



VIDALIA  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

1890 - 2024

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## **THE HISTORY OF THE VIDALIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1890-2024**

The religious life of the area in which Vidalia is now located began with the first settlers of this region, which at that time was a part of Montgomery County. The first church was a log cabin structure built by Presbyterians.

"Malcolm McMillan settled about the year 1800 in what was then Montgomery County, pitching his camp near an oak tree on the site of the present town of Vidalia. In the same neighborhood he built his pioneer home. He also erected a Presbyterian house of worship to the pastorate of which his cousin, the Rev. Murphey McMillan, was called." (1) "The Rev. Murphey McMillan subsequently became his son-in-law." (2)

The nineteenth century brought many changes to the area and the church built by Mr. McMillan disappeared. There is no historical record of any other regular Presbyterian preaching in this neighborhood until October 1, 1890. At the request of Mr. Kenneth F. McIntosh, a resident of the Vidalia Community, the Rev. R.E. Steele, Evangelist for the Savannah Presbytery, visited the neighborhood preaching several times. He repeated his visit again in November and it was decided at this time to take immediate steps to organize a church and erect a building. A petition was drawn up and was presented at the fall meeting of the Savannah Presbytery held in Waycross, Georgia, on November 28, 1890. When presented to the Presbytery, it was readily granted.

On the morning of December 18, 1890, the Vidalia Presbyterian Church was organized by the Commission of the Savannah Presbytery consisting of:

The Rev. R.Q. Way, Moderator of Savannah Presbytery

The Rev. R.E. Steele, Evangelist for Savannah Presbytery

The Rev. L.B. Davis, Pastor of the Waycross Presbyterian Church

Elder Elijah McRae of the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church

Elder J.N. Miller of the Hazelhurst Presbyterian Church

(3) Lucien Lamar Knight, Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials and Legends, Volume 1, Page 968.

(4)The Southern Historical Association's, Memoirs of Georgia, Volume 11, Page 576.

The following members of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church were enrolled by the Commission at the time of the organization:

Mr. Kenneth F. McIntosh  
Mr. John McIntosh  
Mr. A.A. McIntosh  
Miss Nancy McIntosh  
Miss Jeannette McIntosh  
Miss S.C. McIntosh  
Miss Lenora McIntosh  
Miss Marnie McIntosh  
Miss Maggie McIntosh  
Mrs. Catherine Morris  
Mr. Phillip McQueen  
Mrs. Jeannette McQueen  
Miss Mary V. McQueen  
Mr. Joseph Brigman

**\*\*Note:** Lenora, Marnie, and Maggie were the daughters of K.F. McIntosh. Lenora married G.L. Moody and was the mother of Norwood Moody.

Immediately following the organizational meeting, a congregational meeting was held and the following actions were taken:

Mr. M.K. McIntosh was elected and ordained as the Ruling Elder;  
A Board of Trustees was elected to hold and control the property of the church;  
A Building Committee was elected to oversee the erection of the church edifice;  
And, arrangements were made by which the church secured the services of one-fourth of the time of Rev. R.E. Steele, effective January 1, 1891.

Beginning in January of 1891 regular Sunday morning worship services were held in the local one-room school house until arrangements could be made for the purchase of a suitable lot on which a new church building could be erected. The minutes of the session meeting dated March 22, 1891, stated: "It was decided not to take up the Presbyterial assessment this year in view of the heavy expenses anticipated by the church for the erection of the church building which are very large just at this time."

On September 26, 1891, the church board of trustees purchased a lot from George N. Mathews located on the southwest corner of Church Street and an unnamed street (later named First Street) for the sum of \$50.00. Upon the purchase of the lot work was immediately begun on the construction of the church edifice. It was a one story frame building built of heart-of-pine lumber, painted white. It was a very plain building with no architectural details other than a large bell tower and steeple. The bell which hung in the belfry was purchased from O.S. Howard and Co., Hillsborough, Ohio, in 1891. The total contract price of the building was \$900.00. Three hundred (\$300.00) of the cost was paid by the Home Mission Committee of Savannah Presbytery and \$600.00 was paid by the congregation.

In a report to the Savannah Presbytery dated March 13, 1892, it was reported: "No Sabbath School - circumstances do not allow it just now. There is a Baptist Sabbath School to which some of our children attend."

However, in the quarterly report to the Presbytery, dated September 30, 1892, it was reported that a Sabbath School had been established with an enrollment of 40 scholars and 5 teachers. Since 1892, the Vidalia Presbyterian Church has provided Sabbath School, later referred to as Sunday school, without interruption even during the dark days of the great depression when the church was without a pastor or a church building.

The minutes of the Session Meeting dated December 8, 1895 are of interest and read as follows: "The session met and was opened with prayer. Present were the Rev. M. McGillivray and Elders K.F. McIntosh and W.J. Poe. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Henry Randolph and his wife (colored) were received from the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church by letter. Their names were enrolled on a separate roll as members of this church. The pastor having resigned this charge, this is the last meeting we have together in this capacity as a session. Minutes read and adopted. Closed with prayer." The Randolphs are listed as the 36th and 37th members entered on the church register.

Times change. Of course, the 60's brought racial changes. Like the rest of America, Vidalia Presbyterian Church congregants had strong feelings and differing learned beliefs. The ultimate outcome was that VPC chose to be open to all. Naturally, there was some discord, but in the 80's a long faithful and beloved member was the first African-American enrolled at VPC with no special designation. This very open-hearted and open minded thinking will be a strength in the future.

From the very beginning of the church the session was active and sincere in carrying out its duties in accordance with the true Scottish tradition. The minutes of the session meeting dated November 11, 1900, read as follows: "on motion, the session was requested to see two members of the church who had been reported for drunkenness." At the session meeting held January 13, 1901, it was reported: "The session had seen and talked with both members and that they had expressed sorrow for their sins and on motion were forgiven by the session."

By the year 1906, the church had grown to the extent that it was self-sufficient and was in a position its missionary status. At the session meeting held on April 9, 1906 the following was recorded: "A motion was ordered that the delegate to the Presbytery inform the Home Mission Committee that we relieve them of any further aid for ministerial support."

Also in 1906, the Sadie Presbyterian Church, located in the Petross Community, was organized by a Commission of the Savannah Presbytery largely through the efforts of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church. During the life of the Sadie church, as well as the Aimwell church, the pastor of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church also served as pastor of these two Presbyterian churches.

