

January 28, 2021



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

---

## Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

January 27, 2021, 2020

**“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”  
1Thessalonians 5:18**

Wow, give thanks for all circumstances! How can anyone give thanks when the world is dying from disease, when a parent loses a child in an automobile accident, when the sole breadwinner in a household loses their job and can’t afford to feed their family, or when an innocent young girl is senselessly raped and murdered and the perpetrator is never found. Dear God, how can anyone find something to be thankful for in such horrors? And then I read the Scripture passage again. It doesn’t say give thanks “for” all circumstances it says give thanks “in” all circumstances. In other words, whatever your particular circumstance, there’s always something we can find to thank God for.

There’s a popular phrase that says, “I complained that I had no shoes until I saw a man that had no feet”. I believe there is a reason to be thankful in and through every circumstance, even yours. Although your circumstance may never change, your attitude can. A little change in perspective can make all the difference in the world. Each year our church has participated in a program known as Back2School. The program was started by Manny Ohonme who grew up in a poor African village not owning a single pair of shoes until a Christian Missionary came to his village and gave him his first pair. Manny is short for Emmanuel, God be with us, a tribute from his mother for delivering a healthy son.

This missionary taught the local children the game of basketball which Manny quickly excelled. It didn’t hurt that Manny had now grown to a height of 6’5”. A local Nigerian coach helped Manny obtain a full scholarship to a university in the United States where Manny studied business. After graduation Manny’s father died and Manny returned to his home village. Before his father’s death, Manny’s father had been an abusive, non-believer, alcoholic, but asked God to forgive his sins and take

him to God's heart. Manny's love for his mother and seeing the hardships of the children in his village caused Manny to found Samaritan's Feet. Based on the biblical story of the Good Samaritan this organization provides thousands of shoes for children all over the world each year. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples in order to serve others as he did. Now with every pair of new shoes given at Back2School events children's feet are washed and prayer is offered all in the name of Jesus Christ.

So, remember to give thanks this day "in" all circumstances for the giver of all life gifted you all that you are and all that you have. Amen.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

[View this email in your browser](#) • [Forward to a friend](#)

---



### ***Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany***

Please join us on Sunday for the **Fourth** Sunday After the Epiphany. We will be live on Facebook at 10:00 a.m.  
sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff.

#### **A Promise With No Fingers Crossed**

Based upon Psalm 111 and Mark 1:21-28

---

### ***Upcoming Events***



#### **Blood Mobile Dates at Martinsville Elk's Lodge**

February 4th, 12th (12 - 5 pm)

March 8th, 24th

---

## Technology Corner

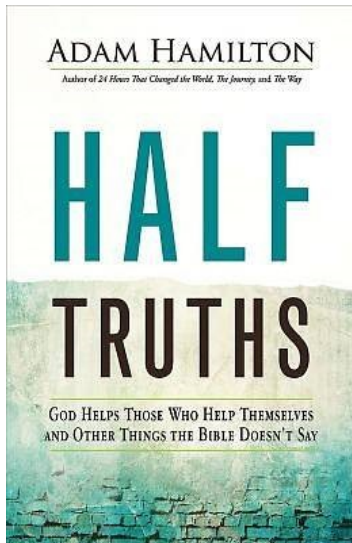
There have been some reports of emails from "RITA BATEMAN" going to junk mail folder.

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](mailto: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](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net)) or Sam Smith ([sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.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@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

---



Margaret Mead famously said, *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."*

The EarthCare group here at First Presbyterian Martinsville is small but already we have helped congregants by removing a freezer and a dishwasher.

What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** 276 732-9110 or email [vesarey@gmail.com](mailto:vesarey@gmail.com). These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

The PCUSA website for Earth Care Congregations is: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

Denny Casey has remarked that the website is "like peeling an onion." But be not overwhelmed, just go poke around a bit to see how seriously Presbyterians are taking this idea of caring for our Earthly home.

---

**Happy Birthday in February**



- 2** Dr. David Seamon, Isla King
- 3** Charles R. Knighton, Harold Lamm
- 4** Pamela Rakes
- 7** Mason Wood
- 13** Connie Anderson
- 19** Sandra T. Ford
- 21** Sharon Kirby



Helen Mae Ramey Hawkes



October 23, 1922 - January 25, 2021

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Helen Hawkes. Helen passed away on January 25, 2021.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, January 29, 2021 at Maple Hill Cemetery in Bluefield, Va.

The full obituary can be found here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/martinsville-va/helen-hawkes-10024021>

**Prayer Requests**



These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family of Helen Hawkes, Doc Altizer, Ken Beavers (Pastor Mark's nephew), Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Merylyn 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, Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene and Betty 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](mailto: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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

**Useful Links**

FPC website: [www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://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

[stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**Church Office Phone:** 276-632-3431

**Our mailing address is:**

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

**STAFF**

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor, [pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, [sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org)

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, [contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto: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

---

*Copyright © 2021 First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

