

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Winder, GA

1996 CHURCH HISTORY

Rev. Brock Burnett led the First Presbyterian Church of Winder, GA through 1996, a year of serving God.

Two elders for the Class of 1998 were elected and installed. They were Don Perkins and Harold Corbin. The 1996 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 The First Presbyterian Church. They were Cheryl Haueter by reaffirmation of faith, Sara Haueter by baptism and affirmation, and Charles and Pauline Mensinger by transfer of letter. Joseph Colosimo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Colosimo and Emory Brevard Russell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Russell, Jr. were baptized.

During the Easter Season, Palm Sunday was observed, Lent brochures were made available, Maundy Thursday Service was held, Easter Sunrise Service was held and Easter Sunday Service was observed.

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. They enjoyed fellowship, Bible study, hosted a baby shower for Susan Mullis, and other projects.

Saltshakers met in homes once a month for supper and good times.

The Presbyterian Men continued to meet twice each month on Saturday at a local cafe for breakfast and discussions.

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 adult class learned about their denomination through a course offered by Rick Mechtly and Rev. Burnett. John Stell, a local attorney and layman, came one quarter and offered "Studies in Creation".

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

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skating trip, vacation bible school ("Kingdom of the Son, a Prayer Safari") and other get together's. Youth Sunday was observed.

Several workdays were held during the year. A new cleaning service was hired.

Covered dish luncheons after church were held. Hours for summer were changed to 9:00 a.m. for Sunday School and 10:00 a.m. for church service.

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, hosting a fiesta supper to raise money for Mexico Mission, Operation Christmas Child, hosting Dr. Fe Del Mundo of the Children's Medical Center of the Philippines, hosting Cody Watson of the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, hosting Dr. Ben Mathes of Rivers of The World, prison ministries and other missions.

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 our own Harold Corbin and Neal Kuhlhorst on the pastoral/counsel staff of the Covenant Counseling Institute.

A stewardship campaign, "It's Heart Work" was held during the fall.

Under the leadership of Karen Bernard, our choir flourished. New choir robes were dedicated. Special music was presented throughout the year.

Advent was filled with activities. The Presbyterian Women provided the sanctuary with flowers. Some went caroling. Special music abounded. The children had a Christmas party and decorated a tree in the Fellowship Hall. We kept the tradition of the Angel tree, Chrismon tree and the lighting of the Advent Wreath. We bought gifts for the Operation Christmas Child project.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Gaw