



Presbyterian Web Sites:

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: www.synatlantic.org
Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org
Pby. Disaster Assistance: www.pcusa.org/pda/
Presbyterian Today: www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today
Pby. News Service: www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem

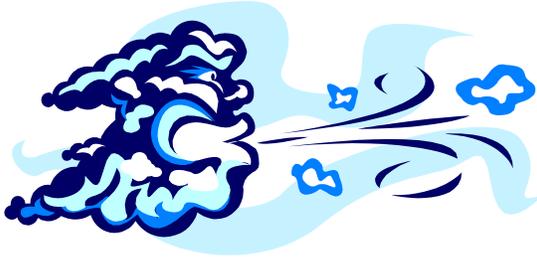
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*Join us for a cup
of coffee every Sunday
morning in the kitchen
before Church School*

March



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STEEPLEVIEWS

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

March, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

In a recent sermon I shared the story of a thirteen-year-old boy named Robert Hill, who many years ago heard of the medical missionary work of Dr. Albert Schweitzer and decided to help by sending a bottle of aspirin to Schweitzer's hospital in Africa. Since Robert's father was in the Army, he asked the commander of the Air Force to deliver the bottle of aspirin in one of his planes. A radio commentator reported the incident on his program; word got around quickly. And, the end result was that Robert Hill flew into Africa with four tons of medical supplies! Dr. Albert Schweitzer, when he saw the boy, said, "I never knew a little child could do so much for my hospital!"

That story came to mind this past week as I read over a 2010 fact sheet about the work of Grace Network here in our Martinsville-Henry County community. In early 2005 the United Way of Martinsville and Henry County gave a grant to the Ministerial Association and, before too long, Grace Network was launched. Here's what the 2010 fact sheet reports: over sixty churches in our community support Grace Network and each church provides a certain food item per month (we contribute pasta and spaghetti sauce). This past year alone, congregations donated \$139,173.21 and 52,000 items of food and personal care products. Other sources of revenue came from grants, individuals, foundations and trusts, and business and civic groups – all of which totaled \$342,710.18. There were 56,688 food items distributed to 1,127 households equaling 2,304 individuals. The total amount of assistance provided to those in need was \$265,655.22 (70% for electric/water/sewer; 25% for rent/mortgage; 2% for heating oil; 1% natural gas; and 2% for other). Besides all of the above, Grace Network also provided 1,200+ Christmas meals for the homeless and needy; 233 bicycles, toys, school supplies and personal care items at Christmas; 12 after-school sites were served meals that enabled hundreds of family members to enjoy a meal and spend quality time together; Grace Network volunteers processed 97 tax returns; and so much more!

Like Robert Hill and his bottle of aspirin, which in turn grew to be four tons of medical supplies, Grace Network has grown since its beginning in 2005. It would be interesting to see an overall total for the years 2005-2010. I imagine the results would be staggering. I rejoice that so many needy people in our area are being helped with food items, personal care products, and many other forms of necessary assistance. Clients also receive counseling as to how to better manage their resources and make things stretch (such as using energy efficient light bulbs and blankets to help reduce energy usage). Besides the vast number of people who have been helped, I also think of the congregations, business and civic groups, and individuals, who are also helped by being able to give from their resources and pass on their blessings to those in need.

Isn't it simply amazing what God can do when individuals are brought together to address the needs in a given area? God calls us to be partners with God and with one another, and when we do so, all kinds of great things can and do happen. Ideas are formed and put into action. Then, both those who receive and those who give lift their voices in unison and give praise to God from whom all blessings flow. Thanks be to God!

In Christ's love,
Randy

Word from the Associate Pastor:
Ministry and Mission

One of the first courses I took in seminary was called, “The Theology of Mission and Church,” and our professor challenged us to rethink our concept of mission. Oftentimes, the church thinks of mission in terms of tasks to be completed, projects or programs that help people in need, or financial support of missionaries overseas. Instead of centering our definition of mission on what we do, we should instead think about who we are, and to whom we belong. My professor would say, “God’s mission has a church, not the other way around.” God’s mission for the world is much bigger than any one church, or even all the churches can undertake. Author Andrew Kirk writes, “The mission of God flows directly from the nature of who God is. God’s intention for the world is that in every respect it should show forth the way God is – love, community, equality, diversity, mercy, compassion and justice.” Therefore, God’s mission is at the heart of everything we do. We participate in God’s holy purpose for us as we worship, as we teach, as we serve, as we build communities that reflect Christ’s love and grace. Participating in God’s mission is part of our joyful response to the love God extends to us.

