

# South Plains Reflector



South Plains Presbyterian Church  
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JUNE 2011

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Change can be good, bad or indifferent. This summer's change in our denomination's Book of Order could be any of the above, but in my view the significance is unknown because the speed of this change will be glacial. Here's why.

First, what's happened is that a recent addition to the requirements for ordination (G-6.0106b) has been replaced by vote of the General Assembly and a majority of the presbyteries. The previous language said two things: Elders, deacons and ministers had "to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and 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." Someone counted 430 "sins" listed in our Book of Confessions. While these standards for ordination are precise, they proved difficult to enforce in practice for several reasons. Never before had a specific behavior been singled out as a requirement for ordination in the constitution. A serious sin for one generation, such as usury, becomes problematic for another. Moreover, fairness means inquiring into everyone's past bedroom behavior, a distasteful and risky business. Many felt that graceful judgments had been replaced by judgmental legalism. These problems existed regardless of one's position on sexual orientation, the prime motivation which led to the introduction of these standards for ordination.

Second, what has not changed is the way elders, deacons and ministers are examined. Sessions still question elders and deacons. Presbyteries still question ministers. Congregations still elect their own officers. The vows taken at every ordination and installation remain the same. New language replacing the deleted paragraph speaks to the desire "to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life...[with] calling, gifts, preparation and suitability...[as well as] commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation."

Third, nothing prevents a session or presbytery from making their decision based on a candidate's behavior in the past or likely behavior in the future. This kind of judgment is the essence of the examination process and lies at the heart of church discipline. It requires prayer, grace, wisdom and a sharp mind tempered by humility. Certainly the church has made mistakes and will continue to do so, especially when exercising discipline in the area of sexual mores. My prayer is that this new language will give us the courage and freedom to call a new generation of leaders to a more Christ-like life.

(cont. on page 2)

**DR. DAVID K.  
GARTH PASTOR**

**Sunday Worship**

1st Service  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

2nd Service  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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**Christian Education**

Classes for all ages  
meet from  
9:45 AM to 10:30 AM  
each Sunday  
September through  
May

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**Childcare for  
infants through 2nd  
grade**

**Save the Dates!**  
**June 12—Kirk Hall  
Dedication**

**July 10—Open House**

**July 11-15 VBS**



(continued from page 1)

For the past generation, all churches have struggled with sexual misconduct in very public ways. There is no single enemy and no silver bullet that will eliminate our problems. Our task for at least another generation will be to interpret the unchanged prohibition against adultery in a changing world. That's going to demand the best of liberals and conservatives and sinners working together. The Holy Spirit is up to the challenge. In sum, the sky is not falling, the ground is firm, and the kingdom of God awaits only our obedience.

*David*

May 11, 2011

Dear Fellow Presbyters,

On May 10th at the meeting of the Twin Cities Presbytery, Amendment 10-A was ratified. We now begin the process of incorporating this change into the actions of the Presbytery of the James, with the upcoming Committee on Ministry meeting this Thursday, May 12th.

Last fall at our Presbytery meeting, we were evenly divided for and against this amendment. With such a division we have opportunities to witness to Jesus Christ as we work this out among us and with God's help. We can show compassion; we can listen for the Spirit's whispers; we can trust that God will work out God's purposes for us. We have before us an opportunity to exhibit to each other some of the mercy and grace that we receive so abundantly from the Lord.

This is what former moderator Rick Ufford-Chase said: "Amendment 10-A . . . doesn't make our disagreement go away, but it places the conversation about ordination back in the context in which it belongs. Each of us brings unique gifts, and also unique challenges, to the practice of ministry in the service of Jesus Christ. It has always been the role of local congregations and presbyteries to weigh the gifts and the challenges of each candidate and to determine whether that person is genuinely called by God to the service at hand. Amendment 10-A reaffirms that history and places the obligation for such discernment back where it belongs once again."

Attached is a copy of the previous Book of Order provision for ordination and the new one which will be implemented.

May we glorify God in our work together.

