



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:

Jenny Spivey, Associate Pastor pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com

Rusty Reaser, Parish Associate

Robert Chapman, Director of Adult Music adultmusic@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Betsy Haskins, Director of Children/Youth Music and Contemporary Worship

Music Leader iluvpiano.emh@gmail.com

Cynthia Dobrinski, Organist

Sarah P. Altizer, Office Manager office@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

Return Address Requested

STEEPLEVIEWS

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
MARTINSVILLE, VA
PERMIT NO. 108



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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

March, 2012

Martinsville, Virginia

In the Wilderness

The season of Lent began recently with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season that stretches for forty days (not including Sundays) through Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and takes us all the way to the tomb – and the victory of Easter morning! As we joined with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Broad Street Christian Church for worship on Ash Wednesday, many of us were marked with a sign of the cross in ashes, a reminder of our mortality and sign of repentance. The words that were spoken upon receiving ashes, “Repent and believe the good news,” are the same words that John the Baptist proclaimed as he baptized in the River Jordan. The forty-day Lenten journey recalls the time Jesus spent in the wilderness directly following his baptism by John, a time of fasting, testing, and temptation. But let us remember this: Jesus’ experience in the wilderness came only after God had spoken and called him the “beloved Son.”

There are many experiences in our own lives that feel like wilderness experiences. Perhaps you have felt that way upon moving to a new place, going off to college, starting or ending a job, or at the death of a loved one. This time in the life of our congregation may too feel like a wilderness experience, in which we are tested, as we seek to continue our faithful witness in changing circumstances. So, let us too remember, we have been claimed and called beloved children of God in our own baptisms. The same Spirit that rested on Christ now abides with the church, giving us strength in what seem to be our weakest moments. So, let us walk together through the wilderness of Lent with humble and open hearts, that we might meet again our Lord Jesus who endured and suffered, yes, but who also was raised to assure of our everlasting hope. Thanks be to God.

Rev. Jennifer Spivey

Interim Pastor Search Committee Update

The members of the Interim Pastor Search Committee are Nancy Baker, Kim Boyd, Duke Ferrell, David Price and Forrest Truitt. The committee has completed the Church Information Form (CIF), a document giving a representative description of First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, and the skills and characteristics being sought in an interim pastor. The CIF has been reviewed and approved by the Session of First Presbyterian Church and the Committee on Ministry of Presbytery of the Peaks.

The information contained in our CIF was input into a national personnel matching system maintained by PC(USA) and the committee has since received Personal Information Forms (akin to a pastor’s resumé) from over 30 interim pastor candidates. After a period of examination and evaluation of these PIFs, the members of the Interim Pastor Search Committee agreed to evaluate further eight of the potential interim pastor candidates.

Please be in prayer for the members of this committee that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit as they seek to discern the interim pastor God has chosen for First Presbyterian of Martinsville.

Forrest Truitt



Happy Birthday in March

- 3 Ruth Thompson
- 5 Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore Smith
- 6 Alli Knighton, Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
- 8 Harriet Mattox
- 9 Tyler Price
- 11 Carol Darnell, Don Richman
- 12 Bill Peterson, Bob Clark
- 17 Dick Sowdon, Rachel DeBusk, Alanna Ferguson, Anna Kate Jennings
- 18 Catherine Bridges, Steve Edgerton
- 20 JoAnne Sanders
- 21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
- 23 Diane Clark
- 27 Pam Mason, Kenzie Rakes
- 28 Christiana Campbell

And in April....

- 3 Claude Young
- 4 Max Pinkston
- 5 Kate Judson
- 8 Bob Davis, Kisean Adams
- 9 Troy Lee Rakes, Mary Catherine Stegall
- 10 Bobby Wilson
- 11 Pansy Olson
- 12 Tom Unterbrink
- 14 Judy Garland
- 15 English Ford, Rhonda Casey, Briana Tatum
- 16 Reed Moore
- 17 Glenna Harmeyer, Barbara Tatum
- 18 Mary Manning, Meredith Seamon
- 19 Mary Catherine Lawhon, Jean Linker
- 20 Manly Boyd, Tracey Lawhon, Patrick Edgerton
- 22 Matthew Price
- 23 Gene Stanley, Forrest Truitt
- 24 Ed Porter
- 25 Ethan Jessup
- 26 Patrice Newnam, Sarah Beeler, Doug Walsh
- 27 Margaret Gunter, Colin Walsh
- 30 Lynn Pritchett, Evelyn Clark, Will Kirby

Ecumenical Lenten Series continues...

Joint Lenten Series

This year during Lent, we will again be joining together with Christ Episcopal, St. Paul Episcopal, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Broad Street Christian and Forest Hills Presbyterian Churches to have a joint Lenten series. These programs will be similar to our past Kirk Night Lent gatherings, with devotion and supper.

The theme for this year's series will be the *Lord's Prayer* and each evening we will focus on one of the petitions of that prayer and how we can live out that aspect of faith in our community today.

