



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



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

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Joe Reggin, Interim Pastor ipjoe1147@gmail.com

Jenny Spivey, Associate Pastor pastorjenny@yahoo.com

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director and Organist

Sandra Brooks, Bookkeeper fpc@kimbanet.com

Sarah P. Altizer, Office Manager

office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Church Web Site <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>

Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Phone: 276-632-3431 Fax: 276-632- 3802

office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

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STEEPLE VIEWS

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*Our Mission is to:
Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other.*

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

February 2013

Martinsville, Virginia

From the Associate Pastor...

I was out running several errands on the morning of Friday, December 14th, picking up last minute items to prepare for the baby. It was two days after my due date, and I was feeling increasingly tired, both physically and mentally, of waiting for the big arrival. Before heading home, I paused to check my phone, and first saw the news of the tragic school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. I broke down in tears in the parking lot; my heart broken for the families grieving, my mind overwhelmed by the violence and evil that plagues our world – targeting even the most innocent. Suddenly, I didn't mind so much that my baby's arrival was delayed, I felt she was safer right where she was.

In the days that followed I remembered a sermon that gifted preacher Tom Troeger had given at Montreat a couple summers before. He told of a day, during the season of Advent, when he opened the newspaper to read of a local family murdered, heard on television of another shooting, and finally broke down when he read his email to find that a friend's brother had been found dead in his office. Overwhelmed with the vulnerability of human life, he said in that moment he thought, "O Lord, do not become flesh, do not be born of Mary, do not send the angels to the shepherds, do not lay the little child in the manger. If you come and dwell among us, we'll just kill you."

The violence in Newtown shattered the illusion that we sometimes imagine for ourselves at Christmastime. We envision a silent night, a peaceful harmony of mother and child. We work hard to get in the "Christmas spirit" with festive decorations and celebrations. Sometimes we can forget that the moment of Christ's incarnation is incredibly vulnerable, terrifying and risky. But this is exactly the good news: that God came to dwell among us in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived and shared God's justice and peace with the last and the least, he faced violence and death, and by his resurrection exposed that sin's power over us is not as strong as God's love.

Tom Troeger wrote lyrics to an anthem text, *The Dream Isaiah Saw*, in response to the events of that Advent day. He draws on the imagery of Isaiah's peaceable kingdom, *Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the Earth that God made. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.*

Let us live and embody Isaiah's dream, as Jesus showed us in his life and ministry. Let us follow as this little child leads us: risking vulnerability to the powers of our world, sharing peace in the face of violence, and living hope in the midst of despair.

Jenny Spivey



Happy Birthday in February to:

- 1 Carolyn Lackey, Logan Jennings
- 2 David Seamon
- 3 Harold Lamm, Lillie Willis
- 5 Michael Mason
- 6 Charlie Miller
- 7 Ben Smith, Mason Wood
- 8 Frances Leavitt, Guy Stanley
- 9 Marshall Chaney
- 11 Jo Dykes
- 13 Connie Anderson
- 15 Bob McLachlan
- 19 Sandra Ford, Zack Sanders

And in March to.....

- 5 Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore Smith
- 6 Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
- 8 Harriet Mattox
- 9 Tyler Price
- 11 Carol Darnell, Don Richman
- 12 Bill Peterson, Bob Clark
- 17 Rachel DeBusk, Alanna Ferguson
- 18 Anna Kate Jennings, Catherine Bridges, Steve Edgerton
- 20 JoAnne Sanders
- 21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
- 23 Diane Clark
- 27 Pam Mason, Kenzie Rakes
- 28 Christiana Campbell



G.P.S. (Grow, Praise, Sing)
Mondays, 2:45 p.m.
Join us!!



The OPPORTUNITIES TREE IS HERE!

It was presented by the Stewardship Committee on Sunday, January 13, during each of the worship services and will be placed in the Narthex during Sunday services and in the Sunday school hall during the week. Opportunities for use of talents/time/energy in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church are offered for ALL members (and visitors!) with colorful hanging suggestions. Each church member is invited to take an “opportunity” and put the suggestion into practice. Multiple opportunities are offered initially and then they will be amended regularly with fresh suggestions. This project is a yearlong effort to nurture the principle that stewardship of God’s gifts to us is an “EVERY MEMBER, EVERY HAND” practice, and just as much our responsibility as our financial gifts which we pledged in the fall. First Presbyterian Church is a vital and exciting place to be, awash in opportunities for ALL church members to participate in its mission and service to our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to GOD!

