

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINDER, GEORGIA

2002 CHURCH HISTORY

Discontent among some of the members of the congregation became more apparent by the beginning of 2002. A reconciliation Team was formed with Rev. Joe Reggin, pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church in Athens, serving as a representative from the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Those serving from the Session were Elders Angela King and Walt Hensley. Rev. Burnett and his family took a leave of absence during this time. After surveying the members of the congregation, the conclusion was that as in all churches improvements could be made. The decision by the Team and a majority of the congregation was that these improvements could best be served by the return of Rev. Burnett. He and his family returned mid-May. A result of this decision was a loss of some session members, some staff and some of the families of the church. But The First Presbyterian Church continued the rest of year in its service to God with a renewed spirit.

Staff as of January, 2002

Rev. R. Brock Burnett - Pastor
Dr. Karen Bernard - Director of Music Ministries
Dee Russell - Organist
Katie Wilson - Pianist
Mary Anne Gaw - Director of Presbyterian Women
Kathy Woodall - Secretary
Rodney Broach - Treasurer
Walter Perry - Trustee

Staff as of December, 2002

Rev. R. Brock Burnett - Pastor
Mary Anne Gaw - Director Presbyterian Women
Kathy Woodall - Secretary
Rodney Broach - Treasurer
(Mr. Perry resigned as Trustee, but remained as a member of the congregation.)

The office hours were 9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon, M-F.

A church website was developed.

On January 20th, a congregational meeting was held to elect new elders. Walt Hensley and Angela King were elected to the Class of 2004 and Dee

2.1-02

Russell was elected to fill an unexpired term of Class of 2002. The new Elders were installed on February 17, 2002.

Darian Wilson, Dee Russell and Walt Hensley resigned as Elders and left the church. Don Perkins resigned as Elder but stayed.

On May 26 Bob Gaw and Rodney Broach were elected to fill vacancies in the Session. Don Perkins was elected but eventually resigned again due to personal reasons.

Session meetings were held monthly and as needed.

Presbytery meetings and workshops were attended.

Congregational meetings were held to discuss possibility of hiring a part-time Director of Christian Education. A positive response was noted with reservations of money and prioritizing needs as that time. The plan was tabled.

Congregational meetings were held to discuss renovations of building. Those plans were tabled.

World Communion Day was observed and communion was held periodically.

Filling in for Rev. Brock Burnett while away from the pulpit:
Rev. Richard Newkirk, retired Presbyterian Minister
Rev. Cy Mallard, retired Presbyterian Minister
Rev. Bob Googe, Director for the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia
Glenn Thompson, Gideon International
Rev. Alex Williams, retired Presbyterian Minister
Bob Holmes
Rev. Harold Corbin

Live flowers were placed in the sanctuary each Sunday during worship service in memory or in honor of loved ones or To The Glory of God.

Our Daily Bread devotionals were available to the congregation.

A memorial service was held on January 27, 2002 for Pearl Kinney, a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church. She passed away in December 2001.

A September 11, 2001 Remembrance Service was held.

New Members:

Vern and Diane Lemaster, by Transfer of Letter on September 8, 2002

Births:

Lucille Mae Sloan 1/3/02, Parents: Mike and Beth Sloan

Baptisms:

Lucille Mae Sloan, 9/29/02, Parents: Mike and Beth Sloan

Joseph Michael Sloan, 9/29/02, Parents: Mike and Beth Sloan

Geri Dawn Sloan, 9/29/02, Parents: Mike and Beth Sloan

Richard Brandon Hunter, 6/16/02, Parents: Vance and Susan Hunter

Brittany Madison Edrington, 2/24/02, Parents: Jeff and Melinda Edrington

Graduates:

High School - Velda King

College - Gene King

The First Presbyterian Church participated in the following missions by offerings, collection of needed items, time and prayer:

Mexico Mission - Alex King and Rick Mechtly went to Mexico to help build house.

Georgia Presbyterian Cursillo - members went to their retreat.

Come Alive Ministries - recycled newspapers, etc.

Habitat for Humanity

Rivers of the World

Local Food Pantry - staffed the pantry, collect needed items.

Recycled Christmas cards for children's hospital.

Recycled pop tops for children's chemo treatments.

Mother's Day Offering

Samaritan's Purse

And More

The music department suffered from the discontent within the church and lost all three permanent musicians. Members from the congregation (Pat Page, Susan Reynolds, and others) filled in as pianist, Joyce Corbin served as the song leader and Sandy Watson was hired temporarily as organist. A temporary personnel committee was formed to search and hire either a pianist or choir director. They were Angela King, Susan Reynolds, Pat Page, and Pat Russell.

The building and grounds were maintained. The roadside sign in front of the church was lit night by solar power. A Building Committee was formed to study different possibilities of adding on to the building. An architect was hired in order to more understand the feasibility of some of the designs.

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This committee comprised of Bob Gaw, Linda Shoaf, Pat Russell, Raymond Reynolds, Weston Reigel, Rich Mechtly, and Angela King.

Bids were obtained to replace the heat/air conditioner units.

Fellowship opportunities included:

Presbyterian Women continued their Day and Night Circles with Bible Study, prayer, missions and fellowship. They continued to support the church and the congregation in many needed capacities. A trip to see The Passion Play in Atlanta.

Presbyterian Youth remained active throughout the year. They continued to meet most Sunday nights for Bible study and fellowship. The youth joined with the youth from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in Statham. Also some youth from Jefferson Presbyterian Church met with the group. Ben Mathis from Rivers of the World mission came to speak to the youth. The PYF went trick-or-treating for canned goods for the local food pantry. They traveled to Gainesville Presbyterian Church for a David Lamotte concert, went shopping for items for the shoebox mission of Operation Christmas Child, collected pop-tops for children's chemotherapy treatments, sold calendars for a fundraiser, went to Ft. Yargo for a picnic, went bowling, etc. Sam and Stephanie McGargle led the group for awhile before moving away from Winder.

Potluck dinners after the Sunday dinner included a Mexican Fiesta and a Thanksgiving Feast.

A Fall leaf trip to Young Harris was enjoyed.

A Men's Breakfast meeting was held from time to time.

Sunday School for all ages was available.

A DVD player was donated to the youth by Raymond and Susan Reynolds. A TV and VCR was purchased for the children and a tv cart was donated.

Special Church Seasons:

Easter season was observed with special music, an easter egg hunt for the children, and Easter lilies provided for the sanctuary.

Christmas season started with the church serving as a local relay center for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox mission. The sanctuary was decorated with the traditional Christmas tree, poinsettias and the advent wreath. Families lit the advent wreath each Sunday during the advent season, a children's old fashioned Christmas Pageant was presented, special music was provided, an angel tree was set up to present an opportunity for the members to give gifts to needy local families, and a Christmas Eve Service was held.

This history is compiled from the Sunday Worship bulletins and is meant

only to be an overview of the activities of the church.

**Respectively submitted,
Mary Anne Gaw**

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