

# STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH † FEBRUARY 2015 † MARTINSVILLE, VA



## *Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service February 18 in our Sanctuary*

Our congregation is partnering with several area churches for a series of Lenten Services beginning with **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, in our Sanctuary at 7:00 PM.

On **Wednesday, February 25**, Broad Street Christian Church will host a service and lunch at **12 noon**.

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### *Pastor's Corner*

#### **Doing the Lord's Business**

*May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful in His promises. I Thessalonians 5:23-24*

There is a story told of a parson who was visited by an anxious parishioner, shouting, "Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! What should we do? What should we do?" Calmly, the parson replied, "Look busy, look busy." Although the returning or coming of the Lord is certainly the main thrust of this passage in I Thessalonians, the parson's response really misses the mark. While "busyness" is the order of the day for those awaiting the return of Christ, it's not "looking busy" but the activity itself. More aptly, it's doing the Lord's "busyness," not business as usual.

But what does "busy for the Lord" include? Anticipating Christ's return, among such "busyness," Paul tells his Thessalonian readers in verses 12-22 to get their lives in order, "Be at peace yourselves, admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repay evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all situations; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise the work of the prophets but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil."



If we as Christians would follow such directions we would not only look busy but would actually be busy! We could be busy doing "the work of the church" rather than convincing ourselves that by doing "church work" we must be doing God's will! In the beginning of this new calendar year, make it your "business" to be "busy for the Lord" for the rest of your years!

Blessings,

*Pastor Mark*

## Congregational Supper February 9, 6:00 PM Committee Meetings at 7:00 PM

All those with February birthdays are invited to sit at the Pastor's Birthday Table.

### Using Beautiful Music to Make Beautiful People

My name is Tracee Prillaman and I am the co-founder and Executive Director of Da Capo Virginia, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit music school, founded in 2006 in Richmond, VA. Da Capo VA offers musical training in a community-based, passion-driven approach via choruses, coaching, small ensembles and public performances.

Since my family's relocation to Martinsville from Richmond this past summer, I have had the pleasure of working with Pastor Mark and members of the Session to discuss potential facility usage and partnership in order to launch an additional Da Capo site here in Martinsville.



I am beyond thrilled to announce the introduction of a new Da Capo VA chapter here in Martinsville that will partner with First Presbyterian Church! I cannot tell you how excited I am for our future students to "love, learn, and live" their music at First Presbyterian—what a warm, inviting, and well suited facility that will meet our needs in a unique way. Additionally, we hope to bring mutual benefit to First Pres. through increased visibility in the community.

Our model of inclusionary excellence provides elite choral training and more for students of all ability levels, including those with special needs. Ensembles will rehearse on Tuesday evenings: Animato for students grades 3-5, Cantare for students grades 6-12, and Vivo for students with special needs ages 6-18. Instruction will begin in the next few weeks...be on the lookout for specific dates, times, and pricing. In the meantime, take a look at our website ([dacapova.org](http://dacapova.org)), our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/user/DaCapoVa](https://youtube.com/user/DaCapoVa)), and our Facebook page ([facebook.com/DaCapoVa](https://facebook.com/DaCapoVa)) to get a glimpse of our organization!

Thank you for your generosity as we work together to bring musical excellence to a region with such incredible potential! Feel free to contact me at any time...  
[traceep@dacapova.org](mailto:traceep@dacapova.org).

Most appreciatively,

*Tracee Prillaman*, Executive Director Da Capo Virginia

*Editor's Note:* The Session approved the use of church facilities by Da Capo Virginia at a called meeting on January 7. Da Capo Virginia was founded by Jeff Prillaman, a Henry County native, and his wife Tracee. Jeff and Tracee are both graduates of Westminster Choir College; Jeff also earned a Master of Music from the Julliard School in New York.

On January 18, Da Capo Virginia singers from Richmond presented a concert of beautiful choral music in our Sanctuary. The program included a variety of popular and classical songs sung by children in the Animato and Cantare age groups.

## Letter of Thanks

To FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Martinsville,  
And especially The Prayer Shawl Ministry,

While I do not know your names, that has not lessened the impact of your ministry. Likewise, you may not know my name either. Yet our paths have crossed and through Christ you have reached out to me. Isn't it wonderful to serve a savior who does know us, cares for us, and calls us by name?

Your ministry has brought warmth and healing. Not just physical healing but also mental and spiritual healing as well. After my recent accident, the "What if, What next, and How now?" were tugging at my thought processes. Within a couple of days a truly uplifting message came to me from your group. What a wonderful reminder it was of the power of prayer. And that our health and well-being comes from above. Thanks Be to GOD!

