



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

May 2015

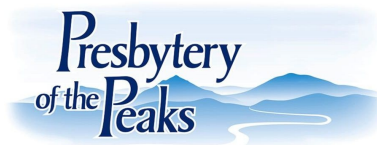


Clean Up the Church on May 2 9:30 AM–12 NOON

To get our building and grounds ready for the Presbytery meeting, the Facilities Committee asks all able-bodied members to help on **Saturday, May 2, 9:30 AM–12 NOON**. Lunch will be provided to volunteers at noon. This is the time to take care of things that have been missed during regular cleaning and to make sure we put our best foot forward for our guests from around the presbytery.

Our Church Is Hosting Presbytery on May 7

Our congregation is hosting the quarterly meeting of Presbytery of the Peaks on **Thursday, May 7, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM**. Joan Montgomery and Tracy Hinchcliff are organizing church volunteers to serve on that day. Among other things, we will be providing lunch, and we're planning for around 200 people. Please contact Joan or Tracy or one of the Session committee moderators if you can help. Each committee has been assigned specific tasks. Volunteers have been asked to wear dark pants or skirts and white shirts or tops.



For more information about the meeting, the schedule is online at <http://www.peakspresbytery.org/>.

Youth Banquet & Auction May 14

The High School Youth will be traveling to Arkansas in June for an educational mission program run by Heifer International, which works worldwide to relieve hunger through enabling people to raise their own food. To raise money for the trip, the youth invite the congregation to a Banquet and Silent Auction on **Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Also at the banquet, the youth will honor Laura Stevens for her work with them over the years. There is no fixed price for the meal, just give whatever you feel led to contribute. **Donations of auction items are needed, as well as help with the meal.** Even if you can't attend the banquet, please support our youth!



Pastor's Corner

Unity and Harmony

I appeal to you brothers, in the name of Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. Corinthians 1:10

"Perfectly united,"... "That all of you agree,"... "So that there will be no division," words from the Apostle Paul to a very conflicted church in Corinth. Let's get real! There is no person who lives without some conflict in his or her life. Whether differences are happening in your marriage, with your kids, with a coworker or friend, there is no permanent escape from conflict in this life. Yet God calls Christians to live a life of harmony with each other. It doesn't mean we are going to get along with everyone or even most. What it does mean is that we are supposed to live a life that strives for reconciliation, a life of covenants instead of breached contracts! We are not only charged to be working towards relationships of harmony with others but relationships formed and maintained with God!



So how do we even begin to repair or build new relationships from a broken past? Well, the first thing is to seek counsel from the most spiritually and emotionally mature one you know. So who will that be, a pastor, a parent, a professional, or how about God? God is the only giver of true wisdom (James 1:5). Go to God in prayer but don't just expect God to fix it—actually face the conflict. Take responsibility for your part in the conflict and make sure to treat the other person with respect by not using blaming or insulting language. Show empathy by putting yourself in the others perspective, "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of those who may be weak and not to please ourselves." (Romans 15:1)

We are about to enter into the time known to Christians as Pentecost. Pentecost marks the birth of the church when the Holy Spirit was given to the believing community. The ability to understand different languages as well as different interpretations of God's message was also born in that moment! Hence the common line of humor today, "Wherever two or more churchgoers are gathered, three or more opinions are heard." Our relationships matter to God. God desires unity for us and wants to aid in the reconciliation of those important relationships. In these days of strife and conflict worldwide, peace and unity cannot start in the outside world without our seeking that harmony from within first. Although all conflict will never be completely eliminated, our charge as followers of Jesus Christ is to seek God's aid and recognize our role and responsibility in that goal. So, Christian brothers and sisters "unite" not in the fight but rather in the "resolution of true peace and harmony today!"

The peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Mark

Presbyterian Women Birthday Celebrations, May 4



All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebrations on **Monday, May 4**. If you prefer daytime, there will be a **potluck salad luncheon** in the Fellowship Hall at **11:00 AM** hosted by circles 1 and 5. If you prefer evening, Circle 3 will have a **potluck salad supper** at **6:30 PM**, at Janet Fentress' home, 906 Corn Tassel Trail, Martinsville. Even if you're not an active circle member, we would love to have you join the celebration!

Youth Sunday is May 10

Our young people will be leading worship on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. Both the G.P.S. and DaCapo children's music groups will sing at the Traditional Service, and the High School and Middle School Youth will lead the different elements of the service. Our graduating seniors will be featured during the sermon time. **Rehearsal** for Youth Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 PM** during the Youth Fellowship time.

Da Capo Finale Concert May 12, 7:00 PM

Da Capo Virginia started music classes for children in February. Come to our Sanctuary and hear the results of their first season's work.

Wear Red on May 24 for Pentecost

The Israelite feast of Pentecost, a harvest sacrifice specified in Leviticus 23, took place fifty days after Passover (the word "Pentecost" derives from the Greek word for fifty, and the Christian feast day is fifty days from Easter, inclusive). As described in Act 2, Jews from all over the Roman Empire had come to Jerusalem for the festival, and about 120 of the disciples were gathered in prayer in the upper room. That morning, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples with the sound of a mighty wind, and they were never the same again. People from every land understood their preaching and praise in their own languages, marking the beginning of worldwide evangelism that continues to this day. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, representing the tongues of fire that appeared over the disciples' heads, and **the congregation is asked to wear red on Sunday, May 24**.



Less well known to most Protestants is **Ascension Day** because it always falls on a Thursday, forty days after Easter, May 14 this year. As Luke tells us in the first chapter of Acts, Jesus appeared to the disciples for forty days after his resurrection, then was taken up out of their sight into Heaven.



Catherine (Katherine) Cornell Earles

January 5, 1924–April 18, 2015

Our dear friend Katherine Earles, who joined the Church Triumphant on April 18, was a member of First Presbyterian Church since July 31, 1938. She lived at Riverside Health Care in Danville for the last several years. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family.

Massanetta Springs Retreat June 4–7

Sign up now with Johnny Pinkard (957-5674, ajpinkard@embarqmail.com) or Denny Casey (224-3906, d.a.casey@comcast.net) for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and service for the whole church family at Massanetta Springs. A registration brochure with all the information you need is available at church.

Session Report

At its stated meeting on Monday, March 30, the Session took the following actions:

- The Treasurer reported that money would need to be taken from the Endowment Fund to meet payroll this month due to lower contributions and pledges not coming in. ***Pledge payments are behind by \$18,000 this year.***
- The Session approved the transfer of Mike Powell and Jessica Showalter to First Presbyterian Church in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- A motion was approved to change the selection, election and training of ruling elders, trustees, treasurer, and clerk to a calendar year rather than a program year. All will take office in January instead of September.
- The Session wished to recognize Smith Chaney for repairing the chair lift and his work in making our church a safer place, at no cost to the church.

Thank You!



When I arrive at the church each Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to prepare for the Contemporary Service, I am always pleased to find the chapel entrance door unlocked. I

wonder each time which one of our church members gets up so early to have the church ready for us. Again when I leave, I see many lights on, and again I know that someone will turn off all of the lights, check the thermostats and lock all the doors. I just want to thank all of you who help take care of our church each Sunday. It is much appreciated.

—Virginia King

Editor's Note: Facilities Committee members take turns opening and closing the church building each Sunday; most of the outside doors are unlocked and locked electronically by a timer on a computer. Every church member can help by turning off lights or setting the light switch to "auto" when you're the last one to leave a room or the building, adjusting thermostats when meetings are over, and making sure the doors lock behind you on your way out.

Camp Peaks Day Camp is coming to Martinsville July 20-24!

First Presbyterian is sponsoring this exciting program in partnership with Presbytery of the Peaks. Day Camp will run from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Campers do not need to be members of the congregation—Camp Peaks is open to everyone!

