

66510
Comer Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia

HISTORY OF THE COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMER, GEORGIA

A petition was presented to the Presbytery of Athens for the organization of a Presbyterian Church at Comer, Georgia, during the fall meeting in 1893. The petition was granted and a Committee was appointed for that purpose. On October 28th, 1893, Rev. Henry Newton, R.C. Latimer, and Thomas N. Long organized the Comer Presbyterian Church, in the house of worship belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Comer.

There were ten charter members.

Ministers serving since time of organization are as follows:

Rev. A.L. Phillips
Rev. J.B. Mack, D.D.
Rev. C.J. Morton
Rev. J.A. Simpson
Rev. R.N. T. Wadley
Rev. J.D. McPhail
Rev. Charles Gibbs
Rev. W.L. Barber

Rev. W.F. Tims
Rev. J.F. Pharr
Rev. A.H. Atkins
Rev. Charlie Morton
Rev. J.C. Langford
Rev. Taylor Morton
Rev. Burns Gibbs
Rev. C.I. Stacy, the present
Pastor.

In the early morning hours of March 22, 1932, a fearful cyclone struck the town of Comer and ruined many houses, among them the beloved little Church. It was wrecked beyond repair. The membership was sad and almost heartbroken and thought it would be impossible for them ever to build again; but God in His love and mercy, put it into one man's heart (though he was not a member of any church) to say he would give one hundred dollars to help rebuild. That inspired the members and they planned to undertake to build.

The Committee met April 20th, and plans for building decided upon. Dr. Ralph Gillam came to help, and friends from other churches in the Presbytery joined in helping. On October 2nd, 1932, at 8 P.M., the Church was dedicated to God's service.

We are so thankful to God for His making it possible for us to rebuild, because we now have a much larger and nicer Church than before.

Miss Emma Groves
Historian Woman's Auxiliary
Comer Church

1936
Scrap Book material filed by
Mrs. George D. Thomas
Historian Woman's Auxiliary
Athens Presbytery 1932-42

Typed and refiled February 1945

Mrs. J. D. J. Emma P. Joy

HISTORY OF THE COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMER, GEORGIA
ATHENS PRESBYTERY

A Petition was presented to the Presbytery of Athens, during its fall meeting in 1893 for the organization of a Church at Comer, Ga. The Petition was granted and a committee was appointed for that purpose.

On Oct. 28th 1893, Rev. Henry Newton, R.C. Lattimore and Thomas W. Long organized the Comer Church, in the House of Worship of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Comer. It was composed of the following members:

Ephraim Thompson	New Hope Church
Andrew Jackson Thompson	" " "
Mrs. Pink E. Thompson	" " "
Mrs. Mary E. Groves	" " "
Miss E. Emma Groves	" " "
George A. Key	" " "
Mrs. George A. Key	" " "
William Frank Alexander	" " "
John T. Alexander	" " "
Jacob Thomas Patten	Mount Herman Church
Mrs. Jacob Thomas Patten	" " "

Immediately after organization, the Church met and chose for the name "The Comer Presbyterian Church". Ephraim Thompson and Andrew Jackson Thompson were then elected Ruling Elders, as they had held that office in the New Hope Church. They were then installed. Jacob Thomas Patten and George A. Key were then elected Deacons, and were at once ordained and installed as such.

Original Church Building was erected in 1897. All services were conducted here until the year 1932, when it was totally destroyed by a Tornado which struck this part of the State causing serious loss of life and property. A remarkable achievement was accomplished at this time in that the entire membership immediately succeeded in securing and giving, services and finances enabling the erection within the same year of a brick Church on the same plot of land, located on Church St., Comer, Georgia.

The rebuilding of the Church, at a time when cotton was around five cents a pound, and many members and friends had suffered severe financial losses appeared impossible. Notwithstanding this the congregation, knowing that their is nothing impossible with God, started the task. On Oct. 2, the new Church was dedicated, complete in every detail and every dollar paid. The dedication sermon was preached by Dr. C.I. Stacy, who was then acting as supply minister. The dedication prayer was offered by Dr. E.L. Hill, Pastor of Athens First Church. Rev. J.A. Simpson, Supt. of Home Missions for Athens Presbytery brought the greetings and felicitations of the Presbytery on the completion of what seemed to human minds an impossible task.

Sunday School was organized in 1900, and has continued in existence since that time. Present Supt. is T.W. Hinton.

The first wedding to be held in the Church was that of Ellen Elizabeth Griffeth to G. Franklyn Fischer of Brooklyn, N.Y. on May 14, 1933.

One month later, June 15, the marriage of Caroline Stacy to Winchester Coker of Ashland, Ga. was performed by Dr. C.I. Stacy, the father of the bride.

COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMER, GEORGIA
ATHENS PRESBYTERY

MINISTERS

The following ministers have served the church since the organization.

