



## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The Martins have been getting our raised-bed garden ready for planting. We planted a few potatoes last month on Good Friday. (Planting potatoes on Good Friday was advice from a church member.) The rest of the garden has been waiting for May 10. (advice from a different church member). So between Good Friday and next week, we have been waiting, watching three tiny potato plans poke out of the ground, and planning what to put in our small garden.

As the area is parceled out, there will be a spot reserved for radishes. The reasons for planting radishes are both culinary and theological. Culinary, because at least two of the Martins will eat radishes in a salad. Theological, because of where the word *radish* comes from. Do you know where we get the word, *radish*? It comes from the Latin word, *radix*, which means literally: root.

*Radish* means root, and that's a perfect name for this kind of vegetable. It makes sense for our garden because Presbyterians care about roots. Theologically speaking, roots are important. As Presbyterians, we want access to the roots. Our roots are in the early church and the Bible.

Presbyterian seminaries teach Greek and Hebrew to their students, so we can get to the roots.

Sunday school classes study the Bible because we want to get to the roots.

Churches are called to practice what Jesus teaches because we want to get to the roots.



So let me go a little deeper with this root language. We Presbyterians are radicals. Let me explain...while *radical* can mean an extremist (and some Presbyterians are radicals in this meaning), there is a second definition, which applies to all Presbyterians.

A second definition of radical means *arising from, or going to a root*. In that second sense, we Presbyterians are all radicals. We are connected to the root of the church from its very beginning. We are connected to the resurrected Jesus who stirred the first disciples to announce with boldness the great work of God

in the world. The same resurrected Christ stirs us. We are connected to that first Pentecost, where radish-red tongues of fire appeared over the disciples. This month we will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 27. (Remember to wear something red that day)

We are radicals who go to the root of things. When we face a question in the church, we go to the root. When we listen for where God is calling us, we go to the root. We study God's Word together and try to discern the way forward. We listen to the confessional statements of the historic church and return to the root...and pray. Does that mean we always agree on what we discover at the root? (You already know that answer to that question.) What I value about our Presbyterian way is that we are committed to the root—not only the words of the Scripture, but the Word of God made flesh.

Our great Presbyterian Church has a motto. See if you think it sounds root-like and radical: *The church reformed and always to be reformed according to the work of God.*

Radicals together, Jon



Nursery Helpers for  
May/June

- May 6-Sally Brown and  
Lisa Bailey  
May 13-Judy Briscoe and  
Carol White  
May 20-Cassie Pochyla and  
Mary Jane Crosby  
May 27-David & Jane Prater  
June 3-Melissa Eller and  
Audriana Jackson  
June 10-Mary Anne Thomas  
and Patty Clark  
June 17-Mike & Karen Catron  
June 24-Maria Briscoe and  
Norma Smith

Flower Calendar Openings!

Sign up for a Sunday in the church office.

Prayer List

Janet Martin, John Blake,  
Richard Briscoe, Jack Briscoe,  
Holly Briscoe, Ann Lowry,  
Cynthia Mitchell, Todd  
Murray, Donna Abel, Jon  
Lawniczak, Lois Gillespie,  
Sally Brown, Hale triplets,  
Kitty Pelfrey, Emma Barton,  
Roberta Hale, Leroy Jones,  
Helen Garland, Elizabeth  
Ponder, Barbara Adams,  
Doris Poe, David King, Bob  
Lowe, Lynn McConnell, Nancy  
Thompson, Jim Groseclose,  
Sara Lawson, Carolyn  
Deaton, Virginia Thompson,  
Tom & Connie Counts, Edna  
McConnell, Bill & Marge  
Margerum, Sandra Wimmer,  
Lena McVey, Janet McCauley,  
Erma Combs, Rhonda Moore,  
Barbara Blevins, Edith Ratliff,  
Karen Combs, Ethan Grubb,  
Eva Bailey, Bo Miller, Phyllis  
Garner, Nancy Greary, Rickey  
White, Terry White, Roberta  
Richey, Jackie Cantrell and  
Helen Carter.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY-SUNDAY MAY 13



Pot Luck Supper  
Sunday, May 20  
Right after worship.