One summer when I was in college, I served as a Global Intern with the PC(USA) with the Presbyterian Border Ministry between the PC(USA) and the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Mexico in Del Rio, Texas and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico. Mission trip groups from all over the United States traveled there to help build a church building for a new congregation being organized on the Mexican side of the border. As we welcomed the groups, we would reflect together on the purpose of their work. We often shared this quote with them, “Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off our shoes, for the place we are ap-

proaching is holy; else we may find ourselves treading on someone’s dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival” (attributed to Max Warren). For those mission groups, and for us, we must remember that mission is not about “bringing God” to people. It is about partnering to discover how God is already working in all of us, and exploring what God would have us do next – together. Participating in God’s mission is about building relationships, not simply about “helping out.”

We have wonderful opportunities in this congregation to participate in God’s mission – by attending trainings and volunteering at CAFV, by giving to Angel & Butterfly Trees and Christmas Share, by supporting our youth group as they travel on their Mission Trip to Charlotte. These are but a few ways that we can come together to give witness to God’s compassion and justice in our community and beyond. God’s mission for the world is ever unfolding, and we are always being called to respond to the Spirit’s call, following where God is leading next.



**Happy Birthday in March
to....**

- 3 Ruth Thompson
- 4 Margaret Hurt
- 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
- 13 Alan Robertson
- 17 Dick Sowdon, Rachel DeBusk, Alanna Ferguson, Anna Kate Jennings
- 18 Catherine Bridges, Rick Renz, Steve Edgerton
- 19 Matt Johnson
- 20 JoAnne Sanders

- 21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
- 23 Diane Clark
- 25 Daniel Whitener
- 27 Pam Mason, Kenzie Rakes, Charles Toothman
- 28 Christiana Campbell

And in April to.....

- 2 Nick Carter
- 3 Claude Young
- 4 Max Pinkston
- 5 Kate Judson
- 7 Bob Davis, Kisean Adams
- 8 Troy Lee Rakes, Mary Catherine Stegall
- 9 Marty Davis
- 10 Bobby Wilson

Congratulations to Angus and Sallie Hinson on the birth of their son, Walter McRae Hinson, on February 18, 2011, in Tampa, FL. Doc and Sarah Altizer are the proud grandparents!

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Pat Baumann and family on the death of her husband, Henry A. (Hank) Baumann. Hank, attended worship regularly, assisted in leading worship on numerous occasions, and preached on occasion. Hank joined the Church Triumphant on February 21, 2011.

**Youth Mission Trip
June 26 - July 1**

This year we will be traveling to Charlotte, NC to participate in the Avondale Presbyterian Church Urban Work Camp Program. Projects include home repairs, serving meals to the homeless, and mentoring children. The goal of this program is “to be inspired, and inspire others as you meet Jesus Christ face to face in our city.” This trip is for youth in grades 6-12, and we are also looking for adult chaperones (especially someone to serve as our cook!).

Registration forms are available in the church office and on the youth bulletin board near the Youth Room. The registration form should be returned to the church office with a \$50 deposit. All deposits are due by Sunday April 3, and a meeting will be held that evening at 5:30pm for all who have registered as well as parents. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Jenny, 632-3431 or pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com

Montreat Youth Conference 2011

All youth from rising 9th graders through graduated seniors are invited to come along with our group to the Montreat Youth Conference from July 24-30. The theme for this year’s conferences is “Searching for the Signal.” A Youth Conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings where the conference theme is explored, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship. Our group will be staying together in the Trevor’s Retreat cottage, as in years’ past. Registration information and cost details will be forthcoming, talk to Pastor Jenny if you have any questions!

Youth Garage Sale

To help raise money for our Youth Group Mission Trip to Charlotte this summer, our Youth Group will be holding a “garage sale” in the Fellowship Hall here at church on Saturday, April 9th. We would love to have your donations of used clothing, toys, or household items. We will start collecting items in the youth room in late March. If you have any questions, or would like to help out that day (we will need some adult helpers too!) please talk to Pastor Jenny.

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Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer; Mailing Staff: volunteers

Youth Events in March

March 6 – Youth Group 5:30-7:00pm, We will have dinner, games and paint boxes that will be used at our church to collect donations of items for CAFV.

