



Handbook
of the
150th Stated Meeting
of the Flint River Presbytery
January 31, 2026



January 31, 2026



Debra Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter
Rebecca Willis, Stated Clerk
Toni Hatfield, Bookkeeper
Elizabeth Cantrell, Ministry Associate

January 15, 2026

Flint River Saints,

This packet of information is intended to assist you in preparing for the 150th Stated Meeting of Flint River Presbytery on Saturday, January 31st beginning at 10 am. **This gathering which will be co-hosted by the Edgewood and First congregations , who share a location at 1100 First Avenue, Columbus.** Parking is located on the corner of 12th Street and 2nd Avenue, directly across from these congregations.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. For **new** commissioners, a class will be offered by Stated Clerk Becky Willis at 9:30 am. Please ask about the location of this class at registration. Lunch, served after the meeting, will be provided at a cost of \$10.00. Childcare will be provided at no extra charge. If you need childcare, notify Elizabeth at ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org by Monday, January 25th. Please plan to dress comfortably and casually for the day so you can relax, participate, and learn!

Our offering for the day will go, once again, to support NEST (the Near Eastern School of Theology). You'll find more information about this important Lebanon-based seminary in the pages that follow. You may give by going online to www.flintriverpresbytery.org or by bringing cash/check with you to the meeting. Regardless the format, please add a memo noting that your gift is for NEST or the January 2026 FRP Meeting offering.

Our meeting for the day will blend information and inspiration. We will install a new moderator, Glennie Wicks of Trinity (Valdosta), give thanks for the gift of the Walter Flint fund, and disburse 2026 grant checks to applying congregations. *Please be sure that someone from your congregation is present to receive your grant check!* We'll also dive into the book of Jonah (as a metaphor for 21st century leadership challenges and opportunities), break into small groups focusing on a variety of topics, and hear from our Small Church Coordinators.

The pages that follow will include the usual agenda and reports. Please read all the enclosed material prayerfully prior to coming to the meeting so that, together, we can make informed and intentional decisions. Remember that there may be Addendum items for your review as well; however, they will not go online until **Thursday, January 29th.**

After our meeting, please be certain to share key information with your Session and congregation.

We look forward to seeing you face-to-face as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ together!

In Christ's Joy and Hope,

Deb, Becky, Elizabeth, Toni and our Small Church Coordinators, Brittany and Laura

2800 Old Dawson Road, Suite 2, Box 312 , Albany, GA 31707

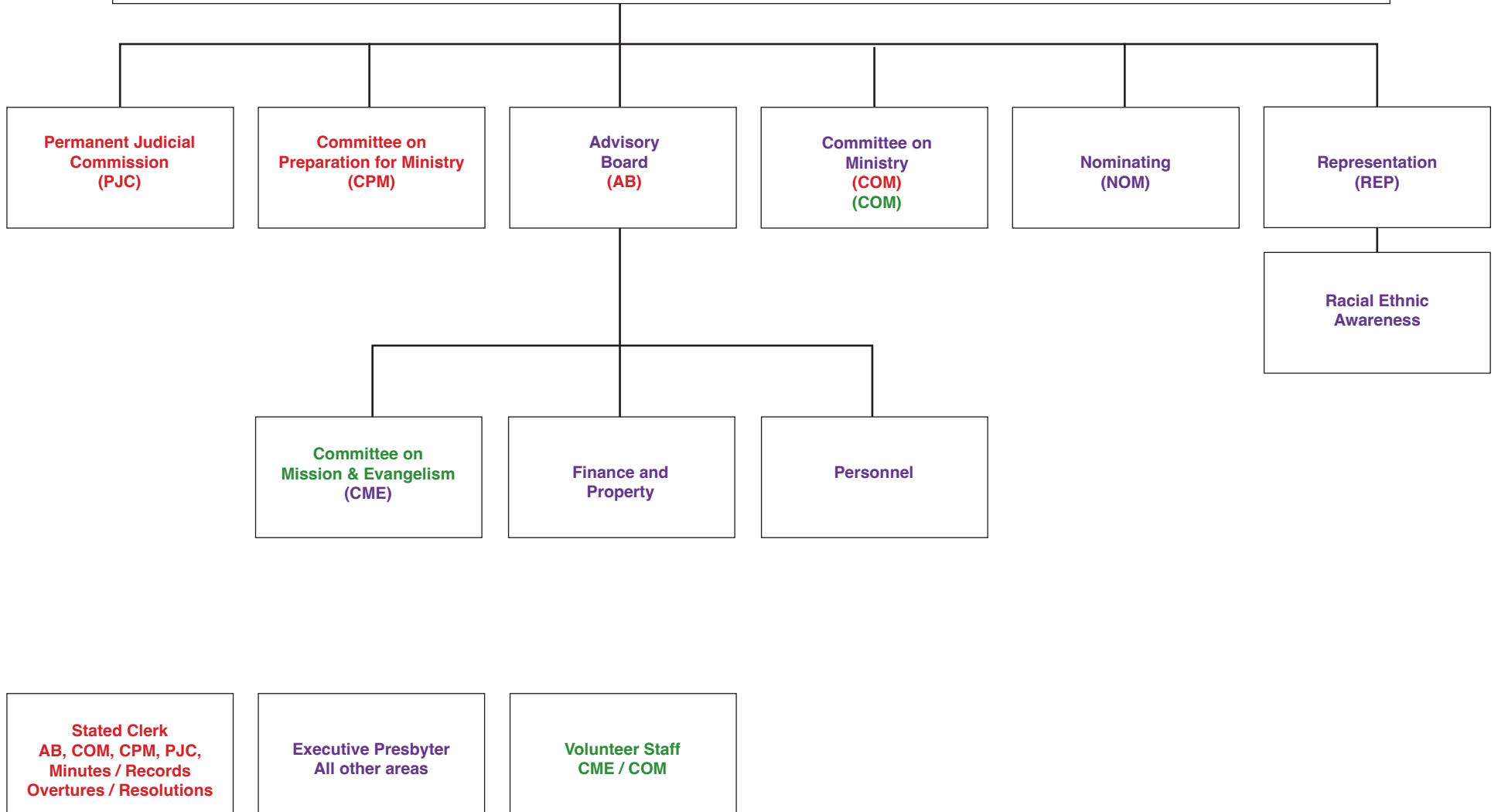


Debra Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter
Rebecca Willis, Stated Clerk
Toni Hatfield, Bookkeeper
Elizabeth Cantrell, Ministry Associate

Please note: In an ongoing effort to offer resources for all of our pastoral leaders, we are hosting 2 classes led by Dr. Charles Wiley of Columbia Theological Seminary on Friday, January 30th from 3-5 pm and Saturday from 1:30-2:30 pm. During the Friday class, we will explore the general themes, patterns, and images found in our upcoming Lenten lectionary passages. ALL – whether preaching regularly or not – are welcome to attend and learn! During our Saturday class, we will do a “deep dive” into several of the key Lenten passages. For folks needing recommendations about hotels, please reach out to Elizabeth. All interested folks in the area will be welcome to join staff for dinner fellowship.

2800 Old Dawson Road, Suite 2, Box 312 , Albany, GA 31707

Flint River Presbytery Committee Structure / Staff Responsibility





Empower

Encourage

Engage

Equip

Experiment

**Agenda of the Presbytery of Flint River of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Saturday, January 31, 2026**

WIFI for today's meeting:

Network: FPC_guest

Password: first1830

Registration with Ministry Associate, Elizabeth Cantrell 9:00 am

Orientation of Commissioners with Stated Clerk, Becky Willis 9:30 am

Gathering as God's People

Gathering Music

Welcome Edgewood and First, co-hosts

Prayer and Call to Order Vickie Dieth
FRP moderator

Approval of the Agenda Anthony Ellis

Roll Call and Introductions Becky Willis

Installation and Blessing of our New Moderator Vickie Dieth

A Word from our New Moderator Glennie Wicks

Call to Generosity

Our special offering today will go to support the crucial ministry of the Near Eastern School of Theology (NEST) which equips leaders to be Reformed Christians in the countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Armenia. (More info about this need can be found on pages 7-8.)

Our Hunger offering will be collected as well that we may continue to partner with Rise Against Hunger on World Communion Sunday.

Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Encouraging and Equipping God’s People

Connecting the Dots – Framing our TRE history

Cheryl Betts
Anthony Ellis
Jane Shelton

Hymn “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Reflections for our Life Together
Jonah (Crisis, Confinement, Conversion, and Clarity)

Deb Tregaskis

Information about our Joint Ministries

Glennie Wicks

Advisory Board

page 9

Stated Clerk Report

pages 9-11

Committees and Commissions

pages 11-13

Action Items

pages 13-15

Addendum Reports

Hymn “We All are One in Mission”

Announcements for the Common Good

- “Gratitude Grounding”

Meeting of the Annual Corporation

Engaging the World as God’s People

Break-out Groups (4)

- 1 Stories and Best Practices around being a Neighborhood Church
--Lucie Perkins, pastor at Westminster (Warner Robins)
- 2 Stories and Reflections around Building, Money, and Mission
--Liz Allison and Kris Jain, ruling elders at Edgewood
- 3 *Godly Play* and *Prayer Ground*: ideas to strengthen your outreach to children
--Laura Peiper, Small Church Coordinator
- 4 What’s So Special about Special Funds? Learning What They Are and How They Can Help



Empower

Encourage

Engage

Equip

Experiment

Regathering for Adjournment, Blessing of our Gathering and our Meal

Lunch in the Fellowship Hall

Continuing Education will take place for interested participants shortly after lunch is served.
This hour-long class with focus equipping preachers for the upcoming Lenten season.
ALL are welcome!

More Information about our Special Offering for our Meeting Today An Opportunity to support the Church in Lebanon

– a note from Curtis White,
former pastor of St. Andrews (Macon) and former FRP Moderator
This update was first shared at the May 2025 presbytery meeting

Dear Flint River Saints,

In April 2025, I had the privilege to travel to Lebanon, and while there I met with a few of our PC(USA) partners in the region. One of these meetings was with the Administrative Dean of the Near Eastern School of Theology (NEST), Dr. Rima Nasrallah. During this meeting, Dr. Rima Nasrallah mentioned some of the vital work she is carrying on as a part of NEST strengthening and equipping the Church in the larger Middle East region. I believe there is an opportunity here for Flint River to support this work as our Christian sisters and brothers live out their faith in a very difficult part of the world.

A Little History:

Before explaining about the project, I wanted to share a little of the background regarding the PCUSA's partnership with NEST. For starters, NEST owes its existence to the Presbyterian mission to the Levant region that began in 1819. Through the efforts of these missionaries, the first protestant seminary in the region was established in 1835. This Protestant seminary was distinctly Reformed in its teaching and tradition. **NEST remains, to this day, a Reformed theological seminary and one of the only Reformed seminaries in the entire Middle East.** For almost two centuries, our denomination has supported the work of NEST to help educate those who serve the church in the countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Armenia.

The Current Need:

Despite the regional challenges, not all news out of the Middle East is bad news. Dr. Nasrallah reported to me how the church in Jordan is overflowing with children, teenagers and young adults all of whom are connecting to church and wanting faith to be a part of their lives. The issue is this: *there are not nearly enough theologically trained children and youth workers in Jordan to accommodate the need.* The second hopeful report is that the Reformed Church in Armenia is currently experiencing a revival. In the last few years a church that was once a super minority has grown to 40 churches throughout the country.

However, given its extremely small status until recently, there are only 6 trained pastors to serve the 40 vibrant and growing Reformed churches in Armenia.

This growth in churches without trained pastors has resulted in completely untrained laypersons acting as pastors for the majority of the churches. These lay pastors want and need proper theological education, some of them need to become fully ordained and more new leaders need to be established if the reformed church in Armenia is going to continue to flourish. Beyond meeting these two hope-filled needs, NEST continues to train top tier seminarians who serve bruised and hurting churches throughout Syria and Lebanon.

How We Can Help:

To address the need for highly qualified children, youth and lay ministers Dr. Nasrallah is hoping to rebuild NEST's Center for Christian Education. The CCE was a program operated by NEST until the crisis (Massive explosion in the port of Beirut mixed with a financial collapse) of 2019, and all the subsequent crises after that (Covid, War between Hezbollah and Israel, total devaluation of the Lebanese currency). The Center for Christian Education would be able to offer training for children/youth workers, and lay pastors and so would directly address the current need of the church in Jordan and Armenia. In addition, its curriculum would benefit the region as a whole as every church in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine also have need for qualified Children/youth workers as well as lay pastors. Dr. Nasrallah's belief is it will take about \$35,000 (USD) a year to operate the center. She also is confident that after about three years the center would be self-funding given the immense need for the kind of service this center would provide.

Flint River Presbytery hopes to partner with NEST in small and tangible ways. Congregations have been invited in 2025 to consider pledging \$300/year to this crucial training. Multiple opportunities to give to NEST have now occurred through our FRP offering. These gifts will be sent in bulk and FRP will keep you informed of the total gathered and sent.

The Reformed churches of Lebanon continue to bear witness to the Gospel of Christ to their neighbors throughout the region. The church speaks, and acts, prophetically in their context by being dedicated to peacemaking, women's rights, disability rights, poverty elimination, working against the exploitation of workers and teaching love for enemies. *We would do well to follow their example in our own context.* And we would do well to support their efforts by offering what we can towards NEST's efforts to strengthen the church through education of leaders. I would encourage anyone wanting to be more involved with our Siblings in Syria and Lebanon to connect with the **Syria Lebanon Partnership Network** (<https://www.syrialebanonpn.org/>).

Grace and Peace from your brother in Christ,

Curtis White

cwhite8743@gmail.com

FOR INFORMATION

The ministry items mentioned in the following pages occur because of the commitment and imagination of faithful people *just like you* from every corner of our presbytery. Please read this attentively and prayerfully and learn about the ways in which we are working together with our 42 worshiping communities (38 congregations and 4 campus ministries).

Advisory Board (AB) – Anthony Ellis, moderator

1. Gathered for our first semi-annual retreat in order to pray, reflect upon the book of Jonah, and prepare for the year ahead. A topic of particular note was the changing landscape of pastoral leadership.
2. Read and approved the November 1, 2025 FRP Meeting Minutes (See Attachments, pages 18-24.)
3. Reviewed FRP committee minutes for the sake of gaining awareness and offering support, noting in particular the minutes of our New Hope AC. (See Attachments, pages 25-27 for the most recent meeting minutes.)

Stated Clerk -- Becky Willis

3. Terms of Call, pastoral contracts, and CRE annual reports are due by **January 31, 2026**, for review by the Committee on Ministry (COM). Terms of Call require a congregational meeting to approve. Pastoral contracts require Session approval only.

The one-page form containing the **Terms of Call** may be found on the presbytery website under the *Clerk of Session* tab and then under *Forms*. When the form is completed and the congregation meets to consider and vote on the terms, please send the completed form electronically to ecantrell@flinriverpresbytery.org for submission to the Committee on Ministry. Detailed instructions for completion are on the presbytery website (www.flinriverpresbytery.org).

All forms and templates for **contracts and annual reports** can be found on the *Clerk of Session* page under *Forms*. The CRE/CE Annual Report Form can be found under the *Pastors* tab of the presbytery website under CRE/CLP.

4. Presbytery-approved Minimum Terms of Call:

Installed Pastors: \$40,000 (cash salary with housing allowance)
\$30,770 (cash salary with manse)

Certified Christian Educators: \$30,000

Terms of Call must contain a provision to offer a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave for installed pastors (G-2.0804). Instructions and templates may be found on the FRP website.

5. The roll of Flint River Presbytery's membership and register of all Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators, and Commissioned Pastors (CREs) are contained within this handbook and must be reviewed by the presbytery. **Please remember that, if you are listed as a member of the presbytery, you are expected to attend presbytery meetings. If you are unable to attend a meeting due to an extenuating circumstance, a request for excuse must be submitted to the Stated Clerk prior to the meeting.** (See Attachments, pages 28-30). Attendance of Elder Commissioners as well as those specified members above indicates the commitment of us all to the holy work to which we have been called within Flint River Presbytery. We need you and your wisdom as we serve our congregations together!
6. 82% of our sessions submitted their Minutes and Records in 2025 for the required review of 2024 documents. **Please contact the Stated Clerk if your Minutes and Records have not yet been reviewed.** Any exceptions to the minutes and records were addressed by the Stated Clerk as a means of instruction and assistance. The review of 2025 Minutes and Records will be conducted in August 2026 by similar means as the last few years. Minutes and Records may be submitted to the Stated Clerk (via electronic means or by mail), or they may be peer-reviewed with another Clerk of Session and the Session Record Form then forwarded to the Stated Clerk. Our denomination also has resources available for our Korean siblings, if language is a barrier to submission and review. **The deadline for this year's submission and review is August 31, 2026. Please DO NOT mail your original minutes if you choose to submit your minutes and records by regular mail. Send copies only to keep your records secure.**
7. The 2024 minutes of Flint River Presbytery were peer-reviewed and then attested by the Synod of the South Atlantic with no exceptions.
8. The roll of teaching elders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament) and ruling elder commissioners does not require revision to achieve the goal of numerical parity as specified in G-3.0301 (*Book of Order*).
9. The **presbytery policies** required in the *Book of Order* have been adopted and are on the presbytery website. These include Boundaries Training every thirty-six months, Anti-Harassment and Anti-Racism policies, and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Child and Youth Abuse Prevention policies. **All sessions should have similar policies in their Manual of Operations. The presbytery policies may be used as a beginning template, if desired.**
10. Entry of **Statistical Reporting** on the Office of General Assembly (OGA) website (<https://pcusa.org/resource/guide-statistical-reporting>) is requested by **January 31, 2026**, **although February 20, 2026 is the last day data may be entered by sessions.**

If you have not entered your 2025 statistics, please contact the Stated Clerk for assistance. **Your Per Capita is assessed by this statistical reporting, and our denomination uses this data for training and mission objectives.** Remember, this is a session action, so the session must approve the data before the final submission.

