



**Presbyterian Web Sites:**

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org](http://www.peakspresbytery.org)  
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: [www.synatlantic.org](http://www.synatlantic.org)  
Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)  
Pby. Disaster Assistance: [www.pcusa.org/pda/](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/)  
Presbyterian Today: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today](http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/today)  
Pby. News Service: [www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem](http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/brief.hem)

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Church Web Site <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>



*Join us for a cup  
of coffee every Sunday  
morning in the kitchen  
before Church School*



*Our Web Site:* [www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org)  
*Phone:* 276-632-3431 *Fax:* 276-632- 3802  
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Return Address Requested

STEEPLEVIEWS

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MARTINSVILLE, VA  
PERMIT NO. 108



*Our Mission is to:  
Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other.*

# STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

November, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

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## **From My Perspective Within The Kingdom**

As I write this article, we have just celebrated Laity Sunday in the life of our church (and Youth Sunday was the previous month). Besides having the day off from leading in worship (which I love to do), it was a real joy for me to see our church members “living their faith out loud.” I was proud of them, and I was also deeply appreciative of their faith in action.

I am reminded of an article in my files in which Stanley M. Hauerwas talks about Lay Sunday at his church. “Three of our laity testified as part of our worship. The first one was a young mother, wife of an intern, who had three children. She had been raised Roman Catholic, in Alabama. Now a Methodist, she told us that her life mainly involved bringing up their children as part of the Church by teaching them the stories of the Bible, by bringing them to church to be reminded of their Baptism, and helping them learn what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. She said, ‘I know that it is not much, but right now I think that’s what God wants me to do.’”

“Next was a young man. He had a job in a state agency – a bureaucrat. He said that he had to come to church because he has to be reminded that Christians do not lie. He has to be reminded of that because he said every day at his job he is surrounded with lies and it’s so hard to resist not becoming part of the system of lies. So he comes each Sunday in hopes of renewing his speech so he will not lie on the job. This may not contribute to his advancement, but he would rather be a Christian.

“Finally, an elderly widow in the congregation testified that for her Christianity and quilting were closely connected. She told us how during World War II she had served in the Navy as a cryptographer to break down the codes of the Japanese Navy. She said she’d really never thought during that time about the people that they were fighting. However, now she ran an international quilting bee which attracted many graduate student spouses from the nearby university. In the process, she had met several young Japanese women who were anxious to learn the art of quilting, and through them she had discovered Japanese Christianity. In the process she had gained a sense of the horror of what it meant for us to drop the atomic bomb on Japan. She continued that even though it may not seem like much, she found her quilting a way to be tied to Christians around the world. She noted that, though it might be silly, the quilters thought they ought to do something to suggest that commitment. So a number of the quilting societies encouraged their members to do 3 by 5 quilts and come to Washington and surround the Pentagon with their quilts. That was the way she made a contribution to the world as a Christian.” (Stanley M. Hauerwas and William H. Willimon, *Where Resident Aliens Live*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1996)

My hat is off to church members everywhere, who, in their own quiet way, are effective witnesses to their Lord and their faith to their family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and community. I am grateful for all of the saints, who strive to make a difference in the life of the world because of their belief in Jesus Christ. And, I especially appreciate and am profoundly grateful for our own members, who are involved in the life of our congregation and the larger community. Thanks be to God for your faithful witness, wherever you are, in whatever you do.

In Christ’s love,  
Randy

**Word from the Associate Pastor:  
Jenny Spivey**

**Special Children and Parents Sunday School - November 6, 2011**

All children, ages preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, and their parents are invited to join in a special Sunday School event on November 7, during the 9:45 Sunday School hour, in the Children's Sunday School room. We will be learning about Stewardship, that is, how we use the resources (time, talents and treasure) we are given in ways that honor and serve God.

**Sunday School series for Youth and Adults:**

Advent in Scripture and Song- November 27, December 11 and 18 Coming this Advent: come and explore the lectionary Scripture passages for the season of Advent and experience the story anew as it resonates through popular songs and music videos. Jenny Spivey will lead the study, with lots of class participation encouraged! We will meet in the Youth Room in the hallway below the sanctuary during the 9:45 Sunday School hour. Everyone welcome!

