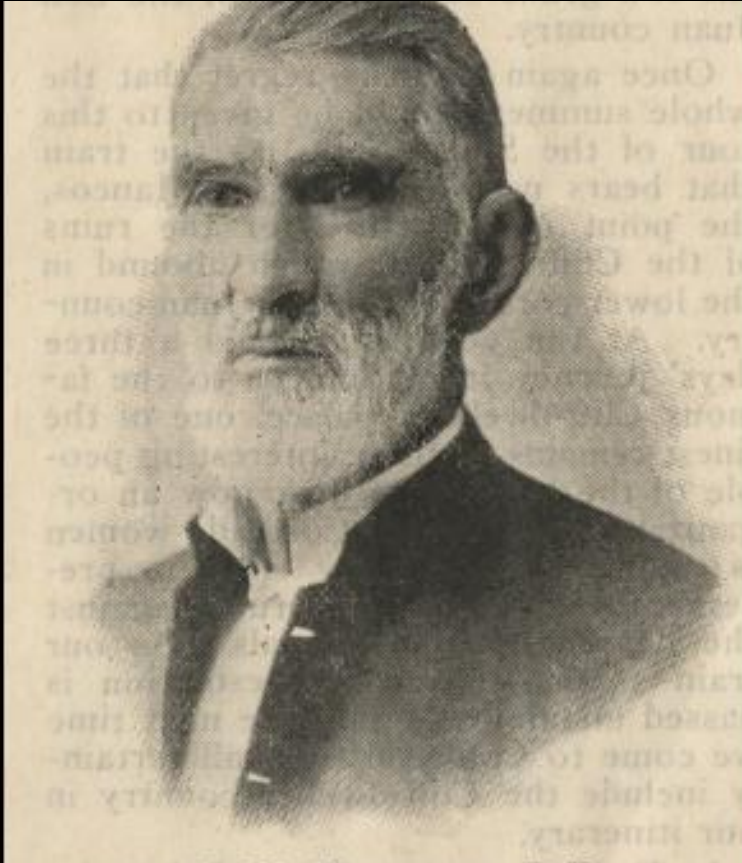




# Timeline

- 1829 – Cumberland Presbyterian Church formed by Rev. John Morgan. Built “Union Church” with Baptists at current site of First Baptist.
- 1852 – Presbyterians built their first church on Washington Street just west of the railroad tracks.

# Reverend George Washington Mitchell



- “On the first of January, 1853, I took charge of the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Athens, Ala.,... This work I resigned in 1866.”
- “At the close of the year (1872) I returned to my former pastorate at Athens, Ala., the financial condition of the country at the time making frequent pastoral changes necessary.”

