

STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH † DEC. 2014-JAN. 2015 † MARTINSVILLE, VA

Congregational Supper, Dec. 8 & Jan. 12

Followed by Committee Meetings

Come one, come all to our monthly Congregational Supper on December 8 at 6:00 PM. The Worship Committee is cooking, and the menu is Sicilian sausage soup, bread, grapes, cheeses, and dessert. PB&J will be available for children. Those with December birthdays will be honored at the Birthday Table with Pastor Mark and Tracy Hinchcliff and a special dessert. All committees will meet at 7:00.

The next congregational supper and committee night will be on January 12. All those with January birthdays are invited to sit at the Birthday Table at this dinner.



Christmas Music Program

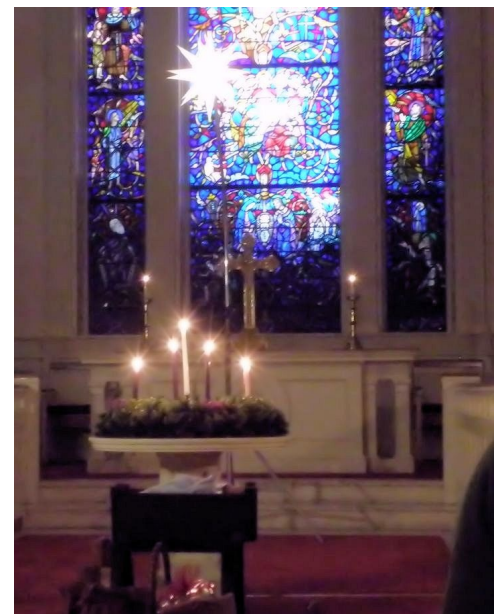
Dec. 14, 3:00 PM

The Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Ringers invite everyone to our annual Christmas music program on Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. Violinist Virginia King and flautist Lynn Pritchett will also share their music with us. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your friends and neighbors for a joy-filled time!

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24, 7:00 PM

This year we will have one Christmas Eve service for our entire church family, from tiny babies to great-grandparents. The Candlelight Service will be at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary and will include a children's pageant, communion and, of course, scripture readings and carols. Come early for pre-service music. Elders, please contact Cindy Edgerton, 732-2784, if you are available to serve communion.



*Pastor's Corner***Shifting Our Focus**

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

—Philippians 2:4

A famous psychologist, Dr. Karl Menninger, once gave a lecture on mental health and was asked during a question and answer segment, "What advice would you give to someone who felt a nervous breakdown coming on?" Without hesitation Dr. Menninger replied, "Lock up your house, go across the railroad tracks, find someone in need and find a way to help that person." The point of his answer was that when we become so focused on our own problems and circumstances we can become withdrawn and inwardly frozen which may effectively remove us from active participation in the life that God has given us! This will prevent us from ever being what God intends for us to be, including serving others effectively. We can freeze in our own tracks!

Following Christ is not an exercise of protecting our own interests but rather a grateful response of our hearts for what God has already done for us. We respond by reaching out to others and lovingly serving them in God's holy name.

When I look back on tough times in my own life, times when I have felt sorry for myself for some reason or another, I've experienced release from my anxiety by changing my focus to others and getting myself involved in serving. Routine self examination is healthy. An obsession with self is not.

As we go through this season of Advent, leading into Christmas, be reminded that our gift from God in the Christ Child has already been given to us as believers and followers of Him. So today if we find ourselves frozen in our tracks by a difficult situation, shift focus from ourselves to Jesus and find someone to serve in His name! The weight will seem lighter and we can get moving once again.



Merry Christmas.

Pastor Mark

Free Community Breakfast Dec. 20 & Jan. 17

Join the Mission Committee as we offer a free Community Breakfast on the third Saturday morning of each month, September through May, from 8:00 until 9:30. Volunteers are needed from 7:00 until about 10:00 AM. Contact Denny Casey at d.a.casey@comcast.net if you would like to help cook, serve, clean up or serve as hosts for our visitors.

