

STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH † NOV.-DEC. 2014 † MARTINSVILLE, VA

Important Dates

EVERY WEEK

Sunday: Contemporary Worship 8:30
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Traditional 11 AM
Youth Fun & Fellowship 2 PM

Monday: G.P.S. 3 PM

Tuesday: Sanctuary Ringers 5:45 PM

Wednesday: Chancel Choir 7 PM

NOVEMBER

- 9 Prayer Shawl Dedication 11 AM
Faith & Film "Buena Vista Social Club"
6 PM
- 10 Congregational Supper 6 PM
Committee Meetings 7 PM
- 16 Reception for Sarah Altizer 12 Noon
- 15 Free Community Breakfast, serving
8:00-9:30 AM
Volunteers needed 7-10 AM
- 18 Worship/Praise Band 7 PM
- 23 Christ the King Sunday

- 23 SOSOS Donations Deadline
- 24 Session 7 PM
STEEPLE VIEWS Deadline for DEC-JAN
- 26 Bloodmobile volunteers 12 N-6 PM
- 27 Thanksgiving Day, church office closed
- 30 First Sunday of Advent
Advent Breakfast 9:45 AM
Hanging of the Greens, both services

DECEMBER

- 1 Circle meetings
Circle #3, 6:30 PM, covered dish at
Gael Chaney's home (638-3542)
- 7 G.P.S. children sing 11 AM
- 8 Congregational Supper 6 PM
Committee Meetings 7 PM
- 14 Christmas music program 3 PM
- 20 Free Community Breakfast
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM
- 25 Christmas Day, church office closed
- 31 Bloodmobile volunteers 12 N-6 PM



Sarah Is Retiring, Reception Nov. 16

Sarah Altizer is retiring after two decades as our Office Manager/Church Secretary. She has been the one who knows everything and keeps everything running smoothly, and we owe her our deep gratitude. Sarah will be honored for her dedicated service during 11 o'clock worship on Sunday, November 16, and at a reception immediately after the service. If you would like to help with the reception, contact Pearl Minter at pearlrm@centurylink.net.

Don't Forget Our Monthly Congregational Supper Nov. 10

Each month the entire congregation is invited to supper on the second Monday at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a birthday during the month, you're invited to sit at the Pastor's Birthday Table with Pastor Mark and his wife Tracy.

Church-wide committee meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Planning for future service and fellowship events happens at this time. All committees are looking for new members, so if you have a particular talent or interest, just stick around after supper.

*Pastor's Corner***"Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart"***Encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing.*

I Thessalonians 5:11

Mark Twain once said, "I can live two months on one good compliment." It's November already, the start of the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent. Both seasons signal a time to prepare our hearts to be grateful for what God has provided. Sometimes one of the most welcomed of God's gifts is affirming people.

In my role as your pastor, hospital and home visits are not just a part of my job description but a fulfilling perk to be able to provide some comfort for others during anxious times. Because I enjoy this part of my ministry, I don't consider these visits a chore. Any extra show of appreciation always comes as a surprise! Last month I experienced just such a surprise. I received a simple note of thanks from a hospitalized church member with a heartfelt thank-you on behalf of the caregiver for easing their anxiety during the experience. I was amazed at how much that simple affirmation lifted my spirits that day.

No matter how much we tell others we don't need any thanks, we all do! Be liberal with gifts of encouragement and gratitude and always be on the lookout for opportunities to lift someone's spirits. I myself don't do near what I should to thank those personally for blessing my days, and I vow to do better in the future!

So for those of you I have forgotten to thank, I ask for your forgiveness. In this article I have intentionally not included names for fear of leaving someone out, but know how much I appreciate each of you! If there is someone in your life who needs your encouragement, affirmation, or thanks today, the time for your action is now. Oh, by the way, be sure the first one on your thank-you list every day is God, for life is empty without Him!

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

**Faith & Film "Buena Vista Social Club" Nov. 9, 6 PM**

Victoria Esarey invites everyone to Faith & Film on Sunday, November 8, at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. We will be viewing the movie "Buena Vista Social Club," about musicians in Cuba and the wonderful music they made.

**Advent Is Just Around the Corner**

The first Sunday of Advent is **November 30**, and two very special events are planned for that morning. Hanging of the Greens will be done at both services, 8:30 AM in the Chapel, and 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Christmas decorations will be hung while their meaning for Christians is prayerfully expounded.

Between services, you are all invited to enjoy our traditional Advent Breakfast at 9:45 AM. Everyone can participate in decorating the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall during this time. Bring an ornament representing your family or hang one that you've donated in the past. This is especially fun for children!

