



**Presbyterian Web Sites:**

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org](http://www.peakspresbytery.org)  
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: [www.synatlantic.org](http://www.synatlantic.org)  
Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)  
Pby. Disaster Assistance: [www.pcusa.org/pda/](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/)  
Presbyterian Today: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today](http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today)  
Pby. News Service: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem](http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem)

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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

September, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

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## **From My Perspective Within The Kingdom**

Since this year marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, there are a number of stories told and retold about that watershed event in our nation's life. One story that easily comes to mind is this: In the Ken Burns series on the Civil War that aired on public television, there were a number of scenes of the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913. A group of old Confederate and Union veterans returned to commemorate the occasion. Old films show the men talking over old times, swapping stories and eating together. Then there was a re-enactment of Pickett's Charge. The old Union soldiers took their places, as they had fifty years earlier, among the rocks on Seminary Ridge. The old Confederate soldiers took their places on the farmland below. After a while the Confederates started to move forward across the broad, flat field where just fifty years before many had died. "We could not see rifles and bayonets," an eyewitness said, "but canes and crutches" as they made their slow advance toward the ridge with the more able-bodied ones helping the disabled ones.

As the Confederate troops got near the Union line, they broke into one long, defiant rebel yell. Then something quite remarkable happened. Unable to restrain themselves any longer the Yankees burst from behind the stone walls and flung themselves upon their former enemies. Only this time, fifty years later, they did not do battle with them. Instead they threw their arms around them. Some in blue, some in gray, the old men embraced one another and wept.

What a difference fifty years made. In that moment they understood that they were created not to do battle with one another but to love one another. For a few brief moments these veterans lived out that truth. (Frederick Buechner, *Theology Today*, January 1993)

What a special story and what makes it even more delightful is that it is true. We hear in that story the gospel truth of how God intends for people to get along, build community, and live in peace. To that end, our Lord calls us to be peacemakers and, when we act faithfully and strive to live out that high calling, we are blessed and called children of God (see Jesus' sermon on the mount in Matthew 5:9).

Someone has said that we are to spread seeds of peace. James L. Brewer-Calvert writes, "The peace that God gives to the world, planted in us by Jesus Christ, nurtured by the Holy Spirit, will foster and grow in the context of community. Cicero in 49 BCE said, 'He plants trees to benefit another generation.' Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson had been retired for many years when he instructed his gardener to plant fruit trees that Acheson had just purchased. The gardener hesitated, saying, 'But, sir, it will be many years before they bear fruit!' 'Well, then,' replied Dean Acheson, 'we had better plant them this afternoon.'"

Let us be on the lookout for those times and ways wherein we can be peacemakers and go about God's business of sowing seeds of peace where "we live and move and have our being." May we strive to live in such a way that we make a difference in the world, and so that others may see the Prince of Peace at work through us!

In Christ's love,  
Randy

### **Word from the Associate Pastor:**

As the school year starts up again, the most repeated question for students and parents alike is, “what did you do this summer?” This summer was indeed a busy time for children and young people in our congregation. Many families took the opportunities to take vacations, to travel, to go to camp – and lots of our families participated in our congregation’s many programs for children and youth. Last month I wrote about the wonderful Mission Trip to Charlotte in June, and Janet Fentress shared a great write-up about Vacation Bible School. But those two weeks were only the beginning of the summer – since their completion, a fabulous group of youth traveled to attend the Montreat Youth Conference at the end of July and our church hosted the Presbytery of the Peaks Day Camp in August.

The last week of July, a group of 16 youth and adults traveled to Montreat for the 2011 Youth Conference Week 5. The theme for the week was “Searching for the Signal,” and we explored that theme by considering the ways we can listen and look for God working in our lives. We heard and studied scriptures on daily themes of incarnation, temptation, discernment, community and salvation. We participated in small groups that enabled them to form new relationships with young people from many different churches and places. We worshiped together, learned new songs, and heard great speakers and preachers. Each night, our group gathered for a devotion and closing, and during one of those nights we decided that we wanted to share these transformation experiences (from Mission Trip and Montreat) with the congregation. To that end, we will have another Youth Sunday on September 25, 2011 at the 11:00am service. We hope you can all join us and receive the gifts of our young people in leading worship!

The Presbytery Day Camp that we hosted here during the first week in August

was likewise an exciting experience for our church and for the children that attended. Our own Margaret Lester was the Day Camp Director for the whole program, which was held at many different churches in our Presbytery throughout the summer. She and two college student counselors, Kelly and Christina, provided wonderful leadership for our group of 5 campers! This Day Camp was a new project for the Presbytery, and though we started small this summer, we hope it will continue to grow into a program that can minister to children and youth all over our Presbytery!  
Pastor Jenny

### **Youth Group in September**

A big part of our ministry to youth and young people in our congregation is the Youth Group that generally meets each Sunday evening during the school year. This gathering is for youth in grades 6-12, and friends are ALWAYS WELCOME!! Mark your calendar for these events in September!

