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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINDER, GEORGIA

2008 CHURCH HISTORY

Staff:

Rev. R. Brock Burnett - Pastor
Bradley Peppers - Director of Music Ministries
Kathy Woodall - Secretary
Kim Ward - Youth Leader
Cathy Ashley - Nursery Attendant and Janitor
Johnie Wendel - Church Greeter

Rodney Broach - Treasurer
Mary Anne Gaw - Presbyterian Women Director

The office hours were 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon M-F, 1 :00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. M- Th

The church website, directory and family picture board was maintained and updated.

Summer worship hour was 10:00 a.m.

A Camp Meeting/Hymn Sing during Sunday Worship Service followed by lunch was held.

A Congregational Meeting took place on 2/3/08 for the presentation of the budget and the vote on the pastor's terms of call.

The Session Members as of January 1 were elders Bob Gaw, Vance Hunter, RODney Broach, Mary Johnson, Suzanne Webster and Alan Toliver.
A Congregational Meeting took place on 4/13/08 to elect Rick Mechtly to replace Rodney Broach.

The Session met once a month and as needed.

Presbytery meetings and leadership workshops were attended.

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

Filling in for Rev. Burnett while away from the pulpit:
Rev. Stan Sizemore, Dr. Alex Williams, Dr. Roe Callaway, Michael Deloach (Gideon International) and a prospective candidate for calling into a church

- of the NE Ga. Presbytery.

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

Our Daily Bread devotionals were available to the congregation.

Life Line Medical Screening was held at the church.

New Members:

Rodney and Kelly Blackwell 2/17/08

Baptisms:

Morgan Emerson 8/10/09

Kayla Mensenger 8/10/09

Heather Marie Meikle 3/16/08

Sydney Blackwell 2/17/08

Nicholas Blackwell 2/17/08

Audrey Elizabeth Huff 11/23/08

Marriage: Mariendi and Nathan Cole 10/18/08

Graduate: College - Kate Russell, University of Georgia

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry was started providing handmade crochet and knit shawls and afghans to those people brought to our attention on the prayer concern list. Carol Drew was instrumental in this mission.

Habitat for Humanity - recycled cans, hosted their fund raiser yard sale

Peace Place - collected need items

African Palm Crosses for families in Tanzania, Africa

Samaritan's Purse - participated in Operation Christmas Child

Dr. Koffi Tsogbe - member who works for the UN in war-torn areas of Africa

Gideon's International - offering

Rivers of the World - offering

Local Food Pantry - congregation participated in a contest to bring needed items (Souper Bowl), staff pantry in July, collected needed items all through the year, change jar to collect money

Care packages were sent to a recon military unit

Provided support for an AWANA program for children on a military base

Come Alive Ministries - hosted benefit concert, supported annual Celebrate Life Banquet. recycled newspapers, participated in Baby Bottle Boomerang (collected change in baby bottles), offerings

Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Georgia Presbyterian Cursillio

Mother's Day Offering - Presbyterian Homes

Mexico Missions - Mexico Fiesta lunch fundraiser, sent Rev. Burnett, Rick Mechtly, Katie Mechtly, Sarah Mechtly to build houses in Mexico.

Farmers market - in fellowship hall to share vegetable crop with others.

Our Music Ministry continued with Bradley Peppers as Director. He and the Adult choir stayed busy with practices, leading the congregation in worship music, specials, concerts, and cantatas.

Our Sunday School program continued with Adults meeting at 10:00 a.m. and children at 11 :00.

Rev. Stan Sizemore taught a class on the book "The Shack" by Wm. Young for the Adult Sunday School Class and also a class on Children's Spirituality.

Building and grounds were maintained. A lawn mowing schedule was placed on the bulletin board. A Building Action Team was formed to study possibilities of a fellowship hall expansion. Different designs were placed on board for congregation.

Fellowship Opportunities:

Covered Dish luncheons which include potluck, Thanksgiving Feast, Mexican Fiesta and a fish fry. A leaf trip to the mountains in the Fall.

Presbyterian Women continued meeting in the day in Sept. - May. The group enjoyed fellowship, Bible study(1 John and James) and prayer time. A donation was given to Dr. Tsogbe for his mission work in Africa. A bridal shower was given to Mariendi Byrd and Nathan Cole. The PW continued their support for all projects and missions of the church.

A Wednesday Ladies Bible Study/Craft Day was held each Wednesday morning at the church. The Bible Study was on different topics. The Craft Day ladies enjoyed a trip to Watkinsville to visit a quilt shop and a yarn shop.

The Wacky Pack Group was formed to provided Bible study and activities to grade-age children. This included meetings at the church, a pool party, trip to the Gwinnett Fair, brunch with Santa, hosting a Mother's Day Brunch, sports night at the church, and Youth Sunday observance.

The Presbyterian Youth Fellowship continued throughout the year with the Jefferson Church. Kim Ward, youth leader, resigned mid-year. Parents provided leadership the rest of the year. Bible study and fellowship on Sunday nights were still an integral part of the group. Activities and fund raisers included a lock-in, soup and sandwich lunch fund raiser for trip

- to "Fun in the Sun" at Myrtle Beach, SC, participated in a 5K run/walk event for 'Open Homes, Open Hearts by entertaining the children, corn maze trip, and Youth Sunday observance.

Church Seasons:

The 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, Easter Cantata by the Adult Choir, and Easter lilies provided in honor or in memory of loved ones or To The Glory of God.

Christmas season started with our church, again, serving as relay center for Operation Christmas Child, a Christmas card "post office" was begun for members to send cards to each other stamp-free. The church was decorated with the traditional Chrismon tree, poinsettias and wreaths. Families lit the Advent Wreath during worship services. Members brought gifts for the Angel Tree(for a local family). A Christmas store was provided for the Mulberry Grove Assisted Living residents. There was Christmas caroling on a Saturday morning. The Adult Choir presented a Christmas cantata and piano concert held by Bradley Peppers. The children were involved in a special Christmas music and a Christmas Eve Service was held.

This history was is meant only as an overview of the activites of the First Presbyterian Church. It is compiled from the Sunday Worship bulletins.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Anne Gaw