

FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY

Responding to God's Call.

LeaderPak

October, 2011

For Your Calendar

I've got 4 important items which I hope will leap from this page onto your calendars. In chronological order:

(1) The All-Presbytery Worship Service at 1st Albany at 4 pm on Sunday afternoon, October 23rd. Stephen Hayner will be our preacher (see his bio below). We'll sing and celebrate the sacrament of our Lord's Last Supper, and remember deceased Elders and Pastors, and commission our Guatemala Mission Team, and celebrate pastoral anniversaries, and.....

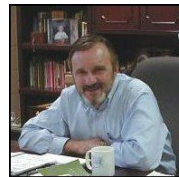
(2) SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION TRAINING

No one likes to think about it; no one likes to talk about it. But it happens. Pastors are human, and human beings get trapped by their emotions in spite of their best of intentions. So it is time for our pastoral leaders to be reminded of the traps, and girded against their emotions. ALL pastors serving churches, and Commissioned Ruling Elders (formerly CLPs), are required to attend ONE of three workshops that will be led by The Reverend Dr Leanne Simmons. Other church staff members and presbytery trained lay preachers and non-parish/retired pastors are invited to join us.



Leanne Simmons

Leanne Simmons is a summa cum laude PhD graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary's Religion and Society Program. Her focus is Ethics with a particular interest in the way selfhood and embodiment function in theo-ethical systems. She also holds three masters degrees: an MDiv, a ThM focusing on Pseudepigraphic materials and an MA in Koine Greek. She is an ordained Teaching Elder, serving All Saints Presbyterian Church. She has taught at Princeton Theological Seminary.



Paul Luthman, EP

In This Issue

For Your Calendar....

Renewed in the Water

A Big Man with a Big Heart

Remember Forward, Remember Backward

Moderator's Message Fall 2011

Flint River's Mission Trip to Guatemala!

One Year Ago

Food For Thought

Personals

October, 2011 Calendar

Parish Paper

Quick Links

[Special Events](#)

(School for Lay Renewal, Sabbath Retreats)

[FRP Youth Network](#)

[Sabbath Retreat](#)

[October Parish Paper](#)

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

Auburn University and Morningside College, and is currently teaching Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary.

The dates are 3 pm to 7 pm on Monday, November 14 (prior to the 11/15 presbytery meeting); 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday, February 11; and 3 pm to 7 pm on Friday, February 24 (prior to the 2/25 presbytery meeting). A block of motel rooms will be reserved the evenings prior to the two presbytery meetings for those who wish to spend the night. Additional details will be sent out shortly.

(3) Our final Presbytery Meeting for 2011 is at Trinity/Valdosta on Tuesday, November 15th.

(4) 4th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

JANUARY 22, 2012

We called it the "Pulpit Exchange" for three years, but the name has been changed to stress the other important part of the day. PASTORS will preach in randomly chosen churches.....but we believe it is equally important that half of the Session accompany him/her. This exchange is about building awareness of our neighboring brothers and sisters. It is about sharing fellowship and ideas and getting to know each other better. And everyone has a great time! So....mark the date on your calendars, and be at the November 15th Presbytery meeting at Trinity/Valdosta for the drawing.

RENEWED IN THE WATER

Flint River Presbytery Worship Service
4:00 pm Sunday, October 23, 2011
First Presbyterian Church Albany, GA

Preaching: Stephen A. Hayner



Stephen A.

An ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 38 years, Dr. Hayner is the ninth president of Columbia Theological Seminary. He joined the seminary's faculty in 2003 after a long history of experience in ministry to the church and to university students. His passion is to prepare men and women to lead congregations toward the fulfillment of God's call to be missional churches—churches that are biblically faithful and growing steadily in their love for God, their love for each other, and their love for Christ's work in the world.

Hayner

After graduating from Whitman College with a degree in English literature, Dr. Hayner went to Harvard University and completed the M.T.S. degree in Semitic languages and literature. While at Harvard, he experienced God's call to full-time ministry in the church. He received a Th.M. degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1973, and was ordained and installed as "university pastor" at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle where he was involved with students and faculty for 11 years.

