

# Blaze

From The Flint



July

2016

## Beth Salem Presbyterian Church Columbus, GA

*Each month, Blaze will highlight a member of Flint River Presbytery in the hope that a greater sense of community will assist all of us in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This month we highlight Beth Salem Presbyterian Church of Columbus, GA.*



Beth Salem United Presbyterian Church was organized in 1896 as the Second Presbyterian Church of Columbus. First Presbyterian Church established the church and both congregations operated under the banner of the Presbyterian church in the United States (the Southern Church). In 1931, Beth Salem moved to the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Northern Church. When the Southern and the Northern Churches merged, Beth Salem became a part of Flint River Presbytery. In 1958, we moved to our present location on St. Mary's Road.



We are so very proud to be of service to FRP! Our members have gladly served on committees. Linda Gunn has served Trinity, St. Paul, Morningside, Sherwood and C.K. Smith as a lay pastor, was the first enabler for the Presbyterian Women (PW) in our cluster, was a voting rep for three national PW conventions, and served on four FRP committees. Paul and Patti Kauffmann have been blessed to serve on the last two Celebration of Faith (COF) committees. Paul has also been a member of the Committee on Ministry and the liaison team that enhanced communication between FRP and First Columbus.



Moses Evans and Virginia Robinson have also served on various committees in the past. We serve with great enthusiasm to honor all that FRP has done for us, especially assisting us to pay off our mortgage in such a timely, gracious manner in 2008.

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Beth Salem is a small congregation (45 members), but we have a huge sense of mission to our Lord, Jesus Christ. We seek His will in our church, community, and the world. We constantly look for new ways to refresh the congregation and love each other even as we sometimes disagree. We work hard, but we come together for Family Night the last Wednesday of every month to have fun and just be silly in Christ, and then we pray for each other and others during Intercessory Prayer the first Wednesday of the month. We minister to the community by providing food to the Brown Bag pantry and the House of Mercy for indigents. We give Christmas presents and clothes to needy students in the Muscogee County School District, shoe boxes of amenities and home-made cards to senior citizens, and holiday boxes of food to individuals in the church and community. We had a Parents Morning Out ministry where kids felt loved and had a ball.



Recently, Beth Salem has reached out into the world. We have supported Thornwell and Quitman Homes. In 2015, we gave

assistance to Johnson C. Smith, where several of our awesome pastors received their training. We supported FRP Presbyterian Women, as well. We sent bottled water to Michigan during its crises. We knew we were truly blessed when we hosted the first "Stop Hunger Now" campaign in Columbus; indeed, all of FRP churches deserve a pat on the back for that because it brought us together as never before. Look Out! God might just be trying to tell us something, church. Selah



We're really big on staying connected to other churches. For example, we have worked with Sherwood Presbyterian Church in the *Food Source* program, which provided boxes of food to the community at a low cost. Several years ago, Charlotte Caldwell, our Pastor, and Rev. Leanne Simmons of All Saints presented an awesome series entitled "The Real Housewives of the Bible." We have also participated in All Saints' Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Awesome! Awesome! Awesome! Of course, we connect through the Pulpit Swaps; they have been wonderful. We manage to feed 100 students at The Abbey campus ministry three times a year. For the last ten years or so, Beth Salem has partnered with Carver Heights to do VBS, and it has simply been a thing of



VBS at Beth Salem

beauty and joy; there is nothing more beautiful than children's laughter and enthusiasm for Jesus!

Recently, a frequent visitor to the church voiced amazement at how much Beth Salem accomplishes. "You all do more than some bigger churches!" The church exists to serve where and when we can. That is what Christ calls us to do. As our motto states, Beth Salem is a place, "Where we love God and care about you." We live it out every day of the year. We have a Bible and we're not scared to use it. We are so thankful to be able to reach out in love to the sick, the widows, the poor, the friendless, the hungry, little children, and whomever else God tells us to.

We are excited about several up-coming events. One big event that we've been working on is our Women's Day, July 10, at 10 A.M. The topic is "Human Trafficking," and the speaker will be Alisha L. Gordon, a writer for the Atlanta Constitution. The topic is also the focus of our Flint River Presbytery Presbyterian Women for 2016. The other event that we're working hard on is our 120th Anniversary celebration, which will be October 29. The theme is "Supporting Community: Bridging the Gap." Virginia Robinson and Charlotte Caldwell, "little energizer bunnies," have done a stellar job to make this happen. Everyone's invited, so, please, come and enjoy.

**Our Motto:**  
*"We love God and  
 care about you."*

In conclusion, Rev. S. A. Laing, Beth Salem's first pastor, wrote the words to our theme song:

(Tune: God Bless America)

Onward Beth Salem. The House of Hope.  
 Stop your dreaming; it is daylight  
 Victory is now in sight.  
 Keep on praying and working.  
 Blessings are in store for you...  
 Onward Beth Salem; you'll reach your goal  
 Onward Beth Salem; you'll reach your goal.

Guess we'll continue to be a vessel through which God's will shall be done forever and ever. Selah

Here are more photos on this and the following page of Beth Salem's faith in action:



Patti Kauffmann at the Celebration of Faith



**Carolyn Thomas at the Celebration of Faith**



**Deacon Barnes and Elder Robinson  
in the sanctuary**



**Elder Paul Kauffmann**



**Deacon Sarah Moses**



**The Elders at a Baptism**



**Patti Kauffmann at Celebration of Faith**



**Youth Sunday**

# Pastor and Family



Rev. Charlotte Caldwell with Dr. Lomax



Kenneth Caldwell



Charlotte with Bance and Monica Caldwell

# Session

## Ruling Elders



Patti Kauffmann



Moses Evans

## Deacon Board



Carolyn Thomas



Trixy Herndon



Virginia Robinson



Linda Gunn



Margarette Barnes



Carrie Willis

*Many thanks to Patti Kauffmann, Rev. Caldwell and the members of Beth Salem for telling us about the good works they do to further the kingdom of God.*