



Saint James Episcopal Church

During the 1700's, James Island was a part of the Saint Andrews Parrish led by Reverend William Guy. He was the first Rector to recognize the Anglican as a Church community, and he began preaching to the congregation once a month.

Saint James Church of James Island is the oldest Anglican Church to be established in 1719. The building was rebuilt five times, and destroyed by hurricane, fire, and the war. In spite of the devastation and the rebuilding of the chapels, the Anglican were determined to have a place for worship services. Homes were being used for services and some of the members were attending the Presbyterian Church.

The first chapel was erected in 1722. Ten years later, it was destroyed and rebuilt. The chapel became officially established in 1756 as a "Chapel of Ease". Saint James Church was incorporated in 1831. The land and building was transferred from Saint Andrews Parish and paid in full for \$708.60.

The fifth church building was built in 1899 and remained until a new church was built in 1960.

Inez Brown-Crouch

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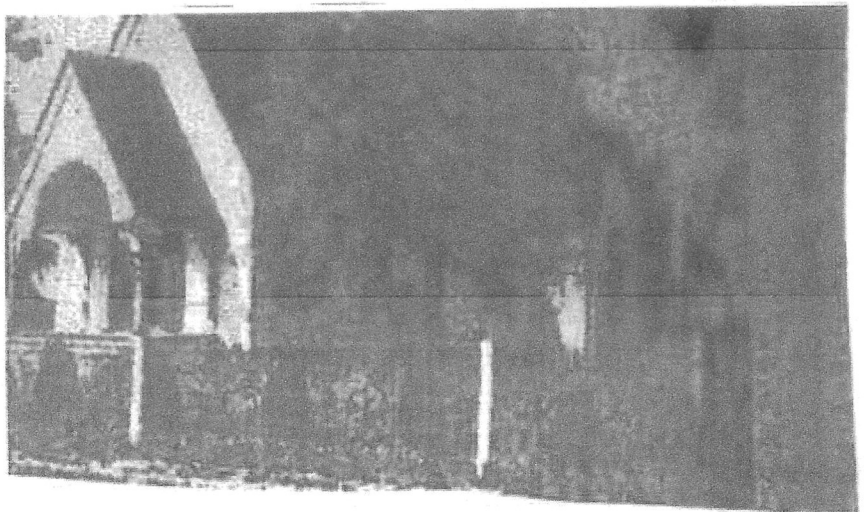
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Saint James Episcopal Church 1899



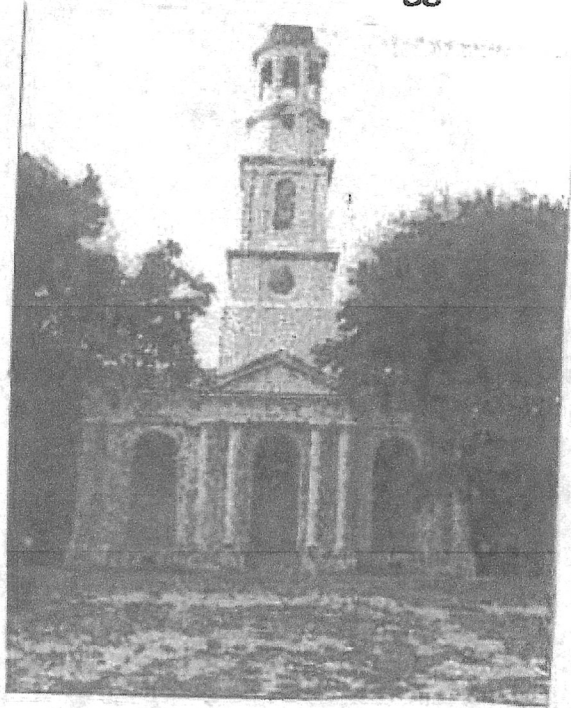
By Robert Welch

Edward LaRoche Grimball



Saint James Episcopal Church 1960

By Gresham and Carole Meggett



The Reverend Charles F. Duvall, Rector 19____

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Saint James Church, Built 1960



St. James' Episcopal Church
James Island, South Carolina

5 - 5

TO: Town of James Island History Committee
FROM: Inez Brown-Crouch
DATE: July 5, 2017
RE: History of James Island Presbyterian Church

