

STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH † OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014 † MARTINSVILLE, VA



Barbecue on the Church Lawn Sunday, October 19, 4:00-7:00 PM

What could be more exciting than joining together for food, games, music and fellowship on the front lawn of the church? The Congregational Care and Fellowship Committees invite you to a barbecue dinner with all the "fixin's" on Sunday, October 19. Steve Minter will be slow-cooking the barbecue so you know it will be outstanding! We will have all kinds of games for the children, youth and adults to play and musical entertainment by the Chancel Choir and Worship Band. Who knows what other surprises we may have in store! In event of rain, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall.

The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 and under, \$20.00 maximum for a family. Please put on your check memo line "BBQ" and how many will be attending. Money can be dropped off or mailed to the church office (attention Francia Brown) or placed in the offering plate, or contact Virginia Truitt (mbeachgalva@gmail.com or 276-634-5648) to reserve your place. We hope to see y'all there!

Spruce Up Our Buildings & Grounds for Fall October 18, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

The Facilities Committee needs everyone to help with our fall cleanup on October 18 from 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM. All hard-working volunteers will be treated to pizza for lunch. This is the same day as our Community Breakfast, so you can have both breakfast and lunch at church. Come one, come all and help spruce up First Presbyterian Church on October 18!



Behind-the-Scenes Tour and Lunch at VMNH Wednesday, October 15, 12 Noon



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Virginia Museum of Natural History? For those of you age 55 and over, now is your chance! The museum is offering our senior church members a FREE lunch and guided tour by our very own Jim Beard, thanks to a grant that the VMNH has received.

We will meet in the lobby of the museum, located at 21 Starling Ave., Martinsville, shortly before 12. This will be an excellent opportunity to ask questions and look at the workings of the museum. Please sign up by contacting Virginia Truitt (634-5648 or mbeachgalva@gmail.com) or Carrie Buffkin (lcbuffkin@gmail.com) so we can get a head count.

*Pastor's Corner***Disciples Wanted for Difficult Journey**

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me he must deny himself and take up the cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. For what good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." Luke 9:23-26

Men Wanted: For Hazardous Journey

**Small Wages, Bitter Cold, Long Months of Complete Darkness, Constant Danger
Safe Return Is Doubtful But Honor and Recognition In Case of Success!**

So what do you think? Would you sign up for this? This was an actual advertisement run by Sir Ernest Shackleton, an Irish-born explorer, to recruit men for an expedition across Antarctica in 1914. Believe it or not, twenty-seven men signed up, with no promise of success, to do just that!

In the Luke 9 passage in the beginning of this article it seems Jesus is asking his followers to do much the same thing, isn't he? What does it mean to pick up your cross? Are you ready to be persecuted, mocked, spit upon? The rewards Christians are promised, like those in Shackleton's ad, are not great wealth, but rather honor and remembrance in the Kingdom. The life of a Christian will be filled with darkness and danger but also fulfillment and joy in God's presence! So in these days to come for FPC Martinsville and this community, remember the journey may be difficult but truly worth the effort. Coming here has truly been worth the effort and the joy to serve each one of you and Christ. May God's blessing continue to follow us all in these days to come.



In Christ's Joyful Service,
Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark celebrating communion at his
installation service



Pastor Mark Hinchcliff was installed on Sept. 14 by a commission from Presbytery of the Peaks. Left to right: PNC Moderator Bob Davis, Pastor Mark, Dale Van Osten, Rev. Stephen Earl, Assoc. Presbyter for Ministry



IMPORTANT DATES*Every Week*

Sunday: Worship 8:30 & 11 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Youth Fun & Fellowship 2 PM

