



SPARKS from the FLINT....

December 2017

A Prayer for Advent

Offered by our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Debra Tregaskis Bibler

As we greet this Advent,
I invite you to savor this prayer so,
together,
we may be "enlarged in the waiting".

(Romans 8:22, The Message translation)

Come, true light.

Come, life eternal

Come, hidden mystery.

Come, treasure without name.

Come, reality beyond all words.

Come, person beyond all understanding.

Come, rejoicing without end.

Come, light that knows no evening.

Come, unfailing expectation of the saved.

Come, raising of the fallen.

Come, resurrection of the dead.

Come, all-powerful, for unceasingly you create, refashion and change all things by your will alone.

Come, invisible whom none may touch and handle.

Come, for you continue always unmoved, yet at every instant you are wholly in movement; you draw near to us who lie in hell, yet you remain higher than the heavens.

Come, for your name fills our hearts with longing and is ever on our lips; yet who you are and what your nature is, we cannot say or know.

Come, Alone to the alone.

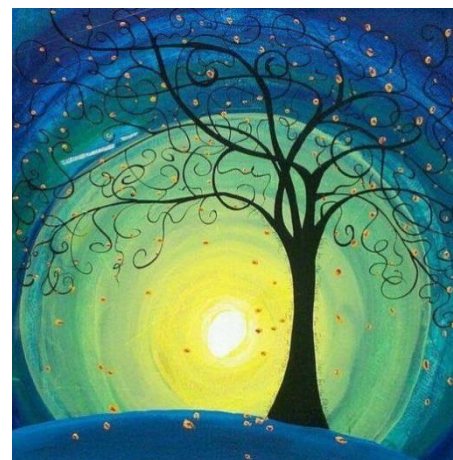
Come, for you are yourself the desire that is within me.

Come, my breath and my life.

Come, the consolation of my humble soul.

Come, my joy, my glory, my endless delight.

--written by St. Symeon (949-1022), monk and poet



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WE ARE CONNECTED to ONE ANOTHER through JESUS CHRIST.....

*A beautiful testimony from Andy Moye
(member at All Saints):*

This past thanksgiving brought even more for which to be thankful....

Connie Happell, one of our campus ministers at the Abbey, was able to host several students at her home on Thanksgiving this year. Connie's efforts to bond with the students and gain their trust has deepened this ministry. Connie hosted 12 additional students at her house on the Monday after Thanksgiving as well!

On this day, I am grateful for Connie.

Pam and I brought three international students to dinner at a family gathering: one from China, one from Japan and one from Columbia. In a private moment, the Japanese student talked about how much Jong Ha, another of our Abbey campus ministers, has meant to her – from the moment she arrived. It was inspiring!

I recall how, at Jong's installation, Rev. George Haugen of Edgewood talked about how one of the Japanese war criminals had gone to school in the United States and the Christians there ignored and shunned him. If only they had reached out to him...

I am grateful today for Connie and Jong and Pastor Pablo of Puerto Rico, who also wants to assist in our campus outreach. I am grateful for difference they are making.

Our cup runneth over.

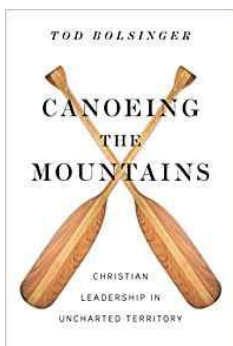
*Please remember the saints at Second (Thomasville) and especially honorably retired minister, **Earl Williams**, on the death of his wife Faye in November.*

*And also remember the saints at First (Columbus) on the death of **Frank Etheridge**, who served on our presbytery's Finance Committee, while remaining a tireless advocate for both our presbytery and our denomination. May he rest in the Light of God.*

LEADERSHIP RESOURCES

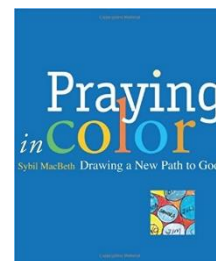
Looking for some new reads as you prepare elder training and congregational events?