Cottage Place Christmas Dinner Dec. 15

The Mission and Evangelism/Outreach Committees will host residents and staff of Cottage Place group home for a special Christmas dinner on December 15, 5:30-7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Help is always needed for this outreach, which the residents really appreciate. Contact Nancy Baker (nbaker08@comcast.net, 638-7923) or Nancy Moore (nbmoore@comcast.net, 732-3400) to volunteer. Cottage Place is our neighbor on Church Street Extension.

Important Dates**DECEMBER***Every Sunday*

- Contemporary Worship 8:30 AM
- Chapel
- Sunday School 9:45 AM
- Traditional Worship 11 AM Sanctuary
- 7 Communion, both services
- G.P.S. Sing 11 AM Worship
- 8 Circle #5 at 12:30 PM at King's Grant
- Congregational Supper 6 PM
- Committee Meetings 7 PM
- 9 Sanctuary Ringers 5:45 PM
- 10 Chancel Choir 7 PM
- 14 Youth Fellowship 2 PM

- 14 Christmas Music Program 3 PM
- 15 Cottage Place Dinner 5:30-7 PM
- 16 Praise Band 7 PM, Chapel
- Angel Tree gift deliveries
- 20 Free Community Breakfast 8-9:30 AM
- Volunteers needed 7-10 AM
- 21 POYC Christmas Party 12-4 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM
- 25 *Merry Christmas!*
- Church office closed
- 26 Church office closed
- 29 NO Session meeting
- 31 NO Prayer Shawl Ministry

**JANUARY***Every Week*

- Sunday: Contemporary Worship 8:30 AM
- Sunday School 9:45 AM
- Traditional Worship 11 AM
- Youth Fellowship 2 PM
- Monday (except 1/19): G.P.S. 3 PM
- Wednesday: Chancel Choir 7 PM
- 1 *Happy New Year!*
- Church office closed
- 4 Communion, both services
- 5 Pres. Women general meeting 10 AM

- 5 Circle 3 at 7 PM, Parlor
- 6 Cooks Who Care 10 AM & 5:30 PM
- Praise Band 7 PM
- 12 Congregational supper 6 PM
- Committee meetings 7 PM
- 17 Free Community Breakfast 8-9:30 AM
- Volunteers needed 7-10 AM
- 19 Church office closed (MLK holiday)
- 20 Praise Band 7 PM
- 26 Session meeting 7 PM
- 28 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 PM

Welcome New Members!

Two new members, Carol Belcher and Gwen Seamon, were welcomed into our congregation on Sunday, November 30, at the 11 o'clock service. We are so glad to have them as part of our church family!

Save the Date!**Vacation Bible School July 13 - 17, 2015**

It's not too early to be thinking about Vacation Bible School. As you break out your new 2015 calendar, please circle the week of July 13 - 17 for VBS. The theme this year is "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power." If you have any climbing equipment and/or a small tent, I could use them on the stage. As always, kids and volunteers are needed!

—Janet Fentress



**December**

- 1 Anne Vipperman Madonia
- 3 Dru Rothrock
- 4 Ashby Pritchett
- 5 Mary Mac Knighton
- 6 Ken Wilson, Keith Sanders
- 8 Lyn Davis
- 9 Joan Montgomery, Chris Wingfield,
Jack Adkins
- 10 Marion Miller
- 14 Merv King
- 15 Kim Boyd
- 17 Matthew Mason
- 18 Bill Kirby
- 20 Claire Adkins
- 22 Vera Jane Kuhn
Grayson Russell
- 24 Jackie McLachlan
- 26 Smith Chaney
- 27 Nancy Moore, Cathy Stone,
Gael Chaney
- 28 Doc Altizer, Brenda Williams
- 29 Ken Smith, Denise Unterbrink,
Lucy Wilson

**January**

- 4 Marie Thompson
- 5 Katherine Earles
- 6 Iliene Hite
- 7 Buck Flythe, Rob King
- 9 Jennifer Nease
- 10 Jim Beard
- 11 Cathy Martin
- 16 Wendy Luther, Billy Kirby
- 17 Carolyn Franck, Jake Sanders,
Grace Anne Edgerton
- 19 Helen Flythe
- 21 Mark Mason, Bonny Pace
- 24 Greg Darnell
- 26 Bud Buffkin
- 28 David Garland
- 29 Rusty Reaser,
Alan Ferguson,
Jack Kirby
- 31 Mattie Wingfield

**Recent Gifts to the General Memorial Fund**

In memory of Rev. Randall Stevens by Connie and Bill Garrett
In memory of Trula Campbell by Victoria and Logan Esarey

**Join Cooks Who Care in the New Year**

Cooks Who Care—CWC—get together every month on the first Tuesday at 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM to fix meals to take to folks in our congregation who are sick, have a new baby, are bereaved, or just need a meal for whatever reason. We can always use more help. Join us on January 6!