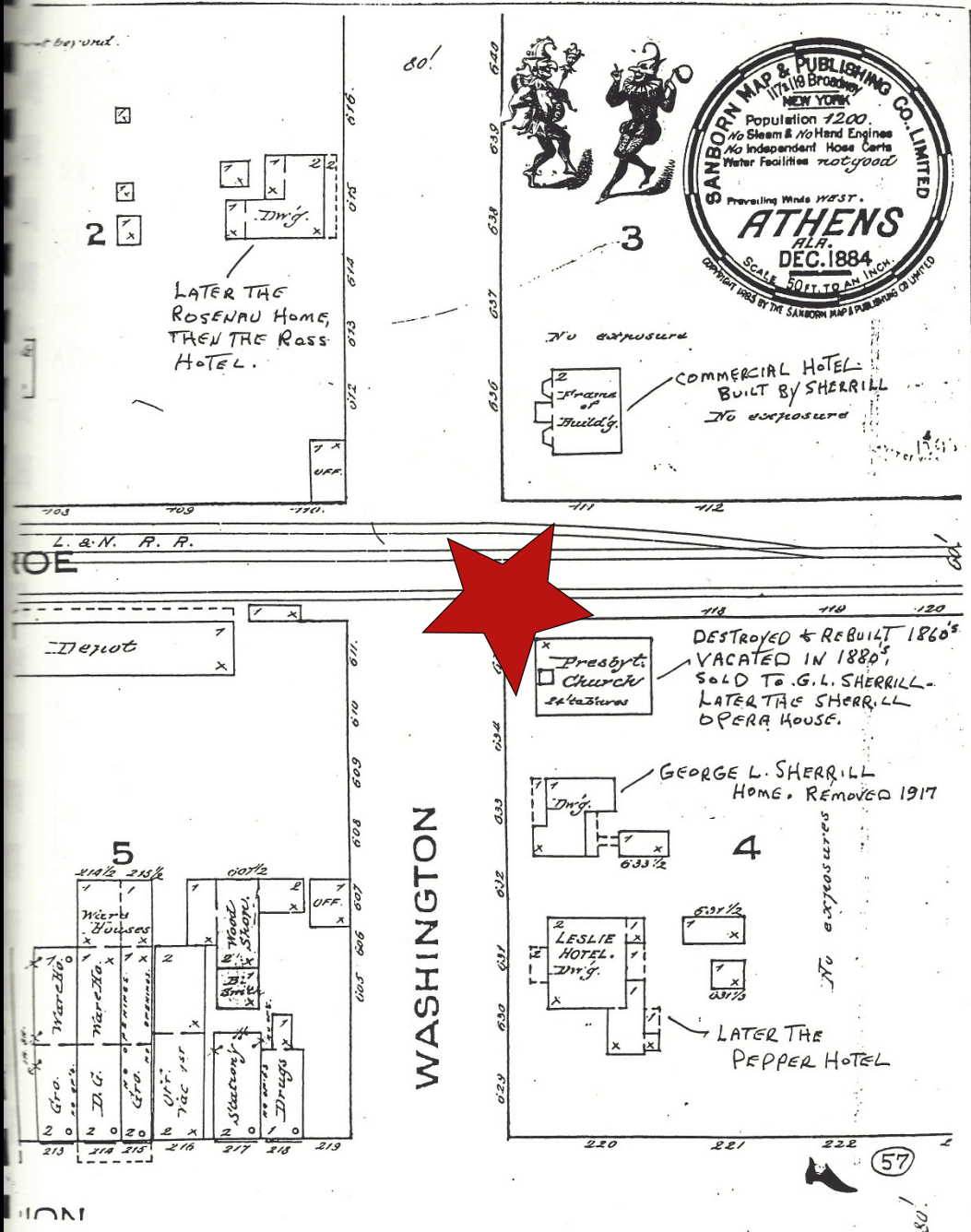
“I was bereaved of my wife August 19, 1882, at Athens, Ala., who, with seven of my children, has gone before to wait for me and those that remain to finish life's work.”

## Description of church by the tracks from 1906 hearing for war damage

- It was a one story brick building about 40 feet wide and 80 feet deep with three tall windows on either side, a steeple, a bell and a slave gallery. There were plain painted pews, carpeting, and white plaster walls on the interior. It was in excellent condition and only ten years old when occupied by Federal soldiers in 1863.



Location of old  
CP Church by  
the railroad  
tracks



# Reconstruction

- 1869 – Presbyterians try to return to their church building but all that was left was damaged brick walls and the bell.
- 1869-1895 – Members used the Baptist church for some time and moved back to the building by the tracks but were upset by the noise of trains on the track. In 1892, they were again meeting at the Baptist church and paying \$3 monthly rent. The Baptists raised the rent asking for \$5.

- 1876 William Bruce Russell established the first grocery store in Athens at current church site.
- 1887 – Old church building sold for \$2000 to George Sherrill who turned it into the Sherrill Opera House and then the Sherrill Hardware Company.
- 1889 – The church purchased the current lot from Russell for \$1000.
- 1895 – The building was finished and ready for use.

Invoice from W B Sherrill  
Family Groceries,  
May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1889  
The bill is to the  
CP Church  
For board for two people  
at \$.50 per  
day for 10 days.

OFFICE OF  
W. B. Russell & Co.,  
DEALERS IN  
FAMILY GROCERIES  
Farmers Supplies & Country Produce,  
ATHENS, ALA., May 25<sup>th</sup> 1889

SPECIALTIES  
SUGAR, COFFEE, FLOUR,  
BACON, FLOURS AND WAGONS.

