History Room, cont.

The refurbishing work was completed in the spring of 2017. The acquisitions committee searched for storage pieces to house artifacts, documents and other items. Members acquired a handsome storage cabinet, two wooden screens, three work tables, four chairs and an antique museum display case with stand. Other furnishings include bookcases relocated from other parts of the church buildings. There is a great need for donations to buy additional display cases.

Jeff Surace, an FPC member and a talented artist, lettered the History Room bywords, "History Matters Because Our Church Matters," on the south wall; and Psalm 78:3-4 "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done," on the north wall.

In June 2018, the organizing group met with the Oral History Project members who, along with other Church volunteers, now are included in the membership of the History Committee.

Initial plans and goals are now fulfilled as the History Committee formally opened the Jimmy and Florrie Corley History Room on February 24, 2019 in honor and memory of two longtime, devoted congregation members. At the official opening, Florrie Corley cut the ribbon. The History Room is open on an appointment-only basis by calling the church office or emailing the History Committee at the address below.

History Committee

Sally Benoy, Judy Bullard, Brad Coleman, Jim Corley, Susan Cummings, Amy Jacoby, Joanne MacDonald, Haydn McLean, Karen Molohon, Sally Moreland, Becky Paden, Theresa Sanford, Lynne Sloop, Ann Stoskopf (chair), Jeff Surace, Steve Swain, Marilyn Tucker, Nan Waters, Rose Wing.

For more information email archivesfpc@gmail.com or call the church office at 770-427-0293.

History Committee Mission Statement

June 27, 2018

It is the responsibility of First Presbyterian Church of Marietta to preserve and secure the church's archives. The archives serve as the repository for records created by and pertaining to the First Presbyterian Church. Preservation shall include an archival protected environment, housing, storage and periodic digital storage of the records as well as adherence to the current Book of Order directives concerning records. These records may include, but are not limited to: Session minutes, membership rolls, registers, records of trustees, the Diaconate, the treasurer and the congregational committees, books, photographs, sound and video recordings, publication of the Church and ministers' papers.

Acquisitions are limited to those items that in some way illustrate or contribute to the understanding of FPC history. Acquisitions shall include: examples of hymnals and Bibles used in the church, communion ware, church furnishings, banners and other memorabilia. Items not related to the church or its activities will be referred to the local historical society or the Georgia Room of the Cobb County Public Library. The History Committee and church archivists have the final responsibility to deem what is worthy to be part of the collection.

Access to the church's records and memorabilia is limited to those times that the History Room is open and under the supervision of the History Committee members or church archivists. Some materials may be used for displays and exhibits but no materials may be taken from the church premises.

Art work
FPC Sanctuary by Jeff Surace 2019
FPC Sanctuary by W. Montgomery Anderson 1940s
FPC Sanctuary 1850s

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First Presbyterian Church
189 Church Street
Marietta, Georgia 30060
770-427-0293 | www.fpcmarietta.org

An Early History of
First Presbyterian Church
Marietta, Georgia

Founded 1835



With History Room Resources

On Saturday evening, June 10, 1854 the new House of Worship of the Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia was opened with appropriate religious services.

From the Session Minutes Book
June 1854

Historical Beginnings

The Presbyterian Church in Marietta was organized by 12 pioneer settlers in November 1835. The congregants first met in a log cabin shared with Methodists and Baptists, located about where the Starbucks on Whitlock Avenue now stands. In 1839 the church built its own house of worship, a small frame structure one block from the town square. The building was razed years later.



In 1854, the Reverend John Jones, the church's first installed pastor, donated a lot on Church Street to build a larger church. The new meeting house was built of brick in a simple Greek Revival style, 83 feet long by 51 feet wide with 2 ½-foot thick walls. The Sanctuary was built by a congregation that numbered 96 in 1853 and seated more than 400 worshipers.

On either side of the front entrance are large fluted Corinthian columns added in the 1904 renovation. The recessed entry has a granite vestibule where Union soldiers cooked food while Marietta was occupied in 1864. Of the two stairways leading to the balcony, the companion stairwell on the north narthex was added in 1972.

