

Remodeled Fishing Creek Church Sets Dedication Program

Herald, July 22, 1958

Organized 203 years ago and going strong in its present building for the last 150 years, Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church has had its face lifted.

Looking as spick and span as a brand new church, the remodeled Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church will be dedicated Aug. 3 at special homecoming services.

A layer of brick veneer covers the original one-room structure and a new addition. But inside, except for some sprucing up with paint and such, the interior has been left in its original state as far as possible.

Fishing Creek church was organized in 1755. It's one of the oldest churches in upper South Carolina. The present building was put up about 1800.

The church has been turned around two or three times in the past 150 years, says a member of the building committee.

No, not literally!

What has happened is that, over the years, the road near the church has changed its course, first to the front and then to the back of the church. With each change in the position of the road the congregation felt it wise to change the position of the pulpit, front door and pews in order to make the church face the road. The church once more has its ap-

pointments in the position in which they were originally placed.

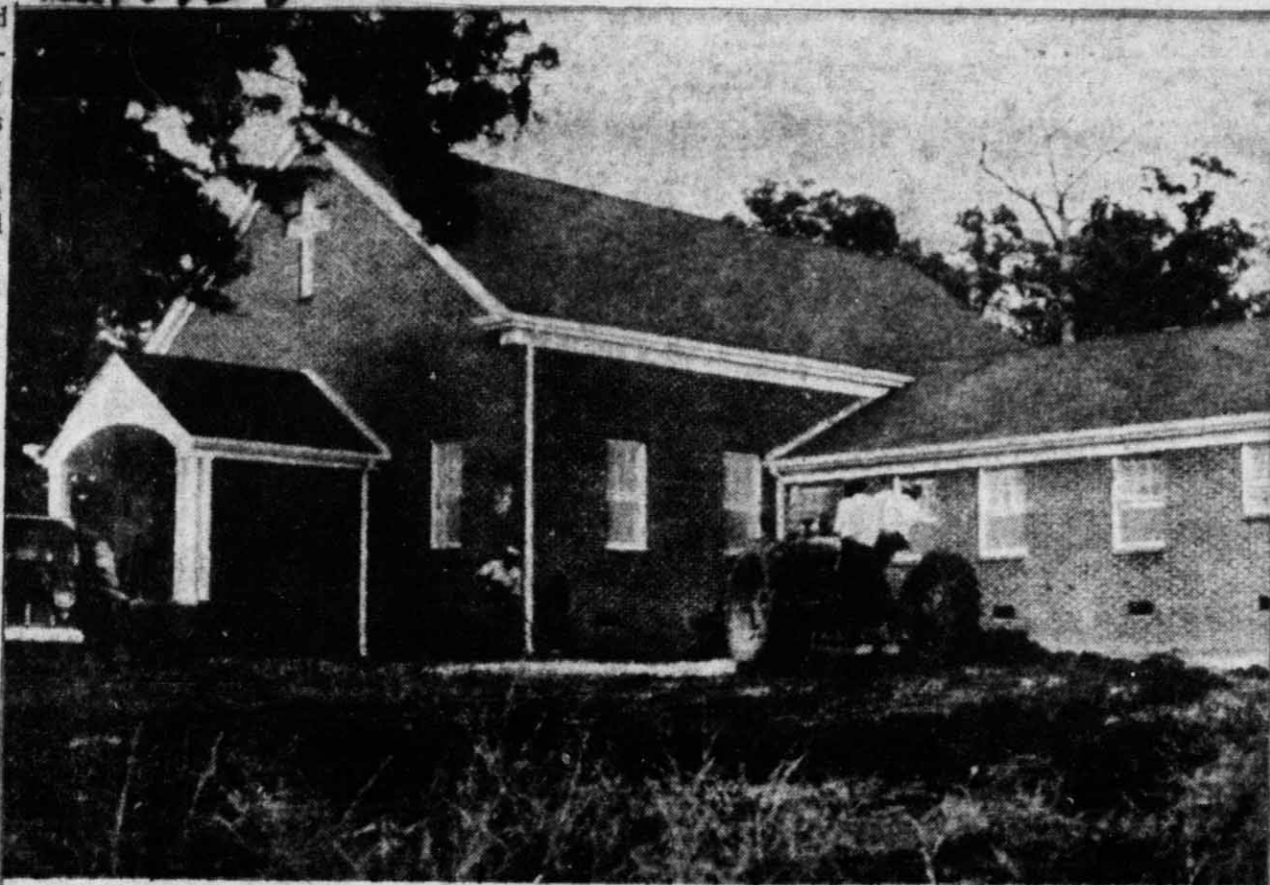
Four Sunday school rooms, an assembly hall, kitchen, rest room facilities and a modern heating system have been added to the building.