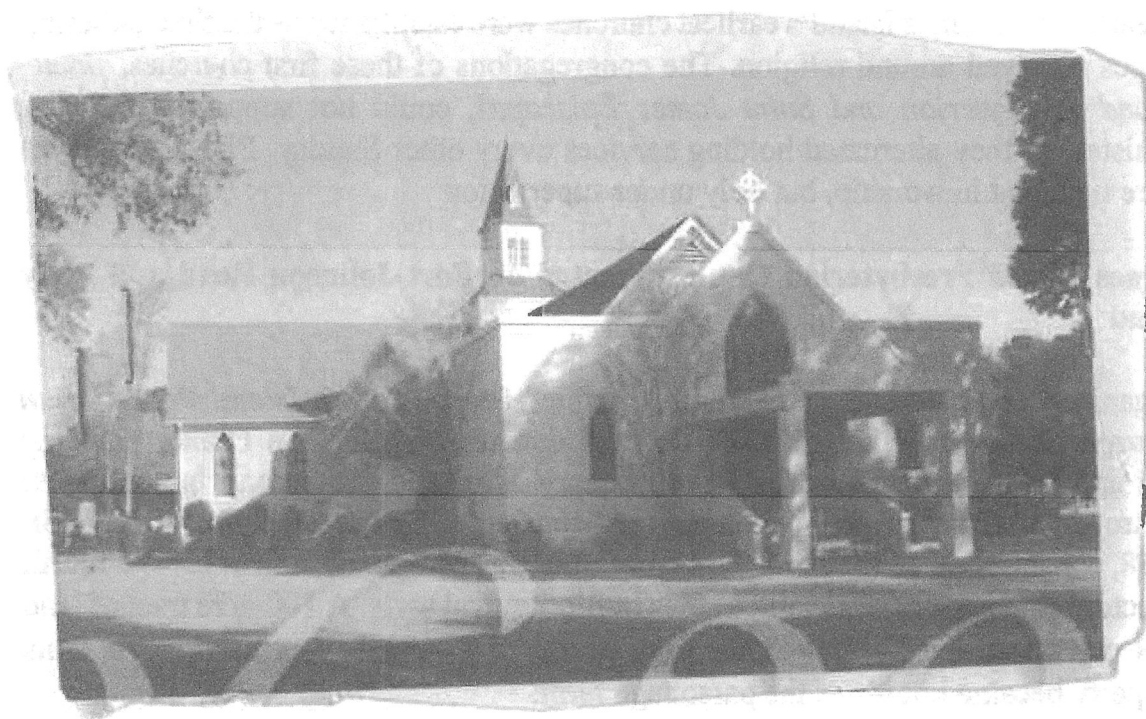
In early 1700, James Island's earliest churches were established as the first gathering places revolved around religion. The congregations of these first churches, *James Island Presbyterian* and *Saint James Episcopal*, could not support a full-time minister, so they alternated holding services every other Sunday. Plantation slaves were included in worship, but only under supervision.

James Island Presbyterian Church located on Fort Johnson Road and Folly Road

Organized in 1706 by the Reverend Archibald Stobo, *James Island Presbyterian Church* was erected before 1724 on land donated by Jonathan Drake. The first building was destroyed in the Revolutionary War, and the second building was destroyed by the same fire, which burned Saint James Episcopal Church in 1864. In 1868, construction on the third church building was completed, and in 1909, a fourth structure (the present) was built in the Gothic Revival style. A 100-acre tract of land was purchased by the church for each pastor to live and grow cash crops. This property became known as the parsonage farm.

