

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

June, 2010

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

As I write this article, Pentecost Sunday, which is May 23, is almost here. We celebrate Pentecost and remember God's gift of the Holy Spirit (following Christ's ascension into heaven) and, subsequently, the birth of the Church. This Pentecost Sunday will be given added joy and meaning for us as we confirm and commission five of our youth upon their public profession of faith and as we honor our ten graduating high school seniors. When I reflect on God's gift of the Spirit, I think of the many ways the Spirit of the living God has been present in my life and ministry but I am especially reminded of two events in which the Spirit was manifested as a "fresh breath of wind."

In 1983, I was elected as a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS or the "southern church"), which was meeting in Atlanta, GA. The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA or the "northern church") was also meeting in the same city and the same Omni building. The very last vote of each General Assembly was to accept the Plan for Reunion and then both General Assemblies adjourned, embraced each other, and merged into the newly formed Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.). After having been separated for 120 years from the time of the Civil War until June of 1983, it surely felt that the Holy Spirit was blowing wild and free and that a fresh new wind was blowing through our ranks as the two denominations became one, once again. I rejoiced then, and I rejoice still, as I was privileged to "be there" and to experience God at work in our midst tearing down the dividing walls and building us up, together, into the one Body of Christ.

My other remembrance is closer to home and closer in time. On Sunday, May 2, during the congregational meeting, the church members voted overwhelmingly to call Jennifer McCann Spivey to serve as one of the pastors of the First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA. Besides Jenny's warm and friendly personality and her various and numerous gifts for ministry, I rejoice that the Holy Spirit has led the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee as well as the congregation to call the first woman to serve as a pastor of this congregation. I have experienced the valuable contribution that women have made serving on our Session and the various committees of the church, and I have no doubt that Jenny will do the same. I am grateful for this breath of fresh wind that God's Spirit has blown through this place and this people.

Both of these remembered experiences reaffirm the sense that God is always doing a new thing in our midst; now it springs forth; do we not perceive it? Our calling is to remain open and receptive to the presence of the Holy Spirit – both in our personal lives as well as the communal life of our congregation - and to go where the Spirit is leading us. The Lord our God has been faithful in sending forth the Spirit to both empower and equip us as Jesus' disciples to be the Church and to carry on Christ's mission and ministry in the world. With the new fresh breath of the Holy Spirit stirring among us and within each of us, let us rise up and faithfully do our part – to the glory of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

In Christ's love,
Randy



Happy Birthday in June to

- 1 Cynthia Dobrinski, Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 2 Suzanne Lacy, Cole Rothrock
- 3 Bob Knighton, Riley Wood
- 4 Laura Beth Eanes, Pat Wilson
- 5 Meredith Bumgarner
- 6 Nancy Plonk
- 8 Phil Payne
- 9 Lori Hurt, Josh King, Susan Smith
- 10 Allyson Campbell, Cindy Edgerton
- 12 Edmund Haskins, David King
- 13 Eleanor Woody
- 15 Waid Lester
- 16 Karen Debusk, Ainsley Russell
- 17 Dyer Rothrock, Ken Knight
- 18 Courtney Newnam, Susan Pilson
- 19 Taylor Johnson
- 20 Drew Parker, Spencer DeBusk
- 22 Raven Adams
- 23 David Price, Harold Wells, Virginia Truitt, Basil Boyd
- 24 Denny Casey
- 26 Lyell Knighton, Vicki Wells
- 27 Iby Gunter, Louis Judson, Steve DeBusk, Lynn Stegall, Clyde Hill
- 29 A. C. Wilson, Andy Parker, Caroline Kirby

And in July to:

- 2 William Seamon
- 3 Andrea Lawhon, Sarah Toothman
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 6 Barbara Stanley
- 7 Clara Hartley
- 8 Dyer Pace
- 10 Mildred Bishop
- 12 Betty Carol Lamm, Betty Stanley, Heidi Pinkston

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Patsy Stanley and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Lucille E. Stanley, on May 6, 2010, in Claudville, Virginia.

