

History of the Timmonsville Presbyterian Church



1895-1995

In the fall of the year 1895, a petition was presented to the Pee Dee Presbytery by John McSween, an elder in the Florence Presbyterian Church, requesting the organization of the Presbyterian Church in Timmons ville, S.C. The request was granted and Presbytery appointed a Commission consisting of Rev. J.R. Dixon of the Florence Church, Rev. D.M. Fulton, and Elder W.E. James of the Darlington Church.

The Commission met in the Methodist Church in Timmons ville on December 6, 1895. The Rev. D.M. Fulton preached the sermon and Rev. J.H. Dixon handled the organization of the church. It was called the Timmons ville Presbyterian Church.

Two churches enrolled members by certificate. They were: Florence Church: John McSween, Mrs. Kate McSween, Miss Louise Keith Hancock, Duncan McKenzie, and W.H. Keith. Fair Hope Church: William C. Rose and Mrs. Anna S. Rose.

Installed as elders in the Timmons ville Presbyterian Church were John McSween and W.C. Rose, who had both served as elders in their churches. Duncan McKenzie and W.H. Keith were elected and installed as deacons.

In 1951 Mrs. Anna S. Rose was the only living charter member of this church.

The families of John McSween and Duncan McKenzie (Elders at the time of their deaths) placed memorials to them in the church. A large portrait of Mr. McSween keeps alive his memory and is placed on the wall of the Ladies Parlor. For Mr. McKenzie's memorial, an electric Hammond organ was installed in the sanctuary. Chimes for this organ were given as a memorial to Mr. C.S. Atkinson in 1948 by his family. The present organ was bought with money Miss Sara Virginia Rose left to our church. This organ has her name inscribed in the form of a plaque.

In 1896 the church building was completed and in April of 1897, it was dedicated. Dr. A.H. McArn of the Cheraw Church preached the dedication sermon using Psalm 48:3.

The seven charter members were: Mrs. John McSween, Mrs. W.H. Keith, Mrs. W.E. Lea, Mrs. W.C. Rose, Mrs. W.B. White, Mrs. E.C. Bailey and Miss Ellen Byrd (Mrs. W.R. McLeod). In 1915 a Ladies Aid Society was formed with Mrs. Duncan McKenzie as President.

The Women's Auxiliary plan of organization was adopted in 1920, and in 1948 the name was changed to Women of the Church. This organization was composed of two circles and at the present time is called Presbyterian Women. Since 1989 there has been only one circle.

Over the years, a number of our women have had the honor of holding important offices in the Pee Dee Presbyterial and South Carolina Synodical. We are now the New Harmony Presbytery. Fair Hope Women of the Church was organized by a committee from the Timmons ville organization.

In 1977, Mr. W.J. Hoffmeyer organized a Men of the Church which remained active for several years. However, this program has not been in full operation in several years.

Several interim pastors have served since Rev. Thomas M. Byrd, our last pastor. They are: Rev. R. W. Park, D.D., Rev. W.G. Foster, Jr., D.D., Rev. C.D. Brearley, D.D., Dr. S.M. Atkinson (Methodist), Rev. Kenneth Littlejohn Hamilton, Rev. Harold P. Adkins, our present interim pastor.

In 1970, we celebrated our 75th anniversary, Rev. C.D. Brearley, D.D. Preached.

Although the Timmons ville Church has always had a small membership, it has accomplished a great deal towards the spread of the Master's Kingdom, for which we give God thanks, and pray for His continued blessings. With an unfaltering trust in God, may we strive to do our part in preserving Christian civilization, and in bringing in the Kingdom of the Prince of Peace.

(Our thanks to the excellent up dated history in 1951 by the late Mrs. J.H. McSween, making much of this history possible.)

Mrs. Kate McSween wife of John McSween, gave the lot on which the church was erected, and John McSween, at his own expense, erected the manse on the church lot and gave it to the congregation. This manse was torn down in 1988. The present manse is at 210 N. Hill Street and built on the land given by C.S. Atkinson, Jr., Helen Atkinson Hinson and Elizabeth Atkinson Peele in 1970. Only two ministers have lived in the manse, Rev. J. Donald Fowler from 1970- 1973 and Rev. Thomas M. Byrd from 1976-1977.

In 1924, the congregation, at an expense of \$5,000.00, added Sunday School Rooms to the main building. Through the years improvements have been made. The fellowship hall and kitchen were added in the early 1950's with the kitchen formally a part of the old manse. The fellowship Hall was subjoined to the kitchen and the Ladies Parlor.

In 1897, a Sunday School was organized, and Mr. John McSween was elected as superintendent, serving in this position until shortly before his death in 1923. Throughout the years, this has been an active organization and the church is proud of the young people who have gone out from here to fields of Christian service. Four sons of the church, and two grandsons are ministers of the gospel: The late Rev. John McSween, D.D., the late Rev. Joseph W. Conyers, Sr., The Rev. William B. Ward, D.D., Black Mountain, N.C. and Rev. George D. Harper, D.D. of Westminster, S.C. The grandsons are Rev. Allen C. McSween, D.D. of Clinton, S.C. and Rev. Joseph W. Conyers, Jr. of Austell, Ga. All of these are retired except Rev. George D. Harper, D.D.

During the early years of the church's history, there were no young people's organizations, as there were so few children in the congregation. In 1920 two Christian

Endeavor Societies were organized and continued active a number of years. Bible story hours and other youth programs have been carried on at different times. Since the late 60's and early 70's there has been little or no youth programs. We have a few young people in the church at this time.

The Women's Missionary society was organized in 1898 with Mrs. E.C. Bailey, wife of the pastor, as its first president.