*A Caring Congregation***Save Our Stressed-Out Students!**

With exams just around the corner, stress levels at campuses across the country are ramping up. To carry out our mission to "nurture each other" with our FPC college and boarding school students, the Congregational Care committee is again undertaking Project SOSOS (Save Our Stressed Out Students). The committee is in the process of putting together exam care packages that will be mailed to our FPC college and boarding school students in the coming weeks. If you would like to help with Project SOSOS, donations of the following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Packs of crackers/cookies/peanuts (Lance cheese crackers, etc)
- Individually wrapped granola bars
- Packs of gum
- Microwave popcorn
- Individually wrapped peppermints or candies
- Travel size hand sanitizer
- Post It Notes
- Pens and highlighters
- Money to help with the mailing costs



You can put your donations in the large red bucket in the Session Room. Donated items will need to be received no later than Sunday, November 23. If you choose to donate funds, please note Congregational Care-SOSOS on the memo line.

If you have questions, please contact Susan Pilson at 276-340-7288, susanpilson@gmail.com or Judy Ware at je_ware@yahoo.com. Let's all join together to "show the love" to our FPC students and make Project SOSOS a great success!

Adopt-a-Student Ministry

Hello FPC Adoptive Parents,

Our college students are well into their first semester at school. How is everyone doing? Have you heard? If you have had any contact information problems, please let me know. We welcome any feedback or news from our precious students.

—Judy Ware

**Christmas Poinsettia Project**

As part of our goal to fulfill the church mission to "nurture each other," the Congregational Care Committee will deliver poinsettias in December to church members who may not be able to get out regularly, to those who may be ill, and to those who may need a reminder that they are loved.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, we'll provide the poinsettia. All you need is to let us know that you will take time to visit a fellow member. Our time is, after all, one of the greatest gifts we can give this season! To volunteer or find out more, please contact Carrie Buffkin (lcbuffkin@gmail.com) or Leanna Blevins (224-3143 or blevinsleanna@yahoo.com).

Prayer Shawl Dedication Nov. 9 We Need More Knitters!

In less than two years the Prayer Shawl Ministry has given over 150 shawls to those needing comfort, for joyous occasions, and for caregivers. We are a small group who knit shawls, mostly at home, to present to the congregation for prayer and dedication. The next dedication will be Sunday, November 9 at the 11:00 AM Service. The shawls are given to anyone in need, whether a church member or not. We knit because we care and it is our privilege to bring some comfort and care to those who need it.



We need more shawls, which means we need more knitters. Our current knitters are Connie Anderson, Pat Baumann, Gael Chaney, Brooke Cundiff, Helen Flythe, Sandra Ford, Jean Hill, Joan Montgomery, Cathy Stone, Jane Townsend, and Virginia Truitt. We meet in the Session Room the last Wednesday of each month at 5:30; a light supper is provided. Several of our members came to us as non-knitters and

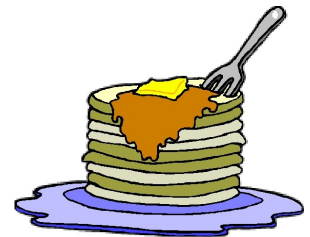
are now contributing beautiful shawls.

If you knit or crochet, or would like to learn to knit, and feel you would like to be a part of this ministry, just show up in the Session Room on the last Wednesday of the month. You don't have to commit to attend each meeting, just knit a shawl for someone who needs the comfort that a prayer shawl provides. For more information, contact any member of this group. We need you!

Together in Mission

Community Breakfast Nov. 15

Our next Free Community Breakfast will be Saturday, November 15, in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast is served from 8:00 until 9:30 AM. Volunteers are needed to help get ready beginning at 7:00, as well as afterward for cleanup. You are also invited to come just to enjoy the meal and fellowship. This is not a mission project that we are doing "to help the poor" but something we do together to get to know and understand our neighbors and to reach out in friendship. Contact Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net) for more information.



Bloodmobile Volunteers Needed Nov. 26 & Dec. 31

The Red Cross needs volunteers and donors on two Wednesdays, November 26 (the day before Thanksgiving) and December 31 (New Year's Eve). These dates take the place of our regular fourth-Thursday assignment due to holidays. Anyone who can help please contact Nancy Baker (638-7923, nbaker08@comcast.net) or Denny Casey (632-8306, d.a.casey@comcast.net).



Pick an Angel from the Angel Tree in November

For several years, our congregation has generously participated in an Angel Tree Project through the Mission Committee. This year is no different.

Counselors and staff at Patrick Henry Elementary School and Albert Harris Elementary School select deserving students who may not be eligible to receive support from other agencies. Each school chooses three students, and we provide four gifts for each one and for each of their siblings. In addition, each family receives a food basket.

The Angel Trees, which were made by Clyde Hill, will be in the Narthex, in the hallway outside the Sanctuary, and in the Chapel hallway for the 8:30 service on **November 16, 23, and 30**. Each angel shows a suggested gift. The families are color-coded. Take one or more angels and sign the sheet with your name and phone numbers beside the number for each angel you selected.

