

150th Anniversary Celebration

Calendar of Events

*"Celebrating the Church:
Past, Present & Future"*



March

6 Penn Center Sunday 10:00 a.m.
9, 10, 11 Teaching Revival 7:00 p.m.
~Rev. Dr. Riggins Earl, Atlanta, GA

April

4, 6, 11, 13, Walk Through the Bible 6:00 p.m.
20, 22 ~Dr. Robert Cuttino
17 Baptist Church of Beaufort 4:00 p.m.

May

2, 4, 9, 11, Walk Through the Bible 6:00 p.m.
18, 25 ~Dr. Robert Cuttino
22 Pastor's 4th Anniversary
Grace A.M.E. Church 12:00 p.m.
Faith Memorial Church 2:00 p.m.

June

4 Youth Fest 9-3:00 p.m.
5 Rev. George Langhorne 4:00 p.m.
12 Rev. Marion Newton 4:00 p.m.

July

10 Old Fashion Sunday 10:00 a.m.
~Rev. Ervin Greene
30 Ancestor's Play 6:00 p.m.

August

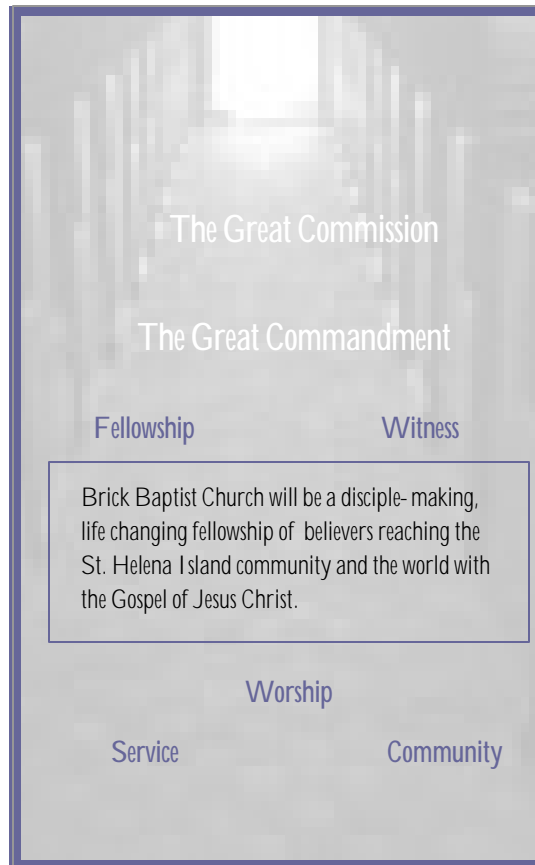
3 Friendship Baptist Church 7:00 p.m.
7 Ebenezer Baptist Church 7:00 p.m.
10, 11 Workshop-Rev. LaPoint 7:00 p.m.
23 Adams St. Baptist Church 7:00 p.m.
26 **Anniversary Banquet 7:00 p.m.**
Dataw Island (Call for tickets)
31 First African Baptist Church 7:00 p.m.

September

11 St. Helena Baptist Church 4:00 p.m.
18 **Anniversary Worship Service**
~Rev. Ezekiel Hamilton 12:00 p.m.
President, SC Baptist Assoc.

(All events will be held at the church, unless otherwise indicated.)

Our Church's Vision



Rev. Abraham Murray, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Sally LaPoint, Associate Minister

Services

Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service

4th Sunday Communion

Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible Study

BRICK BAPTIST CHURCH

150th Anniversary

1855—2005



*"Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
Matthew 16:18*

Rev. Abraham Murray, Pastor

Brick Baptist Church

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BRICK BAPTIST CHURCH

An historic landmark



Brick Baptist Church's heritage is woven into the rich tapestry of African American culture and history of the South Carolina Sea Islands. Built by slaves in 1855, Brick Baptist Church is the oldest church on St. Helena Island. The two-story church is constructed of mortar and bricks built around a spacious sanctuary. An open balcony was used for the slaves who stood during the services, always out of view of the white plantation owners who sat on the lower level.

In 1861, the day after "Big gun shoot", the fall of Port Royal to the Union Navy ships signaled the end of a brutal era in American history—the end of the Civil War and slavery. Later when the government sold plantations and land holdings to freed slaves, Brick Baptist Church was turned over to 8000 former slaves as their place of worship. There were more than 1000 members, with more being converted and baptized every three months.

The legacy of Brick Baptist Church is closely connected to the historic Penn School, established as one of the first schools for freed slaves by the Pennsylvania Freedman's Aid Association. In October 1862, Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray, Penn School co-founders, opened their school at The Oaks Plantation with nine students, and later moved to Brick Baptist Church when enrollment increased to 132 students. Charlotte Forten, the first African-American teacher, taught at Penn School until 1864.

For more than a century and a half, Brick Baptist Church has endured and prospered through the Word of God. The church has also served as a catalyst for change and a cornerstone of religious and family values. Brick Church is focused on becoming a teaching church, offering religious instruction for youth, establishing foreign missions, building community outreach, increasing membership, activating a scripturally-based vision, and endeavoring to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Celebrating our History

Excerpts

1855

Brick Baptist Church, the first church on St. Helena Island, was built by slaves for white plantation owners.

1861

8000 former slaves assumed control of Brick Baptist Church after the Battle of Port Royal "Big gun shoot."

1862

Laura Towne and Ellen Murray opened Penn School in Brick Church with 132 students. Charlotte Forten, the first African-American teacher, taught until 1864.

1862-1884

Brick, the "Mother Church," gave birth to Adam St. Baptist, First African Baptist and Ebenezer Baptist Churches.

1883

The church's first Sunday school was established.

1926

The church obtained a \$2000 loan to buy land and build a parsonage.

1954

Rev. J. Edwin Johnson founded Faith Memorial Church and 125 members left Brick Church.

1971

Under Rev. Marion Newton's pastorate, the Baptist Church of Beaufort turned over the deed to the Brick Baptist Church property to the members.

1974

Brick Baptist Church was designated as part of the National Historic Landmark district.

1977

Rev. George A. Langhorne initiated the church's membership in the National Baptist Association.

1978

Rev. Ervin Greene served for 21 years. The church grew and a variety of ministries were established, such as the Youth Retreat, the Silvers' Banquet, foreign missions, and fellowship with St. Helena Baptist Church.

1984

The Clarence Johnson Fellowship Hall and educational building was constructed at a cost of \$180,000.

1999

Rev. Dr. Sally LaPoint was the first woman to be ordained at Brick Baptist Church and served as Interim Pastor for seventeen months.

2001

Rev. Abraham Murray was installed as the first residential pastor in 40 years. He activated the Men's Ministry and re-organized the education and outreach ministries.

2002

The church purchased its first vehicle and began the Transportation Ministry.

2004

The interior of the historic sanctuary of Brick Church was refurbished. Rev. Murray published a new members handbook and initiated new member classes.

2005

The Fellowship Hall was remodeled to include new fixtures, appliances, carpeting, and painting. The church upgraded its technology and established its first website.

Giving Glory to God!