11. **Clerk's Corner** quarterly training will continue in 2026: January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 20 – all at 7:00 pm via Zoom. You may sign in from the FRP calendar.
12. **Per Capita for 2026** is: \$11.26 for General Assembly (this helps to pay for our commissioners to attend GA); \$2.50 for Synod of South Atlantic; and \$6.24 for Flint River Presbytery for a total of \$20.00. (*For more information about Per Capita, See Attachments, pages 31-32.)

Committee on Mission and Evangelism (CME)

-- Laura Peiper, moderator with Beth Jarrell and Pam Moye as volunteer staff associates

Rise Against Hunger (RAH) Update

13. We are very grateful as well for the financial contributions of FRP churches in 2025 and in years past. Our first delivery of meals went to the city of Comagaguela in **Honduras**, where the Maria Auxiliadora Parish operates several initiatives aimed at poverty reduction and community empowerment, such as vocational training for youth, scholarships for primary, secondary, and post-secondary school, home repair support, youth development, and a training center for women to improve economic opportunities. Our second delivery of meals went to the **Ukraine**.

A big THANK YOU to all of you who participated in any way!

14. Mark your calendars for October 4, 2026, this year's Rise Against Hunger event on World Communion Sunday.
 - NE cluster packing event will take place at Westminster (Warner Robins).
 - NW cluster packing event will likely take place at First (Columbus).
 - Central cluster packing event will take place at Covenant (Albany) and likely Cuba as well.
 - Southern cluster packing event will take place at First (Valdosta).
15. Tech Grant applications are due by March 15th, 2026. The Application and Financial Statement documents to be completed can be found on the Committee on Mission and Evangelism page on our website, www.flintriverpresbytery.org
16. A Disaster Relief trip to Asheville, NC is still being planned by Tom McFarland of Americus. Tentative dates are set for April 26th – May 2nd. More details forth coming.

17. Because our campus ministries are supported largely by the presbytery's budget, the campus ministry bylaws for each site need to be reviewed to ensure a healthy balance of accountability and flexibility. The first review will take place in January.

18. Allocation of Walter Flint Funds for 2026:

15 churches applied and all received a percentage of their asking amount.

• The approved allocations are as follows:

- Americus \$5,000
- Barnesville \$14,300
- Beth Salem \$18,000
- Cordele \$6,000
- Cuba \$18,000
- Dillon Road \$2,500
- Edgewood \$4,850
- Forsyth \$14,850
- St. Andrews \$18,000
- Thomaston \$18,500
- Tifton \$3,500
- 1st Valdosta \$18,500
- Washington Ave \$12,000
- Westminster \$18,000
- 1st Warner Robins \$15,000

Committee on Ministry (COM) -- Danny Dieth, moderator

19. The first gathering of COM will occur as a retreat in early February after the January 31st deadline, so that the committee may review Terms of Call, contracts, and TRE and CRE annual reports.

Preparation for Ministry (CPM) -

Nancy Reimer and Marilyn Tucker-Marek, co-moderators

20. The committee continues to connect intentionally with and/or around the following individuals: Mark Montgomery (Inquirer who will be examined today in order to become a Candidate), Abbie Ryon (Candidate who was examined on the floor of presbytery in August 2025), and Saffiyah Abdullah (Inquirer).

21. Reviewed a draft of the newly created CPM handbook which will be ready to present to the presbytery in April.

Finance Committee (FIN) – Demetrise Battle and Dick Shelton, co-moderators

The Finance Committee continues to be so very grateful for the generosity of our congregations! Thank you!

Our Finance Committee members are dedicated to communicating with sessions. Please reach out with any questions.

22. A look at our financial history over the past 10 years:

- Our operations budget has decreased by almost 50%
- Our staff salaries have been raised by 33% in total over this period

23. TODAY, our budget is, overall, 10% LESS than it was 10 years ago, with 40% of our budget coming from special funds like the Campus Ministry Endowment and Walter Flint Fund along with individual gifts to *I Give Ten Dollars a Month* (IGITDaM) and the Legacy Fund. By contrast, only 15% of our budget came from special funds ten years ago.

ACTION ITEMS

Advisory Board – Anthony Ellis, moderator

- A. Recommends a shift in the terms for our synod commissioners based on the synod's request. (The ~~line through~~ represents the former terms upon which we had voted. The **highlighted term** represents the new term requested by the synod.)
- Minister (~~2026-2028~~**2027**) Fairy Caroland,
 - Minister (~~2029-2031~~**2028-2029**) Paula Hoffman
 - Elder (~~2025-2026~~**2026**) Darryl Pierce
 - Elder (**2027-2028**) Tom McFarland

Preparation for Ministry (CPM) -

Nancy Reimer and Marilyn Tucker-Marek, co-moderators

- B. Recommends Teaching Elder Sommer Bower and Ruling Elder Bryan Wright serve as FRP's Ordination Exam readers for 2026.
- C. Recommends that Mark Montgomery become a candidate for ministry within our presbytery. (Mark's Statement of Faith and Autobiography can be found in the **attachments on pages 33-34**)

ACTION ITEM D

TO: Flint River Presbytery

FROM: First Presbyterian Church, 57 Boad Street, Camilla GA 31730

DATE: January 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Health of First (Camilla) and Sale of Church Property

Greetings to members of Flint River Presbytery! The congregation of First (Camilla) is continuing to work and worship in the service of the Lord. While the worship and work are continuing, a congregation of seven people cannot begin to support the maintenance and upkeep of a historic sanctuary and fellowship hall. Both structures require significant repair which must be done by contractors who have both the tools – and the skills -- for dealing with construction practices of a century ago.

After extensive discussions over the past year, the session voted to sell both the church and the surrounding property on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025. On Sunday, December 7, 2025, the congregation voted as well to sell both the church and the surrounding property.

Community Methodist Church has offered \$100,000 for the purchase of the church property, with the provision that the First (Camilla) congregation will continue to meet there indefinitely.

We request permission from the presbytery to finalize the sale of the church property and to develop the accompanying documents that are needed, with the assistance of the Stated Clerk.

Thank you for assisting us with this matter.

Blessings and Peace to everyone.

Bill Bullard, Treasurer and Elder

Paula Palmer, Elder

Deb Wilson, Acting Clerk of Session

***Note of clarification from our Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk: The congregation has noted informally that they would like the proceeds of the sale to go to the support of our campus ministry programs, so these funds would likely go into our Campus Ministry Endowment Fund, the interest of which is used annually to support 3 of our campus ministries.

Stated Clerk -- Becky Willis regarding the New Hope Administrative Commission (NHAC)

Rationale: On August 3, 2024, Flint River Presbytery voted to establish an Administrative Commission (AC), at the request of the moderator and session of New Hope Presbyterian Church. The AC was tasked by the presbytery and worked diligently to carry out all their tasking duties. In the course of the work, the pastor and congregation of New Hope decided that the most faithful course of action was for the church to be dissolved. Since these events occurred, the AC has continued to seek to minister to the former members of New Hope and to work with area congregations in order to discern how best to use the assets of building and funds for ministry and mission. In the course of this discernment, a wonderful opportunity presented itself: The Korean Presbyterian Church in Columbus was growing and needed new space! On November 1, 2025, Flint River Presbytery received the recommendations of both the AC and the Advisory Board to give the building once known as New Hope Presbyterian to our Korean siblings. This recommendation was enthusiastically approved by the presbytery. The deed to the Weems Road property (once known as New Hope) has now been transferred to the Korean Church of Columbus. The Korean Church agreed to sign the deed for their former church on Whitesville Road in Columbus over to Flint River Presbytery. The AC has agreed to continue to work on this process, but another motion and tasking are needed for them to continue their work.

