

Savannah, Ga.

HISTORY OF THE BONNA BELLA PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AUXILIARY

1948-1949

The Women's Auxiliary to the Bonna Bella Church started the year in April 1948 with new officers being installed and launching the years work for the advancement of the Kingdom. The Birthday Party was held in May, with an offering of \$20.00. The women were faithful in helping with Bible School, and serving refreshments for the children. The usual objectives were promoted, the Negro Conference, White Cross Allotment, Area Field Worker, Thornwell, our delegate to Montreat, Contingent Fund, etc. The Home Mission season of prayer and self-denial was held with an offering of \$20.00, and an offering of \$32.00 for Foreign Missions. The Christmas program was held with an offering of \$16.00 for the Joy Gift. The main objective for the year was the local building fund, which amount was \$1,147.00, with all hopes of being in the new church building for Easter Sunday 1949.

Mrs. G. W. Lindsay, Historian, 1948-1949.

Bonnie Bell

BONNA BELLA - SAVANNAH

Organized by Mrs R. D. Reid, Chairman of Group one, Bonna Bella is the baby Auxiliary, and was organized May 5, 1934, with the following officers: President, Mrs. L. T. Steadwell; Secretary, Mrs. Hohn Conley; Treasurer, Mrs. L. Herring. This Auxiliary is doing a unique piece of work, and its labors are being blessed.

At the organization meeting, in addition to the Bona Bella women, there was present Mrs. Rose, President of the Thunderbolt Auxiliary besides one from Independent and two from Eastern Heights, besides Mrs. Reid.

We have had as high as sixteen on the roll, but at the present time we have only twelve, our people are constantly changing. This auxiliary is to an Inter-denominational Sunday School only, as there is no church. We have all denominations even one Catholic working with us.

By Neattie M. Bingham

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
BONA BELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our women attended Presbytery at Savannah, Georgia on March 25-26, 1954.

We had special prayer group for World Day of Prayer March 5, 1954.

We had special prayer group and special collection for World Missions in February. Had special Easter offering in April.

May 9 to 16 we attended a revival at our church, following which we helped with our first Homecoming Celebration and burning of our church mortgage with special speakers and dinner on the grounds.

June 21 for two weeks we helped with Vacation Bible School.

October 21 attended Presbyterial.

November we invited special speaker for Church Extention.

November 21 helped with Every Member Canvas Day.

November helped with baskets of groceries for needy, for Thanksgiving.

We had an all day Bible Study in December.

We helped with Christmas program in Church.

We filled our quota for White Cross Overseas Work.

We had a phone committee to call each member at each meeting.

We sponsor a covered dish supper once a month the year around.

We always help with an annual banquet for young people of church.

Mrs. O. R. Hooker

Mrs. O. R. Hooker, Historian

DECEMBER 5, 1955
 THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
 THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF
 BONNA BELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR THE
 YEAR OF 1950

We began our years work with a talk on church extention given by a visiting speaker.

JAN. 25, We attended the group conference at first presbyterian church in sav'h. Then the 30th we assisted the young folks in entertaining the young folks of the neighboring churches for greater sav'h.

- Feb 25th, We observed world day of prayer withan appropriate program. Feb 27th we sent white crossbox with some cash. The 28th of Feb. we gave a going away party for our pastor Rev. Franklin Smith.

March, We send our first blessing box value \$3.00, at the same time we sent \$2.50 regrestation fee to Macon for training school. The 7th of March our Revival began and Rev. Williams a former pastor assisted in this meeting. Good Friday afternoon we entertained the childred of the church with an egg hunt. This was followed in a few days with a wiener roast.

May 24th, We celebrated our 33rd birthday with a nice playlet on Japan, The Proceeds were \$15.00. That was sent to the hospital fund in Japan. The 20th of June we began our daily vacation Bible school That lasted Two weeks and ended with The Sunday school joining with us in an annual picnic.

Aug. 28th, We gave another going away party for our student Minister as he was leaving for the siminary. He comes back to preach for us every Two weeks.

Sept. 25th, We sent our second blessing box worth \$5.00

Oct. 30th, Mr. Lat Woo, one of our Elders presented a film at the Church on China, our annual light bill amounted to \$16.20 and has been paid.

We concluded our years work with an All Day Study on The Theme "LOVE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT".

Mrs D R Hooker

 Historian.

December 5, 1955--The Annual Report of The Women of the
Church of Bonna Bella Presbyterian Church for the Year of 1950

We began our year's work with a talk on church extension given by a visiting preacher.

