



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



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

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Randall Stevens, Pastor rcstevensfpc@juno.com
Joseph Moore, Associate Pastor assocpastor@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Rusty Reaser, Parish Associate
Robert Chapman, Director of Adult Music adultmusic@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Betsy Haskins, Director of Children/Youth Music haskinsbetsy@yahoo.com
Cynthia Dobrinski, Organist
Debbie C. Youngman, Librarian
Sarah P. Altizer, Church Secretary office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Nancy Erikson, Bookkeeper
Church Web Site <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>

Our Web Site: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Phone: 276-632-3431 *Fax:* 276-632- 3802
office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org



First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112
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STEEPLE VIEWS



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First Presbyterian Church

November, 2008

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

Each month when I settle in to write this pastor's article, I wonder to myself, "Where do I begin, and what do I say?" As I approach that task for the March 2009 Steepleviews' newsletter, I don't need to ask that question. I know exactly where I want to begin and what I want to say. Let me say, right from the start, "THANK YOU! THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ALL OF YOU!"

That's precisely how I want to begin and what I want to say, and here are the reasons why. My family and I are grateful for your abundant love and tremendous support throughout our son's three-and-a-half year battle with cancer. There is simply no way to measure the many prayers and acts of kindness you (and others!) offered for Andrew and our family during that time period and beyond. I can never thank you enough for being so understanding as I traveled to Richmond numerous times to be with Andrew for his chemotherapy. You blessed me by giving me the gift of time to be with him and help him and his wife, Sarah, as I was able. And, when Andrew died on Friday, January 30, our family was overwhelmed that so many of you came to be with us in Richmond on Tuesday, February 3, for the Witness to the Resurrection service, which was held at the church where I served as an associate pastor from 1993-2001 and where Andrew was a member. So many of you have sent us sympathy cards, brought lots of good food to the house (by the way, we have some fantastic cooks in our church!), have called and/or visited us. Also, the reception at our church after worship on Sunday, February 15, was very lovely and quite tasty; our family and Sarah's family, the Junods, were deeply appreciative of the outpouring of love and support. Thank you for taking good care of us and for ministering to us in our time of need.

I also want to thank all of our church members (and friends), who participated in the search party to find our lost dog, Toby, and to bring him safely home. I don't know how many joined the "posse" to find Toby in the Axton area but I do know that a large number of folks canvassed the area on foot and in cars, going the extra mile (and many more!) to spot Toby and lure him into loving and eager arms. The day after Andrew had died, our family was eating supper at an Italian restaurant. We already knew that Toby had been spotted earlier that morning but ran off. Thus, when Laura's cell phone rang that Saturday night, I said to everyone, "They've found Toby!" Sure enough, it was Laura's friend, Greg, calling to say that Toby had been found and was safely and comfortably back home. When Monica, Laura, my brother, Rick, and I arrived home on Wednesday evening around 8:30 p.m., what a joy it was, as our headlights swept the front of the house, to see that tan, fuzzy face waiting and looking out the window for us. It was a glad family reunion that took place. The prodigal pup is home, thanks to many of you!

I could go on and on with my thanksgiving. Suffice it to say, the Christian life is all about gratitude, and it's about community as well. Thank you, one and all, for giving us so many reasons to be thankful, and for modeling for us what Christian community looks like at its best. And, thank you for holding us up and helping us as we walk through this valley of the shadow of death. God's love and your love will see us through to the light of the resurrection. What more can I say but, "THANK YOU!"

In Christ's love,
Randy

Reception for Jody Moore

Immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 8, there will be a reception to honor the Rev. Jody Moore and to give thanks for his faithful ministry among us these past five-and-an-half years. Please make plans to attend and express your appreciation to Jody!