C. P. Church  
A/c with  
F. H. Oglesby  
To Board Hildnerman  
20 days @ 50c 10.00  
To Board Betty  
26 days @ 50c 13.00  
\$ 23.00

E. D. Russell Treas  
Pay the above  
A/c of Twenty Three dollars  
W. H. Sykes  
J. R. Hoffman Committee





03 08 2016



03 08 2016



C.P.  
CHURCH  
1895

03 08 2016



“Statement of  
cash received and  
disbursed for the  
erection of the  
Cumberland  
Presbyterian  
Church edifice in  
the town of  
Athens, County of  
Limestone State of  
Alabama January  
2<sup>nd</sup> 1893.”

Statement  
Cash Received And Disbursed  
For  
The erection of the  
Cumberland Presbyterian  
- Church edifice in the  
town of Athens, County of  
Limestone State of Alabama  
January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1893.



Invoice for door and  
window frames  
June, 1891

Payable in Chicago  
free of expense to us.

Claims for errors must be made within fifteen days after receipt of Goods.

Chicago, June 5<sup>th</sup> 1891.  
M. J. H. Raney.

Athena, Ala.

Order No. 2824

Shipped Via *Ex*

Checked by *R*

Bought of **Palmer, Fuller & Co.**

Wholesale Manufacturers  
**SASH, DOORS, BLINDS,**  
NEWEL POSTS & BALUSTERS Dealers in Lumber, Lath & Shingles STAIR RAILING, MOULDINGS,  
FLOORING. SIDING ETC.  
Office & Manufactory Cor. West 22<sup>d</sup> & Union Sts.

3 Mullin Box Frames for 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 brick fg. Gutter as plan, for 1 3/8 sash with inside casing #45-92 & 45-91 with stool apron and jamb lining per letter	28 <sup>10</sup>	84 30
7 Box Win Frames for 3 1/2 x 10 1/2 brick fg. Gutter as plan, for 1 3/8 sash with inside casing, stool apron and jamb lining as above per letter	11 <sup>50</sup>	80 50
2 Box Win Frames for 2 1/2 x 8 1/2 brick fg. Gutter as plan, for 1 3/8 sash with inside casing, stool apron and jamb lining as above for 12 1/2 wall and 1/2" plaster	9 <sup>50</sup>	19 00
2 Panel Jamb Outside Dm frames Gutter 1/2" as plan for 8 1/2 x 12 1/2 brick fg. cased inside same as the window frames per letter	25 <sup>00</sup>	50 00
1 Outside Dm frame for brick fg. 3 1/2 x 10 1/2 Gutter for 3 1/2 x 7 1/2 1 3/8 don and trans. plain jamb per letter, inside casg.	12 <sup>25</sup>	12 25
8 Inner Slat Frames for 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 brick fg. 4" slat. 1 1/2" apart	12 <sup>15</sup>	97 20
10 %.		34 32
		34 32

\$ 308 93

The inside casings will follow  
without charge.



G R Sherrill paid  
\$2000 for the old  
church building.  
This shows 10  
months of  
payments: \$200  
+ interest each  
month.

Attenuala June 16/89  
To the Session of the C.P. Church  
We the Trustees of said Church would  
respectfully submit the following  
report of the mts and Interest which  
G R Sherrill for the sale of the  
old C.P. Church & Parsonage.

June 1/88	First Note	200.00
	Int. July 1st	1.33
July 1	2nd Note	200.00
	Int. to Dec 1st	2.67
March 1	3rd Note	200.00
	Int. April 1st	1.00
April 1	4th Note	200.00
	Int. May 1st	5.33
May 1	5th Note	200.00
	Int. June 1st	6.67
June 1	6th Note	200.00
	Int. July 1st	8.00
July 1	7th Note	200.00
	Int. Aug 1st	9.33
Aug 1	8th Note	200.00
	Int. Sept 1st	10.67
Sept 1	9th Note	200.00
	Int. Oct 1st	12.00
Oct 1	10th Note	200.00
	Int. Nov 1	13.33
		<u>2073.33</u>

