

# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church † July-August 2014 † Martinsville, Virginia

## It's Vacation Bible School Time!



Vacation Bible School kicks off with a barbecue picnic on Sunday July 6, at 5:00 PM. I hope to see **everyone!** This is not just for VBS folks but the entire congregation. Come and have a great time and soak in all that VBS atmosphere.

I hope all kids have registered by now. I'm always looking for additional volunteers— where are all the teens? (Need to get that community service in!) Help in the kitchen is always needed. Thanks to Pearl and Steve Minter for heading up the snacks. You may contact Pearl ([pearlrm@centurylink.net](mailto:pearlrm@centurylink.net), 650-8690) or me ([jpfentress@hotmail.com](mailto:jpfentress@hotmail.com), 638-3840) if you can help. You do not have to be there everyday—just however many days suit your week.  
—Janet Fentress

## Worship Focus

### Words We Need to Say

- July 6: "I don't know," 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom  
July 13: "I need help," Luke 18:9-14, 35-43, The Pharisee and tax collector, the blind beggar  
July 20: "Thank you," Philippians 1:3-11, Paul's thanksgiving for sharing the gospel  
July 27: "Goodbye," John 16, Jesus' farewell to his disciples

## The PNC Has News!

Bob Davis, moderator of the Pastor Nominating Committee, reports that the candidate that the committee chose has passed his examination by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. The Session is calling a **congregational meeting on July 6** to vote on the new pastor. Information on the candidate will be distributed to members before the meeting, although the congregation is asked to keep this confidential until after the vote.

## A Time to Celebrate

Everyone is invited to come celebrate Pastor Jenny's ministry and all that she has meant to us on **Sunday July 13, at 4:00 PM**. We will begin in the Sanctuary for the worshipful celebration to include music, reflections and prayer (come prepared to sing and even do some energizers!) and then continue to party with a time for refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall afterwards.

Jenny's last Sunday with us will be July 27, and her last day of work will be July 31. She and her daughters will then move to Norfolk where her husband Clint has been working the last several months.



Pastor Jenny and her daughter Gwendolyn.

*Pastor's Reflections***The Hardest One of All**

This is the hardest newsletter article I have had to write. It has been one of those tasks left undone after the rest of the to-do list has been completed. It hasn't mattered that I wrote it at the very top of the next list, if I highlighted it in pink, put stars around it and underlined it. In the end, I think it was more than "writer's block," it was a spiritual block. In order for me to write about saying goodbye, I had to pause from the endless list of things to take care of, delegate, clean up, pack up, pass along or give away. I had to be still, and in that stillness, open the door of my heart and spirit to the wild uncertainty that comes with saying goodbye.

We started the process, even several months ago, when Clint began his position in Norfolk. Then, it seemed that there was plenty of time. Since then, there have been a series of "lasts": last Youth Sunday, last day of Weekday School, last committee night meetings. People have begun to say, "We are going to miss you." And I realized the last moments have come. The busy-ness of tasks had worked like a numbing effect, and allowed me to float above myself in a cloud of denial. I could stay there, safely distant from the emotional mess down in my heart and spirit. But that would mean I wouldn't be fully present with you to remember and retell, to laugh and lament, to forgive and forge ahead.

Saying "goodbye" is an act of relationship, an act of trust, an act of faith. We have shared all of those with each other in my time in ministry here. Some relationships have been closer than others, there are we have faltered in trust, there are times we have been tested in faith. But through it all, I celebrate that God has been powerfully present—from the excitement at the beginning, through times of sorrow and grief,

through times of challenge and conflict, and faithful to the end. As we say goodbye, we trust that the love we share and the witness of faith we proclaim back to the hands of God. We trust that God's Spirit will continue to be at work in all of us, though our relationship with each other will change. We step out in faith, knowing that "goodbye" does not mean "the end," because our true end is in God alone.



I call to mind the words of 1 Corinthians 13, which has been a text we've read a lot together. "Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end." There are things that will come to an end. I will not be your pastor, I will not be able to preach or officiate at your funerals, weddings or baptisms, I will not counsel or advise congregational decisions. But the love that we have for one another will not come to an end. Thank you for loving me, humoring me, challenging me, disagreeing with me, teaching me, and supporting me. Your love for me has been an expression of God's love, and by that great love I have been changed. I will miss each of you, and the experience of God's family we share together.

