

January 2, 2025



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Corner Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

In memory of President Carter, I'd like to share the following poem, written for James Earl Carter by Paul Hooker. Paul Hooker is a retired Presbyterian pastor, presbytery executive, and professor who lives in northeast Georgia. He has published three volumes of poetry: *Days and Times*, *The Hole in the Heart of God*, and *The Longing*.

For JEC, Jr.

*Goodbye, fierce and gentle warrior,  
farmer with your hands full  
of good soil. You grew things.*

*You made your choices for weal and woe,  
held your power loosely, let it go;  
asked nothing of others  
you asked not of yourself.*

*In extraordinary times, you were an ordinary man —  
not a hero, not a saint, not a role model.  
You looked into our eyes and told the truth  
as best you understood it. We did not listen.*

*We wanted fairy tales of false greatness,  
glib promises of never-ending good times,*

*eternal morning in a land immune to night —  
Lies, all, and so you warned us.*

*But comforting calumny is easier to hear  
than stony fact. We turned away  
to worship at their shiny altars  
these gods of glory, greed, and gore.*

*You wavered not an inch from your convictions,  
smile undimmed by public humiliation;  
you went back to planting crops  
in fields where no one else thought they could grow:*

*Peace in bloodied ground,  
homes in urban lots,  
love stretched like a wedding canopy  
over time and patience and simple faith.*

*Do not despair.  
The fields you plowed still wait their harvest.  
See, even now they bear your quiet fruit.*

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Peace be with us all,

Pastor Bea

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Please join us this second Sunday after Christmas at 10:00 AM

**Sermon by Pastor Bea**

based upon Luke 2:21-40 and Jeremiah 31:7-14

**Liturgist:** Liz Ferrell  
**Ushers/Greeters:** Joe and Jerri DeVault

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## Liturgist Schedule

### January

5 Liz Ferrell  
12 Janet Fentress  
19 Duke Ferrell  
26 Cindy Edgerton

### February

2 Sharon Kirby  
9 Jack Kirby  
16 Billy Kirby  
23 Ione Linker

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### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4pm  
Friday 9:30am - 2pm

**Be Aware!**

**Protect yourself  
from scammers!**

Watch for emails, texts or calls that might be fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards.

You will NEVER get an email from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

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## \*\*\*ELEVATOR IS OUT OF SERVICE\*\*\*

Please park wherever is most convenient and suitable to your specific needs.

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**Church officers for the Class of 2027** will be installed during the **January 5th** worship service.

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**The MHC Heritage Center** (former Henry County Courthouse) located at 1 East Main St., Martinsville will have its Christmas music program at **3:00 PM Sunday, January 5th**. Community musicians will be performing including FPC members Gale Buck, Lynn Pritchett and Virginia King. Admission is free and the building is handicap accessible.

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**FPC Women's Circle Meeting - Monday, January 6th** at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Lynn Pritchett will be leading lesson 5, Air Quality. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

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## Community Breakfast

- January 18 **NEED LEADER**

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*Happy January Birthdays!*

**7** Elena King

**10** Dr. James Beard

- 16 Billy Kirby, Wendy Luther
  - 18 Mary Elizabeth Pilson-Bazemore
  - 21 Bonny Pace
  - 23 Milt Davis
  - 28 David Garland
  - 29 Jack Kirby, Rusty Reaser
  - 31 Mattie Wingfield
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## Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of a [prayer shawl](#), or know someone that could use one, please pick one up from the narthex and be sure to sign it out. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pearl Minter.

If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Pearl at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

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### **These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:**

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family of Nancy Parcell (Kim Boyd's mother), Anne Abercrombie, Barbara Adams, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Nancy Davis, Jerri, DeVault, Marge Dunn, Steve Edgerton, Teri Ferguson, Martin Ford, Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Rita Lawson, Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Susan C. Smith (M. Davis), Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, C.J. Swinney (great-grandson of P. Minter), Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, James Walker, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries. Areas and families affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.



## ***Grace Network Donations***

**1st quarter 2025 food donation item is  
Juice 40-64 oz**



Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

**ALSO in need of plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons (any size).  
These can be deposited in the bins inside the Narthex**

**Hygiene Items are always needed** (optional)

- \*Toilet Paper
- \*Bath Soap
- \*Dish Detergent
- \*Feminine Products
- \*Deodorant
- \*Toothpaste
- \*Laundry Detergent

*\*Items may be brought to the church or dropped off at Grace Network, Monday  
- Friday, 9-2 PM*



## Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

**Steeple Views** is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** [fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). For time sensitive announcements, please send to [skirbycwj@gmail.com](mailto:skirbycwj@gmail.com)

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

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### *Presbytery of the Peaks*

For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:

<https://www.peakspresbytery.org/peaks-postings/>

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#### Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

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**Printed copies of Steeple Views** are available at church. Current and back issues are also on our website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

#### Useful Links

FPC website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/)

**Church Office Phone:** [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

**Our mailing address is:**

First Presbyterian Church  
1901 Patrick Henry Ave.  
Martinsville, VA 24112

### **STAFF**

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, [rev.millerb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.millerb@gmail.com)  
Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Vickie Blair, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Spencer Koger, Director of Music, [adulthoodmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:adulthoodmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,  
[worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

### **THE SESSION**

Clerk: Nancy Baker  
Treasurer: Henry Moore

### **Class of 2024**

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship  
Neil Tatum: Facilities  
Liz Ferrell: Worship

### **Class of 2025**

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach  
Sue Legg: Stewardship and Communication  
Monica Stevens: Christian Education

### **Class of 2026**

Billy Kirby: Administration  
Susan Pilson: Communication  
Anne Madonia: Think Tank

### **TRUSTEES**

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis  
2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg  
2026: Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock

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