In 1984, Dr. Hayner completed his Ph.D. in Old Testament from University of St. Andrews, in Scotland, and was called to be vice president for student life at Seattle Pacific University. In 1988, he became president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a non-denominational discipleship ministry to students on campuses across the country. He led InterVarsity for 13 years before leaving to re-engage parish ministry, serving from 2001 to 2003 as associate pastor in two ethnically and theologically diverse congregations in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Hayner has served on a number of national and international boards, including World Vision, International Justice Mission, Christian International Scholarship Foundation, Fuller Seminary, The Navigators, Evangelical Environmental Network and Presbyterian Global Fellowship.

He and his wife, Sharol, a pastor and 2006 graduate of Columbia's M.Div. program, have three children: Emilie, her husband, Chad, and their daughters, Claire and Anna, live in Rome, GA; Chip and his wife, Kristen along with their daughter, Lainey, live in Nashville; and 19-year-old Drew is an artist and designer in Atlanta.

A Big Man with a Big Heart

by Rev. Kirk Dausman

I haven't met many Presbyterian Pastors who beat 450-plus pound tractor tires with a sledgehammer to blow off steam and stay in shape, but Dan Jessop of First Presbyterian, Donalsonville takes his exercise seriously. He's not only a recently ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament, he's also a ranked amateur athlete. You likely won't see him on a network broadcast or even on ESPN. He trains and he travels to compete in Highland games, which include numerous events of Celtic origin that involve lifting and/or throwing heavy objects while wearing a kilt.

Dan has been athletic since high school (he was a starter on a Wyoming state championship football team two years running). During his collegiate career in Nebraska, made possible by a track and field scholarship, Dan ran into a pastor who introduced him, for the first time, to an authentic, living, breathing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Growing up,

Dan and his younger brother were mostly raised by his grandparents. While they did an admirable job of looking after him, they were de-churched folks, having been soured on the church after being rejected by the mainline church where they lived. So Dan was not in the habit of worshipping and learning with a community of believers, but at a time in life when many folks are running away from the institutional church, Dan ran right smack into it during his undergraduate years. Flush with his newfound faith, Dan's future plans were changed to make way for a trip to seminary. While at Columbia, he not only received an education leading to a Master of Divinity, he also met a very special lady. Bethany and Dan nurture a deepening relationship that now involves a commitment to travel, as she is still studying in Atlanta.

Southwest Georgia is a far piece from Wyoming (or Nebraska, or from Decatur, for that matter), but Dan feels the transition from seminarian to his First Ordained Call has gone pretty smoothly. Though he realizes he has much to learn about being a Pastor from the fine folks in Seminole County, he feels fortunate to have inherited a number of very positive projects and missions, including extremely active and vibrant children's and youth ministries.

The rewarding relationship he has cultivated with the Lord will sustain him and serve as a source of inspiration for those who also have felt passed-by at some point by the institutional church. Dan has been gifted with a unique combination of strength of mind, body and soul and a servant's heart that makes others at ease in his presence.

Remember Forward, Remember Backward

The Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland has a wonderfaul line that goes something like this: "It is a poor memory that only remembers backwards!"

Amen. As believers and followers of Jesus, we are always remembering forward, aren't we? Looking ahead, with good hope, to the time when the kingdom will be revealed in all its fullness and justice and mercy embrace in ways we cannot fathom.

But sometimes, before we can remember forward, we need to remember backward. That's what we do when we gather at the Lord's Table and what we'll be doing with particular focus this week with believers from every corner of the globe. Remembering all that Jesus has offered on our behalf is a critical part of our remembering forward. We find our meaning in moving forward only after looking backward. And we rejoin and rejoice as God's people who are called to do no less than Jesus.

It's been a year now that I've served all of you, full-time as presbytery staff. And it has been a good one! Lots of opportunities for learning, service, and growing edges for all of us. So, that we all may continue to grow up and into Christ and Christ's body, I'd like to remember backward, in order to address some misperceptions, so that we can move forward on common ground.



