



*Join us for a cup
of coffee every Sunday
morning in the kitchen
before Church School*



First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

Address Service Requested

STEEPLEVIEWS
June 2013

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*Our Mission is to:
Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other.*

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

June 2013

Martinsville, Virginia

Eastertide, 2013

My dear Church family

In our American culture, we sometimes have a way of adding things to what was once a purely religious holy day and turning it into a sort of Hallmark Holiday. Now don't get me wrong, the Easter Bunny always made a stop at our house when our kids were young, and I love the movie, *Easter Parade*. Unfortunately, when we start adding secular layers to what is, at its heart, a sacred observance, the true meaning of the day becomes buried in the cultural clutter, and we miss out on the very best part.

Consider Jesus' disciples. The man they followed and believed to be the promised Messiah was dead. Dead, buried, gone. They were frightened, angry, confused, and grieving. They were hiding, lying low for fear they, too, might be arrested and killed. The women went to the tomb with spices for Jesus' body, but the tomb was empty. A heavenly messenger asked the women why they were seeking the living among the dead. Jesus, who was dead, had risen from the grave and was alive! The women ran to tell the disciples the good news, but, according to more than one Gospel, the disciples could not, would not believe until Jesus stood in their midst. In Jesus' presence, Easter burst upon them with the eternal, astounding, unfathomable, unconquerable love of God. These followers who had denied and abandoned Jesus, who had lost all hope and sense of purpose were suddenly filled with joy, peace, amazement, praise, and renewed conviction to serve their risen Lord. They went from feet of clay to hearts on fire.

It occurs to me that we, as a church family, have gone through our season of sorrow, grief, anger, fear, and confusion. It was a natural response to an event that caught us all off guard. However, in this season of Eastertide, it is time for us, like the disciples, to open our hearts and let Easter burst in upon us with the same overwhelming sense of God's love shown in Jesus Christ, allowing ourselves to experience Christ's resurrection personally and as a con-

gregation. As we choose to live as resurrection people, our faith and ministry becomes stronger, deeper, and more compelling. Our resurrected life has already begun. Just as surely as I see the signs of the earth's renewal in the buds, blossoms, and leaves of spring, I see the signs of renewal here in our congregation. Look and you will see it in the ministries of caring and sharing within and beyond our congregation, in our worship, in our fellowship, and in our commitment to serving Christ.

It is time for us to cast off all of those things that keep us from living and serving fully—fear, doubt, anger, mistrust, sorrow. If you have been hanging back, staying away, not getting involved, accept Christ's invitation to share in the good news of his resurrection. Accept the love, joy, laughter, and life that Christ offers each of us as part of his Body, the Church. Accept the family, fellowship, and opportunities for service and growth that Christ offers you through First Presbyterian Church.

Through Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, God has proclaimed an eternal "Yes!" to his creation. Respond to God's profound gift of love with a "Yes!" of your own. Open your hearts and arms to your brothers and sisters at First Presbyterian. Join in our shared ministry, so that we can spread the "Yes!" of Easter to our community and to the world.

In the love and joy of Easter,
Monica Stevens



Traveling Day Camp

Presbytery of the Peaks Camps & Conferences

Committee to run the program.

The cost for the week is \$75. This covers all weekly costs; campers bring their own lunches. There are salmon-colored brochures with registration information available in the Church Office.



Congratulations to our 2013 College Grads!

Virginia Tech

Tyler Henry Price, Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with minor in Physics

Allyn Ann Campbell, Pamplin School of Business, Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management and Marketing Mgmt.

University of Virginia

William Waid Lester, Bachelor of Arts, History

Vanderbilt University

Ruth Decker Chaney

and

Our High School Graduates

Carlisle School

Claire Marie Atkins

Virginia Hancock Zentmeyer

Martinsville High School

Michael Wayne Mason

Benjamin Parks Pinkston

Rockingham County (NC) High School

Jacob Ashbrook Wingfield



Weddings

Congratulations and best wishes to Alexandria Hope Michael

and Marshall Groves Chaney on the occasion of their marriage May 4, 2013, in the sanctuary.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mandy

Lynn Pritchett and Arthur Davis Muse on the occasion of their marriage, May 11, 2013, in Stuart, Virginia.

Congratulations and best wishes to Lindsey

Marie Unterbrink and Matthew Murphy Herr on the occasion of their marriage May 25, 2013, in the sanctuary.

Best wishes to David and Gwendolyn (Gwen)

Seamon, who were married on April 4, 2013, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. A wedding reception was held on May 18, 2013, at the couple's home, 85 Bradford Court. Martinsville.



Congratulations to Melissa Seamon, who was recently accepted to North Carolina State School of Veterinary Medicine. She graduated with honors in Biology from James Madison University in 2012 and is employed at Henry County Animal Clinic in Martinsville. She was one of only 20 out-of-state students selected by NC State from a field of over 600 applicants.



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ralph, Sandra, and Taylor Shank on the death of their father and grandfather, Ralph

Shank, Sr. Ralph, a member of First Presbyterian since March 29, 1953, joined the Church Triumphant on April 30, 2013.



Session Highlights

April 29, 2013

Jenny Spivey, Moderator for the first part of the meeting, opened with prayer.

- Basil Boyd and Max Pinkston were examined by the Session and voted to be received into the membership of First Presbyterian Church on May 19, 2013, at the 11:00 worship service.
- The Session approved the transfer of Ruth Anne Parsons to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, VA.
- The Session was informed of Youth Sunday to be held at the 11:00 service on May 12.
- Joe Reggin moderated the second part of the meeting, beginning with Old Business.
- It was noted that the Pastor Nominating Committee was meeting with representatives of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for training and orientation at the same time of the Session meeting to begin their work in finding a new pastor.
- The Session reviewed the church roll and will discuss at the next meeting how to proceed with determining membership by active participation.
- Lang Mauck was elected as the ruling elder commissioner to the Presbytery meeting on May 9, 2013 in South Boston, VA.
- The next meeting of the Session will be on May 20, 2013 instead of May 27 which is Memorial Day.
- The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator.



Happy Birthday

In June to . . .

- 1 Cynthia Dobrinski, Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 2 Suzanne Lacy, Cole Rothrock
- 3 Riley Wood
- 4 Pat Wilson
- 9 Susan Smith
- 10 Allyson Campbell, Cindy Edgerton
- 12 David King
- 13 Eleanor Woody
- 15 Waid Lester
- 17 Dyer Rothrock
- 18 Ainsley Russell, Susan Pilson
- 20 Spencer DeBusk
- 22 Kisean Adams
- 23 David Price, Harold Wells, Virginia Truitt, Basil Boyd
- 24 Denny Casey
- 26 Vicki Wells
- 27 Louie Judson, Steve DeBusk, Lynn Stegall, Clyde Hill
- 29 A. C. Wilson, Caroline Kirby

And in July to.....

- 2 William Seamon
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 6 Barbara Stanley
- 7 Clara Hartley
- 8 Dyer Pace
- 10 Mildred Bishop
- 12 Betty Carol Lamm, Betty Stanley, Heidi Pinkston
- 15 Dick Pilson, Kimberly Seamon, Jim Stegall

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