D. The Stated Clerk recommends that the presbytery grant New Hope Administrative Commission the authority to continue as an AC, using the same name, with the following additional tasking:

- Complete all legal and final requirements concerning the Weems Road (formerly New Hope) property to assure that the interests of the presbytery are protected.
- Prepare and transact the deed for the Whitesville Road property to be transferred from the Korean Church of Columbus to Flint River Presbytery with all authorized signatures in place on the deed and the deed filed at the courthouse.
- Be empowered to discern with the NW cluster whether to keep the property for ministry in the Columbus area, or elsewhere, or to sell the property (or part of the property) at a price determined to be reasonable and comparable to other similar properties in the area. All proceeds of any sale will go to Flint River Presbytery. The AC is empowered to retain a realtor, if necessary, and pay the realtor's fee.
- Carry out all legal and fiduciary responsibilities regarding the Whitesville Road property, once the property is deeded to Flint River Presbytery.
- Assure that insurance is carried on the property and that essential utilities are maintained.
- Arrange for any needed repairs to the property.

Upcoming Events of Note:

February 20 -21 at St. Simon's Island – 5- Georgia Presbyteries' Gathering

Building a Bigger Table: Gathering, Sharing and Learning Together

Join Presbyterians from across Georgia beginning at 1 PM Friday, Feb 20th, to learn and grow together. This event is designed to inspire action, spark meaningful conversations, and equip attendees through practical workshops that benefit churches of every size. Leave encouraged, equipped, and empowered to bring your congregation—and your community—closer to God's vision of welcome, service, and faithful mission.

[CLICK HERE to access the Gathering Page.](#) Additional rates/reservations and can be found here!

February 28th at 3pm at Washington Avenue (Macon), located at 939 Washington Avenue, Macon. Parking can easily be found one block away at the Washington Memorial Library, 1180 Washington Avenue.

“The Evolution of Musical Tradition in the Black Church:
Preserving Heritage, Perpetuating Hope”

For more than four centuries, African American music has shaped the cultural and spiritual life of America. From fields and plantations to sanctuaries and concert halls, its rhythms, harmonies, and melodies have expressed struggle, faith, protest, joy, and hope. This event will trace the powerful evolution of musical traditions rooted in the Black church, highlighting its essential role in preserving heritage, shaping community, and inspiring generations. Through lecture and music, the audience will experience a story that is profoundly American and worthy of celebration.

Remaining Presbytery Meetings for the Year

Saturday, April 25 online at 10 am

Saturday, August 1 at 10am, location TBD in the Southern Cluster

Saturday, November 7 online at 10 am



Attachments
to
Accompany
Flint River Presbytery
150th Stated Meeting Handbook



January 31, 2026

FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY
149th Stated Meeting
November 1, 2025

“We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind, but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 4:14-15

Flint River Presbytery met via Zoom for its 149th Stated Meeting on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 10:00 am. Online registration began at 9:30 am with Ministry Associate, Elizabeth Cantrell.

Engaging

Welcome, Prayer, and Call to Order

Stated Clerk Becky Willis advised the Moderator that a quorum was present (6 minister members, 6 elder commissioners, representing at least 6 congregations). Moderator Vickie Dieth called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, welcomed all commissioners and guests, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of the Agenda

The Moderator called on Sharita Hendley, moderator of the Advisory Board, to present the agenda for approval. The agenda was presented with one amendment, which was the addition of “Threads of Thankfulness” to take place after the “Celebration of the Saints Who Have Gone Before Us” and musical offering. Upon motion, second and vote the agenda was approved as amended.

Call to Generosity

Sharita Hendley announced that our offering today will go to support the crucial ministry of the Near Eastern School of Theology (NEST) which equips leaders to be Reformed Christians in the countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Armenia. (See pages 7-10 in the packet for more information on NEST). Our Hunger Offering will also be collected so we may continue to partner with *Rise Against Hunger*. Curtis White, former pastor of St. Andrews and the author of the information about this ministry was not present for the meeting, so Sharita Hendley gave information about the NEST ministry and referred the presbytery to the packet. The Moderator concluded this time in prayer.

Roll Call and Introductions

The Moderator then called on Stated Clerk Becky Willis for roll call and introductions. She welcomed commissioners and guests, recognizing commissioners serving for the first time, and reminded the presbytery that attendance is taken as people log onto the meeting. The Stated Clerk introduced the following: Jonathan Scanlon, new called pastor at St. Andrews (see pages 17-19 in Addendum), Rick Douylliez, new interim pastor at 1st Moultrie (see pages 21-25 in Addendum), and Sarah Broussard, new commissioned pastor at 1st Warner Robins. Also introduced were Tyler Brock from the Calvin Center and Rebecca Cox from Thornwell. The Stated Clerk requested Privilege of the Floor for Tyler and Rebecca, which was granted by the Moderator.

Celebration of the Saints Among Us and Before Us (Necrology and Ordination/Commissioning Anniversaries)

The Moderator called on the vice-moderator of the Committee on Ministry, Richard Hawks, to read the names of the ruling elders whose baptisms have been made complete in 2025 and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their faithful service in God’s Kingdom. The Necrology Report for 2025 can be found on pages 12-13 of the Addendum, and the names were shown on the screen as they were read. Note: Earl Powell’s name was added from the former New Hope congregation but left off the printed report. Following the report, David Kenney, Sr. and David Kenney, Jr. played *Panis Angelicus* as a piano and organ duet.

Threads of Thankfulness

Following the lovely music, Danny Dieth, as Committee on Ministry Moderator for 2026, read the names of those teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders who are celebrating significant anniversaries in ministry. The names were on the screen as they were read, and they are on page 14 of the Addendum. Following the reading, a prayer of blessing was offered for them by Danny.

Virgil Marshall, also a member of the Committee on Ministry, read the names of those who have served as moderators for congregations where they are neither members nor staff. The names were grouped by clusters and can be found on page 15 of the Addendum. Note: Brad Walker's name was added for Trinity (Valdosta) but was left off the printed report. Following the reading, a prayer a thanks was offered for them by Virgil.

Glennie Wicks, presbytery moderator for 2026, read the names of those who have served as moderators of presbytery boards, committees and commissions in 2025. These names are on page 16 of the Addendum. Glennie offered a prayer of thanks for these saints who have served so faithfully.

Encouraging

Executive Presbyter Deb Tregaskis began her remarks with a prayer to the "God of living water..." She read from Acts 27 (the presbytery's Scripture for 2025) about Paul's shipwreck and continued her message "Acts 27 – A Parable for FRP." She likened the Apostle Paul to an Old Testament prophet, who was usually saying something deeply unpleasant and bringing words of "a shipwreck." She reminded us that no one really likes a prophet, especially when they are saying those unpleasant words. When we hear these unpleasant (but prophetic) words, we can become stuck on the brutal and forgetful of the beautiful. She read the encouraging words of Isaiah 43 to illustrate "spiritual whiplash" that comes from being told we are broken but also that God loves us anyway. Failure and Freedom; Grief and Grace – these are spiritual whiplash but are also gifts in God's economy of love. As Paul and his shipmates did, we must determine what it is that we must "toss overboard," and ponder some questions particularly relevant to us as "distilled disciples" – smaller in number and deeper in trust. These questions are: What is the Spirit of God doing in our midst? How will we best tend to the words of the Spirit? How will we allow the Spirit to drive us forward to deepened discipleship? What promises are we clinging to with hope? Is there anything we need to do? What does joy look like in our community? How can we practice gratitude?

The congregations in our presbytery are doing so much ministry and mission, while still looking at budgets and taking care of what has been entrusted to us. We must continue to love "being church" and not focusing on *who is or is not* in our pews. However, aging and dwindling congregations can lead to a sort of panic. Deb gave a startling revelation: panic is a spiritual gift! As she explained, panic precedes creativity; mess precedes miracle! In the Acts 27 Parable for FRP, we see Paul warning the sailors of impending doom; storm winds forming; panic growing that all would be lost; and, finally, an angel appearing to Paul giving assurance that, though the ship would not survive, no lives would be lost. So, everyone stayed in the boat together, broke bread and shared a meal of the last of their supplies. The broken pieces of the ship led to a resurrection-type meal on the shore – with no lives lost – and is a powerful illustration that in God's economy of grace, nothing is wasted.

Updates from our Small Church Coordinators – Brittany DiGiammarino and Laura Peiper

Brittany DiGiammarino reported to the presbytery about all the good things happening on "the east side". Her PowerPoint was unavailable due to technical issues, but later in the meeting our "tech guru" Ralph Hawkins allowed us to see her PowerPoint of joyful scenes from the fellowship at 1st Moultrie and *Rise Against Hunger* at Trinity (Valdosta). Brittany told us that she is the Montreat Coordinator and invited all congregations to contact her regarding questions and dates so many of our youth can attend.

