

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Winder, Georgia

1993 CHURCH HISTORY

Under the leadership of Rev. Brock Burnett, the First Presbyterian Church of Winder, Georgia, continued to grow and serve its congregation—to the glory of God.

Three new elders for the Class of 1995 were elected and installed; they were Frank Manning, Richard Russell, Jr., and H. B. Wakeman.

New members were brought into the church by transfer of letter or profession of faith. They were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. (Mary Anne) Gaw, Mrs. Michael (Patti) Brewer and sons Michael and Zack (who were also baptized), Ellie and Velda King (sisters), Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Melissa) Mechtly, Anita York and son Michael, and Ken Seibert. Alex King, Richie Guzman, and Ashley Manning were baptized.

Communion services were held quarterly during the year.

In April, the First Presbyterian Church participated in a Presbytery-wide pulpit exchange hosted by the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Dr. Dick Short from Covenant Presbyterian Church of Augusta came to Winder on April 25, while Rev. Burnett went to Sharon Church in Hartwell.

During the Easter season, Palm Sunday was observed; Maundy Thursday Communion Services were held; and Easter Sunday services were held with special music. The "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering was observed with \$99.00 being collected for world-wide relief for those who are suffering from hunger and/or natural disasters.

A special Mother's Day Offering was collected this year. It was sent to the Presbyterian Homes in Quitman and Austell.

The Presbyterian Women met periodically and studied the Book of James. The PW hosted the annual Presbyterian Women's Birthday Party and items were collected for local missions in Winder. Also, PW met and prepared meals to be frozen for future use at the local homeless shelter. A Baby shower was hosted by the members of the Presbyterian Women for Diane Speight.

Periodically throughout the year a church newsletter, called "Good News," was compiled and handed out.

A vital part of any church is its Sunday School. We continued to provide a nursery; the older children and youth were *divided into* four different *classes* and

continued to use material provided by the David C. Cook Publishing Co. There was one class for the adults most of the time. One of the studies of that class was on the book, "The Difference God Makes," by Peter Haile. A young adults class was attempted the first part of the year but was disbanded. Another adult Sunday School class began to surface at the end of the year, but was not designated as young adults. Dee Russell served as the Sunday School Superintendent.

Four young people and two advisors from the church went to the Presbytery's Winter Youth Retreat at Rock Eagle in Eatonton.

A youth group called H.U.G.S. (Hands Unto God's Service) surfaced for part of the year and met on Sunday nights with various activities provided. This group hosted a spaghetti supper for the whole church and a "May Extravaganza" dinner to raise money for activities. They also collected "no expiration" coupons for that purpose.

Two groups, the "Lunch Bunch" and the "Keenagers," enjoyed fellowship and trips and lunch. They were seen at David's Restaurant and Hardigree's (both in Winder), the Dillard House in Rabun County, Tallulah Gorge, and at the Blue Willow Inn Restaurant in Social Circle.

The children joined in on the fellowship opportunities with an Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone had fun, even the adults.

Vacation Bible School was held in July with the theme being "Jesus Loves You Most of All." Karen Thornton was director again. After a full week of "fun" learning about Jesus through singing, studying, crafts, recreation, and refreshments, the children enjoyed a video and popcorn, a pizza party, and writing on the parking lot with sidewalk chalk on the last day.

Covered-dish luncheons were held periodically, usually after church services on Sunday. At one of these luncheons we celebrated Elvie Pendergrass's 80th birthday, and at another we said good-bye to one of our church families, the Frank Manning family who moved to Cleveland, Georgia.

A beautiful crocheted tapestry of the Lord's Prayer was donated to the church in memory of Mr. Weldon Bolton. It was placed in a prominent place in the narthex.

Camp Buc was attended by a group of our youth and advisors.

Our annual Fall Festival was held at Richard and Pat Russell's farm in October. Good food, games, entertainment, and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

• Several workdays were held during the year. In February, every Friday night a group met to clean, paint, etc. in the building. Other times during the year, the outside (as well as inside) was cleaned.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week was observed, as was Doctor's Day.

During regular Sunday Services, a children's sermon was presented to our young by different volunteers in the church.

Hours during the summer months were changed to 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:00 AM for Worship service.

Our adult choir, despite the low number of members, always provided us with wonderful music under the direction of Ms. Becky Pentecost. Special music was provided from time to time; at Christmas a cantata was performed, "A Wondrous Gift." One Sunday Wes King was a guest soloist.

We were very privileged to host the Carpenter's Tools International in October one Friday night in our sanctuary. They are a group of young adults who sing contemporary Christian music.

Richard and Dee Russell prepared a "Service of Christmas Hymns and Carols" in preparation for Advent Season. This was held during regular worship hours on Sunday.

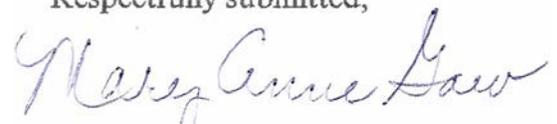
As always, during the Christmas season, a Chrismon tree was placed in the sanctuary and an angel tree was placed in the narthex. This year, through the angel tree, our church supported various local missions.

Our children and youth participated in a Christmas pageant this year. Anita York directed with the help of several members of the church. "Ebenezer, Jr." was the presentation.

Mission work by our members abounded. We chose to concentrate on local missions such as the Adult Literacy Program, Come Alive Ministries (a ministry to unwed mothers), the homeless shelter, Project ADAM, and ACTION. We also gave to other missions such as relief for the flood victims in the midwest.

Our adults always seem to find time for fellowship through organized sports such as a basketball, softball, and volleyball.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Anne Gaw