

January 11, 2024



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Corner

**Elder Billy Kirby**

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Sunday, I did a "Minute For Mission", at the start of the service, and attempted to provide some detail concerning our financial position through year-end. For those of you who missed it and are imagining a boring snooze-fest of numbers and terms like "contribution income" you would only be partially correct. We laughed, we cried, we did some long division.

In all seriousness, I threw a lot of figures at everyone and I thought it might be a good idea to include a recap in SteepleViews. We came to the congregation at the start of 2023 in an attempt to be completely transparent with where we stood in terms of the budget and the long (maybe shorter than we thought) term impact that would have on the endowment as well as the continued viability of the Church.

The pledge total for 2023 was \$176,970. Budgeted expenses exceeded \$400,000. In other words, we anticipated balancing our 2023 budget with roughly \$240,000 from our endowment. That was, and is, not sustainable. As I said Sunday, it has been my experience that type of news cuts one of two ways... either people lose hope because they fear the goal is unattainable or they double-down, re-engage, become closer as a congregation, and do the hard work. Fortunately, although not surprisingly, this wonderful group did the latter.

As I stated above, the pledge total for 2023 was \$176,970. Actual pledges collected were \$267,285. Yay God!!! Instead of the \$240,000 we anticipated

taking from the endowment we took less than \$125,000. The stock market was also kind to us. I do not think I'm alone in thinking that perhaps more important than an improved financial position was the commitment from each of you. I hope everyone felt, as I did, a growing sense of hope and a renewed feeling of family in 2023.

Now, so as to prevent everyone from thinking we have left all of our financial woes in the rearview mirror, I would add that expenses were greater than anticipated. Expenses go one way... up. We are currently wrapping up the 2024 budget and will report back to you soon. As of today, pledges have exceeded those pledged at the outset of 2023 (yay) but not the actual 2023 pledges (less yay) collected. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Billy

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Please join us for worship this second Sunday after the Epiphany at 10:00 AM

**Sermon by Pastor Bea**  
**based upon John 1:43-51 and Psalm 139:1-6**

**Liturgist:** Milt Davis  
**Ushers:** Monty and Joan Montgomery

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## **Liturgist Schedule**

**January**  
14 Milt Davis

21 Nancy Davis  
28 Jerri DeVault

**February**

4 Joe DeVault  
11 Cindy Edgerton  
18 Janet Fentress  
25 Duke Ferrell

**March**

3 Liz Ferrell  
10 Billy Kirby  
17 Jack Kirby  
24 Sharon Kirby \*\*Palm Sunday\*\*  
31 Sam Smith \*\*Easter\*\*

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**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.

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

**\*\*The church office and preschool** will be closed Monday, January 15, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Community Breakfast Saturday, January 20** led by members of the Mission and Outreach Committee. Contact Ron Rebman ([540-842-4698](tel:540-842-4698)) or Judy King ([276-340-8101](tel:276-340-8101)) if you can help.

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**Will Kirby** will be offering technical support in the coming weeks to any church member needing assistance with wireless phones, tablets, laptops, smart watches, etc.

He will be available in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, January 20, from 1 - 3 PM**

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### **Happy January Birthdays!**



*Happy January Birthdays!*

- 7** Elena King
- 10** Dr. James Beard
- 16** Billy Kirby, Wendy Luther
- 17** Grace Ann Crimmins
- 18** Mary Elizabeth Pilson-Bazemore
- 19** Helen Flythe
- 21** Bonny Pace
- 23** Milt Davis
- 28** David Garland
- 29** Jack Kirby, Rusty Reaser
- 31** Mattie Wingfield

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

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family of Bill Vaughan, Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Cathie Carter (B. Tatum), Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Charles & Frances Gray (Kym Tatum's parents), Juanita Griffin (B & J Williams), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Darrel Lemke (N. Davis), Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Ronnie & Marissa Pruet, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



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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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## ***Grace Network Donations***

### **1st quarter food donation item is Spaghetti Sauce (24)**



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

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

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

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

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## 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/images/2020\\_Peaks\\_Postings/PP\\_Aug18\\_2020.pdf](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

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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](https://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:**

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1901 Patrick Henry Ave.  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**STAFF**

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, [rev.millerb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.millerb@gmail.com)  
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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:  
Anne Madonia:

**TRUSTEES**

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis  
2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

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