



June 2010 LeaderPak

General Assembly Overview ~ Rev. Dr. Paul Luthman

In This Issue



General Assembly is coming. Pray! Pray every day between now and July 10 for our commissioners (Glenn Gilstrap, Oweta Hegeman, Clark Coleman) and for all of the commissioners. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them through contentious waters and clearly show them Christ's way.

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I have been asked to share the remarks I made at the May 4 Presbytery meeting, so here they are:

Our General Assembly meets in Minneapolis, July 3 - 10. I am sure good things will come out of the meeting. I am also sure controversial things will come out of the meeting.

- There are now 4 *[note: as of 6/1 there are SIX]* candidates for moderator and their theological and political leanings will be, as always, an issue (and seen as some sort of indicator - for good or for bad - of the direction our denomination is going in)
- There is a proposal to create a commission to consider the mission and function of middle governing bodies

Quick Links

- [Special Events](#)
(School for Lay Renewal, Sabbath Retreats)
- [June, 2010 Parish Paper](#)

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- GA will be asked to cut another 15 million dollars from expenses
- Divestment of stock in Caterpillar is back
- A report (with recommendations which impact ordination standards) will be received from the Heidelberg Catechism Special Committee
 - The two year study of issues in the Middle East [a 177 page report titled "Breaking Down the Walls"], panned by the Simon Wisenthall Foundation even before it was released, will be up for vote
 - The proposed new Form of Government will be presented and voted on

There are already 77 items of business like this on the docket.

And then - since they will have so much spare time on their hands - the commissioners will get to discuss, argue and pray over 113 overtures!

- Everything from expanding the role of CLPs, to eliminating Synods. (Or in another overture, to creating "New Synod" and letting any presbytery anywhere in the country join it)
- There are overtures addressing international issues [Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel & Palestine, North Korea, Columbia]
- Then there are those monumental issues from both ends of the spectrum:
 - * One urging us to get tested and know our HIV status
 - *And one to protest "the blatant disregard for the sanctity of our Lord's name in motion pictures and public broadcasting by the Entertainment industry" ...directing the Stated Clerk to tell these people how upset we are
- And there are the perennial boat-rockers:
 - *two overtures dealing with abortion
 - *11 overtures (with 3 concurrences) addressing the definition of marriage
 - 6 affirming the traditional view of marriage
 - 8 wanting to change the wording to allow same sex marriages
 - *And 18 overtures (with 10 concurrence) about ordination standards
 - 14 opposed to changing the current standards
 - 14 to amend the standards to allow gays and lesbians to be ordained as deacons, elders & pastors

There is something in this frying pan to make every Presbyterian happy; there is something in the pan that will make every Presbyterian angry.

The most encouraging thing I see, is the 13 overtures which address how General Assembly meetings function. Over the past two years there has been a growing frustration with the way we do business on the national level, and many people have reached the breaking point. We are tired of the constant feuding and name-calling that does nothing to extend the Gospel and only serves the devil's purposes. We are tired of watching General Assembly commissioners worked into the ground late into the night. What you will find in those 13 overtures is only the tip of the iceberg.. .one that I truly believe will ultimately - ultimately - make genuine change a reality and bring us back to our true mission.

I want to ask you to do three things:

1. Pray for our General Assembly; pray for the commissioners; pray that the Holy Spirit's voice will be heard, and God's will followed. We are going to pray in a few minutes; but don't let it end there. If you believe what the Bible teaches us about the power of persistent, faithful prayer you need to spend a few minutes every one of these next 67 days lifting this General Assembly up.

2. Do not overreact to whatever happens that you do not like. Remember that the news media hypes controversy - because that's what sells papers and magazines; and remember that the number of voting commissioners is based upon the size of the presbytery, but that when Book of Order amendments go out to the presbyteries the playing field is leveled [one presbytery, one vote, regardless of the size of the presbytery]. Because big city presbyteries tend to have much larger - and more "liberal" - churches, there are, generally speaking, many more "liberal" voting commissioners, and "liberal" positions get adopted at every General Assembly. . . .and then they are voted down by a majority of the presbyteries. So remember that what happens at General Assembly frequently does not - when all is said and done - become Presbyterian "law".

3. I ask you to remember that the church of Jesus Christ is more than any one constituency, and that we Presbyterians in FRP have a covenant with one another that is more important than anything that comes out of General Assembly.

Moderator's Message

~ Nancy Reimer

John 15:4 reminds us "Remain in me, as I remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain on the vine." As you know, branches of fruit trees do not bear fruit once the branches are disconnected from the tree. The fruit bearing days are over for that branch. Also, we need to prune our fruit trees, as it leads to greater fruitfulness.



This is the same type process as the connectivity of Flint River Presbytery. Our churches are the branches of the vine. Together, the Presbytery and their churches can bear much fruit. Apart, we cannot bear as much fruit.