\$ 36.64

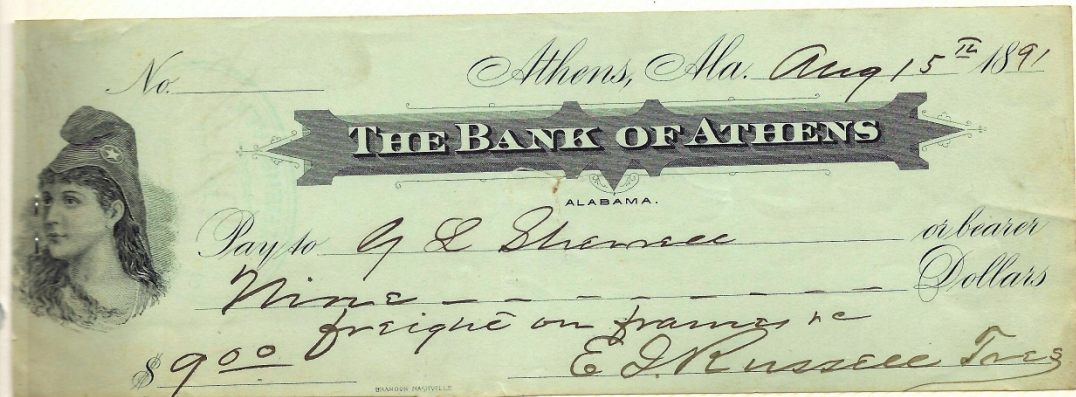
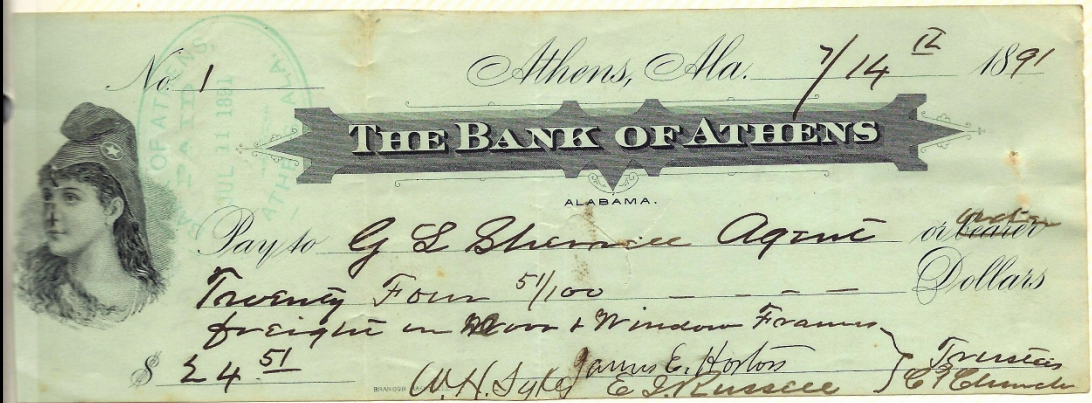
W. H. Sykes  
E. L. Russell  
James E. Horton

James E. Horton

Yours Truly,



Checks from 1891. The top and bottom check are for freight on door and window frames. The middle check for \$258.93 may be for those frames.





Sermon by Dr Crawford "Can We Move God?"

## Can We Move God?

And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive - Matt. 21:22

And he wondered that there was no intercessor - Is. 59:16.

Intro. We do move God by our prayers. Our weakness lays hold on His Omnipotence; Our need lays hold upon His fulness etc.

Our prayers cause action and bring about results, without which, none would occur.

This view is not easy for us to accept - for God knows infinitely better - His ways are not as ours etc. <sup>to move</sup> How can we hope <sup>our thoughts</sup> or our ways - His ways?

Too many of us are fatalists.

- We think of Gods awful decrees and think that everything is determined by His foreknowledge and that for us to presume to interfere would prove impudent.

- The seeming difficulty hinges on this. Is God a personal God - or is He impersonal?