March 13 – Youth Group 5:30-7:00pm, Dinner and program

March 18 – Trip to Winterjam concert in Roanoke, meet at the church at 5:00pm and take the bus up to Roanoke. Tickets are \$10, speak to Pastor Jenny if cost is a problem.

March 20 – Youth Service Project at SPCA 12:00-3:00pm, We will head out and get some lunch and then volunteer at the SPCA for a couple hours.

March 27 – Youth Group 5:30-7:00pm, Dinner and program

April 3 – 5:30pm Mission Trip Informational Meeting for parents and youth

The Tempo “Our Musical Pulse” The Chancel Choir

Have you ever let your mind “free wheel” a while about the possibility of sitting down across the table from a biblical character, asking and having answers to questions you have puzzled over? At the end of next month, March 27 to be precise, you will have the opportunity to listen to the prophet Isaiah speak to us in scripture and music.

The Chancel Choir will present a worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 27. Most of the hymns, the scriptures, and the anthems will be from the writings of Isaiah. One cannot go through the Christmas season without hearing texts from this Old Testament book bring the message of the season to us. Scriptures dealing with worship, seeking God, returning to God, prophecies about Jesus, the Messiah, and a wealth of others.

Plan now to come and take this journey in selected writings of this book. Please take the opportunity to invite your friends from the community to join you.

The Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers stay busy preparing music for worship each month. This is a hard working and talented group of Church Musicians. You have heard them in January and February this new year. In March they will ring on the 20th.

We always appreciate our Substitute Ringers. This year Cynthia Dobrinski and Sam Smith have filled absent members’ positions in two of our services. Perhaps you are a ringer or want to become a ringer. We can handle that kind of a request. Talk to Mr. Chapman and work out a plan.

The Langley Winds

This group of Air Force musicians from Langley Air Force Base will be in our church to present their third concert with us on Friday evening, March 25 at 7 p.m. Each one of these persons is a top notch musician and people who have been a part of the audiences have both enjoyed and appreciated their music. Tech Sergeant Anne Epperly is still a member of this quintet. Anne is the daughter of Judy Mattox and the late John Epperly. Anne plays Flute and the others play Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, and French Horn.

For over 10 years the Langley Winds have been inspiring audiences and enhancing Air Force esprit-de-corps with superb artistry in a broad range of musical performances. Under the leadership of Bassoonist MSgt Julie Stockdill, the ensemble performs classical recitals, college master classes, school assemblies and official military functions. Members have performed with the Waco Symphony, Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony, and Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra.

There is no admission charge. We hope that a large group of people will turn out to hear and support these airmen in this concert. Please invite your friends to come with you.

Youth and Children's Music

WAMMERS ready for *The Three Trees*

Our WAM group is preparing for our April 10th presentation of *The Three Trees*. This music drama is a personal favorite of mine because of the music, the message and the meaning that is within it on many different levels. It will be presented during the 11:00 service and will stand as the message for that day. The rest of the music that day will be presented by the children and youth as well. It is a wonderful Sunday to worship together in such a meaningful way, with Easter so close at hand.

We will be bidding adieu to one of our dearest members, Sarah Toothman, whose family will be moving the end of the month. I have known Sarah for many years in church and as a pianist. She is a special individual with a huge heart. We will miss her so much, but we know that it will be great to meet new friends and have the family all together again. We love you SA-RAH!!

Music Together

Welcomes New Members

Music Together is rocking on Tuesday mornings with new friends joining the regular crew. We are on a particularly great unit of music which is one of my favorites, with lots of motion, music and, best of all, instruments! We have room for 2 more families if you are interested or know someone who might be! Just let me know. We will welcome them, as always, with open arms and joy!

Kindermusik I News

The younger Kindermusik gang is enjoying writing their first tunes and reading their first notes. This is a very mature and advanced group that meets all challenges with great aplomb! It is amazing to see 4- and 5-year olds reading and playing new tunes on their glockenspiels! We can expect great music from this crew as they mature onward.

Kindermusik II News

You should hear the Kindergartners play their recorders. You would not believe it! We are playing 4-note songs now and they want to master a fifth note! Their tone is great and very pure. I am really proud of them. As they graduate from Kindermusik in May, they will have had a percussion instrument (glockenspiel), a string instrument (dulcimer) and a wood wind instrument (recorder). They will be all set for music for the near future.