Laura Peiper reported to the presbytery about all the good things happening on “the west side”. She led the presbytery through a PowerPoint entitled "Fall Happenings." Dawes had a fall fellowship with a gathering of people from many other churches and a dinner of chicken pilaf and lots of desserts. Cuba had a fall festival, and Laura showed us slides from this fun event of food and fellowship. Flint River Presbytery’s Bible study on “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ,” will soon have the third session. The first two were led by Laura, and the next one will be led by TRE David Carter. Advent devotions will soon be available. This year’s devotion is entitled, “The Will to Dream,” and both the Bible study and the Advent devotional can be accessed by contacting Laura at laura@flintriverpresbytery.org.

Elizabeth Cantrell invited the presbytery to check out the “MERCH” page on our website and showed slides with the merchandise that is available. Shirts and hats are now joined by lovely watercolor note cards with artwork from “Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice,” with authorization for use by the author Joan S. Gray. Monies received from the purchase of presbytery merchandise will go into our Hunger Fund.

Rhonda Mallory, TRE from Washington Avenue, reminded the presbytery about the February 7, 2026, upcoming event, “The Evolution of Musical Tradition in the Black Church: Preserving Heritage, Perpetuating Hope,” which will be hosted by Washington Avenue. The event will be held at the Piedmont Grand Opera House in Macon. The rich legacy of African American music has been more than four centuries in the making with many offshoots regarded as national treasures. Rhonda encouraged all to attend this very special event.

Ralph Hawkins, Dean of the Trained Ruling Elder program, expressed his appreciation for ruling elders who have spent many hours in becoming trained to serve the presbytery as pastors, moderators, chaplains, and more. He encouraged participation in the next cohort, which will begin in January. During this upcoming class, area scholars will teach some of the classes, and Ralph thanked the many members of the presbytery who have taught classes in the past and will also do so in this upcoming cohort and beyond.

Prior to Information about our Joint Ministries, the Moderator asked the presbytery to take a closer look at the treasure trove of information in the meeting packet. Page 2 shows the structure of our presbytery, which has become much more streamlined and responsive to the needs of the presbytery as a whole. Pages 3-4 contain a calendar of key dates for pastoral leaders (and anyone interested) as well as presbytery meeting dates for 2026. Pages 7-10 contain information about our special offering for today and a note from Curtis White, which was shared at the May 2025 presbytery meeting, concerning NEST and an opportunity to support the Church in Lebanon. Page 11 gives information about the continuing education opportunity following the meeting called “Stretching Exercises,” and led by Ralph Hawkins.

Information about our Joint Ministries

The Moderator referred the presbytery to pages 12-21 of the packet. In this section are reports from the Advisory Board, the Stated Clerk, and Committees and Commissions, representing many hours of dedicated work by members of the presbytery. Under the information on the Advisory Board, the officers of AB for 2026 were listed: Anthony Ellis, Moderator; Darryl Pierce, Vice-Moderator; and Sharita Hendley, Recorder. Since the Advisory Board serves as Trustees for Flint River Presbytery, Inc., these officers will be presented for vote as officers of the corporation at the January 31, 2026, presbytery meeting. The Stated Clerk advised that sessions may not enter statistical data until January 2, 2026. A report from the New Hope Administrative Commission was included on pages 26-29 of the Addendum. This commission worked diligently with New Hope before its dissolution and has continued that diligence with all the many actions needed regarding real property and financial obligations.

After much discernment, the commission recommended that the New Hope church building be gifted to the Korean Presbyterian Church in Columbus, which was unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Board. This will be addressed in the Action Items.

Moderators from the Advisory Board and committees/commissions and the Stated Clerk were asked to respond to any questions.

Action Items

The Moderator referred the presbytery to page 21 for items needing action.

- Sharita Hendley, Moderator of the Advisory Board, moved that the presbytery receive and approve the unanimous recommendations of both the New Hope Administrative Commission and the Advisory Board to give the building, once identified as New Hope Presbyterian Church, to the Korean Presbyterian Church due to their limited space and steady growth. If the presbytery concurs, the Korean Presbyterian Church will, in turn, deed their current property to Flint River Presbytery. Once our Korean sisters and brothers are well settled in their new space, the NW Cluster of congregations will be meeting to dream and discern ways in which the current building belonging to the Korean Presbyterian Church might be used for the sake of the Kingdom of God once it is deeded to the presbytery. The New Hope Administrative Commission will ensure all legal actions, including property deeds, are completed and filed properly.
- Coming from a board, this motion did not require a second. **The Moderator placed the motion before the presbytery and asked for discussion.** A question was raised about the Korean Church's intentions for the New Hope property in their mission and ministry. Pastor Jun Sun Woo and Ruling Elder OK Jackson explained that their current building is too small, and the extra space of the New Hope building would enable multi-cultural services in Korean, English, and Spanish, supporting further growth within their congregation. Prior to the vote, Kris Jain, Co-Moderator of the New Hope Administrative Commission, spoke to the motion to gift the New Hope property to the Korean Church. She briefly summarized the AC's prayerful consideration and noted several churches were interested in the property, including Edgewood. Although Edgewood is smaller in number, they acknowledged the growth of the Korean congregation and agreed to recommend to the presbytery that the Korean Church receive the New Hope property. Chris Posey, also a member of the Administrative Commission, added that this transition honors New Hope's legacy and reminded the Korean Church leaders that Flint River Presbytery and Columbus churches will support their ministry and that they are not alone. **After remarks and discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the proposal, which passed unanimously.**
- On behalf of the Finance Committee, Treasurer Bill Krenson gave financial information for 2025, including the Walter Flint Fund (see pages 8-11 of the Addendum for why this fund matters) and the Jerry Lee Watts Campus Ministry Fund. He then presented the 2026 Budget (pages 2-7 of the Addendum) for adoption. It was noted that the 2026 budget shows a \$13,000 deficit, but we are ahead of budget for 2025 so it is hoped this deficit can be reduced or eliminated. **The Moderator placed the motion to adopt the 2026 Budget before the presbytery.** Coming from a committee a second was not required. Discussion was invited and hearing none, **the motion carried and the 2026 budget was adopted.**

Musical Reflections

After the Action Items were addressed, Ginger Starling, pianist at Ft. Gaines, graced the presbytery with a beautiful piano solo of "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need."

Engaging the World Around Us

Marilyn Tucker-Marek, Campus Minister, represented Macon's UKirk campus ministry. She shared that she is also involved with the UKirk Alumni Group and appreciates staying connected with young adults who have participated in UKirk, observing how they continue to practice their faith. Marilyn values witnessing the church uphold its baptismal promises as these young people mature. A video featuring UKirk student president Sarah Kate Williams highlighted her experience at Mercer as a third-year Spanish major. Having participated in UKirk for 18 months, she now leads the group and values its diverse, welcoming fellowship. She shared that support from other Christians, prayer, and Bible reading strengthen her personal journey.

Tyler Brock, Program Director of Calvin Center in Atlanta, brought greetings from the Calvin Center and told us about many opportunities for middle schoolers. He reminded us that Calvin Center is the only Presbyterian camp in Georgia and enthusiastically presented some of the great camps and educational resources available. Pages 30-33 in the Addendum list the camps, a Needs Assessment, and an educational resource called "Facilitating Peace: Teaching Distress Tolerance and Coping Skills." All contact information is located in the Addendum, but Tyler's personal phone and email is 770-508-3145 and Tyler@calvincenter.org.

Rebecca Cox from Thornwell presented a PowerPoint highlighting Thornwell's 150th Anniversary of helping families and children. The three main areas for Thornwell are Family Services, Residential and Foster Care, and Education. Lush Acres Farm is still an integral part of Thornwell's mission and outreach as well. What began as an orphanage 150 years ago has greatly expanded over the years in the provision of care. Thornwell still has residential care for children without other familial resources, but their continuum of care also reaches out to walk alongside families and children who need intervention to try and keep families together and healthy. Rebecca thanked the presbytery for our support over the years and reminded us that love, prayers and donations provide what is needed so that Thornwell can continue to support children and families for many years to come.

Page 34 of the Addendum gave information on Presbyterian College.

Addendum Action Item

Tom McFarland spoke on behalf of a **Creativity Fund Request from First Presbyterian Church of Americus** (see page 35 of the Addendum for the request). Due to circumstances beyond local control, beginning in November, hundreds of people in Sumter County are facing the loss of Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) benefits, commonly referred to as Food Stamps. In response to that challenge, First Presbyterian Church of Americus is starting a prepared meal-based ministry/outreach program. A one-pot meal, prepared in the church's well-equipped kitchen, will be distributed to those in need. Before any distribution is done, Georgia food service rules and regulations will be reviewed, and all requirements will be met. The estimated cost of food, preparation, and distribution containers is \$225 a week. This does not include funds needed for publicity, equipment maintenance or increased church utilities. As approved by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Americus on October 28, 2025, the church now applies for a Creativity Fund Grant from Flint River Presbytery in the amount of \$1,000.00. **The Moderator asked for a motion to grant this request. Tom McFarland moved to approve, and with a second and discussion, the motion carried.** It was noted by several commissioners that assistance to those experiencing the loss of SNAP benefits should be addressed by all churches.