Rev. A. L. Phillips	1894-----1895	
Rev. J. B. Mack D. D.	1897-----	
Rev. W. L. Barber	1897-----1901	
Rev. W. F. Tims	1902-----	
Rev. C. T. Morton	1904-----1904	
Rev. J. F. Pharr	1905-----1907	
Rev. L. A. Simpson	1907-----1909	
Rev. J. D. McPhail,	Evangelist, was here frequently during 1910 and 1911.	
Rev. W. T. Wadley	1911-----1912	
Rev. A. H. Adkins	1913-----1915	
Rev. Charlie Gibbs	1917-----	
Rev. Charlie Morton	1917-----1918	
Rev. J. C. Langford	1920-----1922	
Rev. Will Dendy	1927-----	
Rev. Burns Gibbs	1928-----	
Rev. Taylor Morton	1930-----1931	
Dr. C. I. Stacy	1931-----1935	
Rev. C. K. Taffee	1935-----1937	
Rev. John R. Smith	1940-----1945	
Rev. G. W. Haywood	1945-----	(Seminary Student)

ELDERS

Ephraim Thompson	1893
A. J. Thompson	1893
T. W. Hinton	1898
W. W. Key	1898
W. W. Glenn	1904
A. J. Griffeth	1906
W. H. Woods	1911
H. H. Key	1911
W. C. Groves	1911
A. C. Carithers	1911
Howard Long	1935

DEACONS

George A. Key	1893
J. T. Alexander	1898
J. R. Bullock	1898
G. T. Bolton	1900
R. J. P. Hitchcock	1904
J. T. Patton	1905
C. A. Woods	1909
E. C. Williams	1911
K. B. Woods	
J. L. Mercier	
Hoyt McCurdy	1935
Henry Gerald Birchmore	1935
Walter Long	1941

COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMER, GEORGIA
ATHENS PRESBYTERY

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH 1947.

MINISTERS

Rev. G.W.Haywood (Supply Minister from Col. T. Seminary) ----- 1946-

ELDERS

Dr. T. W. Hinton -----
W. C. Groves -----
Howard Long -----

DEACONS

HENRY Gerald Birchmore-----
Walter Long -----

SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dr. T. W. Hinton -----

PRESIDENT OF WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Mrs. Howard Long -----

CHURCH ROLL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW RECEIVED</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Mrs. Rose Birchmore		
Mr. Henry Gerald Birchmore		
Mr. A. C. Carithers		
Miss Mildred Carithers		
Mr. W. T. Cook		
Mr. W. T. Cook, Jr.		
Miss Estelle Carson		
Miss Quida Carson		
Mrs. C. C. Carson		
Mr. Ewing John Collins		
Mrs. Hattie Evans		
Miss Elizabeth Evans		
Miss Gladys Franklin		
Miss Francis Fleming		
Miss Emma Groves		
Mr. W. C. Groves		
Mrs. Bessie Griffeth		
Mrs. Vivian Carithers		
Mr. Emerson Griffeth		
Mr. Rudolph Griffeth		
Mr. Kendall Griffeth		
Dr. T. W. Hinton		
Mr. Melton Kitchen		
Mrs. Carrie Long		
Mr. Howard Long		
Mrs. Howard Long		
Mr. Benjamin Long		
Mr. Walter Long		

COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMER, GEORGIA
ATHENS PRESBYTERY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHURCH ROLL HOW RECEIVED</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
Mrs. Walter Long		
Mr. Walter Long, Jr.		
Mr. David Long		
Miss Marion Moon		
Mrs. Ruby McCurdy		
Miss Ruth McCurdy		
Mrs. Dorothy Sewell		
Mrs. Mildred Paul		
Mr. Henry Pierce		
Mrs. Henry Pierce		
Mr. K. B. Woods		
Mrs. K. B. Woods		
Mrs. Ermoline Davis		
Mr. K. B. Woods, Jr.		
Mrs. K. B. Woods, Jr.		
Mr. Robert Witcher	By Letter	1946
Mrs. Robert Witcher	" "	"
Mrs. J. R. Turner		
Miss Betty Turner		

CURRENT EVENTS FOR 1946

There were two (2) weddings in 1946.

On December 4th, 1946 Mr. Benjamin Long and Miss Joan Curnock, an English girl, were married.

On December 26th, 1946 Mr. Milbert Felton Parker and Miss Elsie Ann Cook were married.

On December 22, 1946 Mrs. G. Franklyn Fischer and Mrs. Joe T. Carithers, teachers of the Junior and Primary Classes of our Sunday School gave a special Christmas Program and had a Christmas Tree for their classes and the Sunday School.