Deb Bibler, AEP

Moderator's Message Fall 2011

It has been my honor and my privilege to serve as your Moderator these last two years. It was a joyful journey filled with renewing friendships, acquiring new friendships, continuing to learn more and love more about our presbytery and its staff and clergy, and receiving love, support, and warmth from every encounter. From traveling to national headquarters in Louisville for training, to our churches on a country road, I can truly say I am proud to be a part of Flint River Presbytery.

Having being a native Georgian, a travel fanatic, and a former Georgia History teacher, I thought I had seen most of Georgia. While obtaining my personal goal of visiting all 50 churches in our presbytery and Bare Bulb, I witnessed some of the most beautiful parts of God's creation that I had never seen. Every church welcomed me with open arms and treated me like a queen. I am so grateful for the hospitality, warmth and love. All of our churches have wonderful worship, programs and missions. I have listed some of the special highlights below.



Nancy Reimer

Thank you for a WONDERFUL two years that will be held in my heart and mind as cherished life long memories.

51 Ways to Love Flint River Presbytery

1. Adel Presbyterian Church - loving hearts, rebuilding their congregation
2. All Saints Presbyterian Church (Midland/Columbus) - Enthusiastic, afghans for warmth scattered among seats
3. Beth Salem Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - shelter mission, nice teamwork, nice music
4. Boston Presbyterian Church - historic church building and grounds, charming architecture, dedicated Sunday School class
5. C. K. Smith Presbyterian Church (Albany) - so inviting and friendly
6. Cairo Presbyterian Church - 3 parishes together had nice choir, musicians, nice ice cream social
7. Carver Heights Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - energetic, gift bags for visitors, loose change for hunger baskets, mission statement recited weekly, community and neighborhood involvement
8. Covenant Presbyterian Church (Albany) - missions conference, location on lake, help for ones in need
9. Cuba Presbyterian Church - children's ministry, prayer blankets to ill
10. Dawes Presbyterian Church - history of church and building, proof can have church in a power outage with no electricity and not miss a beat
11. Dillon Road Presbyterian Church - devoted adult Sunday School class, picturesque with picket fence, even gives fresh crops to ones there
12. Edgewood Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - fellowship dutch treat lunches after church at local restaurants, super greeter teams, parlor prayer time after services
13. Elmodel Presbyterian Church - 1st woman Elder ordained for that church, food and fellowship
14. First Korean Presbyterian Church (Valdosta) - so hospitable, stringed instruments, beautiful music
15. First Presbyterian Church (Albany) - phenomenal growth like a phoenix that would not die, lots of routine visitors, homeless mission commitment

