



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
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 haskinsbetsy@yahoo.com
Cynthia Dobrinski, Organist
Debbie C. Youngman, Librarian
Sarah P. Altizer, Office Manager office@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org
Nancy Erikson, Bookkeeper
Mike Ware Assistant Web Manager
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
Address Service Requested

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

STEEPLE VIEWS



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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

September, 2009

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

Over the course of my ministry, especially in my last congregation where I provided pastoral care for over 1,800 members, I have sat through many surgeries with families and I have made pastoral visits to hundreds of people in hospital rooms. But, in August I had a first-time experience of being the patient, and that was an altogether different experience for me. I saw from a different perspective what it is like to be the one prayed for, operated on, cared for, and visited by others. It's now been a week and a half since the surgery, and I have been home for a week. On the one hand, I felt some immediate, positive changes from my back surgery, which relieved pressure on the nerves affecting my lower back and left leg; on the other hand, I am experiencing day-to-day changes as I do my prescribed walking and build up my stamina a bit at a time.

All in all, I am very surprised at how far I have come in a short period of time. I have not experienced pain per se either from my lower back and left leg or from the surgery itself. There is some discomfort, tiredness, and tightness surrounding the surgical wound but I am much farther along in the healing process than I expected to be, and that's a good feeling. However, both the surgeon and other fellow back surgery patients (who have been there, done that!) caution me not to do too much too soon. The doctor said that this surgery was "a major invasion" to my body and it will take at least six weeks to fully recover. The surgeon and I have discussed my coming back to work on a gradual basis by mid-September, and I am looking forward to that time. I am able to do some work at home - by telephone, e-mails, and reading and studying in our dining room, which is also known as the "study hall."

As I think back over my surgical experience as well as the events of this year - which include the death of our son Andrew in late January, Jody Moore's leaving in early March, and my health problems these past several months - it has been a difficult year in many respects. While this has been a very hard year for me and my family, I am quick to recognize that my overall feeling is one of gratitude. I am profoundly grateful to God for God's grace in my life, within my family, and within our congregation. I am grateful for the gift of our son for these past thirty-one years; and, while I wish he had lived a lot longer, I am glad that the increasing pain and debilitating weakness he experienced in the last several weeks of his earthly sojourn were not extended to six months or a year. I am grateful for our Christian faith and our hope in the resurrection because of Christ Jesus' triumphant victory over death. Because he lives, our Andrew lives; and I believe I/we will see and be with him again and forever.

I am also very grateful for you! Besides the strength of the Lord upon which I depend, I am greatly aware of your love, support, and concern for me, Monica, Laura, and our family. We have been borne along by your prayers and your many, many expressions of love. Thank you for being there with us and for us during this tough year. Thank you for ministering to me and my loved ones and for upholding us with your compassionate love and godly care for us. When I think back over this past year, it is no wonder that I am so grateful. Thank you for being you!

In Christ's love,
Randy

Happy Birthday in September to

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery, Joan Ragland
- 2 Trula Campbell, Clark Eden
- 4 Nancy Davis
- 5 John Bowles, Emily Stegall
- 6 Doris Marshall
- 7 Jamie Peck
- 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
- 23 Madison Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Caroline O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 27 Bob Chapman
- 29 Jim Ford, Ralph Davis

October

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

Congratulations to Chuck and Elizabeth Wotring on the birth of their son, Connor Linwood Wotring, on July 20, 2009, in Eden, North Carolina. Proud Big Sister is Kellene and Greg and Carol Darnell the proud grandparents!

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse"

Chancel Choir

The "Summer Stretch" for 2009 is history. I appreciate the faithfulness and skill of the musicians who made it happen once again.

On Wednesday evening, August 5, the choir enjoyed a delicious "Pot Luck" meal in the Fellowship Hall. If you want to know where the good cooks are, join the choir and come to our next one.

The choir will present a Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday evening, December 20, at 6:45 p.m. A Saturday morning dress rehearsal will be held from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, December 19.

There are several singers who will join the regular choir members in this service. Rehearsals of this music will begin on September 9, from 8-9 o'clock.

If you are a singer or a ringer, please share your talent as a part of the Chancel Choir or the Sanctuary Ringers.

Sanctuary Ringers

The Sanctuary Ringers will resume their rehearsal schedule on Wednesday, September 9. We have three positions open for new members. If you are interested in ringing with the choir, please contact Bob Chapman.

Plans for a workshop with a Roanoke handbell choir is in the planning stages. Stay tuned.

The Langley Winds

The United States Air Force Woodwind quintet will appear in our church for the second time on Friday, November 13, in the Sanctuary. The concert is free. They were here in concert two years ago and were appreciated and enjoyed by the audience who assembled. Staff Sergeant Anne Epperly, flute, is from Martinsville. She is the daughter of Judy Mattox and the late John D. Epperly. Anne attended the North Carolina School of the Arts, earning her High School Diploma in 1993 and a Bachelor of Music degree in 1996. She then continued her studies at the prestigious Aspen Music Festival and in 1999 completed a Master of Arts degree at Queen's College in New York City. I had the privilege of directing Anne in

the choirs at FBC, beginning at age 4. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors.