Be fruitful and bear fruit in your lives, your church, and our Presbytery. Keep informed at flinriverpresbytery.org. Volunteer, and attend Flint River Presbytery events and meetings!

I hope to see everyone in Warner Robins at the August 28 Presbytery meeting.

Nancy Reimer

Construction Begins for Bare Bulb Coffee

~ Rev. Nikki Collins MacMillan

It is finally happening! Flint River Presbytery's Coffee House ministry - Bare Bulb Coffee - is under construction in Warner Robins.

At the busy intersection of Hyw 96 and Lake Joy Road - between Lowe's and the new Lakes Cinema - Bare Bulb will serve coffee, pastries, hospitality and hope beginning in October. This new ministry of Flint River Presbytery, General Assembly, and several local churches began as a dream of First Presbyterian Church in Warner Robins nearly four years ago. The aim is to reach young adults and others who might not find their way into one of our area congregations and to share with them our friendship.

Once the shop is open, book clubs, Bible studies, parenting classes, financial workshops, and worship will take place there. Two small groups are already meeting in homes and other restaurants for fellowship, service, and study together.

If you would like to know more about Bare Bulb, call Nikki Collins MacMillan, Ministry Director, at 478.731.4609 or email her by clicking [here](#).

Commissioning Prayer for Montreat and Camp Kolomoki

~ Rev. Deb Bibler

Transforming God,

We offer praise for the ways in which Your Spirit works through the mountains of Montreat and the clay of Kolomoki.

We lift up to you the following young people and adult advisors who are responding to the Spirit's call to go to these places that they may grow in depth of faith and breadth of service.

(*names of individuals)

As these individuals prepare to travel, listen, and learn, gift them with the fresh awareness of Your blessings, great and small.

Gift us, the community who surrounds these souls, with ears to hear their stories of transformation and hearts which are eager to reclaim the Gospel.

May the experiences and stories which unfold from these holy places cause us all to live with fresh attention to God's overflowing goodness, and raise up in all of us fresh passion to share the joy of discipleship.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN

Thank You Note

~ Jeannine Little, LP

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Please allow me this opportunity to thank each of you and the Flint River Presbytery for your prayers during my surgery and recovery. God answered the prayers of the saints and I now have a successful recovery. I was "only" in ICU for 3 days, spent 2 more day in the hospital, 3 days in rehab and had 2 weeks of physical and occupational therapy, as I understand and have been told, is remarkable for brain surgery. For this reason, I kneel before the Father and give thanks to him and to you.

Peace and Blessings!
Jeannine Little

Book Review

~ Anne Dukes, Moderator of Resource Center Ministry Team

When You Lose Someone You Love by Richard M Cromie D.D. Ph. D. is a short book, packed with wisdom and practical advise.

Its pages take the reader on a journey through the Bible, showing how Adam and Eve, David and many other Biblical figures dealt with the death of a loved one. In each case, I learned that there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to grieving for a loved one.

Sometimes God nudges us into the future that we may continue to do our Christian work. David, for example, grieved mightily before his young son died. However, upon his son's death, he got up, washed, ate and moved forward to do his work as king. King David was at peace with God and so moved toward the future. He did not look back to the past.

This is what I have done after both my mother and husband died.

This book has truly helped me as I face the future. After my mother died, and now after the recent death of my husband, I have not looked to the past. This book has helped me realize I am not a cold or unfeeling person. It is okay -- even Biblical -- for me to face the future with hope, and not relive

the past.

June 2010 Calendar

1	6:00 pm	CEN
3	10:30 am	CME
5	10:00 am	School for Lay Renewal
10	7:00 pm	Campus Ministry MT
13-19		Youth Montreat Conference
17	10:00 am	COM
17	1:00 pm	CNL
22		Kolomoki - Week 1 begins (rising 3rd - 5th graders)
22	6:30 pm	COF
28		Kolomoki - Week 2 begins (rising 6th - 9th graders)

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

Personals

Christopher Peterson was installed as pastor of 1st Thomaston on May 23.

Leanne Simmons and Ann Renee Hansard were enrolled as Candidates during the May 4 Presbytery meeting.

Harry Trawick (Elder, St Andrews, and member of COM) is recovering from back surgery.

Pam Moyer's father, Pat Bartow, continues chemotherapy (Pam is an Elder at 1st Columbus, and moderator of our Commission on Mission & Evangelism)

Mary Massey (Larry's wife, and another perennial COFer) has had to make two more trips to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

Larry Massey's brother, Henry Walden's mother, and Alan Mackey's father have all died since our last Leaderpak. (Henry is a lay preacher in Thomasville; Alan is an Elder in Americus.)

Visit the Prayer List on our webpage!

Parish Paper

[June, 2010 Parish Paper](#)

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