Adjournment

The Moderator again reminded the presbytery of the continuing education class immediately following the meeting. With the work of the presbytery completed, the Moderator blessed and adjourned the meeting, which was concluded by Brittany DiGiammarino's singing of "The Presbyterian National Anthem." With joy and gratitude, the presbytery enjoyed a few minutes of Virtual Coffee Hour prior to the continuing education class on "Stretching Exercises for Pastoral Leaders," led by Ralph Hawkins.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Ministers Present (15): Joshua Bower, Sommer Bower, Colleen Cook, Matthew Cowell, Danny Dieth, Rick Douylliez, Richard Hawks, Ralph Hawkins, Marilyn Tucker-Marek, Virgil Marshall, Jonathan Scanlon, Doug Simmons, Bradley Walker, Don West, Joo Sun Woo

Minister Absent with Excuse- Retired (22) John Akers, Fairy Caroland, Paul Coats, William (Biff) Coker, Rick Elrod, Paul Evans, Barry Ferguson, Connie Happell, Richard Hart, Don Hendrix, Paula Hoffman, Insick Jang, H. K. Johnston, Gary Keown, Sidney Leak, Jerry Little, Paul Luthman, Dan Mitchell, Sandra Monroe, Carol S. Rahn, Ken Tarleton, Hugh Ward

Ministers Absent with Excuse-Actively Serving or Member-at-Large (4): Glenn Gilstrap, George Haugen, Amy Hunt, Lucie Perkins

Ministers Absent without Excuse (6): Maretta Arnold-Franklin, MJ Gardner, Jong Ha, Karen Mitcham, Curtis White, Lindsey Williams

Commissioned Pastors (CREs) and Certified Christian Educators (CCE) Present: (8) Cheryl Betts, Sarah Broussard, Charlotte Carlidwell, Gary Cullison, Susan Gilbert, Judy Hay, Henry Walden, Becky Willis/Stated Clerk and CP

Commissioned Pastors (CREs) Absent with Excuse: (3) Melissa Coleman, Oweta Hegeman, Jane Shelton

Commissioned Pastors (CREs) Absent without Excuse: (2) Brad Shealy, Wade Spooner

Elder Commissioners Present (Congregations Represented): (29) Albany/First, Americus/First, Barnesville, Beth Salem, Boston, Carver Heights, CK Smith, Columbus/First, Covenant, Cuba, Cuthbert, Dawes, Dillon Road, Edgewood, Elmodel, Forsyth, Korean/Columbus, Moultrie, Northminster, Phenix City, St. Andrews, St. Paul, Sherwood, Trinity/Valdosta, Valdosta/First, Warner Robins/First, Warner Robins/Westminster, Washington Avenue, Wayside

Elder Commissioners Absent (Congregations Represented) with excuse: (1) Cairo,

Elder Commissioners Absent (Congregations Represented) without excuse: (8) Camilla, Cordele, Ft. Gaines, Ft. Valley, Quitman/First, Thomaston, Tifton, Thomasville/2nd

Commissioned Moderators (1): Raymond Haggard

Members by Virtue of Office: (10-present) Vickie Dieth (Moderator) Glennie Wicks (Vice Moderator), Becky Willis (Stated Clerk), Bill Krenson (Treasurer), Linda Gunn (Representation), Rita Montgomery (CME)-Absent, Demetrise Battle-Absent/Dick Shelton (Finance)-Absent, Sharita Hendley (Advisory Board), Lucie Perkins

(Recording Clerk-Absent) Sharon McFarland (Assistant Recording Clerk), Nancy Reimer (CPM), Bradley Walker (COM), Pam Moye (CME)

Campus Ministers/Directors: (1) Melissa Coleman (The Center at VSU) (Absent-Excused), Marilyn Tucker-Marek (Ukirk), Katie Minich (The PresHouse)-Absent-Unexcused, Aaron Lickliter (The Abbey)-Absent-Unexcused

Non-member Ministers Present: (0)

Non-member Ministers Absent: (4) Darryl Leggett, Kenneth Moye, Eric Newman, Bryan Whitfield

Non-Commissioner Attendees: (5) Jill Atkins, Amanda Nieblelle, Darryl Pierce, Gregg Reed, Kris Jain

Staff (4): Debra Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter; Elizabeth Cantrell, Ministry Associate; Brittany DiGiammarino, Small Church Coordinator; Laura Peiper, Small Church Coordinator, Sharon McFarland, FRP Volunteer Support Staff for COM

Guests: Tyler Brock, Rebecca Cox

Total Commissioners: 52 Present, 30 Excused Absences, 16 Unexcused Absences

Rebecca F. Willis
Stated Clerk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NHAC – January 6, 2026

ZOOM 6:00 PM

Present:

- Liz Allison, Raymond Haggard, Connie Happell, Faye Isele (co-moderator), Kris Jain (co-moderator), Jimmy Moye, and Chris Posey.
- Lucie Perkins has resigned, effective this meeting as she is not able to commit for this next season of our AC's work.

Absent:

- Oweta Hegeman and Andre Wilson

Staff:

- Toni Hatfield
- Deb Tregaskis
- Becky Willis

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Faye and opened with prayer by Jimmy, giving thanks for the new year and the progress of the Korean Presbyterian Church in Columbus.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from the October 30 meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.
-

2. Updates Since Last Meeting

- **Work Days:** Two successful workdays were held to clean and organize the facility. Volunteers from across the Presbytery participated. Korean congregation members provided meals, which were well received.
 - **Worship Service (Dec 7):** A celebratory service was held where Jimmy presented the deed to the Korean Presbyterian Church. Deb preached, noting improved English comprehension among the congregation.
-

3. Property Transfer

- **Deed:** Jimmy confirmed the deed is ready for signature pending a congregational meeting by the Korean church to approve transfer to Flint River Presbytery.
- **Action:** Deb will contact Pastor Sun to confirm the meeting and ensure registration with the Secretary of State is renewed by March 30.

- **Utilities:**
 - Water transferred; internet and Georgia Power in progress.
 - Fire alarm monitoring (Acom) and pest control still need transfer.
 - Phone line canceled.
 - **Keys & Equipment:** All keys and security access handed over; computers reset.
-

4. Financial & Utility Responsibilities

- Korean church assumed responsibility for utilities effective **December 1**.
 - Motion passed (later tabled for review) to seek reimbursement for any Presbytery-paid bills after Dec 1. Toni will review bills and report back before action is taken.
 - Discussion acknowledged potential overlap and fairness concerns; decision deferred until full financial picture is clear.
-

5. Renovation & Assistance

- Korean church initially requested \$40–50K for renovations but managed with their own resources and outside help.
 - Presbytery authorized up to \$20K for assistance; no funds have been requested to date.
-

6. Old Building (Whitesville Road)

- Termite damage discovered; inspection required before presbytery assumes responsibility.
 - Plan: Walkthrough with current owners upon deed transfer; review utilities and insurance.
-

7. Financial Report

- **New Covenant Trust Account:** \$407,616.64 as of Jan 5.
 - **New Hope Funds Remaining:** \$9,754.42 after \$22,936.57 in expenses.
 - Additional \$12,690.99 deposited from Synovus account.
-

8. Administrative Commission Continuation

- AC will continue its work rather than dissolve; responsibilities expanded to include care for new property. Becky will draft proposal for Presbytery approval.
 - Leadership transition: Fay requested to step down as primary moderator; Kris agreed to assume primary responsibility.
 - Lucile Perkins has requested to step down from the AC moving forward.
-

9. Future Planning

- **Cluster Gathering:** Scheduled for **Wednesday, March 4**, location TBD.
 - **Next AC Meeting: Monday, March 16 at 6:00 PM.**
 - Discussion on long-term vision for funds and property: emphasis on collaborative ministry rather than dividing resources.
-

10. Additional Notes

- Korean congregation expressed interest in restarting Spanish-language services and community outreach (e.g., garden project).
 - Former New Hope members have dispersed to various churches; some elderly remain without pastoral care—ongoing concern.
-

Adjournment

- Meeting closed with prayer, asking for wisdom and guidance in future decisions.

