



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*

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S T E E P L E V I E W S



STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

September, 2008

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

I have always enjoyed the story of the couple from Atlanta, who went to New York City in order to see a matinee performance of "My Fair Lady" on Broadway. The show was sold out for weeks so they ended up buying tickets eight months in advance and planned to return on vacation. They went to New York City on the appropriate weekend. They got to the theatre in plenty of time and found their seats (fifth row in the center section) and sat down and anticipated the play. Every seat was filled except the seat to the left of the man. The curtain rose, and no one had taken the seat. At intermission, the man turned to the woman on the opposite side of the seat and said, "This is amazing. We had to buy our tickets eight months in advance, and we get here and find an empty seat." She said, "Well, that seat belongs to me, too. It was my husband's seat but he died." The man said, "Oh, I'm terribly sorry to hear that. But couldn't you have invited a friend to come with you?" She answered, "No, they are all at the funeral!"

It's a silly story that is guaranteed to produce a smile or a laugh but, at the same time, it makes a very serious point. Life is filled with priorities. What are the priorities that shape us and drive us and order our lives? What ranks at the top of our personal list? On the other hand, what ranks toward the bottom of the list?

I am writing this article in the afterglow of our wonderfully successful Coming Home weekend. It was a sheer delight to watch the interaction of old (and new) friends on Saturday and Sunday and the joy that united us all in

Christ Jesus and through this church fellowship. At the same time, as I write this article, Rally Day (September 7) in the life of our congregation is literally "just around the corner." To that end, and in order to pick up where the opening story left off, I would like to suggest that all of us reassess our priorities and, if it isn't already, I hope church attendance and involvement will make its way up your list of priorities. I want to thank all those, who participate often in our church's life; your presence and support are greatly appreciated and not taken for granted! And to those, who attend occasionally or infrequently, I want to encourage you to consider renewing your commitment to your church and becoming more involved in the church's life. We need you to be an active part of the church. We need, we want, to see you in Sunday School and worship (either at 8:45 or 11:00 a.m. and in other activities of the church such as the youth programs, Presbyterian Women, the various choirs, the seven committees of the Session, and so on. In early September, a Time and Talent card will be mailed to you; please look it over and give careful thought as to how and where you will serve within our congregation or community. Then promptly return your card to the church office indicating your willingness to make the church one of your top priorities.

The more we join together and share our gifts, the more we will be able to do for the Lord and those whom he has called us to serve. When we contemplate that, by his death and resurrection, Jesus made us his priority, it behooves us to go and do likewise. Please make your spiritual life and this church family two of your highest priorities.

Thank you for thinking on these things.
I hope and look forward to seeing you at church!

In Christ,
Randy

A Word from the Associate

Pastor:

It is time to turn the calendar forward to September, which is the start to another church year. During weekday mornings this summer, the hallways of our church have been a little lonely without the usual preschool children, but the classrooms will soon be filled once again with excited children from the Weekday School and the ELI Class. In addition, our weekly Youth Group events, Youth Jam meetings, the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Class, and Sunday School classes will kick off in early September. I want to thank all of the many individuals who serve as volunteers to make these programs and classes happen. Your dedication to Christ makes a real difference in the lives of the children, youth, and adults of this congregation.

Rally Day, of course, is the day we celebrate the value of Christian Education and the importance of our teachers and students. Why are we involved in Christian Education? Why make the time in our busy schedules?

After all, children always seem to have another project to complete at school, youth have a seemingly never-ending array of after school activities, and adults are often pulled in so many different directions.

Kent Johnson offers one reason we participate in Christian Education in his book *Called to Teach*. Johnson writes about how he was driving home one evening and passed by a police car that was responding to an accident. "A few moments later an ambulance passed with its red lights flashing. My first

reaction was to pray for the persons who were likely in desperate need of help. Then my thoughts turned to those who were rushing to meet their need. There, I thought, are people who are really useful. The police, the medics, the medical doctors who would be there to give aid, and in that service, could give witness to Jesus Christ. And what was I? I was a teacher on his way to class. Oh, I like to think that some exciting things happen in my class, but how can that be compared with ministry in a crisis situation?