September 11, 6:00pm at the Stevens’ home – We will kickoff our Youth Group year once again with a cookout and time for fun and fellowship at the Stevens’ home (104 Courtney Terr.) Look for an email about what side/dessert to bring!

September 18, 5:30pm at the church – Final Youth Sunday rehearsal and run-through.

September 25 – 11:00am Youth Sunday Worship Service, all youth involved in the service will meet that morning at 9:00am to get ready (breakfast foods will be provided). For our evening Youth Group (5:30pm) we will do something fun, so stay tuned!

Pastor Jenny

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## Happy Birthday in September

to.....

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 2 Trula Campbell
- 3 Shirley Nease
- 4 Nancy Davis
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Richard Huff
- 10 Brooke Sanders
- 11 Hilde Chappell, Victoria Esarey, Allyson Rothrock, Randy Lawson
- 15 Lang Mauck
- 16 Mike Boswell, Judy King
- 17 Donna Young, Allyn Ann Campbell
- 19 Mary Lawhon
- 20 Ed Newnam, Jean Williams
- 23 Maddie Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Caroline O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 27 Bob Chapman
- 29 Jim Ford

**and in October to.....**

- 1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston
- 2 Myra Stegall
- 5 Nancy Baker, Mike Powell, John Abercrombie
- 6 Jane Ford
- 7 Ralph Shank, Sr.
- 9 Debbie Brown, Cole Tatum
- 10 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
- 21 Mary Page
- 23 Helen Hawkes, June Irby, Nancy Brown
- 24 Virginia Zentmeyer
- 26 Jana Jennings, Melissa Jessup, Ralph Shank, Jr., Katherine and Stacey Eanes
- 28 Gwen Sowdon, Jenny Spivey

29 Walter Anderson, Mary Ann McConnell

31 Rusty Lacy, Lindsey Unterbrink

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to Charles and Kimberly Toothman and family (recent members of our church) on the death of Kimberly's mother. The Toothman's new address is 7416 Cedar Run Dr., Warrenton, VA 20187

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to David and Bonnie Price and family on the death of David's mother, Ruth Adkins Price, on August 3, 2011, in Collinsville, Virginia.

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to Judy King and family on the death of Judy's mother, Frances L. Prillaman, on August 3, 2011, at King's Grant.

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to Billie DePuy and Pat Baumann on the death of their sister, Lou Nation, on August 2, 2011, in Chattanooga, TN.

**The Sacrament of Baptism** was celebrated on August 7, 2011, for Grace Caroline Jennings, infant daughter of Ryan and Jana Eden Jennings and Mason Clark Peck, infant son of Jared and Jamie Eden Peck.



## **Tuesday Morning Bible Study Coming Right Up!**

Plans are underway for the start of the Tuesday Morning Bible Study class toward the end of September. Please look for more announcements in the Sunday morning bulletins.

## **Rally Day September 11, 2011**

Our Annual Rally Day promises to be one of our biggest celebrations yet! As we kick off our new year, join your church family for an exciting morning on September 11, 2011, at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The Christian Education Committee will provide a delicious pancake breakfast, an informal upbeat musical time with several of our talented groups, and an update on Christian Education activities that are taking place in our church. Our dedicated Sunday School teachers will begin the new year by meeting with their classes immediately following breakfast.

### **Teachers for 2011-2012 are as follows:**

Ford/Reed Class – Randy Stevens  
Irby Class – Lang Mauck  
Franck Class – Duke Ferrell  
Youth Class – Jenny Spivey  
Elementary Class – Janet Fentress  
Pre-School Class – Judy Ware  
Bible Buddies – JoAnne Sanders

### **Youth and Children's Music**

Registration for Music Classes for the 2011=2012 year are under way! I am very excited to see everyone again. Please register early so that I can make really great plans and include everyone. Please make copies and send to your neighbors and friends. We are always looking for new friends.

### **Here is the schedule:**

*All Classes will begin the week of September 12*

**Monday: 2:45-4:30 WAM(worship, arts, music) for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders.** This is a wonderful group that plays handbells, recorders (new this year), prepares two plays, sings, and learns about worship and its' meaning. We play together, create art and follow our faith journey as well.

Note: I desperately need another adult to help. This is a large group and our teens are great, but, because of their school schedules, they cannot be present until later in the afternoon. Would you consider coming for a few weeks? Musical ability is not a prerequisite, just someone who loves children!

There is a 20 dollar refreshment fee (per child) for this group.

**Tuesday: 11:00 Music Together for children age birth to 3 and a half years old or so.** This is a nationally revered program of musical experiences for a child and an adult. We sing, dance, play and grow musically together. The fee for this is \$35 per quarter for a set of beautiful materials including two CDs and a beautiful book.

