

The Messenger

for

August 2013



Franklin, VA

Who are we?

We are a community of believers called by God to live humbly in the spirit of Christ and to act as His voice and hands in our World.

(Vision Statement adopted by Session on December 18, 2006)

**PLEASE SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT
ABOUT THE UPCOMING
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

In This Edition

- ~ News and events from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
- ~ The notes, news and announcements for the life of the congregation
- ~ Learn about current and upcoming opportunities for mission and outreach
- ~ Find out who is assisting in worship this month
- ~ Find out whose birthdays and anniversaries we are celebrating this month
- ~ See who is on the church's prayer list
- ~ Checkout the activities around the church this month
- ~ The leadership team for the congregation and the church's contact information



News from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia



RUTH BROWN, PC (USA) CO-WORKER to CONGO VISITS PEVA SOON!

Ruth Brown will be in Virginia and **available to speak** at churches on several upcoming dates: Sept. 5, 9, 10 (evening), 11, 12 (until 3:30 p.m.), 20, 27 and 29. She will also be available during the weeks of Jan. 2 - 9 and Jan. 12 - 16, 2014. Ruth is already known to us because she was previously engaged in ministry to the migrant workers on the Eastern Shore. For details, contact Ruth at: ruth.brown@pcusa.org.



SEMINARY FOR A DAY UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY, RICHMOND Saturday September 28th

This opportunity is open to **all church leaders**, not only clergy! PEVA members should plan to take advantage of it.

There will be 2 keynote addresses and the opportunity to select one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon. The **\$25.00 fee includes a box lunch which can be enjoyed on campus**. **To** ensure a lunch, register no later than Sept. 17th.

Workshop leaders are excellent communicators and accomplished scholars. The workshops and the leaders are included in this link:

http://www.upsem.edu/img/leadership_pdf/Seminary_for_a_Day_RIC_2013.pdf



FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL TOUR of TURKEY & GREECE October 17th – 27th



The **Rev. Randy Bremer** (King's Grant PC) and his wife, Donna, will lead the tour. Participants will follow in the footsteps of Paul.

The ancient cities of Corinth and Ephesus will be visited, as well as stops at the Areopagus (Mars Hill), the Parthenon, and the Greek Islands, including Patmos, as well as Istanbul. The letters of Paul will be followed and read in context with these locations. You can read more about this trip, including the cost by going to: www.wilcoxtravel.com and look for Trip #131017.

You may also call Randy Bremer at 757-508-6947.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOTES FROM THE JULY 23RD PEVA MEETING

From the Report of the Vision Implementation Team:

Rev. Ralph Herbert, moderator of Congregational Transformation Team visited with the VIT and discussed possibilities for helping churches stay open rather than helping churches close. The CTT needs additional members with a passion for building vital and vibrant congregations. The CTT is beginning to consider ways to offer consultant services to sessions.

From the Report of the Stewardship Ministry Team

Church Giving-to-Pledges, as of June 30th, stands at \$333,062 which after 6 months should be \$350,000 to achieve the 2013 budget. Based on givings by non-pledging churches of \$22,413, pledging churches are approximately \$27,225 behind in their 2013 givings to pledges.

From the Report of the Nominating Committee

The following Commissions/Committees need ruling elders and laypersons to serve now or in the near future:

1. Commission on Ministry to serve a three year term. Commission meets on first Tuesday of the month from approximately 4– 8 p.m. The Commission meets as a whole. Each member serves as a liaison to two – three churches. Commission serves as pastor and counselor to teaching elders, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, and to certified Christian educators of the Presbytery; serves to facilitate relations between the Presbytery and its congregations; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the Presbytery where possible and expedient.
2. Commission on Preparation for Ministry to serve a three-year term. Commission currently meets on third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. Meets and works with inquirers and candidates for the ministry.
3. Stewardship Ministry Team to serve on the team. Currently meets on fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The Team identifies ways in which PEVA might interpret its ministry to the Presbytery and the world and is responsible for the preparation and oversight of the Mission Budget of the Presbytery.
4. Congregational Transformation Ministry Team is responsible for long-range planning, church transformation and disciple making. Currently meets at the call of the Chair.
5. Nominations Committee to serve in positions requiring election by council ensuring that nominations are made by an entity broadly representative of the constituency of the council and in conformity with the church's commitment to unity in diversity. Meets at the call of the Chair.
6. Committee on Representation to advise the Council regarding the implementation of principles of unity and diversity, advocates for diversity in leadership, consults with the Council on the employment of personnel, in accordance with the principles of unity and diversity and completes annual report in accordance with Synod of the Mid-Atlantic guidelines. Meets at the call of the Chair.