Responding to the Good News

Date	Attendance	Offering
4-1-12	133	\$3392.20
4-8-12	151	\$4672.88
4-15-12	95	\$3163.00
4-22-12	106	\$4145.13
4-29-12	122	\$2645.89



The Care Ministry at Green Spring ..... The Care Ministry is a ministry of care for all of us. Our motto is "devoted to one another in brotherly love.." Romans 12:10. We want you to know about it for two reasons. (1.) To know what is available and how to get in touch if you have a need and (2.) To know areas that you might become involved with in service to god. Sometimes we need to accept the help, care, prayers, and love from our church family, and other times we need to be the ones giving the help and love to those experiencing a hospitalization, death in the family or other need. There is a telephone prayer and care chain and an email prayer and info line. The telephone chain can be started by calling Gilda Keller 276-628-3070 or Hope Humphrey 276-628-3020. If you have an email address, we encourage you to get on our email chain. You will receive church information as well as prayer requests and updates, and you do not have to respond, call or email anyone. The email address is [mjrosby@centurylink.net](mailto:mjrosby@centurylink.net) and/or [gspchurch@comcast.net](mailto:gspchurch@comcast.net). Our various ministries include shut-in and hospital visitation, meals, cards, social, widows and singles, Green Spring Rest Home, transportation and honey-do, and prayer chain and information line (both phone and email). If you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact Mary Jane Crosby 276-676-0663.

**Birthdays–May/June**

May 5-Wayne Wimmer  
 May 9-Linda Sweet  
 May 11-Sandra Tignor  
 May 12-Grace Garrett  
 May 14-Tyler Jackson  
 May 16-Mary Anne Thomas  
 May 20-Barbara Presley  
 May 23-Tom Counts  
 May 23-Malcolm Sprinkle  
 May 27-Phyllis Briscoe  
 May 27-Pauline McClanahan  
 June 2-Emma Faith Hensley  
 June 3-Tom White  
 June 4-Bob Kilbourne  
 June 7-Charles Presley, II  
 June 7-Audriana Jackson  
 June 7-Roger Tignor  
 June 12-Nancy Abel  
 June 12-Jane LaRue  
 June 13-Marge Margerum  
 June 18-Bonnie Keller  
 June 22-Lindsey Lowry  
 June 23-Elizabeth Phillippi

**Anniversaries–May/June**

May 6-Jack & Nancy Abel  
 May 8-Roger & Sandra Tignor  
 June 1-Bill & Jane LaRue  
 June 5-Lee & Grace Garrett  
 June 6-Tom & Edna McConnell  
 June 8-Joe & Bonnie Keller  
 June 12-Bill & Marge Margerum  
 June 16-Preston & Yvonne Brown  
 June 17-Blair & Gilda Keller  
 June 20-Larry & Judy Mullins  
 June 23-Leighton & Ann Sprinkle  
 June 28-Sam & Jeanie Evans

(If you would like your name included on the birthdays/anniversaries list please contact Barbara at the church office with the dates)



The deadline to put anything in the next issue of *Gleanings* is May 25th. Send to [gspchurch@comcast.net](mailto:gspchurch@comcast.net) or call the church office at 628-6288.

# Sunday School SCHEDULE

9:45-10:40am

Pre-school	<i>We Learn to Be Kind</i> Teacher: Jeanie Evans
Primary	<i>Following Jesus, Faithfully</i> Teacher: Patty Clark
Middle School	<i>All About the Bible</i> Teachers: Jane Prater and Erin Evans
Adult Bible Study-room off from narthex	<i>The Word Will Be</i> Teachers: Tom Deaton and Jasper Reynolds
Adults -Warner Room	<i>Heaven!</i> Teacher: Tim Briscoe



Find us on Facebook:  
 Green Spring Presbyterian Church,  
 Abingdon, Virginia



[www.greenspringchurch.org](http://www.greenspringchurch.org)

## Peanut Butter Offering



April 1	23
April 8	27
April 15	28
April 22	25
April 29	24
Apr. Total	127
Overall total	502

*Congratulations* to John Dickens for being selected as "Signature Artist" for the Virginia Highlands Festival for 2012. A picture of his carving of Robert Porterfield is shown on their web site.