**Youth Group in November**

*Sunday, November 6, 5:30-7:00 p.m.,* Youth Group at church-pack shoeboxes for *Operation Christmas Child* service project! \*Please be collecting items and shoeboxes to bring in!

*Sunday, November 13, 5:30-7:00pm,* Youth Group at church, possible continue the *Operation Christmas Child* packing (if we didn't finish the week before), or other program TBA.

*Friday night, November 18, approx. 6:00pm - Saturday November 19, 7:00am -* Youth Lock-In! Traditionally we meet at church, go to dinner and movie, then return to the church for all night fun! More details forthcoming!

*Sunday, November 20, 5:00pm Church-wide Advent Workshop*-there will be craft

projects available for people of all ages, and a delicious chili supper. Bring the whole family!

*Sunday, November 27,* No Youth Group - Happy Thanksgiving Weekend!



**Happy Birthday in November to.....**

3 Liz Ferrell, Bill Hensley, Mildred Moorman

5 Neil Tatum

8 Donna Lawhon

10 Kathy Washburn

11 Leon Gunter, Elizabeth Wotring

13 David McConnell

16 Sharon Rakes

18 Ruth Easley, Donna King,

19 Susan Bowles

21 Jim Baker, Henry Moore

22 Cliff Campbell

23 Sue Benfield

24 Judy Ware

25 Jean Hill, Ed Pace

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

28 Katie Krauss

30 Steve Mahoney

**and in December to.....**

1 Anne Vipperman

2 Margaret Hotchkiss, Erik Stegall

3 Dru Rothrock

4 Ashby Pritchett

5 Mary Mac Knighton

6 Ken Wilson, Keith Sanders, Katherine Lester

8 Lyn Davis

9 Joan Montgomery, Chris Wingfield, Jack Adkins

10 Betsy Haskins, Marion Miller

**Honorarium**

Donation from Mrs. Margaret Ann Irby in honor of June Irby on their fourteenth wedding anniversary.

**Congratulations** to Sam and Sarah Kirby on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Afton Walker Kirby, October 8, 2011, in Washington, DC. Bill and Suzan Kirby are the proud grandparents!

**Congratulations** to Darrin and Rebecca Allen on the birth of their son, William Jasper Allen, on October 24, 2011, in Greensboro, NC. Doc and Sarah Altizer are the proud grandparents!

### **Thanksgiving Worship Service**

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church has invited us to their Thanksgiving evening service of praise and communion. Randy has been invited to bring the message and administer the sacrament. One of the things we need to do in the Martinsville community is have more opportunities for joint worship and Thanksgiving is an excellent time to develop this kind of sharing. The worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. on November 23, in the Forest Hills' sanctuary. We are asked to bring canned goods for Grace Network. Let's all go worship with our friends at Forest Hills and help our needy friends in the community! "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto Me!"

## **The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse"**

### The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir will present a Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday evening, December 18, at 7 o'clock.

The service be presented in several sections with a reading and congregational hymn for most sections. The scriptures will be read by Judy Mattox, Jim Beard, John Bowles, Lang Mauck, Rusty Reaser, and Ed Linker. Randy Stevens, Pastor, and Jenny Spivey, Associate Pastor, will offer the prayers and transitions within the service.

The service will begin with the Prelude, played by Cynthia Dobrinski. The choir will process to the hymn-anthem "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence", arranged by Sandra Ford. The Prophecy scripture will be read by Judy Mattox, followed by an arrangement of "Comfort, Comfort", by John Ferguson. The Annunciation scripture will be read by Jim Beard with the carol, "There is no rose of such virtue", by John Joubert. Mary Ann McConnell will read the Birth scripture followed by, "The Coventry Carol", by Mark Sedio. A repeat anthem, by Craig Courtney, "While Shepherds Late-ly Knelt", will be sung after the Angels and Shepherds Scripture. The congregation will join the choir in singing Hal Hopson's arrangement of, "Silent Night, Holy Night." Lang Mauck will read the scripture about the Wise Men and the choir will sing John Rutter's, "Three Kings of Orient". The familiar text, "Love Came Down At Christmas", set by Daniel E. Gawthrop, follows the Incarnation scripture, read by Rusty Reaser. As a response to the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication, the choir will sing, "Gloria In Excelsis", by Antonio Vivaldi. Ed Linker will read the Simeon and the Child scripture followed a setting of, "Nunc Dimittis", by Robert Scholz. Following the Choral Benediction, which will be, "The Clare Benediction", by John Rutter, the choir will recess. A Moment of Silent Reflection and the "Sevenfold Amen", by Peter Lutkin, follows. The Postlude, played by Cynthia Dobrinski, concludes the service. Maggie Pilson will play flute on several of the choir anthems.