Congratulations to Scott and Elizabeth Geier on the birth of their son, Milo Manning Geier, April 29, 2010, in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. Bill and Mary Manning are the proud grandparents and Mary Page is the proud great grandmother!

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" Chancel Choir

It seems that each time one turns around another part of the year shows up. From the feel of the weather, the cutting of the grass regularly, the planting of the garden and a generous portion of pollen on everything outside, summer is almost a reality.

The Summer Stretch is upon us come June 1. That means the choir gets some relaxing time on a few Wednesday evenings and on a Sunday morning each month when Soloists and ensembles will fill the anthem slot and provide the music. Members of the choir will be in the Chancel during the service to lead the congregational choir along with the organist. Wednesday rehearsals, beginning June 30 and concluding with July 28 are hereby canceled. I don't know what the members will do with so much time on their hands. Perhaps we could read through some Christmas Music in preparation for our next program in December.

Let me mention that on Wednesday evening, August 25, at 7:00, there will be a kick-off rehearsal which follows a 6:00 potluck dinner. Mike Boswell will bring Banana Pudding and Mary Ann McConnell will bring Clam dip, and Marge Dunn is sure to pull out a favorite recipe. The choir members and their families are invited as well as those of you who want to become a part of the choir family this next year. I know, you have been invited for 15 years but this time you may come. The knob of the choir room is unlocked for you.

The Sanctuary Ringers

As I write this article, the Sanctuary Ringers have just about completed another year. Their final rehearsal was May 19 and their final time to play in worship was May 23. I appreciate their hard work and faithfulness this year. As most of

you know, membership in this choir is like membership in a quartet or small ensemble. When a member is absent it is like an automobile with three out of four wheels. Sometimes we have substitutes to take the place of our absent loved ones and sometimes not.

As I look ahead to the New Year, which begins in September, I see a need for at least one new ringer and several substitutes. Perhaps you would like to fill one of those slots. I will make an offer to anyone who wants to join us, of private or group lessons during the summer. If you are interested, please let me hear from you. That is much easier than On-the-Job Training when fall gets here. Try it, you might like it.



Children and Youth Music

We just finished Youth Sunday and what a wonderful day it was!! All the children and youth led so well. The older youth led calls to worship, prayers, children's moment, all the various parts of the service with a wonderful, steadfast manner.

I am very proud of the younger music worship leaders as well: Mattie Wingfield and William Seamon sang wonderfully in their duet: the WAM contingent sang beautifully and the older WAMers and the Cantabile ringers delivered their bell pieces with great technique and verve!! I wish we could do it all again.....next week.

Randy did a brilliant job on the rehearsal. Everyone could be heard and that is wonderful for so many speakers.

These Seniors are very special to me. I have known them literally all their lives and have made music with them for the better part of 15 years of their beautiful lives. It will be wonderful to watch their progress and success in college or university and welcome them back with open arms when they come home.

Greeter Training

If you love people, love your church and want to make a difference- why not be a Greeter? It is a wonderful experience to welcome newcomers to Worship and make them feel welcome. We are looking for a few good men and women who would like to take part in greeting before both services. If you are interested in hearing more, just talk with Duke Ferrell, Darla Main-Schneider or Betsy Haskins. There is a succinct training to help us in doing our best job. Come on down and be a Greeter! Training and weekly assignments will be made at your convenience!

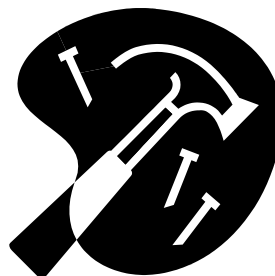
Contemporary Service Notes

As Randy noted on the first Sunday in May in early worship, the Contemporary Service is marking its second birthday!! It has been a truly exciting adventure for all who have been a part of this new endeavor. We will be meeting each Sunday throughout the summer, so come and join us in singing, listening to the Word and prayers. I would like to ask you regular attendees if you would consider sitting a bit closer to the front; it will give us a greater sense of community. We welcome one and all to this new Worship time at First Pres!!