Thank You FPC

Thank you First Presbyterian Church for putting money for Continuing Education in your yearly budget. This past Summer I took advantage of a part of Music Week II at Montreat and also the Hinshaw Celebration 35 in Raleigh, NC. Both events were very enjoyable and put me in touch with music and musicians who were excellent and inspiring.



Children and Youth Music News

Classes and Choirs for

Fall

Classes for fall are just about ready to begin. If you have not registered your child, please do so with the registration form below. As always, we welcome friends to all our programs.

Groups are looking very strong, and I am filled with plans for the fall and Christmas season. We will have two plays this year as well!

If you have not registered your child, please do so ASAP! Music and supplies have to be ordered, and it costs the church good money when I have to order twice.

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.

There is a clarification that needs to be made about Orff classes on Monday and Kindermusik II on Tuesday. These classes begin at 2:45 because the city school children are dismissed at that time. Children from other schools will arrive a

bit later, but we won't really get cranked up with programming til our other friends arrive. Our first arriving children will participate in enrichment.

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:

Monday: 2:45-4:30 WAM!!!!(this is a change from the former title of Orff),

WAM!!!! Stands for the word, arts and music and is a total revamping of our Monday afternoon program. I am very excited about the new possibilities for fun and learning. It is for 1st -6th graders (note inclusion of 6th 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, fellowship and games.

We are going to need significant parental involvement in this group. Please help out by letting me know you would be willing to lead a craft or musical game.

We are running the church van to Carlisle to pick up those students, and drivers are needed for each Monday. Teen helpers are also wonderful!!

We will have a meeting for ALL PARENTS of Orff I and II children. 4:20 on Monday, September 14th, which is our first meeting for WAM!!!, in the Adult Music Room which is across the hall from the Youth Music room., It won't take long but it is very important. It is mandatory for all parents of children in the program. With such a large group, we absolutely must be on the same page.

Please bring a check for \$20 to cover refreshments and other extras. Make your check out to the church and ear mark for Refreshments-WAM!!!!

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 3 quarters, Fall, Winter and Spring and the cost for the materials is \$35 for each quarter. Please make checks out to the church, earmarked for *Music Together*. First meeting is Tuesday, September 8th.

12:00-1:40 Kindermusik I (Sequential musical experiences I singing drama, games, and play for 4year 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 \$150 for the year. Again, if you borrow a bag and glock from someone, your fee is reduced by \$35. The first meeting is Tuesday, September 8th.

2:45-4:00 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 a \$35 dollar fee for members, and non members fee is \$150.

I would like to have a Middle school bell group. The group can decide if it would like the direction to be handbells, plays, or instrumental. We need 6 dedicated musicians to make it a go. Day and time would be decided on by the group. I have 2 so far.....4 to go!!

Cantabile Handbells: This is a group for high school handbell players. We meet on selected Sunday afternoons! It is a great group to be a part of.

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 ASAP. 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 _____

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 cannot 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 Parent's 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 8th .

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.

betsyhaskins@yahoo.com.

I am looking forward to a year brimming with music, joy, love, faith building and fellowship with your child or youth. Please encourage her/him to join us. It enriches all our lives.

In joy, Betsy

Youth Meeting

Following the planning meeting with **youth (Grades 6-12) and their parents** on **Sunday, August 30**, all youth within those same grades will begin the youth group year with a **“Party**

at the Stevens on **September 13th**. We

will meet from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Randy, Monica and

Laura Stevens’ home at 104 Courtney Terrace for a barbecue and games. We hope all of our youth (and their friends) will be in attendance for a fun-filled time together. See you there!



A big welcome to Mike Ware as our **Assistant Webmaster**. Mike will mainly be responsible for images/information from all church members. Please share with us your photographs taken at church functions. Along with the pictures, please include any supporting information you have, i.e. the event, time/date, place, participating. You may e-mail the images to Mike at mw_ware@comcast.net (between *mw* and *ware* there is an underscore – upper-case dash).

Contemporary Worship Service News

We have had a fine summer of music, worship, prayer and fellowship!! We have welcomed new members- a fine guitarist and good friend, Ernie Bremner, and William Seamon, our new drummer; and said adieu to our beloved Will Franck who has played guitar with us since the beginning, March 2008, and Josh Hill who is beginning his college career at Norfolk State. Everyone who works on Contemporary Worship gives so much, and they are treasured, one and all.

We have some exciting music for the fall and Christmas season.

You are always welcome to this early service, which gathers members and friends to come together and listen for God’s word and direction for our lives; to sing together music that connects us as servants of our Lord; and to pray and meditate on God’s purpose for each of us.

