



Presbyterian Web Sites:

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



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STEEPLEVIEWS

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

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Presbyterian Church

February, 2011

Martinsville, Virginia

From My Perspective Within The Kingdom

In the current issue of *The Christian Century* (January 11, 2011), I read that, within this year, the King James Version of the Bible will mark its 400th birthday. The article sent me to my bookshelves where I pulled out the very first Bible ever given to me; it was a King James Version of the Bible (red letter edition) that was presented to me by the Oak Hill Presbyterian Church's Sunday School on September 27, 1959. I also remember reading the King James Version of the Bible and not always understanding what the words were trying to convey.

Soon after, our church started using the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, and the Word of God became clearer and I could understand more of what I was reading. Then, when I was in high school, the *Good News for Modern Man* version of the Bible became available. I remember the simple line drawings throughout the Bible, which illustrated various passages, and I remember the language was indeed more modern, and thus, easier to read and comprehend.

I began my college years at the University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL) and, during my sophomore year I took a course entitled *The Old Testament as Literature*. The course was taught by a rabbi from one of the synagogues and he was sensitive to the fact that most of his students would be Christian instead of Jewish. Thus, he assigned *The Oxford Annotated Bible* (RSV) as the main text. This 1962 version of the Bible became the Bible that I read, studied, and meditated on throughout my college and seminary years and well into my first three pastorates. Besides the familiar language of the Revised Standard Version, the *Oxford Annotated* has scholarly study notes printed at the bottom of each page that pertain to the verses above. These additional notes helped to clarify what a particular verse said or gave helpful background information.

I used the *Oxford Annotated* RSV Bible for almost 30 years and even had it rebound on a couple of occasions. Then, a colleague of mine introduced me to the *Harper Collins Study Bible*, which uses the 1989 New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. This Bible also has helpful study notes at the bottom of each page along with other pertinent information spread throughout. I also keep a copy of *The Message* – paraphrasing translation of the Bible in contemporary language by Eugene H. Peterson – by my desk to consult at a moment's notice.

The point to all of this is to say that the Word of God is a living, breathing, dynamic Word that speaks to God's people throughout the centuries and in each particular situation. Each person has to find the translation that best speaks to her or him. Then, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we read God's holy Word and we seek to understand it, be guided by it, and, most of all, to live out the word in our daily lives.

In closing, I recall a former church member, who told me that, at her funeral, she wanted me to read John 14:1-6 from the King James Version of the Bible instead of the RSV. She went on to explain that the RSV said, "In my Father's house are many rooms," whereas the KJV said, "In my Father's house are many mansions," and she said, "I want to live in a mansion when I die because I've lived in rooms all of my life!" To each their own!

In Christ's love,
Randy



**Youth Ski Trip to Wintergreen,
Feb 25-27**

Get your snowsuits, hats and gloves ready, because it's time to sign up for our annual Youth Ski Trip! We will be returning to Wintergreen and staying sleep-over style

in the same house as last year. We depart Friday evening at 5:00pm and will make it to the slopes for Night Tubing. There will be all day skiing/snowboarding on Saturday, and we will return home Sunday afternoon. The cost for the weekend is \$140 (less if you don't need to rent skis), and financial assistance is available if the cost is a hardship for anyone. Friends are welcome to come, so pass along the information! To sign up, or if you have questions, contact Pastor Jenny (pastorjennyfpc@yahoo.com). Sign up deadline (with money due!) is Monday, February 7th!

**Youth Super Bowl Party
Sunday Feb. 6 at Johnny & Ashby
Pinkard's home**

Come to watch the game (or the commercials) and play ping pong, pool, board games and Wii. We will have pizza, ice cream, and please bring either a bag of snacks or two-liter soda to share. We will meet at the church to take the bus at 5:00pm, or you can meet us there (talk to Johnny and Ashby for best directions!).

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on *Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday*, February 6, 2011. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money and canned goods for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2010, \$10 million was collected by *Souper Bowl of*

Caring participants for local charities. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant (*Grace Network* is the recipient of our collection) - none of the money is sent to the *Souper Bowl of Caring* headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since *the Souper Bowl of Caring* began in 1990, more than \$71 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your donation in the soup pot on February 6th.