7. Permanent Judicial Commission to serve six-year terms in three classes of three each with no more than one ruling elder member from the same church. Moderator and recorder are elected from the PJC members with staff support by the Stated Clerk. Meets as necessary.

8. Sessional Records Review Team to review the minutes of sessions and congregations for administrative review and makes recommendation that they be received with or without exceptions to the Presbytery. Meets on the second Monday of March, June, September and December at 4 p.m.

9. Other Ministry Teams include: Resource Center; Hunger; Peacemaking; Youth and Youth Adults; Makemie Woods

Notes, News and Announcements

NEW BENCHES OUTSIDE THE GREAT HALL In Memory of Judge Baird Cabell

The congregation is very grateful to receive the two new benches installed outside the Great Hall.



The benches are placed to the glory of God and in memory of Baird Cabell. This fall, the benches will be formally dedicated for the church's use.

We extend our thanks to Goldzsie, Baird's family and also the members of our Memorial Committee who worked together to make this gift possible.



**2013
CHURCH
SNAPSHOT**



<u>Month</u>	<u>New Members</u>	<u>Average Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Total Offering</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
January	0	37	\$ 7,491.00	\$ 7,215.36
February	0	36	\$ 7,971.75	\$ 7,483.56
March	0	40	\$11,424.83	\$ 6,970.32
April	0	42	\$ 6,652.25	\$ 9,104.66
May	0	37	\$10,144.58	\$ 6,972.21
June	0	39	\$11,444.20	\$10,192.51
July	0		\$ 6,453.00	\$ 9,975.48



Thank you for your generous support of these special offerings so far this year:

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$810.00	Pentecost Offering	\$532.00
PW Birthday Offering	\$350.00	Cents-Ability	\$330.58

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

August 11th

Immediately Following Worship

The session has called a meeting of the congregation immediately following worship on August 11th 2013. The purpose of this meeting is two-fold:

1. Elect the following members as Trustees of the congregation:

Bill Boothe
Lauren Harper
Asa Johnson

2. Dissolve the relationship between the congregation and the Rev. Kent Leydens effective August 31st, 2013.



The Leydens Are Headed to Roswell, New Mexico



Pastor Leydens has received and accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church in Roswell, NM. The effective date of the call is September 1st.

The pastor says, “I want people to be very clear about the reason I am leaving Franklin. I have received tremendous support from the vast majority of the people here. On the whole, what I take away and always will remember about my time here are the kind, generous, conscientious, fun-loving and hard working people of this congregation. There is much sweetness and light here. All of that was affirmed by the votes cast in the Congregational Meeting on March 10th, which made my decision to leave difficult.

“However, I have been engaged in what has turned out to be a year-long period of discernment. I spoke openly about it to the Session, members of the presbytery and the General Synod. Over that time, I weighed through many issues. At the end, my primary concern is about the cost – and the continually rising cost – to the church to support me, a fulltime pastor.

Right now, the congregation is struggling to meet the minimum terms of call required by the presbytery. Medical costs are going up in the coming years. As one who has always taken very seriously financial responsibilities and good stewardship, I cannot in good conscious continue to see over 70% of your giving going to support the pastor.

In the words of church consultant the Rev. Dr. George Bullard, that level of support is a ‘straightjacket;’ it ‘strangulates the vitality and vibrancy of a congregation.’ It forces us to be ‘curators in a museum’ rather than Christ’s witness to the world. I find that to be true, and I know people in the congregation, even if they do not feel all that I have just explained, are concerned about the church’s finances.

“I am not leaving so that I can be more secure; I am going so you can better fulfill your Vision Statement. The most wonderful words I have heard are that my leadership has people thinking differently about what it means to be a church. I believe you can continue the work we have started. You do not need to search for your stability. You need not need to search for your stability. The work and the strength of the congregation is its mission right here where God has planted this church.

“Julie and I want to thank you for your hospitality, the fun things and the hard work we have done together, and the countless acts of kindness over the years. We ask for your prayers as you are in ours: God’s richest blessings to each of you and the ministry of this congregation.”

August 18th will be Pastor Leydens last Sunday to lead worship here. The Leydens’ final abduction to Roswell will be during the last week of August. They will travel first to Iowa for a preaching engagement on Labor Day weekend and to see family, and then they will be on the way to New Mexico.