To deny that God can be moved by our prayers - is to deny to Him the characteristics of a person. Then, you must consider Him a great Automaton - wound up to run from Eternity to Eternity.

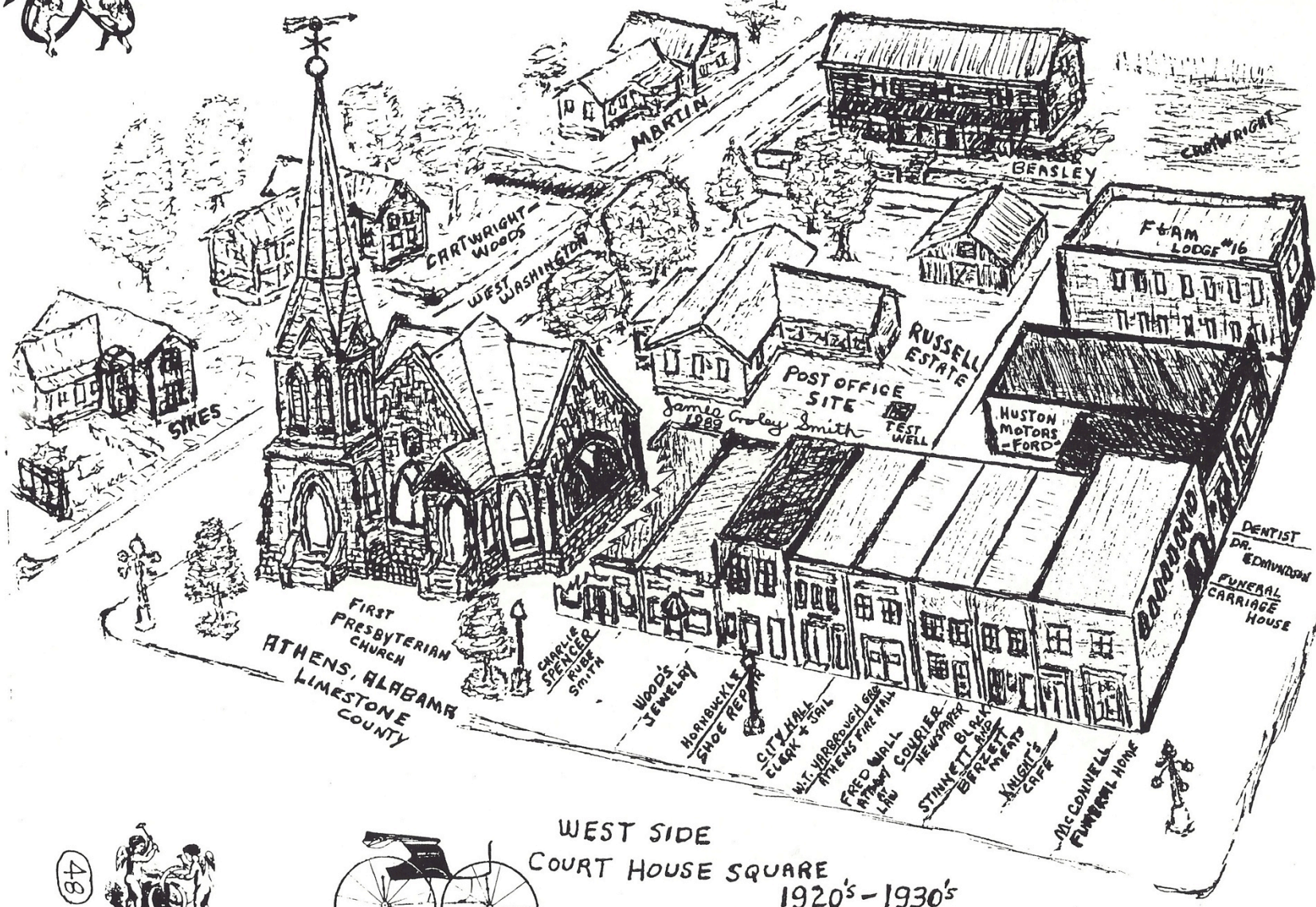
# Turn of Century

- 1906 – After haggling with the federal government over war reparations, the church may have received about one fourth of the \$5943 they felt justified. General Joe Wheeler and Senator Pettus were the force behind this settlement. One source said the money was not received until 1916. Details are not clear.
- Around this time, the church left the Cumberland for the UPC.