Although the Vidalia Presbyterian Church grew slowly during its formative years, its influence and usefulness cannot be questioned. Mr. P.A. McQueen, an Elder of this church and the principal of a one-room school known as the Aimwell School, in 1901 sponsored a Sunday school held in the school building each Sunday at 3:30 p.m. He also sponsored a monthly church service which was conducted by the Rev. Shepherd, pastor of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church. As an outgrowth of his endeavors on the fourth Sunday of October, 1903, the Aimwell Presbyterian Church was

organized by a commission of the Savannah Presbytery with the Rev. Shepherd and Elder McQueen taking part. On September 9, 1944, the church sold its property to the U.S. Government to be used in the construction of an airbase. The school building and the church building were purchased by the Aimwell congregation and the materials were used in the construction of a church building in Lyons, Georgia, which was completed in 1944. On July 29, 1945, the name of the church was changed from the Aimwell Presbyterian to the Lyons Presbyterian Church.

From 1906 until 1917, the church continued its growth. At this point, the pastor of the church was a young man, the Rev. Daniel A. McNeill. At his request, on September 16, 1917, the session granted him an indefinite leave of absence to attend a YMCA army work camp. He did not return to Vidalia and at his request his pastoral relationship was dissolved retroactive to September 16, 1917. During this time while the church was without a pastor, the church members decided that in order to make a call to a new pastor more attractive, the Vidalia church should construct a manse next door to the church building; A building committee was elected and largely through the efforts of the Ladies' Aide, an attractive two- story white frame manse was erected. The minutes of the session meeting dated August 2, 1918 read as follows: "The Session was convened with prayer. The deacons were asked to meet with Session in a joint meeting. The meeting was to have a report from the Manse Committee. The report of same was heard and received and their diligence was heartily commended." While the minutes do not elaborate, the facts were that the manse had been completed at a cost of \$3,000.00 and that the Anderson family was now ensconced in the manse. The Rev. C.O. Martindale was the next pastor to occupy the manse; however, after his resignation in 1928, it was no longer used as a manse but was rented to various individuals until March 5, 1939, when it was leased to a funeral director. It continued to be used as a funeral home until 1958.

September 17, 1924, a congregational meeting was held to consider a proposal for a new church building program and a subscription plan to finance the proposed new church building. The proposal was approved by the congregation and a building committee was elected to select an architect to draw up suitable plans for a new church building. Subsequently, the plans for a new church building were approved by the congregation and at the meeting a finance committee was elected to proceed with the collection of subscriptions and donations. On April 5, 1925, it was reported to the congregation that \$4,000.00 had been collected and deposited in the building fund. On May 24, 1925, a congregational meeting was held and "All save one voted to authorize the building committee to hasten the demolition of the old church building."

Plans were made with the Vidalia City Council to hold worship services and Sunday school in the City Hall Auditorium. Beginning in November of 1925, all church services were held there and the demolition of the old church building was begun. A few months later, the building committee called a congregational meeting to fully discuss the slow progress being made in the demolition of the old church building.

It was reported that inclement weather during the winter months had made demolition extremely slow. It was also reported that the lumber from the old building had been sold to a Negro church and that its members were taking great care in the removal of the timbers. The proceeds from the sale of the lumber was deposited in the building fund in an account with The Georgia State Savings Bank of Vidalia. On July 14, 1926, the bank was ordered closed by the State Department of Banking and the congregation was left without funds, as well as without a church building. However, services continued to be held in the City Auditorium without any interruption. On February 26, 1928, Dr. Martindale tendered his resignation to accept a call to Morgan City, Louisiana.

In a quarterly report to the Savannah Presbytery, the Vidalia Presbyterian Church reported: "During the year April 1, 1925 to March 31, 1926, Vidalia paid on pastor's salary \$1,200.00, Aimwell \$400.00 and Sadie \$100.00." The Sadie church was dissolved in 1946 and the membership roll was transferred to the McGregor Presbyterian Church with some of the members transferring their letters to the Vidalia Presbyterian Church.

On July 1, 1928, the Rev. R.H. Orr began his tenure as pastor of the church coming here from Summerville where he had just completed a very successful building program. He accepted the call fully aware of the financial position of the church and the fact that the congregation was without a church building. He was a man of strong faith and he vowed that a church building would be erected. Only a few months after his arrival came the "Wall Street" crash which signaled the beginning of the great depression. In the difficult times that followed the congregation dwindled to a precious few; however, with the dedication and devotion of the few remaining families, the Rev. Mr. Orr with his faith, patience and dedication, was able to hold the congregation together until it slowly entered into a period of regeneration.

Beginning in January of 1930 the congregation was privileged to hold worship services and Sunday school in the Primitive Baptist Church. At this time the Primitive Baptist Church held eleven o'clock services only on the second and fourth Sundays, which meant the Presbyterians could have eleven o'clock services only on the first, third and fifth Sundays; however, this was a very satisfactory arrangement in that it allowed the Rev. Mr. Orr time to conduct eleven o'clock worship services at the Presbyterian Churches in Aimwell and Sadie where he also served as pastor. Since the Primitive Baptist Church had no Sunday school, the Presbyterians were allowed to have a Sunday school program every Sunday morning. This arrangement continued for a decade.

The dark days of the great depression continued to worsen and in the summer of 1931 the First National Bank in Vidalia was forced to close its door and enter into bankruptcy. Once again, what little money the church had been able to accumulate was lost. In 1934, in order to augment the meager income of the church, the site where the old church building stood was leased to Sinclair Oil Company and a filling station was erected on the vacant lot. In 1958 this building together with the old manse were demolished and a larger and more modern service station was erected. The rental income from this property served the church very well indeed and helped to see it through some very difficult and trying times. By a vote of the congregation this property was sold in October of 1975.

Gradually the economy of the times began to improve and the congregation was slowly increasing. In 1937 the church had grown to the extent that the congregation decided it was time to give consideration to the construction of a new church building. At this time a committee was elected to look for a lot suitable for a church building and to select some plans for the building. On June 8, 1938 the congregation voted to purchase a lot 80' by 150' on the southwest corner of Church and Third Streets.

Architectural plans for the church building were finally approved by the congregation after they had been modified to include a bell tower and a steeple. The reason for the insistence on a bell tower was because the church bell, circa 1890, which hung in the original church building, had been safely stored in a member's barn during the years the church was without a building of its own. Financial arrangements were then completed and the construction of the building was begun in the fall of 1939. The church building was completed in the spring of 1940 and The Rev. Mr. Orr had achieved his goal. Once again, the church bell rang out in celebration of the church's Golden Anniversary.

