

2017 Church Information Form

Toccoa Presbyterian Church



105 East Tugalo Street, Toccoa, GA 30577
(706) 886-3680 ■ www.toccoapresbyterian.org

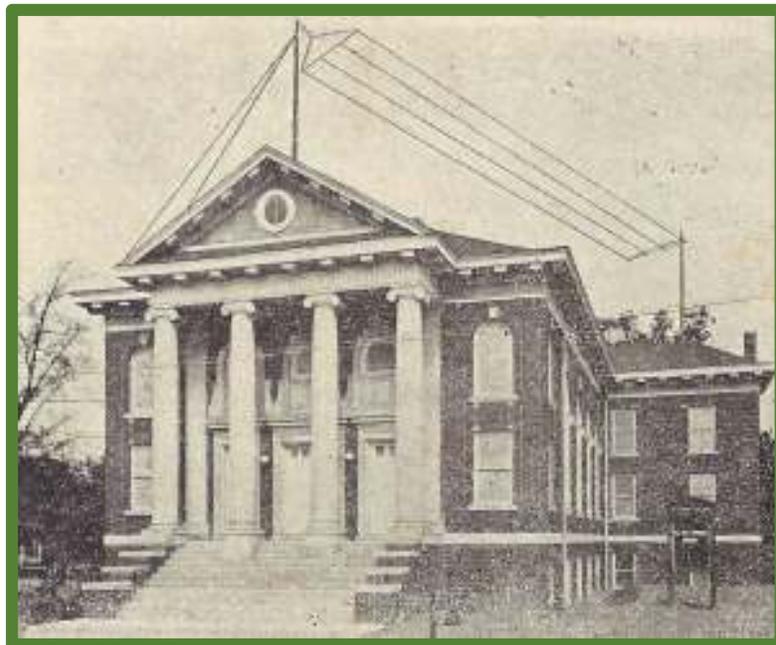
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Toccoa Presbyterian Church is a community of believers, who desire to live our lives in a way that demonstrates the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives and empower us to spread the gospel so that others will know His unending love.

Our Church's History:

Our church has a rich history in the community. It was one of the first churches founded after the city of Toccoa was established. Since its founding in 1873, one of the most valuable aspects of the church is the congregation's desire and ability to work with others in the community. Toccoa Presbyterian was instrumental in starting many of the ministries that continue to serve today. Included in the list is The Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, The Toccoa Clinic, Stephens County Read at Home, and others. Today, as in the past, our church members continue to work closely with numerous organizations within our community. Also, our congregation continues to provide leadership in both city and county government.

Dr. R.A. Forrest, who was the founder and president of Toccoa Falls College, served as pastor for Toccoa Presbyterian Church for twenty-five years. The area's first radio station, WTFI, was located in the church's basement and broadcast church services and Sunday School for a number of years. As in the past, the church continues to be a vital partner with the city of Toccoa.



Our Building:

Toccoa Presbyterian Church has a long heritage dating back 143 years. Our three-story historic facility is centrally located on a downtown corner in the small town of Toccoa, Georgia. Built in 1925-1926 with additions made in the 1950's, our first floor includes a kitchen, large fellowship hall, along with a nursery and Sunday School rooms.

The pastor's study is located on the second floor. Also on this floor are the church office, the choir room, a library, additional Sunday School rooms, and the sanctuary, which seats 250. This floor can be accessed by elevator or stairs. Additional classrooms are located on the third floor.



A Vintage 1930's Postcard



Toccoa Presbyterian at a Glance:

- Current membership is around 100 members
- Average worship attendance is around 50.
- The church currently employs a Music Director, Organist, Secretary and Custodian.
- A small but gifted choir
- The session is an equal balance of elders with five men and five women serving.
- Currently there are five session committees: Building and Grounds, Worship, Christian Education, Church Growth and Evangelism, Congregational Care
- Sunday School at 10:00 am with Worship at 11:00 am
- A time of fellowship with light snacks follows each Sunday Morning Worship service
- Monthly Fellowship Suppers and Program
- Bi-weekly Women's Bible Study
- Quarterly JOY (Just Older Youth) Group lunch and program
- Joint Vacation Bible School with Lutheran Church
- Monthly Hymn Sing and Soup/Salad Supper
- Communion celebrated monthly and provided to shut-ins quarterly

Toccoa Presbyterian Church is currently in a time of transition. The process of gracious dismissal has been a long and arduous one. Although our gracious dismissal from PCUSA was finalized on March 31, 2017 we are still in the process of fulfilling the terms and conditions of our release. On March 3, 2017, just before our release from PCUSA to ECO, our pastor of ten years, died suddenly. Needless to say, this has been a difficult time for the church. However, the members and session have rallied together in hopes of navigating a new path for the future of our church; a path that will rekindle our desire, focus, and mission in becoming a flourishing church.