"Then I remembered a phone call my I had received several months earlier. It was about a young woman, Joleen, who had been on her way to a ski weekend. She apparently had fallen asleep at the wheel, driven off a mountain road, and crashed into some trees. She died within hours of the accident. But before she died, she had the opportunity to confess her faith. Someone had stopped at the scene and talked to Joleen about Christ. Joleen told this person about what she had been taught about faith by her loving parents and teachers throughout the years. And she died in that knowledge; this brought great comfort to her parents."

Johnson continues, "People in crisis situations have special opportunities to minister. But as I think about it, much of what they are able to do depends on what those people in need know and believe at the point of the crisis. What they know depends on what they have been taught by parents, or in a class somewhere by a teacher who helped to provide a foundation for all of life's experiences, whatever they may be."

Participating in Sunday School classes and Christian Education opportunities give us the resources to respond well to whatever life will bring. What we learn and what we internalize about our faith will help us find determination in the face of hardship, hope in spite of

setbacks, and the motivation to make this world a better place. We gather together and discuss our faith because God is alive and wants to help us through life. It is a whole lot easier when we can depend on and learn from each other, instead of deceiving ourselves with the lie that we can go through life on our own. We learn about the stories of the Bible because, even though they happened centuries ago, they have tremendous spiritual depth and are a gold mine of religious meaning. These stories are timeless because they tell us about a God that created us, loved us so much that the Father sent Jesus Christ, God's only Son, redeemed us from sin, offered us the Holy Spirit to direct our path. Thanks be to God for these valuable spiritual resources we have at our disposal. My prayer for this congregation is that we will make them a priority in our lives!
Peace in Christ,
Jody Moore



Happy Birthday in September to

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 2 Trula Campbell, Clark Eden
- 4 Nancy Davis, Vance James
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Peck, Andrew Stevens
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 9 Richard Huff
- 10 Brooke Sanders
- 11 Hilde Chappell, Victoria Esarey
- 14 Allyson Rothrock, Randy Lawson
- 15 Lang Mauck
- 16 Mike Boswell, Judy King
- 17 Donna Young, Allyn Ann Campbell
- 19 Mary Lawhon
- 20 Ed Newnam, Jean Williams
- 22 David Chittum, Jr.

- 23 Maddie Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Caroline O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 27 Bennett Chaney, Madison Haley, Bob Chapman
- 29 Jim Ford, Ralph Davis

and in October to:

- 1 Lucille Keys, Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston
- 2 Myra Stegall
- 4 Will Mahoney, Esther Elsenheimer
- 5 Anne Abercrombie, John Abercrombie, Nancy Baker, Connor Dunnigan, Mike Powell
- 6 Hayden Renz, Jane Ford
- 7 Ralph Shank
- 8 Brian Mason
- 9 Debbie Brown, Cole Tatum
- 10 Mike Haley, Grey Ferguson

SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to Merv and Virginia King on the death of their nephew, Ron 'Homme-dieu, on August 21, 2008, in Deal, Maryland.

SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to the family of William Guthrie on his death July 4, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia.

SYMPATHY of the congregation is extended to Charles and Kimberly Toothman on the death of Kimberly's uncle Harold Rababaugh on August 21, 2008.

GRACE NETWORK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

(from your Mission Committee)

You may be relieved to know that Grace Network training will not require you to roll over, fetch, drop and give us 20, or even walk a mile. The training sessions are fun and informative and very useful in preparing you to volunteer

with the agency. Training sessions for this fall are as follows:

Tuesday, September 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 18, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Monday, September 29 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 2, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

The September 16 and 18 sessions will be identical to each other and are meant for new volunteers. The September 29 and October 2 sessions will be identical to each other and are re-certification training for current volunteers.

Grace Network is adding another service shift in September (Thursday mornings from 9:00-12:30), so **THEY NEED VOLUNTEERS!** They are especially in need of people who are computer-literate, but they have slots for just about anyone who wants to help.

If you need further information, or to reserve a spot in a training session, e-mail Betty Heaton, volunteer coordinator, at hokiemomx2@comcast.net or call 685-8500.