Having accomplished the goals of having a preacher and a church building, it was time for a manse. At the time the Rev. Mr. Orr came to Vidalia, the manse had been rented, so it was necessary that he rent a house; however, within a short period of time, he purchased his own home. When the Rev. Mr. Nelson arrived, the manse had been leased to a funeral home and it was again necessary to rent housing accommodations for his large family. On February 22, 1948, a congregational meeting was held and the board of deacons recommended that in view of the drastic increase in rent for the house occupied by the minister that consideration be given to the purchase of an existing dwelling or the construction of a new manse. After due consideration, the congregation voted to purchase the dwelling located on the northwest corner of Jackson and Fourth Streets. This property continued to serve as the manse until a new manse construction program was undertaken in 1958. On March 15, 1958, a lot located on Center Drive was purchased by the church and the construction of the new manse was begun. The construction of the manse was completed in 1959 and was first occupied by the Ribble family in November of 1959.

After celebrating its "Golden Anniversary" in the newly constructed church building, the membership roll of fifty-six more than doubled during the next decade. As the result, while the sanctuary still provided adequate seating room, the Sunday school rooms became woefully inadequate. To relieve this crowded condition an additional sixty-foot parcel adjoining the rear of the church property was purchased and on January 18, 1954 and the construction of a new educational building was begun. It is interesting to note that Mrs. L.G. Moody, then the only surviving charter member, laid the cornerstone. The educational building was completed in June and a dedication service was held on Sunday, July 4, 1954. On September 30, 1981, the church purchased an additional two-hundred-foot parcel adjoining the rear of the educational building and today the church property extends from Church Street to Jackson Street.



At the end of the first hundred years the Vidalia Presbyterian Church found itself in a strong enough position for the Centennial Committee to proudly reflect that “after one hundred years of service, the church continues its efforts to fulfill the hopes and dreams envisioned by its founders. As it enters into the next centennial years, it has a firm foundation and is well organized. The congregation is very alert to and supportive of the needs of the church; the session is strong and functions smoothly; worship through music as rendered by the choir is very meaningful; the women of the church have a very strong and active organization; the young people of the church have a very outstanding and enriching program; and under the direction and guidance of the minister, the Reverend Doctor Vaughn J. (Jay) Warthen, Jr., who is a young, energetic and dynamic individual, the church is in an excellent position to continue its mission.

In the early part of the second century of the church continued to thrive. A membership high of 258 was reached. Missions, service and outreach continued and active support expanded.

In the 1990's the church went through a process to determine the future of the church building. The membership created the Faith and Futures committee, who determined, through a series of congregational focus groups, what the church needed to be doing and what role the building would play in doing it. The members decided that they would renovate the church with the stipulations that the church would not move from its present location and would not be altered from the architect's original intention. The plan was then set in motion.

In addition to planning out the venture, the congregation raised the money for the project in record time. In just a 30-day campaign the church members raised \$260,000, a remarkable achievement for a church of 250 members.

While the church was being remodeled services were held in the chapel of Stewart's Funeral Home.\* Also, the house at 402 Church Street was purchased to be used as the church office.

A milestone in church history is the decision to allow women to serve in positions of leadership. On February 11, 1968, Mrs. T.D. Lamb (Katherine) Lamb, Jr., was ordained as the first female deacon. On December 31, 1972, Mrs. John (Gladys) Wise was ordained as the first female elder.

A reading of the minutes of the session reveal an interesting pattern of the trend toward the more modern, casual way of life. In the minutes the lady deacons begin to be listed by their given names instead of their husbands' names.

At the meeting on April 23, 1989 the congregational care committee recommended and the session approved that plastic utensils be used for the children in order to free up more silverware. Interestingly, there is no record of the total move to plastic and paper, such practices being the norm and not worthy of discussion nowadays.

\*Taken from “Vidalia Presbyterian Under Construction”, The Vidalia Advance; March 5, 1997; by Doy Cave.

After this successful period, VPC began facing increasingly difficult times. Reflecting the overall decreasing church attendance for all American denominations, VPS's membership has declined. A Presbyterian Survey reported that, from 1987 to 2021, PC USA attendance declined 58%. There are many factors causing this decline. Some of those include that American congregations are aging; There is a general skepticism of institutions; Increasing numbers of Americans have no religious affiliation and never attend church; and COVID hit all churches hard. And ours was no different.

All churches and all denominations have been affected by the general decrease in attendance. The size of the Vidalia church was also reduced by the first ever split in the church. (Presbyterian Church in the U.S., historically known as the Southern Church, and United Presbyterian Church, historically northern, split in 1861 before our church was formed). They reunited 1983 to create PC USA.

In October of 2014 VPC Town Hall meetings began. According to the Session minutes, the Town Hall meetings included voting on (1) Divestment of Israel; (2) Gay marriage; and (3) Finances.

On March 8, 2015, the congregation voted to enter into a discernment process. The session voted to enter into the discernment process outlined in the Savannah Presbytery Reconciliation and Dismissal Policy. The Discernment team began to meet August 18, 2015. The ultimate outcome was that many members left to go to other churches, greatly reducing the membership further.

Vidalia Presbyterian Church has had a long and strong history. As the church faces the struggles ahead they remember the small beginning and the long line of workers who have brought us this far, keeping the church going in the face of hardships almost unimaginable to modern congregants such as no church building, no preachers, and even two bank failures. Their perseverance and strength are a fine example for us.

Our church still has a firm foundation and is well organized. The communicants, while few in number, are strong in spirit. As we draw on our great heritage God will give us strength to face our future, whatever form that may take. We must remain open to all comers and be open to new understandings of what constitutes a church and its service/ministry. We can move forward with resolve and the hope that the church can stay alive to continue its ministry to the glory of God.

Remembering our small beginning and the long line of faithful workers who have brought us thus far, we dedicate our prayers to our great heritage and to the future with the hope that during the next one hundred years our church will continue its ministry to the glory of God.

*Written by Wm. Bennett Austin, 1990*

*Adapted and updated by the Homecoming/History Committee, 2024*



FROM THIS  
HUMBLE  
BEGINNING

TO TODAY'S  
MODERN  
CHAPEL



ENGLISH EDDY

PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL

U.S. #1 HIGHWAY SOUTH

Mrs. Frances Mann Dennis was a mother who cared. She felt the need for a Sunday school in the English Eddy Community. The English Eddy Chapel - the only Presbyterian chapel in Toombs County - was organized largely as the result of her concern.

