

Tallapoosa Presbyterian Church

Head Avenue and Taliaferro Street
Tallapoosa, Georgia 30176

HISTORY OF THE TALLAPOOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In November of 1888 a meeting was held in the M. E. Church, South, of Tallapoosa for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church. A committee of three from the Atlanta Presbytery consisting of Dr. Barnett, Mr. N. K. Smith, and Mr. Dimmock, an elder of the Carrollton Presbyterian Church met with the group and the organization was accomplished. George S. Porter was elected elder and J. W. Ball and S. S. Rambo, Sr. were elected deacons. For over two years no attempt was made toward a church building, but in November of 1890 Dr. W. J. McCurdy, O. M. Reed, G. A. Witcher, A. V. Howe and R. W. Cooper were elected trustees to choose a site for the new church, and also to act as a building committee. The Georgia-Alabama Investment and Development Company offered two lots in block 12 for the location and the offer was accepted at a meeting of the congregation which was held in a Baptist Church. Plans and specifications were drawn up and adopted. Work on the building began in April of 1891 and was finished in January of 1892.

By 1900 four pastors had served the church. Rev. James W. Pogue was minister of the church for six years during this period.

In 1903 Rev. F. E. Taylor of New York state came here as pastor and immediately began plans to select a new site for the church as the present one was inconveniently located. Through the efforts of A. V. Howe, the lot at the corner of Head Avenue and Taliaferro Street was secured in May of 1905. In November of 1905 when the winter tourists from the North were here and many of whom attended the Presbyterian Church, pledges were received towards the amount necessary for the moving of the building.

Rev. F. E. Taylor, B. F. Darling, and D. L. Saulsbury were appointed to carry on the work. Ground was broken for the foundation on November 28, 1905. The building began its journey up the hill to its new location December 2, 1905, and reached there December 27, 1905, despite the heavy rains and inclement weather that prevailed during the three weeks of moving. Mr. Darling, a contractor of forty years experience, was in charge of the moving.

The new cornerstone was laid on New Year's Day, 1906, and the building was re-dedicated on March 16, 1906. The bell that hangs in the spire was at this time presented by Mr. R. Spencer of Falmouth, Massachusetts, a former member of the church.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church (forerunner of the present Presbyterian Women) was organized in the fall of 1889. When the church was moved in 1906, the Ladies Aid Society bought the carpet, helped in the purchase of a piano for the new Sunday School room, as well as, chairs, cushions for the pews and other necessary equipment. In addition to the bell, Mr. R. Spencer gave an organ. The Communion table was a gift from Rev. and Mrs. Pogue and Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Rambo, Sr. in memory of their young sons. The solid color stained glass windows and pews in the sanctuary are the originals.

Many changes have come to our church since that history making time, and our membership has been reduced by death and by members moving until only a small number remains at present. But faith and hope burn bright in the heart of each one and we feel that a church built on the prayers of such men and women of faith as were its founders, and the devotion and self-sacrifice of the members during its years of existence must never give way to doubt and discouragement.

In our recent history, the Manse was built in 1954, and the Education and Fellowship Hall was added in 1971. In 1980 the stained glass windows behind the pulpit were placed in memory of Mildred Howe. Also in 1980 the Memorial Park and Parking Area were constructed as a memorial to Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Waldrop, Mr. Chester Price, Mr. James T. McDonald, Mr. Stanley Rambo, Mrs. Mildred Howe, and Mr. Paul Bennett. The three large stained glass windows in the front of the church were placed in 1987 as memorials to Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Rambo, Sr., Mr. Stanley Rambo, Mrs. Lynn Eaves, and Mrs. Nellie Jean Hutcheson. Also in 1987 the stained glass window over the door and the one in the vestibule were given in memory of Mr. R. J. Simanton. The hymnals are in memory of Mr. Jule Eaves and Mr. W. G. Littlefield. The pew Bibles are in memory of Mr. Edgar Tuel and Miss Mary Tolbert. The collection plates are in memory of Mrs. E. L. Jaillet. The brass umbrella stand in the vestibule is in memory of Mr. W. L. Garrett and the brass flower container on the piano is in memory of Helen Sporri. This year the Presbyterian Women were instrumental in getting new carpet, pew cushions, and re-upholstering the pulpit chairs. Also this year the outside of the church was repaired and painted.