

FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY

Responding to God's Call.

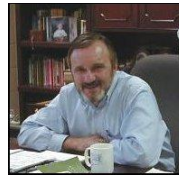
LeaderPak

September, 2011

Why is it?

Why is it that....

- I can't hit two decent golf shots in a row?
- the traffic light always turns red just before I reach the intersection?
- a slowpoke gets in front of me in the left lane of traffic?
- they just ran out of coffee when I walked into the restaurant?
- the politicians in Washington cannot bring themselves to work together to help our country?



Paul Luthman, EP

Why is it that....

- we Presbyterians cannot find a way to work through our disagreements for the sake of those who don't know Jesus?
- we can find enough money to go out to eat, but don't have enough money to help people who are in need?
- more and more people say the church is irrelevant today?
- our faith can be so personal, but we cannot share it with others?

There are no easy answers to most of those questions.

I played golf with Larry Massey last week; and explaining how he can hit the ball so well even after a layoff, he talked about "muscle memory".....meaning that if you do something over and over again it can become almost automatic. Maybe - just maybe - that applies not just to golf, but also to my second "Why is it...?" list. Maybe it is hard to work together with those with whom we disagree because we haven't done it enough. Maybe we have a hard time sharing our faith because we haven't practiced doing it. I know from sad experience that if I swing at a golf ball too hard I'm going to top it every time. I know that if I take my eye off the ball it is going to

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\$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5

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dribble across the ground. I KNOW these things....but I swing too hard and raise my head anyway. I'm going to have to practice and practice and practice, and build up that muscle memory.

Maybe we all need more practice and muscle memory if we want to be better at the disciple stuff Jesus believed was so important.

Don't miss it: RENEWED IN THE WATER

Flint River Presbytery Worship Service

4:00 pm Sunday, October 23, 2011

First Presbyterian Church

Albany, GA

Stephen A. Hayner

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.



Stephen A.
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.

You Give Them Something To Eat!

--a reflection on Matthew 14:16 and the ministry of FRP

It was evening. Folks were bone-tired, after following Jesus from town to town.

Sore feet. Grumbling stomachs. Crying children. Everywhere.

Hardly a recipe for a miracle.

And yet, a miracle is exactly what happened on that crowded shore more than 2000 years ago. Although the disciples were ready to call it a day, Jesus made it clear that their work was not complete. "They need not go away," Jesus said to the disciples who were more than ready to ditch the hungry crowd. "You give them something to eat!"

And so the disciples did.

Perhaps their efforts were half-hearted. "Here you go, Jesus, 5 loaves and 2 fish! Now will you let us go?"

Perhaps they muttered under their breath about a hard-driving boss with unreasonable demands.

Since Scripture is silent on this point, it's hard to know.

But what I know for sure is this: a lot of people were fed!

And that is tremendously Good News!

Because there are days when we, like the disciples, are bone-tired. There are days when we are tempted to mutter under our breath or breeze through a commitment halfheartedly.

Hardly a recipe for miracles.

And yet they do happen - right here in FRP!

People are fed - physically, spiritually, and emotionally.



Deb Bibler, AEP

Because Jesus uses us *just as we are*.

Have you noticed some of our most recent miracles?

***an upcoming mission trip to Guatemala that is intentionally including children**

*** Kamp Kolomoki. Gnats + Heat + Dedicated Counselors = Disciples for Jesus**

***a family day at our last presbytery meeting where clergy spouses were strengthened and encouraged, while spontaneously pondering ways to create local, sustainable gardens for those who need food**

***a noisy and joyful offering at presbytery to feed the physically hungry**

***a new medical clinic with free healthcare beside a community resource center, organized by one of our churches**

***a newly-organized "Youth Network" in FRP to support and sustain our ministry to youth (*check out the "FRP Youth Network" link in this edition!)**

***committed and deeply faithful pastors, educators, and lay leaders who provide us with "plenty to eat" through special mission exchanges and School for Spiritual Renewal events**

**There are miracles in the making,
radiant recipes to savor!**

May we keep our hearts open to the possibilities which Jesus places before us.

**May we be disciples,
bone-tired and blessed,
who will give our neighbors "something to eat"!**

Join Flint River's Mission Trip to Guatemala!

Flint River Presbyterians will travel to Guatemala from 7-14 November 2011 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, and 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.

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\$5

Back in May a challenge was issued, asking all of our churches to give an additional \$5 per member to help us restore some of the cuts we had to make in the current fiscal year budget. *All Saints* and *First Americus* accepted the challenge and sent checks to the presbytery office.

Are we beginning to work our way through the alphabet?

Montreat 2011: Searching for the Signal

by Amelia Barton

On June 12th of this summer 1,200 youth stepped out into the crisp, cool mountain air of North Carolina to attend the Montreat High School Youth Conference. We all had different reasons for coming. Some, like me, had heard that it was a good conference and thought it sounded like fun. Others had been in the past and knew they loved it, and others may have had no idea what to expect, they just signed up. But whatever the reason, we had all come and we were all searching for something...