Please accept my heart-felt Thank You and appreciation for all the Christian Love you have extended to me. Know your prayers have been heard and answered according to his will. GOD bless you as you continue his will and yield to his calling and a life of service.

Thanks for all you do.

*Cary Proctor*

(Whom you may know through Donna and Grace Network)



## Prayer Shawl Ministry Needs Knitters

We're running out of prayer shawls, and we'd love to teach you how to knit. The shawls are easy to make: there's no pattern to follow, and you can do a plain knit for starters. Join us on the **last Wednesday of each month at 5:30** in the Session Room. We have knitting needles and plenty of donated yarn, so it won't cost anything to begin. If you can't meet with us, contact Joan Montgomery ([jandmmontgo@embarqmail.com](mailto:jandmmontgo@embarqmail.com) or 632-1157), and we'll arrange for a lesson at a more convenient time.

If you crochet instead of knit, you can crochet prayer shawls—we're not picky! Of course, whether you knit or crochet, most of it is done outside the meeting. When we get several shawls finished, we will hold a short dedication during a worship service, tie them up with ribbons and attach our special prayer message. If you know of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, just sign it out in the notebook in the former Associate Pastor's office.



*Best Wishes and Congratulations!*

*to Mary Mac Knighton and J. J. Keith*

*who were married in our Sanctuary on January 17*

## Cooks Who Care Tuesday, February 3, 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Come to the Marge Dunn Kitchen and help prepare meals to take to anyone who needs one or help deliver meals.

## Free Community Breakfast, February 21, 8:00–9:30 AM

Volunteers are needed from 7:00–10:00 AM. Help prepare food, set up or clean up, or visit with our guests.

### Mission

#### Angel Tree Project Thank-You Letters

Ever wonder why we participate in the Angel Tree project or what impact it has? Well, if you've ever had a doubt, please read a few notes from some of this year's recipients:

From a young girl:

"THANK YOU SO MUCH for helping us with chirsmas this year

Thank you

Thank you for your help"

"My name is (girl),

I thank you for what you are doing this Christmas. I don't know if we would have a Christmas without your support. This should be my best Christmas yet! Thank you with all my heart. Thank you"

And this from one of the parents:

"Hello,

I would like to thank you and your members for the blessing that you have bestowed upon our family this holiday season. We would not have been able to enjoy our Christmas without your help. May God continue to bless you so that you are able to bless others.

May God bless you,

(a mother and father)

Every time I read these I smile with a warm feeling in my heart. We did make a difference! Thanks, everyone who helped with the project this year! Whether you bought a present, made a donation, shopped for the presents, delivered the gifts, or helped in some other way. And a big thank you to Nancy Baker for coordinating and leading our efforts. As we go through the year, if you ever need a boost, just think of the people we reached, the good will we spread, and the work that we carried out in the name of God!

—Denny Casey, Mission Moderator



### Christian Education

#### Faith & Film on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Afternoons

Victoria Esarey will host Faith & Film on the second and fourth Sundays each month. You are invited to gather in the Chapel to enjoy a popular movie and popcorn and take part in discussing the film afterward. Watch the Sunday worship bulletin, weekly email and church web site for announcements of film titles and show times.



*The Sympathy of the Congregation* is extended to English Ford's wife Jane and brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Sandra Ford.

### **Gifts to the Memorial Fund**

In Memory of Frank and Margaret Foard by Neil and Ann Fowser

In Memory of Judge J. English Ford by

Walter and Sarah Altizer

Nancy Baker

Worth Harris Carter, Jr.

Marjorie Dunn

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Flythe

Linda G. Freeman

J. Martin and Cynthia Ford

William C. Garrett, Jr.

Irving M. Groves, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Kiser, Jr.

George W. Lester II

Myrtis J. Lester

Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Smith

Dee and Bill Smith

Drs. Thomas and Denise Unterbrink

In Honor of Smith and Gael Chaney's birthdays by Irving M. Groves, Jr.



### *Stewardship*

#### **Pledges Short of Budget**

Thank you to all those who made a pledge to our church for 2015. We now have pledges in the amount of \$297,192. However, we are still short of meeting our budget by almost 18,000. There are many exciting things going on at First Presbyterian Church and your contribution will help ensure the success of all the activities. If you have not turned in a pledge card yet, it is not too late. Just putting money in the offering plate each week (or whenever you are there) is helpful but does not replace the discipline of a pledge. Knowing how much money to expect helps our church better keep up with expenditures.

—Janet Fentress, Stewardship Moderator



## Cottage Place Outreach February 16, 5:30 PM

This is a joint project of the Mission and Evangelism/Outreach Committees. Contact Nancy Moore (nbmoore@comcast.com) or Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net) to help with the dinner and activities for our friends from Cottage Place group home.