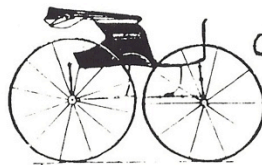


[illegible]





48



# Stained Glass Windows

- Oldest window in the sanctuary is between the doors – probably installed soon after construction. An Atlanta firm hired to repair windows around 2015 said the peacock window above the north steps is the oldest.
- Green window – after 1912? Repaired in 1952 with contributions of Eunice French and Ada Hendricks.
- South double window – Faye Axford reports that this window was installed before Thanksgiving 1952 for a cost of \$1250. Was this for repair instead of installation?





**CLEM'S STANDARD OIL STATION 1932 - 1977**  
**ATHENS ALABAMA GREER CLEM SR OWNER**

# More Windows

- Tibbets window – Family came to Limestone around 1904. T J Tibbets died in 1928. Pearl lived until 1957. Descendents include the Clem family.
- North double window – Faye Axford records that this window was installed before Christmas of 1958. Probably the date in the window was for repair or installation of the dedication plaques for Katie Sherrill and the Christenson family.

# More windows

- The Christ windows are well documented. The money was raised by the women of the church 1948-1950. The south window was broken around 1955. The story is told that “Buddy Miller took a Milk of Magnesia bottle from the city dump and repaired the window, at least temporarily.”

d in 1904



The church's manse in early 1900's



# Addition behind sanctuary

- Just behind the sanctuary is the 1920's addition.
- 1944 – Fire damaged the Sunday School rooms, the pastor's study, and the pipe organ.
- 1950's – The basement was dug adding 1800 sq ft. The big room was partitioned by folding dividers for Sunday School.
- 1960's – Choice of building a new church or restoring the old one. Interior and exterior renovation was done and a new organ installed. The beautiful old pews burned in a warehouse fire.