**Noon: Kindermusik I** This is another nationally known program that is for the 4-5 year old. This is my 22<sup>nd</sup> year teaching this curriculum that is perfect for every child. We learn to play a glockenspiel, read notes, play wonderful games and grow musically. We begin at noon with a packed lunch and finish at 1:30

**2:45-4:00 Kindermusik II** This is the continuation of Kindermusik I. This year we study the music of the world. We make and learn to play a dulcimer and learn to be proficient on recorder. By the time children have finished Kindermusik, they have had experience on a string instrument, woodwind and percussion. It really sets them up for wherever their musical road leads. The children come from three school systems at different times, and we do enrichment til everyone arrives. The fee

for members is \$35 and for non members \$150 for the year.

**Middle and High School Handbells-**

Come one, come all, no experience necessary! This is a great group that has a blast making super music and playing together. We practice after church a few Sundays a month and try to play in church about once every six weeks. We had a great group last year and I am sure this year will be the very same!

All groups will begin after Labor Day, the Tuesday groups beginning on September 6<sup>th</sup> and the first WAM meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Early registration is certainly appreciated!!

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone contact \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's school \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or issues I should know about to enable me to work more ably with your child. \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer opportunities**

WAM- I can help a lot \_\_, a little \_\_\_\_, every now and then \_\_\_\_. (This person does not have to be a parent. A grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. will fit right in!!)

Looking forward to a wonderful year!!

In Joy,  
Betsy

**Congregational Meeting Set**

The Session has called the congregation to meet on **Sunday, September 18, 2011, at 9:45 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour), in the fellowship hall**, for the purpose of the annual congregational meeting. Reports will be given by the pastors, the music directors, and the treasurer; information will be shared regarding the church's membership and finances; and, the Officer Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers – six nominees for elder and two nominees for trustees (Class of 2014) - and the congregation will proceed to vote. Please note that this meeting is at a different place and time than in the past. This change allows for people, who attend the early worship service to be present for the meeting, and there will be ample time for questions and discussion during the meeting.

**Joint Worship Service for Presbyterian Churches in Our Presbytery**

Please note the following: All of the Presbyterian churches within the Presbytery of the Peaks are invited to join with a host of local Presbyterians in a joint worship service on Sunday, January 1, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at the Salem Civic center in Salem, VA. The Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, who is the President of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, will preach. There will be joyful music, choirs open to all, and worship for all ages. More information will follow. For the time being, please note this import event on your calendar for the new year. What a great way to begin the new year!

## Contemporary Worship Update

We have had a great summer of services filled with the love, joy, and thankfulness for the Lord. Fall season is kicking off right after Labor Day and we are always looking for new instrumentalists, singers and Sound and Computer Techies. Believe me, if I can do it, all of you can.

We need help on Tuesday night running the slides on the computer (simple) and adjusting the sound (a little tricky, but not too tricky-again, even I can do it). We promise you will be in and out and enjoy your times with us. I am looking for 4 people for each spot so that the work is not a burden on any one person. I know you can work with us one day a month for an hour! Do call or e-mail me! Thanks in advance for considering!

In Joy,  
Betsy

## Session Highlights for August 29, 2011

Noted that Catherine Bridges would serve as the acting Clerk in Joan Montgomery's absence

- Forrest Truitt led the Session in an opening devotional and prayer
- Approved the Session minutes for July 25, 2011 (stated) and August 7, 2011 (called)
- Reviewed the treasurer's report for the period ending July 31, 2011
  - Approved the list of 2011-2012 Sunday School teachers
  - Approved the request from the Harvest Foundation to use our Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and several classrooms on Tuesday, August 30, for a Community Health Strategic Planning meeting; the Session also gave the Facilities Committee the authority to approve (or deny) requests from outside groups to use our facilities according to our stated guidelines
  - Agreed to have our fall Officers' Retreat here at the church on Friday evening,

October 7; and, on Saturday, October 8, we will travel to Covenant Presbyterian Church in Roanoke and participate in the Presbytery of the Peaks' 12th Leadership Event.

- Approved having the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, September 18, at 9:45 a.m., during the Sunday School hour (instead of at the close of the 11:00 a.m. worship service); this change in time allows those, who attend the early service to stay for the meeting, and there will also be more time for discussion, questions and answers.
- Approved the continuance of the 8:45 a.m. early worship service in the current format.
- Agreed to propose to the congregation that, under the new Form of Government within the Book of Order, we continue to conduct congregational meetings with a quorum set at 10% of the active members (as it has been in the past)
- Heard reports from the moderators of the Session's committees, the Officer Nominating Committee, and the pastors
- Noted the death of long-time member Ralph Emerson Keys, on Friday, August 26, and that the Witness to the Resurrection service will be on Wednesday, August 31
- After sharing joys and concerns, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Jenny Spivey.