[I want to add this picture as a reminder of how much Julie and I love the desert southwest. We are wonderfully surprised to receive a call to that part of the country, and we hope for it to become our home – Kent]



Mark Your Calendar!
August 11th & 25th

***Join in continuing our Christian fellowship after worship with Refreshments
on the Lawn or
in the Great Hall
Depending upon the Weather***



Mission and Outreach Opportunities

DEACON'S COMPASSION FUND

In the spring of 2011, the Session established a Compassion Fund. This fund is administered by two deacons elected by the congregation, Asa Johnson and Kaye Weaver.

The purpose of the Compassion Fund is to assist people in our community who do not fit the criteria for aid from Cooperative Ministry. These needs may be different from or larger than what Cooperative Ministry is set up to provide. When members of our congregation or the pastor hear of someone who is struggling financially, this fund is available to offer assistance from our church. The fund consists entirely of anonymous donations from the congregation.

The fund had \$1,399.15 available at the beginning of this year, 2013.

Since January, the church has received several requests from families in our church's neighborhood in need of assistance with electric bills. Working with the pastor, the deacons have responded prayerfully to each request. At the end of June, \$912.02 has been used for this purpose.

Including donations received through the year, the Compassion Fund now has \$762.13 available. Given the number of requests received and amounts needed to assist people, the deacons are asking that you prayerfully consider making a contribution to the Compassion Fund.



Assisting with Worship in August

Lead Lector and Assisting with Communion: Allen Harper

Date	Ushers
4 th	Harry Christie and Ray Terrell
11 th	Jim Drewry and Jimmie Rose
18 th	Melvin Gray and Harry Christie
25 th	Bud and Ann Marie Brotzman



We Celebrate These August Birthdays

- 6 Cathy Eischeid
- 11 Deanna Gossert
- 15 Dottie Gilbert
- 16 Julie Leydens, DuJuan Ruffin Sr.
- 18 Bobbi Thomas, Frances Wilber
- 22 Cailynn Moore
- 24 Ann Marie Brotzman,
- 26 Linwood Drake



We Celebrate These August Anniversaries



- 15 Flora & Barry Roberts
- 17 Mary & Norm Shroyer



In Our Prayers

Please Remember the Following People in Your Prayers

Cindy Petrowsky
Tiffany Matteson's Aunt

Myhar Taufik
Deanna Gossert's Uncle

Family of Pat Rideout
Tiffany Matteson's Friends

Anna Cabell Wiley

**Jude Brunett and
Parents Allison and Paul**
Sarah Lester's Friends

Melvin Gray

Elizabeth Blysm
Ben Matteson's Grandmother

John Ambrose
Faye Springfield's Nephew

Baby Emma & Family
Deanna Gossert's Friends

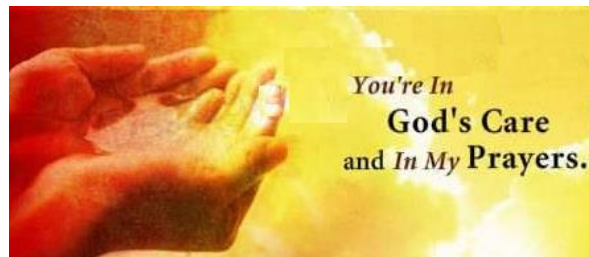
Christian Paul Eischeid

Goldzsie Cabell

Wayne & Earlene Sprouse

Frances Presnall

IF YOU ARE AWARE OF A PASTORAL CARE NEED, PLEASE CONTACT
OUR PASTOR, THE REV. KENT LEYDENS



August Activities and Events

4 th	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion
7 th	10:00 a.m.	Village Prayer Group
11 th	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service Immediately Followed by a Meeting of the Congregation
18 th	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
20 th	6:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
25 th	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service

Each Monday: Weight Watchers at 12:30

Each Wednesday: Weight Watchers at 5:00 p.m.



Congregation Leadership

Designated Pastor: The Rev. Kent Leydens

Elders by Class

<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Allen Harper	Carolyn Boothe	Tiffany Matteson
Kathryn Padgett	Ben Matteson	Sarah Lester, <i>Clerk of Session</i>

Deacons of the Compassion Fund:

Asa Johnson Kaye Weaver

Director of Music: Cathy Eischeid

Finance Committee Chair: Lauren Harper

Disbursing Treasurer: Kathryn Padgett

Receiving Treasurers: Carolyn and Bill Boothe,
Vivian and Harry Christie

Newsletter Editor: Carol Holland

Website Editor: Ben Matteson

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**Franklin Presbyterian Church
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We may be found on the web at
<http://franklinpresbyterianchurch.org>

Call us at 757-562-4313

E-mail us at: frankinpres@verizon.net

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**The Rev. Kent Leydens may be reached on his cell phone
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