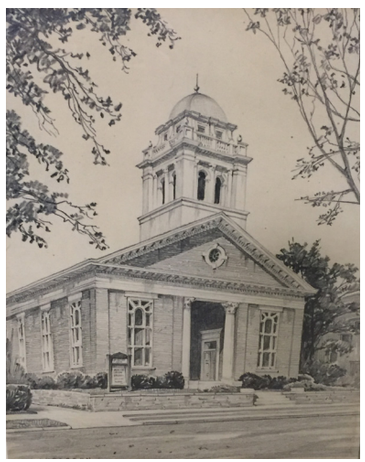
The coffered ceiling and trusses are solid pine covered with pressed metal. Egg and dart trim and dentil molding are used extensively around the ceiling. Paneled wainscoting below the level of the windows enhances the understated elegance of the architecture. The walls are painted Pompeiian Red, thought to be the true original color. The windows, 14 ½ feet x 5 feet 10 inches are fitted with Cathedral (thin sheet) glass from 1904. Their 13 panels each are designed with circle head center vents and fixed side lights. The brass candelabra on the balcony railings were added in 1904. The five arms on each one are fitted with tall electric candles.

The choir loft which contains the pipe organ console is to the rear of the pulpit. Fluted Corinthian pilasters rise on either side of the arched recess housing the organ pipes. Dedicated in 1975, the present organ is the fourth installed in the sanctuary, including the melodeon destroyed by Federal soldiers in 1864. The building has had three bell towers. The first and present towers are similar in design. The bell may be the original and is rung by a rope in the balcony.

Civil War Years

It is sometimes said that the balcony was built to seat slaves, and they may have been assigned places there, but it is unlikely that this was its sole or primary purpose. In the late 1850s and early 1860s cadets from the Georgia Military Institute, some of whom went on to serve in the Confederate Army, filled the pews.

The sanctuary was used as a hospital and for other purposes by Federal troops who occupied Marietta in 1864. The pastor, the Reverend Edward Porter Palmer, left the town to serve as chaplain in Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee, leaving the church closed for a year. After the end of the Civil War, the pastor returned and, after clearing rubbish and broken objects from the building, resumed his ministry in June 1865. The church claimed damages by the Federal army amounting to $5,000, according to depositions filed in the U.S. Court of Claims in 1911. After a hearing in 1912, the Court found the reasonable rental value, including damages, to be $3,000. In 1915, the church finally received $2,400 after attorneys' fees were paid.



During the last renovation in 1979, the original heart pine floors were refinished and left bare, greatly enhancing the acoustics of the sanctuary but erasing the last traces of what were believed to be bloodstains from the Civil War hospital.

Continuing the Legacy

The church has recorded significant growth through the years, particularly under the pastorates of the Reverend Doctor Harry K. Holland and the Reverend Doctor James O. Speed. Now, with the Reverend Joe Evans as pastor, the church is consistently adding new members.

First Presbyterian Church is a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation.

History Room

The First Presbyterian Church History Room idea originated with Jimmy and Florrie Corley in the late 1970s. The Session granted permission to use the east end of Holland Hall for the Church History Committee's work space. The room, partitioned off from Holland Hall, was being used for storage at the time. In 2000, the committee began using the space.

Other important events and dates include:

*Archives Policy drafted by Jimmy Corley 8-24-2004

*The approved work space was cleared of items stored in the room. Records do not show if the room was used at that time for storing archival files and materials, photographs of historic value and important documents. It is known that several church members including Vera Penny and Fran Sommerville spent many hours assessing documents related to the church's history.

*In February 2017, Judith Bullard, Ann Stoskopf and Rebecca Paden met and agreed to work to reconvene a Church History committee which had not met formally in many years. The three members sent the Session a proposal to reactivate the committee and to set up a Church History Room. The Session sanctioned the requests and allowed the committee to refurbish the room (originally approved in 1980 at the request of Jimmy Corley) using, in part, gifts to the Church in Jimmy Corley's memory.

After Session approval of the improvements to the room, the three HC members set to work, conferring with Marilyn Tucker, Tim Hammond, Andy Workman, the Reverend Joe Evans and others to decide on basic and important needs. (The committee packed 62 boxes of artifacts, documents, and pictures stored in the space during this time.)
Items completed include:

1. Removed existing floor covering and replaced it with materials to hold up under increased traffic
2. Painted walls
3. Restored air conditioning service
4. Replaced the existing room door with a half-glass door
5. Acquired furnishings
6. Appealed to the congregation for donations of artifacts relating to the Church.
7. Added shelving and cabinets for archival storage and security.

(continued on back)