirs for Fall

Classes for fall are just about ready to begin. If you have not registered your child, please do so with the registration form below. As always, we welcome friends to all our programs.

Groups are looking very strong, and I am filled with plans for the fall and Christmas season. We will have two plays this year as well!

If you have not registered your child, please do so ASAP! Music and supplies have to be ordered, and it costs the church good money when I have to order twice.

Input Please!

I have had wonderful support from the parents who have so willingly served to help our children and youth in their musical journey. I would like to ask those of you who are interested in helping me mold our program to come to a meeting with other like minded parents. We have several issues to consider, such as fellowship and mission possibilities. If you would be willing to meet with me once in September and then probably two more times during the musical year, please let me know. I will find a time that suits the majority. Your time will be used wisely.

Classes for Fall

I am really looking forward to fall and getting back with the children, youth and wonderful adults with whom I am fortunate to work. The schedule is basically the same with a tweak here and there.

There is a clarification that needs to be made about Orff classes

on Monday and Kindermusik II on Tuesday. These classes begin at 2:45 because the city school children are dismissed at that time. Children from other schools will arrive a bit later, but we won't really get cranked up with programming til our other friends arrive. Our first arriving children will participate in enrichment.

We are always looking for new friends. If you know someone that might enjoy being part of our musical family, please let me know, and I will call them or send a news letter.

Fall Schedule is as follows:

Monday: 2:45-4:30 Orff-Kodaly I and II for 1st -5th graders (Singing, drama, playing instruments, hand-bells/hand chimes all combined). The children will be grouped by grade and will rotate through an exciting afternoon of music, fellowship and games.

We are going to need significant parental involvement in this group. Please help out by letting me know you would be willing to lead a craft or musical game.

We are running the church van to Carlisle to pick up those students, and drivers are needed for each Monday.

We will have a meeting for ALL PARENTS of Orff I and II children. You have two choices.

After church on September 9th, in the Session Room.

5:00 on Sunday, September 9th in the Session Room.

It won't take long but it is very important. It is mandatory for all parents of children in the program. With such a large group, we absolutely must be on the same page.

Please bring a check for \$18 to cover refreshments and other extras. Make your check out to the church and earmark for Refreshments-Orff

We are going to need significant parental involvement in this group. The work that it takes to put on a Christmas and a Lenten play is enormous and it is simply more than I can handle. If everyone takes on a small responsibility, we have more ownership and no one is overwhelmed.

Tuesday: 11:00-11:45 Music Together (Early musical experiences for children from birth through 3 years with parent or caregiver) There is a limited number of spaces, so please let me know if you are interested since church members have priority. We will be purchasing at home materials for this group to use at home. There will be 3 quarters, Fall, Winter and Spring and the cost for the materials is \$25 for each quarter. Please make checks out to the church, ear marked for Music Together.

12:00-1:40 Kindermusik I (Sequential musical experiences I singing drama, games, and play for 4year olds.The children bring their lunch and then we have our class together. Parents come at 1:30 for the wrap up) The fee for church members is \$35. The \$35 covers the child's bag and glockenspiel, but you can borrow them from friends and save yourself some money! The fee for non members is \$130 for the year. Again, if you borrow a bag and glock from someone, your fee is reduced by \$35.

2:30-4:00 Kindermusik II (Sequential musical experiences in reading, singing multi cultural music and playing for Kindergartners.The children will learn to play their own dulcimer and recorder). This is a continuation of Kindermusik I , but others who have not had Kindermusik I are welcome. Parents come at 3:55 for the wrap up time) There is no fee for members, and non members fee is \$130.

I would like to have a Middle school group. The group can decide if it

would like the direction to be handbells, plays, or instrumental. We need 6 dedicated musicians to make it a go. Day and time would be decided on by the group.

Handbell Quintet or More! This is a group for advanced handbell players. We meet on a day that suits the group. This is for 8th graders and up.

Please sign up below and let me hear from you if you have questions, suggestions or comments. In order for me to be able to order music and materials, I need your completed form by August 20th. You can mail them, drop them in the offering plate on a Sunday, or put in my box in the office.

Child's Name _____
Birth Date _____
MusicGroup _____

Child's Name _____
Birth date _____
Music Group _____

Parents names _____
Phone numbers(please list cell phones as well for emergencies).
Mom's phone _____
Dad's Phone _____

School and grade

Home Address _____

Email address _____

In case of emergency when parents can not be reached:

Name _____

Phone _____

Relationship to child _____

Allergies _____

Other health Issues _____

Parent Involvement-Please let me know if you would like to assist in any manner. The more input we have from others, the better the experience for the children and youth.