New Sunday School Class on Poverty

Join Monica Stevens in January to explore the Christian response to poverty during the Sunday School time. Some books have been ordered, but to be sure there are enough, please call or text Victoria Esarey at 276-732-9110 if you are interested.

Communion “Elves” Needed

When I was a child growing up in this church, I always wondered how the communion elements seemed to just magically appear on those special Sunday mornings. I never saw or heard of anyone fixing them. Then several years ago when I was on the Worship Committee, the chief communion “elf,” Jackie Crouch, announced that she and her committee were retiring after 30 years of doing this service. It seemed like something I could handle, unlike herding a roomful of young children, so I volunteered to lead this subcommittee.

We now have three teams preparing and cleaning up after communion and would like to form a fourth team. If you are interested in learning more about this behind-the-scenes service, please contact me at gael.chaney@alumni.duke.edu or 638-3542.

—Gael Chaney

STEEPLE VIEWS Mailing

When STEEPLE VIEWS is ready, it is immediately posted on the church web site (www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org) and an email is sent to everyone on the “e-News Weekly” list. Mailing paper copies takes longer. If you would be willing to receive the email notice and print your own copy, please email fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. Copies will also be available for pick-up around the church.



Sarah Altizer, who was our church secretary and office manager for around two decades, was honored at a reception after the 11 o'clock service on November 16. Lang Mauck presented a gift and conveyed thanks on behalf of the congregation.



Session Highlights for Stated Meeting November 24, 2014

- The Session voted to receive Carol Belcher and Gwen Seamon into membership of First Presbyterian Church.
- A financial report was received from the Church Treasurer. Eighty-two percent of pledges have been received.
- Milt Davis was elected as Treasurer for a one-year term.
- Joan Montgomery was elected as Clerk for a one-year term.
- A written report was received from Pastor Mark about his activities during the month of November and his gratitude to the congregation and Session for the support he has received. He also reported on youth activities.
- A draft of the 2015 budget was discussed and should be ready for a vote by the end of December.
- Each Session committee moderator reported on committee activities, events, and programs.
- The Session heard a report from those who attended a workshop in Salem about the Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations by individuals who are formally trained to provide high quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are going through tough times. Seven persons attended the workshop. The Session has approved exploring this ministry for our congregation.
- A discussion was held on how to get King's Grant members who no longer drive to church services. Pastor Mark is discussing with the Facilities Director at King's Grant about volunteer drivers from our church to use their handicapped accessible van.

—Joan Montgomery, Clerk of the Session

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

STEEPLE VIEWS is published by First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Virginia. Email news, photos, stories, etc., to fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com (Gael Chaney, Editor) or leave a paper copy in the church office. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Address: 1901 Patrick Henry Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112, Phone: 276-632-3431

For the latest news visit our web site: <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

STAFF

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor
pastormhinchcliff@hotmail.com
 Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist
CDMartinsville@aol.com
 Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager
ritaofficefpc@gmail.com
 Francia Brown, Bookkeeper
fpcfbrownbk@gmail.com
 Mary Lewis Johnston and Kelly Huff, Weekday School Directors

SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff
 Clerk: Joan Montgomery

Session Committee Moderators

Administration: Chris Beeler
 Christian Education: Victoria Esarey
 Congregational Care: Virginia Truitt
 Evangelism & Outreach: Nancy Moore
 Facilities: Neil Tatum
 Fellowship: Pearl Minter
 Mission: Denny Casey
 Stewardship: Janet Fentress
 Worship: Cindy Edgerton

TRUSTEES

Moderator: Dru Rothrock
 David Garland, Billy Kirby, Ed Linker, Bill Manning, Kent Williams