The schedule each Wednesday will be:

- 5:30-6:15 p.m. Devotion and Speaker
- 6:15-7:00 p.m. Soup supper and conversation

The remaining locations will be:
 March 7 – First Presbyterian Church
 March 14-Christ Episcopal Church
 March 21-Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
 March 28-Broad Street Christian Church

Holy Week and Easter Worship

The observance of Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** on **April 1**, marking Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will have our normal worship services at 8:35 and 11:00a.m. in our sanctuary that morning. At 10:00 we will again join with other local churches for the ***Palm Sunday in the Park*** service. Meet in the narthex at 9:45 a.m. to walk over to that joint service together. On **Maundy Thursday, April 5**, we will have a congregational meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m., followed by 7:00 p.m. Worship service, and we will welcome several guest preachers to reflect on the last words of Christ from the cross. On **Easter Sunday, April 8**, we will



have our TWO worship services at 8:35 and 11:00 a.m. Everyone is also invited to our traditional **Easter Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the children's **Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 a.m.** on the playground.

The Tempo
"Our Musical Pulse"
The Chancel Choir

Here Might I Stay and Sing...
A Worship-Music Service
Presented by the Chancel Choir
First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Sunday Morning, March 25, 11:00 A.M.

SAVE THE DATE!!

The Presbyterian Hymnal Project

Theological Vision Statement

Collections of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs give voice to the church's core beliefs and theological convictions. Their texts are "compact theology," and the selection of hymns and songs (both the themes that are emphasized and those that are overlooked), the order in which they are presented, and even the ways they are indexed shape the theological thinking and ultimately the faith and practices of the church.

Previous hymnals have responded to the needs of the church and the world by highlighting the rhythms of the church year, the centrality of the Psalms in the prayer and praise of Reformed churches, the corporate witness of the church to the world, the seeking of God's peace and God's justice, and the rich musical and poetic resources of world Christianity. All these motifs remain important and should be retained, in one way or another, in this collection.

The next Presbyterian collection of hymns and songs, however, will be pub-

lished amid different conditions than those that molded previous ones. It will be offered in a world in which trust in human progress has been undermined and eclectic spiritualities often fail to satisfy deep spiritual hungers. It will be used by a church many of whose members have not had lifelong formation by Scripture and basic Christian doctrine, much less Reformed theology. It is meant for a church marked by growing diversity in liturgical practice. Moreover, it addresses a church divided by conflicts but nonetheless, we believe, longing for healing and the peace that is beyond understanding.

To inspire and embolden a church facing these formidable challenges, the overarching theme of the collection will be God's powerful acts of creation, redemption, and final transformation. It will also bespeak the human responses that God's gracious acts make possible. In other words, the framework for this collection of congregational song will be the history of salvation.

Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers are busy. This choir rang in the morning service on February 19 and is preparing to ring again on March 18.

Kimberly Seamon is ringing position four and taking Jenny Spivey's place in the choir. Kimberly has been a substitute ringer for several years and now we welcome her as a regular ringer.

Youth and Children's Music

Music for Children and Youth is really rocking as I write this in late February.

We have a full quotient of families in Music Together on Tuesday mornings. This is such a delightful group of moms, grand moms, dads and little ones. There is a very special joy in seeing these children progress from babes in arms to really musical, singing, dancing and rhythmic little creatures.



Kindermusik I students are enjoying their new folders filled with new notes to read, new games to play, and many songs to sing and play on our glockenspiels. They are progressing really well and love one another dearly.

Kindermusik II students are learning to play the recorder, and they are doing very well at it. These kindergartners are filled with love, joy and fun-loving spirits. They have already mastered A, B and C. We are also learning about music in many other cultures, complete with songs and games from those countries.

WAMMERS are busy with handbells. They rang in church this month for the first time and did a very fine job. We sang as well and appreciate the talents of the Cantabile ringers, Beth Chapman and Lynn Pritchett who completed the ensemble that morning.

Our Easter play, "Good News from a Grave," will be presented Sunday night, March 25th in the Fellowship Hall at 7 pm. It is a heart warming story of Christ, passion week and His glorious resurrection, as a group of children who are cleaning up Good News Gardens for a sunrise service learn a lot about Christ, His life, and His final sacrifice. Please come out and be filled with hope and joy as we approach Passion week in our church.

Cantabile ringers did a wonderful joy ringing and assisting the Wammers in February. We will be ringing again in March. This group is one I can always count on, to be supportive of the young children, to do their best and to play in a stunningly beautiful manner.

Contemporary Worship

We continue to worship our Lord early on Sunday morning with joy, praise and emphasis on prayer and listening for God's word in our lives.

We have welcomed a good number of visitors in the past few weeks with open arms and the joy of the Lord!

The Praise Band is a very hard working multi talented group, with most people covering more than one joy, i.e. playing an instrument and singing.