BOYS IN THE SERVICE: were:

Henry Gerald Birchmore
William T. Cook, Jr.
Benjamin Long
Arthur Emerson Griffeth
Edward Kendall Griffeth

COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMER, GEORGIA
ATHENS PRESBYTERY

Signed: *Miss Emma Groves*

Miss Emma Groves
Historian Comer Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia

Filed at Montreat by:

Emma P. Ivy
Mrs. J. Swanton Ivy, Historian
Athens Presbyterial

1947-1948

COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMER, GEORGIA

ATHENS PRESBYTERY

 OFFICERS of THE CHURCH
Ministers

Name (Supplying Ministers from Col. T. Seminary)	Date of Service
Mr. C. W. Hayword -----	194 ⁶ 5 -1947
Mr. O. N. Hamby -----	Mar. 1947-Oct. 1947
Mr. Sherwood Taylor -----	Dec. 1947-Sept. 1948
Mr. Vernon Inman -----	Dec. 1948-

ELDERS

Dr. T. W. Hinton -----	1898-
W. C. Groves -----	1911-
Howard Long -----	1935-
Henry Gerald Birchmore -----	1948-

DEACONS

Walter Long-----	1941-
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SUPERINTENDENT of SUNDAY SCHOOL

Howard Long -----	1947-1948
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PRESIDENT of WOMANS AUXILIARY

Mrs. Howard Long -----	1944-1948
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Names	DEATHS of CHURCH MEMBERS	Date of Death
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Mr. Henry Pierce -----	Oct. 26, 1948
Rev. C. C. Carson -----	July 10, 1948
Miss Estelle Carson -----	Mar. 5, 1946

NEW MEMBERS

	Date Received
Dorothy Gillispie -----	Oct. 26, 1947

CURRENT EVENTS 1948

On Dec. 24, 1948, Mr. William Cook and Miss Mary Carolyn Davis were married.

On Feb. 27, 1948, Rev. G. Y. Fan, a Chinese Presbyterian Minister, spoke at Comer Presbyterian Church.

The Comer Presbyterian Church, with the help of the Baptist and Methodist Churches, are planning to present Dr. Wan with a bicycle for his helpers in China.

73126

1947-1948

COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMER, GEORGIA

ATHENS PRESBYTERY



Miss Emma Groves- The Oldest Charter Member of The Comer Presbyterian Church.

Miss Emma is 88 years old. She was received in Comer Church in 1893.

Filed at Montreat, May 1949

Emma P. Ivy

Mrs. J. Swanton Ivy, Historian
Athens Presbyterial

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1947-1948

COMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMER, GEORGIA

ATHENS PRESBYTERY



Mr. Howard Long,
Carlton, Ga., Superintendent
of Comer Presbyterian Church
Sunday School- 1948-1949



Dr. T. W. Hinton
Superintendent Emeritus.
Dr. Hinton was Supt. of
Comer Presbyterian S.S.
forty years in all.

Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia
1952-1953
1953

82668

CHURCH HISTORY
Rev Ernest E Gilmore, pastor
Mrs Howard Long, pianist

Session:

Howard Long, clerk
F H Frost

Diaconate:

Walter Long, chairman
Leonard Palmer
Will Hix

Additions on profession of faith:

On Nov 18, 1951 Mr & Mrs Leonard Palmer

Additions on profession of faith and baptism:

On Sept 6, 1953 Mrs J O Smith, Obie Sue Smith, Linda Smith, Carl Lester

Additions by letter:

On Sept 13, 1953 Mr Gerald Birchmore from the Methodist Church, Comer, Ga.
On Oct 21, 1953 Miss Henrietta Lester from Mt Pleasant Methodist Church

Deaths:

Miss E Emma Groves, daughter of Steven Cicero and Mary Strickland Groves died Feb 24, 1952 at the advanced age of 91. Funeral services were held in the church, conducted by Rev E L Hill D D with burial in the New Hope Cemetery. Miss Groves was a charter member of the church coming by letter from the New Hope Presbyterian Church in 1893. She was a faithful and loyal member of the church attending all services unless prevented by illness.

Mr William Cicero Groves, son of Steven Cicero and Mary Strickland Groves, died May 6, 1953. Funeral services conducted by Rev E L Hill D D were held in the church on May 8 with burial in the Comer Cemetery. Mr Groves served the church as an elder.

On graduating from Columbia Seminary in June 1953 Mr Ernest E Gilmore, who had served the Madison Group of Presbyterian Churches as student supply, accepted a call to these four churches and was ordained and installed in the Danielsville Presbyterian Church on July 26, 1953. The following commission was appointed by Athens Presbytery: To preach the sermon Rev William Iverson; to preside Rev Miles C Wood; to charge the congregation Rev Robert D Alexander; to charge the pastor Rev W R Thurman; to complete the commission Elder J A Baker of Danielsville, alternate Mr Howard Long of Comer.

While the member ship of our church is small we feel that under the continued leadership of Mr Gilmore the church will move forward. Regular church services are held every first and third Sunday. On April 20, 1952 Mrs F H Frost was elected an elder. His ordination and installation followed on April 27, 1952. On July 19, 1953 the three deacons Mr W E Long, Mr Leonard Palmer and Mr W F Hix were elected to serve as elders, it having been decided to make the session the only ruling body of the church. The ordination and installation service was conducted by the pastor, Rev Ernest Gilmore.

