

Ribbon Cutting  
Macedonia-Concord Community Center  
Friday, May 12  
6:30 p.m. – start time  
7:00 p.m. – speaking time

### **History of the Building/Land**

- 1923 – Rosenwald family would build a facility to be used for educational purposes if the residents of the community would provide equal dollar match
- 1923 a tornado hit the area destroying the Macedonia Church leaving the parishioners with no place to worship and the children with no school.
- The community pulled together with one resident, Ed Griffin donating timber, Washington James using his sawmill and the Rosenwald family letting the community's donations serve as part of the matching funds.
- The school was built and the school session began in 1925 with teachers on the payroll but with very little funds to make payroll.
- Once again the community came together to find creative ways to raise the money for teachers salaries.
- Some years later, through the Panola County Board of Education, the school was taken into the state and county school system.
- Early 1960's, Macedonia Public School consolidated with West Side Elementary School and became a part of the South Panola School System
- 1965, the facility was used as a Project Head Start Building and remained in operation until 1989.
- Two churches, Concord & Macedonia decided to do something with the Old Macedonia School.
- Each church put in a small amount of funds to secure a matching grant to pay for an architect and feasibility study of repairing the old school, which found to be cost prohibitive.
- Fall of 1999, the board, with the approval of both church memberships, decided to tear down the building and build a new facility in the same site.
- The building has served as a church and school where funeral services, weddings, marriages and family reunions have been held.

## **I. Greeting**

- I am pleased and honored to be here tonight.

## **II. History**

- This land has a long history of people who cared what happened to it and what took place on it.
- Tonight's ribbon cutting symbolizes more than just the opening of a new facility.
- It is a symbol of communities coming together for the good of the people who live, work and raise their families there.

## **III. Communities/People working together**

- The people of Concord and Macedonia could have chosen to let the building that stood here for almost 70 years fall apart and become an eyesore because it was vacant and not in use, but instead you came together to turn this land into the home of this wonderful building that will serve as a place where people can gather.

- It is amazing what great things can happen when people work together.
- When people set aside personal agendas in an effort to better their communities, everyone can benefit from their efforts.
- This is a cohesive point for the communities of Concord and Macedonia.

#### **IV. Closing**

- I congratulate you on your efforts, and know that you will enjoy this building for years to come.