

FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY

Responding to God's Call.

September
2010 LeaderPak

Sabbatical

~ Paul Luthman



Please continue to keep our executive presbyter in prayer as his Sabbatical draws to an end. He will return to his work among us on Tuesday, September 7.

Upcoming Events For Educational & Renewal

October 14 - 16: APCE-SOAP presents "*Brain Research & Spirituality*" held at CTS.

November 15-17: Final Sabbath Retreat for 2010

As an additional resource, be sure to check out www.montreat.org for the newly published 2011 conferences as well as www.pilink.org for various events and seminars offered at the Pastoral Institute in Columbus.

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Come and See!
Bibler

~ Rev. Deb

A week ago, 2 gracious colleagues were in the presbytery office, helping me create a "corner of order" in my office space. As one prepared his drill for hanging a bulletin board, another, at his own initiative, hurried down the hallway to get the vacuum cleaner. Cords were plugged into the lengthy surge protector and hands readied for action as the drill was started. Except that the drill didn't start - *at all!* But the vacuum cleaner did! It was a hilarious moment of unexpected chaos! But it was also a beautiful reminder of the need for community in disordered times.



Much of our lives are filled with those surprising moments of disorder. Sometimes the moments are short and funny. Often, they are long and laborious. Blessings and burdens rest side by side, creating a contrasting pattern of holiness, which will point us to God *if we are willing to see*.

What do you see in Flint River Presbytery? We have our share of blessings and burdens, to be sure. And it is easy for all of us to become fixated on burdens and overlook blessings, but this doesn't seem to be the way of Jesus. The way of Jesus shows us that tiny mustard seeds become towering shade trees for birds and that ordinary dirt can be the home of tremendous treasure. The way of Jesus shows us that holiness permeates every aspect of our life, that problems are avenues of possibilities.

Possibilities for restoration and transformation surround us - whether we live in a tiny town enfolded by cotton fields or a growing city enfolded by newly-reconfigured highways. We are surrounded by possibilities if we will have the eyes to see.

What do you see? I invite you to "come and see" the ways that lives are being changed through the mission and ministries of Flint River Presbytery. Read this September edition. Click on the links. And look at what is unfolding before us.

We are in ministry together in these disordered times. But resurrection hope prevails.

Thanks be to God!

Ask Your Commissioner!

If you haven't heard about this meeting, then ask someone SOON! You will be glad you did!

Our presbytery meeting on Saturday, August 28 at First (Warner-Robins) was filled with powerful - and personal -- stories of faith which revealed the ways in which God is working among all of us in creative and unexpected ways!

Stephanie Williams, an elder at First (Warner Robins), who also serves as an air force pilot, wife and mother, shared her experience of "broadening her view". Stephanie reflected on the ways in which her work at both First and Bare Bulb have stretched her to become more mindful - and inclusive -- toward "the stranger" who may walk into her life, during morning worship, a coffee break, or a morning jog.

Sam Alderman, an elder at Northminster (Macon) who also serves an attorney, husband and father, shared his experience of rediscovering prayer as a means of navigating and enriching both his personal life and his public ministry. He noted that, when Northminster became more intentionally focused on praying together, problems were no longer the primary source of discussion. Instead, positive expressions of hope and joy began to infiltrate conversations regularly as all focused on the grace and goodness of God!

Jenny Rudd from the Loft Coffee House in Texas shared story after story of transformation as a means of showing us the ways in which we, as followers of Jesus, can begin to connect more lovingly and meaningfully with those who are unchurched or de-churched. She painted a moving picture to help us embrace why we must engage in ministry differently in 2010 and beyond. Again and again, she revealed that, as Jesus' body, we are not called to recruit individuals for the purposes of membership and money. Not at all! Instead, in her story-telling, she reminded us that, as Jesus' body, we are to extend radical love and welcome those who have been overlooked, abandoned, or marginalized. She revealed that when we love purely, without expectation or agenda, the Holy Spirit moves markedly and community is formed. The point is not membership and money. Cumbersome details and budget lines will fall into place when our focus is on serving Jesus as Lord. The point is love. Pure and unapologetic love. And restoration.

Children and Youth in FRP

~ Connie Fritz



The summer of 2010 held many opportunities for the children and youth of Flint River Presbytery to experience their faith in the larger church. 25 Youth and Adults traveled, worshiped, sang, studied, cried and laughed together during the Montreat Youth Week in June. Together we went "Into These Waters" of doubt, faith and restoration as we explored stories of baptism, sacrifice, and perseverance. Each evening the students and leaders gathered to debrief the day and it was amazing to hear firsthand how this event was challenging and encouraging them in their faith. Montreat 2011 will hold just as much for students as they "Search for the Signal" June 12-18, 2011. The deadline to register for Montreat 2011 is December 1st and churches received a packet with that info back in May.