The improvements have cost approximately \$20,000. Steve Moore of Rock Hill was the contractor. The building committee included Lyon Every, Frank Hicklin, Harvey Neely and Fred Hambright.

During the week of July 28-Aug.

2 the Rev. J. W. Everett of Rock Hill will conduct revival services leading up to the dedication.

All interested persons are invited to the services and to the Aug. 3 homecoming. The Rev. Ted Beasley is pastor of the church.



After 150 Years... A New Face

Remodeled 203-Year-Old Fishing Creek Church Holds Dedication Rites

The remodeled 203-year-old Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church was dedicated in ceremonies Sunday attended by at least 250 persons.

The Rev. Ted H. Beasley, pastor, had charge of the dedication of the remodeled sanctuary and the new education building. The Rev. Joseph Everett, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, preached the morning sermon, concluding a week of revival services at the church. Dr. J. T. Dendy, immediate past pastor of the church, gave the prayer and benediction. Frank Hicklin, clerk of the church cut the ribbons on the new building. Miss Margaret Saye gave the welcome. David Williams of Rock Hill sang a special number to an accompaniment played by Mrs. J. H. Saye, organ-

ist for the last 35 years. Mrs. Frank Hicklin gave a history of the church.

The remodeling and new education building cost approximately \$20,000 of which \$6,000 came from Farley Fund and the rest from the 65 members of the church and friends of the church.

As early as 1752 the Rev. John Brown of Virginia visited the Scotch Irish settlement and from 1755 to 1757 a Rev. Miller held services in meeting houses at Fishing Creek and at Landsford.

A graduate of the University of Glasgow, the Rev. William Richardson was sent as a missionary to the Cherokees. Enroute he learned that the Cherokees were at war with the whites and so he became pastor of the Fishing Creek and the Waxhaw congrega-

tions remaining in the upcountry until he died by his own hand in 1771.

The original Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church was made of logs, was much larger than the present building and was about 150 yards north of the present building.

The Rev. John Simpson, a Princeton graduate, became pastor of the church about 1772 and remained during the Revolutionary War period. The manse was burned and Mrs. Simpson was burned badly in an attempt to save her husband's collection of books.

The Fishing Creek congregation was incorporated March 22, 1786 under the name "The Presbyterian Congregation of Fishing Creek." Because of the decrease in membership and salary after the Revolution, the Rev. Simpson moved to Pendleton in 1790.

Supply pastors served the congregation until 1798 when the Rev. John B. Davies was called to serve at Upper Fishing Creek. He remained for 41 years when he moved to Davidson College and became stated supply for Bethel Church near Charlotte. The Rev. James Gilland and the Rev. Arnold Miller served the church until 1854.

The next long time minister was the Rev. James Hodge Saye who served for 31 years from 1860 to 1891. The Rev. John J. Brown of Ebenezer served the church as pastor from 1916 to 1936 and was followed by Dr. J. T. Dendy of Rock Hill. Since 1954 the Rev. Ted Beasley has been pastor of Fishing Creek and Uriel Churches.

Soldiers of four wars are buried in the Fishing Creek cemetery and there are 42 graves of Revolutionary soldiers, three of the War of 1812, 36 of the War Between the States and four of World War One and Two. Handshaped and hand cut soapstones mark the graves of many pre-Revolutionary persons. In addition to names and dates some have a crude gamecock, showing perhaps that the individual served with Gen. Sumter.

The LaFayette Strait Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy erected the memorial monument in front of the cemetery. The base is of two old mill stones that were used to grind corn in the Fishing Creek neighborhood.

In the early days of the church brass communion tokens were given on Saturday to those who intended to take communion on Sunday. They were collected again by the elders immediately after the communicants had taken their place at the table.

Over the years the congregation had its ups and downs with music. When the Rev. Simpson was pastor, he introduced Watt's Psalms and Hymns and met with vigorous opposition. Finally the congregation sang from Watt's half the day and from Rouse's version of the Psalms the other half. When an attempt was made to introduce some new tunes in addition to the "Old Twelve" certain members of the congregation

would leave. Opposition was expressed when some wanted to leave off "lining" out the songs.

The pastor made twice yearly visits to his block. On the first he left questions and on the second

visit he examined the family on the questions.

The original velvet collection bags on the same old poles are still used for taking the collection.

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