Monday: G.P.S., 3 PM

Tuesday: Sanctuary Ringers, 5:45 PM

Wednesday: Chancel Choir, 7 PM

OCTOBER

12 Faith & Film 6 PM Chapel

13 Congregational Supper 6 PM
Committee meetings 7 PM

14 Worship Band 7 PM

15 VMNH Tour (age 55+) &
lunch 12 Noon

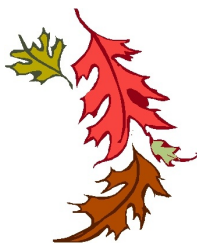
18 Free Community Breakfast,
7-10 AM

Fall Clean-up, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

19 Church family BBQ on the Lawn 4-7 PM

20 Cottage Place Dinner & Fellowship
5:30-7 PM

22 FPC staffs Grace Network Pumpkin Patch
11 AM-7 PM



23 Presbytery meeting, Raleigh Court PC

26 2-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering
Reformation Sunday

Laity Sunday 8:30 & 11 AM

Faith & Film 6 PM

27 Session meeting 7 PM

STEEPLE VIEWS deadline

28 Worship Band 7 PM

29 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 PM

NOVEMBER

2 Communion 8:30 & 11 AM

Stewardship Commitment Sunday
8:30 & 11 AM

Stewardship Reception 12 Noon

3 Pres. Women General Meeting 10 AM
Circle #3 with Sandra Ford 7 PM

4 Cooks Who Care 10 AM & 5:30 PM

9 Veterans Day Flag Ceremony 10:55 AM
Faith & Film 6 PM

10 Congregational Supper 6 PM
Committee Meetings 7 PM

Happy Birthday!

**SEPTEMBER**

26 Marian Campbell

OCTOBER

1 Andrew Price, Shane Pinkston

2 Myra Stegall

5 Nancy Baker, Mike Powell, John
Abercrombie

6 Jane Ford

8 Suzan Kirby

9 Cole Tatum

10 Grey Ferguson

11 Fran Hensley, Richard Lawhon

12 John Brown

14 Walt Seamon, Bennette Zentmeyer

15 Sarah Krauss, Joe Smith

16 Liz Knighton

18 Betty Hendricks

19 Mike Ware

21 Mary Page

23 Helen Hawkes, Nancy Brown

24 Virginia Zentmeyer

16 Jana Jennings, Melissa Jessup, Ralph
Shank, Jr.

28 Gwen Sowdon, Jenny Spivey

29 Walt Anderson

31 Rusty Lacy

NOVEMBER

3 Liz Ferrell, Bill Hensley

5 Neil Tatum

9 Donna Lawhon

10 Kathy Washburn

11 Leon Gunter, Elizabeth Wotring

18 Donna King

19 Susan Bowles

21 Henry Moore

23 Sue Benfield

24 Judy Ware

25 Jean Hill, Ed Pace

27 Leanna Blevins, Joe DeVault, Margaret
Knight, Analisa O'Toole

30 Steve Mahoney

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

Don't Forget!

Congregational Supper, Monday, October 13, 6:00 PM
Committee Meetings, 7:00 PM

*Focus on Stewardship***Stewardship: A Family Affair**

Yes, stewardship season is upon us. Each family has been mailed a letter requesting financial support for our church as well as a gift of time and talents. The enclosed pledge card is for your financial support. Hopefully, every member of your family will prayerfully consider some sort of support—even a child's 25¢ a week offering.

Many years ago, one of the greatest stewards of our church, Mary Lou Lacy (sister of Carolyn Franck), wrote a book primarily about stewardship entitled *Springboard to Discovery*. I will be quoting from this book again during this season. Here is one of her passages:

"How sure are we about how un-great we are? Something in us just unconsciously assumes ownership of God's possessions. So quickly we take His gifts as if they were ours all along, our rightful belongings, completely in our control. If we did this knowingly, on purpose, it would be far easier to change and give God the praise. But the very fact that our subconscious secret nature tells us that we rightfully own and are due these blessings requires a much greater housecleaning on our part. It's frightening to admit that we accept each evidence of God's goodness, each gift of love, and end up as richly endowed as He wants us to be but completely unaware of our dependence. This plays havoc with our worship or, if you want to call it by another name, our stewardship."

