

HISTORY OF THE CENTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Center, Georgia

The Center Presbyterian Church was organized December 6, 1891, by the Rev. Joseph B. Mack, D.D. As the first few pages of the Sessional Record book are missing it is not known how many members were enrolled, or how many or whom the first officers were. Later records are incomplete.

The following ministers are known to have served the church:

Rev. W.O. Phillips	1893
Re. J.T. Johnson	1893-94
Dr. H.S. Allyn	1894
Rev. P.P. Winn	1897-1898
Rev. R.N. Abraham	1899 S.S.
Rev. J.D. MaPhail	1909
Rev. R.E. Telford	1916 -20
Rev. Taylor Morton	1922-25 S.S.
Rev. S.L. Hunter	1926 S.S.
Vacant	1927-1931
Rev. H.E. Russell	1933 S.S.
Rev. R.E. Telford	1935-
Rev. H.R. Foster	1940-43 S.S.
Rev. Pete Phillips	1944- Superintendent of Home Missions

The following men have served as Elders, and the list is very incomplete:

S.A. Link	1896- died same year, was a charter member
G.W. Barber	1896
Miles Matthews	1907
J.R. Moore	
W.A. Wright	1914
James A. Wright	1918

The following men have served as Deacons, and the list is very incomplete:

Lonnie Wright	1907
C.C. Chandler	1908
J.L. Moore	1908
G.S. Wright	1917
Henry Matthews	1917

The following is a notation of interest in the Session Book: "At a meeting of Presbytery meeting in April 1898, the Churches of Center, Sandy Creek, Bethaven, consolidated under the name of Sandy Creek Church, the place of worship to be at Center". (page 13)

At the present time, April 1945, the Center Church is a weak, struggling, Home Mission Church. Preaching services are being conducted by Rev. Pete Phillips, once a month. Mr. Phillips is Superintendent of Home Missions in Athens Presbytery.

Ten members are reported to Presbytery according to Presbytery's minutes.

Center Presbyterian Church
Center, Georgia

An effort is being made to reorganize a Sunday School in this church. Due to muddy roads and travel conditions, outside help has not been available yet.

The following is a PARTIAL list of the members. Nothing has been added since 1922:

Henry Jarrett
Noah Brown
Mrs. Fannie Bates
Mrs. Vickery
Nettie Wright
Katie Lord
Luna Vickery
E. Yerby Johnson
Mrs. Eva Stone
Robert Dailey
Dan; P. Matthews
Miss Laney Brooks
Miss Annie Damons
T.M. McDaniel
Mrs. O'Kelley
Miles Matthews
Mrs. Ida Bray
Mrs. James Linsey
Dr. Claud Echols
John R. Moor
Miss Mabel Cantrell
Miss Johnson
Claud Chandler, Jr
Lonnie Wright
Harry Matthews
J.T. Brown
Mrs. J.T. Brown
W.A. Wright
Mrs. D.A. Blue
Mrs. Addie Johnson
Mrs. Hennie Chandler
Mrs. J.M. Dailey
Miss Ida Dailey

G.W. Barber
Dr. W.W. Rich
Mrs. W.W. Rich
Mrs. McBride
Mrs. Jow Matthews
Mrs. T. Scott
Charley Matthews
Mrs. Brooks
Mrs. Elizabeth Telford
Lillian Williams
Ruby Rich Sparkes
Latrelle Thornton
Mrs. Nettie Farmer
Reba Farmer
Mattie Farmer
James A. Wright
G.S. Wright
Martin Calvin Farmer
Ida May Matthews
Miss Mize
C.C. Chandler
Mrs. J.R. Moore
Miss Marian Moore
J.W. Matthews
Shirley Bell Matthews
John Matthews
Alma Matthews
Nell Matthews
Mrs. Olivia Pittman
Mrs. Annie Mae Matthews
Mr. J.T. Brown
Mrs. J.T. Brown
Miss Lillian Williams
Ruby Sparkes
E.A. Stone
Mrs. C.C. Chandler Jr.,
A.M. Longnecker

Signed: Emma P. Ivy
Mrs. J. Swanton Ivy
Historian Woman's Auxiliary
Athens Presbytery

REV. W.L. BARBER

William Lee Barber was born in Clarke County, Georgia, March 4th, 1865, the youngest son of G.W. and Mary Conger Barber. When about eighteen years old he professed faith in Christ, and united with the Presbyterian Church in Athens, under the ministry of the sainted Dr. Charles W. Lane, for many years its beloved pastor. Before entering the ministry Brother Barber served the Center Church for some time as a Ruling Elder.