Mrs. Dennis approached the Rev. Mr. H.R. Orr, who was then the pastor of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church, with the idea that a chapel be organized. With Mrs. Dennis' enthusiasm

and with the approval of the session of the Vidalia church, the Rev. Mr. Orr assisted Mrs. Dennis by laying out some guidelines and helping to shape future plans.

An old abandoned commissary building, formerly owned by Mrs. Dennis' father, Henry Mann, was restored for use as a chapel. The old building even looked somewhat like a church building in that it had a steeple and a bell; however, the bell rope hung down the outside of the steeple since its use was for the convenience of customers to ring in order to summon the owner from the fields, business not being brisk enough to warrant a full-time clerk. Benches, made of rough-hewn boards and placed on wooden blocks, were added to the building. A new roof was added and consisted of boards sawn from logs taken from Trask Lake. This was the setting of the first home of the English Eddy Chapel. The site of the original chapel was on Georgia State Highway 107.

On Mother's Day, 1934, Sunday school was officially begun. Mr. Jennings Dennis was elected the first Sunday school superintendent. The Rev. Mr. Orr and Elder Coite Somers represented the Vidalia Presbyterian Church at the opening service. Gradually the building was improved with the addition of new pews and Sunday school rooms. Kerosene lamps were added to provide light.

For twenty years church services, Sunday school, Bible school and one formal wedding were held at the old site. During the pastorate of the Rev. Ewell Nelson in Vidalia, plans were made for a new chapel. Planning began in 1952. A new site was given by the Dennis family on U.S. No. 1 and the new building was constructed there. The present church building contains a sanctuary, Sunday school rooms, and a small fellowship hall. Adjacent to the new building is a church cemetery. The dedication of the new building was held on Mother's Day, 1954.

Every year Homecoming is held on this date. The Mother's Day service is always followed by dinner on the grounds with fun and fellowship for all. The chapel has Church Services on the second and fourth Sundays at 9:00 a.m., followed by Sunday school, which meets every Sunday. The Vidalia Presbyterian Church continues to provide pastoral services to the English Eddy Chapel.

From its humble beginnings have come loyal officers and members of the Presbyterian Church. Indeed today, one who grew up in the shadows of this chapel, went on to become a minister in the Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. He continued his post graduate studies at the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, and earned his doctorate from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois. He is none other than the Rev. J. Richard Bass, the General Presbyter of the Savannah Presbytery. His mother, Mrs. J.H. Bass, is still an active member of the chapel.

This brief history of the English Eddy Chapel was compiled from church records and an article written by the Rev. Mr. Bert C. Swearingen in 1980.

The English Eddy Presbyterian Charter was dissolved September 19, 2017. Some members of English Eddy went together and bought the property from Savannah Presbytery, and it became English Eddy Church.

In 2019, the English Eddy Chapel edifice was threatened with demolition due to widening US Highway #1. While no longer a Presbyterian Church, much of the congregation had originally been members of the Presbyterian Church, and they and many others of the community began a successful campaign to save the church. In 2020 a mover was found and the church was moved to the top of the hill. A black iron fence protects the graveyard and enhances the appearance of the church as it rest comfortably at the new site.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
OF THE  
VIDALIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The roll of charter members of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church contained fourteen members, of which nine were women. Since the inception of the church in 1890, the women of the church have been active in "weaving the fabric of faith"(I) for the members of the church.

The first recorded women's formal organization was called the "Ladies Aide." There is no record of the date this society was officially organized, but there are records that it was in existence in 1917. It was largely through the efforts of the Ladies' Aide, together with their donation that the first manse was erected. Mrs. J.W. (Jennie)Poe was the first president of this organization.

Two years later, in 1919, the name of the ladies' organization was changed to the Missionary Society. Mrs. B.R. Anderson, wife of the pastor, was the first president of this organization and this group lost its hard earned monies in a bank failure.

In 1928, the women of the church were once again renamed and became the Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. W.L. (Doots)Oliver was the first president of this organization.

During the life of the Woman's Auxiliary, the women of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church were actively involved in the Savannah Presbytery Woman's Auxiliary. The Vidalia Woman's Auxiliary provided two presidents of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Savannah Presbytery; Mrs. Ober D. (Inez) Warthen, who served from 1932 to 1935, and Mrs. Frank (Louise) Rowald, who served from 1935 to 1936 to 1939.

In addition to serving as president of the Woman's Auxiliary of Savannah Presbytery, Mrs. Warthen also served as president of the Woman's Work Committee of the Synod of Georgia from 1938 to 1937 and as secretary of the Women's Committee, Presbyterian Church U.S.

The year 1933 brought about another change in the name of the women's organization when it was renamed "Women of the Church." Mrs. Frank (Louise) Rowald served as the first president. During the era of the women of the church, Mrs. John C. (Evelyn) Meadows served as secretary of the Women of the Church of the Synod of Georgia.

The Vidalia Presbyterian Church entered into a new era in 1968 when Mrs. T.D. (Katherine) Lamb was ordained as the first woman deacon. Then 1973, Mrs. John (Gladys) Wise was ordained as the first woman elder. Since then there have been many women serving as officers in the church.

The most recent name change in the organization which originated as the Ladies' Aide, then the Women of the Church, came in 1988 when the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches combined and the organization is now known as the "Presbyterian Women." Mrs. H.M. (Marica) Suber is currently serving as the first president of this organization.

In addition to the women mentioned above, the Vidalia Presbyterian Church has been represented in many capacities by dedicated women on both the District and Presbytery levels.

The women of the church have been involved in the "weaving of the fabric of faith" in their association with the youth; serving as the vast majority of Sunday school teachers; leaders and teachers in the vacation Bible schools; leaders of the Presbyterian Youth fellowships; Sunday school superintendents; secretaries, treasurers, and of course, cooks and housekeepers.

The organized Presbyterian Women have been diligent in attempting to provide items which contribute to the comfort, beauty and convenience of the church facilities, manse and grounds of both. A few of the projects accomplished by the women's organizations of the church include: a donation towards the construction of the first manse; yearly gifts to the Johanna W.H. Bos, minister's family; handmade communion cloths; markers for the pulpit Bible; stage curtain for fellowship hall; draperies for the fellowship hall; window treatments for the manse; appliances for church kitchens and manse; needlepoint covers for the alter chairs; communion chair; new cushions for the pews; window shutters for the sanctuary; a new brass chandelier; contribution toward choir robes, and shrubbery for grounds and manse.