I would like to help with the following:

- ___ FPC Parent's Music Council
- ___ Organizational tasks
- ___ Robe and music organization
- ___ Brainstorming
- ___ Organizing snacks and parties for a particular group
- ___ Over seeing the schedule for drivers to Carlisle on Mondays.
- ___ Youth helpers for the large group on Mondays.

Name _____

Classes begin the week of September 10th.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year. Feel free to call me at the church or at home with any problem, suggestion or just to chat.....or email is fine too.

betsyhaskins@yahoo.com.

I am looking forward to a year brimming with music, joy, love, faith building and fellowship with your child or youth.

Please encourage her/him to join us. It enriches all our lives.

In joy, Betsy

The Pals Program continues this year. Do you feel called by God to make a difference in a child's life this year? The children of this community can benefit from the gifts of your time and your caring. Our two city elementary schools, Patrick Henry Elementary and Albert Harris Elementary are looking for volunteers: you may choose to serve at either school. This program is looking for volunteers as tutors, teachers' aides, lunch buddies, and listeners. Our church facilitates volunteers at these 2 schools through the Pals program. If



and your caring. Our two city elementary schools, Patrick Henry Elementary and Albert Harris Elementary are looking for volunteers: you may choose to serve at either school. This program is looking for volunteers as tutors, teachers' aides, lunch buddies, and listeners. Our church facilitates volunteers at these 2 schools through the Pals program. If

you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact Jody Moore or Jim Beard, chair of the Mission Committee.

Lunch Outing to Olive Garden:



Tuesday September 18, 2007. The JOY Fellowship, which stands for Just Older Youth, includes older adults from our congregation. We will be leaving after Tuesday Morning Bible Study Class at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday September 18. We hope you will also join us that morning for the Bible Study class, which begins at 10:30. We will be going to the Olive Garden in Greensboro for a special fellowship opportunity and for a great meal. Normally, we have mystery trips where you do not know the location ahead of time, but we thought this location would be popular so we are advertising it in advance. Please RSVP to the church office by September 16 if you can attend.



The Annual Church-wide Picnic at Jack Dalton Park will be Sunday October 7th. Please mark your calendars and join your church family for this fun fellowship event.

There will be a **New and Prospective Member Luncheon** at the home of Bill & Anne Peterson, 1000 River Forest Place, on Sunday September 30, following the morning worship service. The entire family, especially children, is invited to join us for fellowship, food, and the opportunity to meet some new friends. A New Member Class will be offered October 14, 21, and 28 during the Sunday School hour at 9:45 a.m.

Presbyterians Make a Significant Impact in the Gulf Coast: According to a report in USA Today, the largest newspaper in the country, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has sent more volunteers than all but three religious groups to the Gulf coast to help relief and rebuilding efforts since Hurricane Katrina struck almost two years ago. According to a list compiled by the newspaper, 29,345 Presbyterians have aided the Katrina relief efforts, ranking the PC(USA) fourth among all faith-based organizations. Only the Southern Baptist Convention, Habitat for Humanity and the United Methodist Committee on Relief have contributed more volunteer workers to the relief effort. Most of the PC (USA)'s efforts have been coordinated by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). We are deeply indebted to all the Presbyterians who have so selflessly contributed to the rebuilding of the Gulf coast," said PDA coordinator Susan Ryan. "And while public recognition is not our reason for doing this work, it is gratifying to see USA Today tell its millions of readers that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is so effective in bearing Christ's love to those most in need."

101 AMAZING TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS THAT YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW by Mark Littleton given in memory of Jack Lester by Reed Stone Moore.
 GOING FOR THE MAX! by Max Cleland given in memory of Jack Lester by Circle 6.
 20 THINGS YOU SHOULD compiled by David Edwards, et al. given in memory of Jack Lester by Circle 6.
 PREPARED TO BE GOD'S VESSEL by Henry Blackaby and Carrie Blackaby Webb given in memory of Mary Ragland by The Patrick Henry Chapter of the DAR.
 THE TRUE STORY OF NOAH'S ARK by Tom Dooley given in memory of Adeliah Isenhower by Reed Stone Moore.
 THE SEVEN PILLARS OF HEALTH by Dr. Don Colbert given in memory of Elizabeth Hurt by Reed Stone Moore.
 Many thanks for our memorials. Hope to see you in the library.
 Debbie

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

Library Corner. . .

I hope everyone has had a great summer



and have had some time for relaxing reading. For those in school it's back to the books. Listed below are our memorial books:

HEROES AMONG US by Congressman Jim Ryun and Sons. given in memory of Brooks Leavitt by Dee Moore.
 EVERY WOMAN IN THE BIBLE by Sue and Larry Richards given in memory of Elizabeth Hurt by Dee Moore.
 WHERE WAS GOD by Erwin W. Lutzer given in memory of Jack Lester by Reed Stone Moore,