



CALVIN CHATTER

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia
Serving Christ & Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester since 1800

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June 2011

www.firstchurch-winchester.org



FAMjam—VBS 2011

Featuring PandaMania: Where God is Wild about Kids

FAMjam, an event for the entire family (all ages), is a three-night family extravaganza with special family moments, interactive wacky family games, high-energy worship music, wild Bible adventures, and tree-top treats.

Dates: Sunday, June 26 – Tuesday, June 28

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Cost: It's FREE! A VBS FAMjam store will be open throughout registration to purchase music CDs, enrichment crafts, etc.

Registration: Family registration is encouraged early, starting Sunday, May 22...look for the PandaMania display.



The Benefits and Rewards of Stephen Ministry

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15



Perhaps the best way to describe the benefits of Stephen Ministry to our congregation and the community is to consider the following tenets of the caregiver's compass:

- † Stephen Ministers embody Jesus' promise to never let us suffer alone. They are compassionate caregivers who share their care receiver's pain and help them to bear it.
- † Stephen Ministers are full of faith. They bring Christ's care to their care receivers and trust God to bring results. They pray with and for their care receivers, share scripture with them and use other distinctively Christian tools in their caring relationships.
- † Stephen Ministers are skilled caregivers who take their training seriously and are committed to providing care in the right way at the right time to their care receivers.
- † Stephen Ministers are Christ-centered; their calling to care comes from Jesus and they understand that He is the power behind all that they do as Stephen Ministers. They work on staying connected to Jesus so that they are able to bring His love to others.
- † Stephen Ministry complements the many other ministries at First Presbyterian Church.

Additionally, the individual spiritual and personal rewards of being a Stephen Minister include:

- † The joy and satisfaction of participating in meaningful ministry and of serving Jesus
- † The friendship and support of the Christian community experienced during training and supervision
- † Personal growth through the training, care giving and supervision

- † Enhanced relationships with family, friends, co-workers and others
- † Greater interpersonal relationship skills

Will you consider becoming a Stephen Minister? The next Stephen Ministry training class is scheduled to be held August 31-December 14, 2011. Completed applications must be received by June 19, 2011. Interviews will be conducted August 7 and 14, 2011. If you have questions or want more information about training, please contact one of our pastors (662.3824), **Jan Smith** (662.7979), **Patti Keeton** (513.490.5677) or **Sandy Cleaver** (662.3108).



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Orioles v. Nationals
Saturday, June 18, 1:05 p.m.
Nationals Stadium, DC

The chartered bus departs the church parking lot at 10 a.m. The \$65 cost, includes ticket and transportation. The seats—Section 110, Left Field—are first come, first served. Reserve and pay for your tickets through the church office, 662-3824 or patsnapp@firstchurch-winchester.org. Brought to you by the Fellowship Council.



SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITY

Attention rising 2nd - 8th graders:

The **SINGGG** (Sing God's Glory) summer choir and creative arts camp will be held this year at Braddock Street United Methodist Church the week of August 1 to 5. Registration is \$45 per camper, but there is a \$5 discount if you register by June 22. If more than one young person goes from the same family, each additional participant is only \$35. Full details are available from **Roger Callis**.



*The Rev. Dr. W. Martin Fair
St. Andrews, Arbroath, Scotland*

Pulpit Exchange

July 18 through August 14

Dan McCoig will be participating in a pulpit exchange with the Rev. Dr. **W. Martin Fair** of St. Andrews Parish Church, Arbroath, Scotland.

Rev. Fair will be assisting with worship leadership at First Church on July 24. He will be preaching at all services on July 31.

Dan McCoig will be preaching the morning services [traditional] and the evening services [non-traditional] at St. Andrews, Arbroath, on July 24 and July 31. The July 31 service is a community event held on the grounds of Arbroath Abbey.

King **William** the Lion in honor of St. **Thomas**, Archbishop of Canterbury, founded Arbroath Abbey in 1178. The abbey hosted the signing of the Scottish Declaration of Independence on April 6, 1320, one of the most significant events in Scottish history. The document, signed by the Scottish nobility, declared: "*For, so long as a*

hundred remain alive, we will never in any degree be subject to the dominion of the English. Since not for glory, riches or honours do we fight, but for freedom alone, which no man loses but with his life."

Rev. Fair and his family, wife **Elaine** and sons **Callum**, **Andrew**, and **Fraser**, will reside in the McCoig's home. Dan and **Lisa** will reside in the St. Andrews' manse in Arbroath. Arbroath is on the eastern coast of Scotland, north of Dundee.

