

SENECA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in Seneca, South Carolina, was organized on Saturday, October 30th, 1875 by a commission of the South Carolina Presbytery which included the Rev. E. F. Hyde and the Rev. John G. Law. There were 12 charter members of the church. J. W. Livingston, and W. B. Hills were elected as the first elders, and T. A. McElroy the first deacon.

Seneca Presbyterian Church then joined with the Methodists, Baptists, and Episcopalians in building what was known as the “Union Church” to be used by all four denominations as a house of worship. In 1882, the Presbyterians sold their interest in the building to the Baptists for the sum of \$150 and began building their first church which was completed in June 1883.



The first little white frame building of the Seneca Presbyterian Church erected 1883.

By 1884, the church consisted of thirty-seven members. There were three elders and three deacons. Sunday School had as many as forty in attendance.

The budget of the Seneca Presbyterian Church, in 1885 was \$182.91 and that included a pastor's salary of \$116.50 for the year, and all the church expenses. By 1887, the budget had grown to over \$600.

By the early 1900s, the church was growing again. In 1916, a building committee was formed for the business of building a new church. The work on the new sanctuary began in June 1916. It was completed and the first service was held on June 24th, 1917. The building and all its costs was paid off by 1919, and the church was dedicated “free of debt” in July that year.

In 1922 the church hired its first student intern, Marshall Wallace, who served as pastor's assistant and minister to the young people. In a 1922 report to Presbytery, the church was able to state that its expenses for the year were \$2,437 but its gifts and benevolences to the community were \$3,406!

The building called the chapter house was built in 1924, and has served as both a meeting house and educational space. Currently, the Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund and several local organizations meet there.

The church bought the adjacent property in 1956, and in 1962 the education building was erected.



Source: www.sprez.org