The executive board of the PW followed the former Women of the Church, which was very structured and organized. The board consisted of president, president elect, vice president, secretary, treasurer, committee chairs and circle leaders. They met monthly, just as the morning and evening circles, to stay up-to-date with correspondence to and from our presbytery organization and to pass information along concerning projects, Thornwell Orphanage needs, upcoming events, and needs of the church (example: new flooring and making Crismons for the sanctuary Christmas tree).

While the women became more involved as session members and the number of women elders increased, the attendance in our Presbyterian Women organization decreased and, now, no longer exists. However, the dedicated women of the Vidalia Presbyterian Church from 1890 until the present date will always be remembered for their contribution in "weaving the fabric of faith" in the church-wide programs.

- (1) Johanna W.H. Bos, Weaving the Fabric of Faith, a Bible Study for the Women of the Church 1985-1986.

## THE CHOIR OF THE VIDALIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### THE HOMEWARD WAY

"In the way our fathers trod,  
Homeward we are going;  
Feet with gospel sandals shod,  
Heart with rapture glowing –  
Over hills and through vales,  
By God's grace that never fails.  
Homeward, homeward going,  
singing all the way;  
God's own hand is leading  
on to the perfect day."

These words from a favorite hymn were often sung by early church members from their first official Hymnbook: **SONGS OF HOPE**. (1)

### **Songs of Hope**

**A collection of Gospel songs, Standard hymns, and Scripture readings, for use in the Bible School, Youth gatherings, Missionary meetings, and all informal services, the noble hymns of the decades especially fitting it to serve the needs of Sunday Morning Worship.**

As in the words of the above hymn, the hymnbook's preface also attests to the belief that "Christianity must continue to be "the Singing Religion."

And singing has surely played an important role in the services from the early days of establishment of this church, through the difficult transitional days of the country's depression, even until the present possibly our finest in terms of musical development. The time of the growth and earliest success in our church music program was probably during the 1940's and 50's under the direction and guidance of Mrs. Frank (Katherine) Jenkins. Her position and abilities as the first church organist, as well as her unfailing commitment and loving patience with children, continued to make our church's choir programs greatly sought after by members of the community.



With Mrs. Jenkins continuing to serve as organist and director of the youth choir, in the early 1950's, Mrs. Coite (Tyra) Somers became the adult choir director. Mrs. Somers brought a very serious and disciplined approach to the adult choir, banning smiles and jewelry from the choir loft! Also during this time, the addition of a great new organ was accomplished in 1965; a gift from an anonymous donor.

(1) Songs of Hope. Published by Hope Publishing Company, 1892.

Several short-term adult choir directors followed Mrs. Somers, and Mrs. Jenkins retired in 1977. Later that year, Mrs. Daniel (Rebecca) Smelser became the adult choir director. Her personal abilities and high standards and expectations have brought our church choir to perhaps some of its best and most meaningful performances. Mrs. Smelser, along with Mrs. D.P. (Sarah) Montford, presently directs the youth choir programs with the assistances of Mrs. Emory (Marge) Davis and Ms. Angela Cloud.

For the past few years our organist has been Mrs. Montford. She works closely with Mrs. Smelser on both adult and youth choir programs. The Vidalia Presbyterian Church is indeed fortunate to have two such talented and devoted musicians involved in our music ministries.

From the fall of 1990 to the spring of 2004, Jenni Darby Thompson (daughter of Lloyd and Loretta Darby) directed the Children's Choirs. Under her leadership, the children sang in our worship services, played handchimes, and performed in Christmas musicals. During this time the choir program involved many children from our church as well as from the community, involving as many as 35 children and youth.

From the fall of 2007 to the spring of 2010, Susan Freeman Eernisee was the director of the Children's Choirs. The children and Ms. Eernisee were a vital part of the worship at Vidalia Presbyterian Church performing for special occasions in the church and community all while learning the importance of music in their lives and in the church.

In March of 2018, Rebecca Smelser, Director of Music for over 41 years, retired from the church and moved to Florida to be near her daughter Judith. A retirement reception was held in her honor, and the choir room where she provided leadership for so many years was then named the "Rebecca Smelser Choir Room."

Another factor that has contributed to excellence through the years in our church music has been the attendance for many summers at the music conferences at Montreat (North Carolina). By doing this, our music leaders have kept pace with new music, musical trends and directions, and Montreat's high standards in church music programs. Mrs. Smelser attended the Montreat Worship and Music conference for the last time with Mrs. Montford in June of 2018.

Mrs. Smelser passed away on June 8, 2024, and a Celebration of Life Service was held at the Vidalia Presbyterian Church on June 29, 2024. Her daughter Judith gave a moving tribute to her mom and many stories highlighting her adventures and accomplishments. Former pastors Kevin Hicks and Jay Warthen paid homage to her years of service to our church and community, and a

mass choir made up of her former students and choir members from all over the state joined together to celebrate her life and legacy.

On December 16, 2018, the Adult Choir joined with the Vidalia First United Methodist Church (now known as Vidalia Cornerstone Church) for the first joint Christmas Cantata “There’s a Song in the Air.” This joint Christmas celebration has become a tradition for the choirs and incorporates orchestra, pipe organ and piano accompaniment as well as singers from the community.

Another musical tradition in the church is the annual Christmas caroling in the community. This tradition has been a favorite of old and young alike and enables the singers to reach out to those who are not able to attend church on a regular basis. At the conclusion of the caroling, the singers congregate at the home of Angela Cloud for food and fellowship. Mrs. Cloud and her family have hosted this gathering for well over 30 years.

[Add edits and most recent history by Sarah Montford).

## **THE PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

The exact date of the organization of our youth fellowship group is not known, but the first reference to such an organization was in 1917. It was reported in an advertisement in the Vidalia Telephone Directory the Junior Christian Endeavor Society meets every Sunday at 4:00 P.M.

