



Our Little Church

by Dave Radder

A few months ago a buddy of mine was driving from Brooksville to Live Oak for a meeting, he wanted to take the back roads so he was going up 41 and then 27. He called me as he was driving into High Springs and said hey Dave I'm just going through your town could you give me some directions, my GPS is messing up. He described to me where he was and I said you're going through town you should be passing by my church in just a moment, it's a Presbyterian Church on the right hand side you'll need to

make a U-turn and go back and take a right at the light to go north to Fort White. At that point he said "do you mean that little old church on the right hand side? is that the one you're talking about? I said yes it is, and I said I guess it is little compared to the giant Baptist Church you go to! and yes....it is old....123 years old. After I hung up I got to thinking about this, and how much history this church has seen, and how much God has blessed it and helped it to remain. Even though it may seem like right now we are going through some of the worst times in history we need to remember that this church has seen much worse,... and God has seen it through those troubled times. This church had its first service in the midst of a national crisis, the country was at war, the Spanish American war, the last war that our country would fight in the 1800s. that original congregation of only 18 people had to go through the stress, difficulty, and pain of both building a Church and then assembling a congregation. Personally having spent a bunch of time in the attic and the bell tower I can say that they were not the best carpenters judging by all the bent nails up there so I'm sure it was extra strenuous for them during the construction. After all that hard work I'm sure during the first church service held that the congregation said prayers for our country, for our troops..... and for Gods blessing for our little church. Several years later, before the April 21st church service, someone, sitting right where Vern is sitting right now was talking about the tragedy that had befallen a ship on The previous Monday, Over 1500 people had lost their lives when the ship ,RMS Titanic sank on April 15, 1912. I'm sure that congregation prayed prayers for those lost souls, for the survivors, and asked for God's blessing for our little church. A few years later, after the great war was ending and the great pandemic was beginning I'm sure someone sitting right where John is sitting was saying a prayer for the souls of the soldiers lost at war and those lost to the Spanish influenza pandemic that was raging across the country, and also asked for God's blessing for our little church. I am sure the congregation gathered together on Sunday mornings during the uncertain times of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Our entire country was trying to just get by and survive. It must have seemed for them that there was little hope for the future Yet they still gathered together and prayed for our country, for themselves, and for God's blessing for our little church. Sunday morning December 7, 1941 perhaps two church members sitting right where Jack is sitting right now were maybe discussing the upcoming Christmas cantata, not realizing that at that moment six Japanese aircraft carriers we're moving into striking range of The Hawaiian islands and Pearl Harbor. The following Sunday I'm sure the congregation gathered to say prayers for the dead, prayers for our country now at war, and for God's blessing for our little church. In late October 1962 someone sitting right where Brett is, was praying that the Soviet union and the United States de-escalate and back away from the brink of nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis. The entire planet was on the edge of nuclear annihilation so I'm sure that the congregation prayed for God to guide the leaders of both nations, for peace, and for God's blessing for our little Church. The four walls of this church have seen a remarkable amount of history in the last 123 years, seeing events in three different centuries. We are all now part of that history, and even though it seems like there are fewer of us every Sunday, we need to help this church to keep going. When the virus recedes the rest of our church family will return. God has always blessed this church and I'm sure he will continue to do so during this newest crisis, and see our little old church safely through to the other side of history. Let us bow our heads and pray for our little church. Dear Lord thank you for this congregation and for all the past congregations who have worked so hard to make this church what it is today. Be with our congregation as we continue the good works that will help our church survive into the future. Be with those members of our church family who are not able to be with us now but will soon return. and please continue to bless our little church. amen