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## Church Staff

Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr.  
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## Text

Antioch Dedicatory Service Attended By Over 500 Persons: Interesting Historical Sketch Is Prepared by the Rev. R. W. Carson

## Provisional Session

Dr. Chipley Bennett  
Dr. E. Todd Buchner  
Mr. Richard Hollifield  
Mr. William Johnson  
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr.  
Pastor Richard Thomas

WOODRUFF, July 3 – The dedicatory service of the Antioch Presbyterian near Woodruff was attended by more than 500 members, former members and friends Sunday, from not only throughout South Carolina, but from many other states including Pennsylvania, which was represented by Major Harris, of Reidville, who is stationed with the United States Army at Pittsburgh and who is visiting relatives.

The sermon was preached by Rev. E. P. Davis, D. D., of Greenville, who used the 122<sup>nd</sup> Psalm and first verse, “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord”. as a text. Dr. Davis stressed the church as a place of joy for Christian worship, fellowship and of instruction. The dedicatory prayer was made by the Rev. Daniel B. Green, pastor of the church, after which a history of the church was read by Rev. R. W. Carson, pastor of the Woodruff A. R. P. church, who served the church as a supply pastor for two years, from 1927-1929. Following is the interesting history which the Rev. Mr. Carson prepared, using freely the sketches in the Anderson family history and the history of the Presbyterianism in South Carolina.

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“As is well known the Antioch which we know and love is comparatively a young organization, an organization twenty-seven years old. On August 17, 1843, the original Antioch was organized by Rev. William Carlyle. All of the 23 charter members of the organization came from Nazareth, and eleven of these belonged to the family of Denny Anderson, Sr., a soldier of the American Revolution, from whose estate ten acres of land were donated for a church and cemetery by Denny Anderson, of the second generation.

## Mission

Our mission as a parish church at the crossroads of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties is the gathering and perfecting of God’s people through biblical worship, evangelism, and pastoral care.

“This church did well until changed conditions following the Civil war left a weak struggling congregation barely able to support a pastor. In the latter part of 1883 this congregation with most of its members was moved to Reidville and became the Reidville church. Regular services at Antioch were for a time discontinued, the original building standing and being used only on funeral occasions.

*Antioch Presbyterian Church (PCA) is a Mission work of Calvary Presbytery.*

“As time passed the community changed. Plantations were broken up into smaller farms and new people moved in, some to occupy their own farms. In 1899, or thereabout, a Union Sabbath school was organized. This was held in the old church in the summer and in the school house in the winter. This soon enlisted the interest

and sympathy of the Rev. B. P. Reid, a man greatly loved and still honored. It is said "Old Antioch became his last and greatest ecclesiastical love". With hands already full, he gave a Sunday each month to it." He thought and worked and talked and prayed Old Antioch back to life again." In 1903 he conducted a few days meeting here, an organization was effected the next year with nine members, including one elder and one deacon. To this organization [sic] "Old Antioch" was given as the official name. It is stated that Mr. Reid served this church with an afternoon a month, at a salary of \$25 to \$75 a year - and this he usually turned back into the activities of the church until the Lord laid him aside in 1912 while still in his prime. His crowning took place December 4, 1913, but his good work was not to cease. He left behind a wide-awake, forward looking organization which had grown in eight years from nine to sixty-one, an organization which had multiplied itself almost sevenfold.

"Upon the removal of the organization to Reidville the donated land reverted to the original heirs. Some time prior to 1903 the heirs of Esquire John Anderson, to whom the property had reverted, deeded in perpetuity three acres of land for church and burial purposes, upon a part of which and a lot donated by D. L. Poole, this present building stands. A more beautiful and commanding site for a country church and cemetery could not be found.

"The progress of any church is determined by a number of contributing factors, and among these the pastor stands out in the forefront. All of the pastors of the reorganized Antioch are known by many here today. No mention of any other pastor who served the original church is mentioned by the authorities we consulted save Rev. Carlyle, the organizer, and Rev. R. H. Reid, who was called in 1884 to the pastorate of Reidville. In 1913 Rev. A. H. Griffith took up the work and enthusiastically carried it on for three years, giving it up April 3, 1916, after having increased the membership from 61 to 124. Next to serve was the Rev. J. F. Ligon, who served acceptably for two years, giving up the work in 1918. From March 1919, until 1924 the church was served by Rev. C. O. Martindale. During this pastorate the senior elder and clerk of sessions, J. S. Kilgore, passed to his heavenly reward.

"The last regular pastor to serve in the old church was the Rev. W. C. Copeland, who served the congregation from June, 1924, until the spring of 1927. From September, 1927, until October, 1929, the Rev. R. W. Carson, pastor of the Woodruff A. R. P. church served as supply pastor. From the second Sabbath of October, 1929, until some time into the distant future the Rev. D. B. Greene served most acceptably.

The faithful men and women constituting the membership of Antioch church deserve much time and space, for after all, they are the ones who have borne the burden and heat of the day in holding the church together, but we can't mention each by name lest our story be far too long. No one of you will in any wise lose his reward for any service rendered in the right spirit.

"IN the prosperous days following the World war, far sighted men and women saw a vision of a greater and larger Antioch which called for enlarged and more substantial equipment. This vision resulted in the creation of a fund looking forward to the erection of a suitable house of worship, when said fund shall have sufficiently grown. In the fall of 1928 some \$2,000 had accumulated, and this together with a

generous offer of Joe Wood to donate the needed lumber, and many other additional offers to contribute labor and money was looked upon as sufficient encouragement to begin. A definite plan drawn and submitted was adopted by the officers and congregation Christmas week of 1928, and in the next few days actual work was begun in cutting and hauling timber and rock and sand. Early in 1929 ground was broken and the building framed, storm sheeted and covered. That the farmers might make another crop work ceased until the latter part of July when it was again resumed and the church completed on October 1, 1919 [sic]. The first service in the new church was held October 6, 1929, on which occasion the seating capacity was taxed to its limit by members and visiting friends.

“Your historian on this occasion was honored by being invited to preach the first sermon and did so, using as his text Matt. 22:14, ‘For many are called but few are chosen.’

“How united, faithfully and zealously members and friends worked together until this beautiful, convenient and substantial building became a reality! Many willingly and sacrificingly wrought. Today we are proud and happy and praise God.”