

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church † April 2014 † Martinsville, Virginia

Ecumenical Lenten Worship Continues

Come join the congregations of Broad Street Christian, Calvary Christian, Holy Trinity Lutheran, and Wesley Memorial United Methodist churches for "Soup & Substance" on Wednesdays in Lent.

April 2, 12 Noon, Worship and Lunch, Wesley Memorial United Methodist, 824 Starling Avenue.

April 9, 5:15 PM, Supper, **6:00 PM**, Worship, Calvary Christian, 515 Mulberry Road.

Free Community Breakfast April 19 8:00–9:30 AM

Share the joy of Easter with our neighbors at our monthly breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteer to prepare, serve, or clean up, or just come and enjoy food and fellowship. Bill Kirby is in charge this month.

Egg Dyeing "Egg-stravaganza"!

Parents of Young Children (POYC) will meet at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, April 6 to dye Easter eggs. Please bring an appetizer to share and as many eggs as you want to dye. This will be an afternoon filled with fun, fellowship and "egg-citement."

Worship

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13

8:30 AM, Worship in the Chapel

9:45 AM, Meet in the Narthex to walk over to Wilson Park (Holy Trinity Lutheran will host in case of inclement weather.)

10:00 AM, Palm Sunday in the Park. This is a brief ecumenical service with over ten area churches. We process to the center of the park from different directions carrying palm branches, recalling Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.

11:00 AM, Worship in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday April 17

6:00 PM, Supper and Worship. As Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room to share a meal and to worship, we will gather around tables in the Fellowship Hall to share a **Covered Dish Supper** and focus on the connection between the Passover meal, Jesus' Last Supper, and our **Sacrament of Holy Communion**.

Good Friday April 18

6:30 PM, The congregations of Forest Hills, Grace, and First Presbyterian churches will join together for this holy day's worship, observing **"Viewpoints from the Cross."** Hosted by Grace Presbyterian Church (218 Fayette Street) this service will explore the perspectives of those who were there at the cross, intertwined with musical selections.

Easter Sunday, April 20

9:30 AM, Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM, ONE Worship service in the Sanctuary with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Order Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary by April 11

If you would like to place a lily in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please call the church office (632-3431) or fill out the form in the church bulletin. The cost will be \$7.00 each. Lilies may be designated in memory or in honor of someone special.



Long-Distance Relationships

Life around our house has felt, well, just weird lately. It has been about a month since Clint began a new position in Norfolk, VA. He stays there Monday through Friday, and comes home Friday evening to leave again Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to technology, the girls and I "see" him several nights a week on the computer, and we talk everyday. Even though his physical presence is not here, we still experience closeness in our relationship, perhaps even more so as we are there for each other in these months of newness and transition.



Connecting with our Lenten worship focus on "Body and Spirit," there is physical distance (between people, places, things), and there is also spiritual distance (between ourselves and others, ourselves and God). As I have reflected on the experience of the physical long-distance in my family situation, I have become aware of the spiritual long-distance I feel in relationships with people here in our church family. Sometimes I realize that I haven't seen people or talked to them lately, and I find myself feeling distant and disconnected, and not sure how to draw close again. Even with people I see quite regularly, things feel, well, just weird lately. And it's because it *is* weird—the immense changes and transition of the last two years, the empty feeling of uncertainty and doubt about the future, the process of leaving and goodbye now ahead in the next few months. And though I feel distance now, I am aware that I don't want to drift gradually farther away until I fade into a goodbye.

I am convinced that the central good news of the gospel is that our God is not a long-distance God. We encounter that good news especially in Lent, as we retell and

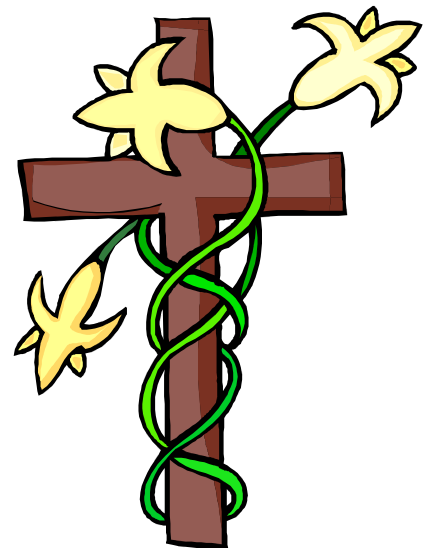
remember how nothing could distance Jesus from living fully God's purpose and love: not opposition, not betrayal, not suffering, not death. And at Easter, we celebrate again that because he lives—as one of us, close to us—we live also, not unto ourselves, but unto God. And as Paul assures the Romans, nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39) Therefore, nothing is left to separate us one from another as well.