Bob Chapman directs the Chancel Choir and Cynthia Dobrinski is the choir Accompanist and Organist. Worshipers from the community are invited to join with our congregation in this service of Lessons and Carols.

The Sanctuary will include the usual Christmas season decorations of the Chrismon Tree and wreaths, adding aisle and window candles.

## The Sanctuary Ringers

This even dozen members who finished the season in May, are still ringing this Fall. We began our ringing ministry on Sunday, October 8 in the eleven o'clock service. In November, we will ring on the thirteenth.

I have a commercial for interested bell ringers who would like to get in shape to ring and to be a possible substitute during the season. Please let Mr. Chapman hear from you and set up a schedule with him for help in getting in shape. The choir still likes having a Handbell Room in which to rehearse.

Join A Choir This Fall-Sing-Ring-Play-Serve!!!

## **Presbyterian Hymnal Project**

A Field Report: Here is an exciting field report from Rev. Jenny Spivey, an Advocate from Martinsville, VA.

We had a Presbytery Leadership Event last Saturday, and for the opening and closing worship times we used songs from the sampler, and found that a one-time license from OneLicense.net covered the ones we wanted to use for a reasonable fee. We sang "Jesus Calls Us", Miren Que Bueno/O Look and Wonder," "We Are Called", and "Go to the World." On the back of the worship bulletin we printed the information that I got from the sampler and the website! Finally, we had a display table with some of the info again from the website, info about the "Many Voices, One Song" initiative, and copies of previous hymnals and songbooks. We heard many positive comments about the songs in worship and I hope we have built some excitement for people to learn more!

The Presbyterian Hymnal Project  
<http://www.presbyterianhymnal.org>

## **PRE-ORDER INFORMATION**

Pre-orders for the 2013 Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*, will be available beginning July 1, 2012. The hymnal will be published in the fall of 2013.

## PRE-PUBLICATION WITH PAYMENT

Those churches that order prior to June 30, 2013, and send payment with their order will receive a per-copy price of \$15 for the pew edition.

## PRE-PUBLICATION WITHOUT PAYMENT

Those churches that order prior to June 30, 2013, but do not send payment until after they receive their order will receive a per-copy price of \$17.50 for the pew edition.

## POST-PUBLICATION

Churches that order after June 30, 2013, will receive a per-copy price of \$20.00 for the pew edition.

## **Youth and Children's Music**



Children and Youth music is really in full swing now! All groups are fully subscribed and rocking!

WAM is filled with 24 very talented children who are amazing singers! We are working hard on our Christmas Play which is "Christ-myth Busters!" Quite a mouthful but a very strong play with a powerful message and great music. The children are very excited as am I. Please put Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> on your calendar, 7pm is the time to open your Advent season with a great deal of joy.

We will be singing and ringing in church on November 6<sup>th</sup>. With 14 ringers, we are ready to go. The younger crew is really enjoying the Kristal bells which they are ringing with great vigor.

The two Kindermusik classes are great fun. These children love music and reflect it in their attentiveness and positive responses to all activities! The younger children are excited about getting to take their glockenspiels home in two weeks! This is a big day for them.

The older group is becoming very adept at playing their dulcimers. It is really great for them to have a string expe-

rience as well as a percussion experience with their glockenspiels.