I am who I am today because of your love, and the love of all brothers and sisters in faith who have been on this journey with me my whole life through. As we say goodbye, I trust that God will bring new, exciting and different expressions of love to you that you will share with your new pastor. I trust God will bring new people and places of love into my life and ministry that I do not yet know. This I trust, this I hope: "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

—Rev. Jennifer Spivey



### Coming This Month!

Camp Peaks Day Camp is coming to Martinsville July 28-August 1. First Presbyterian is sponsoring this exciting program in partnership with Presbytery of the Peaks. Day Camp will run from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Campers do not need to be members of the congregation —Day Camp is open to everyone!

All children entering 1st-5th grades can enjoy this taste of camp. Day camp will be held again at Bill and Sandy Martin's Farm in Axton. They were generous enough to share their farm with us last year and everyone loved it! The Day Camp program includes Bible stories, worship, games, arts and crafts, nature study, a cook-out, field trips, fellowship and making new friends.

A Director and counselors who are trained to run the camp will come from the Presbytery Camps Workgroup. We will need volunteers from the congregation to help each day and to accompany us on our field trip to Fairy Stone Park on Friday, August 1.

The cost for the week is \$80. This covers program, daily drinks, a morning snack, and s'mores every afternoon. Campers need to bring their own sack lunches. Brochures are available in the church office. Please register early! There will be a limited number of places and **the cut off for registration is July 14**. For more information, call JoAnne Sanders at 276-340-6913.

### Counselors in Training Needed for Camp Peaks

Does your High School (16 or older) or college student have a deep commitment to Christ, a love for all God's children, a desire to minister to them and enjoy the outdoors? We are seeking a young adult to be a Counselor in Training (CIT) to work with elementary age children during this year's Camp Peaks Day Camp. The camp is to be held from July 28-August 1 at Bill and Sandy Martin's farm in Axton. The CIT will learn how to be a good counselor while enjoying the outdoors and working with the children in the program. For further information, please contact JoAnne Sanders (276-340-6913).

### Cooks Who Care



Cooks Who Care gather in the kitchen to prepare meals on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM. The morning crew begins the preparation, and the afternoon crew finishes and packs the meals. The next dates are **July 1 and Aug. 5**. Contact Virginia Truitt ([mbeachgalva@gmail.com](mailto:mbeachgalva@gmail.com), 634-5648) to volunteer or request a meal to be delivered to someone.

### Cottage Place Ministry

The Mission Committee hosts residents and staff of Cottage Place group home from 5:30-7:00 in the Fellowship Hall on the third Monday every other month. The next time they visit is **August 18**. Volunteers help provide food, fun, and fellowship. Your help is always needed. Contact Nancy Baker (nbaker08@comcast.net, 638-7923) for more information.



### *In Memoriam*

ANNA LEE LEWIS EDEN  
JULY 19, 1952 – MAY 29, 2014

### Sharing Our Journeys

Over thirty members of our congregation gathered at Massanetta Springs Conference center in Harrisonburg for a retreat June 5–8. Leanna Blevins and Nancy Baker share their experience with us.

### A Great Time Was Had by All

A young person's heartfelt wish that "we could stay three more days" summed up our Family Retreat Weekend at Massanetta. Fast, fun, and exhilarating applied to the entire experience, and especially to the high flying zip line, so awesome as to be repeated as many times as one was able. Of course, a lesson for some as they zipped was to keep their mouth shut. There are bugs in the air! Saturday afternoon also may have been listed as "free time," but that freedom was eagerly spent canoeing with our own pied piper, Johnny Pinkard, and others willing to paddle over the lake with the enchanted children.

Folks living in two separate houses, who came to understand that a major portion of our retreat involved service as one team, worked hard at repairs. Another group cleaned and gathered wood for the evening campfires. A third group worked at a cavernous warehouse for Equipping the Saints, an agency that collects such donated or purchased items (in great bulk!) as Bibles, medical supplies, musical equipment, books, computers, etc., for local and foreign missions. We were tasked with packing clothes and shoes and with sorting over-the-counter medicines in an atmosphere one person described as "bordering on the chaotic," as supplies kept rolling in even as others were prepared for shipping.