Galilee By the Sea Mission Trip

On May 2, 2010, the mission team held a bake sale to raise additional funds for the mission trip. Members of the congregation baked some wonderful goodies that were sold very quickly! The Bake Sale receipts were \$390.00. Thank you to Amy Mason and Wendy Seamon for heading up the bake sale, and to everyone who baked, bought, and made donations.

In about one month, 15 members of our congregation will be heading to Galilee By the Sea, a camp near Holden Beach, NC, to help several families make house and landscape repairs that will enable the families to live in safer and more comfortable homes. Our group includes 9 youth and 6 adults. Youth group members are: Michael and Matthew Mason, Mattie and Jacob



Wingfield, Dyer and Farrell Pace, Stuart and Emily Beard, and Ben Pinkston. Adult members are: Jerri and Joe DeVault, Victoria Esarey, Ashby and Johnny Pinkard, and Jenny Spivey, our new Associate Pastor. They are taking a leap of faith and stepping into an unknown environment in order to serve God and represent First Presbyterian Church as they live out the mission of our church, which is to "Share God's love, Embrace our neighbors, and Nurture each other."

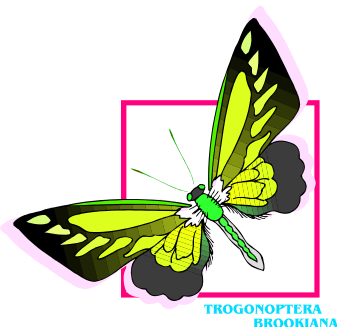
As a congregation, we play a big role in this mission trip. We have supported those going by giving our time, money, and talents through attendance at the fundraising dinner in April, the bake sale in May, and monetary donations. As we physically say "good-bye" and wish the group "safe travels" we can continue to support those going on the trip through our prayers for them both now and during the time that they are away on the trip.

On June 20, 2010, during our worship service, Randy Stevens will commission the members of the mission team. Attendance at this service will be an additional way to offer our support. The group will leave for the trip on June 23rd and return on June 27th. You are invited to come see them off and welcome them home!

Butterfly Tree Project

On May 4, 2010, members of the Mission/Evangelism Committee delivered food, and gifts of clothing to five families in our community. Thank you to Anne Abercrombie, Lang Mauck, Randy Stevens, and Nancy and Jim Baker for

loading the cars and delivering the gifts to the families. A special thanks goes to Anne Abercrombie, Nancy Baker, and Lang Mauck for coordinating the project and seeing it to completion. A big thank you to the congregation of First Presbyterian for enthu-



siastically selecting the butterflies, buying the gifts, and donating money for food.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we welcomed into the active membership of our church the following young people who have participated in and completed this year's **Confirmation Class** which has been meeting together each Sunday afternoon since February:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Stuart Menteth Beard | William David Seamon |
| Anne Banks Boyd | Mary Catherine Stegall |
| Dyer Christian Pace | |

Be sure to welcome them as new members of First Presbyterian when you next see them!

Summer Adult Sunday School

The summer months are upon us, and so it's time to combine the adult Sunday School classes for the next three months. Beginning June 6 and ending on September 5 (for fourteen Sundays) we will be studying the Book of Confessions, which is half of the constitution of our Presbyterian Church (USA).

We will meet in the Session Room from 9:45-10:40 a.m. We will discuss the difference between a creed, a confession, and a catechism, and we will consider each of the twelve statements, which are organic to our beliefs and practices as Presbyterians.

By summer's end, we hope that each participant will have a working knowledge of the Book of Confessions and the historical setting in which each statement was written. Then, when someone asks you, "What does a Presbyterian believe?" you can answer their question without reservation. Please come and join us for a meaningful study.