We had no idea how much the next six days would change us. In that short amount of time I watched us grow so much closer to each other as well as to God. I enjoyed Back Home Group. Back Home Group was the time when everyone could reflect on the day and learn how others had felt about the keynote, small groups, and worship service. We also would have a few questions pertaining to the day's lessons. That was where I could really see how much our group's knowledge of God was growing as well as their understanding of His plans for each of them.

One of the topics our group discussed most was the keynote. Every morning we would sing and dance to the most amazing songs, the energizers being my personal favorite. Then the whole room would cheer as our keynoter came out... Roger Nishioka. It only took hearing from him once and we all knew what a phenomenal speaker he was! He had so many great stories to share with us and a way of explaining scripture that made me realize new meaning to verses I had read for years. One morning he led a Call to Discipleship. It was my first real experience with that kind of thing and his invitation to come down as well as his assurance of redirection in each of our lives meant a lot to me.

Now, I've got to talk about some of those adventures I mentioned earlier. One of my favorite things was going rock-hopping in the creeks that run through Montreat. The first time I went I soaked my tennis shoes - it took the rest of the week for them to dry completely! Another thing many of us enjoyed was looking in the General Store and Ten Thousand Villages where various items from all over the world are sold. The best thing was simply spending time with each other - sometimes walking around Lake Susan, sometimes sitting in rocking chairs with the M&M club, and sometimes playing games around the table at the Lodge. On the last afternoon a few of us sat in the gazebo by the lake singing, playing guitars, and using an old ice cream bucket as a drum. We laughed so much enjoying the music and the company!

Another time a group hiked up Lookout Mountain. It was breathtaking! Once you got to the top you felt so accomplished and then amazed at how huge all of it was... then you

looked out and saw the mountains surrounding you two and three times as large! It was great for me, standing as high on the rocks as I could go, thinking about how God had made every inch of it. It reminds me that He has given us an awesome world and that I have only experienced a miniscule portion of all it has to offer!

The last night we had a candlelight service around the lake. It felt good to hold up my little flame and let it illuminate the darkness along with over 1,000 others. We had each found what we had been searching for; each found the signal that God was sending us. And now it was our turn, now we would be the signal. We would be sad to leave, we would miss all of the friends we had made, and miss the beauty and comfort of the mountains. Miss the music and the love and the laughter, but now it was time to take all of that with us, to cherish it in our hearts and to share it with the rest of the world.

News from the Coffee Shop



Summer was a busy season at Bare Bulb Coffee. We experienced some of our best sales yet in the shop and the mission and ministry have really grown. Here are a few highlights:

Sales numbers suggest we serve 1000 people each week.

Our newly formed middle and high school group, Neon Light, sponsored a Parents' Night Out for a local childcare center for low-income families, collected blue jeans and school supplies for needy students, and made bracelets for children in Russia. Blanket makers sent love and warmth to tornado victims in North Alabama and picnic supplies to a group that feeds Macon's homeless each week. Weekly Evening Prayer continues to attract newcomers each week and has become a community formed by God's word and welcoming of the stranger.

Local artists have filled the space with fascinating works of art that stimulate conversation and bring new people into the shop every week. A new group of board gamers have chosen Bare Bulb as their gathering space every Tuesday night bringing young men into our community in great numbers. That is what happened over the summer. . . .

Fall holds new events: a new morning study group, a children's storytime, and Sunday morning Bible time for parents and young children. God is doing great things right here in Flint River Presbytery!

How can you be a part of what we are doing?

Sign up for our newsletter on our [website](#) and keep our events in your prayers.

Fill a bus or van and bring a field trip to the shop for lunch.

Invite us to speak at your Wednesday night supper or another group gathering in your church.

Plan an event at which we can tell the story of how you are engaged in mission right here in your

presbytery.

For other ideas, or to learn more about being a missionary in the American culture, email [Nikki Collins MacMillan](#)

Personals

Robert Baggs (CLP for Camilla and Trinity, Sylvester) is now at home under hospice care. His sons are with him. Keep all three of them in your prayers.

June Denney (our Office Manager) had surgery on August 25th. She is home recuperating; but will not be back in the office until around September 26.

Riedy Simmons (daughter of All Saints pastor, Leanne) had a 9th - 9th - surgery to repair her cleft pallet. Prayer for success!

Daniel (Danny) Loffredo was received into our presbytery on August 27th, and will begin ministry as pastor of First Presbyterian, Americus, on October 9th

Julie Micheli has begun serving as Campus Ministry Director at GSW.

Timothy Scoonover and family sympathy on the death of grandmother.

September, 2011 Calendar

1	10:30 am	CME (conference call meeting)
6	5:30 pm	CEN
8	10:00 am	COM
8	2:00 pm	Nominating and Representation Committees
12	10:00 am	Personnel Committee
13	noon	NE Clergy Cluster, Northminster
15	1:00 pm	Advisory Board
15	7:00 - 8:30 pm	Fall Youth Overnight (FYO) , Northminster, Macon deadline to register
17	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	"Youth Ministry 101" , Northminster, Macon, led by Timothy Scoonover
20	noon	South Clergy Cluster, 1st Thomasville
22	noon	NW Clergy Cluster, The Abbey
25	noon - 2:00 pm	Abbey Open House, 1023 First Avenue, Columbus
28	noon	Central Clergy Cluster
29	10:00 am	CPM

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

Parish Paper

September, 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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