A beautiful song from the Iona (Scotland) Community sings of this closeness of God, and of the joy and grace we can share with each other:

The joy of God comes close where faith
encounters fears,
Where heights and depths of life are found
through smiles and tears:
The joy of God is here to stay, embracing
those who walk his way.

The grace of God comes close to those whose
grace is spent,
When hearts are tired or sore, and hope is
bruised or bent:
The grace of God is here to stay embracing
those who walk his way.*

The love,
hope, joy and
grace of God
draws close to us
and invites us to
draw close in
relationship as
Christ's
body—the
Church. I pray
we would
experience this
closeness in body
and spirit in this
holy season of
Lent and Easter.



Worship Focus

Sunday, April 6, 5th Sunday in Lent

Body and Spirit: Death, Ezekiel 37, John 11

The story of the death of Lazarus, of Mary and Martha's grief, of Jesus' response, prompts us to consider the physical reality of death and also the spiritual and emotional experience of dying. How do we die? How do we live?

Palm Sunday, April 13, 6th Sunday in Lent

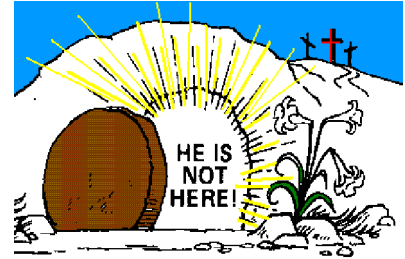
Body and Spirit: Cleansing, Psalm 51, John 12

As Jesus prepares to enter Jerusalem, Mary comes to anoint his feet. Later, Jesus washes his disciples' feet. What does it feel like to be clean? For what purpose are we cleansed?

Easter Sunday, April 20

Body and Spirit: Resurrection, John 20

The experience of the Resurrection is puzzling if we experience it only through our physical senses, as a matter of the body. How can we understand with body and spirit the reality of new life?



**Volunteer Hosts Needed for
Cottage Place Dinner**

Our church will host the residents and caregivers of Cottage Place for a time of food, fun and fellowship on Monday, April 21. It is heartwarming to see how much the residents enjoy these evenings away from their group home and how much they appreciate all that is done for them. Volunteers are needed from 4:00–7:30 PM to prepare the meal and provide fun activities. If you can help, please call Nancy Baker (638-7923) or Nancy Moore (638-7777).

**Save the Date: June 5-8!
Church Family Retreat
at Massanetta Springs**

Matthew 5:16 "...in the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

We invite all to attend—singles, families with young children, couples, teens, empty nesters and full nesters, seniors—all are welcome! This will be a time to enjoy each others' company in service, fun and fellowship. By now you should have received a brochure with all the details. Please call the church office (632-3431) if you have not.

During the retreat, we will have the opportunity to go out into the Harrisonburg area to help others in need. Tasks can be as simple as sweeping a sidewalk or weeding a garden. Other tasks may include, as on recent youth mission trips, painting rooms, cleaning yards, playing games with at-risk children, performing minor electrical work, and working on carpentry projects. Or it might involve simply sitting and chatting with individuals who might not have anyone to listen to them. There will be something for everyone.

As Pastor Jenny reminded us a couple of weeks ago, "Instead of standing by the wall during the dance of life, get out on the floor and dance." We hope that many will choose to "dance" and show forth the light of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



**Vacation Bible
School July 7-11**

Stewardship

"One Great Hour of Sharing" Offering

Shortly after World War II ended, churches in the United States made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of devastated areas, especially in Europe and Asia. Subsequently, it was consolidated into one interdenominational effort, and a radio program called "One Great Hour of Sharing" ended its program by asking listeners to attend church the next day and to make contributions to aid with reconstruction.

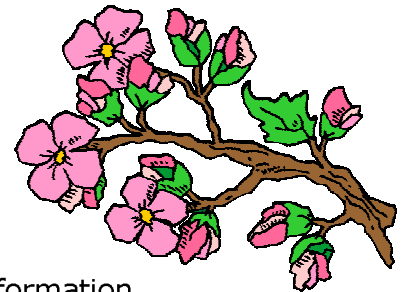


Today, One Great Hour of Sharing still responds with funds for disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. Whether in response to a tornado in Oklahoma, a fire in Colorado, or a famine in Africa, One Great Hour of Sharing is there giving monetary assistance with gifts collected in familiar offering envelopes.

We at First Presbyterian Church observe this offering at Easter time. Please find the special offering envelopes in the pew racks and join fellow Presbyterians and other Christians in supporting this program of disaster assistance.

The Opportunity Tree Has Bloomed

Spring is here and flowers are beginning to bloom! The Opportunity Tree has also bloomed and is ready for you to pick your opportunity. This is a reminder that stewardship is more than raising money for the annual budget; stewardship is also sharing time and talents. Look for the tree in the hallways and Narthex before and after services.