Children to the Lord's Table

Sunday, June 6, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we will recognize Maddie Sayles and Kellene Wotring, who are completing the first grade and are graduating from the Children's Worship program. Also, at the invitation of the Session, both Maddie and Kellene will be invited

to come to the Lord's Table and partake in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

On Sunday, June 13, at the close of the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the Session has called the congregation to meet for the purpose of electing the **2010-11 Officers Nominating Committee**, which will consist of two elders from the Session, two members from the Presbyterian Women, two youth, and three at-large church members. The Officers Nominating Committee will report back to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, September 19, and place in nomination a slate of six elders and two trustees for the Class of 2013.

Early Learning Intervention

It is hard to believe, but Summer Vacation is here for the students and staff (whew!) from the ELI Preschool Program. We have just completed our seventeenth year of providing this preschool program for at-risk children here in the Martinsville community. We have had a great year with eleven very lively three- and four-year olds. We have worked on skills and socialization. We have had fun and enjoyed lots of activities, including trips to the Blue Ridge Public Library, Piedmont Arts and The Virginia Museum of Natural History. (Thank you Dr. Beard!) Please check out our bulletin board at the end of the Sunday School hallway for pictures from this year's activities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped make this program possible through the generous donation of your time and talents! Whether you drove the bus, helped in the classroom or served on the task force, we really appreciate you! We can always use more volunteers if you would like to join this worthwhile project. Also, we are in need of a small refrigerator. (the kind used in a dorm room) If anyone has one they would be willing to part with, please let

me know. We are currently working on registration for next fall. If anyone is aware of a child who would benefit from this program, please contact me. Thank you!

In Christ's Service,
JoAnne Sanders

Community Cookout

Saturday, June 19, 2010

**Bringing our Mission Statement to Life
Food, Fellowship and Fun with our
Friends and Neighbors**

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

While the Four Sundays in March outreach was successful in generating excitement and increased fellowship throughout the congregation, it did not meet its goal of bringing about visitation from our neighbors. After much discussion, the Strategic Plan Steering Committee developed the idea of a Community Cookout as a way to more effectively reach out to our neighbors and the community at large.

This outreach event will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2010 and will be free to all who attend. While focusing on our neighbors, through the distribution of flyers, this invitation is being issued to the community at large to join us at our Community Cookout. An advertisement will be placed in the Martinsville Bulletin and we will post flyers at local businesses. On the day of the Community Cookout, grill masters from within our congregation will fire up the grills and prepare what will surely be some of the best hamburgers and hot dogs you have ever tasted. Volunteers from within the congregation will be asked to provide "fixins" to go with the hamburgers and hot dogs, such as chips, baked beans, salads and desserts. In addition to an outstanding meal, there will be games for young and old alike and we in the process of procuring sev-



eral musical groups to provide entertainment. The Community Cookout will be held outside on the Church grounds so as to give the outreach event increased visibility and to provide a casual, relaxed atmosphere. Also, please don't forget that this invitation is extended to you – the members of First Presbyterian Church. You are encouraged to attend and to invite your friends to join us at this exciting event. In the coming weeks, reservation forms will be included in the Sunday bulletins where you can indicate both your intention to attend the Community Cookout and the number that will be attending. Additionally, Community Cookout flyers will be made available for you to share with your friends and neighbors – take as many as you need.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship among our members and will allow you to meet and greet any visitors to the Church in a fun, casual setting.

Let's all join together as good neighbors and as a unified body of the Church to truly live out our mission statement.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Congratulations to our Graduates,
Class of 2010
High School

Bassett High School

Margaret Anne Pilson

Martha Lynn Pilson

Carlisle School

Jack Everett Adkins

Farrell Elizabeth Pace

Robert Coleman Rothrock

Samuel Franklin Smith

Martinsville High School

Rachel Ellen Debusk

Dana Sullivan Mahoney

Brooke Nicole Sanders

Meredith Christine Seamon

.....and to our college grads!

Wake Forest University

Hilary Frances Moore

**New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark,
NJ**

William Logan Esarey III, Bachelor of Architecture