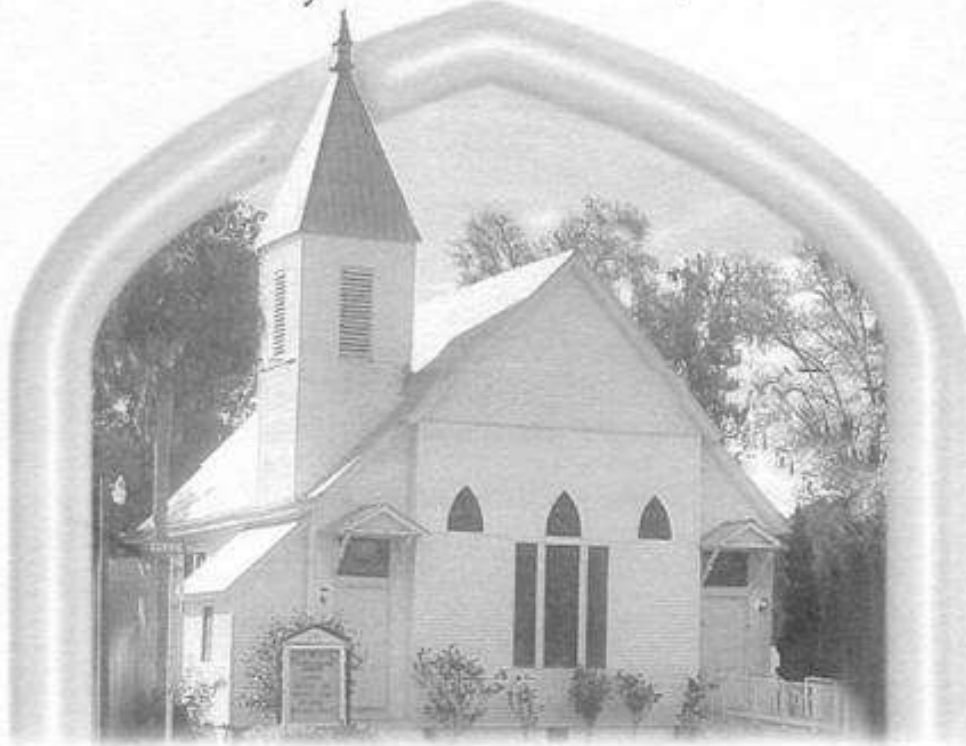


San Mateo
Presbyterian Church, USA



A Journey of Faith from 1882 to the Present

History

201 Currie Road • San Mateo, Florida



**Men's Bible Study Class
1936**

Front row, kneeling: Dick Wells, Henderson Solana,
Arthur Lampe, Radcliffe Carrington,
Calvin Biggers, Leon Cain, Stanley Cain

Second row: Edwin Knox, Ernest Solana, Byron Baker,
Fred Carrington, Frank Trotman,
Lewis Cain, Henry Knox, Harry Bailey Jr.

Third row: Dan Ross, Fletcher Solana, Albert Dickey,
Earle Lynch, Charles Solana, Visitor,
Henry Johnson, Dr. E.K. Mechlin,
Emil Brubaker, Dr. O.A. Newlin,
Harry Bailey Sr., Dr. S.A. Teague, Visitor,
William Bailey, J.W. Hobbs, Curtis Davis,
T.A. Ramsey and James Gray



"Do you in reliance on God for strength solemnly promise and covenant that you will walk together as an organized church principles of the faith and order of the Presbyterian Church, and that you will study the purity and harmony of the whole body?"

With these words spoken by the Rev. Mr. William Henry Dodge along with Dr. Myers of the Presbytery of the St. Johns, six persons became the charter members of an organized Presbyterian Church which has endured for one hundred twenty-six years and is still growing as a family working together to do God's holy work.

"May God help us all to heed this call and to live and work for Him whom we profess to serve."

