

Kingston's Old Dutch Church celebrating 350 years

By **Meg Murphy**

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KINGSTON — There's no more fitting role for a history buff than as pastor of the Old Dutch Church in uptown Kingston during its 350th anniversary year.

Pastor Ken Walsh and the congregation, part of the Reformed Church in America, have many events planned for 2009 that reflect on Dutch colonial history. In fact, Walsh began the celebration this month by performing a Dutch service 1659-style, dressed in historic vestments.

Every three months, Walsh will give a liturgy from a different century until he reaches the modern day. The church, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in November, will expand its museum collection and host a special George Washington Day dinner. But the largest celebration will come Memorial Day weekend with a Pinkster festival for Pentecost. The church is commissioning an anthem, hosting tours and concerts and performing a re-enactment. In October, it will also play a role in a re-enactment of the burning of Kingston, part of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial.

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