Music Together is so much fun. We have children from 3 1/2 months to 3 years and wonderful mothers, grandmothers, dads, and an aunt and uncle here and there. We rejoice in every child's newest accomplishment. There is a powerful fellowship within this group.

As I write this, the Cantabile Ringers are preparing to ring for the first time this year. This group is full of talent! Matthew Price has been ringing for 10 years; Sam Smith for 12 years; Kimberly Seamon for 10 years; William Seamon for 9 years; Brett Showalter for 4 years; and Wendy Seamon for a whole lot of years! We are ringing two very lyrical pieces for Fall. I enjoy working with this group so much. We always welcome new ringers!! Just say the word.

### **Contemporary Worship**

Your Worship Band had a fine experience at Three Oaks United Methodist Fellowship in Vinton on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Smith loaded up the two sets of drums, mics, speakers, amplifiers, keyboard, cords, assorted other necessities and stands. We had our usual crew plus Mattie Wingfield and a young friend of mine from Reidsville, Tim Powers. Our music and efforts were very much appreciated. This church has not had much music as of late due to belt tightening and they were singing along and tapping their feet. It was a beautiful fall day and we all enjoyed the fellowship hugely. My thanks go out to Smith, Gael, Virginia, Lynn, Betty, Gene, John, Bobby, Mattie, Tim. And my Jim, who went just to see what it was all about, and ended up holding my music down for me on the keyboard as the wind whistled over the knoll. It is an experience we will all long remember and hope to do again. There is something amazing about playing outside in God's glorious creation!!

Til next time, may I wish you a joyful, happy and thankful Thanksgiving Tide. Joy,  
Betsy

### **Consecration Sunday Is Coming**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal em-



barrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Joan Montgomery  
Clerk of Session

### ***Show Your Church Spirit!***

**Hooded Jackets for Sale  
\$30**

**Royal Blue w/church logo  
Sizes S-XXL**

**Available in Church Office  
Cash or Check**

**Advent Workshop is Coming  
Sunday, November 20, 5:00 pm.  
Dinner is at 5 and crafts follow.**

Advent workshop workers are planning a superb afternoon and evening of fun, craft, fellowship and food. There are 8 workshops planned for every age group and interest.

1. Lighted Gift Boxes Return-  
Eight lucky crafters will make a beautiful, lighted decorative box to keep or to give.



Cost \$10.

2. Make 4 lovely colored Christmas balls. You will choose your own colors and create beautiful swirling inside the balls. A true keep sake. Cost \$7.

3. Photo Boards are making a comeback too!! Make a great gift for anyone who likes to display special photos, by covering a board in great material and covering with ribbon. It will be ready to hang! 3 choices of materials offered. Cost \$7.

4. Yummy Chocolate candy. Make 2 boxes to give or one for yourself and one to share. Bonnie Price's prize recipe. Cost \$7.

5. Make gift jars filled with ingredients for a warming soup or delightful cookies. Make one of each or two of the same thing. Give them as gifts or donate them to Grace Network or CAFV. Cost \$7 for 2 jars.

6. For the younger set, make a jolly apron with your very own handprint that will be transformed into either an angel or a reindeer. A fun holiday craft. Cost \$7.

7. New this year, a decorative plaque, which will be painted and distressed and will convey the powerful message, "Come to Christ." Check them out on the display table in the Narthex on Sundays and outside Sarah's office during the week. Two colors available. Cost \$7.

8. Make a beautiful ceramic angel for a lovely decoration for your home. Cost \$7.

All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult to make each craft-more family fun and safer.

You can email Betsy Haskins [iluvpia-no.emh@gmail](mailto:iluvpia-no.emh@gmail.com) to sign up or sign up on the cards offered on the display table.

Dinner is \$4 per person or \$15 per family. All fees must be paid before Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Operation Christmas Child*** **"The Shoe Box Project"**

This year the youth group is again taking part in a unique mission project called "Operation Christmas Child." Samaritan's Purse operates a number of projects including "Operation Christmas Child", a program where shoeboxes are packed with personal hygiene items, school supplies, toys, and distributed to nearly 8 million children annually in 95 countries. Samaritan's Purse is an International Relief Organization under the direction of CEO and founder, Franklin Graham. To date, this organization has collected and distributed more than 69 million shoeboxes to boys and girls in over 135 countries.

