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Daily Record photo/Robert Couse-Baker

The Rev. Earl Lamm poses with the nearly completed Anderson Creek Church

Anderson Creek Church Has Constitution Service

When the Anderson Creek ministry center opened its doors in 1984, its founders had no intentions of it becoming a church. But five years later, this ministry for the needy has developed into a 120-member congregation with a sanctuary under construction.

The church, expected to be completed in either October or November, is located between Fort Bragg and Lillington, just off of Route 210. The property was purchased in March of 1987 and a house already built on the land was converted into a church.

Since then, the congregation has grown to six times the first 18- to 20-member meetings and has outgrown the house, even though classroom additions and modernizations were made. Construction of the sanctuary, which will seat 275, began June 5.

"The church will provide a feeling of stability and give us an opportunity to grow," said Earl Lamm, pastor of the Anderson Creek mission.

The mission will continue as a ministry arm of the church. It was started by the Little River Baptist Association to provide food, clothing, counseling, and other services to the needy in Anderson Creek and Harnett County. The Home Mission Board and the Baptist State Convention fund the ministry, which distributes about 800 pounds of food each month.

The desire for a church came from workers at the mission who wanted to worship as a group. They got together and held their first services in a local home a year and a half after the mission opened. Since that first meeting, the body of the church has been established and, with the help of surrounding communities, the building is close behind.

Fifteen men from Pritchard Memorial Church in Charlotte traveled to the community on June 5 to help with the construction. They, along with local volunteers, had the frame of the building near completion in five days.

A little closer to home, church members from Lillington First Baptist and Antioch have helped with the building and other churches are expected to send help during the summer. Contributions from local volunteers have also helped make the church a reality.

"The church shows the commitment of the community in putting together a place to worship," said Mr. Lamm. "It personalizes the ministry. We look pretty permanent now."

A constitution service for the church will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday. R.G. Puckett, editor and business manager of *The Biblical Recorder*, will deliver the sermon, which will be followed by a covered dish dinner on the grounds.

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