Sunday, Sunday, SUNDAY February 6th

Special Children, Youth and Parents
SUPER BIBLE BOWL Sunday School
Extravaganza!!

All children, youth and parents are invited to come play in the SUPER BIBLE BOWL, a game where everyone will learn and share their faith. Kickoff is at 9:45 am in the new Children's Sunday School classroom across from the Parlor. Come enjoy some game-day snacks, and learn more about our family storybook—the Bible!



**Happy Birthday in February
to....**

- 1 Logan Jennings
- 2 David Seamon
- 3 Harold Lamm, Lillie Willis, Doris Renno
- 5 Michael Mason
- 6 Charlie Miller
- 7 Emily Goldstein
- 8 Frances Leavitt, Guy Stanley
- 9 Marshall Chaney
- 11 Jo Dykes
- 13 Connie Anderson
- 15 Bob McLachlan
- 19 Sandra Ford, Zack Sanders
- 20 Mary Layton Truitt

And in March to:

- 3 Ruth Thompson
- 5 Carter Ferrell, Dee Moore Smith
- 6 Allison Knighton, Myrtis Lester, Jerry Wood
- 8 Harriet Mattox, Bill Garrett
- 9 Tyler Price
- 11 Carol Darnell, Don Richman
- 12 Bill Peterson, Bob Clark
- 17 Dick Sowdon, Rachel DeBusk, Alanna Ferguson, Anna Kate Jennings
- 18 Catherine Bridges, Steve Edgerton
- 20 JoAnne Sanders
- 21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
- 23 Diane Clark
- 27 Pam Mason, Charles Toothman, Christiana Campbell

Congratulations to Jamie and Jared Peck on the birth of their son, Mason Clark Peck, December 13, 2010, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Lee Eden is the proud grandmother!

Congratulations to Lindsay and Whit Altizer on the birth of their son, Finn Burton Altizer, December 29, 2011, in Gwangju, South Korea. Doc and Sarah Altizer are the proud grandparents!

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Bill and Cathy Stone and family on the death of Cathy's mother, Eleanor Thomson Roy, January 17, 2011, in Greenville, SC.

The Tempo "Our Musical Pulse" The Chancel Choir

This choir for Youth and Adults has music in their folders for the first quarter of 2011 plus the music for the program they will present on March 29 at 11:00 a.m. This service of worship and music will use texts from the book of *Isaiah*. This will include the congregational singing as well.

As usual, the normal spoken parts of the service will be anthems as well as the sermon. Pastor Jenny will tie three anthems together as the sermon that morning. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite persons from our community to join you in attending this service.

The Sanctuary Ringers

This Handbell Choir for Youth and Adults is busy learning music they will be ringing each month through the final half of their season which ends in May.

We are pleased to have a dozen regular ringers and a couple of ringers we call in when members have to be absent. If you might be interested in being on this short list of substitutes, please see Bob Chapman. If you need to brush up on your skill he will be glad to assist you.

Planning for Worship

Each week the Singing and Handbell choirs plus the Instrumentalists spend time in preparation for their Sunday morning responsibility. The directors spend hours planning and preparing the material for these musicians.

What about the Congregational Choir? How can it prepare? Check out the following suggestions.

1. Make sure you have access to an Order of Worship, a Bible and a Hymn Book. Most of the time the ushers will provide you with the order for that service. These are your worship tools.

2. Check the hymns and scripture which will be used that day. If these are unfamiliar, spend some time and get familiar with them. Much of the time the hymns are focused on God, our faith, and our response to the gospel.

3. The scripture closest to the sermon is usually the springboard into that material. As the message unfolds, you might want to take notes on points which touched you in some special way.

4. As the service concludes, the focus usually narrows to our response to what the service has been about that day. Per-

haps God has spoken to you through the elements of the service as you have spoken to Him through the congregational material.

Seek to put worship and your response to each as one of your priorities each week.


Contemporary Worship

We continue to worship the Lord early on Sunday mornings with joy, love and grace. Please come and see what the excitement is all about. Gathering music begins at 8:35 am and worship is completed around 9:30am. There is time for fellowship before Sunday school begins. If you would like to join by singing or playing an instrument, please let me know. I would be so happy to discuss the possibilities. There is a strong feeling of love and fellowship in our group.