We have so much to be thankful for, especially this year with the arrival of our new pastor Mark Hinchcliff for whom we have been praying for two-and-a-half years. Our church has been richly blessed with many fine leaders such as Mary Lou, and we also have individually been blessed.

One of the most important days of our church is Commitment Sunday when we present our pledges for the coming year. **Commitment Sunday will be November 2**, when we will bring our cards promising to support our 2015 programs and mission. Pledge cards will be received during both services (8:30 and 11:00 AM). A celebration reception will be held immediately following the 11 o'clock service.

If you are unable to attend worship on November 2, please return your card to the church office as soon as possible. The Administration Committee plans to have a 2015 budget prepared early in December.

—Janet Fentress, Stewardship Moderator

*Our Condolences*

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Sarah "Vickie" Wells and family on the death of her husband, James Harold Wells ("Harold"), on Sept. 8.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Iliene Hite on the death of her sister, Edna Lawrence Rakes, on Sept. 5.



Focus on Mission**Free Community Breakfast Oct. 18**

Join the Mission Committee as they offer a free Community Breakfast on the third Saturday morning of each month, September through May, from 8:00 until 9:30. Volunteers are needed from 7:00 until 10:00 AM. Contact Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net) if you would like to help cook, serve, clean up or serve as hosts for our visitors.

Cottage Place Dinner & Fellowship Oct. 20

The Mission Committee will host residents and staff of Cottage Place group home, our neighbor on Church Street Ext., on Oct. 20, 5:30-7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this outreach ministry is to give the residents of Cottage Place a chance to socialize during a time away from their home. It is heartwarming to see how much they enjoy these evenings out and how appreciative they are of all that is done for them.

Help is needed in preparing meals for the clients and caregivers and providing prizes for winners of games. In addition, the group enjoys music as well as arts and crafts. If you have any ideas for a craft or music or could help with these any of the activities, contact Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net) or Nancy Moore (nbmoore@comcast.net, 732-3400) to volunteer.

Help Staff Grace Network Pumpkin Patch Oct. 22

Grace Network's annual Pumpkin Patch fund-raiser opened Monday, October 6. Our congregation is a partner of Grace Network, a crisis ministry and food bank, and we are in charge of staffing the booth on Wed., Oct. 22. Shifts will be for two hours each from 11 AM until 7 PM. The pumpkin patch is on Mulberry Road beside the First Baptist Church parking lot. Contact Milt Davis to volunteer (davistwo@comcast.net or 632-1403). Or just come out and buy a your Halloween pumpkin from Grace Network!

**Two Cents a Meal Offering Oct. 26**

Just two cents a meal. That's all the Presbytery of the Peaks is asking for in their efforts to combat hunger in our region. When each member of each congregation gives just two cents for each meal that we eat, it is amazing what God can accomplish through us. Our congregation collects this offering on the fourth Sunday of each month. Some of the money actually comes back to us for our Free Community Breakfasts.

New STEEPLE VIEWS Publication Schedule

STEEPLE VIEWS will now be published mid-month. The new deadline is the last Monday of each month, the same day as the Session meeting. Committee moderators, this means you can submit your report for the Session meeting to the clerk and to Steeple Views at the same time.

Some of the things we would like to include in our newsletter, besides announcements of upcoming events, are stories and photos of past events, personal stories of faith, births, baptisms, new members, weddings, graduations, milestone anniversaries, deaths, birthdays memorial gifts to the church (both monetary and tangible), and youth news.

Please email all items to fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

—Gael Chaney, Editor

Notes from the Music Department



The Choirs Invite You

Music is an important part of our worship, and our musical groups are back in full swing this fall. We appreciate the time and talents of all those who contribute in this way.

The **Chancel Choir**, a traditional choral group, prepares an anthem and benediction response for each 11 o'clock service. We rehearse at 7:00 PM every Wednesday in the Choir Room. We sing music in two, three, or four parts and can use any range of voice, especially tenors.

The **Worship (or Praise) Band**, a contemporary style group, leads the congregation in singing for each 8:30 service. We rehearse twice a month in the Chapel and need both singers and musicians. Our singing is normally in unison.