Rev. Fair has been the minister of St. Andrews since 1992. He received his undergraduate degree from Strathclyde University in Glasgow and his divinity degree from Glasgow University.

Martin shared the following about the upcoming pulpit exchange:

Elaine and I, together with our three boys, are very much looking forward to our visit to Winchester. We look forward to sharing with you in worship and fellowship and to exploring the beautiful part of the world, which you all call home. The family of St. Andrew's Church here in the historic town of Arbroath, Scotland, is in the same way greatly looking forward to welcoming Dan and Lisa into their midst.



Summer Worship Schedule

July 3 through September 4

- † 7:30 a.m. Boyd Chapel
- † 8:30 a.m. New Stone Gathering
in Fellowship Hall
- † No Sunday School
- † 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

The regular worship schedule and Sunday School will resume on September 11

Amendment 10-A is approved in the PCUSA

A Pastoral Letter from Rich Reifsnnyder, Dan McCoig, and Maren Sonstegard-Spray

On May 10, the requisite number of presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., 87 of 173, voted “yes” on Amendment 10-A. Since the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis last summer, Amendment 10-A has been the focal point of the human sexuality dialogue within the PCUSA. Amendment 10-A reads:

Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

Amendment 10-A emphasizes the Lordship of Jesus Christ; a requirement for rigorous examinations, based on both external authorities and personal qualities; the importance of Scripture, the confessions, and the constitutional ordination/installation questions; and the historic Presbyterian balance—established in the Synod of Philadelphia’s Adopting Act of 1729—between shared national standards and application to individual candidates by the church council that knows them best.

Amendment 10-A will replace the existing language, known as Amendment B and adopted in 1997, in our constitution regarding ordination standards. The current language, which as a result of the May 10 vote, will be changed effective July 10, 2011, reads:

Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional

standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

For more than 30 years, mainline Christian denominations in the United States have discussed in their judicatories the matter of human sexuality, especially as it pertains to ordained office. The PCUSA has not been immune from the discussion. Of late, the conversation has focused narrowly and almost exclusively on whether or not to ordain gays and lesbians, who are either single and celibate or in a committed relationship, to the offices of deacon, elder, and minister.

One persistent objection to Amendment 10-A has been in what it *doesn’t* say, namely “fidelity and chastity.” The minister and elder commissioners to a majority of presbyteries of the PCUSA have determined that the constitution’s language that will be replaced was too constricted. The newly approved language is more in keeping with the broad constitutional standards of ordination—strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. In other words, the commissioners chose to go with language that considers the whole of one’s discipleship rather than one particular aspect of one’s discipleship, namely a person’s sexuality, when making decisions as to who or who not to ordain to church office.

For now and the foreseeable future, the way in which First Presbyterian Church nominates, elects, examines, and ordains and installs officers for leadership will proceed as it did before the passage of Amendment 10-A. We are aware that fully understanding and effectively implementing Amendment 10-A will take time. It will require the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job. It will also call for the grace of Jesus Christ. We are not at the end of the discussion on human sexuality. We may not even have arrived at the midway point.

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Amendment 10-A, Pastoral Letter

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Some Presbyterians will applaud the passage of Amendment 10-A. Some Presbyterians will lament the passage of Amendment 10-A. Lines will be drawn and distinctions made. Jesus in the Gospels did not divide his world into insiders and outsiders or winners and losers based on then-prevalent distinctions. The distinction that seems to have mattered the most to Jesus was between those who knew themselves to be sinners in need of redemption by God's grace and those who were oblivious to their spiritual condition. The "excluded" in the gospels are the ones who excluded themselves by failing to show charity and mercy to those Jesus' called "the least." The grace of God in Jesus Christ is expansive. Our challenge is to exhibit a similarly expansive grace in Jesus' name.

Presbyterians have long-debated human sexuality and ordination standards and will most likely continue to do so. We will have to trust the Holy Spirit to one day bring us to consensus on this as well as other contentious matters. On Sunday, June 5, we will be holding a forum at 9:45 a.m. in Loudoun Hall for the purpose of sharing information about our denomination's action and responding to any questions persons may have about the action.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approves change in ordination standard

'Submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ' replaces 'fidelity and chastity'

May 10, 2011

Office of the General Assembly

[Sharon Youngs](#), Communications Coordinator, Louisville, KY

While the Office of the General Assembly awaits official tallies, it appears that a majority of the 173 presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have approved a change in PC(USA) ordination standards.