Births

“Two babies for the church in one week! Thanks be to God!”



Congratulations to Clint and Jenny Spivey on the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Leona Spivey, December 18, 2012, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Gwendolyn is the very proud Big Sister.



Congratulations to John and Susan Hatchett on the birth of their son, Evan William Hatchett, on December 20, 2012, in Roanoke, Virginia.

Note of Appreciation

My dearest church family:

I want you to know how touched and overwhelmed Jared and Jonathan were to receive the care packages. It was a generous gesture, and I thank you for being such a wonderful, caring Church family. God Bless You All!

Lee Eden



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Marion and Charlie Miller and family on the death of Marion's mother, Ima Livingston Andrew, on

December 10, 2012, in Albemarle, North Carolina.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ken and Margaret Knight on the death of Margaret's brother, Dillard Franklin Gravely, on January 9, 2013, in Martinsville.

IN MEMORIAM

Glenna Lowry Wimer

June 3, 1917 – December 9, 2012

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Glenna Lowry Wimer on her death in Martinsville. Glenna, a member of First Presbyterian since January 26, 2003, joined the Church Triumphant on December 9, 2012.

Margaret Minter Turner Hotchkiss

December 2, 1916 – January 10, 2013

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Margaret Minter Turner Hotchkiss on her death in Martinsville. Margaret, a member of First Presbyterian since February 10, 1957, joined the Church Triumphant on January 10, 2013.

WELCOME

New Members!

We welcome into membership of the church, **Christina Kropp**. Christy was received into the membership of First Presbyterian by affirmation of faith. Demonstrating her spirit of stewardship and service, Christy is already singing with the Praise Band and has joined the Congregational Care Committee.

At the September Session meeting, Susan Hatchett was received into membership of First Presbyterian by letter of transfer from Princeton Presbyterian Church in Princeton, West Virginia. Susan is a lifelong Presbyterian, and moved to this area after she and her husband John were married in 2010.



Volunteer Today to Become a Mentor? Martinsville Middle School is seeking volunteers to mentor some of their students.

Many of them would benefit greatly from the wisdom that you could share. In order to be a mentor you will be asked to complete a background screening at Central Office. You may meet your student at MMS as often as you would like. A place will be provided for you to meet. You may also eat lunch with your student. If you are interested contact Alysa Stokes or Stephanie Adkins at 276-403-5886. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Cookies go to College!

Each year our Presbyterian Women pack and send cookies to all of our college students. Of course, in order to do this, we need the most current addresses of all the students. Parents should call **Janet Fentress at 638-3840** to provide her with this information and tell her you'll bake some cookies, too!





Session Retreat.....

At the January 12-13 Session Retreat, the following were completed:

1. Session members continued their leadership training using the text A Failure of Nerve-Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix- by Edwin H. Friedman;
2. The Session developed a set of Values that will be communicated to the Pastor Nominating Committee as it begins the search for a new pastor;
3. The Session decided on two dates for Congregational Meetings. The first is scheduled for January 27 after the 11:00 service. At that meeting we will amend the terms of call for the associate pastor and elect the Pastor Nominating Committee.
4. There will be an Annual Congregational Meeting on February 24 to elect new elders and to give staff/session reports.



A big thank you to all those who have agreed to serve on an usher/greeter team for the coming year. There have been a few changes in procedure.

They will be explained in two brief training sessions in the sanctuary following the 11:00 worship services on February 10th and 17th. **Please plan to attend one of these meetings.**

YOU CAN GIVE TWO CENTS A MEAL!!!

Two Cents-a-Meal invites every member of our congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from “living more simply so that others may simply live.” Participation in *Two Cents-a-Meal* is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus’ command, “You give them something to eat.”

What is Two Cents-a-meal?

The Two Cents-a-Meal concept originated with Presbyterian women to provide an opportunity for individuals and families to participate in a corporate response to world hunger. The Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering funded a hunger program that started the Hunger Action Enabler network in 1973.