The opportunities for service are listed below with contact information.

Pick an opportunity and then pick that "leaf" off the tree and take it home to be a reminder of your giving. The tree will be refilled throughout spring.

1. Pray OFTEN for the NEW MINISTER who is preparing to come to First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville. Contact: GOD
2. Volunteer to be a LAY READER for worship on a scheduled basis. Contact Denny Casey at 632-8306.
3. Help with coordinating the donation of flowers in the Sanctuary. Contact: Cathy Stone at 638-1846 or bncstone@comcast.net.
4. Contribute needed groceries (spaghetti & sauce) twice a month to Grace Network. Place in the boxes at church.
5. Help greet, cook, serve, or clean up for the Free Community breakfasts (third Saturdays). Contact Nancy Baker at 638-7923 for details.
6. Volunteer to transport meals to church members from Cooks Who Care. Pay a visit at the same time. Contact Virginia Truitt at 732-6990.
7. Congregational Care Committee needs a volunteer to help send greeting cards to recognize birthdays, etc. Contact Virginia Truitt at 732-6990.
8. Need a volunteer to wash the black boards and the dry erase boards in each classroom. Contact: Neil Tatum at 790-9594.
9. Facilities Committee needs help with moving tables and chairs for church fellowship events. Contact: Neil Tatum at 790-9594
10. Volunteer to help clean up after Fellowship functions. Contact Pearl Minter at 650-8690.
11. Volunteer to provide coffee time refreshments at 9:30 AM following Early Worship. Contact Pearl Minter at 650-8690.
12. Volunteer to tell a personal "Witness for Stewardship" story during Sunday worship services. Contact: Lang Mauck at 632-1486
13. Collect attendance sheets one Sunday a month from 8:30 and 11:00 services. Contact: Lang Mauck at 632-1486.
14. Volunteer to help with clerical tasks or to relieve Sarah in the Church Office when needed. Contact Chris Beeler at 638-1030 or Sarah Altizer at 632-3431
15. Vacation Bible School 2014 needs helpers. Contact Janet Fentress at 618-0153.
16. Volunteer to help maintain the Church Library. Contact Nancy Davis at 632-1403 or Betty Hudson at 638-0467.

One God, Many Forms of Worship

by Doris Marshall

Worship of God Almighty is a service we Christians do in many different ways to show our appreciation for God's love and blessings and to seek His forgiveness, guidance, and mercy.

My husband, Dr. Chuck, and I were in foreign Christian medical missions in many places for thirty years and joined with different cultures and nationalities to worship our One God. We praise God for the opportunities to serve and visit hospitals and clinics in cities and in rural, remote areas of the world as helpers to the career missionaries.

I remember many different worship services over the years. As we entered a sanctuary, whether large or small, a simply built shelter or a beautiful church building, I often noticed an original hand-carved ornate pulpit that seemed to welcome and inspire the preacher with a passage from God's Holy Book.

At the camp for Cambodian refugees in Thailand, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) did not allow permanent buildings. A small team of native evangelists sponsored by British, German, and Dutch churches set up a large tent. The congregation of seekers, who had just escaped Pol Pot's "killing fields," spilled out onto the dusty fields straining to hear the message of hope and salvation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ broadcast over loudspeakers. It was a quiet and thoughtful service, and the listeners were respectful. Music was limited to Asian tunes by a few guitarists and soloists.

We were invited to attend an Australian Nazarene Mission church in Papua New Guinea snuggled in a cleft of a mountainside. There we found a bamboo building decorated with wildflowers slipped in between the logs to establish a fragrant and beautiful atmosphere for the joyful worship service of scripture and music. Since there was no electricity, most of the service relied on memorization taught since early childhood. The love and concern of the people for one another made the arduous trip up and down the steep mountain worthwhile. Praise God for happy memories!

A "downtown" church in a small village in the highlands of Sierra Leone, Africa, had a lively congregation who gathered behind a barbed wire fence in a little shelter hidden by sheets of cotton and oilcloth. Families with children dressed in pretty Sunday clothes and nurses and workers from the little hospital enjoyed the worship service. A neat set of drums and guitars provided loud music that attracted curious bystanders, the majority of whom were of the Muslim faith but quite cordial and respectful of us.

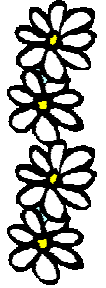


We became very much at home at the services at the Conservative Baptist Church near the Hôpital Baptiste where we lived for 8 seasons in mission service. Every Sunday morning we met with the enthusiastic congregation, sat on the wooden benches, and fanned ourselves in the heat of the day, joining in singing many of our familiar hymns in French accompanied by various drums, clappers and bells. Our career mission friends would translate the sermon message for me, but Dr. Chuck, who is good at learning languages, could keep up with the meaning without much help. On special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter, all night outdoor services attracted many neighbors with the music and message.