Cantabile Ringers

Our teen group just keeps getting better and better! We appreciate Janet Fentress always being ready to step in and ring a spot or two when needed and the musicianship of the whole is very high. They will be ringing this month and on April 10th. It is a joy and an honor to work with Wendy, William and Kimberly Seamon and Matthew Price and Brett Showalter. There is always room for more.

Contemporary Worship begins Its Third Season

This time three years ago, Betty Stanley was trying to get our group in order to produce a contemporary worship service that would have joy and dignity. We practiced for over two months before having our first service in May 2008.

Before that service ever took place, years of planning, working, and praying about the service and all our efforts was consuming a great deal of time and numerous people.

And so we began.....

The members of the Praise group have changed somewhat but the philosophy of the content has not. Through prayer, devotion and a great deal of talent, the service continues.

And yet.....

We still are in need of sound techs (on-the-job training included), a bass player, another guitar player and singers. The

same group is on hand each Sunday. It would be wonderful to have two teams of musicians who could alternate and allow the other team to worship with their families.

We always need people who will pray for us on an ongoing basis. Please talk with Betsy about the possibilities for you in this group and ministry for our church.

When I was a little girl, there was a Sunrise Service at Lake Lanier for many years. I remember the quiet of the dawn and the special feeling of worshipping together at a time set apart from the normal time of the day. If you are interested in seeing such a service this Easter morning, please let me know. It doesn't need to be complicated. It does need to be a time of coming together with one accord, to celebrate the empty tomb. I realize early on Easter morning is not everyone's favorite idea. I just want to see if there is interest enough for your staff to plan such a service.

With Joy and Thankfulness in our Lord,
Betsy

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a period of forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter Sunday. Traditionally Lent has been a time of prayer and preparation, recalling Jesus ministry, then suffering and passion during Holy Week. We will be having an Ash Wednesday Worship service on Wednesday, March 9 beginning at 5:30 pm, and following the service there will be a dinner downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to join us for worship and fellowship.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

On Palm Sunday, April 17, and Easter Sunday, April 24, we will receive the annual *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*.

The purpose of this offering is to meet human needs and is administered through three programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA): the Presbyterian Hunger program, Presbyterian World Service, and the Self Development of People. Our children will be receiving offering boxes during the month of March, along with a sharing calendar (included in this newsletter) to help us all realize the material blessings we have and reminds us to share our abundance with those in need. Please give generously to this offering and give witness to the unity to which Christ calls us!

An Opportunity to Nurture Each Other

The Congregational Care Committee has begun scheduling volunteer drivers to drive some of our members who need transportation to the 11:00 Worship service. Thanks to those drivers who have already signed up, and we are looking for a few other people. If you have a car, and would be willing to drive out to King's Grant once a month or so, please contact Victoria Esarey at 956-4745 or vesarey@gmail.com.

NEW Lenten Series

This year during Lent, we will be joining together with Christ Episcopal, St. Paul Episcopal, Holy Trinity Lutheran and Broad Street Christian Churches to have a joint Lenten series. These programs will be similar to our past Kirk Night Lent gatherings, with devotion and supper. We will host two Wednesdays, and the other churches will host on the other Wednesdays.

The theme for the series is "Christian Discipleship: Instruments of Peace, Channels of Grace," inspired by the Prayer attributed to St. Francis. Christian discipleship is a call to become instruments of peace and channels of grace, reconciliation and renewal. As members of the faith community in Martinsville and Henry County we are called to exercise discipleship together to promote the welfare and renewal of our

community and congregations. Each Wednesday we will focus on a section of that prayer through devotional time, a presentation from a community speaker, and by conversation around table during supper.

The schedule each Wednesday will be:

5:30-6:15pm Devotion and Community Speaker

6:15-7:00pm Soup supper and conversation

The locations and speakers will be:

March 16—First Presbyterian Church, speaker: Tiffany Haworth

March 23—First Presbyterian Church, speaker: Kim Adkins

March 30—Broad Street Christian Church, speakers: Jenniffer Jamieson, Nancy Booker, Hank Bostwick

April 6—Christ Episcopal Church, speakers: Sammy Redd, Tom Salyer

April 13—Christ Episcopal Church, speakers: Anna Bowe Wells, Brian Williams

Sunday Fellowship Time

Our Sunday morning 9:30am Fellowship Reception (also known as “coffee time”), is now being held in the Fellowship Hall, so there is ample space for everyone to visit and enjoy coffee and goodies. The Fellowship Committee will be providing refreshments, and there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the office if you would like to volunteer to bring some baked goods. Come and join us on Sundays as we greet and fellowship with one another!