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History
Women of the Church
Bona Bella Presbyterian Church
Savannah Ga.

The 17th of February we observed day of prayer
\$1.00 was sent for white Cross
Chairs and tables were purchased and painted for the primary
department in the Sunday School.

In April we celebrated the Birthday of the Women of the church
with a special program; a nice offering was received and refreshments
were served.

During the vacation bible school we served lunch at noon for the
children and teachers. This school closed July 4th with the Annual
picnic.

We have a monthly covered dish supper and fellowship.

We had a week of revival services with a visiting minister present
at the close of the meeting eight new members were added to our church
A home coming meeting followed the close of the revival.

We had the pleasure of having two weddings during the summer

We elected new officers during October for 1957

We meet twice a month with a small but enthusiastic band of ladies.

December 16th we served refreshments for the Youth of the Church after
a candlelighting service.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. O. R. Hooker, Historian

Savannah Ga, Dec 6th 1958.

Annual Report of The Women of the Church,
Bonnabella Presbterian Church Savannah Ga. 1957

Dear Mrs Chaffin;

After Haveing a Student Pastor for several years, We now have a supply Pastor sent to Us Ist Sunday in Feb,

Our White Cross Quoto was met and sent in on Mar 4th

We received a donation of Pews from Ist Presbyterian Church during this Month too

On May 15th A committee attended the Campus Christian Life Supper held at the Hull Memorial Presbyterian Church Sav-

On May 8th a committee of Ladies attended a Study at the Montgomery Presbyterian Church, The study was the Minor Prophets,

May 24 We gave a recpetion for the Pastor and His Bride at the Church, a nice crowd attended,

On May 26th We celebrated the Birthday of the Women of the Church with an appropriate program, a few of the Ladies served, anice donation was received,

Our Daily Vacation Bible School was held June 3rd to 7th, We also had our annual Picnic July 4th,

During the Year six Homes were Blessed with new Babies, There was one Wedding, There were 4 Children Baptized,

There were five Laymen elected to the Savannah Presbytery for Church extention and Council,

On Dec 22nd The Women of the Church presented a Christmas program during the evening service that was attended by a large crowd,

And this Concludes Our Years Work.

Sincerily Submitted By *Mrs O R Hooker*
Mrs O.R.Hooker (Pastorian)

Report of Historian

Bona Bella Church 1958

Mrs. O.R. Hooks, Historian

Our years work was planned at our family night supper Feb. 9th, Feb. 18th at our general meeting Mrs. Boggs gave an interesting report on her work in Korea. Refreshments were served at this meeting.

On March 9th the congregation called Rev. Billy Frank Woods as our full time pastor. He was installed during the month of June. A reception was given in his honor.

Vacation Bible School was held from Aug. 25th to Aug. 29 with a good attendance. Refreshments were served each day. The Bible School was followed with an annual picnic of the Sunday School at Hilton Head.

The following week a revival was conducted by Rev. Ecstein of Eastern Heights Church. There were ten new members added to the church. Two children were baptized. Two new deacons have been elected during the year. The membership of the Sunday School has nearly doubled this year necessitating some of the floor space of the church being divided into Sunday School rooms and the buying of a bus to bring in children from nearby communities.

The morning circle of the church has tiled one Sunday School room and sent a nice box to Thornwell Orphanage. The night circle added a nice velvet curtain for the choir rail. There was a balance that took care of of the budget in ten months.

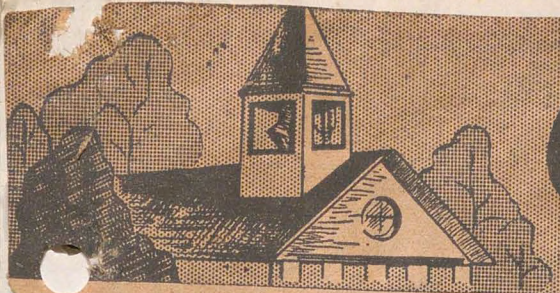
We met and sent our White Cross quota. Also our Blessing Box Offering was sent in Feb. and Sept.

Several ladies attended the special Bible study at White B

Bluff Church Sept. 30th.

The officers for 1959 have been elected and will be installed.

We are having a candle light service Dec. 21st and a Christmas party Dec. 22nd.