C. R. Thacker, Clerk 1885

History of San Mateo Presbyterian Taken from the Minutes of the Session 1885

"The first place of worship in the town was the Union Chapel. A simple structure was erected, services held as opportunity offer. Its members were of the several ecclesiastical denominations, Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalian and Presbyterian. Preaching was quite regularly maintained. But from the nature of the Union and the express terms of its compact the sacraments could not be administered. So while still worshipping together under the auspices of the Union, little groups formed themselves into distinct churches according to their ecclesiastic affinities – The Baptist Church first, the Episcopalians next, and lastly the Methodist and Presbyterians formed themselves into a Presbyterian Church. The Episcopalians were the first to build for themselves – a small chapel. The Presbyterian Church was the next."

“Minutes of the Session” 1885

“It is proper that there be inserted here a brief account of the history of the church thus far with the change in the ecclesiastical relation that has come to exist.

“At the dedication of our church building upon Sabbath, February 1, 1885, the following paper was read by O. R. Thacker, the Clerk of the session.

“The Presbyterian Church of San Mateo was organized March 28th 1882 with a membership of six persons: Mrs. M.W. Crosby, Second Congregational Church of Bangor, Maine; Mrs. M.A. McShane, St. Johns Methodist Episcopal Church of New York; Mr. E. Bailey, Methodist Episcopal Church of Albany, New York; Mr. B. S. Reynolds, Presbyterian Church of St. Augustine, Florida; Mrs. A. H. Spenser, Central Presbyterian Church of Rochester, New York; and Mr. John Anderson from the Presbyterian Church of Geneva, New York. Mr. John B. Anderson was chosen ruling elder and duly set apart to that office by ordination and prayer through the officiating clergymen, Rev. Messrs Myers and Dodge of the Presbytery of St. Johns. On the following Sabbath two persons, Oliver Sweetser and Addie F. Sweetser were received into the membership of the church on the profession of their faith and seven others by letters from other churches: Mr. Nelson Bailey, Mrs. Margaret Bailey, Mr. Elmer Bailey, Mrs. C. Root Sheperd, Mr. Alfred Bailey, Mrs. Clara Bailey, and Mrs. Harriet Bailey. About a year later another person was received by certificate.

At the meeting for the organization of the church a building committee was appointed looking towards the erection of a house of worship in the future if the way should open. This committee consisted of the following persons: Nelson Bailey, Henry E. Maxwell, D.W.C. Douglass, B. Anderson, and Hiram Bailey. At about this time the following gentlemen in order to make it possible that a Presbyterian Church might be built in San Mateo, proposed to contribute two-thirds of the entire amount necessary for its erection, viz: Mr. Hiram Bailey of Kankakee Illinois one third; Mr. H.E. Maxwell, and T.C. Maxwell of Geneva, New York and Mr. J.B. Anderson of San Mateo one third. Dr. D.W.C. Douglass, of San Mateo, offered as a gift to the church a well located lot of land on which to build. These generous offers were accepted by the church together with the responsibility of providing the balance of money required. Thus was the way opened and after much unavoidable delay the building was begun in March 1884.

"This was accomplished and upon the 23rd of January 1885 this church of San Mateo was enrolled among the churches of the Presbytery of East Florida.

"After this the Rev. A.W. Sproull kindly lent efficient aid in the furtherance of the church's work and the church building was dedicated as above upon February 1, 1885."

The Manse

"In the winter of this first year of the pastorate the erection of the manse was begun upon the church lot (1885-1886). For it Mr. Henry E. Maxwell and Mr. Hiram Bailey agreed to contribute each one third of the cost. In the spring it was finished, a large sunny substantial house pleasantly situated with reference to the church. A loan of \$700.00 was made by the Church Erection Board, to meet the remaining indebtedness from the manse fund, to be paid in three annual installments, respectively \$200, \$200, \$300 the last falling due October 1890.

"The occupation of the Manse by the pastor was with the fall of 1887. A pleasant episode connected with the payment of this debt was the payment of the second installment of \$200 as a kindly surprise to the congregation by Mr. Frances A. Palmer, President of the Broadway Bank in New York City."

Taken from Minutes of the Session

The last minister to live in the Manse was the Rev. Charles Edward Davis. He lived there a short time before a mobile home was purchased for his living quarters and study later in the year.

The Manse was dismantled in 1971. There were many valuable antiques in the manse which were either sold or given away.