Feeling the call to preach the Gospel, he entered Columbia Theological Seminary in 1893, and completed his studies there in 1896. He was licensed by Athens Presbytery, August 23, 1893, and ordained by the same Presbytery, as evangelist, April 17, 1896.

He served the following churches in Athens Presbytery as supply during the periods mentioned: Homer, Hopewell and Carnesville, in 1897; Center, Jefferson, Thya-tira, Comer, Woodstock in 1896; Comer, Danielsville, New Hope and Royston, 1898-1901.

Perhaps in the fall of 1901 he removed to Missouri taking work in LaFayette Presbytery where he served the Saline and Miami Churches, 1902-1903; and Waverly and Saline Churches, 1904-1906.

Returning to Athens Presbytery about 1906, he became pastor of Hebron and Homer churches, also supplying Carnesville and Hopewell churches from 1907-1911. He served Bethaven, Center, Colbert, and Mizpah, 1913-1914.

During the years 1915-1917 he was pastor of the South Broad and Silver Creek churches in Cherokee Presbytery. While in this pastorate, early in 1918, perhaps, his health gave way and he gave up this pastorate which was his last. A while later he returned to Athens Presbytery and did such work as health and opportunity permitted, supplying Bethaven and Bogart Churches, 1920-1922. For the last fourteen years of his life he made his home with his sister, Mrs. J.T. Brown, at Center, and worked in the Sunday School and preached occasionally. He was never married.

Brother Barber was a man of strong mind, wonderful memory, amply endowed with good common sense, quick with and a keen appreciation of humor. These qualities rendered him very interesting in conversation. He was earnest student of God's Word, and he loved to preach it in its simplicity and purity. He found much comfort in the great doctrine of grace; God's purpose to redeem His people by the sacrifice of His Son, and His power to keep His Redeemed through faith unto salvation.

He was regular and faithful in his attendance upon the courts of the church and took a keen interest in the proceedings. He was an attentive pastor and ministered to his people in their homes as well as from the pulpit. Able to see the amusing side of things, his conversation was generally bright and entertaining to an unusual degree. He was a welcome guest among the lowly as well as among those more favorably situated.

He loved God and the Church. He served his day and generation well. He was

65-560
Center Presbyterian Church
Center, Georgia

(Rev. W.L. Barber, continued)

called away suddenly, January 24, 1933, being struck by a train near his home at Center, rendering him unconscious, and resulting in his death a few minutes later. The burial was at Center. By his request the sermon being preached by Rev. S.J. Cartledge, with Revs. E.L. Hill, J.R. McAlpine, and J.E. Simpson taking part in the services.

"Servant of God, well done,
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's Joy."

Rev. R.E. Telford

Printed in Minutes of Athens Presbytery, April 1933, page 17

Filed February 1945

Emma P. Ivy

Mrs. J. Swanton Ivy
Historian Woman's Auxiliary
Athens Presbytery

68062
Center Presbyterian Church
Center, Georgia

ANNUAL HISTORY OF CENTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1945-46

Pastor: Rev. H. Reid Newland, Stated Supply

Elder: Miles Matthews

Organist: Mrs. D.O. Dailey

Added by Profession of faith during year: Bobby Sanford Matthews

Dismissed during year: Mr. & Mrs. Mack Walker
Alla Walker

Honor Roll for World War II:

Dwight M. Matthews, Merton W. Matthews
Alla Walker

Present Membership Roll:

Mrs. D.O. Dailey
Miles W. Matthews
Mrs. Miles Matthews

Bobby Sanford Matthews
Dwight M. Matthews (still in service)
Merton W. Matthews (still in service)

The church building is in need of being covered.

Contributed toward Pastor's salary last year: \$50.00

There is no Sunday School connected with the ^{church} Members attend the Methodist Church.

There is no Young People's Work.

There is no cemetery on the church grounds.

(Information furnished by Mr. Miles Matthews)

Signed:

Eunice P. Ivy

Mrs. J. Swanton Ivy
Historian Woman's Auxiliary
Athens Presbytery

Filed at Montreat May 1946

Center Presbyterian Church

80562



80562



Center Presbyterian Church
Athens Presbytery, Synod of Georgia.

Presbyterian Students at the University of Georgia, members of the Westminster Fellowship, have organized an out-post Sunday School at the Center Presbyterian Church, Athens Presbytery, Synod of Georgia.