Saturday morning we rolled onto the Volunteer Farm where acres of freshly grown and harvested produce is donated to many food banks as vital supplement to the ubiquitous canned food. It was here that adults and children together planted five (yes, count 'em, five) acres of watermelon so that many will receive a healthful treat later this summer. And we discovered we needed each other. In each team, the adult used a hoe to prepare a hole and the young person dropped in two seeds, covering and firming them in with a foot— hot, dusty work. But with frequent water breaks, we persevered. Briana

Tatum, working with Jim Beard, was pleased to find him to be "a good conversationalist." As they worked they found a log shaped like a dog's skull and called it a dog log. A bit of fun, some play, and lots of hard work for everyone. We were all more than ready for lunch at noon.

Interactive worship began and ended the day, led by Jenny and Monica and constructed so that children and adults all felt included. As we got to know each other, the highly anticipated campfires were especially inclusive and comfortable ("not regimented," said Billy Kirby). Around them were quiet chatting and reflection on the day, some games that captured both adults and children, inevitable debating on the merits of burnt versus toasted marshmallow on s'mores, and finally, prayers of thanksgiving to conclude the evening.

—Nancy Baker

## Thoughts on the Massanetta Retreat

My family had a great time! Monica Stevens did a fantastic job planning it. She and Jenny did an absolutely beautiful job blending the worship, fellowship, service, and fun! As usual, Ashby and Johnny Pinkard made *everything* better and special—they tended to all details and every individual. As I write this, we are exhausted (in a good way)!

I appreciate that this retreat was multi-generational and that the folks without young children were patient and understanding of noisy, rowdy kids.

I appreciate that young people like Stuart Beard and Tyler Price went and wanted to be with all of us. Tyler was extremely gracious, fun and sweet with the kids who likely annoyed him to death! I did not expect that age group to be there, but they were and seemed to have a good time. Yay!

I love the service component. I really love how Monica and Jenny integrated the projects to the lessons each day. The more

mission work we can do, the better. Even if it's repairing things around Massanetta, it's working together to nurture others (being receptive to His will, as Monica discussed) and doing so with joy (expressing His love through our work, as Monica discussed.)

I think the next time we could incorporate some formal "team building" activities into the weekend. Informal team building was alive and well. Jim Beard and Briana Tatum developed a special bond as they talked while they planted watermelon seeds together. The zip line, canoeing, and fixing s'mores provided chances to create bonds in unexpected ways.

A touching moment for me was when the group was walking from dinner to the cottage for devotions along a brick path and suddenly a brick caught my attention. It was dedicated to Randy and was just a lovely reminder again that Randy's spirit remains with us! Monica was quite surprised and delighted, as you can imagine.

Finally, I'd say that a weekend is plenty of time for this kind of activity and that annually works for us.



—Leanna Blevins

*Notes from the  
Music Department*



### Hearty Thanks!

A hearty thank-you goes to Laura Stevens and all the music volunteers who helped with the GPS children's choirs this past school year. JoAnne Sanders and the Christian Education department deserve a hearty thank-you, too, as the children enjoyed Bible stories and crafts during the GPS time. There was good attendance all year and now they are enjoying their summer break.

A hearty thank-you also goes to the members of the Chancel Choir and Praise Band who led in worship every week.

Thanks to the Sanctuary Ringers for providing the distinctive sounds of handbells and hand chimes and also to the soloists and instrumentalists who gave of their talents. We appreciate the dedication and talents of each one and their important contribution to worship.

The Praise Band will continue during the summer at the 8:30 AM service. The Sanctuary Ringers are enjoying their summer break and the Chancel Choir will have their break during the month of July.

Last year the congregation voted for their favorite hymns to be sung during the anthem time and throughout the 11:00 AM service during the Chancel Choir break. We will sing favorite hymns during July again this year; this time we will sing some of the favorites that did not get enough votes to make the top twenty list plus we will sing the top eight. Come and enjoy singing some of your favorite hymns!