The Ministers

"Upon the 11th of January 1885, the Rev. A.R. Macoubrey, visiting in the state for the seeking of health preached in the Union Chapel by request of Rev. W.W. Sproull, the Superintendent of Presbyterian Missions in Florida. The Congregation earnestly desired him to occupy the pulpit again upon the following Sabbath January the 18th which was ultimately assented. He also took part in the services of the Sabbath of Dedication.

Upon the 8th day of February at a regularly called meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of selecting a pastor, and to this office the Rev. A.R. Macoubrey was unanimously elected. ... In the month of May following Mr. Macoubrey visited the church again, spending three summers. ... At a fall meeting of the Presbytery the call of the church was found in order...and Mr. Macoubrey assumed the pastoral charge of the church. The call of the church pledged it to the annual payment of \$500 to Mr. Macoubrey, the remainder of the salary to be supplemented by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church. It was the understanding that in the summer months, the families of the community are almost entirely away there should be vacation from June till the close of October.

From 1882 to 1933, it was the custom of the church to provide services during the winter months, using pastors who came for the winter season. This arrangement has often provided the church with ministers of very high caliber.

In 1933 with the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Mechlin, worship services were held for a ten month period.

The Rev. Dr. O.A. Newlin became the first installed resident pastor of the church on May 2, 1937. For a short period between 1965-1967 (and during the summer months in other years) the San Mateo Presbyterian Church shared a pastor with the Presbyterian Church of Crescent City. The Rev. Charles Pierce, Director of Rodeheaver Boy's Ranch, served as pastor, to the benefit of the San Mateo Church members during 1967-1969.



Ministers of the Church

A.R. Macoubrey	1885-91	D.T. Scott	943-46
F.H. Marling	1892	George W. Winn	1947-49
Wilson Phraner	1893-94	Robert E. Schwenk . . .	1950-53
Ralston Smith	1895	Thomas M. Patterson . .	1954-56
J.W. Easton	1895-1896	Bernard Y. Spare	1957-58
A. Miller	1897-1907	Ernest Potter	1959
Durell W. Dayton	1908	J.J. Cacapardo	1959-61
George E. Stockwell . . .	1909	Wendell Taylor	1961-
John Lennley	1910	Rev. P.L. Parker	1964
H.L. Ellsworth	1911-12	Rev. Ritter	1964-65
A.R. Day	1913	Carl Elder	1965
Josiah Still	1913-14	Walter Farris	1966-67
William Gaston	1915-17	Charles Pierce	1968-69
J.S. Axtell	1919-22	Charles E. Davis	1970-80
Donald Morrison	1922-24	Aaron Meckel	1980
W.W. Weller	1924-27	J. Reid Cameron	1981-1988
J.S. Axtell	1927	Rea S. Weigel	1988-92
G.N. Luccock	1928	Arthur Rideout	1992-95
A. Christy Brown	1929	Charles DeVane	1995-99
Clarence M. Junkin	1930-32	Pat Cadwallader	1999-2001
E.K. Mechlin	1933-36	Brady Seeley	2002-2004
O.A. Newlin	1937-43	Noel White	2004-present

Elders of the Church

John Anderson	Emil S. Brubaker	Miriam Donohoo
Alfred Bailey	Miriam Carpenter	Dixie Dooley
Carlton A. Bailey	Radcliff Carrington	Shelby Ferrell
Harry C. Bailey, Jr.	Peggy Jean Counts	Belford Evans
Hiram Bailey	Bill Crosby	Inaree C. Evans
Nelson Bailey	Frank Crosby	James D. Gray
William Edward Bailey	Ralph Crosby	Lulu Gail Parish Griffis
Lilla C. Baird	Sabrina Crosby	William Griffis
Jack Barber	Ray Crothers	Jim Guinn
Thomas Barber	Delores Dean	Phyllis Henkle
J. Richard Brother	Ray Dix	Flo Holloway

Charles Hooper
J. L. Hooper
Lawrence Jensen
H. Henry Johnson
Fred Kirby
George Edwin Knox
Virginia Knox
Harold Kohl
Jesse W. Kyte
The first woman elder.
Marge Lahman
Vince Latham
J. R. Lee
Charles Lydick

Earl H. Lynch
Richard Mauldin
Ted Meserole
Herbert Moss
J. E. Mull
Mary Ellen Nearing
Patti Nelson
Jody Rakes
Jane Register
Jack Rogero
Ruth Sharp
Henderson Solana
Frank Stanton
Anna Stilwell

