



Sparks From The Flint

October 2015

"Tucked-Away Treasures"

by Rev. Debra T. Bibler



There are so many moments which make my heart sing as I live and serve among you:

- the generous check that lands unexpectedly for our presbytery mission ...
- the faithful acceptance of new responsibilities by Ruling Elders throughout all our clusters ...
- the surfacing of fresh ideas among committees so more people may come to know -- and share -- Jesus' healing love.

It is humbling -- and inspiring -- to listen to the ways in which God is at work among all of you!

Last Sunday, September 27, was a particularly melodic moment in our life together! **Adel Presbyterian Church, our smallest congregation, boasting 6 active members, formally commissioned DonaLee Preston-Woods to serve in a pastoral capacity.** This commissioning service was a

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culmination of many meaningful stories, each life-giving in its own unique way. One story revealed the generosity and support of the Adel congregation which fully funded DonaLee's training. A second story revealed the love and commitment of a faithful disciple who saw a need and offered to serve. A third story demonstrated the power of community as DonaLee's classmates (fellow Trained Ruling Elders or TREs) drove many hours in order to participate in her commissioning service. A final story reflects the giftedness of our new TREs, recently commissioned in June, as they led worship in Adel.

John Akers, the long-standing pastor of Twin Lakes and West End, two tiny congregations within our bounds, gave a beautiful witness to the way in which the gospel involves "Hidden Things." "You never know where a treasure will be found," he proclaimed. "The Lord hides them in the most unlikely places: in a field of sheep, in Nazareth, or even in Adel! And God hid treasures in Moses, David, Gideon, and you! Come and see the hidden treasure that the Lord has called forth here in this place, today, in this church and in DonaLee!"

There are 44 other treasured congregations tucked among us (not including our campus ministries and our coffee shop) with their own shining stories to tell.

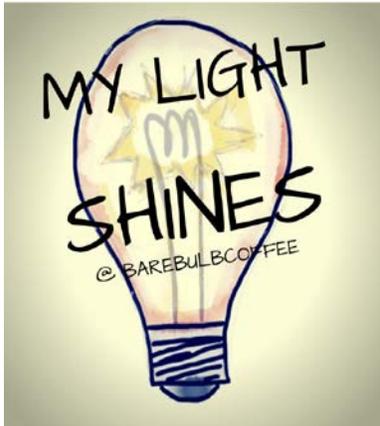
Next year you'll be hearing more about our "tucked-away treasures" as Jean Clemmons, a Ruling Elder at All Saints (Columbus), begins a new monthly communication, which will feature a different congregation each month (This outreach will be in addition to our usual monthly edition of the "Sparks."). Jean is part of the Clemmons family who helped to begin the Carver Heights, Edgewood, and Morningside churches (all in Columbus), and she delights in sharing stories of our life together. Don't be surprised when she e-mails you looking for a picture, a story, and a prayer. **May this new monthly piece blaze a fresh path of connection and commitment among us as we seek to love God and neighbor with all our hearts!**

Blessings,
Deb

Next month, you'll hear more about our presbytery-wide

"Stop Hunger Now!" events and the lives we touch through shared mission and ministry!

Bare Bulb 5-year Celebration on Sunday, October 25



Did you know that the Bare Bulb Coffee House, a mission of our presbytery, is about to celebrate its *fifth year of ministry*?

The Bare Bulb continues to offer life-changing hospitality through its presence in the community, and we sincerely hope you're as proud of this ministry as we are.

We touch the lives of about *one thousand people a week* through our coffee shop. We fill backpacks with non-perishable food for children who need nourishment over the weekend. We also hold art shows, offer classes to foster creativity and spirituality, worship together on Sunday nights, host Bible study luncheons on Mondays, provide open-mic events, and much, much more.

We would love to have you join us on Sunday, October 25th, from 5-7 p.m. at Bare Bulb for a night of celebration. There will be food, music, and door prizes! Your presence would make our joy complete as we praise God for five years of ministry in Flint River Presbytery. **And we would love for you to stay with us through evening worship which begins at 7:00 p.m.**

And we do need your help! At this important juncture in our ministry, we hope your congregation will consider making, at the very least, a \$1 donation per member in honor of our "birthday."

The people to whom we minister are mostly young and unchurched -- *and they have limited resources.* We hope you will help us reach them. Be sure to check out this video which highlights our work: [My Light Shines @ Bare Bulb Coffee](#)

As your Session discerns its capacity to participate in Bare Bulb's Birthday Offering, please consider these ideas:

- Publicize B3 (Bare Bulb Birthday) for at least 2 weeks ahead of the offering and have a special "Noisy Offering" or "Dollar-Bill Offering" where individuals can contribute directly to this mission.

