

Religion



Its history began in the 1770s

The church, completed in 1788, was built by worshipers

Service Sunday at Old Brick Church

From Staff Reports

Hundreds of Associate Reformed Presbyterians are expected to attend a worship service at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Old Brick Church in Fairfield County.

Once known as Little River Church and later as Ebenezer Meeting House, the 200-year-old structure is one of the most historic church buildings in upper South Carolina.

It was built in 1788 by members and is still sturdy today. On May 9, 1803, a handful of ministers and ruling elders gathered at the church to organize the Synod of the Carolinas. In 1822, that synod made itself independent of Northern ties, eventually evolving into the present Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

No congregation has used the old building on a regular basis since the early 1920s. The church is 12 miles southwest of Winnsboro on S.C. 213.

During the Civil War, when Gen. W.T. Sherman's troops tried to cross the nearby Little River, they removed the flooring from the church to form a bridge. Still visible on a door frame is an apology signed "A Yankee."

Sunday's service will emphasize the heritage of the ARP Church. It has been planned by a committee appointed by Catawba Presbytery, within whose jurisdiction the old church is located.

The main speaker will be Dr. W.H.F. "Bill" Kuykendall, a faculty member at Erskine Seminary and past moderator of the church's General Synod. The presiding minister will be the Rev. James Graves, pastor of Bethel ARP Church in Winnsboro.

Others taking part will be the Rev. Dwight Pearson of Chester, the Rev. Douglas Jones of Rock Hill and the Rev. David Setzer of Columbia. The Rev. Calvin Smith, a retired minister from Due West, will be the precentor.