I have a need! We need additional people to help run the sound board on Sunday morning. The board looks complicated, but what we need done really is not hard. If I can do it, ANYONE CAN!! If you would be willing to help out once a month or so, please let me know.

In Joy,
Betsy

Youth and Children's Music



Happy Winter! We have missed all Tuesday groups due to inclement weather. Let me ask you to remember that just because school is out, does not mean we will not have music. On Monday, all area schools were released by noon, but nothing really happened weather wise til 6 pm. Please call, if the weather does not look bad. It is hard to miss a week with all the fun things there are to do together. A week in the life of a child is a long time! Thanks for your help.

WAM news

The WAMMERS are really into the new year, with new music, games and

composer information. We welcome Madison Powell and Logan Kinkema to our group. Madison is a child of this church and Logan is a friend of the church. They are both very talented third graders and we are delighted to have them.

We will be singing and ringing in church on Sunday, January 30th for the first time in 2011. We are looking forward to a wonderful service.

We will be presenting our biennial staging of *The Three Trees*, on Sunday April 10, during Morning Worship at 11:00. This moving musical drama is a powerful experience for the Wammers and for the congregation. We will begin work on it on February 1st.

Music Together

We are beginning our winter unit in Music Together this week. There are several openings for new friends in this fun class for children from birth to 3 and a half and a caregiver. If you know someone that is interested, please have them call me. These spots usually are filled quite quickly.

Kindermusik I and II

Our new units of curriculum are underway as we speak!

The four year olds are extending their knowledge of instruments and musical forms. The kindergartners are busy playing their recorders. They are very adept at this and I am quite pleased.

Cantabile Ringers

We will be ringing in February with a new teen! Brett Showalter will be joining us and we are so thrilled at the prospect. We always have a spot for another ringer, so if you are interested, just let me know.

STEEPLEVIEWS is published 12 times per year.

Editor: Patrice Newnam, Publisher: Sarah Altizer; Mailing Staff: volunteers

Weekday School News

Only two more months of winter to go...UGHH! The children and staff of the Weekday School are back after our long Christmas break and everyone is ready to get back to work if the weather will just cooperate! We were fortunate to have a performance by *First Hand Experience*, the puppet ministry of The First United Methodist Church. The children were mesmerized. It even held the attention of our youngest children. The 4-year-old class will be taking a field trip to King's Grant on February 8. The children and teachers always look forward to those visits with the residents.



Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is right around the corner. As always, we have first priority to our currently enrolled students, their siblings and members of First Presbyterian Church. In order to take advantage of that priority you must register your child during the week provided before we begin open enrollment. The schedule is as follows:

February 28-March 4 Currently enrolled students

March 7 – March 11 Members of First Presbyterian and Siblings of Currently Enrolled Students

March 14 – Open Enrollment

We currently have 60 children enrolled this year so I anticipate another full house for next year. That being said, word of mouth is our very best advertisement. If you have any friends or family with preschool age children, please send them our way. We are lucky to have the best preschool program in the area!

If you have any questions about The Weekday School, I would be happy to talk with you. In the meantime, stay warm!

Sunday School Classes

Join one of the exciting **Adult Sunday School Classes** this quarter. There are new topics, new locations and new friends to meet:

The Franck Class will be lead by Duke Ferrell. The topic for this quarter is the *Beautitudes* using William Barkley's commentary and other resources. Each week a section of the commentary will be emailed to the members of the class to read. This will be a study that should work well for those who are unable to attend regularly. This class meets in the Session Room.

The Margaret Irby Class began discussing *Modern Day Parables* on Jan. 2 and is being led by Lang Mauck. These lessons generate great discussion. The new location for this class is the Reed Classroom, room 145, across from the Session Room.

New Kergma Class is being led by Melissa Wingfield. This class will meet to study *The Parables: Stories for Life in God's World*. Participants' books are \$16.00 and are available for order. This class will meet for a seven week study, beginning Jan. 23 in the conference room next to Pastor Jenny's office.