- If an additional offering doesn't seem possible, consider supporting Bare Bulb in one of the following ways (as individuals or congregations):
 - Buy a children's book geared toward preschoolers and send it on behalf of your congregation to Bare Bulb to use for weekly story times and/or monthly gifts.
 - Host a "Back Pack Buddy" Sunday and bring nonperishable food items to a presbytery meeting, a cluster event, or the presbytery office. These items will be delivered to Bare Bulb and used to stuff backpacks for hungry children.
 - Plan a field trip to Bare Bulb and eat lunch "on the grounds" and learn more about its mission.

Feel free to contact the Bulb's new part-time interim ministry director, Dena Hobbs, at denadouglashobbs@gmail.com, or the board moderator, Andy Moye, at andymoye@charter.net, for more information or ideas.

The coffee's brewing. Stop by, share a cup, and hear our story!

Mission Grants Available from our Presbytery and our Denomination!

The funding application for 3 types of grants offered by the Committee on Mission and Evangelism (CME) of our presbytery is available below.

Please note that the deadline for our presbytery grant is January 1, 2016.

[FRP grant info](#)

Do you (or someone you know in our presbytery or in your congregation) have a fresh idea about doing ministry in a different way? Read below if you would like to try something new for the sake of our mission and ministry in Jesus Christ.

There is \$10,000 funding support available for a DREAM idea of ministry. Read -- and print out -- the links below, and consider submitting an application to our presbytery.

By God's grace, DREAMS do come true!

[2015 First Cycle Letter - South Atlantic](#)

[2015 DREAM Grant Application](#)

A "SPARK-LING" EXCHANGE

Have stuff at your church you don't need?

Need stuff for your church that you don't have?

Thanks to the "Church Relations" Team of our presbytery,
we now have an avenue for a resource exchange!

- Items that your church would like to offer to another church in our presbytery
- Items that your church would like to acquire with which another church might be willing to part.

Look around in your church and see what you might like to offer...*or receive!*

There are all kinds of items (GENTLY USED) that might be of interest to sister congregations. If you would like to submit an offer or make a request, please submit the information by using the form below. You can fill it out online and it will go directly to June!

Here's to being wise and faithful stewards of the gifts we have received.

[Exchange Form](#)

Presbyterian Women's Gathering in November

**You are invited to the 2015 Annual Gathering
of the Presbyterian Women
of Flint River Presbytery**

"Wisdom is Proved Right by All Her Children"

Luke 7:35



November 7, 2015
9 a.m. - 12:00 noon
(lunch following for a cost of \$7)

All Saints Presbyterian Church
7170 Beaver Run Road
Midland, GA 31909
706-563-6334
allsaintspcusa@att.net

Speaker: Rev. Leanne Simmons, Ph. D.

Please RSVP to the address above. They will need to know the following information:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Name | Church Name | Number Attending |
| Number for lunch | Childcare needed? | If yes, names and ages of children |

A NEW RESOURCE...



We're excited to announce the debut of
Presbyterians Today's new blog

One Church, Many Voices

Come see for yourself. Here's just a small sampling of what's currently trending.

Please bookmark our blog and visit often!

Be sure to check out one of our very own, Joshua Bower, serving at First (Albany) and his story below.



Why would I join a church where that happens?

Joshua Bower almost left the church; then a special moment inspired him to forge a new way of being church.

[Read post](#)



How to make your church swell

Faithfulness and the growth of our churches don't have to be at odds, says David Collins.

[Read post](#)



More than playing church

Mihee Kim-Kort says our institutional languages and attitudes can either uplift or trivialize new church developments.

[Read post](#)

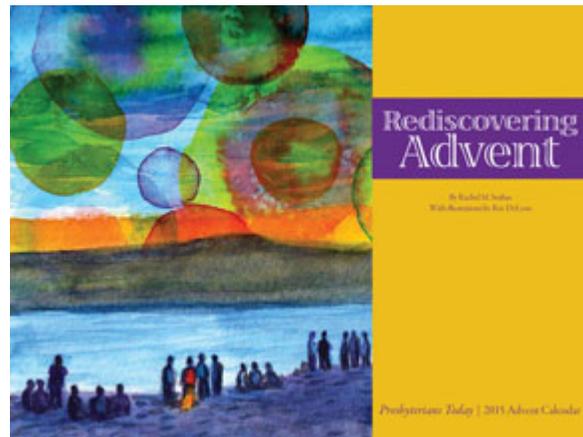
Presbyterian Advent Calendar

Presbyterians Today

Rediscovering Advent

For some, Advent is a chocolate-filled countdown to Christmas. For others, the promises and stories of Advent have become so familiar that they've lost their mystery and power.

Perfect for congregations, families, and individuals, *Rediscovering Advent* provides a Scripture reading, mediation, and prayer for each day of Advent/



Order copies for your congregation now to ensure delivery before Advent.

