

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

March 2014

Martinsville, Virginia

Pastor's Reflections

A Workout for the Body and Spirit

A couple years ago, I ran in the Harvest Moon 10K down the Dick and Willie Trail and back to Uptown. The course began with a gentle uphill climb, followed by a downhill section, and I was running strong. But at the last leg of the race, with the end in sight – just as I was most tired – there was one last turn and a steep uphill climb to the finish. This memory comes back to mind as I look ahead to these coming months for a couple reasons.

First, my experience is that running is not simply an exercise of the body, but also of the mind and spirit. Running engages my total being, and reminds me that body and spirit work together. When I'm out on a run, the rhythm I experience calms my mind and turns my spirit to reflection and prayer. When my body is tiring, my spirit helps to give me determination to complete my goal. The season of Lent has gotten the reputation as a time to deny the body in order to focus on spiritual matters. I think this is a false dichotomy. Our bodies and spirits work together in harmony in the wonder of God's creation of our being. The season of Lent is itself like a journey, and certainly for Jesus his last week was a steep uphill climb – a test of both body and spirit. As we are on this journey together in the season of Lent, how can we be attentive and listening to both our bodies and spirits? How can we be attentive to the ways we face challenges together as the Body of Christ, and share in the unity of the Holy Spirit as people of faith?

Second, there is another end in sight for me and my family, the end of my time here as pastor. My husband Clint has already begun his new position in Norfolk, and my departure will be likely in July. It feels like that turning point moment in the race: I've run through uphill and downhills (we all have!) and I'll admit there are times I'm tired, in body and spirit. I'm aware though, that these next months aren't an easy downhill coast to the finish. The process of

Ash
Wednesday

Worship Service March 5, 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It is a day of repentance and public

acts of confession as we recognize our own mortality, a time to reflect and examine our lives in the light of God's grace, a time to pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's word in Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey culminating in Easter. We will mark this day with a worship service for the imposition of ashes as a symbol of humility and grief. Please join us as we embrace the rituals of Ash Wednesday on **March 5, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

leaving and goodbyes feels like a steep uphill climb.

So, let me tell you the end of the race story. I wasn't running that race alone. In fact, I ran it with friend and regular churchgoer (while she lived here) Emily Whitmore. I looked over to her

after looking up the hill and panted, "I can't do it, my legs are jello, I'm so tired." And she looked back and said, "We've got this, we're almost there, you're doing great." If it were up to me alone, I might have stopped and walked. But when my body and spirit were about to give out, her presence and spirit helped me keep going. Sometimes, especially with Clint gone, I've felt like I'm running alone. But I know I'm not. We're running together, and I give

thanks for that. I pray that my spirit might inspire and help others keep going, and pray also that I would be able to accept the help and encouragement you offer me. As one of my favorite spirituals sings, "Hold my hand, while I run this race...Cause I don't want to run this race in vain."

Pastor Jenny





Ecumenical Worship on Wednesdays

March 12-April 9

The season of Lent,
beginning on Ash
Wednesday and
continuing through

Holy Week, is a time in the church year for prayer, repentance, and recommitment to following Christ even to the foot of the cross. As in years past, we will again be joining with brothers and sisters in Christ from other local congregations to offer Wednesday worship services.

This year the participating congregations are Broad Street Christian Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wesley Memorial United Methodist, Calvary Christian, in addition to First Presbyterian. Because some churches have different space and scheduling needs, some Wednesdays will be a lunch worship and others will be an evening supper followed by worship. The scriptures and messages will be centered around Jesus' parables in the Gospel of Matthew. The schedule of host locations and times is:

March 12 — 5:15 p.m. Supper, 6:00 p.m.
Worship, Broad Street Christian

March 19 — 12 noon lunch and worship, Holy Trinity Lutheran

March 26 — 5:15 p.m. Supper, 6:00pm
Worship, HERE at First Presbyterian

April 2 — 12 noon lunch and worship, Wesley Memorial United Methodist

April 9 — 5:15 p.m. Supper, 6:00 p.m. Worship,
Calvary Christian

Sunday Worship Focus

Transfiguration of the Lord, March 2

Stop, Look, Listen; Go, Show, Serve

Matthew 17:1-13, 14-21

The gospel story of Jesus and his disciples on the mountain where Jesus is "transfigured" encourages us to see him in the same light of revelation that was given through Moses and Elijah (the Law and the Prophets). This moment in Jesus' life leads him down the mountain, on towards Jerusalem, and to his eventual death. For us, we read this story as we too prepare for the season of Lent and to follow Jesus even through the darkness of betrayal and death.