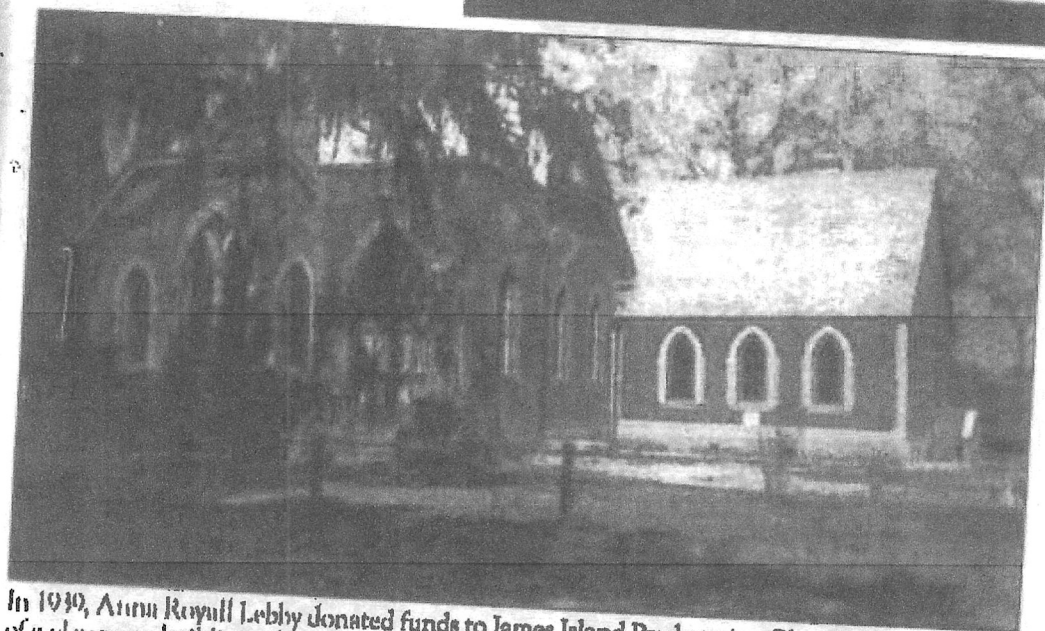
Before the War Between the States, James Island Presbyterian had a balcony where slaves were designated to sit during the church services. St James' Reverend Stiles Mellichamp also held afternoon services for slaves on plantations following his Sunday morning church service, since unsupervised gathering among slaves were limited.

James Island Presbyterian Church, 2006



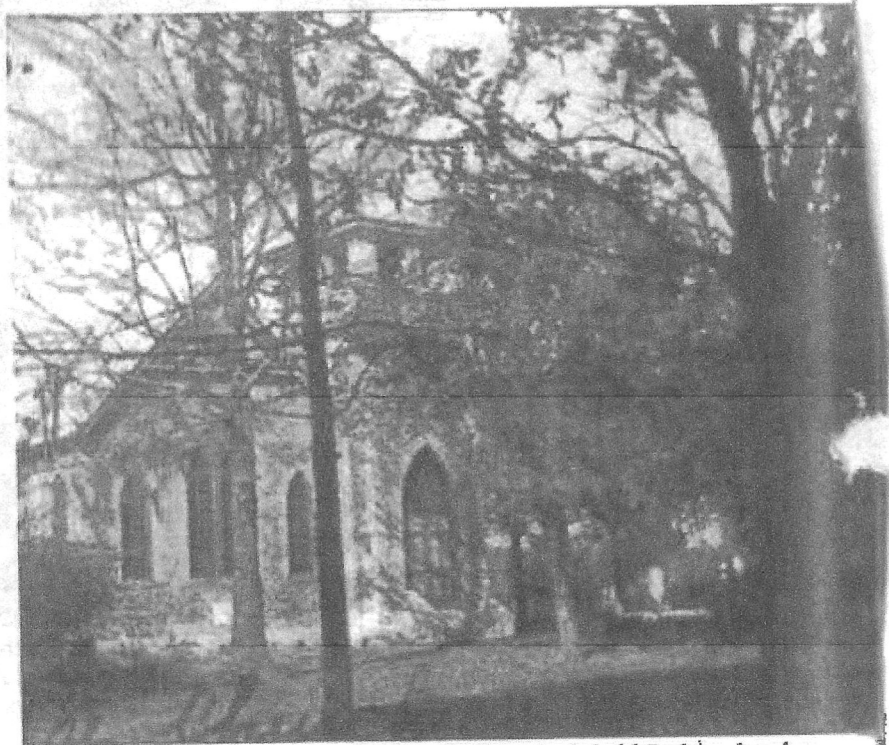
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James Island Presbyterian Church, 1939



In 1939, Anna Royall Lebby donated funds to James Island Presbyterian Church for the addition of a classroom building. She asked that it be named the "States Lee Lebby Memorial Annex" in honor of her late husband, who had also been active in the church. The "Lebby Annex" is shown

James Island Presbyterian Church, 1706



rian Church was organized in 1706 by the Rev. Archibald Stobo, who also Island and Wadmalaw Presbyterian Church. A James Island church building '24 on land donated by Jonathan Drake. This first building was destroyed War, and the second building was destroyed by the same fire which burned Church in 1864. In 1868, construction on the third church building was '09, a fourth (the present) structure was built in the Gothic Revival style. shows the fourth church building shortly after it was constructed. (Courtesy shell.)