By November 1952 the church had raised \$1500 for the purchase of new pews. The church participated in the community-wide Better Home Town Program. Miss ~~Obie~~ Obie Sue Smith was sent to the 1953 Senior Conference at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee although the church does not have organized work for young people.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Supt-----Mr J Howard Long
Pianist--- Mrs J R Turner

Teachers
Adult Class-----Mrs Gerald Birchmore
Junior Class-----Mrs J R Turner

The Church School is held each Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Enrollment is small. Average attendance around 13 or 14. Offerings run from \$2.50 to \$4.50 each Sunday.

Signed _____
(Mrs F H Frost) Historian

Filed at Montreat June 22 1954

Lrene H. H. H. H.
Presbyterial Historian

Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia
1952-1953
1953

82668

HISTORY WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

OFFICERS

President-----Mrs Howard Long
Vice-Pres-----Mrs J R Turner
Secretary-----Mrs W F Hix
Treasurer-----Mrs Gerald Birchmore
Historian-----Mrs A J Griffith

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Spiritual Growth-----Mrs J R Findley
World Missions-----Mrs H B Pierce
Church Extension-----Mrs A J Griffith
Christian Education---Mrs F H Frost
Stewardship-----Mrs Nona Pierce
Annuities & Relief----Mrs J R Turner
Assembly Spec Causes--Mrs W F Hix

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Birchmore, Mrs Gerald
Compton, Mrs Lou
Findley, Mrs J R
Frost, Mrs F H
Griffith, Mrs A J
Hinton, Mrs T W
Kidd, Mrs Boyd

Long, Mrs Howard
Long, Mrs Walter
Palmer, Mrs Leonard
Pierce, Mrs H B
Smith, Mrs O B
Smith, Mrs Steve
Turner, Mrs J R

Members attending the annual meeting Women of the Church, Athens Presbytery, in Hartwell, Georgia on April 8, 1953 were Mrs Howard Long, Mrs H B Pierce, Mrs F H Frost. Members attending District II Conference: Mrs Howard Long, Mrs H B Pierce, Mrs F H Frost, Mrs Gerald Birchmore, Mrs Leonard Palmer and Mrs A J Griffith.

Programs

- May An interesting program on negro work was under the direction of Mrs Howard Long. Offering for Stillman Institute \$6.07.
- July July 20 being our pastor's birthday the Men-of-the-Church were invited to join us for this meeting which proved a most enjoyable one. A birthday cake and a nice check were presented Mr Gilmore, who expressed his appreciation in a most gracious manner. The program was devoted to Bible study conducted by the pastor. Offering \$10.
- August Mrs Long told of the marriage of Charles Alexander, a former student supply, to Miss Ellen Garrison of Cornelia. Mrs Long conducted the Bible study. Offering \$9.50
- October This was a call meeting and was held after the regular Thursday night Bible Study. Plans were made for entertaining District II Conference to be held in the Comer Presbyterian Church on Oct 21, 1953. There were no committees appointed for the entertainment of this conference. Every woman in the church being asked to serve in any or every capacity. Lunch would be served in the Comer Woman's Club House by the Presbyterian women to be assisted by women from the Baptist and Methodist churches. Mrs F H Frost was appointed to give the address of welcome.
- December The Men of the Church and the young people were invited to join us for the Joy Gift program which was directed by Mrs J R Turner. The offering amounted to \$9.50 and the Women of the Church voted to send \$10 to the Board of Annuities and Relief. The additional amount to be taken from the treasury.

Officers elected for 1954:

President-----Mrs Howard Long
Vice Pres-----Mrs H B Price
Secretary-----Mrs J R Turner
Treasurer-----Mrs Gerald Birchmore
Historian-----Mrs F H Frost

Signed _____

Filed*** June 22 1954

Doreen H. Howell

Presbyterial Historian

(Mrs F H Frost) Historian

Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia.
1954.

Sacraments, Mr. Frost; Religious Education, Mr. Howard Long; Pulpit Supply, Mr. Frost; Finance, Mr. W. E. Long; Ushers and Hospitality, All Officers; Music, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Long.

Rev. Newton held an all denominations meeting at the Comer Church at which he brought a wonderful message through use of pictures he had taken on his travels. This received wide and favorable comment. Rev. Newton was asked to repeat this lecture in other towns.

Miss Jean DeMatteo, visitor from Rochester, N. Y., attended this meeting and gave a beautiful and inspiring testimony of her consecration to a life of Christian Service. She also brought several messages in song. These added much to the most enthusiastic program.

On June 21st, the Comer Church sent Lynda Smith and Obie Sue Smith to the Senior High Conference at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee.

On December 21, 1954, Rev. Newton was married to Miss Jean DeMatteo in Rochester, N. Y.

Signed by Mrs. F. H. Frost,
Historian.

Filed Jan - 25 1955.

Lrene L. Howell
Historian Athens Presbyterial.

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Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia.
1954.