2015 Advent Calendar Discount Pricing: 1 copy, \$4.00 * 2-9 copies, \$3.00 each * 10-99 copies, \$2.00 each * 100+ Copies, \$1.50 each. Shipping: 10% of order, \$5.25 minimum. Order by phone at (800) 524-2612 and ask for PDS 17116-15-009.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog - your new way to prepare for Christmas!

GIVE A GIFT WITH MANY RETURNS



The 2015 - 2016 [Presbyterian Giving Catalog](#) is here!

For many Presbyterians, using this catalog is a treasured tradition.

Visit the [online catalog](#) today and choose your gift, or just check out one of the new items.

*When you give,
you'll be supporting Presbyterians everywhere
as they fulfill Jesus' Great commission.*

Welcoming our New Resource Center Coordinator !

**Our Resource Center is delighted to welcome
Pamela ("Pete" is the preferred handle!) Sanders-Nesbitt
to this particular volunteer call.**

"Pete" has accepted the challenge of organizing and managing the Resource Center to make it more accessible to the Flint River Presbytery community.

Pete and her husband Walter, both retired Military with four grown children, are members of Edgewood (Columbus).

She is one of our newest Trained Ruling Elders and very computer savvy.

If you have questions for Pete regarding a particular resource, don't hesitate to contact her at frpresourcecenter@flintriverpresbytery.org.

**WE are CONNECTED ONE to ANOTHER:
CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS around our CHURCH LEADERS**

We are grateful that **Jarred Hammet** (pastor at Northminster/Macon) is on the road to recovery after a serious heart attack on September 13th.

We rejoice with **Paul Luthman** on his new contract as part-time (interim) coordinating presbyter for our sister presbytery, Florida Presbytery, which began October 1st.

And we rejoice with **Glenn Gilstrap** (pastor at Westminster/Warner Robins) on his new call to First (Thomaston), which begins November 1st.

Congratulations to **AJ and Katherine Mealor**, both of whom serve First (Moultrie). They (together with big brother Bryan) are delighted to welcome baby **Tucker** into the world! Tucker was born in mid-September.

October 2015 Calendar

**** October is Pastor Appreciation Month****

Show your staff that their ministry matters!

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 2 | 7:00 pm | Youth Council meets at First (Moultrie) |
| 3 | 11:00 am | Fall Youth Overnight (FYO) at First (Moultrie) |
| 3 | 10:00 am | COF Ministry Team meeting |
| 4 | 10:00 am | Fall Youth Overnight ends |
| 4 | 2:00 pm | "Stop Hunger Now" (Southern Cluster) event at First (Valdosta) |
| 4 | 2:00 pm | "Stop Hunger Now" (NE Cluster) event at Forsyth |
| 4 | 3:00 pm | "Stop Hunger Now" (NW Cluster) event at Edgewood (Columbus) |
| 4 | 3:00 pm | "Stop Hunger Now" (Central Cluster) event at First (Albany) |
| 5 | | **Deadline to register for our FRP-CTS Event in November** |
| 10 | 10:00 am | Presbytery Stated Meeting at Trinity (Valdosta) |
| 13 | 10:00 am | Committee on Mission & Evangelism (CME) meeting |
| 18 | 3:00 pm | Sommer Bower's installation at First (Americus) |
| 19 | 1:00 pm | Interim Clergy Gathering at Harvest Moon in Albany |
| 22 | 11:00 am | "Fresh Start" Reformation Project Class at the Lakehouse, Cordele |
| 25 | 5:00-7:00 pm | Bare Bulb 5-year Birthday Celebration in Kathleen |

27 3:00 pm Personnel Committee meets

All events are held at the presbytery office unless otherwise noted .

LOOKING AHEAD!

November 5 ("Soul Soother" for TREs/CREs and Teaching Elders)
Contemplative Worship and Bible Study based on Luke 1 and 2
(in preparation for Advent)

10-12:30 (TRE/CRE portion including lunch)

12-2:30 (Teaching Elder portion including lunch)

RSVP by Monday, November 2

Donations accepted -- not required -- for meal.

November 7 (FRP Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering)

All Saints Presbyterian Church

7170 Beaver Run Road

Midland, GA

November 18-20 (CTS/FRP Partnership Event)

"Our Stories, Ourselves: Bowen Family Systems in Literature and Life"

Designed for our Teaching Elders

Mark your calendars now and let others know that the **2016 Stewardship Kaleidoscope**

will be February 29- March 2, 2016, in San Antonio, Texas.

Want to know more?

Contact [AJ Mealor](#), pastor at First/Moultrie

A VISIT TO THE "OLD COUNTRY"

Jane Shelton, one of our newest TREs and the president of South Georgia Travel in

Valdosta has answered the call to organize and lead *a trip to Scotland and Iona!*

Interested in this possibility?

A meeting to look at dates/costs/itinerary/feasibility will take place in late 2015.

FYI, the trip will not take place for *at least* another 18-24 months to allow adequate time for preparation and budgeting.

Parish Paper

[October 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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