MEMBERSHIP ROLLS OF FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY

As of December 31, 2025

Teaching Elders

Bower, Joshua	pastor, Albany/First; stated supply, Elmodel
Bower, Sommer	pastor, Americus/First; stated supply, Elmodel
Dieth, Danny	pastor, Columbus/First
Gilstrap, Glenn	pastor, Thomaston
Hawkins, Ralph	pastor, Northminster
Marshall, Virgil	pastor, Carver Heights
Perkins, Lucille	stated supply, Warner Robins/Westminster
Scanlon, Jonathan	pastor, St. Andrews
Sunwoo, Joohyun	pastor, Korean/Columbus
Tucker-Marek, Marilyn	pastor, Forsyth; Macon Campus Ministry (UKIRK)
Akers, John	retired
Caroland, Fairy	retired
Coats, Paul	retired
Coker, William "Biff"	retired; stated supply, Tifton/First
Elrod, Rick (otb)	retired
Evans, Paul	retired
Ferguson, Barry (otb)	retired
Gardner, Mary Jane (MJ)	retired
Happell, Connie	retired
Hart, Richard (otb)	retired
Hawks, Richard (otb)	retired
Hendrix, Don	retired
Hoffman, Paula	retired
Jang, Insick (otb)	retired
Johnston, H. K.	retired, stated supply, Cuthbert
Keown, Gary (otb)	retired
Leak, Sidney	retired
Little, Gerald	retired
Luthman, Paul (otb)	retired
Mitcham, Karen	retired
Mitchell, Daniel	retired
Monroe, Sandra(otb)	retired
Rahn, Carol	retired
Tarleton, Ken (otb)	retired
Ward, Hugh	retired; Hospice Chaplain Colquitt County Regional Hospital
West, Donald	retired; stated supply, Boston
Tregaskis, Debra	non-parish, under jurisdiction, Executive Presbyter
Cowell, Matthew	chaplain, St. Francis Hospital
Haugen, George	missionary to Middle East
Hunt, Amy	chaplain, U. S. Air Force
Simmons, Douglas	non-parish, beyond jurisdiction; State Director of Chaplaincy Services

Arnold-Franklin, Maretta	member at large
Cook, Colleen	member at large
Ha, Jong	member at large
Williams, Lindsey	member at large

RECAP

Parish pastors	10
Retired	26
Non-parish, under jurisdiction	4
Non-parish, beyond jurisdiction	1
At large	4
Deduct Outside the Bounds (otb)	-9
Disabled	0
	<hr/>
	36
	<hr/>

Authorized Ruling Elder Commissioners

		Fort Gaines	1
Albany/First	1	Fort Valley	1
Americus/First	1	Korean/Columbus	1
Barnesville	1	Moultrie/First	1
Beth Salem	1		
Boston	1	Northminster	1
		Quitman/First	1
C. K. Smith	1	Saint Andrews	1
Cairo	1	Saint Paul	1
Camilla/First	1	Sherwood	1
Carver Heights	1	Thomaston/First	1
Columbus/First	1	Thomasville/Second	1
Cordele/First	1	Tifton/First	1
Covenant	1	Valdosta/First	1
Cuba	1	Valdosta/Trinity	1
Cuthbert/First	1	Warner Robins/First	1
Dawes	1	Warner Robins/Westminster	1
Dillon Road	1	Washington Avenue	1
Edgewood	1	Wayside	1
Elmodel	1	Phenix City, AL	1
Forsyth	1		

Authorized Commissioners 38

Commissioners by Virtue of Office – 10 (for 2025)

Vickie Dieth, FRP Moderator	Becky Willis, Stated Clerk
Sharita Hendley, Advisory Board	Beth Jarrell, CME
Dick Shelton/Demetrise Battle, Finance	Nancy Reimer and Marilyn Tucker-Marek, CPM
Glennie Wicks, FRP Vice-Moderator	Beth Jarrell, CME

(Note: Bradley Walker (COM) transferred to another presbytery prior to the end of the year.)

Commissioned Pastors (Commissioned Ruling Elders) – 13

Cheryl Betts, Warner Robins/Westminster
Sarah Broussard, First/Warner Robins
Charlotte Caldwell, Beth Salem
Melissa Coleman, The Center at VSU
Gary Garllison, First/Cordele
Susan Gilbert, Edgewood
Judy Hay, Sherwood
Oweta Hegeman, St. Paul
Brad Shealy, First/Quitman
Jane Shelton, First/Valdosta
Wade Spooner, Fort Gaines and Cuba
Henry Walden, Second/Thomasville
Becky Willis, Cairo and Dawes

Certified Christian Educators – 2

Cheryl Betts, Warner Robins/Westminster
Melissa Coleman, Director Campus Ministry The Center at VSU (Commissioned Ruling Elder)

For Information: On December 1, 2025, Rick Douylliez (retired member of Savannah Presbytery) contracted with First/Moultrie as Transitional/Interim Pastor.

Colleen Cook accepted a new call in Northeast Georgia Presbytery effective January 1, 2026.

Bradley Walker transferred to Holston Presbytery as Member-at-Large on December 11, 2025.

Marilyn Tucker-Marek will begin as Stated Supply at Barnesville on January 1, 2026.

Per capita is part
of the glue that holds
Presbyterians together

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church. Each Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of shared life, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

Why per capita?

The Book of Order states that per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to “demonstrate the unity and interdependence of the church” (G-3.0106).

Per capita exists to hold Presbyterians together so the whole church may share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterians:

- our theological identity
- our congregational connectedness
- our system of councils that allows ruling elders and teaching elders together *equally* to discern the mind of Christ
- our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal

Per capita allows us to work with other congregations to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

*“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit
For the common good.: ~ 1 Cor. 12:7*

For more information, see pcusa.org/percapita



Per Capita

Per Capita for 2026 = \$20 total

General Assembly	\$ 11.26
Synod of the South Atlantic	\$2.50
Flint River Presbytery	\$6.24

Our presbytery's Finance Committee remains deeply grateful for our congregations' generosity and continues to trust in God's providence.

Per capita is a fundamental way in which the nearly 8500 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected to participate in the work of the wider church.

Because it is rooted in the connectional and covenantal nature of the Presbyterian church, as affirmed by the ordination vows taken by ruling elders and teaching elders, per capita could be called a **Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund**.

What is "per capita"?

The official definition:

"Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians." (*GA Minutes, Part I, 1995*)

How much?

The annual per capita is a combined request from a congregation's presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly - based on their respective budgets for the coming year. **Our presbytery's per capita rate is recommended by our Finance Committee and covers between 50-75% of our administrative expenditures.**

Paying "per capita" is similar to:

- contributing one's dish to a potluck meal
- pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip
- paying to be connected to the Internet
- paying your part of the tab when a group of friends goes out to eat together

What Flint River Presbytery Per Capita Supports

- presbytery meeting expenses
- auditing financial records
- maintaining the presbytery website and computers
- office supplies, postage, phone, and administrative expenses

What Synod of the South Atlantic Per Capita Supports

- fulfilling the constitutional and administrative responsibilities assigned to the Synod in the Book of Order
- expenses for bringing commissioners to Synod meetings
- training events for congregational transformation
- covenants with church-related institutions within synod bounds
- facilitating conversation between the councils of the church

What General Assembly Per Capita Supports

- expenses for bringing commissioners and advisory delegates to a General Assembly, as well as holding the meeting
- the cost of bringing together presbytery and synod church leaders for training events
- tools to develop and administer ordination exams
- the ministerial call system and other work that helps all Presbyterians discern their vocation
- production and distribution of the Book of Order, the Book of Confessions and other GA publications
- a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups in the U.S. and worldwide.

Biographical Statement -- Mark Montgomery



Church has always been a significant part of my life. My earliest memories revolve around church activities. Through the teachings of the church and my family's example, I came to realize I am a beloved child of God. In high school, I regularly participated in my church's activities, especially the youth group and music programs. It was during the summers of my college years, while working as a camp counselor, that my faith grew stronger and truly became my own. My camp experiences were incredibly influential in my understanding and relationship with God.

After earning a degree in music education and beginning a 30-year career teaching elementary music, I started attending Columbus's First Presbyterian Church, where I quickly found a spiritual home and family. After several years participating in various church programs, including the music and Christian education ministries, I started to consider attending seminary. After visiting several Presbyterian seminaries and praying about it, I decided that the timing wasn't right for professional ministry. At that point, I felt called to continue teaching while remaining very active in the church. During this time, I married a wonderful woman named Rita, who shared my passion for volunteering at church. Her support and encouragement were truly inspiring! She would sometimes say to me, "You're going to go to seminary when you retire." My usual reply was, "We'll see."

I have worked with middle and high school students, taught adult classes, and helped with students in the Abbey campus ministry at Columbus State University. I have also participated in mission trips to Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Russia (twice!). I have also volunteered at Montreat Youth Conferences as a chaperone, cooked for FRP youth, and served as a small-group leader. I have taken on several roles in various churches, including deacon, elder, clerk of session, and choir director. Additionally, I have been active in the presbytery, serving on both the Minutes and Records Committee and the Finance Committee.