Wrapped gifts should be placed in the Session room or office by **December 8**. Turn in monetary donations to the office with checks marked "Angel Tree." Baskets and gifts will be delivered December 16. Thank you for your generous support of this project.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to

Anne and Bill Peterson on the death of their daughter-in-law

Christine Peterson on Oct. 22 in Hickory, NC

Frances Leavitt on the death of her sister Harrison Shackelford

Chapman on Oct. 28 in Spartanburg, SC

Margaret Knight on the death of her sister



Fellowship

Sunday Morning Fellowship Help Needed

Every Sunday between the worship services and Sunday School, members and visitors are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, juice, and a light snack. The Fellowship Committee needs volunteers to help provide the refreshments. Please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen. Coffee for brewing is provided in the kitchen, and instructions for making coffee are posted beside the coffee maker. Volunteers are asked to bring juice and a snack. Thank you to all of you who are already doing this, and thank you to our new volunteers!

Worship

Flowers Needed for the Sanctuary

The Flower Committee is looking for donations of memorial/honorary flowers for the Sanctuary for the following Sundays: November 16, 23, and 30. Also, all of 2015 is open. Flowers may be a fresh arrangement, or if the donor prefers, a monetary donation may be made to the church in any amount and one of our silk flower arrangements used. Anyone interested in placing flowers should contact Elizabeth (Liz) Harris (634-7527 or lizfharris@gmail.com) to have your name added to the list.





- 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



- 1 Anne Vipperman Madonia
- 3 Dru Rothrock,
- 4 Ashby Pritchett
- 5 Mary Mac Knighton
- 6 Ken Wilson, Keith Sanders
- 8 Lyn Davis
- 9 Joan Montgomery, Chris Wingfield, Jack Adkins
- 10 Marion Miller
- 11 John Kuhn
- 14 Mervin King
- 15 Kim Boyd
- 17 Matthew Mason
- 18 Bill Kirby
- 20 Claire Adkins
- 22 Vera Jane Kuhn, Grayson Russell
- 24 Jackie McLachlan
- 26 Smith Chaney
- 27 Nancy Moore, Cathy Stone, Gael Chaney
- 28 Doc Altizer, Brenda Williams
- 29 Ken Smith, Denise Unterbrink, Lucy Wilson



The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated on October 12 for Davis James Peck, infant son of Jared and Jamie Eden Peck.

Reserve Rooms in the Church Office

Anyone who wants to use the Parlor, Fellowship Hall, or any other room in the church building needs to sign up in advance in the church office to avoid conflicts.

Central Calendar

The calendar on the wall in the church office is the official calendar for the church. Please make sure all events are recorded on it, especially if you want them printed in the church bulletin.

Trunk or Treat!



It was a beautiful fall afternoon for Trunk or Treat on October 26. We had an abundance of cars, candy, and kids—even a dog! Above, Hippie Laura Stevens hands out flowers instead of candy.

Session Highlights for Stated Meeting October 27, 2014

- Mark Hinchcliff moderated the meeting that began at 7:00 pm. with an opening prayer.
- Denny Casey led the Session in a devotional.
- The Session approved the hiring of Rita Bateman as Church Secretary/Office Manager, beginning October 27, 2014, due to the retirement of Sarah Altizer.
- A financial report was received from the Church Treasurer.
- A motion was made and approved to continue the six-year rule of limiting membership in church committees.
- A report was received about attending the October Presbytery meeting from Pearl Minter and Pastor Mark.
- It was reported that volunteers will be solicited from the congregation to drive the Kings Grant van on Sundays to bring residents to church.
- It was noted that this Sunday, November 2, is Commitment Sunday when church members pledge financially to the church.
- It was reported that there will be one Christmas Eve Service this year at 7:00 PM
- Committee reports were received from each moderator about decisions made or upcoming events.
- Pastor Mark shared with the Session about improved church attendance, his visits with church members, youth activities, Sunday School, upcoming church conferences for youth and his recent weekend with middle school students at the Mt. Bethel retreat. He continues to feel very positive about the direction of the church and our church members.
- The meeting was concluded with prayer at 10:00 PM by the moderator.

—Joan Montgomery, Clerk of the Session

More Trunk or Treat Fun!



Tracy and Pastor Mark, a.k.a. Butterfly Lady and Scarecrow





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue

Martinsville, VA 24112

Address Service Requested

STEEPLE VIEWS

November-December 2014

First Class Postage

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

STEEPLE VIEWS is published by First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Virginia. Deadline for submission of articles is the last Monday of each month. Email articles to fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com (Gael Chaney, Editor) or turn in a paper copy to the church office. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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Mary Lewis Johnston and Kelly Huff, Weekday School Directors

SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Joan Montgomery

Committee Moderators

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; David Garland, Billy Kirby, Ed Linker, Bill Manning, Kent Williams