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

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STEEPLE VIEWS

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# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

August, 2007

Martinsville, Virginia

## **From My Perspective Within The Kingdom**

I ran across the following story in one of my files and it seemed appropriate to share with you. There is an old fable about some animals that started a school. The school had classes in swimming, flying, and running. The duck was a good swimmer but had to drop swimming in order to practice running, at which he was not very good, and soon he was an average swimmer. The rabbit was the good one in running class but broke his leg while trying to fly. The eagle was the top one in the flying class but became waterlogged when he tried to swim. By the end of the school term none of the animals were very good at anything. They had all tried to be something they were not and failed to develop their own God-given abilities. The article "Be The Best You Can Be" was written by Bill Thrasher and he went on to say: "There is a good moral behind the above fable. All of us have strengths and weaknesses. It is important that we do not weaken our areas of strength in our zeal to strengthen our areas of weakness. Our challenge is to accept our uniqueness and develop it to its fullest potential. You do not have to try to be like someone else. God made you just the way you are with your own particular combination of strengths and weaknesses. All God wants you to be is the best you can be. God needs you just as you are, if you make up your mind to give God your very best." We have a tendency to focus on our weaknesses and try to improve on ourselves. There is certainly nothing wrong with that ambition. However, at the same time, we need to be careful not to neglect those areas where we have strengths or else, as the old adage goes: "If you don't use it,

you will lose it." I have been reminded in recent months of the various gifts and strengths that you bring to this collective body known as the First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, VA. In my pastoral visits (especially to those who are experiencing serious illness), I am aware of how many of you take the time to write a personal note and send a card, which has a way of really lifting the spirits of the one who is ill as well as their family. And, many of you have certain strengths or gifts for cooking which you graciously and generously share with others. Some of you utilize the telephone or visit in the home or hospital in order to be present in a personal and helpful manner. Some are willing to run errands, transport a person in need from here to there and back again, or do some helpful task around the house. And, of course, when there is a particular need, most of our members get involved through the God-given gift of prayer, which is beneficial in more ways than we can really know or understand. Time and time again, I am impressed by and appreciative of the many ways in which you use your gifts to "be the best that you can be" and to share "your best" with someone else, especially if there is a need. When we live out our love for another, when we are doers of the Word and not hearers only, then the church is truly being the church and fulfilling its calling to continue Jesus' ministry in and to the world. Thank you for being your best selves and for sharing your best with others all to the glory of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In Christ's love,  
Randy



## Happy Birthday in August to

- 1 David Chittum, Anne Peterson
- 2 Virginia Becker, Lynne Beeler, Allan Miller
- 3 Marge Dunn, Libby Goldstein
- 4 Liz Goldstein
- 5 Ruth Garland, Bob Richeson
- 6 Ann Crouch, Bunny O'Neal, Elizabeth Chapman
- 7 Byron Price
- 8 Libby Miller, Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Andrew Bowles, Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Tyler Bumgarner, Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Carrie Buffkin, Beth Lawson
- 13 Tyler Stone, Grant Woolard
- 15 Caroline Harris
- 17 Margaret Pilson, Maggie Pilson, Elizabeth Walsh
- 18 Margaret Lovell, Cindy Nease, Madison Powell
- 19 Alison Parker, Bill Plonk
- 20 Peggy Foard
- 21 Ron Fentress, Bill Stone
- 22 Laura Buffkin, Johnny Pinkard, Troy Rakes, Kym Tatum
- 23 Anne Abercrombie, Carol Ann Mahoney
- 24 Nan Smith
- 25 Margaret Lester
- 26 Gentry Zentmeyer
- 27 Ray Pruitt
- 28 Bob Bledsoe
- 29 Joe Williams, Stuart Beard
- 31 Dot Bryson, Bill Nease

## and in September to

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 2 Trula Campbell, Clark Eden
- 4 Libby Cobb, Nancy Davis, Vance James
- 5 John Bowles, Jackie Crouch, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall, Julie Handy

- 7 Jamie Peck, Andrew Stevens
- 8 Suzan Kirby

## CONGRATULATIONS



to Charles and Kimberly Toothman on the birth of their son, Ryan Charles Toothman June 24, 2007.

Sarah Toothman is the proud big sister!

**SYMPATHY** of the congregation is extended to the families of David Price and Jeff Adkins on the death of their uncle, Bill Adkins, July 7, 2007, in Collinsville.



## VBS 2007 Wrap up report

What a great week we had at Avalanche Ranch! There were lots of smiles, giggles and a fun week. It was a lot of work and the adults all said "Whew!" when it was over but the delight shown by the kids made it all worthwhile. They all seemed to have a good time and were eager to come back each day. There were 9 kids from our church and a total of 62 for the week. Several area churches were represented in addition to the four sponsoring churches. After two years at the Episcopal Church, VBS will move back to Forest Hills Presbyterian in 2008. Stay tuned for more updates as soon as we get them.