Janet James, POJ Moderator, 2011  
Pastor, The Gayton Kirk  
11421 Gayton Road  
Richmond, VA 23238  
804-741-5254  
Www.thegaytonkirk.org

H. Carson Rhyne Jr., Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of the James  
3218 Chamberlayne Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227  
804-262-2074  
www.presbyteryofthejames.org

## *Prayer Matters*

Barbara Penington	Back surgery June 1
Billy Scharpf	The Cedars
Earl Biel	UVa Hospital
Guy Hampton	Surgery June 2
Marge Riley	Back surgery June 9
Betty Kuhns	Gary's mother, hospitalized with heart failure
Lowell Wright	Prayers for Lowell, son Jeff, and family. Friend of Lyn Johnson
Charlotte Durham	Arthritis
Teresa Maddox	Janet and Kip Riddle's daughter, surgery
Bruce Harper	Joan and Earl Biel's son-in-law, prostate cancer
Brenda Bikos	Chemotherapy
Billy Proffitt	Bernice Gibson's friend, recovering from back surgery
Kristen Walker and her new baby, Eloise	
Kathy Dwyer	Healing prayers
Crosby Smith	Prayers for good health for this premature baby
Natalie Dalstrom	Martha Smith's mother recovering at home
Prayers for Youngs at Grenada Church	
Pat and Connie Shepherd	Health issues, Keplinger family
Mary Stadelman	Linda Harrison's aunt
Jenny Matthews	Friend of Kuhns with recurrence of cancer
Marge Hampton	Recovering at her daughter's house
People of Christ Church, New Zealand and Japan	
Randy Michie	Friend of Jim Higginbotham
Danny Raible	Multiple myeloma, friend of Meg and Travis Taylor
Nancy Eason	Sherry Esch's aunt, car accident and long recovery
Jessica	14 year old with a brain tumor
Ethan Blevins	Friend of the Bucks in treatment for leukemia
Mary Harris	Neal Harris' mother, Our Lady of Peace
Theresa Naylor	Neal Harris' aunt, Our Lady of Peace
Ernie Moore	Margaret's father-in-law
Larry and Paula Comier	14 month Mission Trip to Liberia, friends of Lyman Drake
Marianne Josephson	Leah Wayner's mother, chemotherapy treatment
Janet Riddle	Healing prayers
Claire Smith	Health Care, Westminster Canterbury
Stan Goodsill	Health Care, Westminster Canterbury
Gordon Smyth	Health Care, Westminster Canterbury
Glenn Wells	Lyn Johnson's brother
Cecil Shiflett	Recovering from surgery
Marge Riley	Healing prayers
The people of Chile and Haiti	
Elza Ramirez	Don's mother
Dreama Travis	Lucille Campbell's friend, cancer
Doris Richards	Marge Hampton's sister
Alf Dane	Lyn Johnson's uncle
Robert James	UVA Hospital, cancer treatment



## Military and Government Service

Canon Andrew White	Afghanistan
Eric Neudorfer	USMC, Middle East, nephew of Ted and Linda Makranczy
Rob Young	Grandson of Barbara and Rick Bowie, USAF, U.S.
Rick Young	Grandson of Barbara and Rick Bowe, USAF, U.S.
Allen Smith	Fighting cancer
Travis McDaniel	National Guard
Ralph Pruitt	Deployed to Iraq
Charles Jones	USN, Pensacola, FL
Josh Sobotincic	Gil and Carole Milks' grandson in U.S.
James Webb	Georgia, automobile accident
Marshall Baughman	Afghanistan
Michael Kolton	Joanne and Vito Addotta's grandson, deployed to Afghanistan
Mark Little	Recovering well with prosthesis
Doug Fenton	PCUSA chaplain-PTS
Rudy Mukendi	Iraq
Andrew Scogna	Rehabilitation



**JUNE 19, 2011**

**ANNUAL DEDICATION OF  
HANDCRAFTS FOR  
MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE  
FOUNDATION**

Plan to attend dedication of baby caps, blankets, hospital gowns, sweaters, toys, quilts, and other handwork that will be sent to MBF (the medical mission branch of Presbyterian Church-USA). Items will be sent by MBF to mission hospitals around the world. We look forward to sharing together the gratifying bounty of a year's worth of knitting, crocheting, stitching, and handwork.

If you have been working on items please take them to the Missions room before June 16th, so they can be included in the dedication service. The Missions room is located at the end of the long hall on the main floor of Kirk Hall.

Thank you to all who have contributed time and talent to provide needed items for missions. Mission Crafters WILL MEET on the afternoon of June 19 to work on projects for next year and to pack items for mailing to MBF offices in Houston, TX. YOU are welcome!