The Season of Lent

As I mentioned in the pastor's reflections article, I have been contemplating the intersection of, rather than the separation between, body and

spirit as it relates to our practice of the Christian faith. During the season of Lent, we will explore this focus as it relates to the lectionary readings.

Pastor Jenny

First Sunday of Lent, March 9

Body and Spirit: Hunger

Isaiah 55, Matthew 4

After forty days in the wilderness, Jesus was famished. Yet, he did not let his physical hunger draw him away from God's call. For what are we hungry? What truly satisfies our hunger, in body and spirit?

Second Sunday of Lent, March 16

Body and Spirit: Thirst

Isaiah 44, John 4

Jesus tells the woman at the well about "living water." For what are we thirsty? What gives us life and sustains us?

Third Sunday of Lent, March 23

Body and Spirit: Sight

Isaiah 43, John 9

In Jesus' healing a man born blind, the miracle of physical sight is met with the reaction of spiritual blindness. To what are we blind? What clouds our vision? How can we see more clearly?

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 30

Body and Spirit: Birth

Ezekiel 36, John 3

Jesus words to Nicodemus about being born again/born from above challenge us to consider both the profoundly physical and spiritual aspects of birth. What are our stories about birth? What does it mean to be born again?

Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 6

Body and Spirit: Death

Ezekiel 37, John 11

The story of the death of Lazarus, of Mary and Martha's grief, of Jesus response, prompts us to consider the physical reality of death and also the spiritual and emotional experience of dying. How do we die? How do we live?

STEEPLE VIEWS is published by First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA. Deadline for submission of articles to the church office is the 14th of each month.

Rev. Jennifer Spivey, Bridge Pastor,
pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist,
CDMartinsville@aol.com

Sarah Altizer, Office Manager, sarahfpcoffice@gmail.com
Francia Brown, Bookkeeper

Phone: 276-632-3431

Website: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

Congregational Care

Make Easter Cards

The Congregation Care Committee would like to invite EVERYONE to the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, March 28, from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.** We will be making Easter cards for our homebound members and anyone 90 and above. Please come and join us for some fun and fellowship.

Need a Ride to Church?

Are you tired of wondering how you are going to get to church on these cold and snowy days? Have no fear, we are here! We have dedicated men and women that are happy to pick you up and bring you to church. Please call or e-mail Joe DeVault at 656-3024 or devault@embarqmail.com.

Mission

Read Across America

Books at Breakfast

In recognition of March as Read Across America month and to help promote literacy, books will be given to the children attending the **March 15 Community Breakfast**. The Mission Committee would appreciate your donations of new or gently used books. You can place donated books in the marked receptacle located between the Marge Dunn kitchen and the Fellowship Hall **by March 9**. We hope you can help us in this way as we live out our mission to share God's love, embrace our neighbors and nurture each other. Thanks to Jo Dykes for this wonderful poem promoting this ministry.

*Books! Books! Books, you say?
Books can brighten any day!*

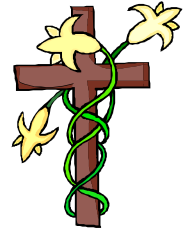


*Do you have books
your kids outgrew?
Read and loved,
still good as new?
To bookless kids
we'll make a gift,
and that will give all
hearts a lift.
Bring new or old to
kitchen hall.*

*A box you'll find. They'll have a ball!
By March the 9th we need these treasures.
Bunches of thanks for giving kids pleasures!*

To help with the monthly breakfast, contact Nancy Baker at 638-7923 or nbaker08@comcast.net or just show up on Saturday morning.

Holy Week and Easter Worship Service Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 13

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Meet to walk to Wilson Park for the Palm Sunday in the Park ecumenical service.
11:00 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 17

6:00 p.m. Supper and Communion Service

Good Friday, April 18

6:30 p.m. Worship service at Grace Presbyterian Church with Forest Hills, Grace, and First Presbyterian churches joining together

Easter Sunday, April 20

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. ONE Worship service in the Sanctuary with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

SAVE THE DATE!

CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT

MASSANETTA SPRINGS

JUNE 5-8

The Mission, Congregational Care and Evangelism committees are planning an exciting "all church family" retreat with fun, mission, fellowship, and spiritual enrichment for all ages.

Happy March Birthdays!



5 Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore Smith
6 Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
8 Harriet Mattox
9 Tyler Price
11 Carol Darnell, Don Richman, Nicholas Young
12 Bill Peterson, Bob Clark
17 Rachel DeBusk, Alanna Ferguson, Anna Kate Jennings
18 Catherine Bridges, Rick Renz, Steve Edgerton
20 JoAnne Sanders
21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
23 Diane Clark
27 Kenzie Rakes
and in April...

3 Claude Young
4 Max Pinkston
5 Kate Judson
7 Bob Davis, Kisean Adams

IN MEMORIAM

John Kuhn

December 11, 1926—February 1, 2014

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Vera Jane Kuhn and family on the death of her husband, John Kuhn, February 1, 2014. John, a member of First Presbyterian since July 9, 1995, joined the Church Triumphant on February 1, 2014.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Littleton Wilson

April 10, 1931—February 26, 2014

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Pat Wilson and family on the death of her husband, Robert Littleton Wilson. Bobby, a member of First Presbyterian since April 6, 1947, joined the Church Triumphant on February 26, 2014.

Grace Network

Feinstein Challenge 2014

For the 17th consecutive year, Alan Feinstein will divide \$1 million among agencies fighting hunger. Grace Network has been one of the agencies to receive a portion of these funds for the past several years, thanks to your generosity during the months of March and April. We have this opportunity again this year.

All donations received by Grace Network from March 1, 2014-April 30, 2014 will be counted. The more donations received by Grace, the more of the Feinstein money we will get. This includes not only monetary gifts but also all donations of food. Each food item is valued at \$1 per item, and will be added to our count when reporting March and April donations. Your donation toward this campaign stays local and makes you partners in this most successful effort to fight hunger.

Please help Grace get the word out to churches, supporting groups and friends as they continue to assist those in need in our community.

Stewardship

Consider Planned Giving to FPC

I use to work in long-term care, and when a new resident came to live in the community, part of my job in the admission process was to ask about his or her funeral plans. I was always uncomfortable with that question though it didn't seem to faze the new resident who already had in mind all of the details for when the necessary time came. So, here I am again uncomfortably writing to you about perpetual planning.

Back in the fall, you received a letter from the Stewardship Committee in regards to the Annual Giving Campaign. Included was a brochure with reasons why you should consider planned giving to our church and a way to request more information about including the church in your estate planning.

But it's simple. If you believe the church is important to the family, the community, and the world, then you believe that not only today but forever. And the technical part of estate planning is also easy; you just add to your will: "I give and bequeath the sum of x amount of dollars, to be used for the general program of First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA."

Two special ladies did just that. Bunny O'Neal spent most of her life in West Virginia and later moved to Winchester, VA, before she and her husband became two of the pioneer residents of King's Grant 20 years ago. She immediately joined this church and was an active member of the community. She was 98 when she passed away a year ago.

Margaret Turner Hotchkiss grew up in Henry County. She taught school in Northern Virginia and Florida before returning to the area in 1952 where she worked in education for another 30 years. She and her husband, George, were also early residents of King's Grant, and they were members of this church for over 50 years. Margaret was 96 when she passed away a year ago.

Both of these women loved their church and were an integral part of it while they were alive. But both of them felt strongly enough to think of their church in their wills, so that it would continue to operate for a new generation. We have recently received these significant endowment funds. Thank you, Bunny and Margaret, for thinking of this church and of tomorrow and for being good examples of stewardship.

Cindy Edgerton

Weekday School

Looking Forward to Spring

The Weekday School is alive and full of smiles and energy. Between the snow days, Valentine's Day and just typical children's excitement—things have been happening at school.

In February we participated in our very own Olympic Games—with games, ceremonies, and a parade of nations. We also eagerly anticipate the better weather so we can get back outside to enjoy our awesome playground.

In March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday

Weekday School, cont.

with Green Eggs and Ham and other fun festivities—be on the lookout—you may even see The Cat in the Hat or Thing 1 and Thing 2. After Dr. Seuss we will prepare for the Leprechaun to come and visit us on St. Patrick's Day. Who knows what we may find at the end of the rainbow?