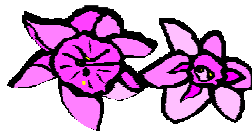
Many mission assemblies on the islands of Hawaii, Samoa, Singapore and on the Mediterranean coast of Albania had sunrise services at Easter, where sleepy congregations were huddled together by the cool breezes and splashing waves to wait for someone to come out from behind the rocks to announce: "The Lord has risen! He has risen indeed!"



Happy April Birthdays!



- 3 Claude Young
- 4 Max Pinkston
- 5 Kate Judson
- 7 Bob Davis, Kisean Adams
- 8 Troy Lee Rakes
- 9 Marty Davis
- 12 Tom Unterbrink
- 14 Judy Garland
- 15 English Ford, Briana Tatum
- 16 Reed Moore
- 17 Glenna Harmeyer, Barbara Tatum
- 18 Mary Manning, Meredith Seamon
- 19 Jean Linker
- 20 Manly Boyd
- 21 Patrick Edgerton
- 22 Matthew Price
- 23 Gene Stanley, Forrest Truitt
- 24 Ed Porter
- 25 Ethan Jessup
- 26 Patrice Newnam
- 27 Margaret Gunter
- 30 Lynn Pritchett, Evelyn Clark, Will Kirby
- ...and in May
- 1 Logan Esarey, Jr., Janet Fentress
- 3 Carson Nease, Jerry Bishop
- 5 Sonny Benfield, Amy Mason, Kellene Wotring
- 6 Kim Phillips
- 8 Bill Manning, Olivia Jessup



In Memoriam

Trula Wright Campbell
September 2, 1920–March 29, 2014

Sympathy

The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Victoria Esarey and family on the death of her mother, Trula Campbell.

The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Hilde Chappell and family on the death of her husband, John Douglas Chappell, on March 23, 2014.

April 2014 Calendar

1 Tuesday

10:00 AM & 5:30 PM Cooks Who Care

5:45 PM Sanctuary Ringers

7:00 PM Worship Band

2 Wednesday

12 Noon Ecumenical Lenten "Soup & Substance" at Wesley Memorial United Methodist, 824 Starling Avenue

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

6 Sunday

8:30 AM Worship in the Chapel

9:30 AM Fellowship Reception, Fellowship Hall

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary

7 Monday

10:00 AM Circle 5, Parlor

10:00 AM Circle 1, Home of Betty Hudson

2:45 PM G.P.S. (children's music)

5:00 PM Girl Scouts

7:00 PM Circle 3, Parlor

8 Tuesday

5:45 PM Sanctuary Ringers

9 Wednesday

5:15 PM Ecumenical Lenten "Soup & Substance" at Calvary Christian, 515 Mulberry Road (Worship service at 6:00 PM)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

11 Friday

12:00 Noon Deadline to order Easter lilies

13 Palm Sunday

8:30 AM Worship

9:30 AM Fellowship Reception

9:45 AM Meet in Narthex to pick up palms and walk to Wilson Park (Lutheran Church in case of rain)

10:00 AM Palm Sunday in the Park ecumenical worship

11:00 AM Worship with G.P.S. singing

12:30 PM POYC (Parents of Young Children) Gathering, Fellowship Hall

14 Monday

STEEPLE VIEWS deadline. Email articles to Gael Chaney, editor, at gael.chaney@alumni.duke.edu

2:45 PM G.P.S.

6:00 PM Fellowship supper

7:00 PM Committee meetings

15 Tuesday

5:45 PM Sanctuary Ringers

16 Wednesday

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

17 Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM Covered Dish Supper & Worship, Fellowship Hall

18 Good Friday

6:30 PM Worship at Grace Presbyterian Church, 218 Fayette Street

19 Holy Saturday

8:00-9:30 AM Free Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

20 Easter Sunday

(No 8:30 worship)

9:30 AM Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary

21 Easter Monday

Church office closed

4:00-7:30 PM

Cottage Place dinner & fellowship, Fellowship Hall

22 Tuesday

5:45 PM Sanctuary Ringers

23 Wednesday

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

24 Thursday

12:00-6:00 PM, FPC Volunteers at Red Cross Bloodmobile

27 Sunday

8:30 AM Worship, Chapel

9:30 AM Fellowship Reception, Fellowship Hall

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary

28 Monday

2:45 PM G.P.S.

5:00 PM Girl Scouts

7:00 PM Session meeting

29 Tuesday

5:45 PM Sanctuary Ringers

30 Wednesday

7:00 PM Chancel Choir





**First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112**

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STEEPLEVIEWS April 2014

Our Mission: to Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

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