HISTORY- WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

OFFICERS:

President	Mrs. Howard Long
Vice President	Mrs. H. B. Pierce
Secretary	Mrs. J. R. Turner
Treasurer	Mrs. Gerald Birchmore
Historian	Mrs. Frank H. Frost

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Spiritual Growth	Mrs. A. J. Griffeth
World Missions	Mrs. Nona Pierce
Church Extension	Mrs. F. H. Frost
Christian Education	Mrs. F. H. Frost
Stewardship	Mrs. Obe Smith
Annuities & Relief	Mrs. J. R. Turner
Assemblies Special Causes	Mrs. Howard Long

SUMMARY

Members attending the annual meeting of Women of the Church, Athens Presbytery in Athens, Georgia on April 6th were Mrs. A. J. Griffeth, Mrs. H. B. Pierce and Mrs. Frank H. Frost.

PROGRAMS:

January: The Men of the Church and the Young People were invited to meet with the Women of the Church. A very good attendance was present. Rev. Gilmore brought a very impressive and informative bible study. A series of prayers for the New Year were had. Plans were made for work in '54. All expressed determination in going forward regardless of small numbers.

February: Comer Presbyterians met for all day meeting with other Madison County Presbyterians. An afternoon study session was held for the different age groups. From February 27- March 7th the Women of the Church observed a week of prayer. On February 9th a program on "World Missions" was held with Mrs. H. B. Pierce in charge. Also, in February a special meeting was held at Comer Presbyterian Church on "Foreign Missions". The Methodist women joined with the Presbyterians in this meeting.

March: At a regular meeting the subject of what we could hope for Presbyterianism in Madison County was discussed. Various phases of the steps needed for progress were elaborated on. Renewed zeal and interest were expressed by all present.

April: On April 13th at Women of the Church Meeting Rev. Gilmore taught a Bible Study on Paul's letter to Ephesians. Spiritual Enrichment Week was discussed and prayers held for its success. All denominations were invited and urged to pray for these meetings. A love gift was taken for Rev. Gilmore.

May: On May 4th at a regular meeting of the Women of the Church, Rev. Gilmore taught the Bible Study on Prayer.

July: Regular meeting, devotional and business was held. A special discussion was had about the proposed church union. Rev. John Newton gave the reasons for

Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia.
1954.

and against the union. This he did in a very informative and clear manner. The women voted to have a shower for the Quitman Home. (This to be at time of the next regular meeting)

August: The Women of the Church held an open meeting to which all denominations were invited. A large congregation was present. After a brief business meeting Rev. John Newton showed colored slides. He discussed these in a most interesting manner. Miss Jean DeMatteo gave a wonderful Christian experience and sang several inspiring songs.

September: The usual devotional and business meeting was held. Mrs. Birchmore reported that five boxes of clothing had been sent to Korea. \$12.29 was contributed for postage. Rev. Newton was instrumental in getting this project through successfully. Mrs. Birchmore reported a gift of \$25.00 from Mrs. J. C. Shaw of Dalton. Mrs. Shaw is a former member of Comer Church.

October: At a meeting at Comer Church, the Methodist women met with the Presbyterian women for observance and beginning of the Week of Prayer.

November: The program was on Church Extension. Mrs. Griffeth and Mrs. Frost put on a play to bring this all important subject to the attention of the Women of the Church. Mrs. Griffeth elaborated on the aims of Church Extension.

December: Mrs. Turner had the Joy Gift program. This was presented in play form. A discussion as to appropriate wedding gift for Rev. Newton was had. \$25.00 was sent from Women of the Church.

Signed by Mrs. F. H. Frost,
Historian.

Filed Jan. 25 1955

Lrene H. Howell
Historian, Athens Presbyterial.

Athens Presbytery
 Presbyterian Church
 Comer, Georgia
 1955

CHURCH HISTORY

Student Pastors: Mr. John Newton, Mr. Charles Gahagan

Pianist: Mrs. J. Howard Long

Services are held regularly on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Session: Clerk, J. Howard Long, Frank H. Frost, Walter Long, Leonard Palmer,
 Henry Gerald Birchmore.

Diaconate: None

Additions to church roll- None

Deaths: Dr. T. W. Hinton died on Nov. 10th, 1955 at the age of 83. Funeral services were held at Comer Presbyterian Church with Dr. E. L. Hill officiating. Dr. Hinton was the oldest living member of the Comer Church having served as Sunday School Superintendent for a long number of years. He was also an Elder.

SUMMARY

Mr. Newton served as pastor until the last of April at which time Mr. Charles Gahagan began his pastoral duties.

On January 11th, Elder Howard Long attended a meeting of "Church Union" at Gainesville. He voted his own convictions as well as of his church group when he opposed church union.

On January 18th, Elder Long attended Presbytery meeting at Elberton, Ga.

A communion service was held in August with Rev. Cooke Freeman, Executive Secretary of Athens Presbytery, administering sacraments.

The church sent two young people to the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee Conference.