A successful VBS depends on the adult and teenage helpers. Here is a list of the ones from our church that helped (hope I don't miss someone): Bonnie and Matthew Price (nothing but the best in the craft room); Emily Beard; Jody Moore; Laura Stevens (did the kids REALLY cross the Jordan River?); Janet Fentress (along with Chadder and his M&Ms); Melissa, Meredith and Kimberly Sea-

mon (what a great job Melissa did as assistant song leader); Sam Smith; JoAnne and Brooke Sanders; Lynn and Liz Pritchett; Parker Gunn; Caroline Dion; Dana Mahoney; Analisa O'Toole; Elizabeth Walsh; Barbara Tatum; Virginia Zentmeyer; Alanna Ferguson; Melissa and Jacob Wingfield; Michael Mason; Waid and Katherine Lester; Hayden Renz. If your name was not on that list, please consider helping next year. We can never have too many.

### **The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" Sanctuary Ringers**

WE ask members and friends of our congregation to keep Bob, Beth, and Elizabeth Chapman in your prayers. Bob has recently had open heart surgery which was followed by two more serious surgeries, all within two weeks. We pray for Bob's healing and his return to good health, and we hope that God's peace, love and strength (along with our love and prayers) will sustain the family during this difficult time.

### **More Information on the Chapmans (an e-mail from Beth and Elizabeth)**

Bob's hi-tech cousin from Atlanta suggested that I create a "CarePage" for Bob. This would allow me to post updates about his progress on his page and reduce some of the phone calls. I don't mind the calls and always appreciate the contact; but as Bob progresses and begins to wake up and ultimately come home, my energy will be more and more focused on him! This would allow me to reach any who are interested with only one entry! I've sent a separate email that includes a link to the website and Bob's page (I believe it works pretty much the same way that Snapfish does). I don't have my cyber address book with me on our laptop, but if you could get

the word out through your church email contacts and/or in the bulletin, that would save you from having to answer questions too!

The web address is [www.carepages.com](http://www.carepages.com) and just follow instructions.  
Bob's carepage name is: bobchapman-ofmartinsville

Thank you for all your support and prayers. We tend to feel isolated in situations such as these, but I know that God is ever present and has had his hand on Bob daily.

We miss you -  
Beth & Elizabeth

### **Children and Youth Music**



The approach of Fall is always exciting, as I look forward to seeing wonderful children, youth and parents-some that I have already had the pleasure of knowing and some new ones as well. We will be starting all musical activities the week after Labor Day. All groups will begin on Monday, September 10 and Tuesday, September 11th. Input Please!

I have had wonderful support from the parents who have so willingly served to help our children and youth in their musical journey. I would like to ask those of you who are interested in helping me mold our program to come to a meeting with other like-minded parents. We have several issues to consider, such as fellowship and mission possibilities. If you would be willing to meet with me once in August and then probably two more times during the musical year, please let me know. I will find a time that suits the majority. Your time will be used wisely. We will plan to meet early in August.

### Classes for Fall

I am really looking forward to fall and getting back with the children, youth and wonderful adults with whom I am fortunate to work. The schedule is basically the same with a tweak here and there. We are always looking for new friends. If you know someone that might enjoy being part of our musical family, please let me know, and I will call them or send a news letter.

Fall Schedule is as follows:

The schedule for the fall takes into account that we have children coming from 5 different school systems, each of whom has different time schedules for dismissal. The city school children are dismissed first, hence the early beginning time. We will have enrichment activities until all children arrive.

Monday: 2:45-4:30 Orff-Kodaly I and II for 1st-5th graders (Singing, drama, playing instruments, handbells/ handchimes all combined). The children will be grouped by grade and will rotate through an exciting afternoon of music, crafts and games. We are going to need significant parental involvement in this group. The work that it takes to put on a Christmas and a Lenten play is enormous and it is simply more than I can handle. If everyone takes on a small responsibility, we have more ownership and no one is overwhelmed.

Tuesday: 11:00-11:45 Music Together (Early musical experiences for children from birth through 3 years with parent or caregiver) There is a limited number of spaces, so please let me know if you are interested since church members have priority. We will be purchasing at home materials for this group to use at home. There will be three quarters-Fall, Winter and Spring-and the cost for the materials is \$25 for each quarter. Please make checks out to the church, ear marked for

### Music Together.

12:00-1:40 Kindermusik I (Sequential musical experiences in singing drama, games, and play for four-year olds. The children bring their lunch and then we have our class together. Parents come at 1:30 for the wrap up) The fee for church members is \$35. The \$35 covers the child's bag and glockenspiel, but you can borrow them from friends and save yourself some money! The fee for non-members is \$130 for the year. Again, if you borrow a bag and glock from someone, your fee is reduced by \$35.