Ruth Swogger
O. R. Thacker
R. P. Tillery
Candy Tilton
W. E. Tilton, Jr.
Lynwood Timberlake
Thomas Todd
Frank Trotman
Sam Webb
James White
Mary Jo. Wolfe
William Wolfe

Deacons of the Church 1950-1962

2001 - 2008
Jeanne Knox
Gloria Bailey
Reggie Hooper
Miriam Donohoo
Phyllis Henkle
Libby Mull
Tommy Stilwell
Ginger Knox
Jean Riffe
Doris Lagasse
Edwin Knox
Robert Knox
Jack McMickal
Robert Nearing
Edwin Dickey
Harry Bailey, Jr.
Roy Trotman
Ralph Harmon
Jack Barber
George Mapps, Jr.

William Crosby
Flora Ferrell
Louise C. Bloomer
Thomas Trevorah
Ruth Richter
J. L. Hooper
Dorothy W. Wilkinson
Mary A. Solana



Mascoubrey's Bible is
12' long by 10 1/2' tall.
It is 4' thick.

Chairwoman's, Church Aid Committee Ladies Village Improvement Association

Mrs. Lewis Bailey	1904	Mrs. Larkin Trull	1927
Miss M.J. Crosby	1904	Mrs. Lansing	1929
Mrs. C.A. Bailey	1904	Miss May Crosby	1931
Mrs. L.B. Bailey	1907	Mrs. Charles Solana	1932
Miss M.J. Crosby	1907-1909	Mrs. Echlin	1934
Mrs. Bird Crosby	1909-1911	Mrs. Charles Solana	1937
Miss Georgia Robinson . . .	1911-1913	Mrs. Ida Godard	1939
Miss M.J. Crosby	1913-1915	Mrs. Charles Solana	1939
Mrs. Howard Bracken	1917-1918	Mrs. Shelby Ferrell	1940-41
Miss Jennie Lyle	1918-1920	Mrs. Jennie Meserole	1942
Mrs. J.S. Axtell	1920	Mrs. Charles Solana	1944
Miss Margaret Fisher	1922	Mrs. Shelby Ferrell	1947
Jane Lyle	1924	Mrs. Nellie Knox	1948
Miss Fisher	1925	Mrs. Henry Johnson	1949
Mrs. Shaw	1926		

Presidents of the Westminster Guild

Mrs. Anne Crosby	1952-1953	Mrs. Margaret Barber	1956-1957
Mrs. Lilla C. Baird	1953-1954	Mrs. Mary Ellen Nearing	1957-1958
Mrs. Helen Todd	1954-1955	Mrs. Inaree Evans	1958-1959
Mary Noble	1955-1956	Mrs. Claire Rogers	1959-1960

Presidents of United Presbyterian Women of San Mateo

Mrs. Amaryllis Nipper	1960-1961	Mrs. Anne Crosby	1962-1963
Mrs. Miriam Carpenter	1961-1962	Mrs. Peggy Hooper	1963-1965

Presidents of Women of the Church

Mrs. Peggy Hooper	1970-1975	Mrs. Cora S. Middleton . . .	1988-1989
Mrs. Charlotte Kohl	1975-1977	Mrs. Raymond Dix	1990-1992
Mrs. Phyllis Hinkle	1977-1979	Miss Candace Tilton	1993-1999
Mrs. Elizabeth Roadarmel . . .	1979-1981	Mrs. Mary Baird	2000-2001
Mrs. Anne Crosby	1981-1982	Mrs. Gloria Bailey	2002-Present
Mrs. Beford Evans	1983-1984		
Mrs. Ruth Swogger	1985-1986		

The Church Bell

On January 28, 1890, "A vote being taken on the new bell. It was moved and seconded that the Ladies raise \$75.00 for that purpose providing the Trustees make up the balance."

The bell of the church has brought comment from many people that it has the sweetest tone of any church bell they've ever heard. An interesting fact about the bell is that when money was being raised for its purchase one of the captains of a river boat of that period sent a donation with the comment: "When I'm traveling on the river Sundays and hear that bell I want to know that I had a part in making it possible."