On April 6, 1927, it was reported in the minutes of the session meeting that the Junior Christian Endeavor Society had enrollment of 12 boys and 13 girls. It met every Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

During the next sixty-plus years, this group has continued to exist in one form or another. The name of the organization has evolved to the Presbyterian Youth Fellowship, and this group continues to be very active, sponsoring a variety of church-wide events such as an annual talent show and spaghetti supper, a Halloween Carnival, Christmas caroling and helping with the Easter Egg Hunt. Annually, the Presbyterian Youth Fellowship has a Lock-in, a Polaroid Scavenger Hunt, a trip to Six Flags, and progressive suppers, all of which generate much interest and enthusiasm. They conduct the Sunday morning worship service once a year, take recreational trips using the church's van, and have fund raising projects such as spaghetti dinners and ice cream socials to help support both their activities and special projects for the church. Among their projects for the church are included donating over \$300 toward the purchase of the church van, purchasing speakers, and donating \$650 toward a basketball court. The group sends representatives to the Montreat Youth Conference during the summer and often sends the largest group to the Presbytery rallies and retreats. Our church has also been represented on the Presbytery level by Presbyterian Youth Fellowship members who serve terms as members of the Savannah Presbytery Youth Council Advisors.

Our Presbyterian Youth Fellowship began its most recent growth with the beginning of the 1980's. The group has doubled in size from 18 members in 1983 to 36 members in 1989.

Mr. Edwynn McDaniel became involved with the youth in the late 1970's. In the early 1980's he encouraged one of our college students, Freddy Thompson, to begin working with the youth on the weekends that he made it home. This led to Freddy becoming our sole youth fellowship leader from 1983-1986. After marriage, Freddy and his wife Lynn continued to lead our youth until the birth of their first child.

During their tenure as youth leaders they met every Sunday. Freddy encouraged church participation by distributing a newsletter once a month. He and Lynn also bravely ventured in to trip to Six Flags with Mr. McDaniel driving the bus, Presbytery summer camps at Hilton Head, and even a trip to Disney World around 1984.

After Freddy Thompson and his wife Lynn gave up the leadership of the PYF, Pastor Jay Warthen and Julia Musgrove began working together with the group. We met on Sundays at 6:00 PM. Parents alternated providing a meal each week (pizza, hot dogs, spaghetti, tacos, sub- sandwiches, etc., all the things teenagers like!). They planned the activities which included fun things like bowling, skating, movies, and game nights. But we also had programs with speakers who talked with the group about serious issues like health and wellness, drugs, alcohol, peer pressure, education, current events. It was amazing the interest and discussion these topics provoked among the kids.

PYF sponsored two major fundraisers during the year: a Halloween Carnival for the younger children and a Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show in which all church members were encouraged to participate. At first, those funds were used for PYF activities, but later the group decided to use the money for church and community projects. They would vote on a particular project and invite the recipient to meet with them to receive the check. William Ledford would always send a photographer from the Advance to take their picture for an article in the paper. Some of those recipients included the church van and basketball court, local library, the Altama Gallery, and SOAPS (Sweet Onion Animal Protection Society). These were forward thinking kids and later they came up with the idea of using the funds for a more permanent use: a scholarship to be awarded to a student at STI or STC as it is known now. They spent quite some time that year deciding on the requirements, who should make the decision among the applicants, etc. One thing that was very important to them was that they get to meet the recipient in person. And so it was decided that in May on Youth Sunday, the scholarship, would be presented.

This scholarship was later named The Julia P. Musgrove scholarship in honor of Mrs. Musgrove's dedication to the youth of the church and her focus on Christian love, education, and care for our youth.

During PYF's entire history, there were lots of fun activities. We had back to school and PYF pool parties each year, hayrides and bonfires in the fall, attended the community – wide Thanksgiving services at various churches, visited the local Catholic Church and Jewish Synagogue to learn about and respect other religions, sent Christmas cards to the local nursing homes, went Christmas shopping at the mall, Super Bowl Parties which included the collection of food for the local food bank, attended various camps provided by Presbytery, went on ski trips in the winter, to the beach and Six Flags in spring, helped with the annual Easter egg hunt, and ended the year with Youth Sunday, the church picnic at the park with its famous baseball game, and finally an end-of-the-year pool party.

Sometimes when PYFers became old enough to drive, they had a tendency to drop out of the group. Asked if they thought the graduating class of 1995 which was the largest grade group that we had would do that, they said “No, we all like to have too much fun to drop out.” And so they stayed. When that group graduated, they were all honor graduates and went on to have productive lives and careers. For the kids and the leaders during this period, we all had many wonderful memories.

MINISTERS OF THE VIDALIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<b>NAME</b>	<b>RECORD OF SERVICE</b>
The Rev. R.E. Steele	Jan. 1, 1891 – Dec. 31, 1891
The Rev. L.B. Davis	March 1, 1892 - Nov. 11, 1892
The Rev. D.F. Sheppard	June 8, 1893 - Sept. 10, 1893
The Rev. M. McGillivray	Dec. 10, 1893 – Dec. 8, 1895
The Rev. Charles Montgomery	Nov. 1, 1896 – Jan. 14, 1900
The Rev. D.F. Sheppard	April 1, 1900 – May 12, 1906
The Rev. Charles Montgomery	March 18, 1909 – Apr. 26, 1916
The Rev. Daniel A. McNeill	Feb. 17, 1917 – Sept. 16, 1917
The Rev. B.R. Anderson	June 1, 1918 – Feb. 28, 1923
The Rev. C.O. Martindale	April 1, 1924 – Feb. 26, 1928
The Rev. R.H. Orr	July 1, 1928 – Oct. 31, 1941
The Rev. Ewell Nelson	April 1, 1942 – Nov. 30, 1952
The Rev. John Haley	Jan. 15, 1953 – March 11, 1956
The Rev. David A. Bowles	Aug. 5, 1956 – March 11, 1956
The Rev. Richard B. Ribble	Nov. 1, 1959 – June 30, 1963
The Rev. William Crosland, Jr	Oct. 1, 1963 – June 26, 1967
The Rev. Lawrence E. Durr	July 1, 1967 – July 31, 1970

The Rev. Richard B. Ribble	Sept. 1, 1970 – April 30, 1974
The Rev. Bert C. Swearingen	Jan. 15, 1975 – June 30, 1987
The Rev. Dr. Vaughn J. Warthen, Jr.	July 1, 1988 – March 28, 2004
The Rev. Kevin Hicks	August 13, 2005 – December 24, 2015
The Rev. Russell Gladding	December 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024