Church News

Savannah Evening Press, Saturday, June 13, 1959—3



BONA BELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Rev. Billy Frank Woods, Pastor, Surveys New Sanctuary

Bona Bella Presbyterians To Dedicate New Sanctuary

A new \$15,000 sanctuary for Bona Bella Presbyterian Church will be dedicated on Sunday. Speaker for the afternoon dedicatory service will be Lt. Gen. Joseph B. Fraser (ret.) of Hinesville.

The dedication ceremonies will begin at 2:30, according to the Rev. Billy Frank Woods, pastor.

Speaker for the 11:30 morning services will be L. A. Beckman, executive secretary of the Savannah Presbytery. Also a highlight at this service will be the bestowing of the title Elder Emeritus on a prominent member of the congregation, Lat Woo.

The brick and concrete block sanctuary was begun two months ago with W. L. Wilson Sr., as contractor. It has a seating capacity of 140 with a possibility for more if necessary.

Pews and pulpit are of pine as is the paneling behind pulpit. The sanctuary has fluorescent lighting and is air conditioned. The steeple atop the new building is new, but the bell is very old and once hung in the educational building.

A new Tomas organ has been installed in the sanctuary. Miss Dell Harden is organist of the church.

Building committee for the undertaking included Ed Roeltz, chairman; Bill Wilson, W. L. Wilson Sr., Mrs. G. B. Walker and Howard Blatner, who is also clerk of stewards.

The first stirrings of what is now the Bona Bella Church were a little Sunday school in the home of Mrs. W. N. Cricksen in 1916. Mrs. Clemantine Martain gave a lot for a Sunday school building in 1924 and the Gypsy Smith Evangelistic Club carried on the work for a few years.

In 1931 the Thunderbolt Presbyterian Church sponsored the small church and Sunday school and from 1931 to 1938, the Rev. Arthur Martain, pastor of Eastern Heights Presbyterian Church

Mortgage Burned
The Rev. Lawrence Williams, pastor of Eastern Heights Presbyterian Church in later years, was instrumental in forming the present church organization. In 1944 the Savannah Presbytery purchased four lots on the corner of LaRoche and Aimar Ave. and on February 16, 1947 the Bona

Bella Presbyterian Church was organized and incorporated with 94 charter members.

Present pastor was called in June of 1953. Former pastors include the Rev. John T. Reed, the Rev. Frank P. Smith, the Rev. Charles Schism (a student pastor) and the late Rev. Robert B. Giffen.

WORLD PREMIERE

**American Heart Association Film
On
Stroke Rehabilitation**

“SECOND CHANCE”

Filmed in Savannah, Georgia

Produced and Directed by George C. Stoney



Savannah Theatre, 9:15 P.M.

September 10, 1959

THE CAST

Pop Rankin.....Joseph "Med" Smith
 Grace.....Mrs. Vivian P. Norman, PHN
 Paul.....Mr. W. H. Norman, Jr.
 Dr. Douglas.....Dr. John L. Elliott
 Public Health Nurse.....Miss Patricia Persse
 Hospital Nurse.....Mrs. Frances Betz
 Mailman.....Mr. J. R. King
 Members of the family.....(Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Anderson
 (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gillis
 (Mrs. J. R. King

Acknowledgments

Sponsors of Film
 E. R. Squibb & Son

Sponsors of Premiere
 First District Chapter, Georgia Heart Association
 and
 Savannah Morning News-Evening Press

Management of the Savannah Theatre
 . . . and to the many citizens of Savannah whose generous assist-
 ance made the filming of "Second Chance" in Savannah possible.

PROGRAM

Presiding: Msgr. T. J. McNamara

Welcome: Hon. W. Lee Mingledorff, Mayor of Savannah

Introduction of Speaker: Dr. J. Gordon Barrow, President
 Georgia Heart Association

Address: Dr. Irvine Page, Past President
 American Heart Association

Film: "SECOND CHANCE"

Forum on Stroke Rehabilitation:

Moderator:

Msgr. T. J. McNamara

Panelists:

Dr. Irvine Page
 Dr. J. Gordon Barrow
 Dr. Ellison R. Cook, III
 Dr. John L. Elliott
 Dr. Thomas A. McGoldrick, Jr.
 Dr. Fenwick T. Nichols
 Dr. Jules Victor

Women of the Church
Bona Bella Presbyterian Church
Savannah, Georgia
Savannah Presbytery
Georgia Synod

HISTORY FOR 1959

OFFICERS

President - - - - -	Mrs. W.L. Wilson **
Vice-President - - - - -	Mrs. Gerald Walker
Treasurer - - - - -	Mrs. B.F. Woods
Secretary - - - - -	Mrs. Edward T. Koeltz
Historian - - - - -	Mrs. Edward T. Koeltz
Program Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. Gerald Walker

** In September, 1959 Mrs. W.L. Wilson
resigned as President and Mrs. Gerald
Walker assumed her duties.

Stewardship Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. B.F. Woods
World Missions Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. Jack Davis
Spiritual Growth Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. Merle Tilton
Christian Education Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. Ernest Joyner
Annuities & Relief Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. H.B. Harrison, Sr.
Homes Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. Thelma Carnes
Church Extension Chairman - - - - -	Mrs. William Walker
General Fund Agencies - - - - -	Mrs. H.B. Harrison, Sr.