All children entering 1st through 5th grades can enjoy this taste of camp. The Day Camp program includes Bible stories, worship, games, arts and crafts, nature study, a cook-out, field trips fellowship and making new friends. Day camp will meet Monday, July 20 at First Presbyterian Church with a field trip to a llama farm. Tuesday we will head up to Fairy Stone State Park for a day of fun. Wednesday through Friday we will meet again at Bill and Sandy Martin's Farm in Axton. They were generous enough to share their farm with us the last two years, and everyone loved it!

Director Joann McElmurray and counselors trained to run the camp will come from the Presbytery Camps Workgroup. Volunteers from the congregation are needed to help each day.

The cost for each child is \$35. The cost for the week is actually \$70, but as a ministry to the community, Presbytery is picking up half. Contributions above \$35 are welcome. The fee covers the week's activities and drinks, a morning snack and s'mores every afternoon. Campers bring their own sack lunches. Brochures are available in the church office. Please return the registration form to the church office and register early. There will be a limited number of places, and the deadline for registration is July 13. For more information, call JoAnne Sanders at 276-340-6913 or email Rev. Jeff Binder, Associate Presbyter for Youth & Young Adults at rev.binder@gmail.com.

- 1 Logan Esarey, Janet Fentress
- 3 Carson Nease, Jerry Bishop
- 5 Sonny Benfield, Amy Mason, Kellene Wotring
- 6 Kim Phillips
- 8 Bill Manning, Olivia Jessup
- 10 Sandra Shank
- 11 Bonnie Price, Mandy Pritchett, Emily Beard
- 12 Pat Christenbury, Pearl Minter, Monica Stevens
- 14 Farrell Pace, Jon Tatum
- 15 David Reynolds
- 17 Heath Russell
- 19 Taylor Shank, Anne Banks Boyd
- 20 Colleen Dallas
- 22 Elizabeth Pritchett, Joanna Wood
- 27 Margaret Smith, Kent Williams, Virginia Seamon, Jacob Wingfield
- 29 Ed Linker



Please let us know of any errors or omissions (email fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com).

Weekday School News**Art Show May 14**

The Weekday School four-year-olds went to Kings Grant to sing for the residents, and we enjoyed Discovery Days, studying plants and butterflies and doing fun experiments.

The annual art show will be held **May 14, at 11:15 AM**, in the Fellowship Hall. We would love for anyone to come see the children's art work. They will also sing that day. School ends on May 21 with a day at the sports complex.

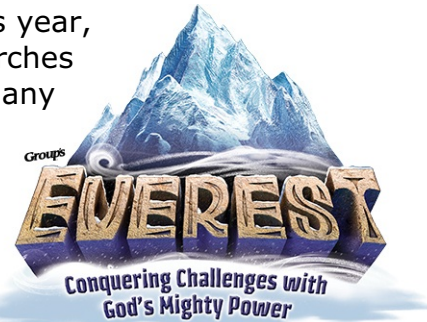
—Mary Lewis Johnston, Director

Time to Register for Vacation Bible School

Everyone—get out your hiking gear, we're going to climb Mt Everest this summer. We will be seeing snowflakes in July! You won't want to miss this year's Vacation Bible School, July 13–17. This year, Forest Hills Presbyterian and Holy Trinity Lutheran churches are joining us. Children do not have to be members of any of these churches to attend VBS.

We need all kids to attend and lots of volunteers, both teens and adults, to help. Volunteers can sign up for one day or all five days. We need several group leaders to take kids from station to station, someone to help in the four-year-olds' class, and of course, help in the kitchen. We can always find a place for you. Registration forms are available in the around the church, in the church office, and on the [church web site](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/documents/VBS%20Registration%20Form.pdf). Let us hear from you soon.