In November 1975, Florida resident Roselyn Calvert, whose own family was struggling financially, asked God what she could do to help those suffering from hunger and poverty around the world. She was led to give just two cents a meal. The Calvert family committed to each give two cents, and in April of 1976 Roselyn shared the concept with her presbytery. Today, most presbyteries encourage the contribution of two cents (or more) per person at each meal, reminding individuals, families and groups each time they eat of the needs of others and our call to respond as Christians to their hunger. Daily participation is a reminder of the reality of hunger for millions of our sisters and brothers in the world. As the money accumulates, those participating become aware that small, regular acts can result in significant responses to hunger and that there is great strength in working together with other Christians.

It is suggested that families have a special container nearby and place offerings in it at each meal. Children in your family may make a special container or a simple box or jar may be used. *The fourth Sunday of each month and special events have been designated as a time to receive your offerings.*

Montreat Youth Conference 2013 “Here and Be Heard”

All youth from rising 9th graders through graduated seniors are invited to come along with our group to the Montreat Youth Conference from July 24-30. The theme for this year’s conference is *Here and Be Heard*. A Youth Conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings where the conference then is explored, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship. Our group will be staying together in a rental cottage as in years past. Information forms have been sent out by mail, and are available on the bulletin board downstairs near the youth room. There is presently waiting list. The total cost for church members is \$250, and for non-church members is \$300. The remainder of the cost is due on March 1. If you need financial assistance, please speak to Pastor Jenny.

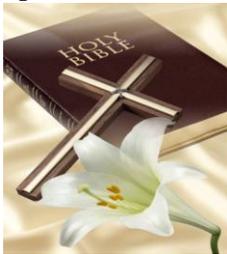


Shawl Dedication Sunday, was held January 27

Twelve new prayer shawls were dedicated during the January 27, (11:00am) worship service.. The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in September 2012 and now involves 17 knitters. Knitters pray for the recipients as they knit and the shawls are then presented during a church service, giving the congregation of our church the opportunity to be a part of this ministry. Prayer shawls are delivered to the sick, the bereaved, or to celebrate a special occasion. A card is attached to each shawl that reads: *This shawl was knitted for you by a member of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. The shawl represents the love we have for you and the hope it offers. We ask that you wrap it around you knowing that the congregation prayed for you and dedicated this shawl as a symbol of God’s love. The Prayer Shawl Ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville.*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry hopes you were present for this meaningful service. After the dedication, prayer shawls are housed in the pastor’s closet and may be given to anyone in or outside of the congregation who is in need of knowing God’s love and the love of First Presbyterian Church. Make sure the shawl is signed out so we might know who took a shawl and who received one. Sixteen prayer shawls have already been delivered from our congregation. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, contact Joan Montgomery at jandmmontgo@embarqmail.com or 632-1157 or any other member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Beginner lessons are available.

The Season of Lent and Holy Week, leading up to Easter offers us a time for contemplation, not only of the crucifixion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, but also of our own lives and this year especially the life of our church family and preparations for God's call of a



new pastor to be in ministry with us At First Presbyterian, Martinsville. With all of that in mind, several opportunities for Worship, Fellowship and discussion are in the planning stages.

A tentative schedule follows:

Ash Wednesday, February 13 – 7:00-8:00
Worship in the Sanctuary with communion and ashes being offered for those who want them.

Fellowship events beginning with supper at 5:45. Discussion time following dinner will be led by the Session on topics pertaining to the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee, the call of a Pastor and/or the future of First Presbyterian Church. The discussions will begin about 6:30.

Wednesday, February 27
Wednesday, March 6
Wednesday, March 20

Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 24 through Wednesday, March 27. Brief Devotional Services of Prayer each evening in the chapel from 6:00-6:15 PM, based on the activities of Jesus on the given day.

Maundy Thursday, March 28 Worship service from 7:00-8:00 PM. Communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday, March 29 Tenebrae Worship Service from 7:00-8:00. This service is a “reverse Advent/Christmas” service in which light is extinguished and the paraments, Bible, Communion ware and other items are taken from the sanctuary and the cross is draped in black until

Easter Sunday morning. This service emphasizes the crucifixion and death of Jesus

Easter 8:30 and 11:00 services celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ

Please be on the lookout for more details to come.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Where God's World Comes Together

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