We welcome Ann Marie Franck back to our group as chief technician. She brings a wealth of talent and is so generous to join us and work the sound board and assist on Tuesday evenings.

Please know that we welcome you if you are interested in singing, playing or assisting in other ways. Just talk to me and I promise, I will find a special place for you among the wonderful people in our group.

There will not be an early service on March 25th, so that we can support the Chancel Choir's special program.

We will have an early service on Easter morning for those who would like to worship, have breakfast and then the egg hunt, as well as our usual crew.

I hope that this Lenten season and Eastertide is filled with grace, love and the joy we have in Christ our Redeemer.

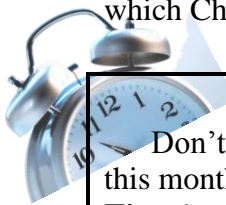
Joy,
Betsy Haskins

Cookies for College Students

Cookies for the college kids were packed Sunday, February 12. We had plenty of delicious sweets and I'm sure the kids enjoyed them. Thanks to everyone who contributed. We packed 24 boxes which is a little less than in the past. Thanks, also, to Beth Chapman and Cindy Edgerton who helped pack with Janet Fentress. I think they added a little special love to their personal student's box. Many thanks also to Gael and Smith Chaney who have taken on the responsibility of addressing and mailing the boxes for several years. One student said only two of the cookies were broken which didn't hinder the taste a bit. **Parents** – PLEASE keep the Church Office informed of your student's address each year even if it's the same. And don't forget to contact Sarah when it's graduation time.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

On Palm Sunday, April 1, and Easter Sunday, April 8, 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 church (USA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian World Service, and the Self Development of People. Please give generously to this offering which is a witness to the unity to which Christ calls us.



Daylight Savings Time

Don't Forget! The second Sunday of this month (**March 11**) **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!

Community Breakfast

At our March 17 Community Breakfast, the Mission and Evangelism Committee will be giving each child a book to help promote literacy since March is *Read Across America* month. We hope this will be something special that the children and families will remember from their visit to our church. The committee would appreciate donations of new or gently used books, as well as activity or coloring books. The books may be brought to the church office by March 11. We hope you can help us in this way live our mission to *share God's love, embrace our neighbors and nurture each other.*

Visitors and Inquirers Gatherings

On Sundays, March 18 and 25, during the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School time, there will be gatherings for anyone interested in learning more about becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church. It will be a time to

get to know one another and to share more about the life of faith, ministries and mission of our congregation. Please encourage anyone who is a newcomer to our community and congregation to attend these gatherings!

Youth Ministry Events in March

Our youth group continues to meet on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Each gathering includes dinner and time for fellowship, fun, and learning. We will have our normal Sunday evening schedule for March 4, 11, and 18. On March 25, in the afternoon we will have a service project with the SPCA. Also, the youth group has been asked to prepare and serve the **Community Breakfast** on Saturday, March 17, from 8:00-9:30 a.m., so mark your calendars to help with this ministry!

News from our Weekday School

Weekday School Registration 2012-2013

Registration for the 2012-2013 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 5-9. Church members and siblings of current students will register March 12-16. 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 16.** If you have questions or would like registration information, please contact Melissa White, Director, at wds@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org or 632-3431.



STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.

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

Session Highlights for January 30, 2012

- Lynn Pritchett led the Session in a devotional and opened with prayer;
- Approved the January 9, 2012 Session minutes;
- Approved a temporary 2012 budget, with expected income of \$451,364, expenses of \$521,286, for a total deficit of \$69,922. The Session will meet on Saturday, March 17, at 9:00 a.m. to review the budget and make adjustments that may be necessary to establish a final 2012 budget;
- Membership changes for 2011 were reviewed which included 4 births, 2 marriages, 7 deaths, 5 baptisms, 4 confirmations, and 10 transfers;
- The Session called a Congregational Meeting for February 19 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing an elder to the class of 2013 to replace the unexpired term of Jim Beard, and to review and approve the Associate Pastor's Terms of Call.



EASTER LILIES

The church invites families and individuals in the congregation to place a potted Easter lily in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 8.

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 mailing to the office with your payment. These names will be included on a special insert in the bulletin on Easter. Each plant is \$15 payable to the Church Office in advance. The last date for ordering and making payment to the church will be Friday, March 23.

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 ____.

General Memorial Fund

In Memory of Stan Cobb

Mrs. Lang Mauck

Mr. and Mrs. James Severt

In Memory of Elizabeth Owens

Ms. Peggy Martin

Mrs. Gwen Sowdon

Mr. and Mrs. William Vernon

Mrs. Lang Mauck

In Memory of Rev. Randall C.

Stevens

Ms. Debbie O'Neill

Mr. and Mrs. Manly Boyd

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hill

Mrs. Lang Mauck

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Stanley

Mr. and Mrs. Randall Hoffman

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Truitt