Happy Birthday in March

to

- 3 Ruth Thompson
- 4 Duke Easley, Margaret Hurt
- 5 Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore
- 6 Alli Knighton, Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
- 8 Harriet Mattox, Bill Garrett
- 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
- 23 Diane Clark
- 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, Jody Moore
- 10 Bobby Wilson
- 11 Pansy Olson

- 12 Tom Unterbrink
- 14 Judy Garland
- 15 English Ford, Sherrill Dailey, Rhonda Casey, Briana Tatum
- 16 Chip Lackey, Reed Moore
- 17 Glenna Harmeyer, Barbara Tatum
- 18 Mary Manning, Meredith Seamon
- 19 Mary Catherine Lawhon, Jean Linker
- 20 Manly Boyd
- 21 Tracey Lawhon, Patrick Edgerton
- 22 Matthew Price, Roni Johnson
- 23 Gene Stanley, Forrest Truitt, Barbara Parker
- 24 Ed Porter
- 25 Ethan Jessup
- 26 Patrice Newnam, Sarah Beeler, Doug Walsh
- 27 Doug Goldstein, Margaret Gunter, Ralph Keys, Colin Walsh
- 28 Aynsley Renz
- 30 Lynn Pritchett, Evelyn Clark, Will Kirby

SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to Ralph, Sandra, Taylor and Ralph (Sr.) Shank on the death of their son, brother, and grandson, Walker Edwin Shank, in New York. Walker was confirmed on April 13, 1995, and joined the Church Triumphant on December 20, 2008.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Marge Dunn and family on the death of her mother, Juanita Lipscomb Taylor, January 25, 2009, in Martinsville.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Phil, Candace, and Annie Grace Payne on the death of Phil's father, John Richard Payne on February 12, 2009, in Greensboro, North Carolina

IN MEMORIAM

Walker Edwin Shank October 17, 1981 – December 20, 2008

Please remember to attend our **Kirk Night Suppers** and Lenten Worship services during the month of March. The dinner begins at 5:45 p.m.; at 6:15 we will have announcements and the blessing for the meal; then, we will move upstairs to the sanctuary for worship from 6:20-6:50 p.m. Here is

a list of those who be preaching:
Rusty Reaser (march 4), hank Baumann (March 11), Randy Stevens (March 18), and Paul Johnson, who is the chaplain at King's Grant and pastor of Shelton Memorial Presbyterian Church in Danville (March 25); also, Bill Plonk will preach on April 1.

Please remember to RSVP by filling out the bulletin inserts or by calling the church office.



All-Church Clean Up

On Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, the Facilities

Committee will have an all-church cleanup day. An “all-church” cleanup means all the members and visitors of the church are invited to help spruce up our building. We have stand-up jobs, sit-down jobs, move-around jobs and boss jobs. Please join your friends here at 1901 Patrick Henry Avenue on March 28 and find out how much fun it is to join in for a few hours to make our facilities shine!! Lunch will be served afterwards.

Three Trees

On March 8, during morning worship, the children and youth will present *The Three Trees*. You may recall they presented this music drama during Lent of 2007. We have had so many requests for this that we are going to do a repeat performance.



Children and Youth Music

All the young musicians are back in place and doing wonderful things! Let me highlight a few.

On March 8th the children will present *The Tale of the Three Trees*. This will be during worship at 11 am. It is imperative that the children be at practice so that we can do a wonderful job on this. I have put some Saturday practices on the schedule to insure that we have enough time. Don't forget that Daylight saving time starts at 2 am on the 8th!. Kindermusik children are beginning their second semester with a new folder and new opportunities to learn. They are reading really well and playing their glockenspiels beautifully!

Music Together children, parents and grandparents will be beginning our new semester as well. This special group has such a bond. It is a wonderful experience to see little ones plop down in anyone's lap! There is such a feeling of fellowship and trust in our group!

Cantabile Ringers are meeting and practicing for March 1st. There is such talent in this high school group, plus our beloved Wendy Seamon. The group is a very advanced one. You would have to be, to be able to ring four or five handbells!

Now is a great time to join one of the above groups. We would love to have you or someone that you know!!

Guitar at First Presbyterian

Come and join Lynda Clark for 6 more weeks of group guitar. Fight that winter boredom and blues with great music and fabulous fellowship. Lynda is the best teacher you could imagine, and she really knows her stuff. Middle and high schoolers are invited to join, and adults as well. : You do not need to be a church member to join in the fun.

