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Archives

Churches - Presbyterian -  
Smyrna Presbyterian Church

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to its present location in Rockdale (then Newton) County. John D. Wilson was the first minister to preach at Smyrna. From 1844 to 1859 Dr. Wilson served as pastor of the Decatur Presbyterian Church which he had organized in 1825. Smyrna's first pastor was the Rev. James Gamble who served the church for six years, 1828-1833. During the year, 1840, the location of the Smyrna Church was changed. The

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File -  
small  
booklet

The meeting for the organization of the Church took place on Sunday morning, Feb. 11, 1827 in the house of Samuel & Alexander Stewart. Church was erected in the first year of the life of the Church. This building was a log house twenty by thirty feet in size, the pulpit occupying one end & a large stone fireplace & chimney the other. It was located in De Kalb County about three miles northwest of the present site of the church. "Known throughout the years

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new building was constructed a few yards from the old one. It was a long frame building. There were few negro slaves owned by members of the Smyrna congregation. Where there were slaves they were usually members of the church. During the 1860's two new Presbyterian churches were organized in neighboring communities. In 1860 the Congreg Church was organized. In 1875 letters of dismission were granted to George Syons (an elder) & his family, as well as to several others, to help organize a church at Flat Shoals

as "Old Smyrna," this structure was erected on a plot of ground about three acres in size donated by Michael, son of Phillip & Hannah Housworth & cousin of the Hollingsworth brothers who were members of the church. This land fronted on the Flat Shoals Road & is part of land lot 144 Phillip gave to Michael in 1824.

"Old Smyrna" was the church's place of worship until 1840, when the church was moved

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in DeKalb County, the Salem Presbyterian Church. On Feb. 19, 1942 Smyrna Church burned to the ground, & on Oct. 3, 1943 a new church building was dedicated.

July 19, 1951  
New Era

Churches - Religion

In 1951 Smyrna Presbyterian Church only Pres. church in state still holding camp meet., (organized in 1827) 6 mi. from Congress on Congress - Stockbridge Hwy. No. 138 (in Rockdale County.)

M.C. 9  
Bedford Rd.  
Lithonia, Georgia 30058

1981.68

## Announcements

**WELCOME** — We extend to all who worship here a sincere welcome. We are delighted to have with us all the friends and former members who have returned to Smyrna for this anniversary occasion. A cordial invitation is extended to all those of this community who have no church home near-by to unite with this church either by profession of faith in Christ or by transfer of letter. The pastor will be happy to speak with you at any time concerning this matter.

**OUR GUESTS** — The pastor and members of the church are happy to have as Smyrna's guests today the several participants in the morning and afternoon services. The Rev. Harold C. Smith is Secretary of the Religious Education Committee of Atlanta Presbytery and is director of the young people's conferences held each summer at Smyrna Campground. The Rev. Clarence E. Piephoff, pastor of the College Park Presbyterian Church, is the present Moderator of Atlanta Presbytery. Dr. Franklin C. Talmage is Secretary of Atlanta Presbytery's Church Extension Committee and is also historian of the Presbytery. We are particularly happy to have as our guest one who is a direct descendant of the minister who organized Smyrna Church — Dr. Charles A. Sheldon, Jr., great-grandson of Dr. John S. Wilson. Dr. Sheldon is Minister of Music at the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta.

**NEW DEACONS** — The following men, having been elected by the congregation and examined by the Session, are being ordained and installed as Deacons at the morning service today: T. E. George, Frank Housworth, Norris Housworth, and Wayne Moseley.

**HYMNALS** — Today we dedicate to the glory of God and to the service of His Kingdom one hundred new copies of "The Presbyterian Hymnal." The sanctuary has been furnished with these books as a memorial to saints of Smyrna Church who have gone to their eternal reward and to honored members of the congregation. If you wish to donate one or more hymnals to the church in memory of or in honor of loved ones, please notify one of the officers of the church.

**OFFICERS' MEETING** — The Session will meet at 7:30 P. M. tomorrow at the church. Meetings of the Session are held regularly on the second Monday evening of each month. The diaconate meets the last Mon. of each month at 7:30 P. M.

**COMMUNION SERVICE** — Tuesday night of this week is our monthly Family Night. The covered-dish supper will not be held. At the hour of 7:30, however, a communion service will be held in the church sanctuary. We cordially invite each friend and member of the church to be present.

**VISITATION EVANGELISM** — Together with several other Presbyterian churches in this area of Atlanta Presbytery, Smyrna will soon participate in a season of visitation evangelism. The dates are February 24-27. Your prayers for the success of this evangelistic endeavor are earnestly solicited.

**PRESBYTERY MEETING** — The Presbytery of Atlanta will meet for its Stated spring Meeting here at Smyrna Church on Tuesday, April 15, 1952. It is with great pleasure that we anticipate entertaining the ministers and the elders who come from the various churches of the Presbytery.