

Blaze

From The Flint

May

2016

First Presbyterian Church Bainbridge, 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 First Presbyterian Church of Bainbridge, GA.



First Presbyterian was officially chartered in 1852 after Mr. John Hibberd, along with twelve others, petitioned the Presbytery of Florida to organize this church.

A handsome building with an organ and gallery on three sides was completed in 1854 and was enjoyed until the Bainbridge Fire of 1874 that demolished most of the business district. The Communion service, the pulpit Bible, and the Session minute book were saved and can be seen in our historical room. The second building was erected in 1877. Construction on the present day building was begun in 1899 and dedicated in 1910. The Climax Presbyterian Church joined us through a happy merger approved by the Southwest Georgia Presbytery in 1970, before their building was moved to Westville Historic Village, outside of Lumpkin, Georgia, where it is preserved.



Our current sanctuary has beautiful stained glass windows, which call forth the stories of Jesus in Bethany with Martha and Mary and Jesus as the the Good Shepherd. Our pipe organ

and chancel choir fill our space with glorious music as we worship God on Sunday mornings. Our Fellowship Hall is used for a variety of meals, services, and is a regular spot for local organizations to have events. As a congregation, we also just remodeled a house on the property, and the new space will be an activity center for our youth and other church events.

While we are currently in an interim period, we have not let that diminish our call to serve others. Our Threads of

Love ladies continue to sew dresses and shorts to help children world-wide have beautiful clothing. This year the ladies have also started to make bags for the children of migrant workers and the youth pack those bags full of hygiene supplies to meet the needs of those children in our community.



Each month we have a mission focus--an opportunity for a particular ministry that is close to the heart of FPC to be highlighted. Every fourth Sunday, we take up a special offering to enrich the work of our mission focuses, such as the Quitman Home, Kids Against Hunger, One Great Hour of Sharing, the local Samaritan Counseling Center, or the Friendship House of Bainbridge. We also participate in the *Souper Bowl of Caring*, making chemotherapy care packages for local cancer patients, and the Backpack Program of Decatur County.

Part of our calling as a church is also to have strong educational programming not only for our children and youth but for disciples of every age. Our Elementary Youth Fellowship (EYF) and Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF) meet on Sunday nights for dinner and class. We also have a wonderful program in the summer, "Joyous Journeys," where once a week our elementary children have a fun outing. The little ones paint door hangers, catch a new movie, go canoeing to see manatees, or hike at Kolomoki Mounds. Our Wednesday night dinner is the best \$6 meal in Bainbridge, and we have classes for all ages. The Parents Morning Out program fills the needs of families throughout the community to have their children well cared for in a loving, Christian environment.

In all that we do, we strive to be a warm and welcoming church, helping all to find a way to love and serve God and community.

Mission Statement

We are committed to offering meaningful worship through inspired preaching, teaching, and music. We encourage individuals to grow spiritually through active participation in fellowship and missions in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Mary and Martha with Jesus stained glass window



Our Christmas Eve live nativity



The annual Easter Egg hunt



Children and Youth on Easter Sunday 2016

Delivery of Threads of Love dresses.



The EYF and PYF packed "Chemotherapy Bags" for local cancer patients.



Family Canoe Trip



Family Game Night



Footwashing during our EYF and PYF
"Walk Through Holy Week"



PYF and EYF students shopping for the Decatur County
Backpack program.



Our 2016 Souper Bowl of Caring
offering

Our Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. John Lown



**Director of Youth & Family
Ministry
Rev. Bethany Jessop**



**Director of Elementary Youth
Ministry: Lisa Enfinger**



**Choirmaster:
Michael Inlow**



Organist: Pamela Ellis



**Office Manager:
Aleica Harrison**