William Bailey
May 20, 1953



The bell was brought over by boat from Belgium and paid for by the Ladies Aid society. It was rung for many years for fires in the community, and when there were funerals in this area, it tolled the community's grief in the loss of a loved one.

Edwin Knox explained the art of ringing the bell which came equipped with a tolling hammer. Pulling the rope and letting go of it rings both sides of the bell, but holding as the rope is pulled tolls the bells allowing the clapper to hit only one side of the bell and thus producing the tolling effect. Mr. Knox is an expert in the procedures of ringing the bell.

Harry Bailey related the tale that the bell was so very heavy and large that it was very difficult to raise it up into the belfry. The cost of installing the bell was more than the cost of the bell perhaps.

The Church Organs

On February 20, 1909, "It was decided that the Society would give more to the organ fund. A committee of four consisting of Mrs. J.A. Crosby, Miss Crosby, Mrs. H.B. Bailey and Mrs. Ramsey was formed. Their task was to find the cost of good organs and where would be the best place to purchase one." An entry in the Society's treasurer's book on February 28, 1910 listed the freight paid on the organ was \$3.61.

In 1962, a Conn organ was purchased by the church in the memory of Mr. George Meserole. This organ is an electric organ, a big improvement over the pedal organ of 1910. The current sanctuary organ was purchased in 1985.

The Last 26 Years

We have loved, served, built, and shared together many things to the Glory of God.

During the early 1980's there were many improvements made to the fellowship hall. Many of these improvements were done with special funding received from the Presbytery. However, the majority of the money used to refurbish the building was willed to the church by Miss Francis Anderson (daughter of Mr. John B. Anderson who was one of our founders and the first elder). After the renovations, we dedicated and named the building the Anderson Fellowship Hall. The addition of a barbeque pit off from the fellowship hall marked our interest in having socials and spending time together as a church family.

Another improvement made to the fellowship hall was to install a sound system between the hall and the church. This provided an opportunity for volunteer nursery workers to hear the services.

In 1983, after 123 years of separation, The Presbyterian Church US and the United Presbyterian Church reunited as the Presbyterian Church USA. In 1985 we moved from the Suwannee Presbytery to the St. Augustine Presbytery.

Between 1984 and 1987 changes were also happening in the sanctuary. A new communion table was added along with a 24" brass cross and matching candlesticks and vase. New communion linens were purchased. New hymnals were bought as well as a new Hammond organ. The Reverend Mr. Arthur and Margaret Rideout purchased Bibles for the pews in 1994.

From 1991-1992 we were part of the St. John's Parish. This was a group of 5 small churches in the area---San Mateo, Palatka, Crescent City, Melrose, and Starke. These five churches did pulpit exchange twice a year, shared resources, and had joint musical service a couple of times a year. The choirs would perform together and separately. There would also be a lot of congregational singing.

In 1989 recessed lighting was added to the sanctuary. Then in 1996, the land next to the church was purchased, and in 1999 new carpet was installed in the church.

Physical improvements continued during the 2000's. A new sound system, new Celebration Hymnals, a Baldwin Baby Grand piano, new playground equipment and fencing for the playground are a few of the improvements that have occurred recently.

Our music program continues to grow. We have an adult choir with approximately 15 adults regularly participating. At Christmas the choir presents a Christmas cantata, and even in this modern age, we still go caroling to shut-ins. Several very talented soloists, pianists, and organist all add to the beautiful music provided each Sunday during worship. In addition to the adult choir, our youth often sing special music or play our newly purchased bells. We are truly blessed with many talented people. Beginning in 2007, the session

designated every fifth Sunday as a musically centered worship service. Evenings of music are favorites among our congregation. Several times a year, we have a bluegrass gospel group or a gospel quartet perform. These evenings are always followed with food and fellowship.

The San Mateo Presbyterian Church continues to be involved in international missions. Not only do we help our youth support the Heifer International project, but we have also provided medicines for a Jamaican mission, as well as blankets and bedding for hospitals in Africa. Just this year we sent money to help rebuild a mission in the Dominican Republic that had been devastated by a storm.