Congregation Meeting

The Session has called the congregation to meet on Sunday, September 21, for the annual meeting. Please note: instead of meeting at the close of the worship service as has been done in the past, the meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a shortened worship service to follow. This change in time will allow those, who attend the early morning worship service (8:45-9:30 a.m.), to stay for Sunday School, come to the annual meeting (and vote), and then leave. Church members will hear reports from various staff members and the treasurer of the church. Then, Dru Rothrock, the chairman of the Officer Nominating then, the congregation will vote and elect persons

to serve for the next three years as the Class of 2011 on their respective boards.

Looking for more **Red Cross** Feeding Center Volunteers! If you have not already signed up to volunteer when our church operates as a Red Cross Feeding Center, we could still use your help. Contact Jody or Sarah in the Church Office to volunteer. We still need general volunteers and substitutes. There will be a training session for all volunteers on Wednesday, September 10, at 5:30 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL at King's Grant on September 27, 2008, from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. There will be Arts and Crafts, Antique Cars, Jewelry, Baskets, Pottery, a Quilt Display & Quilt Raffle, Woodcraft Display, Food, Live Entertainment and more. Many items will be for sale. Organized tours of King's Grant will be available.



This year, The All Church Picnic will once again be the first Sunday in October. Mark your calendars for October 5th and join us at 5:00 p.m. at Jack Dalton Park!

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** class will resume meeting on September 9, from 10:30-11:30 p.m. The featured book of the Bible will be the Acts of the Apostles; this will be followed by 1 Thessalonians in mid-May to mid-June 2009. The class will be taught by Jody Moore, Rusty Reaser, and Randy Stevens.



STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.
Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer;
Mailing Staff: volunteers

HUNGER NEWS AND NOTES:

Food Crisis in America -Nationally, food banks are reporting a 15-20% increase on average in the number of people turning to them for help now compared to one year ago.

-Food banks are currently unable to adequately meet the demand without reducing the

amount of food or their operations.

-Food prices rose nearly 5% in 2007, and at an annualized rate of more than 6% during the past three months. That's well over the average increases of 2.5% a year posted for the past 15 years.

May 2008 survey by America's Second Harvest What can we do? How can we help? Let's start with prayer and see where and how we are lead!

Keep the Spirit!

Rally Day and Sunday School Information

Rally Day will be Sunday September 7th. Pancake Breakfast! At the conclusion of the contemporary service, we will begin with a Pancake breakfast in the fellowship hall at 9:30. On the menu will be pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, orange juice, and coffee.

Adult Classes: Sunday School meets weekly from 9:45-10:40 a.m.

Margaret Irby Class meets in the Margaret Irby Classroom. This is a discussion-based class. Adults of all ages participate (including some with young children), although it is primarily middle age and older adults who attend. In the Irby Class, good questions are valued, exploring contemporary scholarship and critical thought is taking place, and opportunities to explore faith together are appreciated. This fall, the class will study Judaism in September, a book and video series based on James

Moore's book Yes Lord, I Have Sinned, But I Have Several Excellent Excuses in October, and a book and video series based on Phillip Yancey's book Prayer in November and December.

Ford/Reed Class meets in the Parlor of the church. This class uses The Present Word Uniform Lesson Series, which is a Bible study format: those present read and reflect on the biblical text and discuss its implication for their faith and actions in the world. The Fall quarter (September-November) is entitled "A New Community" and is a survey of the New Testament.

Wilderness and The Bible: This is a brand new class this fall. It will meet in the Middle School classroom. Approached from the aspect of wilderness, this will be a discussion-oriented class covering key biblical topics. We will explore the essentials of humanity, including aspects of our spiritual side.

Children/Youth Classes: Sunday School meets weekly from 9:45-10:40

Infants & Toddlers: Nursery

Pre-K and K: ELI Classroom

1st-5th Grade: Ford Classroom

Middle-High School: High School Room

The Pre K and K class will be using the Heart Shaper Curriculum. First through fifth grade will use the We Believe curriculum. This material teaches the Bible and its stories using a variety of age-appropriate, hands-on activities, including arts & crafts, games, music, and much more.

The Middle School and High School Youth class will be using the Encounter curriculum. It both addresses current issues of concern to teens and will allow them to become more familiar with the

content of the Bible. Exciting field trips will be planned to unknown destinations every four to six weeks.

