

STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH † SEPTEMBER 2014 † MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

Welcoming Our New Pastor Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

On Sunday, August 3, our congregation welcomed Rev. Mark Hinchcliff as our new pastor. He preached his first sermon on August 10, followed by a covered dish luncheon. He and his wife Tracy come to us from San Antonio, Texas.

A Service of Installation will be held at **5:00 PM on Sunday, Sept. 14**, in our Sanctuary. Come celebrate this culmination of a 2½-year journey for our congregation!



Pastor Mark greeting Marian Campbell after the service Aug. 24. Below, showing the children how a snowy owl can turn its head.



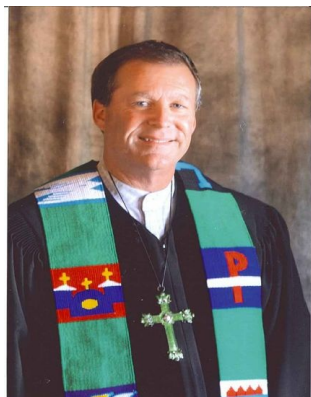
Important September Dates

- 1 Mon.** Labor Day, church office closed
- 1 Mon.** Circle #3, 7 PM, Parlor
- 2 Tues.** Cooks Who Care, 10 AM & 5:30 PM
- Every Tues.** Sanctuary Ringers, 5:45 PM
- Every Wed.** Chancel Choir, 7 PM
- 7 Sun.** Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 8:30 & 11 AM
- 7 Sun.** Rally Day Breakfast, 9:30 AM
- 7 Sun.** Congregational meeting to elect a trustee to fill unexpired term, 12 Noon
- 8 Mon.** Presbyterian Women General Meeting, 10 AM
- 8 Mon.** G.P.S. Children's music begins, 3 PM
- 8 Mon.** Congregational Supper, 6 PM
- 8 Mon.** Committee meetings, 7 PM
- 9 Tues.** Worship Band, 7 PM
- 14 Sun.** Ordination & Installation of New Elders, 11 AM
- 14 Sun.** Installation Service of Rev. Mark Hinchcliff as Pastor, 5 PM
- 19 Fri.** Making cards for shut-ins, 4-6 PM
- 20 Sat.** Community Breakfast, 7-10 AM
- 23 Tues.** Worship Band, 7 PM
- 24 Wed.** Prayer Shawl Ministry, 5:30 PM

Rally Day Sunday, Sept. 7 Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 AM

Rally Day for First Presbyterian will be more than a new program year. On Sunday, September 7, we will continue our Garden of Growth (started at the retreat this summer) with the seeds produced as our church family has wrestled with change over the last few years. What's in it for you? Nourishing of faith, sunshine, rain and heat on understanding. Maybe, even some watermelon! What's in the Garden for you? Come and find out. We'll start with a delicious pancake breakfast at 9:30. New Sunday School classes will begin. This is the beginning of exciting times for our church—you don't want to miss out!

Pastor's Corner

**A "Grateful," "Grace-Full" Response to God**

The foundation that has already been laid is Jesus Christ, and no one can lay down any other foundation. But if people build on that foundation, using gold, silver, jewels, wood, grass, or straw, their work will be clearly seen, because the Day of Judgment will make it visible.

(1 Corinthians 3:11-14)

I heard a story of a carpenter, known for his expert craftsmanship and on the verge of retirement, was coaxed into building one last home by a wealthy client. The carpenter was so ready for retirement that he made plans to cut corners and finish the house early with less than his usual quality put in! He used inferior products and didn't feel the need to insure that every detail was inspected to insure his usual degree of perfection. When the house was finished, the outside looked wonderful but the carpenter knew of what lay underneath. Although the project was finished in record time the carpenter felt guilty delivering a product that was not up to his usual standard! On the day the wealthy client was to take possession of the home, the carpenter received a word from the client, saying "I'm aware of your reputation as a superior craftsmen builder. I know how hard you have worked for me and other clients throughout your career. So I wanted to reward you at your retirement. I am

giving you the house you just built." The carpenter was shocked! If only he had known beforehand that this was to be his home, he would have built it with the finest materials and workmanship. But now he would have to live with what he had put into it!

