

Local church to celebrate 200 years of serving the community

FENNER — The Fenner Community Church will hold its 200th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 11-12 at the church, Nelson Road, between Nelson and Perryville.

Gospel music will be featured both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a craft show, white elephant sale, pie sale, ice cream social and activities for children.

Dignitaries are invited to attend including President George W. Bush, Gov. George Pataki, U.S. Senators, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, State Senator Nancy Larraine Hoffmann and Assemblyman Bill Magee with a number of local officials.

The history of the Fenner Church is as follows:

The Fenner Church was founded

Aug. 23, 1801. The seven founding members are John Fisher, Moses Davis, Isaac Davis, Thomas Robbins, Daniel Woodworth, Jonathan and Elizabeth Munger.

The first church meeting was held at the home of Jonathan and Elizabeth Munger.

The first pastor, Rev. Nathaniel Baker, baptized Seth and Lydia Smith, David and Lydia Hutchinson, John and Lorina Barber, Lycia Miles and Eunice Davis.

In 1802 the church was called the Third Baptist Church of Cazenovia. The first church was the New Woodstock Baptist Church, also founded in 1801. The second Church was the Cazenovia Village Church.

In 1908 the name was changed to the Baptist Church of Smithfield. In 1823 the name was changed to the

Fenner Church, at the same time the Town of Fenner was formed.

In January 1803 the church voted to allow Elder Bakert \$1.60 for the six past Sabbaths which he held. Later he was raised to \$1.50 for each Sabbath's labor. This money was raised by an assessment of property members.

In 1808 the church affiliated with the Madison Baptist Association.

Meetings were conducted at the home of Jonathan Munger and at private homes and the school house until 1821.

The church that today stands proudly high on the hill at the Fenner Crossroads was built in 1842 at a cost of \$2,601.42. The hymnals and a reed organ were also purchased during this same time frame. Kerosene lamps were a big addition.