REV. BILLY FRANK WOODS, PASTOR

Our year began in a most exciting and unusual fashion. At our first meeting we were approached by Mr. George C. Stoney as to our willingness to participate in a film that was being made by the Heart Foundation for public viewing throughout the country. This seemed a challenging and worthwhile way to start the New Year, and we immediately sought our Session's approval. On the last Thursday in January, 1959 we prepared and served a barbeque supper to approximately seventy-five people - this supper serving as background for one of the major scenes in the film. Many of our members were "extras" for the evening and we all enjoyed every moment of it. For all this fellowship and excitement we were paid \$150.60! We shall always be grateful to the late Dr. Robert Giffen for suggesting our congregation to Mr. Stoney.

On February 24, 1959, Bona Bella was privileged to entertain the District Conference of Women of the Church. A record number of women from thirteen churches in the First District attended. We were blessed with a beautiful summer-like day and luncheon was served on the lawn to the overflow crowd.

February 1959 also saw the formation of a new younger women's circle with Mrs. Billy Woods (Beverly) as Chairman. This gave us three active circles.

In March, 1959 a dream of long standing was realized and ground was broken for our new sanctuary. By the time we held our birthday party on April 26, 1959, construction was far enough along for us to serve our refreshments in the "shell" of our new building.

In April, 1959 we also started a "Put a Dollar to Work" project. We borrowed from the Church Treasury enough money for all of our women to have one dollar. The dollars were put to work for a three month period and after paying back the Church Treasury a profit of \$66.75 was realized.

Sunday, June 14, 1959 was a great day for the Bona Bella Presbyterian Church. This was the day that we dedicated our beautiful new sanctuary. Although the attached newspaper clipping gives all the facts, no mere words can express the pride we all felt in this accomplishment. It should also be noted that this wonderful event took place just one year and one week from the time Rev. B.F. Woods came to serve Bona Bella as its minister.

Beautiful new Presbyterian hymnals, purchased by individuals, added a great deal to our worship service. A lovely sterling silver cross, the gift of Mrs. Herbert Harrison, Sr., adorned our communion table for the first time on our dedication Sunday. We were then and still

are deeply grateful for the handsome sterling silver collection plates which were given by Mrs. Wholtman.

During the summer months of 1959 plans for renovating our original building were made and carried out. This original structure now houses eight Sunday School classrooms, the minister's study and a kitchen. By the use of cleverly devised folding panels, some of the Sunday School rooms can be made into one large meeting room when the occasion warrants this.

The Fall of 1959 saw Bona Bella sponsoring its first Boy Scout Troop. Mr. George Ball, who has been active in scouting for several years, is our Scoutmaster, and fourteen boys are active in the Troop.

in
September 10, 1959 saw most all of us'our Sunday best attending the long awaited world premiere of "Second Chance", the Heart Foundation movie we had participated in way back at the beginning of the year. What fun it was seeing our barbeque supper being eaten by the leading actors in the movie! What a thrill it was seeing some of our very own people on the screen!

As the Thanksgiving season approached this year we were all deeply aware of the many blessings we have received. Our new sanctuary and renovated educational building are concrete evidence of our progress, but even more heartwarming is the fact that we have thirty-five new church members and also have one hundred and six on the Sunday School roll. These are the statistics that show real progress.

On Sunday, December 6, 1959, Rev. and Mrs. B.F. Woods became the proud parents of a lovely baby girl. What a wonderful prelude to the Christmas season.

Our 1959 Christmas pageant was the loveliest and most inspirational one ever. It was directed by Mrs. Claire Wholtman. Everything about it was perfect. Even the young boys who took up the collection did it with maturity and dignity far beyond their years.

God has indeed been with us at Bona Bella during 1959. As we enter into the New Year we pray that the giant steps taken in 1959 will be matched and then surpassed in 1960.

Mrs. Edward T. Koeltz
Mrs. Edward T. Koeltz, Historian