## REGISTER OF ELDERS

1890 – 2024

Kenneth F. McIntosh	12-18-1891
Walter J. Poe	06-08-1893
P.A. McQueen	06-08-1893
S. A. McColskey	10-11-1903
James Walker	10-11-1903
John W. Poe	06-03-1904
J. E. Auld	06-10-1917
E. B. Carnes	06-10-1917
H. L. Cromartie	12-05-1920
G. G. Perry	03-21-1928
W. A. Jones	11-17-1929
L. G. Moody	11-17-1929
L. M. McLemore	11-17-1929
S. H. O'Neal	12-03-1939
O. D. Warthen	12-03-1939
Norwood Moody	03-27-1944
H. L. Archer	04-27-1947
W. Coite Somers	04-27-1947
G. H. Achenbach	03-27-1955
J. B. Brown	03-27-1955
G. H. Gibson	03-27-1955
C. C. Somers, Sr.	03-27-1955
John C. (Jack) Meadows	03-27-1955
Julian Clark	12-10-1961
Lawrence Kennard	12-10-1961
John Clifford Davis, Sr.	01-13-1963
Henry B. Davis, Sr.	01-26-1964

Edca Blount	01-26-1964
Wade Chesser	07-25-1965
Bob Henderson	07-25-1965
Dr. Henry DeJarnette	07-25-1965
S. G. Dickerson	03-13-1966
Hugh Cromartie	03-13-1966
James Otis Davis, Sr.	03-13-1966
Gaston Wilkes	02-05-1967
Fred Dennis, Sr.	01-14-1968
S. Bennett Austin	01-12-1969
Ray T. Blount	01-12-1969
Charles Somers, Jr.	01-12-1969
Alex Odom	02-01-1970
Woodrow McIntyre	02-01-1970
W. E. Gene Kohen	01-17-1971
Dr. Lloyd H. Darby, III	01-09-1972
Mrs. John (Gladys) Wise	12-31-1972
Tom Lovelace	12-31-1973
Reginald Holland	03-16-1975
W. C. (Bill) Somers, Jr.	03-16-1975
Mrs. W. H. (Martha) Bedingfield	01-11-1976
Mrs. R. H. (Mary) DeJarnette	01-11-1976
Judson C. Killian	01-11-1976
Oliver Whipple	01-11-1976
Charley Achenbach	12-26-1976
Larry McDonald	12-26-1976
E. Kay Stafford, Sr.	12-26-1976
Mrs. Woodrow (Lessa) McIntyre	01-08-1978
Craig Wilkes (now The Rev. Mr. Wilkes)	01-08-1978



Mrs. W. L. (Doots) Oliver	01-14-1979
Mrs. M. C. (Mary Baker) Rice	01-14-1979
J. Randall Thompson	01-14-1979
Mrs. J. E. (Frances) Mercer	01-14-1979
E. Kay Stafford, Jr.	09-23-1979
J. Edwynn McDaniel	12-30-1979
Donald F. Webber	12-30-1979
William Emory Davis	12-28-1980
Louis M. Tiller	12-28-1980
Mrs. A. E. (Sally) Coleman	12-27-1981
Wesley D. Luhn, III	12-27-1981
James Otis Davis, Jr.	01-09-1983
James A. Thompson	01-09-1983
Mrs. George (Dorothy) Williams	01-09-1983
Daniel J. McSwain	12-04-1983
John C. Matheson	12-04-1983
Donald F. Weber	12-04-1983
Mrs. Dennis (Quinelle) Sikes	01-06-1985
Archie Lobrovich	01-06-1985
Massie H. McIntyre	12-15-1985
Dr. H. M. Suber	12-15-1985
James D. (Jimmy) Musgrove	12-15-1985
Mrs. Henry (Martha) Davis	01-04-1987
Mrs. John (Helen) Payne	01-04-1987
William (Freddy) Thompson	01-04-1987
Thomas C. Meredith	01-17-1988
Arthur Glenn Mixon	01-17-1988
Charles C. Cook	01-15-1989
John C. Davis, Jr.	01-15-1989

Cleon McIntyre	01-15-1989
Mrs. Oliver (Rozanne) Whipple	01-15-1989
Stan Hodgin	01-14-1990
Mrs. John (Cindy) Riddles	01-14-1990
A.J. Morris	01-20-1991
J. Guyton Branch	01-20-1991
Robert T. (Bert) Driggers	01-12-1992
Howard Kaufold	01-12-1992
Kenneth Sisson	01-12-1992
William E. Bedingfield	01-10-1993
Marcia Suber	01-10-1993
Debbie Clifton	01-09-1994
Otha Dixon	01-09-1994
Richard Thompson	01-09-1994
Peter Wells	01-09-1994
Howard Hill	01-14-1996
Mary McIntyre	01-14-1996
Mary Louise Willcox	01-14-1996
Julia P. Musgrove	01-19-1996
Hal W. Chesser	01-11-1998
F. Geoffrey Conner	01-11-1998
John Riddles	01-11-1998
Vicki D. Mixon	01-19-1999
John Payne	01-19-1999
Marvin McIntyre	01-19-1999
Rob Hilton	01-09-2000
Dobbie Thompson	01-09-2000
Dr. Joe Rutz	01-14-2001
Sue Williams	01-14-2001

John Achenbach	1-14-2001
Joseph Rutz	1-14-2001
Rick Thompson	1-14-2001
Mike Jones	1-13-2002
Guy Branch	1-13-2002
Emory Davis	1-13-2002
Cathy Bondurant	1-12-2003
Charles Page	1-12-2003
H. Ben Davis	1-11-2004
Mary Rutz	1-11-2004
Melba Claxton	1-09-2005
Lynn Addison	2-05-2006
Charles (Chuck) Bondurant	1-21-2007
Robert DeJarnette, III	1-21-2007
Bartlett (Bart) Davis	1-11-2008
Lisa Chesser	1-11-2008
Doug Roper	1-11-2010
Karen Hilton	1-11-2010
Howard Holman	1-10-2010
Glenn Goode	1-09-2011
Charles Lane	1-16-2011
Mike Hagan	1-16-2011
Garrett Wilcox	1-08-2012
Jill O. Conner	1-08-2012
Gwynn M. Colvin	1-13-2013
Linda Page	1-17-2016
Elizabeth K. Wilkes	1-17-2016
Blythe M. Wilcox	1-17-2016
Elizabeth (Leba) Goode	1-17-2016

Mile Walton	1-08-2017
Jack Downie	1-08-2017
Nancy Zeigler	1-08-2017
Sarah Foerster	1-28-2018
Barbara Hill	1-27-2019
Jimmy Wilbanks	1-27-2019
Angela Cloud	1-19-2020
Pat Dixon	1-19-2020
Kyle Montford	1-17-2021
Kelly W. Brand	1-17-2021
Ethan Gray	1-15-2022
Carolyn (Cissy) Alderman	2-13-2022
Angela Lane	2-13-2022
Michael Brand	1-28-2024