As always, friends are always welcome at our church.

In Joy, Betsy

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our **annual congregational meeting** will take place toward the end of the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 20. The meeting will include several brief staff reports, and there will be a slate of nominees and elections for six elders (Class of 2012) and two trustees (Class of 2012). Also, we will vote to elect a search committee for either an Associate Pastor or a Director of Christian Education for our youth ministry. Please be sure to be on hand for worship and this very important meeting of our congregation.

Parents of College Students: Our church wants to build a closer relationship with our college students. In order to accomplish this, we are asking parents to call the **Church Office** as soon as you know your **child’s school address**. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.

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

Grace Network will sponsor their



Pumpkin Patch again this year beginning October 4, at First Baptist Church on Starling Avenue. If you are interested in volunteering at the

Pumpkin Patch, please call Jennifer Jamison at 638-8500

Calendar Planning Meeting.

On **Sunday, September 20**, from 2:00-3:30 p.m., in the Reed classroom, there will be a **calendar planning meeting** for all moderators and vice-moderators of the Session's various committees as well as staff members. At that time, we will discuss various activities (both normal and special events in the life of the church), along with the appropriate dates and times and place them on the master calendar, which is in Sarah Altizer's office.

Catch the Excitement!

Rally Day will be Sunday, September 13. 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, pastries, juice and coffee.



Adult Classes will meet from 9:45 – 10:40 a.m.

Be sure to join us for a fun morning of fellowship!

The Bassett Historical Center is sponsoring the publication of a **Henry County Heritage Book**. All residents, former residents, and those with roots anywhere in Henry County are invited to submit a family history of 500 words and one pho-

tograph to be printed free in the book. The book itself will be \$55 and must be ordered and paid for in advance of the November 5 deadline. This is also the deadline for any submissions to go in the book. There are certain guidelines which must be followed in writing your story so to learn more about that, there are weekly workshops being offered throughout the county. One of the workshops will be held at our church on Tuesday evening, September 15, at 7:00, so this will be an opportunity to go to one close by. Tom Perry, of Jeb Stuart fame, is chairing the Heritage committee and also conducting the workshops. You can find out many details about the book on his website: freestateofpatrick.com/hchb. Tom is doing the majority of the editing for the book and prefers stories e-mailed to him but they may also be turned in at the Bassett Historical Center. The Center will also scan your photo and return it to you as you wait. Since I volunteer at the Center and go there once a week, I will also be glad to take any submissions with me when I go. Consider writing something about your family for the book where it will be preserved in print forever.

Attention Red Cross Emergency Feeding Volunteers

It has been a year since First Presbyterian Church agreed to be a Red Cross feeding site in case a community emergency should occur. Thank you for attending a training class last year and for being an on-call volunteer for that program.

To make sure that we remain prepared for duty, retraining sessions will be held on Sunday, September 13 and Monday, September 14, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sharon Held, Red Cross Director, will be present to review feeding procedures, and Mission Committee members will revise/amend the list of volunteers.

If you were on last year's volunteer list, please plan to attend one of the retraining sessions. Additional volunteers are needed and are also invited to attend one session.

Thank you very much for your help with this important project.

Lang Mauck

Volunteer Schedule for September

Ushers

Week of 9/6/09 (Group 5)

Ralph Shank, Jr.
Manly Boyd
Bob Clark
Joe and Jerri DeVault
Dick Pilson
Bobby Wilson
Chris Wingfield

Week of 9/13/09 (Group 6)

Monty Montgomery
Steve Edgerton Family
Ed Pace Family
Mark Mason Family
Shane Pinkston Family
David Seamon Family

Week of 9/20/09 (Group 7)

Ed Pace
Evelyn Clark
Rachel DeBusk
Grace Anne Edgerton
Meredith Seamon
Farrell Pace

Week of 9/27/09 (Group 8)

Monty Montgomery
Richard Lawhon
Henry Moore
Mike Powell
Ashby Pritchett
Tom & Denise Unterbrink
A. C. Wilson

Greeters

9/6/09

Contemporary – Cindy Franck
Traditional – Nancy Davis

9/13/09

Contemporary – Lang Mauck
Traditional - Lang Mauck, Gavin Russell

9/20/09

Contemporary – David Garland
Traditional - Charles Toothman, David King

9/27/09

Contemporary – Ashby Pinkard
Traditional - Ann Reaser, David Garland

Elders Serving Communion 9/6/09

Contemporary –Clyde Hill and Cindy Edgerton

Traditional – Manly Boyd

Catherine Bridges
Bill Kirby
Denise Unterbrink
Anne Vipperman
Cindy Edgerton
Margaret Lester
Buck Flythe
Ralph Shank, Jr.
David McConnell

Contributions to Memorial Funds

General Memorial

In Memory of Katie Jones
Thelma Lundy

Pastors Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Katie Jones
Ellen B. Cairy