After my retirement, enjoying no morning alarms, ample afternoon naps, and hours of Netflix, God opened the door for me to attend seminary at the most unexpected place - at my son's wedding. I was seated next to my son's college professor, now a professor at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. Within two months, the door had been opened, and I was on my way to seminary!

Seminary has been everything I hoped for and more! It has given me the opportunity to gain knowledge and develop many skills necessary for professional ministry, to challenge myself and broaden my understanding, and to grow closer to God. My internship as a chaplain intern at the retirement community, Presbyterian Village in Austell, has reaffirmed my desire to serve God's people. All of this is preparing me to serve wherever God calls, and I believe that, like my call to attend seminary, God will reveal where that will be in due time.

Mark Montgomery Statement of Faith

I believe in a triune God who is sovereign, loves us, and wants to be in relationship with humanity and all of creation. Because of our human brokenness, the divine is truly unknowable, yet God continues to reach out to us and desires to be known by us as we are fully known by God.

Through the inspired writings of the Holy Scriptures and our lives together, humans tell of their understanding of a deity who created all and called it good. From the pre-history stories and the patriarchs to the creation of the people of God and the warnings and longings of the prophets, we hear stories of God reaching out to humanity. Even though humans accept the covenant offered by God, we are unable to fulfill our part of the agreement, and we fall away from the ideal relationship God has planned for us.

Never tiring of showing love to us, God again reached out to humans in a new way. While still fully God, God chose to become vulnerable and came to earth as a tiny, fully human baby over 2000 years ago. As he grew and matured, Jesus taught and modeled a different way to live. Teaching us to love God and neighbor, encouraging us to see power differently, and calling for us to follow, Jesus began to explain what the kingdom of God was truly like. These teachings and ways of living led to his crucifixion, yet through the power of his resurrection, God once again showed us what love is and can do. Even though we are not able to fully understand how, it is through Jesus's death and resurrection that God, through grace, once again allowed a path for humans to be in right relation with God.

Evident in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Holy Spirit continues to move in our lives today. The Holy Spirit acts in many different ways to help us live the lives we are called to live, both individually and collectively. The Spirit of God is our helper, our guide, our intermediary, and our inspiration for living a God-centered life.

I think the church is the primary way God enables us to practice the teachings of Jesus and to try to be kingdom workers. Though it is fallible as a human institution, since its inception at Pentecost, with Jesus Christ as the head of the church and the Holy Spirit's leading, the church is where we are called to best experience God's love for us, for one another, and for the world. Like the church, we are also fallible and broken, but it is through our shared life that we experience God's grace. Through worshiping and learning together, practicing the sacraments of communion and baptism, and loving and supporting each other, the church enables us to enter a spiritually hungry world to boldly show God's love and righteousness through words and acts of justice.

This is my BRIEF statement of faith at this point in my life, yet my faith and understanding of God continue to change slightly as I live and experience God in different ways.

2025 Stewardship Visits

	CHURCH	2022 Pledge	2023 Pledge	2024 Pledge	2025 Pledge	Mbmr based on 12/31/24	Ideal Pledge/ \$175 x per mbr	2026 Pledge Request	2026 Pledge ACTUAL	2026 Budget Per Mbmr	2026 Per Capita	Stewardship Visits
C	Albany/First	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,100	\$7,250.00	150	\$26,250.00	\$8,000			\$3,000.00	Ginny Sanders
C	Americus/First	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000	\$6,000.00	55	\$9,625.00	\$9,625			\$1,100.00	Darryl Hawkins
C	C. K. Smith	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500	\$500.00	20	\$3,500.00	\$1,000			\$400.00	Bill Krenson
C	Camilla/First	1000.00 so far	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	6	\$1,050.00	\$1,050			\$120.00	Ginny Sanders
C	Cordele/First	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500	\$750.00	9	\$1,575.00	\$1,000			\$180.00	Bill Krenson
C	Covenant	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000.00	124	\$21,700.00	\$10,000	\$5,000.00		\$2,480.00	Bill Krenson
C	Cuba	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500	\$3,800.00	28	\$4,900.00	\$4,000			\$560.00	Bill Krenson
C	Cuthbert/First	\$5,625.00	\$5,625.00	\$5,625	\$5,650.00	28	\$4,900.00	\$5,650			\$560.00	Bill Krenson
C	Elmodel	\$850.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200	\$3,248.00	14	\$2,450.00	\$2,450			\$280.00	Ginny Sanders
C	Fort Gaines	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	\$3,000.00	14	\$2,450.00	\$3,000			\$280.00	Bill Krenson
C	St Paul	\$500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	\$2,000.00	6	\$1,050.00	\$2,000	\$2,000.00		\$120.00	Darryl Hawkins
C	Tifton/First	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000	\$12,000.00	53	\$9,275.00	\$12,000	\$12,000.00		\$1,060.00	Darryl Hawkins
NE	Barnesville			\$12,000.00	\$300.00	12	\$2,100.00	\$2,000	\$1,200.00		\$240.00	Nita McCord
NE	Forsyth	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00	45	\$7,875.00	\$5,000	\$5,000.00		\$900.00	Frazer Loomis
NE	Fort Valley	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00	8	\$1,400.00	\$3,500	\$3,500.00		\$160.00	Mac Perkins
NE	Northminster	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$31,000.00	188	\$32,900.00	\$33,000	\$33,000.00		\$3,760.00	Nita McCord
NE	St Andrews	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,250.00	\$6,000.00	34	\$5,950.00	\$6,000	\$6,000.00		\$680.00	Nita McCord
NE	Thomaston/First	\$8,725.00	\$8,850.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,500.00	54	\$9,450.00	\$9,500	\$9,500.00		\$1,080.00	Mac Perkins
NE	W-R Westminster	\$4,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00	48	\$8,400.00	\$6,500	\$6,500.00		\$960.00	Mac Perkins
NE	W-R/First	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	37	\$6,475.00	\$6,000	\$6,000.00		\$740.00	Mac Perkins
NE	Washington Ave	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	43	\$7,525.00	\$6,000	\$6,000.00		\$860.00	Nita McCord
NE	Wayside	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	34	\$5,950.00	\$2,500	\$1,200.00		\$680.00	Nita McCord
NW	Beth Salem	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	31	\$5,425.00	\$1,500			\$620.00	Demetrise Battle
NW	Carver Heights	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	40	\$7,000.00	\$6,500	\$6,600.00		\$620.00	Frazer Loomis
NW	Columbus/First	\$83,000.00	\$83,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	344	\$60,200.00	\$85,000	\$85,000.00		\$6,880.00	Frazer Loomis
NW	Edgewood	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,500.00	66	\$11,550.00	\$17,000	\$16,500.00		\$1,320.00	Robert Morgan
NW	Korean/Col	\$6,825.00	\$6,825.00	\$6,825.00	\$1,200.00	50	\$8,750.00	\$5,000			\$1,000.00	Demetrise Battle
NW	Phenix City			\$5,250.00	\$1,000.00	18	\$3,150.00	\$1,500	\$1,000.00		\$360.00	Robert Morgan
NW	Sherwood	\$2,500.00	\$1,100.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	14	\$2,450.00	\$2,500			\$280.00	Demetrise Battle
S	Boston	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	31	\$5,425.00	\$6,000			\$620.00	Dick Shelton
S	Cairo	\$4,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,125.00	24	\$4,200.00	\$4,200	\$4,200.00		\$480.00	Bill Wicks
S	Dawes	\$2,625.00	\$2,625.00	\$2,625.00	\$3,000.00	22	\$3,850.00	\$3,850	\$3,850.00		\$440.00	Bill Wicks
S	Dillon Road	\$3,000.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,400.00	18	\$3,150.00	\$3,450	\$3,550.00		\$360.00	Dick Shelton
S	Moultrie/First	\$17,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$10,000.00	294	\$51,450.00	\$15,000	\$10,000.00		\$5,880.00	Royce Coleman
S	Quitman/First	\$3,000.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$3,000.00	25	\$4,375.00	\$3,500	\$3,500.00		\$500.00	Bill Wicks
S	Thomasville/2nd	\$853.00 so far	\$2,050.00	\$2,125.00	\$2,250.00	40	\$7,000.00	\$2,500			\$800.00	Bill Wicks
S	Valdosta/First	\$18,600.00	\$18,650.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00	80	\$14,000.00	\$7,000			\$1,600.00	Dick Shelton
S	Valdosta/Trinity	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	103	\$18,025.00	\$30,000	\$30,000.00		\$2,060.00	Royce Coleman