## REGISTER OF DEACONS

1890 – 1975

John W. Poe	06-08-1893
James Brigman	06-08-1893
John L. McIntosh	10-11-1903
L. F. Moody	06-16-1908
Hal Cromartie	03-26-1911
W.A. Jones	12-05-1920
I.J. Harrell	12-05-1920
Mark McLemore	12-05-1920
S. V. Anderson	12-05-1920
O. D. Warthen	04-01-1928
W. C. Somers, Sr.	04-01-1928
Norwood Moody	11-17-1929
S. H. O'Neal	11-17-1929
J. B. Brown	12-03-1939
H. C. Harris	12-03-1939
John C. (Jack) Meadows	12-03-1939
C.C. Somers, Sr.	12-03-1939
Gilbert H. Gibson	02-21-1943
D. J. McSwain	02-21-1943
W.P. Pickett	03-27-1944
G. H. Achenbach	04-27-1947
S. B. Davis	04-27-1947
Alton Coleman	04-27-1947
Woodrow McIntyre	04-27-1947
T. D. Lamb, Jr.	04-27-1947
Billie P. Gelzer	05-04-1947
Roy Peterson	05-04-1947

Edca Blount	05-17-1953
Julian Clark	05-17-1953
Bill Cullens	05-17-1953
James Otis Davis, Sr.	05-17-1953
Sidney Dickerson	05-17-1953
Lawrence Kennard	05-17-1953
Alex Odom	05-17-1953
W. C. Somers, Jr.	05-17-1953
Henry McArthur	05-17-1953
Bascom Mehaffey	05-17-1953
Wade Chesser	12-10-1961
Robert T. Henderson	12-10-1961
Odette Clark	01-13-1963
Dale Langston	01-13-1963
Fred Peterson	01-13-1963
George Lennon Wilkes	01-13-1963
S. Bennett Austin	01-26-1964
John C. Meadows, Jr.	01-26-1964
Charles C. Somers, Jr.	01-26-1964
Gaston Wilkes	01-26-1964
Jack Ford	07-25-1965
C. O. Campbell	07-25-1965
Hugh Cromartie	07-25-1965
Kay Stafford, Sr.	07-25-1965
Dr. W. H. Bedingfield, Sr.	03-13-1966
Ray T. Blount	03-13-1966
Reginald Holland	03-13-1966
Cleon McIntyre	03-13-1966
Austin B. Williams	03-13-1966

Dr. Lloyd H. Darby, III	02-05-1967
M. R. Rockett	02-05-1967
Bill Kirby	01-14-1968
Charles M. Kuhn	01-14-1968
W. R. (Bob) Thompson	01-14-1968
Mrs. T. D. (Katherine) Lamb, Jr.	02-11-1968
Warren Jenkins	01-12-1969
C. Lee McRae	01-12-1969
Mrs. H. S. (Millie) Vandiver	01-12-1969
Mrs. John (Gladys) Wise	01-12-1969
Billy Cullens	02-01-1970
James D. Faulkner	02-01-1970
Tom Lovelace	02-01-1970
Clyde Roberson	02-01-1970
Bruce Caldwell	02-14-1970
Larry McDonald	09-14-1972
Mrs. W. L. (Doots) Oliver	01-09-1972
Mrs. W. C. (Mary Baker) Rice	01-09-1972
Kay Stafford, Jr.	01-09-1972
Mrs. D. J. (Yeteva) McSwain	12-31-1973
Dr. R. H. DeJarnette	12-31-1973
J. Randall Thompson	12-31-1973
Judson C. Killian	03-06-1975
Oliver Whipple	03-06-1975

**“Unicameral” System established 1-1-1976**

### **REGISTER OF CLERKS OF SESSION**

Those who have served as Clerks of Session are as follows:

Mr. K.F. McIntosh

Mr. Walter J. Poe

Mr. H.L. Cromartie

Mr. W.A. Jones

Mr. Norwood Moody

Mr. Clifford Davis

Mr. Oliver Whipple

Mrs. Woodrow (Lessa) McIntyre

Mrs. Dennis (Quinelle) Sikes

Mr. Garrett Wilcox

Mr. Howard Hill

Mrs. Karen Hilton (2013)

Mrs. Blythe Wilcox

Mrs. Carolyn (Cissy) Alderman



### REGISTER OF TRUSTEES

Those who have served as Trustees are as follows:

Mr. W.A. McIntosh

Mr. William Morris

Mr. J.W. Wardlaw

Mr. J.W. Poe

Mr. W.A. McColsky

Mr. W.A. Jones

Mr. L.M. McLemore

Mr. O.D. Warthen

Mr. W. Coite Somers, Sr.

Mr. G.H. Achenbach

Mr. John C. (Jack) Meadows

Mr. J. Otis Davis, Sr.

Mr. Sidney Dickerson

Mr. Julian C. Clark

Mr. Dan McSwain, Sr.

Mr. Wade Chesser

Mr. W.C. Somers, Jr.


Mr. Clifford Davis

Mrs. W.C. Somers, Jr. (Margaret)

Mr. Emory Davis (2011)

Bob DeJarnette

Allen Rice

State of Georgia  
Moultrie County ( This I. sunders. made this the 26<sup>th</sup>  
day of September 1891 between George  
St. Matthews and K. F. McIntosh Joseph Wardlaw and  
William Morris officers and trustees for the Presbyterian Church  
at Vidalia. Witnesseth that the said George St. Matthews  
for and in consideration of the sum of Fifty dollars,  
the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged does hereby  
sell and convey unto the said officers & trustees of said  
Church and successors in office the following property  
to wit one lot of land situated at Vidalia Station on the  
S.A. & M. Rail Road in the 51<sup>st</sup> Dist of M. of said County  
and bounded as follows North by Street East by  
Church Street South by Caroline H. Morley containing  
one acre, together with all the rights and privileges  
thereunto ~~belonging~~ belonging in fee simple.  
And the said George St. Matthews his heirs execu-  
tors and administrators the title to the premises afore-  
said will forever warrant and defend to the said  
K. F. McIntosh Joseph Wardlaw and William  
Morris officers and trustees of the said Presbyterian  
Church and their successors in office against  
the lawful claims of all other persons.  
In witness whereof the said George St. Matthews has hereunto  
set his hand and seal the day and year above said  
Signed Sealed and delivered  
in presence of ( George St. Matthews   
Ridgeway Flaunders  
A. J. McIntyre J.P. ( Recorded Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1891  
S. B. Harris  
C. S. C.