South Plains Financial	Year to	2011
April	Date	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Offering	68,299.25	196,000.00
Interest/Dividends	2.59	10.00
Other		
Total Income	68,301.84	196,010.00
<b>Expense</b>		
Ministerial	26,203.63	83,070.00
Administrative	5,028.45	14,650.00
Utilities	3,640.02	7,600.00
Buildings and Grounds	1,809.46	18,240.00
Worship and Music	3,829.19	14,330.00
Christian Education	5.25	3,160.00
Congregational Care	45.25	1,000.00
Fellowship	169.54	2,000.00
Long Range Planning	65.89	50.00
Finance	36.46	1,510.00
Evangelism		1,450.00
Benevolence and Mission	4,801.90	16,940.00
Trustees	70.00	5,345.00
Other	802.50	18,180.00
Total Expense	46,507.54	187,525.00
Net Gain/(Loss)	21,794.30	8,485.00

**SUNRISE KICK-OFF BLITZ**

**VOLUNTEERS FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S SUNRISE BLITZ BUILD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 18, FROM 7:30AM-12:30PM. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**THIS IS THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SUNRISE DEVELOPMENT AND THE 15TH HOME PRESBYTERIANS HAVE SPONSORED. CONTACT CHAD WAYNER IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY.**

## MAY SESSION RECAP

Session opened its May 17 meeting by sharing concerns and prayer. The budgets for the year and for Kirk Hall are on track. Session approved:

- Dana's vacation June 8-9, September 14-15
- Gifts from the Garths and Valentines for Kirk Hall
- The concept of a donated pre-school playground with future reports coming about the plans
- Called meetings to receive new members May 22 and to discuss Kirk Hall usage on May 31
- A congregational life survey
- Authorization for Lyman Drake and Bill Orr to negotiate the demolition of the Manse
- Plans for the Endowment Fund
- A short-term Sunday School class with Gay Lee Einstein.

Session heard reports on:

- Sale of the Manse furnace (\$1,000)
- Successful removal of the oil tank and pumping of the septic tank
- The creation of a Facebook account
- Baby cap dedication for June 19
- Dedication plans for Kirk Hall on June 12
- Funding for Kirk Hall construction
- Financial report for the budget.
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Meeting closed with prayer.

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**IMPACT** is looking for a part time bookkeeper to start as soon as possible. Starting wage is \$15.00 per hour. Responsibilities typically require 3-4 hours a week but time requirement is flexible. This position requires someone who is responsible, reliable, and discrete.

IMPACT Office  
 100 Alderman Road  
 Charlottesville, Va 22903  
 434-220-2450  
[impact@thedartcenter.org](mailto:impact@thedartcenter.org)

See Dana for complete job description.

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## NEWS FROM CAMP HANOVER

- Is there a young child, grandchild, or neighbor in your life? Is it your prayer that they might come to know and love God? Do you want to provide fun, meaningful, life-enriching opportunities for them to grow? Camp Hanover may be just the place. Send your elementary-high school aged camper to Camp Hanover this summer! Sign up now while there's still space! Call to request a brochure or learn more and register online at [www.camphanover.org](http://www.camphanover.org)
- Camp Hanover is hiring Camp Counselors, an Aquatics Coordinator, RNs, a Health Care Supervisor, and a Day Camp Onsite Director. If you're looking for a meaningful, fun-filled summer making a difference in the lives of young people and building Christ-centered community, visit [www.camphanover.org](http://www.camphanover.org) or email Summer Camp Director: [summercampdir@camphanover.org](mailto:summercampdir@camphanover.org) or Day Camp Director: [camphanoverdaycamp@gmail.com](mailto:camphanoverdaycamp@gmail.com).



## SAVE THE DATES

### SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Kirk Hall Dedication: 12:30pm light lunch

1:15pm Dedication Service

### SUNDAY, JULY 10

Open House, 2-4pm. We will be inviting the community to visit South Plains' Kirk Hall.

### JULY 11-15—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**JOANNE ADDOTTA**

### SOUTH PLAINS VOLUNTEERING

The “Mission Group” is the title that has been given the group of South Plains women who make weekly visits to one of the assisted living homes in Charlottesville. This group currently includes Joanne Addotta, Margaret Moore, Heide Schumann, and Marion Thompson. They lead a worship service with the residents who choose to attend. This mission has been a part of South Plains’ outreach ministry for over 20 years. Originally the group included Ruthanna Foard, Annette Behnke, Charlotte Durham, Grace Hampton, and others. Currently, the group of four or five women goes to Winter Haven (recently re-named “Heritage Hall”), on South Pantops Drive, each Friday morning, when possible.

The worship service includes hymn singing, for which the residents are given a booklet, in large-print form. The group takes a portable keyboard along. A brief Scripture reading and meditation is shared. Occasionally, our pastor joins the group to conduct a celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Many of the residents express their appreciation for this opportunity. Recently one of the “care-givers” told us how much it had meant to her, saying she had learned so much, too.