At its meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, the Presbytery of Twin Cities Area became the 87th presbytery to approve an amendment that will remove the constitutional requirement that all ministers, elders, and deacons live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" (G-6.0106b in the church's Book of Order).

The new language reads, "*Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*"

The new provision reaffirms the long-held right and responsibility of ordaining bodies (local church sessions for deacons and elders or presbyteries for ministers) to determine the suitability of each candidate for ordination.

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PCUSA

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The effect of the new language also opens up the possibility that persons in same-gender relationships can be considered for ordination.

The 219th General Assembly (2010) of the PC(USA) approved Amendment 10-A last summer, but required a majority of presbyteries to ratify the provision for it to become part of the church's Constitution.

The change will take effect July 10, 2011, one year after the adjournment of last summer's assembly.

In response to the vote, denominational leaders issued a letter to all congregations of the PC(USA), calling the debate about ordination standards "a Presbyterian family struggle." The letter goes on to say that Presbyterians have "sought to find that place where every congregation and every member, deacon, elder, and minister of the Word and Sacrament can share their gifts in ministry while, at the same time, the integrity of every congregation, member, deacon, elder, and minister is respected."

Additional resources are available at the [Office of the General Assembly website](#), which include a "frequently asked questions" document, liturgical resources, a video podcast by **Gradye Parsons**, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, and Advisory Opinion #24 about the change to G-6.0106b.

The full text of the churchwide letter:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

May grace, mercy, and peace be yours in abundance (Jude 1:2).

The debate about ordination standards has been a Presbyterian family struggle for much of the last three decades. We have sought to find that place where every congregation and every member, deacon, elder, and minister of the Word and Sacrament can share their gifts in ministry while, at the same time, the integrity of every congregation, member, deacon, elder, and minister is respected.

This year, the conversation has focused on Amendment 10-A that was passed by the 219th General Assembly (2010) and sent to presbyteries for approval. While we wait for official tallies, it appears that 87 presbyteries have approved 10-A, which is the majority required for approval.

If this becomes official, the new language outlining the gifts and requirements for ordained service will say the following:

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

This decision begins with an unequivocal affirmation that ordained office will continue to be rooted in each deacon, elder, and minister's "joyful submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life."

This action also has important effects on our life together as a church, namely:

- *in keeping with our historic principles of church order, each session and presbytery will continue to determine the suitability of individuals seeking ordination within its bounds.*
- *persons in a same-gender relationship may be considered for ordination and/or installation as deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within the PC(USA); and*
- *all other churchwide standards for ordination remain unchanged.*

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PCUSA

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Reactions to this change will span a wide spectrum. Some will rejoice, while others will weep. Those who rejoice will see the change as an action, long in coming, that makes the PC(USA) an inclusive church that recognizes and receives the gifts for ministry of all those who feel called to ordained office. Those who weep will consider this change one that compromises biblical authority and acquiesces to present culture. The feelings on both sides run deep.

However, as Presbyterians, we believe that the only way we will find God's will for the church is by seeking it together – worshiping, praying, thinking, and serving alongside one another. We are neighbors and colleagues, friends and family. Most importantly, we are all children of God, saved and taught by Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

We hold to the strong affirmation that all of us are bound together as the church through Jesus Christ our Lord. “There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all,” Paul wrote to the Ephesians (4:5-6).

It is Jesus Christ who calls individuals to ordained ministries, and all those who are called to ordained office continue to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of all and Head of the church. It is this same Jesus Christ who is the foundation of our faith and to whom we cling.

No doubt, there will be several news stories and other reports about this change in the days ahead. A number of resources, including frequently asked questions and liturgical resources, are available for you at the [Office of the General Assembly website](#). In addition, for those who wish to comment on or inquire further about 10-A, please email ga.amendments@pcusa.org or call (888) 728-7228, ext. 8202.

We invite you to join us in prayer:

Almighty God, we give thanks for a rich heritage of faithful witnesses to the gospel throughout the ages. We offer gratitude not only for those who have gone before us, but for General Assembly commissioners and presbyters across the church who have sought diligently to discern the mind of Christ for the church in every time and place, and especially in this present time.