Even though we support Presbyterian worldwide missions, we are also aware of the needs in our own community. For the past 18 years, we have supported the Food Pantry (which is used to provide food for a month to families in emergency situations) and to participate in the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen. This soup kitchen provides a hot lunch to anyone in need 365 days a year. The San Mateo Presbyterian Church is responsible for the 3rd Saturday of every month. We have adopted families in need during Thanksgiving and Christmas, providing food and gifts. Our deacons are providing small gifts to the people of Haven Hospice and some nursing home patrons to help them remember that they are not forgotten.

We have a very active prayer ministry that includes a phone prayer chain, praying by name for people in the worship service and through the week. We send prayer cards signed by the congregation to those in need of special prayers or congratulations.

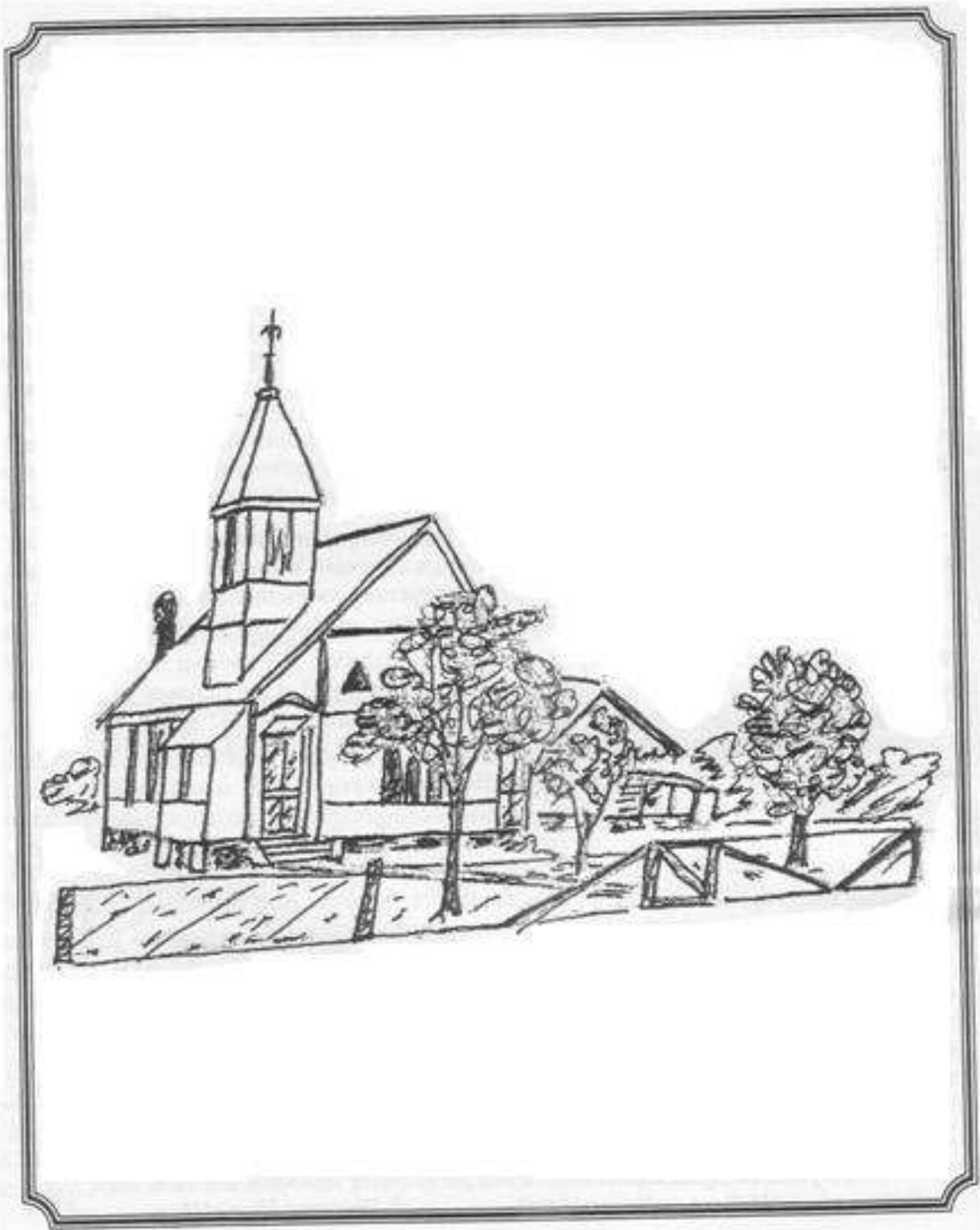
Many of our most treasured memories concern our annual traditions. During the Easter season we hold a Maundy Thursday or a Good Friday service. We have an Easter egg hunt and church picnic the Saturday before Easter (very often held at the home of Belford and Inaree Evans). The highlight of this picnic is always the "raw egg toss". Easter celebration continues with decorating the cross on Sunday morning followed by a beautiful worship service.