The Tempo

Our Musical Pulse

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir has been unusually busy this summer preparing music for Sunday worship as well as the “Coming Home” Dinner and Fellowship. This preparation included many Sunday mornings as well as the second half of rehearsals in June and August. Several singers joined us for the fellowship music; Judy Mattox, Walt Seamon, Jenny Hensley, Connie Anderson, Patti Clevenger, Lynn Anderson, and Sara Blaha.

I appreciate the hard work and musicianship of the choir. Several persons remarked about the ability of the choir to sing the style of music which they presented. Our Accompanist, Cynthia Dobrinski, plus instrumentalists Virginia Masius and Brian Joyce, added such a positive dimension to the choral music.

The choir will be turning their attention to the fall worship music as well as the Christmas Music Service which is anticipated for December 21. We (Director and Members) always look for other talented singers to join with us in our Ministry of Music. When you are involved in a worthwhile ministry, you want others to know the same fulfillment you have experienced. The rehearsal room door is open and the welcome mat is out. If you have an interest in singing with us, please make that interest known to Bob Chapman.

Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers got to ring some different music than usual with their performance at the Coming Home Dinner and Fellowship. “Phantom of the

Opera” is not usual music for Preludes and Offertories on Sunday morning.

I appreciate the ringers for their hard work and coming back before fall rehearsals crank up on September 3. Many persons commented positively on what the ringers played as well as the quality of their playing. We appreciate Deb Easley and Sam Smith who filled out our positions for this fellowship.

Rehearsals this year will be on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 o'clock. We still have a couple of positions which are open in case there are ringers who would like to get involved with a great group of ringers.

Coming Home Weekend



The weekend of August 16th and 17th was such fun!! We had a great turnout from so many

folks both near and far!!

The picnic at Fairystone gave children the chance to play in the creek, swim, boat and meet new friends. The adults visited, laughed, talked and ate!! It was a time of wonderful fellowship for the 75 participants.

Thanks go to Susan Pilson, Johnny Pinkard, Randy Stevens, Bill Stone, Pearl Richardson and her lovely daughter, Sandra and Jim Ford for making things a delight.

Saturday night, the Presbyterian cooks really shone. We had lasagna heaters, cake bakers, and servers getting the job done. Susan again planned a great meal and thanks to all who served, cleaned up and made things ready for the next day.

Bob and the choir did a superb job on the evening's entertainment. The choices were fun-we all participated in group singing and moving- and the choir outdid themselves in the special numbers. The extra instruments were such a boon. We all loved the pieces from Phantom of the Opera that the handbells played. Thanks to Bob and all the choir and handbell ringers for planning and executing a great program.

Sunday was a full day with two services, and the wonderful DVD that Melissa Wingfield produced for us. If you missed it, you can check it out of the library. During the showing, there were many chuckles, amazed Ahas, and many questions raised:

Can that really be me? Melissa, thanks so much for your time and effort. It is just amazing.

Everyone enjoyed the meal that we didn't have to cook or clean up! People stayed after lunch to visit and enjoy one another's company before time to say farewell.

It was a beautiful experience!

In joy

Betsy



The Fellowship Committee will be serving **Lemonade** on the Lawn following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on September 14, 2008.

This will be the final Lemonade on the Lawn of 2008.

Stories of Faith

(Stories of Faith is written by members of First Presbyterian Church. We invite you to share your faith experiences in Steepleviews by emailing them to jmstegall@comcast.net. We apologize to Connie Anderson for omitting her byline on her interesting story she wrote for the July Steepleviews.)

By Mary Catherine Stegall

God is known as many things in our lives like Lord, The Holy Father, the Creator and many more. And to me He holds a very special place in my heart and life. He has helped me in so many ways; whether it was being on stage or even getting through a hard test at school. He has also taught us many lessons about how to be a good person and especially about all the different people and things in the Bible.

One time that I felt close to God was when I was outside planting and watering all of the plants and vegetables. I was on the corner of my house and I ran into some green ivy vines, and it made me think of what God sent his son, Jesus to do for us because he loved us so much, and He wanted to make our lives better. When Jesus was crucified, He had the prickly ivy crown on his head. It made me sad, but happy at the same time because our caring and loving God also raised Jesus from the dead.