Congratulations to Margaret Lester, who has been hired by the Presbytery of the Peaks to be the Day Camp Director of six “traveling” week-long camps that will be throughout the presbytery this summer. While this form of camp experience is new to our presbytery, other presbyteries (particularly the Presbytery of the James, which covers Richmond and the surrounding area)

have employed this model and have had wonderful success with it.

We are proud of Margaret and we look forward to hearing more about Margaret and her work in this new camp ministry within the Presbytery of the Peaks.



On Sunday, March 13, **Daylight Saving Time** begins. Therefore, before you go to bed on Saturday evening (March 12), be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour as we “spring forward” with this time change. We don’t want to be late for Sunday School and church that next morning!

2011 Confirmation Class

The 2011 Confirmation Class is underway! The class consists of Grey Ferguson, Emily Goldstein, Matthew Mason, and Mattie Wingfield and the class is being taught by the pastors. Over the next several months, the class will cover a wide-range of topics. On Monday, May 23, the youth will be given the opportunity to meet with the Session and make their public profession of faith. Then, on Pentecost Sunday (birthday of the Church, which falls on June 12, the youth will be confirmed and commissioned at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Please pray for Grey, Emily, Matthew, and Mattie as they undertake this important step in their lives of faith.

Contributions to various funds in the church

General Memorial Fund

Mr. and Mrs. James Ford – IMO Mrs. Eleanor Roy

Mrs. Debora DeShazo – IHO the Early Intervention Program (ELI)

Pastors Discretionary Fund

Barbara S. Newnam - IMO Ginny Newnam

Edward Porter

Mr. and Mrs. Neil W. Fowser – IMO Frank and Peg Foard

Session Highlights for February 28, 2011

- Joan Montgomery gave the devotional and opened with prayer.
- Approved the Session minutes for the January 31, 2011 stated meeting.
- Approved having a *Committees of the Session* fair on Sunday, April 10, 2011, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- Approved changes in the First Presbyterian Church's Weekday School section of the Officers' Handbook.
- Approved hosting a traveling day camp for the Presbytery of the Peaks at our church during the week of August 1-5.
- Approved the *Citizens Against Family Violence* use of two classrooms and the kitchen (for snacks and drinks) on a weekly basis, on Thursday afternoons, 5:00-6:00 p.m., for adult counseling sessions in one room, counseling sessions for children and youth in the other room.
- Approved the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism for Emma and Evan Wilson, the children of Carrie and Darrell Wilson, on Sunday, March 20, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- Heard the report of one of the commissioners to the February 19 Presbytery of the Peaks' meeting, the Session committees' reports, and the pastors' reports.
- Adjourned with prayer, which included shared joys and concerns, by Jenny Spivey.

College Students Cookie Project

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project. We had plenty of cookies with some in the freezer for a church dinner. Special thanks to Connie Anderson, Susan Pilson, Judy Ware and myself (Janet) for

packing. Even more special thanks to Gael and Smith Chaney who labored on the computer to print out the shipping labels already barcoded and ready to go. This year we sent 26 boxes stuffed with goodies. If you will have a child in college next year, please be sure the church office has an updated address by fall.

PANDAMANIA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JULY 11 - 15



More Panda facts:

1. The basic fur color of the giant panda is white with black eye patches, ears, legs, feet, chest, and shoulders. Within its natural environment (the deep forest and, at upper elevations, snow and rock), its mottled coloring provides camouflage.
2. The fur of the giant panda is thick and coarse. It consists of a coarse outer layer and a very dense, wooly-like underfur. To the touch, the fur feels oily. This oily protective coating helps protect pandas from the cool and damp climate in which the bear lives.
3. There are thought to be less than 1,000 pandas in the wild. There are about 110 pandas in captivity, mainly in China. There are seven in the United States – Zoo Atlanta and The National Zoo each have a pair. The pair in San Diego also has a small cub. Others are in Mexico City, Japan, Spain, Germany, France and South Korea.