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# The Sparks : Campus Ministry Edition

*Flint River Presbytery's E-Newsletter*



## MINISTRY DIRECTORS :

Melissa Coleman, The  
Center at VSU

Joshua Minich, The  
PresHouse at GSW

Jong Ha and John  
Mock, The Abbey at  
CSU

Marilyn Tucker-Marek,  
UKirk at Mercer

## Campus Ministries: Havens of Hope

Compiled by Andy Moye, Abbey Board Member

The Wall Street Journal, under a headline “Colleges Brace For More Counseling,” recently reported that 80% of students said that the Covid-19 Pandemic has effected their mental health.

**We want you to know that even in these uncertain times, our campus ministries are adapting to this new reality and continue to minister to those students in need.**

All five of our ministry directors have made intentional efforts to reach out to students regularly through email, on-line chats, and phone calls. Our pastoral leaders identify students with concerns, listen carefully, and bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ. Each ministry has developed their own unique focus based on what they are hearing from students.



## The Abbey Fellowship: Columbus State



Director John Mock has made a special effort to keep in touch with students who have returned home as well as international students who have been a part of campus minister Jong Ha's nation-wide outreach. John is holding weekly Zoom Bible Study and daily text chain conversations. By the grace of God, even before the pandemic, John had started a Bible study on fearlessness in the face of uncertain times. Thanks to the generosity of Abbey contributors, The Abbey was able to make a significant contribution to CSU's food bank which had been depleted by students in need. Due to student feed back, John has begun to hold open and honest conversations about racism and inequality with students who want to bridge gaps created by silence.



## The Center: Valdosta State

Director Melissa Coleman uses email, text, phone, and video chats to check on student's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Melissa has also worked with the Food Pantry at Trinity (Valdosta) to assist students who have needs for basics such as food and paper products.

The Center has also been able to help students financially with rent and utility relief thanks to the generosity of donors. Melissa has matched the food shopping and yard work needs of health-challenged Trinity members with students facing financial hardship. Not only has this partnership alleviated hardships for both students and members of the community, but it has also forged new friendships. In one case, the students performed a mini cello and violin concert for a couple and their neighbors in their front yard.

Generosity has been a constant reality among these partnerships as resources are shared. In addition, The Center has also been able to do significant outdoor work to their facility to become compliant with their property insurance requirements.



# The PresHouse: Georgia Southwestern

Director Josh Minich has also increased his social media engagement by emails as well as more personal encounters such as one on one chats with students. He is sending out weekly Bible study materials as well as links to First (Americus) worship and information. He has also allowed local students to use the Pres House for internet access and study space.



# UKirk : Mercer



Campus Minister Marilyn Tucker-Marek has also shifted to on-line meetings via Zoom for weekly Bible study. From this experience, she realized that the students needed more support, and so they added Zoom meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays so that they could check in and pray for one another.

Marilyn quickly found that students living at home were experiencing new struggles with family expectations as well as study expectations. Senior students were especially stressed with job searches and lost opportunities. Through this discovery, she found the UKirk faith community coming together to build each other up and stand together. Finally, Marilyn found that UKirk alumni had need of support as well, so she has established a UKirk alumni time to call in from around the country to check in and pray together on Sundays.

Thank you so much for all the ways you give love and life to these essential ministries, which are making a real difference in students' lives at a time when they need it most. These ministries continue to covet your prayers and support as they stand on the front lines of great loss and need.

If you would like to make a gift toward these ministries, go to [www.flintriverpresbytery.org](http://www.flintriverpresbytery.org) and click "Make a Donation to FRP." Please note that your donation is for *Campus Ministry*.