No experience is necessary! All you need is a guitar, a capo and you!! Lynda will supply music or you may bring your own. Please call me at church 632 3431 or at home 632 3119 or email me, betsyhaskins@yahoo.com. We meet on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall. The time is 4:30 to 5:30. The cost per month is a deal!! 30 dollars. Of course, it will be prorated if you join in the middle!! Come on down and have a winter blast!!

Contemporary Worship Update

I am honored to be leading our Contemporary worship service. It is tough, trying to fill Betty Stanley's shoes, but with her help and guidance, we are moving along! Our group is a fabulous one! We have Will Franck on guitar, Lynn Pritchett on flute, Virginia King on violin, Sandra Ford on synthesizer, Gael Chaney on clarinet and I play the keyboard. Vocalists are Betty and Gene Stanley, Randy Stevens, Bill Garrett, Sam Smith, Gael Chaney and Darla Main-Schneider. Tommy Martin and Ann Marie Franck are up in the balcony running the screens and the sound. Jim Ford, Johnny and Ashby Pinkard and Smith Chaney are super setter uppers and tending to other logistical needs. This group is at every practice on Tuesday evening and at worship on Sunday morning at the early hour of.....eight AM!!! No, worship doesn't start then, but we are rehearsing and warming up for Gathering music at 8:35, and Praise music begins our worship at 8:45. Please consider lending your talents! There is a spot for everyone: singing, playing an instrument, helping with set up.....we can use every one of you!! You don't have to be present every Sunday!! We have a great time on Tuesday evening, rehearsing, laughing, and enjoying preparing to praise our God with great, uplifting music! Interested?? Give me a call or email, or come and sit in at a rehearsal on Tuesdays at 7 pm or come to early worship and see what all the joy is about!!! In Joy
Betsy Haskins

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Don't forget! The second Sunday of this month, March 8, **Daylight Savings Time** begins. Please be sure to spring forward and set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday night. We don't want you to be late for church the next morning!

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse"

The new year has brought new challenges for our Choir. The Lent and Easter Seasons are fast approaching. The next worship-music service will be on April 26 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The title will be *Darkness and Light*, and will combine both the *Passion Week* themes and the *Jesus, the Light of the World* theme. The service will consist of congregational singing, Scripture, as well as seven choral meditations on the *Last Words of Christ*, by Dale Wood. Octavos for the second part of the service will include *Mary Speaks*, by Daniel E. Gawthrop, sung by a women's quartet; *The Glory of the Father* by Egil Hovland; *Heavenly Light* by Peter J. Wilhousky; *Walk As Children of Light*, by Daniel Kallman; and *Ascription of Praise*, by David Schwoebel. We invite singers to sing with us, either as full-time members or to join with us just for this April 26 service. We rehearse this music from 8:00-9:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening and Sunday morning rehearsals on March 1 and 29, 10:00-10:30.

Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers will be rehearsing on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for six weeks beginning on February 24. We expect to play in the morning services on February 22 and March 22 this first quarter. Although we have no vacant positions, there is always a need for substitute ringers in rehearsals and for some worship services.

Langley AFB Brass Ensemble Vector in Concert March 16, 2009

The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band's brass ensemble *Vector* will present a free concert in our sanctuary on Monday evening, March

16, at 7:00 p.m. A musical fusion of conventional brass quintet instrumentation and interactive programming, this six-person ensemble captivates audiences of all ages with innovative arrangements and movement.

Each member is a seasoned, versatile performer with education and experience from around the globe. Together, they stretch the boundaries of standard chamber repertoire to include Country & Western, Funk, Big Band and Dixieland jazz, Broadway show tunes and recognizable Top 40 hits. For a musical event that combines the familiar classical brass group with an altogether new approach to popular music, come and experience *Vector*.

Prior to the concert, the ensemble will be treated to dinner in our Fellowship Hall. This dinner is being prepared by persons from the Chancel Choir.