The Weekday teachers and I want to thank you for your support of the Weekday School program. If you ever want to drop by and chat or find out more information about our awesome school, please come by and see me. We will be starting registration and enrollment soon for the 2014-2015 school year. Please share with your family, friends, neighbors and anyone you may know who may be looking for a great preschool program. We would love for them to join the fun!!

Blessings, Amy Mateer

The Extended Table

Holy Communion is the sacrament that sustains and nourishes us in our journey of faith and salvation; therefore the church must intentionally concern itself with those who are absent from the Lord's Table.

The purpose of The Extended Table ministry at First Presbyterian Church is to extend the Lord's Table, serving the sacrament of Holy Communion to all members of our worship community who are unable to attend church worship services due to physical and/or health constraints.

Ordained Elders and Deacons (currently serving or having served previously), along with the pastor, will go in teams to serve the consecrated elements of Holy Communion. Our homebound members will be served within three days of Holy Communion having been celebrated by the congregation during the worship service.

There will be a training and information session in the Session Room on **Sunday, March 9** immediately following the traditional worship service for those Elders and Deacons who are interested in helping with this ministry.

If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry, or if you or someone you know would like to receive communion from this ministry team, please contact either Betty Hudson (bchmhudson@gmail.com or 276-638-0467) or Nancy Davis (davistwo@comcast.net or 276-632-1403).

We will begin THE EXTENDED TABLE ministry on **Sunday, April 6, 2014**.



Session Highlights for Stated Meetings

January 27 & February 25, 2014

- Jenny Spivey moderated both meetings, which were opened with devotionals and prayer.
- At the January meeting, Virginia King, Moderator of the Early Worship Committee, asked the Session to approve removal of the pews in the chapel to make early services more intimate and informal. The Session referred the request back to the committee for discussion about alternatives. At the February meeting, the Session approved a new recommendation from the Early Worship Committee that their services remain in the chapel and that they have the flexibility of using chairs rather than pews. A motion was approved that no changes to the chapel be made that are irreversible.

In January:

- The Session approved the transfer of George and Jane Townsend to our church from Chester United Methodist Church in Chester, VA.
- The Presbytery's 2013 Statistical Report was approved.
- The Church Treasurer presented the Income and Expense Statement for the year 2013 for review and discussion.
- A Called Session meeting was approved for Sunday, February 9, 2014 after the 11:00 service to examine Neil Tatum in preparation for his installation as ruling elder and Moderator of Facilities.
- An application from Citizens Against Family Violence for a grant through Community Outreach for POP congregations was approved.
- The Session approved the sale of tables and chairs by sealed bids by the Facilities committee. Details will be supplied to the congregation.
- A request from Facilities to have \$10,000 in contingency funds to handle emergencies and unbudgeted items was approved.

In February:

- A report from the PNC was received. Billy Kirby told the Session that the committee is awaiting background checks and approval from the Presbytery to move forward with interviewing three final candidates for our new pastor.
- Both meetings were adjourned with prayer by the Moderator.



First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

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STEEPLEVIEWS

March 2014

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

March Calendar

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Sundays

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Bible Study
"Hymns for Today"

3 Monday

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women General Meeting, Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Circle 3

3, 10, 17, 23, Mondays

2:45 p.m. G. P. S. (Children's Music)

4 Tuesday

10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Cooks Who Care

4, 11, 18, 25 Tuesdays

5:45 Sanctuary Ringers

5 Ash Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

9 Sunday

Deadline to donate books
12:00 noon Training for Extended Table

10 Monday

6:00 p.m. Congregational Supper
7:00 p.m. Church committees meet

11 & 25 Tuesdays

7:00 p.m. Worship Band

12 Wednesday

5:15 p.m. Supper & 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Worship at Broad Street Christian

14 Friday

STEEPLE VIEWS deadline, submit articles to Gael

Chaney, gael.chaney@alumni.duke.edu or bring to the church office

15 Saturday

8:00-9:30 a.m. Free Community Breakfast and book give-away

19 Wednesday

12 noon Lenten Lunch & Worship at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

23 Sunday

2 Cents a Meal Hunger Offering

26 Wednesday

5:15 p.m. Supper & 6:00 p.m. Worship at FPC

28 Friday

5:30-7:00 p.m. Make Easter cards for shut-ins

31 Monday

7:00 p.m. Session