### Pregnancy Care Center Requests Help

Pregnancy Care Center of Martinsville-Henry County is a grassroots ministry designed to assist a woman and significant others in her life in the challenge of an unplanned pregnancy. We provide accurate information, emotional and material support to enable her to carry her baby to term. Visit our web site for more information: [www.pregcc.com/](http://www.pregcc.com/)



You can use your Kroger Rewards card to donate to the Pregnancy Care Center by registering for the Community Rewards program. Go to the web site [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and follow the instructions to set up an account. Enter the number 83286 for Pregnancy Care Center. If you are already registered, sign in and enter the same number to benefit PCC. Each year in April you will need go online and remind Kroger that you still want the Pregnancy Care Center to be the organization of your choice.

Here are a few other things you can do to help this mission: Have a baby shower for the PCC, sponsor a diapers and wipes drive, host a Baby Bottle Boomerang (a large bottle to collect change at your place of business), donate clothing, baby items, monetary gifts, gift cards, or anything else you think our clients could use, give a set of Bible study materials, volunteer as a client advocate, bookkeeper, or baby boutique helper. Call the Pregnancy Care Center at 276-634-5433 to help.

—Dr. Charles Marshall, Board Member

### Boy Scout Sunday Is February 8



The Boy Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God." These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith. The Scout Sunday tradition was started in the mid-1940s to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their Duty to God pledged each week.

The Boy Scouts of America was founded on February 8, 1910, and Scouts celebrate this anniversary annually. Scout Sunday is always the Sunday on or preceding February 8th. The Saturday following February 8th is Scout Sabbath. This year Scout Sunday falls on the actual 105th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

Our congregation sponsors Cub Scout Pack 61. They will be joining us for worship on Scout Sunday. For many years, we sponsored Boy Scout Troop 61, which is not currently active. It can be reactivated in the future if there are boys and leaders interested.

# Happy February Birthdays!

1 Logan Jennings  
 2 David Seamon  
 3 Harold Lamm  
 5 Michael Mason  
 6 Charlie Miller  
 7 Mason Wood  
 8 Frances Leavitt, Guy Stanley

9 Marshall Chaney  
 11 Jo Dykes  
 13 Connie Anderson  
 15 Bob McLachlan  
 17 Jake Sanders  
 19 Zack Sanders, Sandra Ford  
 20 Mary Layton Truitt

## Valentine Cookies for College Students

For many years, Presbyterian Women have sent cookies to our college and graduate students, as well as active-duty military personnel. This year, we will pack the cookies on **Sunday, February 8, at 1:30 PM**. Please leave cookies in the kitchen before this time or come help us pack boxes in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.

The best cookies for mailing are brownies and bars of all kinds. Small Valentine candies are also appreciated because they help fill in the small spaces between the cookies. If you have a student (or are a student) who would like to receive cookies, please email Janet Fentress with their mailing address for packages ([jpfentress@hotmail.com](mailto:jpfentress@hotmail.com)) or call the church office at 632-3431.



### Evangelism & Outreach

#### Changes Ahead for Church Communications

We would all like to thank Forrest Truitt for his faithful service each week emailing the latest church news in the e-News Weekly, plus urgent announcements, over the last three and a half years. Now business and other commitments make it necessary for him to step down.

Beginning Feb. 1, Gael Chaney will be taking over the weekly email duties. ALL church news, whether for weekly emails, the church web site, or STEEPLER VIEWS, should be emailed to [fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com), or you may drop it off at the church in writing if you don't have email. Postcards will be mailed occasionally between issues of STEEPLER VIEWS to active church members who don't have email. *Please help us save money on copying and postage by sending us your email address.*

Please continue to send information for the Sunday worship bulletins to Rita Bateman (632-3431 or [ritaofficefpc@gmail.com](mailto:ritaofficefpc@gmail.com)) in the church office. For the latest updates, visit our website: [www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org).

The STEEPLER VIEWS deadline for the March issue is **February 10**. In addition to news, we invite stories of members' faith journeys (not long), photos, and book reviews.

### Christmas Letter from Former Bridge Pastor Jenny Spivey

Pastor Jenny sent her family Christmas letter to our church office; a copy of it is posted on our web site and will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/documents/SpiveyXmasLetter.pdf](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/documents/SpiveyXmasLetter.pdf)



2014 Christmas Eve Service

OH, WHAT A YEAR!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

With joy and love from the Spiveys  
Clint, Jenny, Gwendolyn and Eleanor

STEEPLE VIEWS is published by First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Virginia. Email articles to [fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto: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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#### SESSION

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Administration: Chris Beeler

Christian Education: Victoria Esarey

Congregational Care: Virginia Truitt

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Fellowship: Pearl Minter

Mission: Denny Casey

Stewardship: Janet Fentress

Worship: Cindy Edgerton

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