On August 20, 1955 Mr. Gahagan was married to Miss Nancy Lowe of Miami, Florida.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular sessions are held Sunday mornings at ten o'clock. Average attendance 12. Adult Class - Teacher- Mrs. Nona Pierce. Children's Class- Teacher, Mrs. J. R. Turner.

Dr. T. W. Hinton, who served as Superintendent of the Church School for forty-four years will be greatly missed.

Youth Fellowship

While the number of young people does not justify an organization one young person was sent to the Senior Conference at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee and one to the Pioneer Conference.

Signed- Mrs. Frank H. Frost, Historian.

Filed at Montreat

Feb. 20, 1956.

J. W. N.

Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia.
1955

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Officers: President- Mrs. J. Howard Long; Vice President- Mrs. H. B. Pierce;
Secretary- Mrs. J. R. Gurner; Treasurer- Mrs. Gerald Birchmore;
Historian- Mrs. Frank H. Frost.

Committee Chairmen: Spiritual Growth- Mrs. A. J. Griffeth; World Missions- Mrs. Nona Pierce; Church Extension- Mrs. F. H. Frost; Christian Education- Mrs. F. H. Frost; Stewardship- Mrs. Obe Smith; Annuities & Relief- Mrs. J. R. Turner; Assembly Special Causes- Mrs. Howard Long.

Programs:

January- The president discussed the New Year's theme which centered around the foreward "Forward With Christ". All suggested themes for the 1955 study were discussed.

February- Mrs. Long reported on the visit made by the Women of our Comer church to the Mt. Hermon Church at Ila to hear Mrs. Shaver, a returned missionary from Brazil.

March- Mrs. Long reported on the Presbytery Press, informing members of the District No. 2 meeting in Lavonia on March 25th. Mrs. Frost urged a visitation program before the Easter Season and every one present agreed to cooperate with this suggestion. Mrs. Frost also suggested a weekly fellowship meeting for all church members and interested friends. A building fund was discussed which would make possible, at some future time, rest rooms and an assembly room.

Our group accepted an invitation from the Methodist women to hear "Barch Fannin" at their church on March 11th.

Mrs. Nona Pierce presented an inspiring program on Brazil and the work of our missionaries there.

April- The Women of the Church enjoyed having the Methodist women meet with them on April 21st and 27th for a study class led by Mrs. H. H. Hampton of Colbert. She presented the book "The Master Calleth For Thee" by Hosie. The Methodist Guild gave a very beautiful presentation of the women mentioned in the book. They were dressed in native costumes. It was decided to have more of such meetings in the future.

May- Mrs. Turner presented a very stirring program which was on "Our Birthday" and a nice amount was contributed to go for this cause.

June- Plans for a Bible Study were discussed. The program prepared by Mrs. Frost who could not be present was well presented by Mrs. Turner. The subject was "General Fund Family".

July- After an inspiring devotional on "Faith" by Mrs. Frank Martin, a visitor from Carlton Baptist Church, Mrs. Frost gave a program on "Brotherly Love".

August- The Women of the Church planned an open meeting in the near future for all Presbyterian Church women of the county and also interested friends of the church.
The program on "Christian Education" was given by the chairman, Mrs. Frost.

September- No meeting.

October- The Presbyterian Women of Madison County met at the Comer Church for a joint meeting. Each church was well represented. It was voted to make this a quarterly affair. The January meeting was to be at Mt. Hermon Church at Ila, Ga.

Mrs. Hutchins, our Presbyterial president, was present and gave a message in her own charming manner.

Mrs. Scrutchin of the Athens First Church gave the "set-up" of the Women of the Church programs, using a chart to emphasize the various phases of the work. Mrs. G. S. Garrison of Central Church of Athens told of her work as treasurer of the Athens Presbyterial.

Mrs. Hutchins discussed the projects of the Presbyterial for the year.

It was felt that this meeting was a definite step in uniting the churches toward a common goal and of increasing fellowship among all Presbyterian women.

November- The president, Mrs. Long, appointed the nominating committee to secure officers for 1956. Mrs. Turner was asked to prepare a special program by the Sunday School to present Thornwell Orphanage.

December- Officers for 1956 were presented and approved by the Women of the Church.

Plans for submitting annual report were made, also our budget system.

Programs on Stewardship and The Joy Gift were presented by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Turner.

Signed- Mrs. Frank H. Frost
Historian.

Filed at Montreat

Feb. 20, 1956.

I. H. G.

C.W.
Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia
1956

88188

Church History

Pastor: Mr. Tom Barker
Pianist: Mrs. A. Howard Long

Services were held regularly on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Session:

J. Howard Long, Clerk
Walter Long

Leonard Palmer
Henry Gerald Birchmore

Diaconate: None

Additions to Church Roll: None

Deaths: Frank Harold Frost, July 23, 1956

Mr. Frost was a faithful Elder and his passing was a great loss to the church.

Summary

Elder Howard Long attended Presbytery. The Comer Elders met with the Paoli Elders in an effort to find ways by which the two churches might have an ordained minister. They felt that this would increase the membership and strengthen the churches.