The Christmas season brings more traditions. Members participate in the lighting of the Advent Candles during the worship service each Sunday. The annual Christmas Cantata, caroling and the wonderful Christmas Eve program add to the beauty of the season. The Christmas Eve program is a program that the children present. How marvelous to celebrate the birth of a child with children!

Members of the San Mateo Presbyterian Church enjoy fun and fellowship. This is evidenced by our many gatherings and outings. We have a covered dish dinner following worship services the first Sunday of every month, a monthly "lunch bunch" who meet for lunch and fun once a month, and a monthly Bible study. In addition to these regularly scheduled activities, other special outings are planned. Trips out of town to places like Lake Wales, FL to see the Passion Play, to Gainesville to attend plays and have dinner, to Jacksonville and even Ocala to attend concerts are a few examples of some special outings.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ and in our forefathers who have led us to him.

"If these walls could talk....." Welcome Home!!!





Presbytery of Saint Augustine

1937 University Blvd. W. • Jacksonville, Florida 32217
Telephone (904) 733-8277 • Fax (904) 737-6658

To: The Congregation of San Mateo Presbyterian Church

From: Michael Williams, Associate Executive Presbyter *new*

Re: 125th Anniversary Celebration

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to reflect upon my experience with the congregation of the San Mateo congregation upon the occasion of your 125th Anniversary celebration. I certainly want you to know of my prayers for you as you enter your next 125 years of faithful ministry in your community.

My first encounter with anyone from San Mateo occurred in 1986. In those years San Mateo was one of about six or eight congregations in the Presbytery of St. Augustine that received a small stipend from the presbytery as aid to the smaller membership churches. The amount of the stipend was determined by each congregation making a plea to the decision making committee. Stories of woe were heard from all. After each congregation had completed their presentation, the small financial pie was divided. San Mateo's spokespersons were often Lulu Gail Parrish and Ginger Knox. As time passed, the practice which many found a bit demeaning was abandoned and eventually San Mateo matured to the point that they claimed the full responsibility for their financial life.

I can remember Reverend Reid Cameron telling of taking his motorcycle on one of the most beautiful rides in the world taking State Road 13 up to Jacksonville. This little piece of information opened up one of the more enjoyable aspects of having all of northeast Florida as my parish because that drive is still one of my favorites.

Preaching at San Mateo was always a great honor and pleasure. I knew that I could count on a very capable worship leader, such as Janie Register, to help out. I also knew that the choir would be prepared to offer their musical support to the worship of God. Whether she had a grandchild at her side, choir director Parrish was always in good voice with just the right twist of the wrist to extract from faithful choir members a glorious sound.

Chuck Devane was not only a good pastoral leader for San Mateo but he was a good personal friend to me. I can still see him going to a meeting or making a visit with "black dog" in the back of that big, white, diesel truck. There was more than one occasion when I ventured "to the end of the hard road" to see how Chuck was doing.

Finally, what a precious find the congregation has made in having Reverend Noel White to serve as Stated Supply pastor. As a non-Presbyterian, Noel has been better informed and more interested in seeing that a Presbyterian expression of ministry was maintained at the church. He has been zealous for the expansion and success of the congregation in some ways more than many members of the congregation! Whenever time and opportunity allow, Noel and I will allow our minds and our memories to hark back to an earlier day when both of us served churches in Lexington KY.

As year 126 moves toward us, let each of us rededicate ourselves to sharing the good news and the wonderful experiences that are molded into the ministry of the San Mateo Presbyterian Church. Let us build a grand church which will serve as a beacon of hope to all persons. God bless you.

