

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Winder Georgia

## **1995 CHURCH HISTORY**

Rev. Brock Burnett continued to lead the First Presbyterian Church of Winder, GA in serving God and the community during 1995. The church celebrated its centennial anniversary.

Two elders for the Class of 1997 were elected and installed. They were Rick Mechtly and Joe Colosimo. The 1997 budget was presented and the minister's call was approved by the congregation.

Communion services were held throughout the year. The Session met once a month and when called.

New members were welcomed into First Presbyterian. They were Randy Bernard by profession of faith, Karen Bernard by transfer of letter, and Jeff and Lauralee Spence by reaffirmation of faith.

During the Easter season, Palm Sunday was observed, Lent brochures were made available, Easter Sunrise Services were held at Betty Ann Russell's home and special music made Easter Sunday Service even more special.

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

The Presbyterian Women met throughout the year with a group meeting at night from time to time. They enjoyed fellowship, bible study ("Who is Christ?"), hosted a baby shower for Monika Parrish, hosted wedding showers for Lisa Banks and Heidi Wightman, prepared meals for the homeless, and other projects.

Saltshakers formed as a fellowship group, meeting in homes once a month for supper and good times. The teenagers enjoyed trips such as going to the Vines.

The men formed a group meeting each month on the 2nd and 4th Saturday at a local cafe for breakfast and discussions. Some of the Presbyterian men found time to participate in the community wide church basketball league.

A church directory was compiled and the monthly newsletter was continued.

The First Presbyterian Church offered various Sunday School classes for all ages. One quarter the adults enjoyed "Experiencing God" as a course. Sunday School Appreciation Day was held.

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The youth and children were provided different fellowship opportunities throughout the year, which included an Easter Egg Hunt, Friday night at the movies at the church, a trip to see the movie "The Lion King", a skating trip, vacation bible school "Seaside with the Savior" and other get together. Youth Sunday was observed.

Bible studies in the homes were held. Joe and Marian Colosimo offered a study called "Homebuilders". A group met to study the book of James.

Several workdays were held during the year. The church parking lot was paved.

Covered dish luncheons after church were held. Bill and Pat Landress and Jane and Walter hosted a "Chickenfest" one Sunday afternoon. Hours for summer were changed to 9:00 a.m. for Sunday school and 10:00 a.m. for church service.

Doctor's Day was observed.

During Sunday worship hours a children's sermon was held in the sanctuary. Immediately following a children's church was offered downstairs in one of the Sunday school classes while regular services were held.

Our Mission Committee continued to guide the congregation in helping others through Project ADAM, Come Alive Ministries, sponsoring Jeff Spence's mission trip to Mexico, Operation Christmas Child, Philippines Children's Hospital, hosting Cody Watson of the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship and other missions. Marian Colosimo presented a program of slides of her mission trip to Bibanga and Zaire.

Different ministers and speakers came on Sunday mornings to fill in to allow our minister to have some time off. Among those sharing their messages were Rev. Bill Frisbee of the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship ministries, a representative from Gideon International, Rev. Edward "Ace" Franz and Rev. Pete Peterson of Villa International.

Advent was filled with activities. The Presbyterian Women provided a wreath making workshop. Some went caroling with a chili supper afterwards at the house of Bill and Pat Landress. Adult and youth choirs presented a "Christmas Choral Fantasy". We kept the tradition of the Angel Tree, Chrismon Tree and the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

October 20th was the 100th birthday of the First Presbyterian Church of Winder. Linda Shoaf, Susan Reynolds, Pat Russell, Gene Withers and Richard Guzman served on the Centennial Committee. Preparations included a campaign to renovate the narthex and fellowship hall (which was completed by the celebration in October), a quilt was made with cross-stitch squares from each family of the church which was placed in the sanctuary, a history was compiled by Gene Withers and presented piecemeal each Sunday morning and in the newsletter. The history materials were encased and placed in the narthex. Former pastors and families were located and invited to the celebration. A video of the church was made. All of the preparations culminated in a wonderful celebration

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weekend beginning on Friday night, October ~9th at the church for a Communion service and birthday party. Saturday we all went to Fort Yargo State Park nearby for our annual Fall Festival. A special Centennial Celebration Worship Service was held on Sunday, October 22nd with a lunch held afterwards. We are looking forward to another one hundred years.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Gaw