Pastoral Leaders

Rev. E.C. Bailey	1896-1912
Rev. J.P. Anderson, D.D.	1913-1920
Rev. J.M. Plowden	1920-1924
Rev. E.C. Coates	1925-1929
Rev. R.B. McQueen	1930-1931
Rev. R.W. Park, Sr.	*(S.S.) 1931-1936
Rev. J.B. Gordon	1936-1940
Rev. D.D. Wilkinson	1941-1944
Rev. T.E. Simpson, D.D.	*(S.S.) 1946-1947
Rev. A.N. Littlejohn	1948-1952
Rev. J.R. Woods	1953-1964
Rev. John W. Lipscomb	1966-1967
Rev. J. Donald Fowler	1970-1973.
Rev. R.W. Park, Sr., D.D.	(1st. & 3rd. Sun) 1973-1976
Rev. C.D. Brearley, Sr. D.D.	1965-1966
	(2nd & 4th. Sun.) 1968-1973
Rev. S.M. Atkinson (Meth.)	(2nd & 4th Sun.) 1974
Rev. Thomas M. Byrd	1976-1977
Rev. R.W. Park, Sr., D.D.	(1st & 3rd Sun.) 1977-1989
Rev. W.G. Foster, Jr., D.D.	(2nd, 4th & 5th Sun.) 1978-1989
Rev. Kenneth L.-Hamilton	1989-1990
Rev. Harold P. Adkins	1989-2011
Rev. Snow Donmeyer	2001-2002
Rev. Terry Beckom	2001-2002
Commissioned Pastor	
Rev. Bob Henry	2022-2025
*Stated Supply	

Clerk of Session

W.C. Rose	1895-1928
John H. McSween	1928-1937
S.L. Walkup (Pro Temp.)	1932-1937
S.L. Walkup	1937-1968
M.L. Cothran	1968-1974
W.C. Walkup	1975-1992
John G. Rose, J	1993-2010
Francis Pigage	2011-2025

Treasurer

W.C. Law	
C.A White	1941-1951
William C Walkup	1951-1970
Warren L. Walkup	1971-2010
Dot Walkup	2011-2017
Alica Walkup	2018-2025

Elders

John McSween	1895-1923
W.C Rose	1895-1928
Duncan McKenzie	1900-1936
E.C. Boney	1901-1903
W.B. White	1921-1931, 1935-1954
R.H. Nelson	1921-1926
E.W. Blyth	1922-1926
J.H. McSween	1926-1966
L.M. McInnis	1926-1941
S.L. Walkup	1930-1979
S.V. Ward	1935-1962
C.A. White	1951-1977
M.C. Cothran	1956-1961
C. S. Atkinson	1942-1948
John G. Rose	1939-1998
C.S. Atkinson, Jr.	1964-1986
John G. Rose, Jr.	1972-2010
William C. Walkup	1972-2005
M.L. Cothran	1964-1975
E.C. Reynolds	1981-1991
Warren L. Walkup	1981-2016
John K. Ward	1981-2021
W.C. White	1981-1985
W.S. Carter	1987-1994
J.D. Matthews	1987-?

Deacons

Duncan McKenzie	1895-1900
W.H. Keith	1895-1920
W.E. Lea	1900-1928
George McElvene	1902-1903
C.A. Foster	1910-1922
W. McD Jones	1921-1922
W.H. Todd	1921-1927
M.C. Cothran	1921-1931, 1935-1956
J.W. Conyers	1922-1927
C.A. White	1922-1931, 1935-1951
J.H. McSween	1922-1926
S.L. Walkup	1926-1930
J.G. Rose	1926-1931, 1935-1939
S.V. Ward	1926-1935
W.C. Law	1930-1941
S.J. Cole	1935-1941
L.R. Dixon	1939-1954
M.L. Cothran	1942-1964
A.T. Quantz	1947-1964
C.S. Atkinson, Jr	1942-1968
William C Walup	1947-1964
R.B. Cromer	1951-1972
Tom McCutchen	1942-1945
Marshall Spoonts	1951-1957
Houston Davis	1951-1956
John G. Rose, Jr.	1956-1972
Warren L. Walkup	1956-1981
Walter C. White	1956-1981
Walter S. Carter	1964-1987
Lacy L Goddy	1964-1981
W.C. Timmons, Jr.	1972-1981
John K. Ward	1972-1981

Sunday School Superintendents

Mr. John McSween	1897-1923
Mr. W.C Rose	1921-1923
Mr. R.H. Nelson	1923
Mr. J.H. McSween	1924
Mr. C.A. White	1925
Mr. John G. Rose	1926
Mr. L.M. McInnis	1927-1928
Mr. S.L. Walkup	1929-1931, 1951-1953
Mr. Warren L. Walkup	1953-1956, 1959, 1960
Mr. M.L. Cothran	1957-1958, 1961, 1962
Mr. W.C. White	1963-1965
Mr. W.S. Carter	1965-1976
Mr. W.J. Hoffmeyer	1976-1980
Mr. John G. Rose, Jr.	1981

Presbyterian Women Presidents

Mrs. E.C. Bailey	Mrs. C.S. Atkinson
Mrs. R.H. Nelson	Mrs. H.H. Moorer
Mrs. M.K. Palmer	Mrs. W.H. Keith
Mrs. John G. Rose	Mrs. C.J. Stover
Mrs. J.S. Stone	Mrs. S.V. Ward
Mrs. W.C. Walkup	Mrs. W.R. Jones
Mrs. W.S. Carter	Mrs. W.L. Walkup
Mrs. J.H. McSween	Mrs. L.L. Gaddy
Mrs. M.C. Cothran	Mrs. E.C. Reynolds
Mrs. W.C. Mims	Mrs. W.C. Timmons, Jr.
Mrs. D.F. McInnis	Mrs. W.M. McKay

The Apostles' Creed
from The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