—Cynthia Dobrinski

### Important Dates

#### July

- 1 Cooks Who Care 10 AM & 5:30 PM
- 6 Congregational Meeting 12:00 noon
- 6 VBS Barbecue Kick-off Supper 5:00 PM
- 6 Faith & Film "You Can't Take It With You" 6:00 PM
- 7–11 Vacation Bible School 9 AM–12 noon
- 13 Celebration of Pastor Jenny's ministry 4:00 PM
- 14 STEEPLE VIEWS deadline
- 27 Pastor Jenny's last Sunday
- 28 Session meeting 7:00 PM
- 30 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 PM

#### August

- 5 Cooks Who Care 10 AM & 5:30 PM
- 14 STEEPLE VIEWS deadline
- 18 Cottage Place Fun, Food & Fellowship 5:30 PM
- 25 Session 7:00 PM
- 27 Prayer Shawl Ministry



### Faith & Film July 6 "You Can't Take It With You"

The classic 1938 movie "You Can't Take It With You" will be shown Sunday, July 6 at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. Monica Stevens will lead the discussion. There will be plenty of time for you to enjoy barbecue at the Vacation Bible School Kick-Off before the film.

**July Birthdays**

- 2 William Seamon
- 3 Andrea Lawhon Murray
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 6 Barbara Stanley
- 7 Clara Hartley
- 8 Dyer Pace
- 12 Betty Carol Lamm, Betty Stanley, Heidi Pinkston
- 15 Dick Pilson, Kimberly Seamon
- 17 Jerri DeVault
- 18 Duke Ferrell, Buck Kester, Ashby Pinkard, Johnathan Phillips, Ainsley Phillips
- 20 Nancy Betz, Connor Wotring
- 21 Bill Brown
- 22 Chuck Marshall, Lil Wall, Jessica Showalter
- 23 Carl Bishop, Anne Lackey, Chris Beeler
- 24 Betty Allen Hall
- 25 Teri Ferguson
- 26 Tom Martin
- 27 Melissa Renz, Laura Stevens
- 29 Bill Franck
- 31 Capers Zentmeyer, Laura Chiudioni

**August Birthdays**

- 1 David Chittum, Anne Peterson
- 2 Lynn Beeler
- 3 Marge Dunn
- 5 Ruth Garland Neary, Bob Richeson
- 8 Elizabeth Clark
- 9 Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Beth Lawson, Carrie Buffkin
- 13 Chuck Cundiff
- 17 Maggie and Martha Pilson
- 18 Cindy Nease, Madison Powell
- 19 Bill Plonk
- 21 Ron Fentress, Bill Stone
- 22 Laura Buffkin, Johnny Pinkard, Kym Tatum
- 23 Anne Abercrombie
- 24 Nan Smith
- 28 Bob Bledsoe
- 29 Stuart Beard
- 31 Dot Bryson, Bill Nease

**Session Highlights for Stated Meeting June 2, 2014**

- Jenny Spivey moderated the meeting that began at 7 pm.
- Nancy Baker led the Session in devotion and an opening prayer.
- The Session heard a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- It was noted with sadness the death of Lee Eden on May 29, 2014 with a service on Sunday, June 8, 2014 in our sanctuary.
- A financial report was received from the Milt Davis, Church Treasurer, along with suggestions for improving bookkeeping procedures.
- A motion was approved to engage Garland and Garland for a financial compilation for 2013.
- It was reported that the PNC that called Jenny will coordinate her Farewell Celebration to be held on Sunday, July 13 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- It was noted that the examination of elders-elect will take place at the July stated Session meeting.
- Jenny reported on the May Presbytery meeting attended by her and Cathy Stone.
- Pearl Minter was elected as Commissioner to the July 26 Presbytery meeting.
- The meeting was concluded with prayer at 8:50 p.m.



## First Presbyterian Church

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Address Service Requested

STEEPLE VIEWS July-August 2014

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

STEEPLE VIEWS is published by First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA. Deadline for submission of articles to the church office is the 14th of each month. Email articles to Gael Chaney at [fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

#### THE STAFF

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#### THE SESSION

Rev. Jennifer Spivey, Moderator  
Joan Montgomery, Clerk  
Nancy Baker, Moderator, Mission Committee  
Chris Beeler, Administration  
Lang Mauck, Stewardship  
Pearl Minter, Fellowship  
Nancy Moore, Evangelism/Outreach  
JoAnne Sanders, Christian Education  
Cathy Stone, Worship  
Neil Tatum, Facilities  
Virginia Truitt, Congregational Care

#### EARLY WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Virginia King, Moderator

#### TRUSTEES

Dru Rothrock, Moderator  
Anne Abercrombie, David Garland, Ed Linker,  
Bill Manning, Kent Williams