Prayer meetings were held on each Wednesday night. Paoli cooperated by attending. A contribution for foreign missions was taken at each meeting.

Communion services were held quarterly. Guest ministers on these occasions were Rev. Cooke Freeman and Rev. Hal Key.

Church School

Regular sessions are held on each Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Average attendance, 12. Teacher is Mrs. Nona Pierce. Officers are:

Superintendent: Mr. J. Howard Long
Secretary: Ohie Sue Smith
Treasurer: Walter Long
Pianist: Mrs. J. R. Turner

Young People's Work

One young person was sent by the Sunday School to the Pioneer Conference.

Filed at Montreat,
Feb. 27 1957

Barbara J. Webster
Historian, W. O. C.
Athens Presbytery

Athens Presbytery
Presbyterian Church
Comer, Georgia
1956

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Women of the Church

Officers:

President	Mrs. J. O. Smith
Vice President	Mrs. Nona Pierce
Secretary	Mrs. J. R. Turner
Treasurer	Mrs. Gerald Birchmore
Historian	Mrs. Frank H. Frost

Committee Chairmen:

Spiritual Growth	Mrs. J. Howard Long and Mrs. Lou Compton
World Missions	Mrs. Nona Pierce
Annuities and Relief	Mrs. J. R. Turner
Stewardship	Mrs. A. J. Griffeth
Christian Education and Church Extension	Mrs. F. H. Frost
General Fund	Mrs. C. J. Porterfield

Programs

January

The annual report was submitted. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Griffeth and Mrs. Compton reported on the county meeting of all Presbyterians held at Ila.

February

Members were urged to attend the District Conference at Elberton on Feb. 23rd. The Georgia Home at Montreat was discussed and contributions sought. World Day of Prayer at Athens Young Harris church discussed.

March

The debt on the Georgia home again discussed and each member urged to give at least \$1.00. Evangelism was theme of program. Spiritual Enrichment week announced for March 25th to March 29th. Blessing Boxes were collected. Mrs. Birchmore agreed to send clothes for the church to the Highland Presbyterian request. Mrs. Frost gave a study and review of "This Revolutionary Faith" by Lloyd Shacklock.

April

Higher Education was the topic. Our group was asked to contribute to Assembly's Training School scholarship fund.

May

Family Night at Paoli was enjoyed by many of our group. Mrs. Turner had the program on the Birthday Objective.

June

General Fund was studied.

July

Mrs. Tom Barker presented the program on "The Christian Home." Women of the Bible were studied.

August

Foreign Missions program

September

The pastor, Tom Barker, gave a very inspirational talk. Benevolent Fund discussed.

October

Athens Presbytery
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October

Faith was the subject stressed. Church Extension was emphasized.

November

Yearly report compiled.

December

"Our Joy Gift" was the subject. Thornwell Orphanage was discussed and a special collection to be taken.

Mrs. Frank H. Frost, Historian

Filed at Montreat, Feb. 27 1957

Barbara J. Webster
Historian, WOC
Athens Presbytery

CHURCH HISTORY

The Rev. Lowell Beach Sykes, Minister

ELDERS: Howard Long, Clerk H.G. Birchmore
 Walter Long L.W. Palmer

ADDITIONS TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We regret there were none.

Transfer to another Church

Mr. and Mrs. John Astor Moon, January 18, 1959 to Calvary
Presbyterian Church, Elberton, Georgia

SUMMARY BY PASTOR

CHURCH

January 1, 1958 - December 31, 1959

The first Sunday in November 1957, I preached at the Comer Presbyterian Church as a student (middler) from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. The congregation then asked that I continue as student supply for the remainder of the school year, preaching two Sundays a month at the Comer Church. We had Sunday School each Sunday morning at Comer Church, and Church services the first and third Sundays at 11:00 A.M. and at 7:00 P.M.

Just before Christmas a new carpet was put down in the sanctuary, which added to the comfort and beauty of the Church, and the interior of the Church was painted.

Soon after the beginning of the new year -- 1958, we organized a choir. Our choir rehearsed on Sunday evenings before the service.

On February 16th the Reverend E Sidney Anderson, Professor from Columbia Theological Seminary, administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

We celebrated Easter Sunday, April 6th, with special choir music and a special worship service which was more liturgical than usual.

About this time the congregation asked me to continue with them through the summer. I was very glad for the opportunity to continue working with such a fine group of Christians. During the summer I preached a series of sermons on the Ten Commandments. The members of the Comer Church joined with the New Hope Church for Wednesday evening prayer meetings at the New Hope Church.

The Reverend Samuel Inman, New Executive secretary of Athens Presbytery, administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in August 1958.

1958
1959

In the fall the congregation requested that I remain as student supply while completing my final year in seminary. About this time different ones began to discuss the possibility of extending me a permanent call.

A new roof was put on the Church before cold weather set in.