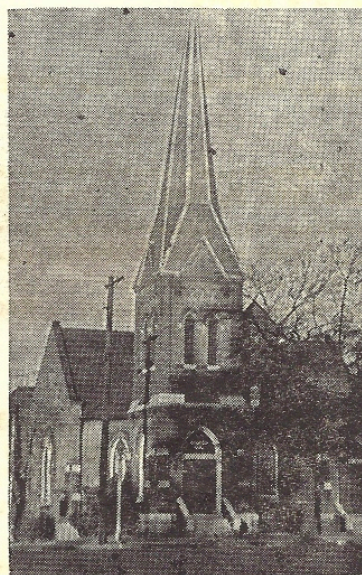
03 08 2016



1957

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ATHENS, ALABAMA



The Rev. Paul C. Dickenson, Pastor

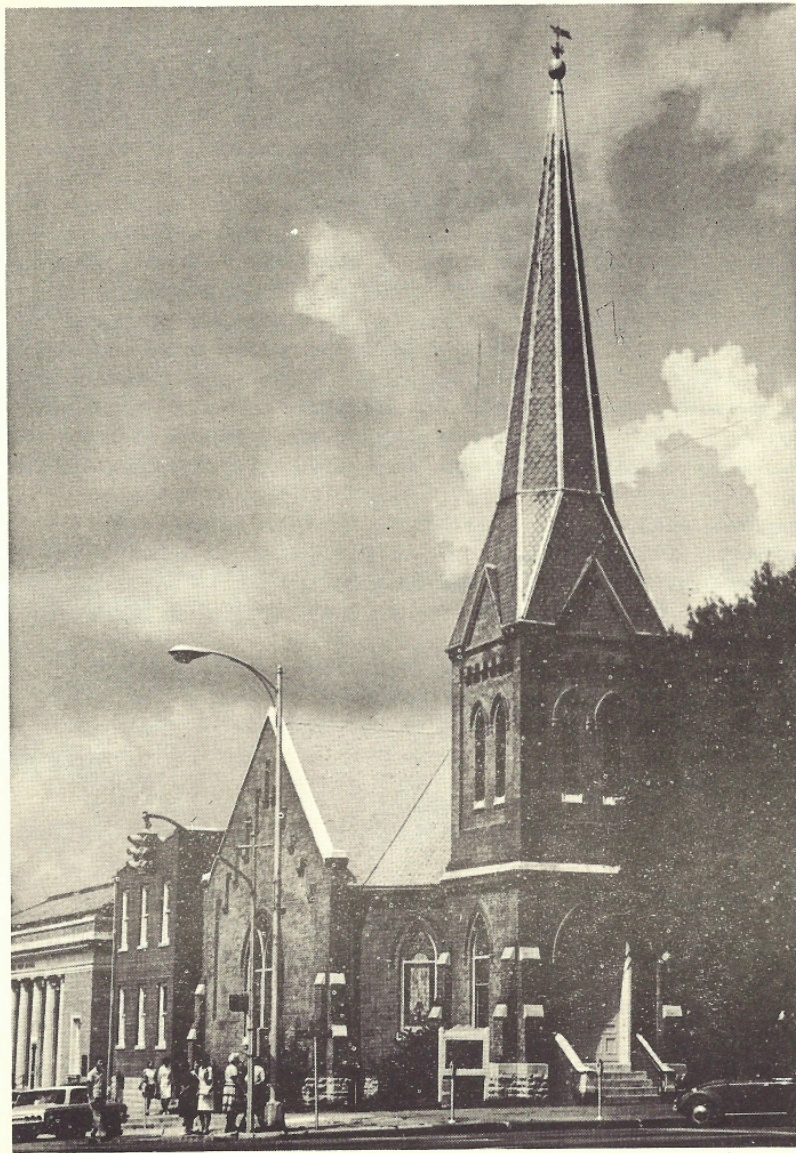
Mr. Karl Oliver, Director of Music

Mrs. Bruce Sherrill, Organist



1969

Dedication of  
Sanctuary redo?  
Organ Recital



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**ATHENS, ALABAMA**

Insert from program  
describes memorials.

M E M O R I A L S

\*\*\*\*\*

The Tables in the vestibules, and other furniture, plus  
Communion Table Runners, were given in memory of :

Mrs. R. Sherrill  
Mrs. N. K. Bidding  
Mrs. C. Spencer  
Mrs. H. French  
Mrs. A. Beasley  
Mr. W. Gray  
Mr. E. C. Steele  
Mr. F. Blair

Flower stand was given in memory of Mrs. Wade H. Griffin  
Sr., mother of Mrs. Alfred O. London.

Flower stand was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. B.  
McWilliams, grandparents of Mrs. Charles Neese.

The Candlelighters and Snuffers were given by Mrs. Inez  
Clem.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Education Wing- 1973

- Now named in honor of Joyce Counter.
- Included Sunday School classes, office area, the stairwell, and the courtyard.

1973







# Rodgers Center 1990

- Building was willed to us by Mrs. Cora Rodgers (daughter of N K Bitting).
- Previously used as Dr. Rodgers' dentist office
- Before that it was the city hall, fire department, and jail.



RODGERS CENTER

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

1906

RENOV 1990

03 08 2016













# ATHENS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This church was organized in 1829 as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church by the Revs. Robert Donnell, John Morgan and Allen Gipson. After first using an interdenominational building, a church was built on West Washington Street in 1852. This was badly damaged during the Civil War and worshipers met at the Baptist Church. Sufficient money was raised to begin the building of the present church "On the Square", which was completed in 1895, less than ten years before this church joined the majority to merge into the United Presbyterian Church. In this church in 1982, commissioners from the UPC and the PCUS Presbyteries voted to merge in the first joint meeting of the two Presbyteries. The resulting Presbytery was called the North Alabama Union Presbytery.

GIVEN IN HONOR OF JEANE AND ALICE NAZARETIAN, FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH, BY THEIR CHILDREN,  
JEANNE N. SMITH, DR. ANGIE NAZARETIAN AND PETER N. NAZARETIAN

03 08 2016



