

South Fork

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JOHN CALLAHAM/The Observer News

Cedar Grove Baptist Church will celebrate its 93rd anniversary Sept. 10 at its homecoming events. The church is located on Startown Road.

Cedar Grove observes 93rd anniversary

By JOHN CALLAHAM
Staff Writer

It has been 93 years since Cedar Grove Baptist Church was first founded and on September 10 the congregation will have its Homecoming to celebrate.

The church, located on Startown Road, had its first written mention on October 6, 1902, according to the current pastor of Cedar Grove, Dr. Robert Cantwell.

On that date the church was received into the South Fork Baptist Association. A one-acre site was donated by W.F. Sheton for the erection of a church building with another half-acre for a cemetery.

The church building was constructed from materials from two older buildings and the one-room church was dedicated in the first Sunday in May of 1903. The first pastor, J.A. Hoyle, presided over 26 members.

Although the church ceased to meet sometime in 1927, the congregation met again in the following year under new leadership and has met continuously since that time.

The current sanctuary was built in 1978, and the church property also includes a parsonage, and a fellowship hall.

Now that the homecoming is

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Church

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on its way, Rev. Cantwell says it is time for current and former members of the church to look back at their long history. "It makes me especially mindful of our heritage," says Cantwell, who has been the pastor for only four months. "We owe a great debt to those who came before us."

During Homecoming at Cedar Grove, Rev. Dale Payne, a former pastor of the church, will be the guest speaker. The New Creations, a gospel singing group from Lincoln, will also be performing.

Rev. Cantwell says that there are plans for the future at Cedar Grove, but says that nothing has been finalized yet.

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