

## Church Centennial Celebration Begins

The members of The Grace United Methodist Church in Speculator are proud to announce the beginning of the Centennial Celebration of their landmark church. Historical church documents reveal that, “ the cornerstone of the church was laid on Sunday afternoon November 15, 1908. The foundation was started in the spring of 1909, under the supervision of Mr. William Brown of Speculator. The blocks of gray, red and dark sandstone used for the foundation were drilled and split from a rocky ledge of land known as Sturges Mountain. The building and finishing of the church was under the direction of Mr. Cyrus Blowers of Northville, N.Y. The church was completed and dedicated in October of 1909”. Many projects, events, historical programs and relevant religious services are planned during 2008 and 2009 to celebrate the wonderful 100 year history of this special community church.

Two of the projects and programs currently being planned are: Photos are being collected for a large photographic exhibit that, upon completion, will be open to the public and on display in the community hall of the church. Also, the staff of the Vacation Bible School, to be held Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, for grades Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup>, is planning an exciting weeklong program entitled, On The Sawdust Trail. This program will focus on the rich Christian history of the church beginning with the times when the various Methodist Circuit Riders traveled via horseback on the various trails from town to town in the Adirondacks to spread the Christian message. (More details about this Vacation Bible School will appear in future editions of The Hamilton County News.)

Another summer long program which promises to be a wonderfully entertaining part of our Centennial Celebration will be a series of Concerts On The Green, which will be held on the lawn in front of the Grace United Methodist Church every Friday evening in July and August of 2008 from 7:00-9:00pm. These concerts and refreshments will be free and open to the public. The concerts will be presented by local and regional musicians and also invited Christian recording artists. The first concert, on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> will be presented by Arrows of the Word, a very popular Christian instrumental and vocal group from this region of the Adirondacks. Plan to bring your lawn chairs and enjoy our Concerts on the Green and join us in celebrating our very special centennial. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be held in the church. Please watch the Coming Attractions Section of The Hamilton County News for updates on our Concerts On The Green Series.

Submitted by,  
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