

January 14, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

January 13, 2021

"Just as Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." Hebrews 9:27-28

No one likes to talk about death for yourself or a loved one. However, always being prepared for the possibility that, "today may be the day", can take away a lot of the fear associated with that inevitable fact. While we all know that everyone will die sometime, not taking care of the details beforehand can have dire consequences for yourself and those we leave behind. Things like not;

Planning funeral services

Making sure wills have been updated

Providing a means of payment so debts aren't passed on to loved ones

And most importantly, not establishing a right relationship with God can cause avoidable pain for you and others.

Treating each day as a gift from God that may end at some time says, Life is short, so we should make the most of each day. We should celebrate each day. We should live now and don't wait. We should walk with God the Creator and Sustainer of life.

Death teaches us, if we want to hear, to be prepared by;

Picking up the phone to call the ones we love

Experiencing the joy in the moment. We don't have forever

Knowing that nothing is permanent so we can't hang on to our past

Giving up expectations of tomorrow and let the future tell its own story

If your confident that you are prepared for Death then Life can be enjoyed! So, love God, love your children, and love the life that God has given you.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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Second Sunday After the Epiphany

Please join us on Sunday for the **Second Sunday After the Epiphany**. We will be live on Facebook at 10:00 a.m.

For I Know Who You Are

Based upon Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 and John 1:43-51

Upcoming Events



January 25 Session Meeting, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Technology Corner

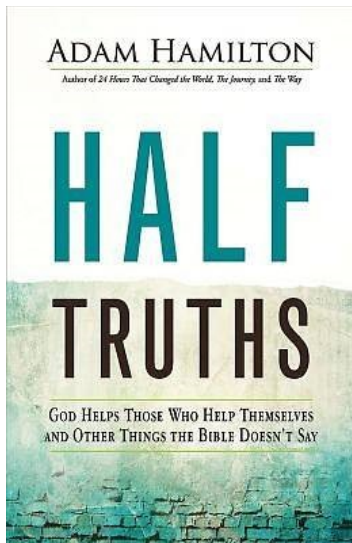
There have been some reports of emails from "RITA BATEMAN" going to junk mail folder.

Members should check their junk mail folders and add emails from RITA to the safe senders list: here's how the email sender appears:

RITA BATEMAN mail@icnsend.com

If there are emails in your junk mail folder, you should select:

1. "never block sender"
 2. "never block sender's domain" and
 3. "never block this group or mailing list"
-



Sunday School

Begins: **January 3**

Adults at 9 am and youth at 12 pm on Zoom

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say by Adam Hamilton

Here's a description from the publisher:

Join Adam Hamilton in exploring popular sayings that miss the point.

True or false:

1. Everything happens for a reason.
2. God helps those who help themselves.
3. God won't give you more than you can handle.
4. God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
5. Love the sinner, hate the sin.

All true? Not so fast. We've heard these phrases all of our lives, but in Adam Hamilton's new book, *Half Truths*, you'll learn that although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're really just popular sayings. The five-week study with accompanying video can be used in small groups or as a churchwide program where all ages explore the topics at the same time. For more information or to sign up, contact Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net) or Sam Smith (sam@peaksprebytery.org).

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry – The Youth are meeting on **Sunday afternoons at 12pm** still on **Zoom**. For the month of January, we will be doing Adam Hamilton's book, *Half Truths*, which explores popular sayings that miss the point. So, grab a snack or lunch & join us on Zoom!

The Adult's will also be doing this study Sunday mornings at 9am.

If your middle or high school child would like to join us, please contact Sam at sam@peaksprebytery.org for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.



"Like the Wise Men who followed the star in the sky, we allow our words to guide us during the year. We ponder them, wrestle with them, pray about them and, at the end of the year, reflect on where the word has taken us over the past 12 months." (Emma Nickel, Presbyterian Outlook)

Since we are not able to gather in person, I am inviting everyone to color and decorate this Epiphany Star coloring page from Illustrated Ministry: [Epiphany Star Words.pdf](#) (firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org)

You may then receive your gifted word from this Inspirational Word Generator: [Word of the Year Generator by Jen Fulwiler](#) Or, feel free to get creative & let someone else in your household or extended church family choose a word for you, while you choose a word for someone else.

You are encouraged to trust the word that you receive and place your star word where you can regularly see it throughout the year to reflect on how God is working in your life and our world in connection to your word. A good first step may be to look up the definition of your word. It may bring new meaning even to a familiar word.

Throughout the year, I'll drop reminders about our star words & provide opportunities for you all to share how you feel God's presence at work in your life.

I hope you will find this to be a meaningful prayer tool throughout this new year.

Sam Smith

Virtual Poinsettias

In Thanksgiving for/**BY**:

The FPC Family, **Anonymous**

Rob King, **Judith King**
Laura & Dewey Milton and
Daniel Stevens & Alexis Hoeflerlin, **Monica Stevens**
The Session, **Victoria Esarey**

In Loving Memory of/BY:

Jim Baker, **Nancy Baker**
Sonny Benfield, **Sue Benfield**
Jim Ford, **Sandra Ford**
Joe Hinchcliff, **Mark and Tracy Hinchcliff**
Lummie Morris, **Mark and Tracy Hinchcliff**
Anne R. Hollard, **Pearl R. Minter**
Inez Spencer, **Pam Rakes**
Ed Pace, **Joe, Susan and Sam Smith**
Randy and Andrew Stevens, **The Stevens Family**

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Doc Altizer, Ken Beavers (Pastor Mark's nephew), Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister in-law of Cynthia), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene Stanley, 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.



Please remember

Canned Soup



The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 1st quarter is **canned soup**. 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*

Presbytery of the Peaks

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](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020%20Peaks%20Postings/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/

Steeple Views is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor
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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff
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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