The *Do Something* Sunday School Class will be discussing the book *The Shack*, by William Paul Young, beginning March 1. The book is about a man who was abused as a child, loses a daughter and has a weekend meeting with God. It will make you laugh, bring a tear to your eye and will challenge your thinking. They will discuss each chapter so you can join any time. Questions? Doc Altizer (638-8363). The class meets in the Middle School room at 9:45 a.m. with kickoff no later than 10:00 a.m. We hope to see you there.

Weekday School Registration 2009-2010

Registration for the 2009-2010 Weekday School year is upon us! Weekday School will continue to offer classes for children ages 2, 3, and 4 years, as well as the Mother's Morning Out program for infants and toddlers. Current students will register the week of March 2-6.

Church members and siblings of current students will register March 9-13. Beginning March 16, the school will hold open registration for the public.

Church members who wish to reserve a space must register and pay the registration fee no later than March 13 in order to have priority.

Martinsville & Henry County Mental Health Association, Inc. will present a Community Council Forum on *Senior Safety—Cons and Scams*, presented by George Hearn, Certified Presenter of Dignity Memorial Series. The Forum will meet in the Reed Classroom of our Church on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 12:00 noon. Bring your lunch-dessert and drinks will be provided. Reserve your seat early – 638-7801 or info@mhcma.org

Contributions to the Cole Tatum Medical Fund as of February 18, 2009, are as follows:

John and Anne Abercrombie
Jim and Nancy Baker
Nancy Betz
John and Susan Bowles
Catherine Bridges
Trula Campbell
David Chittum
Colleen Dallas
Milt and Nancy Davis
Marjorie Dunn
Environmental Options, Inc.
Logan and Victoria Esarey
Buck and Helen Flythe
Bill and Connie Garrett
Milton Hale
Elizabeth Hendricks
Bill and Fran Hensley
Brant Hensley
Angus and Sallie Hinson
Sel and Liz Harris
Iliene Hite
Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Irby
Julian Kester
Anne Lackey
Mary Lawhon
Frances Leavitt
Ed and Jean Linker

Lang Mauck
M. Minter
Dee Moore
Mary Page
Tom and Colleen Petschke
Johnny and Ashby Pinkard
Ed Porter
Rusty and Ann Reaser
Walt and Virginia Seamon
Natalie Shoebridge
Betty Jane Simpson
Ralph and Shelby Sink
Joe and Susan Smith
Jim and Myra Stegall
Randy and Monica Stevens
Craig and Susan Tatum
Jon and Kristen Tatum
Barbara Tatum
Mary Helen Wagner
Pamela Westgate
Lucy Wilson
Chris and Melissa Wingfield

**To the Memorial Fund in memory
of Jack Richeson**

Jim and Nancy Baker
Mr. and Mrs. John Bowles
Milt and Nancy Davis
Nancy and Michelle Dyer
Marjorie Dunn
Buck and Helen Flythe
Bill and Connie Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Groves
Mr. and Mrs. John Hall
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hensley and Family
Mrs. Myrtis Lester
Langhorne Mauck
Dorothy Maxie
Mrs. Jane Ford Phillips
William Richeson
Ken and Nan Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Sowdon
Dr. and Mrs. James Stringfield
Mary Taylor

**To the Memorial Fund in memory of
Walker Shank**

Mr. and Mrs. James Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Hoyett L. Barrow, Jr.
Mrs. Catherine Bridges
Mr. and Mrs. William Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Groves
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hensley
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Minter
Mrs. Langhorne Mauck
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Norton
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Pinkard
Mr. R. Marshall Pinkard, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Sutton
Mrs. Barbara Tatum

EASTER LILIES

The church invites families and individuals in the congregation to place a potted Easter lily in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 12. All who wish to place a lily in memory of, or in honor of a loved one or friend may do so by contacting the Church Office or by filling out the form below and placing in the offering place with your payment. These names will be included on a special insert in the bulletin on Easter. Each plant is \$14 payable to the Church Office in advance. The last date for ordering and making payment to the Church will be Friday, April 3.

Please place my order for an Easter lily:

Name _____

Telephone _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of _____

By: _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____

___ I will pick up my lily immediately after worship.

___ I will leave my lily at the church.



**Watch out for the “DOCK”
It’s coming – July 6-10**