Rev. J. Reid Cameron
4726 Park Street
Panama City Florida, 32404

San Mateo Presbyterian Church

GREETINGS TO EACH OF YOU:

It is difficult to believe that it has been twenty years since I served as your pastor. I spent almost eight years of my ministry with you and those eight years passed so rapidly. I know that the reason it all passed so quickly is because the time was filled with Christian love between us. For that reason I shall always fondly remember you and my ministry there.

What I remember most about my ministry at San Mateo is the relationship I had with the people. I will not attempt to recall each individual, however, I would like to mention one person in particular, Mr. Edwin "Red" Knox. "Red" was a most unique individual. He served as an elder in that church for many years. That which made him so unique was his personality. He never minded correcting the preacher if he felt that he had made a mistake. If he did not like the hymn selection he would tell you, even in the midst of the service. Many a time he suggested a different hymn because "it goes better with your sermon". Please do not misunderstand me, I loved "Red" Knox, because he always kept the preacher on his toes. "Red" also dearly loved that church and her served it faithfully all of his life.

I remember the storm that passed through the area, on one occasion, and took down several large oak trees on the right side of the church building. Thankfully, the trees just missed the buildings, but what a mess there was to clean up. The congregation came forth, as they always did, and took care of the problem. I fondly remember the love, care and support the congregation had for the church.

I regret that I will not be able to attend you celebration of 125 years of ministry of the San Mateo Presbyterian Church. I know that it will be my loss. However, now that I am retired I do preach quite often and I have a preaching assignment on that Sunday. I am also going through radiation treatments for cancer and that keeps me quite busy.

Eva and I wish you God's blessings and much success as you move forward into your next 125 years of ministry to the community of San Mateo.

Love to Each of You, and
Grace and Peace.





The Presbyterian Church at Marion Oaks

279 Marion Oaks Manor
Ocala, Florida 34473

March 24, 2008

San Mateo Presbyterian Church
201 Curric Road
P. O. Box 57
San Mateo, Florida 32187-0057

Dear Friends:

Anniversaries are very special times. There are various types of anniversaries; birthday, marriage, national, but none quite like a church anniversary. A 125th anniversary is very special! Years ago, San Mateo church established a covenant with Jesus Christ. That covenant has withstood joy and sadness over the years, but you have remained faithful, and our Lord has blessed your faithfulness with His presence.

Betty and I fondly reflect upon our time spent in your midst. Many faces and names parade across our memories. We have enjoyed, and give thanks to the Lord for our ministry there, and we are grateful for the kindness and love always shown to us. We recall with joy the special "concerts" and special music provided by our members and their talented friends. The special times with children during worship was always a joy! I always appreciated the fine response and cooperation from the Session and others as we planned and worked together on continued and new projects.

Our ministry here at Marion Oaks Presbyterian Church keeps us quite busy. Therefore, in our absence, you will be in our thoughts and prayers as you proceed into God's new future.

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Brady and Betty Seeley

BS/jh



Vacation Bible School 1956

Front row, kneeling: Lois Thiele, George Howard, Johnny Prescott, Virginia Knox, Judy Knox, Gus Thiele

Second row: Inaree Evans, teacher, Bud Maudlin, Martha Jeanne Mauldin, Rosanne Smith, Kathryn Brother, Janie Crosby, Belford Evans Jr., Kay Noble, Sandy Mallory, Laurie Mallory, Mary Mallory, David Mallory, Vickie Mallory, Jack Rogero, teacher

Third row: Freda Dickey, teacher, Judy Nearing, Reynolds LaRoache, George Knox, Perschon Smith, John Bailey, Nellie Knox, teacher, Lana LaRoache, John Popp, Dr. Thomas Patterson, Mrs. Patterson

Fourth row: Mary Ethel Prescott, teacher, Helen Noble, Linda Carpenter, Kathern Brother, Vicki Tilton, Cathy Mallory, Teresa Brother, Helen Prescott, Ann Howard, Teresa Todd, Candy Tilton, Toni Todd

Fifth row: Catherine Marie Bailey, _____, Anne Crosby, teacher, Bud nearing, Eddie Bailey, LaRonda LaRoache