God's gracious gift of salvation and abundant life given in Jesus Christ should inspire our desire to give back only our best out of a grateful heart. Our lives should be built out of the same things as Christ, things like faith, love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and kindness. Are we living lives like Christ, purposefully, pursuing excellence, working with all of our hearts, in the name of Jesus? We have all experienced a God full of grace who has built a house waiting for us with only the best for His children. Give thanks with your life built on that foundation!

As your new pastor I know that each of us want to give only our best in this new chapter of our spiritual journey together. My wife Tracy and I are excited and ready to walk alongside each of you as we seek God's direction for this church and this community. Jesus the Christ was willing to give everything, even his life, to repair our relationship with our heavenly Father! That kind of grace should only inspire grateful hearts. Are you ready to respond that way? Christ is waiting to embrace each of us today.

On Christ We Stand,
Pastor Mark

Presbyterian Women Begin New Study

All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's general meeting in the Fellowship Hall on **Monday, Sept. 8, at 10 AM**. Pastor Mark Hinchcliff will teach the first lesson of the new study. Circles normally meet on the first Monday of the month, alternating between individual circle meetings and general meetings.

Circle #3 to Meet Labor Day

For women who prefer to meet in the evening, Circle 3 will meet on **Monday, Sept. 1, at 7 PM**, in the Parlor at church. Janet Fentress will be hostess and teach the lesson. Please note that this is Labor Day. We are not postponing the meeting because Committee Night is on the second Monday.

**Congregational Supper
Monday, September 8, 6:00 PM
Committee Meetings, 7:00 PM**

After a summer hiatus, Congregational Suppers will resume on the second Monday of each month at 6 PM. In September, the Evangelism & Outreach Committee will be serving sloppy joes, baked beans, and cole slaw. Everyone is welcome!

All Sessional committees will meet after supper. Now is a great time to participate in the life of our congregation through one of the committees.

**Birthday Table with
Pastor Mark and Tracy**

Do you ever wonder who has a birthday the same month as you? Come to the Congregational Supper and find out. As they did last year, the Fellowship Committee will have a Birthday Table at the Congregational Supper to honor all those with birthdays in that month.

Pastor Mark Hinchciff and his wife Tracy will also join you at the Birthday Table to help you celebrate your birthday. This also will help Mark and Tracy to get to know the members of the congregation and the membership to get to know them. Come enjoy celebrating your birthday with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Happy Birthday in September!

- 1 Virginia King, Monty Montgomery
- 4 Nancy Davis
- 5 John Bowles
- 7 Jamie Eden Peck
- 8 Suzan Kirby
- 10 Brooke Sanders
- 11 Hilde Chappell
- 14 Randy Lawson
- 15 Lang Mauck
- 16 Judy King
- 17 Donna Young
- 20 Ed Newnam, Jean Williams
- 23 Maddie Sayles
- 24 Ashley Harris
- 25 Carolyn O'Toole, Gavin Russell
- 29 Jim Ford

Please let us know if we have left anyone out. We are working from an old list.



**G.P.S. is coming Sept. 8!
Grow, Praise, Sing!**

Mapping a Life That Follows Christ

The Music Department and the Worship and Christian Education Committees are pleased to announce that on **Monday, September 8**, we will resume our journey through the Bible with our Music and Worship program for children ages kindergarten through fifth grade.

All children in those age groups are invited to join us from **3:00 to 5:00 PM** to grow in their faith, praise God through music, enjoy snacks and crafts, as well as have lots of fun! Chaperoned travel from Patrick Henry Elementary to the church will be provided for any child

who attends school there. All other children are welcome but will need their own transportation. More information and a registration form will be available in the office. If you are interested or would like to volunteer, call Cathy Stone (638-1846) or JoAnne Sanders (340-6913).



Sanctuary Ringers Begins Sept. 2

The Sanctuary Ringers will resume rehearsals on Tues., Sept. 2, at 5:45 PM. Ringers are needed, so if you're interested, contact Cynthia Dobrinski at 650-3563 or cdmartinsville@aol.com.