<http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/documents/VBS%20Registration%20Form.pdf>

**Soles for Paco**

On April 8, Rev. Michael Jordan, his wife Shelby, and their son Andrew picked up the Shoes for Paco collected by our church. They had collected 7,000 pounds at that time in their drive to collect 10,000 pounds. If anyone else wants to donate, contact Pastor Jordan at pastor.mvbc@yahoo.com or at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Axton, at 650-2039. He said he will let us know when they reach the goal.

Angel Bins, a California-based non-profit that sells wearable, gently used shoes and clothing in developing countries, will send a truck to pick up the shoes once the Jordans reach 10,000 pounds. For more information see their web site: <http://angelbins.com>. Angel Bins will help defray the costs for the Jordans to adopt Paco, a Haitian orphan with special needs.

May Events

- Sundays **Contemporary Worship**, 8:30 AM, Chapel
Fellowship Reception, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall
Sunday School, 9:45–10:40 AM, for all ages
Chancel Choir, 10:30 AM, Choir Room
Traditional Worship, *now begins with the Prelude at 10:55 AM*, Sanctuary
- Wednesdays **Sanctuary Ringers**, 5:45 PM, Handbell Room
Chancel Choir, 7:00 PM, Choir Room
- 2 Sat. **Church Clean-up**, 9:30 AM–12:00 NOON
- 3 Sun. **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**, both services
Youth Fellowship Rehearsal for Youth Sunday, 2:00 PM, Youth Room
Smith River Singers Spring Concert, 6 pm, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Church Street Ext.
Extended Table
- 4 Mon. **Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon**, 11:00 AM, Fellowship Hall.
Bring a salad to share. Hosted by the circle leaders.
Extended Table Communion, 2:00 PM, King's Grant
G.P.S. (children's music), 3:00 PM, Youth Music Room
Circle 3 Salad Supper, 6:30 PM, at Janet Fentress' home, 906 Corn Tassel Trail, Martinsville. Bring a salad to share.
- 5 Tues. **Cooks Who Care**, 9:45 AM & 5:30 PM, Marge Dunn Kitchen
Praise Band, 7 PM, Chapel
- 7 Thur. **Presbytery of the Peaks**, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM, our church
- 10 Sun. **Mothers' Day and Youth Sunday**
- 11 Mon. **G.P.S.**, 3:00 PM, Youth Music Room (last meeting of the school year)
Congregational Supper, 6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall, everyone invited!
Committee Meetings, 7:00 PM
- 12 Tues. **DaCapo Concert**, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to hear what the children have learned this spring in this new music school.
- 14 Thur. **Ascension of the Lord**
Weekday School Art Show, 11:15 AM, Fellowship Hall
Youth Banquet & Auction, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- 15 Fri. **Steeple Views Deadline**, email fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com
- 16 Sat. **Free Community Breakfast**, serving 8:00–9:30 AM, volunteers needed beginning at 7:00 AM
- 17 Sun. **Prayer Shawl Dedication** during the Traditional Service
- 19 Tues. **Praise Band**, 7:00 PM, Chapel
- 24 Sun. **Pentecost**, please wear red to church
2-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering
- 25 Mon. **Memorial Day**, church office closed
- 27 Wed. **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 5:30 PM, Session Room, refreshments provided, knitting instruction available
- 28 Thur. **Red Cross Bloodmobile**, 12:00 N–6:00 PM, Holiday Shopping Center
- 31 Sun. Last **Children's Worship** before summer break



Thank You!

The Flower Committee would like to thank Anne Lackey for the gift to Grace Network in honor of our flower ministry.



(left) A band of hardy worshipers from our congregation, Forest Hills Presbyterian, and Holy Trinity Lutheran churches braved the cold at Lake Lanier for an Easter Sunrise Service. More Easter photos can be viewed on our [website](#).

(right) Children and their parents eagerly anticipate the annual Easter Egg hunt as they run to the playground.



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

Steeple Views is published by First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA. Email articles to fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com (Gael Chaney, Editor) or turn in a paper copy to the church office. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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