
Steeple Views for December 16

1 message

1st Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA <steepleviews@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org> Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 10:01 AM
Reply-To: "1st Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA" <steepleviews@firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org>
To: fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com

December 16, 2021**Steeple Views**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation
Elder Monica Stevens
December 15, 2021

Today's devotional is a family affair. The basis for this meditation is a sermon that Randy preached in December of 2008. I have edited it and added a preface and a postscript. May our combined effort be a blessing to you in this Advent season.

Ten-year-old Andrew once asked his dad, "When I have finished playing basketball for the North Carolina Tar Heels and my NBA basketball career is over, do you want me to become a minister?" Randy answered that he didn't want Andrew to become a minister because it was the "family business," but if he had a real calling to be a minister, then Randy would rejoice in his choice. Many people feel that their chosen profession is a calling, and that sense of calling allows them to sustain and fulfill their mission. In his 12/21/08 sermon on Luke 1:26-38, Randy focused on Mary's unique calling--to bear not just a son, but the Son of the Most High. Mary was confused, but being assured that with God, nothing was impossible, Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Quoting from Randy's sermon:

"With regard to Mary, Luke intended to portray Mary as the first of the disciples, the first person to hear the call of God, believe the good news of the Gospel, and respond affirmatively to that call with faith and obedience. She was committed to living out her call. Mary wasn't entirely sure of what all the divine announcement meant or how it would impact her life in the years to come, and yet, she was ready and willing to be used in the work of God.

The Eastern Church within the body of Christ knows Mary by the designation of *theotokos*, which is Greek for "the God bearer." Mary was the one chosen to carry, give birth to, and raise the Son of God.

Likewise, the Word of God becomes flesh within us as we live out our particular callings with faithful and obedient commitment, just like Mary, the very first disciple. Whatever our calling, when we respond to God, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord," and pray, "Thy will be done," then we, too, are "God bearers" who bear God's love in and to the world. As we live in Christ, Christ lives in us, and the Word speaks to and ministers to others through us.

God has called us to be God bearers and Good News bearers to this hurting and darkened world. Will we commit ourselves to that call and live our lives on purpose? As with Mary, we have a choice. She could have said no, but she didn't; she gave herself totally to the will of God to bear the Christ Child. The same choice is before us as well.

A church school teacher once asked her students to define the word "saint." When no answer was forthcoming, the teacher chose Jimmy and asked him what a saint was. Jimmy was no theologian, but his parents brought him to church regularly and pointed out the pictures of the saints in the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. "A saint," he answered, "is someone the light shines through."

This is our high calling: whatever we do, let the Word of God become flesh in us, and may the light of Christ shine through us to bring light and hope to the world. Let us join Mary as one of the God bearers, who shares God's love, embraces our neighbors, and nurtures each other all to the glory of God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

In this holy season, may we all encounter the light and love of God through Christ, and bear it into the world for all to see.

God's grace and peace be with you all.

Monica

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The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

The safety of our congregation and community are our highest priority. In light of increasing infections due to the Delta variant and in order to follow state and local guidelines and CDC recommendations, **we strongly recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary**

The church office will open for limited appointments. Please call to schedule. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.



Please join us for the fourth Sunday of **Advent** either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Kym Wiederholt

"A Lowly Servant"

Based upon Luke 1:46b-55 and Micah 5:2-5a



Attention all Elders: We are now ready and able to start our Extended Table ministry once again!

We serve communion to shut-ins on **the first Sunday** in the month and to King's Grant residents on **the first Monday**.

We are asking all Elders who are interested in this ministry, to contact Nancy Davis at davistwo@comcast.net or by phone at 634-1403. Please indicate which day or days you want to serve. There will be a training session on Sunday **December 12th** right after church in the Session room.