The Ford Reed Class will be led by Rev. Randy Stevens. The class will be studying *God's Message of Coming Salvation for Israel* as found in Isaiah 45-53. In February the class will focus on *Jesus the Promised Servant-Leader* as found within Mark's Gospel. During the spring quarter, the class will study *A Survey of New Testament Texts* that reflects worship practices and convictions in the early church. This class will meet in the Ladies Parlor.

Children and Youth Sunday School Classes

Childrens' Sunday School Class is a combined age class led by Janet Fentress. (K-5) They will be meeting in the former Irby Classroom. The lessons will be designed to

differentiate instruction by creating interest for all ages in this group.

The first Sunday of each month will be a combined class with students, parents and senior high youth. These classes will meet in the Irby Classroom. Themed Projects will be led by Pastor Jenny.

Middle and Senior High Sunday School (Gr.6-12) meet in the Youth Room and will be studying *Central Passages for Youth*, a review of well know Bible verses. The class is led by Pastor Jenny. This will be an exciting study for youth, bringing past memories of early Sunday School lessons taught at First Presbyterian. This class will also meet at a local restaurant for lesson and fellowship one Sunday a month.

Volunteers

ATTENTION

Red Cross Bloodmobile and Church Responsibility at Liberty Fair Mall No Money Involved

Please consider this appeal for volunteers who would be able to fill the three stations of duty, when necessary, for one of the three-hour shifts the fourth Thursday of each month (except November) from 12:00-3:00 and 3:00-6:00 P.M. They are:

1. Receptionist who will welcome a potential donor, register the name as a new or repeat donor, and invite them to be seated to review the general requirements for their ability to safely donate while waiting to be called by the staff nurse for the health interview.

2. 'Walker' who will tend to the needs of the nurse and donor (such as serving water

or juice, giving an encouraging word) and escorting the Donor to the observation area when completed.

3. One who will offer the donor to be refreshed with water or juice and crackers, to rest for at least 15 minutes and make an appointment for another visit. Observe for any signs of illness, fainting or bleeding. A staff nurse is ready and available to take control when indicated.

Volunteers NEVER come in contact with the Donor's blood. The regular staff personnel will inform you of the exact procedure required for your station when you arrive, and are ready to assist with any questions and responsibilities.

We welcome and encourage YOU, as faithful church members to check if you are eligible with healthy blood to donate each time you visit. Please allow a total time of approximately 1 hour, more or less. Each freely given pint of blood received contributes to the healing and restoration of better health to the patient that money cannot buy. Check the daily 'calendar' for other frequent collection days and sites.

"To those who receive much, much is required" Luke 12:48b

By Doris Marshall



Session Highlights

January 3, 2011

- Nancy Davis led the session in an opening devotional and prayer.
- Approved the minutes for November 29, 2010
- Reviewed the treasurer's report for the time period ending 11/30/10
- Approved the 2011 budget. In discussion, we noted with concern the projected budget shortfall, and proceeded to approve the budget given the deficit, in hope and faith for continued generosity and renewed commitment to new directions in ministry.
- Approved the Session committees' assignments for 2011 and Joan Montgomery to continue serving as the clerk and Smith Chaney as the treasurer
- Received the reports of the committees and the pastors
- Shared joys and concerns and then Jenny Spivey led the session in a closing prayer.



PANDAMANIA

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 11 – 15

All about Pandas:

1. The head of a Panda is very large and has developed special molars for chewing plants. It has powerful muscles which extend from the top of its head to the jaws giving it the ability to crush very tough stalks. Their esophagus has a tough lining to protect the Panda from bamboo splinters. The stomach is protected too, with a thick muscular lining.
2. Panda Bears eat over fifteen different kinds of Bamboo. Because of an inefficient intestinal system the Panda must feed for 12 to 16 hours a day, they can consume 22 to 40 pounds of Bamboo each day. When they eat fresh Bamboo shoots they eat about 84 pounds every day.
3. The Panda lives in only six small areas located in China. The habitat, suitable for the bamboo on which it survives, is a cold, damp coniferous forest. The elevation ranges from 4,000 to 11,000 feet high. They often must compete with farmers who farm the river valleys and the lower slopes of the mountains.