

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Winder, Georgia

1994 CHURCH HISTORY

The First Presbyterian Church of Winder thrived under the leadership of Rev. Brock Burnett during 1994.

Two new elders for the Class of 1996 were elected and installed. They were Mrs. Linda Shoaf and Mrs. Mary Anne Gaw.

Sarah Elizabeth Mechtly, daughter of Richard and Melissa Mechtly, was baptized on April 3, 1994.

Births include Molly Millsaps Russell to Richard and Dee Russell on May 12, 1994, Taylor Nicole Banks on March 4, 1994 to Kevin and Peggy Banks, and Dalton Reed Norris to Mr. and Mrs. Norris (Jill Norris is daughter of church member Anita York) on February 18, 1994.

Jennifer Fowler and Donald Philips were married at First Presbyterian on June 11, 1994. Also Celeste Churchill and Kenny Banks were married on June 18, 1994.

While the church was blessed with the above events, we felt a loss at the deaths of ElviS!. Pendergrass and Billie Byrne.

Communion services were held periodically throughout the year - Worldwide Communion Services were held on October 2, 1994.

A Congregational Meeting was held on February 13 for the purpose of approving the 1994 Budget and electing the elders of the Class of 1996.

The Session met once a month.

Work days, mainly on some Saturdays, were held in order to mow grass, weed flower beds, etc. In February, some gathered every Friday night to paint, wallpaper, etc.

A pictorial directory was in the works and was finished and handed out to the members by the end of the year.

A newsletter continued through the year being mailed out each month with events of the church publicized.

1994 Church History

The Presbyterian Women, under the helm of Pat Landress, resurfaced in the fall of 1994. Two circles were active (one during the day and one at night) in mission. Bible study and care for the church.

Easter Sunrise Services were held at the home of Betty Ann Russell on April 13 with light breakfast afterwards.

Our congregation enjoyed a wonderful choir under the direction of Becky Pentocost. But during the year Ms. Pentocost resigned and our choir disbanded. No director had been found by the end of the year.

Doctor's Day was observed to honor Dr. Marian Colosimo, Dr. Thomas Shoaf and Dr. Everet Oortman.

A Pulpit Exchange of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery was observed on May 1, 1994. Rev. Burnett traveled to Clayton, Georgia to be at Timpson Presbyterian Church. Rev. Mike Maxfield of Calvary Presbyterian Church of Elberton, Georgia came to Winder.

While Rev. Burnett was on vacation, our supply minister was Rev. Lindsay Collins from Gainesville, Georgia.

Rev. Neal Kuhlhorst, a former pastor with the Northeast Georgia Presbytery from Snellville, Georgia delivered the sermon on May 22, 1994.

Work had started in our church library to inventory all books, delete some, add some, etc.

A Benefit Singing for the community was held at our church on June 4, 1994. Custom Ind. (Barrow Co. Services) sponsored the "Sons of Praises Quartet". Custom Ind. works with individuals with developmental difficulties in job training and employment.

Worship hours were changed during the summer months to 9:00 a.m. for Sunday School and 10:00 a.m. for Worship ..

Our church will celebrate its 100th anniversary on October 20, 1995. In order to prepare for this event a Centennial Committee was formed. In October of 1994 the bulletin of our church reflected some of their work. Pat Landress, church member, designed and drew a picture for the front of the bulletin (will be used rest of 1994 and all of 1995). This design included a superimposed picture of the present church building along with the old building on Athens st. Each bulletin will also include a short note of history of the First Presbyterian Church of Winder compiled by Mr. Jean Withers.

A schedule for greeters was posted. These greeters were designated for a particular month during the Sunday School hour and Worship hour.

1994 Church History

A Billy Graham Crusade was held in Atlanta on October 26. Some in our congregation attended.

A Homebuilders Course was given by Joe and Marian Colosimo in their home. The course was on Building Your Marriage.

Youth were involved in many activities. "Souper Bowl Sunday" was observed by delivering food to the needy and then enjoying fellowship around the television watching the Super Bowl. A Valentine Spaghetti Supper was sponsored at the church to raise money for camp and retreat. A Spring Youth Retreat by the NE Ga. Presbytery was held at Rock Eagle in Eatonton. Four adults and two youth went to the NE Ga. Presbytery Middle Camp during the summer at Camp Buc in North Carolina. Youth Sunday was observed on June 12, 1995 by participating in the Sunday Worship Service. A Swim Party was held at Bill and Pat Landress' in August.

The children of the church enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt in April and a Super Saturday Morning at the church for fun, games and snacks in July. In July they also returned to the church on a Wonderful Wednesday for a trip to Bogart to the skating rink. Also a Mexican Fiesta was enjoyed in August at the church. In the Fall "Friday Night at the Movies" was started. One Friday night a month, children and youth from 3 years on up came to the church for a movie and popcorn, also enjoying games, collecting food for the Food Pantry, making decorations for their own tree, and decorating that tree in December. During the Worship hour on Sundays, a special Children's Sermon was presented to them. In the Fall a children's church was formed during the Worship hours starting after the children's sermon and was held downstairs for those too old for the Nursery but for many reasons not able to sit in the Sanctuary during Worship. This time was spent with snacks, devotions, Bible reading, Bible videos, crafts and activities and prayer. In June our yearly Vacation Bible School was held. The theme was "Son Country" and an average of 35-40 children from our church and the community enjoyed learning about our Savior, playing, eating and crafting.

Our Sunday School classes included a Nursery, four classes for children and youth, and an adult class with special extra classes for adults surfacing from time to time. During the winter the regular adult class studied Paul's Letters to Romans. A special extra adult class studied the "Experiencing God" literature and video. An alternative adult class called the Explorers started up and met downstairs. Their emphasis was on "Spiritual Life". A small Rally Day was held in September, and on December 25th all Sunday School classes met in the Fellowship Hall for a Birthday Party for Jesus.

1994 Church History

A part of Churchlife is fellowship. And we certainly had plenty of that. Each year some of our men participate in Church League Basketball in Winder. A group calling themselves the Keenagers had a Valentine Luncheon at the Fellowship Hall in February. They also made a trip to Callaway Gardens in May. A Church Picnic was held after church services at Fort Yargo State Park in June. A water aerobics class was offered at a member's swimming pool, and a low impact aerobics class was offered at the church during the week. The Young Adults ventured to Lake Hartwell in July. The annual Fall Festival at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Russell, M in October for hayride, food, games and fellowship. A trip to Stone Mountain and its laser show was enjoyed by several members of the church in July. We had several covered-dish luncheons after worship on Sunday during the year. A breakfast was hosted by the Presbyterian Women at the church on December 18th before Sunday School. Some enjoyed a trip to see the movie "Shadowlands" based on the life of C. S. Lewis .

. Our Mission emphasis remained strong within the Presbytery and locally. One adult and one youth went to Mexico in June to help build houses. W helped our neighbors in South Georgia during their time of need during the summer flood. Locally we were involved with Come Alive Ministries, Barrow County Child Abuse Council, Project A.D.A.M., the Food Pantry and Winder-Barrow Literacy Coalition.

Christmas is always a special time in the life of our church; we helped needy families through our Angel Tree in the Narthex; we enjoyed the beauty of the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary; we worshipped with the families that lit the Advent Wreath; we went caroling; and the highlight was the children's presentation of an old fashioned "The Christmas Story" on December 11.

The written word does not always reflect all that is going on in a church body. It was apparent by the end of 1994 the First Presbyterian Church of Winder, Georgia was growing - in many ways - to glorify God.

Respectfully submitted


Mary Anne Gaw