Remember "Once an Elder always an Elder"

Virtual Poinsettias



In Thanksgiving for:

Rita Bateman, *Milt and Nancy Davis*

Mark Hinchcliff, *Judy King*

Laura and Dewey Milton, Daniel Stevens and Alexis Hoeflerlin, *Monica Stevens*

Ruby Pace, *Bonny, Farrell and Dyer Pace*

Nanette Smith, *Bonny, Farrell and Dyer Pace*

Joe, Susan and Sam Smith, *Bonny, Farrell and Dyer Pace*

In Loving Memory of:

Bob Abercrombie, *John and Anne Abercrombie*

Chris Abercrombie, *John and Anne Abercrombie*

Doc Altizer, *Johnny and Ashby Pinkard*

Doc Altizer, Laura Buffkin, Colleen Dallas, Cynthia Dobrinski, Buck Flythe, Clara Hartley, Helen Hawkes, Reed Moore, Jim Murray, Bill Plonk, Gene Stanley, Marie Thompson, and Vicky "Sarah" Wells,

Marjorie Dunn

Jim Baker, *Nancy Baker*

Laura Buffkin, *Carrie Buffkin*

Martha Davis, *Robert Davis*

Walter W. "Buck" Flythe, *Helen H. Flythe*

Harriet, Travis, Paul, Bill and Alison Mattox, *Anne Lackey*

Melissa DeVault McGrath, *Joe and Jerri DeVault*

Reed Moore, *Milt and Nancy Davis*

Jim Murray, *Judy King*

Ed Pace, *Bonny, Farrell and Dyer Pace*

James and Ruth Richardson, *Pearl Minter*

Kenneth Smith, *Bonny, Farrell and Dyer Pace*

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Snow & Mr. and Mrs. F.S. DeVault, *Joe and Jerri*

DeVault

Inez Spencer, Pam Rakes

Andrew and Randy Stevens, Monica Stevens

Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Walker, Jr., Betty Hudson



King's Grant Christmas Parade is Thursday, December 16 at 4:00 PM and is open to residents, Families, Staff, and Community. Decorated vehicles or golf carts are encouraged. There will be event signs posted for outside participants to follow to the starting point upon screening of

temperature at the guard house. Due to COVID-19 precautions, we ask that all outside participants remain in your vehicle for the duration of the parade and depart the campus directly following the event unless you are intending to visit with a loved one. In that case, you will need to fill out a travel form at the guard house and check in with the receptionist at the front desk beforehand. **As a courtesy, please contact 276-634-1000 or email etoler@kingsgrant.cc to RSVP.**

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's perfect gift of Jesus Christ. This offering is an appropriate response to nurture members of the Body of Christ in their time of need; funds of support are used to develop our future leaders and provide financial assistance to current and retired church workers. **Christmas Joy envelopes will be available in the pews now through Dec. 19.**

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday December 23 and 24 for Christmas.

A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be Friday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

THE
HEART
THAT GREW THREE SIZES
FINDING FAITH IN THE STORY OF **THE GRINCH**



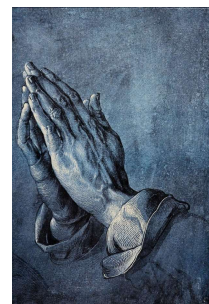
Sunday November 28 - Sunday December 19
Youth & Adult Classes at 9am
Classes meet in person (or you can join on zoom)
Contact Sam with questions sam@peaksresbytery.org

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Carl Bishop, Family of Bob Abercrombie (John's brother), Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Anne Peterson, Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), persecuted Christians and all troops in defense of freedom throughout the world.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, (276) 632-3431, office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:2762526068).

Please remember Canned Soup



The 4th quarter food donation item is ****canned soup****
(please NO tomato**)**

Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!

**Items may be brought to church but please call the office to make sure Rita is there. Alternatively, you may drop off at Grace Network, Monday - Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO: steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org**. If you send to another email address, the information may get lost and subsequently not included in the newsletter.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:



https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf

Our Mission

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

Printed copies of *Steeple Views* are available at church. Current and back issues are also on our website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter

Useful Links

FPC website: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/ or www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/

FPC online directory: members.instantchurchdirectory.com/

FPC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org/

Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org/

Daily Bible Readings: www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/

Church Office Phone: 276-632-3431

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, sam@peakspresbytery.org

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

TRUSTEES

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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