The group of women who serve in this mission would welcome, gladly, any others (women and men) who would like to be a part of this service opportunity and enriching experience for us all.

**MARION THOMPSON  
AND  
MARGARET MOORE**





Larry and Mary Anne Fitzgerald come to us on reaffirmation of faith and are residents of Keswick. Larry is employed as CFO at University of Virginia Hospital, and Mary Anne is a 7th grade teacher at the Covenant School. They have two grown children, Andy and Sam. Larry has show interest in the financial asset management work of our church, and Mary Anne wants to become involved in Vacation Bible School this summer.

Richard and Alice Lakes come to us on reaffirmation of faith and are residents of Keswick. Alice and Richard are both pharmacists, Alice for 30+ years in Long-Term Care and presently employed as a Geriatric Consultant, and Richard as a Colonel with the U.S. Army, now retired. Richard has called Charlottesville home since Pharmacy School and brought Alice to our area with their marriage. There are two children, Suzanne Lakes Pearson and Erin Kristin Fox. They were attracted to South Plains because of our pastor and by warm greetings by the congregation.



Martha Yocum lives with her husband George in Louisa and comes to us on reaffirmation of faith. Martha was born in Charlottesville and has been attending South Plains sine she was 7 or 8 years old. Her mother, aunt, and brother have been members, as well as her aunt, Elsie Grissinger. Martha has a son, Monty Mawyer. Martha does private elderly care as “Martha’s Loving Care,” Martha Yocum, PDA.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Larry and Mary Anne Fitzgerald  
1239 Thistle Down  
Keswick 22947  
245-1617

Richard and Alice Lakes  
3337 Carroll Creek Road  
Keswick 22947  
984-6238

Martha Yocum  
2837 Byrd Mill Road  
Louisa 23093  
540-967-3801

# **1ST ANNUAL ADULT RETREAT**

## **MASSANETTA SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER**

On Thursday, May 5, 2011, the first annual Adult Retreat sponsored by the Presbytery of the James and the Shenandoah Presbytery was held at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. South Plains was represented by four attendees at the one day program. The program consisted of spiritual music, a guest devotional speaker, lunch, and an afternoon of activities where the attendees could select among singing, scrapbooking, hiking, facility tours, or just relaxing on the grounds of the beautiful center on an absolutely gorgeous day.

Rev. Jane Govan of Cove Presbyterian Church in Coveseville, Virginia, taught the morning devotional lesson entitled "Songs of The Faithful Heart: The Psalms Speak to All God's People". Incorporating music and attendee participation into her presentation, Rev. Govan's presentation was well received and provided spiritual fulfillment to all of the participants.

Special thanks go out to Pat Valentine for her efforts in co-planning the program and activities for the day. Doug Valentine was instrumental in helping with transportation around the conference center grounds as well. For those of you who don't know, Pat and Doug Valentine have been volunteering their talents and time at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center for more than 40 years. The center is owned by the Presbyterian Church and is the host location for numerous activities for adults and youth throughout the year.

There were over 100 attendees at the retreat, and planning has already begun for next year's program. The entire event was rewarding and enriching, Please plan to attend next year. We guarantee you won't be disappointed.

-Richard Lakes

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**ALL NURSERY WORKERS, PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND INTERESTED MEMBERS:** Please plan to attend a nursery orientation, in the nursery, at 10am Sunday, June 5. Come meet the others involved in this essential ministry and receive valuable information about our new facilities, routines and safety protocol now that we've moved into Kirk Hall. Children are welcome, and attending this orientation does not mean you have to serve!

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### **NEW ADDRESS:**

Sylvia Sheffield  
2300 Cedarfield Parkway, apt. 460  
Richmond, VA 23233-1947  
804-474-8930

"I hope that you can visit me in Richmond. It is an easy trip from Charlottesville! I am happy to hear of the good progress with Kirk Hall and hope to attend a service soon."

-Sylvia



# JUNE

## South Plains Presbyterian Church

**SUN      MON      TUES      WED      THURS      FRI      SAT**

			1	2	3	4
5 Nursery Orientation mtg., 10am	6 Long Range Planning mtg. 6:30pm	7	8 Finance mtg. 2:30pm	9	10	11
12 Recognition of SS teachers and nursery staff  Kirk Hall Dedication Service 12:30pm	13 PW 9:15am	14	15	16	17	18
19 Baby Cap Dedication  Mission Crafters noon	20	21 Session, 7pm	22	23	24	25
26 Cents-ability	27	28 Reflector deadline	29	30		