If you are out of town a lot on the weekends or cannot come to every rehearsal, do not think that you are unwelcome. Either choir would be happy to have short-term as well as long-term help. A solo voice is not a requirement. If you need help reading music, it will be provided. If you need child care, it can be arranged. Please come and help us praise God through music!

Musicians who are interested in playing service music (prelude or offertory) are also welcome to share their talents on any kind of instrument.

New Handbell Choir Forming

For Both Readers and Non-readers of Music

We are beginning an inter-generational handbell choir for those who have either a little experience playing bells or no experience at all. This group is open to anyone from children in grade 4 through adults. If you cannot read music, please join us anyway as basic music reading will be taught along with handbell technique.



Wendy Luther will be directing this group on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 PM if there are enough people interested to have a viable choir. Cynthia Dobrinski will help the group get started at a mini session on the weekend before the first Wednesday rehearsal.

The main requirement for handbell ringers is faithfulness in attendance. Unlike singing choirs, each individual is solely responsible for several notes, and if they are absent, those notes are not played.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please leave a message for Music Director Cynthia Dobrinski at the church at 632-3431 or email CDMartinsville@aol.com).



Best Wishes and Congratulations!

*to Ashley Irene Byrd and Jacob Adam Sanders
on their marriage on September 13 in our sanctuary*

Check the FPC Website!

Visit www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org for the latest information on happenings in our congregation and for the latest church calendar. There is no deadline for information for the website; email fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com as soon as you have anything.

*Session Highlights***Stated Meeting September 29, 2014**

- Mark Hinchcliff moderated the meeting that began at 7:00 PM with an opening prayer.
- Nancy Moore led the Session in a devotional.
- The Session accepted the pending retirement of Sarah Altizer. Information on celebrating her years of service with FPC is pending.
- A financial report was received from the Church Treasurer.
- The results of two e-votes were recorded: 1) to approve communion for Mark's installation on September 14 and 2) to approve additional hours for the bookkeeper and to hire assistance for the office when the office manager is out.
- The Session approved a dusk-to-dawn light for the church playground due to unauthorized after-hours activity.
- A new church informational sign was approved. The exact design will be presented to the Session for approval next month.
- The baptism of Davis James Peck was approved for October 12, 2014.
- Nancy Moore was elected as chair of the Nominating Committee for new elders and trustees.
- The Session approved the exploration of the Stephens Ministry that is formal training for church members to minister to terminally ill or grieving church members. Training is being offered in Greensboro in November. More information is forthcoming.
- A discussion was held about getting King's Grant members to church services. Mark will explore the possibilities of adding a chair lift to our van or hiring a driver for an already equipped van at King's Grant.
- Pastor Mark shared with the Session about improved church attendance, his visits with church members, youth activities, possible new church members, his new Sunday School class, and his weekly devotions with Weekday School staff and students. His feelings of positive happenings at FPC were affirmed by the Session.
- The meeting was concluded with prayer at 9:25 PM by the moderator.

—Joan Montgomery, Clerk of the Session



PNC Moderator Bob Davis (center) presenting Rev. Mark Hinchcliff (left) for installation as our new pastor. Commission members also included Nancy Baker, Dale Van Osten of Danville, Rev. Jane Johnson, Rev. Steve Earl, Rev. Nancy Dawson, Rev. Rusty Reaser, and Cindy Edgerton

Presbytery of the Peaks General Presbyter Nancy Dawson giving the charge to Pastor Mark at his installation on September 14 in our Sanctuary.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

Address Service Requested

STEEPLE VIEWS OCT.–NOV. 2014

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

STEEPLE VIEWS is published by First Presbyterian Church, 1901 Patrick Henry Ave., Martinsville, VA. Deadline for submission of articles to the church office is the last Monday of each month.

Email articles to Gael Chaney at
fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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SESSION

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Administration: 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

TRUSTEES

Dru Rothrock, Moderator

Anne Abercrombie, David Garland, Ed Linker, Bill

Manning, Kent Williams