16. First Presbyterian Church (Americus) - great college service and commitment to college ministry
17. First Presbyterian Church (Bainbridge) - mission work, so welcoming
18. First Presbyterian Church (Camilla) - closeness of people, quaintness
19. First Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - campus ministry devotion, attention to the military, congregational diverseness
20. First Presbyterian Church (Cordele) - large print hymnal, new growth, fishing/congregational picnic
21. First Presbyterian Church (Cuthbert) - beautiful architecture and special organist (now deceased)
22. First Presbyterian Church (Dawson) - breathtaking old sanctuary with time appropriate antiques
23. First Presbyterian Church (Donalsonville) - revitalized, celebrates with members 80 and over near their birthdays
24. First Presbyterian Church (Fitzgerald) - active prison and soldier ministries
25. First Presbyterian Church (Moultrie) - strong lay leadership, missional work, strong choir
26. First Presbyterian Church (Quitman) - stained glass, octagonal rotunda type window, missional church endeavor
27. First Presbyterian Church (Thomaston) - magnificent hillside setting, insertless bulletins for seamless worship, multicolored ribbon hymn markers, new radio ministry
28. First Presbyterian Church (Thomasville) - great youth service, served full breakfast on Sundays, 3 services including one at 6
29. First Presbyterian Church (Tifton) - Hispanic church ministry , good fellowship time after service
30. First Presbyterian Church (Valdosta) - Wonderful youth participation in events
31. First Presbyterian Church (Warner Robins) - flute, music, shawls and afghans available, Korean and Bare Bulb partnerships
32. Forsyth Presbyterian Church - quaint, beautiful older sanctuary, involvement in community food pantry mission, precious children, detailed mission statement on bulletin
33. Fort Gaines Presbyterian Church - always make you feel special with food and fellowship, congregation so close and caring for each other
34. Fort Valley Presbyterian Church - mission oriented , supports wonderful musical family with their Caribbean ministry
35. Korean Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - women's choir, bilingual
36. Korean United Presbyterian Church (Warner Robins) - so joyful and happy and welcoming, pretty singing voices
37. Morningside Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - attentive Adult Sunday School class, supper club, care package ministry to soldiers in Afghanistan, food pantry
38. Northminster Presbyterian Church (Macon) - great adult VBS, baptism embroidered napkins to one being baptized as a commemorative gift, good sermon digs for more insight and pondering time
39. Rock Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - Usage of numerous Deacons and Elders during the actual service for leading parts of worship service, wonderful powerpoint screen, contests for adults to memorize Bible verses, so multicultural and closeness and caringness
40. Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church (Macon) - Montessori School, Good Samaritan Fund, Loaves and Fishes Mission
41. Saint Paul Presbyterian Church (Cordele) - warm climate, closeness of members, lots of member participation in service
42. Second Presbyterian Church (Thomasville) - children's music ministry, breakfast

43. Sherwood Presbyterian Church (Columbus) - impressive worship music, personal prayer box ministry
44. Trinity Presbyterian Church (Sylvester) - baptism, family atmosphere
45. Trinity Presbyterian Church (Valdosta) - very impressive choir, lots of great ministries
46. Twin Lakes Presbyterian Church (Lake Park) - location on the lake, usage of declaration of faith aids, mission/charity work
47. Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church (Macon) - older, full of character sanctuary, neighborhood location, very personal prayer times, nice piano
48. Wayside Presbyterian Church (Gray) - community VBS, active children's program, sits on the "right" side of the tracks
49. West End Presbyterian Church (Valdosta) - school supply ministry, attractive window ledge decorations, neighborhood/family heritage to the church
50. Westminster Presbyterian Church (Warner Robins) - beautiful windows, screen used in service, full welcoming team at the door, helpful resource card for important numbers in community, active social time following church
51. Bare Bulb - success story, attractive to the community it intended to serve, popular hangout

Pray for Flint River's Mission Trip to Guatemala!

15 Flint River Presbyterians will travel to Guatemala November 7-14 to develop our mission partnership with the Sinódica Women's Union (USF) of the Guatemalan Presbyterian Church. We will attend a USF national convention, host a vacation Bible school for participants' children, share faith stories, visit NGO projects and a Maya village, worship in a local church, and explore the country's history and culture. For details, see the announcement on the Flint River Presbytery website or contact Bain Cowell, All Saints, at tel. 706-565-9878 or baincowell@hotmail.com; or Pam Moye, FPC Columbus, at pambmoye@charter.net.

One Year Ago

It's celebration time at Bare Bulb Coffee! One year ago, we opened our doors and brewed our first pot of coffee. One year ago, 100 plus Presbyterians gathered to worship in a coffee shop - giving thanks to God for bringing us to this place and asking God's blessing on a new space dedicated to welcoming friend and stranger into a journey of discipleship. We prayed for those who would be customers, seekers, and conversation partners - unknown faces with whom we would share the light of Christ.

Now, one year later, those unknown faces are our faces are our friends. They are the 1000 customers we serve each week, the families who play Trivia on Monday night, the young adults who spread board games across our tables, the runners who rise early on Sunday mornings to talk about faith while they exercise, the young people who gather each month to serve the community, the back pack stuffers who feed hungry children, the women who shed light and share laughter, the volunteers who water plants and sweep patios, the friends who catch up over a cup of coffee, the men, women, and children who come together on Sunday evenings to sing, to pray, to listen, to grow into faithful, joy-filled disciples of Jesus Christ.