Here are some possibilities!



Canoeing The Mountains by Tod Bolsinger of Fuller Theological Seminary, reinvigorates our imaginations so that we can determine what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly changing world. This book will be used by our presbytery's Advisory Board in the coming year as we navigate our mountains of mission and ministry!

Praying in Color is a tremendous resource for every age. Reminding us that prayer is more than precise words or logical progression, this book shows us fresh, color-filled, and creative ways to connect with Jesus Christ. *(These prayer practices are particularly effective at engaging both sides of our minds so that we can bring the best of ourselves to our decision-making processes.)*



Youth Council 2017 -- Encouraging Discipleship

By Katherine Mealar, Youth Council Coordinator

This past August, the FRP Youth Council met to do group-building and to plan our annual Fall Youth Overnight (FYO).

We had an overnight retreat at the presbytery office where we enjoyed

- *friendly competition*
- *building balloon towers,*
- *breaking bread together*
- *developing a theme and programming ideas for FYO.*

Interested in learning more about how your youth can participate in Youth Council? Please [click here](#) for the application to give you an idea of what will be due for the 2019-2020 school year in June 2018.



2018 Annual Calendar

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE UNLESS NOTED.

JANUARY		
1		Closed - New Year's Day
9	2:30 pm	Finance at First (Americus)
9	4:00 pm	CME at First (Americus)
11		COM, new member training
13	9:00 am	Statistical Review - First, Valdosta
	2:00 pm	Statistical Review - First, Bainbridge
16 - 24		Guatemala Mission Trip
18	10:00 am	CPM
20	9:00 am	Statistical Review - TBA
	2:00 pm	Statistical Review - Fort Valley
26 - 27		Advisory Board Retreat starts at 4 pm
27	10:00 am	COF
27	10:00 am	PW, Covenant
27	10:00 am	The PresHouse Campus Ministry Board meeting, The PresHouse
31		Statisticals and Terms of Call are due!

FEBRUARY		
8	10:30 pm	COM with BOP visit from Clark Simmons
9		BOP Seminar (*more details to follow)
10		Presbytery meeting, Elmodel / CME Grant applications will be disbursed at this meeting
16	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	NE Cluster - Gathering

MARCH		
6 - 7		Synod Forum for Presbytery Leaders
8	10:00 am	COM
9 - 11		Celebration of Faith (COF), Lake Blackshear
15	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Church Relations & Admin Team Advisory Board (AB) / CME Grant applications are due TODAY

APRIL		
18	1:00 pm	GA Commissioner Training @ Greater Atlanta Presbytery office
19	10:00 am	CPM
28	10:00 am	The PresHouse Campus Ministry Board meeting, The PresHouse

MAY		
4 - 5		CRE/TRE Training/Retreat @ First (Valdosta) begins at 5:30 pm on the 4th
10	10:00 am	COM
17	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Church Relations & Admin Team Advisory Board (AB)
28		Office Closed - Memorial Day

JUNE		
9		Presbytery meeting
10 - 16		Montreat Youth Conference
16 - 23		223 rd General Assembly, St. Louis
24 - 29		Dogwood Acres Camp for 3 rd -12 th graders

JULY		
4		Closed - Independence Day
12	10:00 am	COM
19	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Church Relations & Administration Team AB
28	10:00 am	PW, Covenant

AUGUST		
6	10:00 am	GA EPs gathering at Northminster
17	10:00 am	CPM

SEPTEMBER		
3		Office Closed - Labor Day
13	10:00 am	COM
20	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Church Relations & Administration Team AB
27	9:30 am	CPM

OCTOBER		
20		Presbytery meeting in the NE Cluster

NOVEMBER		
3	TBD	PW, TBD
8	10:00 am	COM
13	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Church Relations & Administration Team AB
14 - 16		CTS Event "Resilience in Leadership"
22 - 23		Office Closed - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER		
24 - 25		Office Closed - Christmas
31		Office Closed - New Year's Eve



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Thank you so very much!