Kamp Kolomoki focused on relationships with Can't We All Just Get Along?? Over 50 children from 11 different congregations gathered to explore this topic using the story of Jacob and Esau as the foundation for the curriculum. There were 7 adults and 13 Junior Counselors that helped guide campers through this study written by James Stanley-a former camper himself. It is truly amazing to see how many campers grow up to become leaders each summer. Paul Garrard, affectionately known as Mr. Kolomoki determined that he has spent -a week or two at a time- an entire year of his life at Kamp Kolomoki. Paul and James are two of the most dedicated souls who give

two years of their summer to Kolomoki and have for the past 11 years straight. This past year we also had the honor of having a pastor on staff the 2nd week. Thank you to Jerry Long of Valdosta First for being there. It was obvious that the children from his congregation felt a little more special because their preacher was standing right along side them through this faith growing experience. Kamp Kolomoki 2011 for rising 3rd-5th grades will be June 21-25 and rising 6th-8th graders will be June 27-July 1.

Vyazma, Russia

~Andy Moye

"In far away Vyazma, Russia a fairly new church has begun ministering to its citizens using the musical talents of a very talented lead guitarist. Tragically, this guitarist severely damaged his left hand in an industrial accident.

Hoping to find a way for him to be able to continue to play, the PC(USA) missionary in Moscow, Ellen Smith, wrote to First (Columbus) member Glen Giles for advice.

Glen advised her that the young guitarist would need a left-handed guitar which was made specifically for left-handed people.

And there it stood for a day or so until one of Glen's clients brought in a left-handed guitar to be sold on consignment. After sharing the recent turn of events, Glen asked his client if he would consider donating the guitar and he enthusiastically agreed. Then, when several Russians, visiting from the Good News Church in Moscow dropped by Glenn's store, he gave it to them to take home and deliver to Vyazma.

And so the body of Christ reaches around the world, connecting us in love, in hope, and mission!

Bare Bulb Construction Making Great Time

~Rev. Nikki Collins MacMillan



Don't forget to check out Bare Bulb's website at www.barebulb.org! Be sure to look for a complete "Bare Bulb" newsletter in your inbox in the next few days!

Youth Ministry 101

~ Rev. Timothy Scoonover

"HELP, I work with youth!"

Youth Ministry 101

presented by the Commission on Education & Nurture's

School for Lay Renewal!

If you or someone you know has ever uttered these words, this is the seminar to attend.

At Youth Ministry 101, we will cover:

- Theology for Youth Ministry
- Adolescent Development
- Relational Ministry
- And provide practical ideas for games, small groups, and events

Date: Saturday, September 11

Time: 10 am to 2 pm (*includes a break for lunch)

Place: FRP office in Albany

Cost: \$25.00 which includes lunch

Facilitator: Rev. Timothy Scoonover, Associate Pastor at First (Thomasville) and Vice-Moderator of the Commission on Education and Nurture

We will discuss some deep topics, but rest assured that you will go home with resources and ideas you can put into action right away!

September 2010 Calendar

2	10:30 am	CME
6		CLOSED - LABOR DAY
7	2:30 pm	Resource Center
7	6:00 pm	CEN
8	noon	NE Cluster at Northminster
9	noon	NW Cluster at Morningside
11	10:00 am	School for Lay Renewal - Timothy Scoonover "Youth Ministry 101"
16	1:00 pm	Council
20	10:00 am	CLP Ministry Team
20	3:30 pm	Nominating/Representation
20		Campus Ministry Team at Valdosta State
22	noon	Central Cluster
28	noon	South Cluster at First Thomasville
30	10:00 am	CPM

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

Personals

CONCERNS:

- Shirley Dowdey, the mother of June Denney, has been very ill. Please keep June and her family in prayer.
- Agnes Shearer O'Neal, mother of Steven O'Neal, died August 10. Please remember to offer your sympathy and care to Steven, who serves as the commissioned lay pastor for the Fitzgerald congregation.
- Parrie Reimer (mother of Presbytery Moderator Nancy) has been told that her cancer has spread and her time is now limited.

JOYS:

- 2/3 of Stephen Murray's children were married earlier this summer! Extend your congratulations!
- Marie Hill is thrilled to welcome a new grandbaby --- born on her birthday!
- Kirk Dausman celebrated his 1-year anniversary with the Flint River Parish on August 28. A covenant renewal service was held at the Dawes church. Joy and gratitude exuded at every turn!

Visit the Prayer List on our webpage!

Parish Paper

September, 2010 Parish Paper

Our organization's purchase of a subscription to The Parish Paper INCLUDES

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Books Your Colleagues Are Reading and Recommending:

The Pastor as Minor Poet by M. Craig Barnes. A beautiful work on pastoral theology, as recommended by Richard Hart, pastor at Trinity (Valdosta)

The Crucifixion of Ministry by Andrew Purves. A powerful reminder about whose ministry we are accomplishing, as recommended by Timothy Scoonover, associate pastor at First (Thomasville).