2:30-4:00 Kindermusik II, (Sequential musical experiences in reading, singing multi cultural music and playing for Kindergartners. The children will learn to play their own dulcimer and recorder). This is a continuation of Kindermusik I, but others who have not had Kindermusik I are welcome. Parents come at 3:55 for the wrap-up time) There is no fee for members, and non-members' fee is \$130.

I would like to have a Middle school group. The group can decide if it would like the direction to be handbells, plays, or instrumental. We need six dedicated musicians to make it a go. Day and time would be decided on by the group.

Handbell Quintet or More! This is a group for advanced handbell players. We meet on a day that suits the group. This is for 8th graders and up.

Please sign up below and let me hear from you if you have questions, suggestions or comments. In order for me to be able to order music and materials, I need your completed form by August 20th. You can mail them, drop them in the offering plate on a Sunday, or put in my box in the office.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Music Group \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone numbers (please list cell phones as well for emergencies).  
Mom's phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Dad's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School and grade \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency when parents can not be reached:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
Other health Issues \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Involvement-Please let me know if you would like to assist in any manner. The more input we have from others, the better the experience for the children and youth.

I would like to help with the following:  
 FPC Parents Music Council  
 Organizational tasks  
 Robe and music organization  
 Brainstorming  
 Organizing snacks and parties for a particular group  
 Overseeing the schedule for drivers to Carlisle on Mondays.

Youth helpers for the large group on Mondays.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Classes begin the week of September 10th .  
I am looking forward to a fantastic year.

Feel free to call me at the church or at home with any problem, suggestion or just to chat or email is fine too. betsy-haskins@yahoo.com.

The combined Adult Sunday School class for the summer has been looking at "Snapshots of Faith: A Journey Towards Understanding," which has been taught by Jody Moore, Rusty Reaser, and Randy Stevens. Here is the rest of the schedule:

August 5 Are you Saved? (Part 2)  
August 12 Discerning What God is Doing: A Study of Acts  
August 19 Discerning What God is Doing (Part 2)  
August 26 Meet John Calvin  
September 2 Meet John Calvin (Part 2)

Once again, these lessons come from "The Thoughtful Christian" website. We hope you will join us for some stimulating discussion on important aspects of the Christian life.



### **HELP WANTED!!!!**

THE Christian Education Committee is seeking two or three volunteers (adults or youth) to work in the church office one Sunday a month. The duties consist of counting Sunday School offering and recording attendance. Computer skills are necessary but training is available. Anyone interested may call the church office during the week.

### **News from Jennifer Stanley**

(Daughter of Patsy Stanley)  
On August 19, I will be leaving for East Asia where I will spend the next 12 months on a mission trip. I will be in East Asia as a Short-term International (STINT) intern with Campus Crusade

for Christ. While I'm there, I will have the opportunity to share the gospel with students who may have never heard it before. God is currently working mightily in this region of the world, and I am excited to be a part of all that He is doing. There are several ways that you can be praying for me and the other seven members of my team while we are in East Asia. Please pray for our safety, for God to begin to work and continue working in the hearts of the East Asian students we will meet, and for us to grow in our own faith while we are serving the Lord.



### **Lemonade on the Lawn August 6!**

Join us for conversation, fellowship, and refreshments on the

front lawn following worship on Sunday, August 6.

### **Bingo Anyone - Bingo Everyone!!**



Plan to join us for a fun time August 12th immediately following the worship

service. The Fellowship

Committee will serve lunch, which will be from Walsh's Chicken and More. After lunch we will play several games of bingo and prizes will be awarded. Everyone attending will receive one bingo card. If you would like to play multiple cards (and who doesn't) bring a jar of spaghetti sauce for Grace Network for each additional card you would like to play. If you will be able to attend, please fill out the form you will find in the church bulletins on July 29th and August 5th. Mark your calendar for fun and games on the 12th of August!!  
Bonny Pace

### **BITS AND PIECES**

On May 7, the Presbyterian Women attended their last meeting of the year. Members from Grace and Forest Hills joined us for the occasion. Vickie Wells presented a very interesting program. Nancy Betz and Anne Peterson were presented with letters thanking them for the work they had done during the last two years. Susan Pilson was introduced as the new moderator for the Presbyterian Women and Nancy Davis as the new co-moderator. We look forward to their able leadership.

Response to the plea for Funeral Reception Helpers has been amazing. As of June 27, there are 64 names on the list. Thank you so much for being willing to help. All of the names are those of women, and this is something we would like to share with the gentlemen of the congregation. MEN, please call me at 638-1175 if you would be willing to help- (no meetings!).

A memorial gift has been purchased in memory of Mary Ragland. The Presbyterian Women, along with Margaret Cundiff (Henry Reed's daughter), have financially enabled us to purchase a Reed and Barton Silver 25-cup Coffee Urn to be used at receptions, meetings and conferences when needed. This urn will serve as a reminder of Mary, the epitome of a lady and one who loved to serve others.

The scrapbook for the last two years of Presbyterian Women activities has been placed in the library. Please look through it at your convenience.

Anne Peterson

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