May your Spirit of peace be present with us in difficult decisions, especially where relationships are strained and the future is unclear. Open our ears and our hearts to listen to and hear those with whom we differ. Most of all, we give thanks for Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who called the Church into being and who continues to call us to follow his example of loving our neighbor and working for the reconciliation of the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gradye Parsons

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Cynthia Bolbach

Moderator, 219th General Assembly (2010)

Linda Valentine

Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

Landon Whitsitt

Vice Moderator, 219th General Assembly (2010)



Amendment 10-A

Educational Forum

Sunday, June 5, 9:45 a.m.

Loudoun Hall



CCAP Sunday
3rd Sunday
of each month

June 19

*"Yet you, LORD, are our
 Father. We are the
 clay, you are the
 potter; we are all the
 work of your hand."*

Isaiah 64:8

Four Cents-A-Meal
Hunger Offering
4th Sunday
of each month

June 26



First Presbyterian Golf Tournament



Attention Golfers: First Church will host a golf tournament on Saturday, September 10, at Rock Harbor Golf Course in Winchester. The course is located just off Route 37. This will be a Captain's Choice tournament, and we are planning for 21 four-person teams, allowing for a shot-gun start. Check-in and lunch: 12-1 p.m.; tee-off: 1-1:15

p.m. Cost will be \$65 per golfer. More details will be provided in the coming months, but Fellowship Council wanted to be sure you had the tournament date so you can mark your calendar and start forming your team now. We are planning for a great golf outing that will include food and prizes. **Mark your calendar now!**



Class of 2011

We are thrilled to acknowledge and celebrate the following high school graduates:

- Nathaniel Butler**
- Tara Fulk**
- Ryan Hoak**
- Jamie McCormick**
- Samantha Nutter**
- Presley Parkes**
- Samantha Ravn**
- Kayla Smith**



It is a tradition at First Presbyterian to recognize our high school seniors. They will be presented at both 8:30 a.m. services and the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, June 5th. And they will leave their mark on the church by placing their footprints on the wall at 12 East Cork. Congratulations, grads!!



Christian Believers

Congratulations to those who completed the Christian Believer course, a 30-week study of Christian doctrine, this year: **Ed Bell, Ross Byers, Nelda Head, Carl Hess, Sue Lam, Lil McQueen, Mary Robinson, Jan Smith, and Jim Wahlman.** New classes in the DISCIPLE series will be starting in the fall.

Spread the News: Director of Children's Ministry Sought

First Church is seeking a Director of Children's Ministry to replace Stacey Iden, who is leaving the position after 12 years of service. This full-time position will continue the creation and oversight of comprehensive programming designed for the growth and faith development of children from birth through fifth grade. The church expects the new Director of Christian Education to: Maintain a strong commitment to Jesus Christ; plan, articulate, and execute opportunities for the spiritual growth of children and their families; possess good organizational and planning skills and the ability to guide and motivate coordinators and volunteers within children's ministry; and have experience in teaching children and preferably a degree in early childhood education or children's ministry.

Applications for the position will be accepted until the position is filled, with the expected start date to be on or before August 15, 2011. For more information, contact Dick Creasey at richard_creasey@yahoo.com.

Weddings

May 14 Seth Winter and Heather Wheelock

May 21 Jerry Dorsey and Elizabeth Swiatoviak

In Memoriam, with Christian sympathy to the families

Apr 10 Patricia Harvey Dell, sister of Laura Burdick

May 14 Ina Kingdon

May 29 Bob Pumphrey, Sr.

DEADLINE FOR THE July/August CALVIN CHATTER is June 20. Send submissions to calvin.chatter@verizon.net.

CALVIN CHATTER

Winner of the annual Award for Publication Excellence (APEX) since 1998

CO-EDITORS: Dan McCoig, 540-662-3824, and Susan Kagey, 540-678-8616 or calvin.chatter@verizon.net

EDITOR EMERITA: Chi-Chi Kern

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Email Address: info@firstchurch-winchester.org

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Founded July 16, 1788; Organized September 7, 1800

Sunday Worship Services 7:30 a.m. (Boyd Chapel), 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

New Stone Gathering (Fellowship Hall), 8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Cookies 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Reifsnnyder

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Dan M. McCoig, Jr.

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Parish Associate: The Reverend Elizabeth Lewis

Children's Ministry Administrator: Stacey Iden

Minister of Music: Roger Callis

Director of Adult Handbell Choirs: Lynn Reifsnnyder

Organist: Pat Byers

Music Leader for New Stone Gathering: David Merrill