God has answered our prayers with abundance.

So as we celebrate, we continue to pray - to thank God for all of the people who have become a part of this community of Light and to ask God's blessing on the work we do and the people we serve. We continue to pray for the men, women, and children who are not here yet - the ones we will meet tomorrow, next week, and next year - and we ask you to pray with us. Pray for the staff who serve coffee, bake cookies, and prepare sandwiches. Pray for our volunteers who balance checkbooks, teach Bible studies, lead book discussions, and share their gifts in worship. Pray for our vision team and administrative commission that they will be wise and courageous leaders who give themselves over to the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the seekers who have allowed us to be a part of their journey to faith and faithfulness and for the customers who find welcome with us. And pray for me as every day new opportunities arise to share the love and grace of God with people who long for a place to belong and the strength to believe.

Thank you, Flint River Presbytery, for this amazing opportunity. You are blessing and gift and light to the people of Middle Georgia.

Nikki Collins MacMillan



Head Percolator, Bare Bulb Coffee

Food For Thought

Enjoy this original prayer from Jarred Hammet, pastor @ Northminster/Macon.

This prayer which was offered during the 8:45 AM worship service with the youth involved in our presbytery-wide FYO or "Fall Youth Overnight"

Lord, God,

Google my soul.

Defrag my life.

Overcome the viruses that make me freeze-up in my faith journey.

Take out my Bloatware that does nothing for my efficiency or witness.

And I know it is a lot to ask, but when someone asks, "Where is the love?",
in Your mercy, help people point to each one of us,
because then we can point them to You!

And if we're lost, find us, and bring us home to Your table.

We pray this in the name of the One who "makes us all in this together", Jesus our Lord...
Amen

Personals

Robert Baggs (CLP for Camilla and Trinity, Sylvester) died on September 14. Jerry Little, and former pastors of First Bainbridge Ken Mckenzie and Al Reese, conducted the funeral in Robert's home church.

June Denney (our Office Manager) is back in the office! She had surgery on August 18th and had a long recovery.

October, 2011 Calendar

5	noon	Presbytery Worship Planning Team (Mayberry Cafe)
6	10 - 2	Pastoral Care Seminar at Columbus Pastoral Institute
6	3:00 pm	CME meets at 1st Columbus
11	noon	NE Clergy Cluster at Northminster
14	1:00 pm	Bare Bulb Golf Scramble, Perry Country Club
15	7:00 pm	Bare Bulb Silent Auction at Bare Bulb
18	noon	South Clergy Cluster at 1st Thomasville
23	4:00 pm	All-Presbytery Worship at 1st Albany
23	after worship	Clergy Women Gathering at First Albany
27	1:00 pm	Advisory Board

All meetings are held at the Presbytery Office unless otherwise noted.

Monday, October 31st = "Faith in 3D" FINAL online registration deadline. \$75 initial deposit required/student.

Cost ranges from \$365-675/student depending on room arrangements.

Check out www.faithin3d.org for more details!

Tuesday, November 1 = Final deadline for "Faith in 3D" payment (group and/or individual)

AND Montreat Youth week (June 10-16) registration deadline! NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$100 due to FRP office November 1!

Check out www.flintriverpresbytery.org. Click on the "Youth" tab and scroll down to the "Montreat Youth Week" to find both a flyer and registration form. Cost is \$550/student.

Parish Paper

October, 2011 Parish Paper

Our Presbytery's purchase of a subscription to the Parish Paper includes:

1. Permission to provide copies to our staff and to the congregations within our Presbytery in any of the following ways: E-mail, Postal, newspaper, newsletter, meetings, training events, and our Web site.
2. Permission is granted for each congregation within our Presbytery to (a) photocopy or electronically distribute for local use as many copies as it needs, (b) post them on its Web site, and (c) quote sentences and paragraphs.

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