

History of Ft Caroline Presbyterian

On March 3, 1964, the Home Mission Committee of Suwanee Presbytery approved the University Park Chapel plan jointly sponsored by the Arlington Presbyterian Church and the Suwanee Presbytery. Fourteen people attended the Chapel membership meeting on March 18th. The Reverend William B. Emerson assumed responsibilities as pastor at the onset of the Chapel. The first worship service was held on April 18, 1964, in the cafeteria of Justina Road Elementary School.

Five acres of land were soon acquired and work was begun on a new church building. The work proved futile when hurricane Dora blew down the walls in September of 1964. Construction resumed and the first service was held on November 19, 1964. The Education Building was added in May of 1966.

Mr. Emerson resigned as pastor in November of 1968 and Marshall Tobias Jr. assumed the pastoral responsibilities in May of 1969. By the end of the year the membership totaled 121.

In 1971, with the assistance of a grant from the Williams Foundation, sidewalks were laid, palm trees planted, and a lawn mower was purchased. At the end of the year there were 204 members and the Board of Deacons was discontinued. In 1972 the mortgage was paid by Suwanee Presbytery which also provided \$5000 for major improvements.

In 1973 we became involved with the meals on wheels program and in September of 1974 Marshall Tobias departed as pastor. Dr. Albert Kissling was interim pastor until June of 1975 when Thomas Aycock III accepted the call to become our third pastor and served until 1980.

Dr. Kissling again served as interim pastor until 1981, when Dr. Herbert Meza became our pastor. Dr. Meza served during the construction and dedication of our current sanctuary and continued in the pulpit until July of 1991. Arthur Rideout served as interim pastor until July of 1992 when G. Timothy Womack became our fifth pastor. Dr. Meza became the first Pastor Emeritus in May of 1996.

Dr. Womack continued as pastor until June of 2000 at which time Dr. John LaMotte served as interim pastor. In January of 2002 Jim Davis accepted the call as pastor and served until retiring in March of 2005.

Currently Dr. Don Heath leads the congregation in worship and continues our long blessing of outstanding pastoral service.