

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINDER, GEORGIA

2003 CHURCH HISTORY

Staff:

Rev. R. Brock Burnett - Pastor

Kathy Woodall - Secretary

Rodney Broach - Treasurer

Mary Anne Gaw - Presbyterian Woman Director

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

A church website was maintained and the directory updated.

A monthly newsletter "Good News" was available for part of the year.

A Congregational Meeting was held on 1/5/03 for the presentation of the budget and vote on the pastor's terms of call.

The Session Members as of January 1, 2003 were Bob Gaw, Rick Mechtly, Glenn Thompson, Don Perkins, Rodney Broach and Angela King.

A Congregational Meeting was held on 5/18/03 to elect Diane Lemaster to fill an unexpired term, replacing Don Perkins.

The Session met once a month and as needed.

The congregation was divided into care groups headed by each elder. There were meetings throughout the year in order to enhance communication. Also a catered meal was provided for one of the meetings.

Presbytery meetings and workshops were attended.

Filling in for Rev. Burnett while away from the pulpit:

Rev. Jennifer Horton, Rev. Joyce Rife and Rev. David Beville

World Communion Day was observed and communion was held periodically throughout the year.

New pew Bibles were donated to the church by a church family. The NIV Version were also available in large print.

Live flowers were placed in the sanctuary during Sunday worship hour in memory of or in honor of loved ones or to the Glory of God.

Our Daily Bread devotionals were available to the congregation.

A Church Family Picture Board was maintained in the narthex.

A Camp Meeting/Hymn Sing was held during a Sunday Worship service in the Summer, followed by a lunch.

New Members:

Ed and Marty Laird - 11/23/03

Alan and Dee Toliver - 11/23/03

Trey and Suzanne Webster - 11/23/03

Dawn Moore - 4/13/03

Baptisms:

Sarah Isabelle Reynolds - 3/16/03

John and Kim Reynolds-parents
Raymond and Susan Reynolds-
Grandparents

The following is a partial list of the mission opportunities that our church contributed to by funds, items, time and prayer:

Chemotherapy Treatments for children- recycled pop tabs

St. Jude Children's Ranch - recycled greeting cards

Come Alive Ministries(local pregnancy crisis center) - recycled newspapers, contributed to and supported the annual Celebrate Life Banquet, collected needed items

Mother's Day Offering-funds for Presbyterian Homes

Mexico Mission- Presbytery mission in Mexico to build houses there- fund raiser lunch Fiesta, other offering

Habitat for Humanity- offering, items collected

Samaritan's Purse- relay center for Christmas shoeboxes, members assembled boxes, offering

Georgia Presbyterian Cursillo

Local Food Pantry-conducted "Souper Bowl"(a contest between members to collect food for the food pantry), staffed the pantry in July, collected items as need arose.

Farmer's Market table -In narthex, sharing of homegrown crop with others

Church-wide Yard Sale - proceeds toward the church's building fund

Our Sunday School program continued with adult and children's classes. Topics in the Adult classes included-"What Presbyterians Believe", discussion of the movie "Luther"-life of Martin Luther, and others.

For most of the year the position of Director of Music was vacant. Diane

Boone from Rome, Ga. was hired mid-year but resigned in a couple of months, due to family concerns. During the vacancies, members of the choir, congregation, and special guests filled in. Those included Joyce Corbin (song leader), Sandy Watson (organist), the Lyle family, Beth Magness, Garth Magness and Jill Deal.

A hand bell choir performed from time to time.

Fellowship Opportunities:

Fall Leaf Trip to Unicoi, covered dish luncheons (regular, Mexican Fiesta, Thanksgiving Feast, fall church-wide picnic with Pleasant Hill Presbyterian-Statham at Ft. Yargo

Men's Breakfast Fellowship, workdays and cookout at Lake Russell

The Presbyterian Women continued having meetings in Sept.-May. There were both day and night circles. The PW continued their Bible studies, prayer circle, projects and fellowship. They hosted a bridal shower for Damarias Foster and Gene King. The group supported all missions and projects of the church

A Wednesday Ladies Bible Study met each Wednesday at the church at 10 a.m. from Sept. - May. One of the studies was on the Book of James.

The Presbyterian Youth Fellowship continued throughout the year. The PYF included our church and youth from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church-Statham and Jefferson Presbyterian. Activities included fellowship and Bible study at the church, movies, lock-ins, a cookout at the Parrish Farm, picnic at Ft. Yargo, a Lake Russell trip, etc. Mission projects and fundraisers were a soup and sandwich lunch, 30 Hr. Famine to raise awareness and money for World Vision's fight against hunger around the world, trick or treat for can goods for food pantry, bring a toy to Christmas party for Family Connection, caroling at Magnolia Estates Assisted Living Home, shopped for items for shoeboxes for Operation Shoebox, cut grass for a member, participated and raised money for Habitat for Humanity by participating in the Summer's End 5K Run/walk, change for Mexico Missions, hosted Paul Broun who spoke to the group about Habitat for Humanity's projects, sold God's Creation Calendars for mission projects.

Building and grounds were maintained. A lawn mowing schedule was placed on the bulletin board for the summer months. The men's restroom downstairs was repaired and refurbished. A building fund was started with a donation of \$50,000 for a future need larger fellowship hall.

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Special Church Seasons:

Easter Season was observed with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children, a Maundy Thursday Service, Easter Sunrise Service at the home of Betty Ann Russell, Adult Easter Cantata presented, and crosses and Easter Lilies placed in the sanctuary.

Christmas is always full of activities. Our church again served as a relay center to collect shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program; and our members also assembled collected items for shoeboxes. The church was decorated with our traditional Christmas tree and live poinsettias. Families lit the Advent wreath each Sunday, members brought gifts for the Angel Tree (for a local family), a Christmas store was provided for the residents of Mulberry Grove Assisted Living Home (this store provided free items for the residents to get for their loved ones). Our Christmas services started with a "Hanging of the Greens" service, an Adult Cantata, a children's musical presentation and a Christmas Eve Service.

This history is meant to be only an overview of the church's activities during 2003. The history was compiled from the Sunday Worship bulletins.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Anne Gaw