Our Strengths:

- A love for God and His Word
- Loving, close fellowship
- Dynamic Music ministry
- Strong Community Outreach

Our Areas We Want to Improve:

- Implementing strategies to attract and maintain young families with children
- Identifying our purpose for being who God wants us to be
- Diversifying our congregation by age and ethnicity

Toccoa Presbyterian Church witnesses in our community and around the world:

- By serving as volunteers, board members, and workers in local ministries including Habitat for Humanity, Toccoa Soup Kitchen, Open Arms Clinic, Special Olympics, Prison Ministry, and MERGE
- By providing assistance for the poor and elderly
- By annually serving as a drop-off center for Operation Christmas Child
- By providing a monthly worship service to assisted-living facilities
- By collecting school supplies for Toccoa Elementary, toiletries for Ninth District Opportunity, and empty medication bottles for the Open Arms Clinic
- By knitting hats and blankets for the newborns at Stephens County Hospital
- By enriching a needy family's Christmas with gifts and food using an Angel Tree

For more information about Toccoa Presbyterian Church, please visit our website at www.toccoapresbyterian.org

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS



Mark 16:15

"And he said to them, "Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature."







Psalms 96:3

**“Declare His glory among
the nations, His wonders
among all peoples.”**



JOB DESCRIPTION AND DUTIES

Position to be filled: Transitional and/or Full Time Senior Pastor

Education: Accredited Theological Seminary graduate with an ordination into ECO or willingness to do so

Compensation: Negotiable package within the guidelines of ECO

Toccoa Presbyterian Church is seeking a caring individual who has a vibrant personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This person will abide by the Essential Tenets of ECO and seek to be an inspiring teacher and preacher; practice and promote the Great Commission in our church, community, and around the world; and, demonstrate a willingness to learn and grow in the Christian faith and inspire others to do the same.

A cornerstone of ministry will be to inspire generous stewardship of the resources the membership provides, which includes their time and talent. This person will also exhibit an authentic humility and a giving spirit along with having a strong vision and passion for the future of our church and this community. It is also essential for our potential pastor to have a desire to work hand-in-hand with other churches in the community bringing unity and hope to a small northeast Georgia town.

Desired characteristics/qualities of our new pastor:

Strong Administrative Skills in:

Organization Motivation Communication Member Recruiting
Conflict Management Interpersonal Relationships Discipleship

These skills are demonstrated by;

- An ability to set and achieve short and long-term goals for our church
- Fostering and helping to implement new concepts
- Executing a vision to build a flourishing church
- Being flexible, open-minded and having a willingness to listen to other opinions
- Having a positive attitude and approach
- Being open to the use of lay leaders in our worship services
- A creativity in seeking solutions to conflicts and problem-solving
- Shepherding the congregation in their spiritual life journey as covenant partners of ECO
- Possessing a pastoral commitment to minister to and visit prospective members, new

- members, shut-ins, elderly, and absentee members
- Having knowledge/experience with evangelism and outreach programs that help build Disciples of Christ in our church, community, and world

Responsibilities Include:

- Leading worship: Sunday mornings, monthly at local assisted living facilities, special worship services (Healing, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise, Christmas Eve)
- Conducting funerals, weddings, baptisms, communion services
- Teaching groups/classes: instruct and train new elders, church members, premarital counseling.
- Planning and moderate Session and congregational meetings, including annual planning session, and encourage participation in session's activities
- Providing training that equips elders as spiritual leaders of the church.
- Attending church functions
- Facilitating church growth
- Meeting with the Personnel Committee
- Serving as head of staff
 - Perform administrative and other duties
 - Work with the church secretary and other employees
 - Consult with the Music Director on musical selections
 - Write monthly newsletter article
 - As needed, contribute information that will be posted to the church website
- Participate as a member of the Worship Committee
- Administer Benevolent Funds along with Church Growth and Evangelism Committee
- Attend and maintain relations with ECO serving on various committees as opportunities arise
- Participate in ecumenical services and community activities.

Church References:

Rev. Jim Lugo, Sharon Presbyterian Church, ECO jolugo@netzero.net 706-245-9490

Rev. Dr. John Brown, First United Methodist, Toccoa, GA john@toccoafirstumc.org 706-886-5092

The Very Reverend Mary Demmler, St. Matthias Episcopal Church matthiasrector@gmail.com
706-716-9347

Rev. Fred DiMiao, Clayton Presbyterian Church PCUSA cabin1@windstream.net 706-490-4921

Our session serves as our Pastor Nominating Committee. The elders are: Jenny Bell, chair; Erik Bolstad; JoAnn Bruner; Evan Hellenga; Kenny Keister; Gary Lance; Pat McGarvey; Ed Morris; Angie Ramage and Lane Tucker. Our clerk of session is Beth McDonald. The PNC as a whole and as sub-groups, have been working hard in this process and are excited about where God is leading us in seeking our new pastor.

Interested applicants should submit a Statement of Faith and a Resume to:

Lead Elder, Jenny Bell
167 Holland Pippin Drive
Clarkesville, GA 30523
(H) 706-754-7194; (C) 706-599-1817
jennycbell@windstream.net

cc: Beth McDonald
112 Brookdale Road
Toccoa, GA 30577
Clerk of Session,
(H) 706-886-5158;
(C) 706-244-1970
bmcdonald8136@gmail.com



Evangelical
Covenant
Order
OF PRESBYTERIANS

The City of Toccoa is the Heart of Northeast Georgia about seven miles from the border of Georgia and South Carolina. It is located about 90 miles northeast of Atlanta and 50 miles northwest of Anderson, SC,

To learn more about Toccoa, Georgia, please visit these links:

- www.cityoftoccoa.com
- www.toccoagachamber.com
- www.stephens.k12.ga.us