Members of the Westminster Fellowship, University of Georgia, who helped organize the Center Presbyterian Sunday School. Bible School enrollment this summer was 50.

73469

Center Presbyterian Church
Center, Georgia

1948-49

ANNUAL HISTORY OF THE CENTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The church has one officer and that an Elder. There is no pastor. Rev. William H. Kryder, Assistant Pastor of First Church Athens, preaches here one time each month. At present there is a membership of 5; this includes four Adults and one young person in High School.

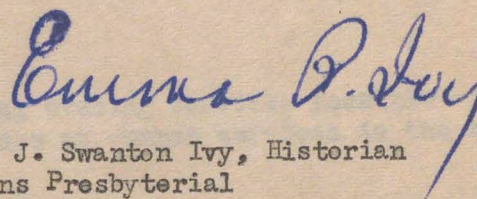
The church has recently been painted outside but the inside is badly in need of repairs. Plans are underway to secure a piano to replace the old organ which is about worn out.

The church has no Benevolent Budget, or Current Expense, Budget but does what it can and pays its Presbyterial Assessment dues every year.

All former members have moved to the city and the Baptist Church has the strongest membership and church. The Baptist Sunday School is the only Sunday School in the community.

The church is located only seven miles north east of Athens on the highway from Athens to Commerce.

Signed:



Mrs. J. Swanton Ivy, Historian
Athens Presbyterial

Information furnished by Rev. William H. Kryder

Athens Presbytery
Center Presbyterian Church
Route 1, Nicholson, Georgia
1949 - 1953

CHURCH HISTORY

Pastors

Rev Robert Marshburn September 1949-January 1950

Rev D P Phillips, Rev W A Stevenson and students from
Columbia Seminary, pulpit supplies, Jan 1950-Oct 1950

Rev Don Patterson, Temporary Supply Oct 1950-Oct 1952
Services held on 4th Sunday afternoons

Rev George W Gunn, Temporary Supply
Services held 4th & 2nd Sun afternoons

Clerk of Session - Miles W Matthews
Church Treasurer - D M Matthews

Church Roll as of 1952

Miles W Matthews	Mrs D O Dailey
Mrs Miles W Matthews	M A Walker
Dwight Matthews	Mrs M A Walker
Marton Matthews	Alla Howard Walker
Bobby Matthews	

Additions----Dismissals----Deaths
None reported since 1949

Members in U S Armed Forces
Alla Howard Walker - U S Army

Repairs on Church Property 1952-1953
Piano donated by a friend in the community
Sign erected on church grounds
Church and pews painted
New choir curtain hung
Church wired for electricity making evening services possible
Member ship very active - Attendance at church services in the twenties

Sunday School

On Easter Sunday 1952 Rev Goerge W Gunn, assisted by a group of young people from the First Presbyterian Church of Athens, organized a Sunday School. There were 58 in attendance and Mrs Mack Walker was elected Secretary and Treasurer.

Signed _____
Annie Mae Crawford Matthews

Filed Sept. 5 1953

Isaac H. Howell
Historian, Women of the Church
Athens Presbytery

Athens Presbytery
Center Presbyterian Church
Center, Ga.
1958

93074

History for 1958

Pastor from Oct. 1, 1955 until Aug. 17, 1958: Rev. John Robison
Present Supply: Charles Dawson

Elders: Miles W. Matthews and Dwight M. Matthews
Organist: Mrs. Ruby D. O'Kelly

There were no additions to the church this year. There is no Sunday school as the members attend the Methodist and Baptist Sunday School. The church building is in very good shape and we contributed \$127 to the pastor's salary this year. The following is the church roll:

M. A. Walker	Miles W. Matthews
Mrs. M. A. Walker	Mrs. Miles W. Matthews
Mrs. Ruby D. O'Kelly	Dwight M. Matthews
Morton W. Matthews	Bobby S. Matthews

Mrs. Miles W. Matthews
Nicholson, Ga.

Filed at Montreat
Jan. 31, 1959
Barbara J. Webster
Historian, WOC
Athens Pres.

Athens Presbytery
Center Presbyterian Church
Center, Georgia
1968

123486

"Our Church here is very small. We only have Church once each month.
There are only 6 members - 3 ladies and they are elderly.

Information furnished by
Mrs. Dwight Matthews

Filed at Montreat

August 20, 1971
W. B. Bawn

Historian, WOC
Athens Presbytery