Another time that I felt close to God was when my family and I took a vacation trip to the Outer Banks this summer. I enjoyed seeing all of the fascinating things and creatures that He created. While we were on the beach we saw many animals like crabs, jelly fish, horseshoe crabs and many more.

I knew even if they were not the nicest animals at the beach, that God created them for a reason. God always has a special meaning for why he created something; sometimes it could be for helping keep the population of other animals down, or helping our bodies by using parts of the animal to make medicine, or it could even be helping keep an animal alive. The horseshoe crab's eggs fuel up birds going north to Arctic areas each spring. Some of the crab's blood is even used for scientific testing.

Jelly fish are some of the strangest and most puzzling animals that you might

ever see. If you can get over all of the wonders of a jelly fish and get over the aching stings they can give, you will find out that they are pretty spectacular animals. Jelly fish have been around for more then 650 million years, there are over thousands of different breeds, and there are still more to come. Even if they look scary or sweet, they were all created by God for a reason.

There is one place that I know I can count on that I will always feel close to God - in church. I enjoy hearing all of the sermons about God and all that He did for us. I always learn so much whether the sermon is funny or sad.

God has done many things for us, He is still doing them, and it is way more than we can imagine. God is very big in my heart and it will always be that way. When I pray to God and listen and learn about Him, it makes me feel so warm and blessed inside. God is very close to my heart.

(Mary Catherine Stegall, 11, has been a member of First Presbyterian Church all of her life. She is in the 6th grade at Stuart Elementary School.)

Early Learning Intervention

Do you have one morning a month you would be willing to spend with a group of energetic three and four year olds? I know it sounds like a crazy question, but working with the children in the Early Learning Intervention program is really a very rewarding mission activity. The children are very loving and the families are so grateful, it makes volunteering with them a heartwarming experience.

As First Presbyterian beings the seven-teenth year of bringing this valuable mission project to the Martinsville community, we are in need of some new volunteers. We have several of you who have been with us for many years and we are so grateful for your dedication and commitment to this program. We would love to have some new faces as

well and would welcome some additional volunteers. Please give me a call (340-6913) or call the church office (632-3431) if you would be available to help with this worthwhile ministry. Many thanks to all of you who have given your time and support over the past 16 years.

In Christ's Service,
JoAnne Sanders

RECIPE

We have received several requests for the seafood recipe which was prepared for the Youth Group Fund Raiser Dinner in April. We were all very pleased that so many members of our church family attended and that you enjoyed the meal! I am very happy to share the recipe with you.

JoAnne Sanders

Seafood Supreme

1/4 cup butter

1/4 cup onion-finely chopped

1/4 cup flour

1 1/4 cups milk

1/2 cup half and half

2 chicken bouillon cubes

1 lb. raw shrimp-shelled and deveined
(*see note)

8 oz. fresh mushrooms-sliced

1/2 cup Madeira

1 egg yolk

Salt and pepper to taste

Toasted almonds

Saute onion and mushrooms in butter over medium heat. Add shrimp and continue to cook for about 2 minutes (till shrimp turns pink). Stir in flour. Add milk, cream and bouillon cubes. Stir and continue to cook till thickened. Slightly beat egg yolk in a small bowl. Add a small amount of the hot mixture and stir. Blend back into the pan. Stir in wine and seasoning. Serve over rice. Garnish with toasted almonds.

*Note: you may use cooked large shrimp instead. Add with the wine at the end and heat through

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ASK FOR HELP

On Saturday, October 4, of this year, our Presbyterian Women will have the honor of hosting the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Peaks. There will be approximately 200 participants. The meeting will be gin with a light breakfast at 8:30, with lunch following the morning meeting.

Your help is needed in several areas--cooks, servers and those who will help clean up. Call the Church Office (632-3431) to volunteer in any of the following categories: Cooking: Mini Muffins, chicken salad (recipe in Office), pasta salad (recipe in office), congealed fruit salad (your choice), Servers (breakfast-8:00a.m.), (lunch-10:30 a.m.), clean up crew (1:00 p.m.)