**Make Cards for Shut-Ins
Friday, September 19, 4-6 PM**

Please come join members of the Congregational Care Committee in the Fellowship Hall to make homemade cards for our members who are shut-ins, 90+ year-olds, and those in Assisted Living. We will be making Thanksgiving and Christmas cards, so we need a lot of people to help! We will probably be making over 60 cards! Bring your children to help in this fun and meaningful ministry! When we are finished, if anyone wants to go out to dinner we could certainly do that!

New Session Begins September 14

Ordination and installation of newly elected Ruling Elders will be on **Sunday, Sept. 14, at the 11 o'clock service.**

New elders and their committees are Victoria Esarey, Christian Education; Denny Casey, Mission; Cindy Edgerton, Worship; and Janet Fentress, Stewardship. Elders finishing their three-year terms are Nancy Baker, Lang Mauck, JoAnne Sanders, and Cathy Stone. Continuing elders are Nancy Moore, Evangelism and Outreach, Chris Beeler, Administration, Pearl Minter, Fellowship, Neil Tatum, Facilities, and Virginia Truitt, Congregational Care. Our deep appreciation is extended to all of them for their service.

Community Breakfast Sept. 20

Our monthly breakfasts on the third Saturday will resume on **Saturday, September 20, 7:00–10:00 AM**, in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed to help cook and clean up, or you are welcome to just come have breakfast and get to know our neighbors.

The Extended Table

Holy Communion is the sacrament that sustains and nourishes us in our journey of faith and salvation; therefore, the church must intentionally concern itself with those who are absent from the Lord's Table.

The purpose of The Extended Table ministry at First Presbyterian Church is to extend the Lord's Table, serving the sacrament of Holy Communion to all members of our worship community who are unable to attend church worship services due to physical or health constraints.

Ordained Elders and Deacons (currently serving or having served previously), along with the pastor, will go in teams to serve the consecrated elements of Holy Communion. Our homebound members will be served within three days of Holy Communion having been celebrated by the congregation during the worship service.



Best Wishes and Congratulations!

Anne Vipperman and Gene Madonia married June 28

Hayden Renz and Patton Smith married August 23

Vacation Bible School Was a Great Success!

WOW! What a great Bible School we had this year! We sang and danced and prayed and played. Our favorite friend was Rivet, a work ant, who visited every day and had fun with the kids. The mission project for this year was Habitat for Humanity. We raised \$200 in the little bird feeders for Habitat.

At 95 kids, we were just about the same as last year. Once again Christ's Church rolled in with bunches of helpers without whom we would not have been able to have this program. We counted about 18 other churches

that were represented at our program as well as many that did not list a church.

Before VBS began, Jo Dykes shared her wonderful artistic talent and time to help with some of the decorations. The crayon box and the paint brushes were awesome. Brooke and Chuck Cundiff also donated additional artistic talent and time helping get ready for VBS. Chuck's paint pallet was especially decorative. Many of our decorations were also used at the Methodist Church's VBS the following week.

Once again Bonnie Price did a fantastic job in the craft room. Her science demonstrations



were awesome as were Tyler Prices's Lego creations. Susan Smith was Bonnie's "right-hand woman" helping with all the crafts. Laura

Stevens spent several weeks painting scenery on tarps to make her Bible stories come alive. Mattie Wingfield painted all of the 5,000 people that Jesus fed. (We didn't officially count, but it was a lot!) Mattie also helped with the stories and moving scenery. JoAnne Sanders did all the planning and shopping for the snacks before having her knee operated on. Never fear, Wonder Pearl and husband Steve Minter saved the day and very ably ran the kitchen. Nancy Moore led the kids each day as they ate their snacks, except for Friday when Virginia Truitt stepped in. There was an awesome kitchen crew that came to help and, at the risk of leaving someone out, they included: Nancy Baker, Lang Mauck, Marge Dunn (of course!), JoAnna Wood, Connie Anderson, Patsy Stanley, Suzan Kirby, Cindy Franck and Virginia Truitt.