People across the country are getting their items and donations ready to send to their churches. Our youth are asking that all families participate in this project in one of several ways:



- 1) by bringing a filled shoebox with suggested items,
- 2) by bringing empty shoeboxes for the youth to pack (you know they are in your basement!)
- 3) by bringing donations of items on the suggested list below (no used or damaged items please!),
- 4) by making donations to help cover shipping cost (a box takes \$7 to ship worldwide)

Please bring your donation/gift to the church by October 31st. Donations of items and shoeboxes can be brought to Pastor Jenny's office, and monetary donations given to the church office. The youth will pack and gift-wrap shoeboxes during Youth Group meeting on November 6th. The boxes will be delivered to our local drop-off center the week of November 14th.

Operation Christmas Child is a great way to bring joy and the Good News of Jesus Chr-

ist to children in need of hope. What a perfect gift to give in honor of Jesus' birthday.

### **Gift Suggestions**

Designate your box for the appropriate age category below:

Girl or Boy: Ages (2-4 years), (5-9 years), or (10-14 years)

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

A Personal Note: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Sunday, November 6 – Youth Group, 5:30-7:00pm – Pack and wrap shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

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### **A Note to Make You Smile**

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,  
During my minister's stewardship sermon, he spoke of our financial gifts as a way of expressing our gratitude to those who have nurtured us along the way, as well as paving the path for the generations to come. My thoughts went immediately to my "home church" and to the many wonderful Martinsville people who guided my Christian path. Please add this check to your current worship and work.

Gratefully,  
Lucy (Ragland) Burnette

(Lucy is the daughter of the late Mary Ragland whom we all knew and loved.)

**The Church Office** will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25, in observance of Thanksgiving.

### **Session Highlights for September 2011**

- Ann Reaser gave the devotional and opened the meeting with prayer;
- Approved the minutes of the Session's meeting on August 29, 2011, and the minutes of the congregation's annual meeting on September 18, 2011;
- Reviewed the treasurer's report for the period ending August 31, 2011;
- Transferred Mike Boswell to the Oak Island Presbyterian Church in Oak Island, NC;
- Approved having a community breakfast here at our church for students parents of Patrick Henry Elementary School and our neighbors at Citizens Against Family Violence on the third Saturday of January 2012, and the following months through the end of the school year;
- Approved having the early worship service and Sunday School here at our church on Sunday, October 30, and then visiting and worshipping with our friends at the Morning

Star Holy Church in Axton at their 11:00 a.m. worship service;

- Noted that seven seminary students from the Presbytery of the Peaks received scholarship money from our church's Bowen fund;
- Heard reports from the Sessional committees' moderators and the pastors;
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Randy Stevens.

### **Session Highlights for October 24, 2011**

- Bill Peterson gave the devotional and the opening prayer
- Approved the minutes for the stated Session meeting on September 26, 2011
- Reviewed the treasurer's report for the nine months ending September 31, 2011
- Approved a questionnaire, which will be sent out with a letter to all church members, and then the elders will follow up with home visits in early 2012
  - Approved having one service only on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.; approved having, on Christmas Day, a Christmas carol sing in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. and the worship service at 11:00 a.m.; and approved having both worship services on New Year's Day
    - Changed the name of the *Officer's Handbook* to the *Manual of Operations* and approved the restructuring of the Table of Contents so that it is more user-friendly
    - In light of changes within the current Form of Government within the *Book of Order*, the Session approved the quorum for a stated Session meeting to be a simple majority and for a called meeting the quorum is at least one of the pastors and two elders; and, the Session voted to propose to the congregation that notice for a congregational meeting be given eight to fifteen days ahead of time (depending on the purpose of the meeting), and that the

make-up of the Officers' Nominating Committee consist of two elders currently serving on the Session, two youth, and three member-at-large to reflect the diversity of the congregation

- Received reports from the Clerk, the moderators of the Session's committees, and the pastors
- The Session adjourned with prayer offered by Jenny Spivey