At the stated winter meeting of Athens Presbytery the officers of the Comer and New Hope Churches were advised by the Church Extension Committee that together they would be provided with the necessary additional funds to call an ordained minister. Congregational meetings were held in both Churches. They extended me a call, subject to approval by Athens Presbytery. I gladly accepted the call.

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On June 14, 1959, I was ordained and installed as pastor of the New Hope and Comer Churches by a commission of Athens Presbytery. This is the first time in several years that either of these Churches have had an ordained minister.

Through the summer we had a series of sermons from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

The first week in November we had services each night with the Reverend Robert Dobbins, pastor of the First Church in Elberton, as guest preacher. These services were very well attended, and we felt that they were a source of uplift and inspiration for the entire community.

Lowell Beach Sykes, Pastor

Duplicate

Refiled at Mount

May 28, 1967

Nancy Braver

Historian

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The following officers served our organized women during 1958-1959

President	- Mrs. J. O. Smith
Vice President	- Mrs. Howard Long
Secretary	- Mrs. J. R. Turner
Treasurer	- Mrs. Gerald Birchmore
Church Extension and Christian Education	- Mrs. F. H. Frost
Stewardship	- Mrs. A. J. Griffeth
Annunities & Relief	- Mrs. J. R. Turner
World Missions	- Mrs. H. B. Pierce
General Fund Agency	- Mrs. C. J. Porterfield
Spiritual Growth	- Mrs. Howard Long
Historian	- Mrs. F. H. Frost 1958 Mrs. J. R. Turner 1959

During the entire year, the different Cause Secretaries performed their task as best they could. Mrs. A. J. Griffeth was in charge of the clothes for Over-Seas Relief, sponsored by Church World Service and she mailed a package of clothes in August, 1958.

Our entire Church and Community were saddened when Mrs. F. H. Frost told us in January 1959 she had definitely decided to move to Columbus, Georgia. She felt it best that she not stay alone in Comer. We were happy tho' when she said she would remain a member of our Church and continue to support it and the W.O.C.

On March 15, 1959 the Chapel Choir, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia charmed listners who had gathered at Comer Methodist Church for the occasion. Our own Lowell Sykes, Student Pastor of Comer-New Hope Churches, was the director. After the program, the ladies of the two Churches served refreshments to the Group in the Church Annex.

At the April 1959 Meeting of the W.O.C. the ladies "adopted" one of the ladies at Quitman Presbyterian Home, hoping to add a little cheer to her by remembering her with cards, letters and gifts through the year. Our "adopted" one is a member of the Presbyterian Church and a very lovely person.

The W.O.C. were instrumental in getting Miss Martha Little, a missionary on furlough from Brazil, to come to our Church June 3, 1959 for a fellowship hour and a message of her work in Brazil.

On June 14, 1959 Ordination Services for Lowell Sykes were held at New Hope Church. Rev. Sykes had accepted the pastoral office in the Comer-New Hope churches. After the Ordination Services, the entire congregation was invited to the Educational Building, where a delicious picnic supper was served by the ladies of the two Churches. Each member rejoiced at having an ordained minister to lead us once again and to have such a fine person as Lowell Sykes. He and his wife will occupy the home of Mrs. F. H. Frost, who recently moved to Columbus, Georgia.

At the July meeting the ladies of New Hope and Comer Churches surprised our pastor and his wife, Rev. & Mrs. Sykes, with a miscellaneous shower.

On August 20, 1959, Obe Sue Smith, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Smith, and Charles Snelling were united in marriage and on September 3, 1959 the ladies of the Church honored them with a shower at the attractive home of Mrs. Sykes.

Each night during the revival at the Comer Presbyterian Church, November 1 - 5, the visiting pastor, Rev. Robert Dobbins of the First Presbyterian Church, Elberton, Georgia, with Rev. & Mrs. Sykes, were entertained in homes of the W.O.C. There were no new members added to the Church but all received a spiritual blessing.

During the year 1958 our total gifts amounted to \$137.00 and for 1959 total gifts amounted to \$74.60.

We sent \$10.00, 1959 Birthday Offering to go to the Presbyterian Missions in Brazil.

\$17.00 to Thornwell Orphanage; \$15.00 to Rabun Gap School; \$15.00 Joy Gift.

In 1958 we sent \$3.00 to White Cross and in 1959 our Society furnished our quota of 4 large towels and 20 large bath cloths.

We only had one member to attend Athens Presbyterial 1959, which was held at Cornelia Presbyterian Church.

In conclusion, we feel we have accomplished very little the past two years, however, considering the fact that we are so small in number, about 8 active members, and being without a regular pastor until June 1959, it might be said that we perhaps accomplished more than we thought, considering the circumstances.

We sincerely hope and pray that 1960 will be a year in which our Master can say, "Well done, thou good and faithful Servant."

Mary C. Turner
(Mrs. J. R.) Mary C. Turner

Historian, 1958-1959

Filed at Montreat

Barbara J. Webster
Historian, W.O.C.
Athens Presbytery