Co-leading in the four-year-old class was Carrie Wilson. What a cute class! Kym Tatum again led the third and fourth graders as they went from station to station. Brooke Cundiff did an amazing job with the 5th and 6th grad-

ers with no additional helpers. A new helper this year was Carol Belcher, friend of the Francks. She led the first graders very ably—including several lively boys—we didn't hear a thing out of them. Lynn Pritchett again helped to keep all the paperwork straight as well as helping with registration. Ashby Pinkard helped with registration on the first day. Barbara Tatum called numerous folks to remind them to sign up ahead of time and also fixed the name tags. Judy Ware came in every morning by 7:15 to set out breakfast snacks for the helpers. On Friday we had a special guest visit—Mrs. Carolyn Franck. She seemed to enjoy telling the kids that she used to teach me in Bible School a LONG time ago.

As for me I enjoyed watching the kids have fun and interacting with Rivet. Thanks to Tyler's technical expertise for making that possible even when I re-wrote the script. There were many helpers from other churches but I have named only those from First Presbyterian (I hope I didn't leave anyone out). It truly takes a village to make VBS a success!



Janet Fentress, VBS Coordinator

More Bible School photos may be found at <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/photoalbums.cfm?ID=237>

With Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Clint and Jenny Spivey on the death of Clint's grandfather on July 27.

In Memoriam

DORIS JENNIE DECKER MARSHALL
SEPTEMBER 6, 1925--JULY 27, 2014



Session Highlights for Stated Meetings

July 28, 2014

- Elders-elect Denny Casey, Cindy Edgerton, Victoria Esarey, and Janet Fentress were examined by the Session and their examination was upheld.
- The Pastor's severance package was reviewed and revised since Jenny Spivey has obtained a position in Virginia Beach as a Temporary Supply Pastor.
- The Session approved changes to the Manual of Operations for the Nominating Committee.
- The meeting was concluded with prayer at 8:50 p.m. with gifts and words of thanksgiving from the Session to Jenny as she moderated the last Session meeting of her ministry with FPC.

August 25, 2014

- Mark Hinchcliff moderated his first Session meeting for our congregation.
- Pastor Mark led the Session in devotion, an opening prayer, and a low-ropes challenge.
- A motion was approved to appoint Mary Lewis Johnston and Kelly Huff to serve as both teachers and co-directors of the Week-day School.

- The Session was informed of the October 19 barbecue picnic on the front lawn of the church, sponsored by the Fellowship and Congregational Care Committees. The cost will be \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, \$20.00 maximum per family.
- A motion was approved to create a policy of no unauthorized use of the playground from dusk to dawn, due to recent night-time activity. The Facilities Committee will research the mounting of a motion detector light.
- An ad hoc committee will be appointed to research signage and an informational church sign for the church.
- The Session approved the serving of communion on the first Sunday of each month and on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday.
- Nancy Moore was elected as Commissioner to the Presbytery meeting in October. Cindy Edgerton and Pearl Minter are alternates.
- The Session approved calling a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 7 after the 11:00 worship service to elect Billy Kirby as trustee to fill the unexpired term of Anne Abercrombie, who resigned.

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

STEEPLE VIEWS is published by First Presbyterian Church. Deadline for submission of articles is the 14th of each month. Email articles to Gael Chaney at fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com or leave in the church office. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

THE STAFF

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, pastormhinchcliff@gmail.com
Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist

CDMartinsville@aol.com

Sarah Altizer, Office Manager

sarahfpcoffice@gmail.com

Francia Brown, Bookkeeper

fpcfbrownbk@gmail.com

Address: 1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

Phone: 276-632-3431

Website:

<http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org>

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff
Clerk: Joan Montgomery
Administration Committee: Chris Beeler
Christian Education: Victoria Esarey
Congregational Care: Virginia Truitt
Evangelism & Outreach: Nancy Moore
Facilities: Neil Tatum
Fellowship: Pearl Minter
Mission: Denny Casey
Stewardship: Janet Fentress
Worship: Cindy Edgerton

EARLY WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Virginia King, Moderator

TRUSTEES

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