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Saint James Presbyterian Church

In 1860, Blacks had to worship under white supervision. Many blacks were attending the Presbyterian Church of James Island on Fort Johnson Road.

Saint James Presbyterian Church is one of the first and oldest Black Church to be established by freedmen on James Island in 1866. The founders were Richard Backman, Troment Cromwell, Lazarus Fludd, Billy McDowell and Samuel Washington. The first church building was built on the corner of Fort Johnson and Secessionville Roads.

After the Civil War ended and the period of Reconstruction began, the Freedmen Bureau began land reform. Blacks were building their own churches and working very hard to establish a sense of community for the first time as free people. The freedmen worshiped under an oak tree (location of the first church building). They were determined to find a site and building a church of their own. Reverend Hunter was the first Pastor and he started the Black Mission School of James Island until 1923.

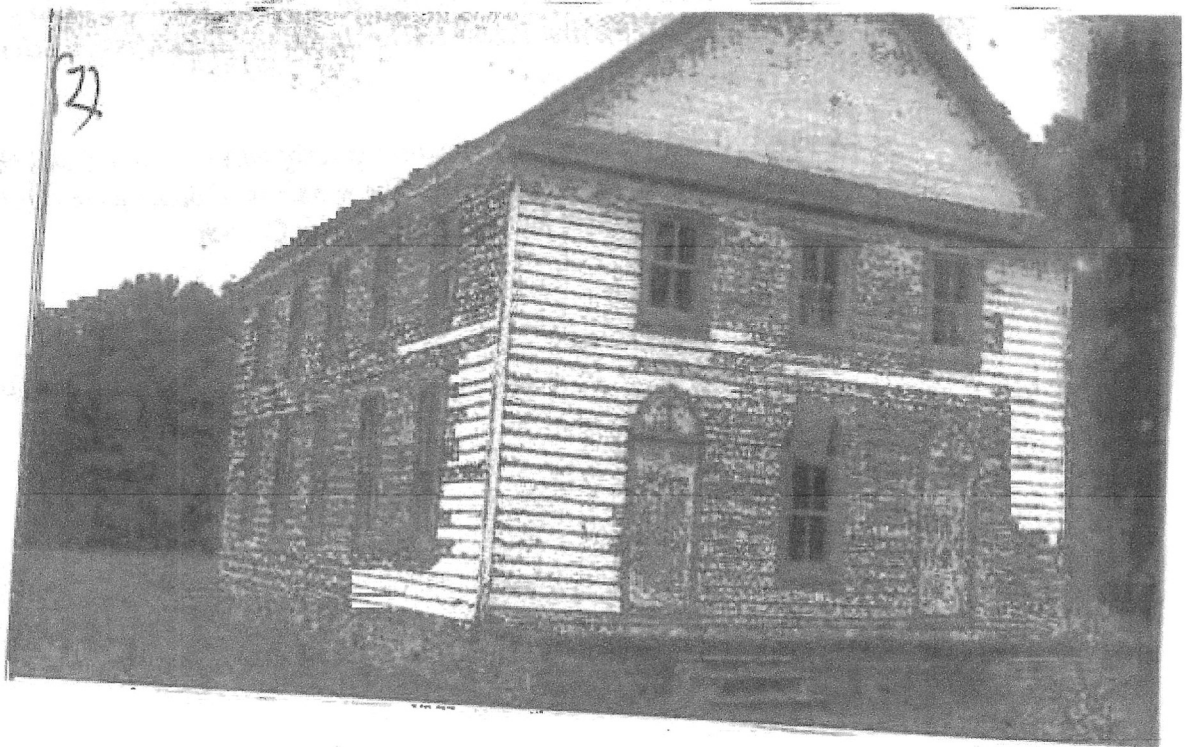
Saint James Presbyterian Church grew members quickly and for years it was the fastest grown, and largest black church in the low-country. The members of Saint James United Presbyterian established close ties with the Fort Johnson Presbyterian Church.

Inez Brown-Crouch

Saint James Presbyterian Church

*Fort Johnson Road
James Island, South Carolina*

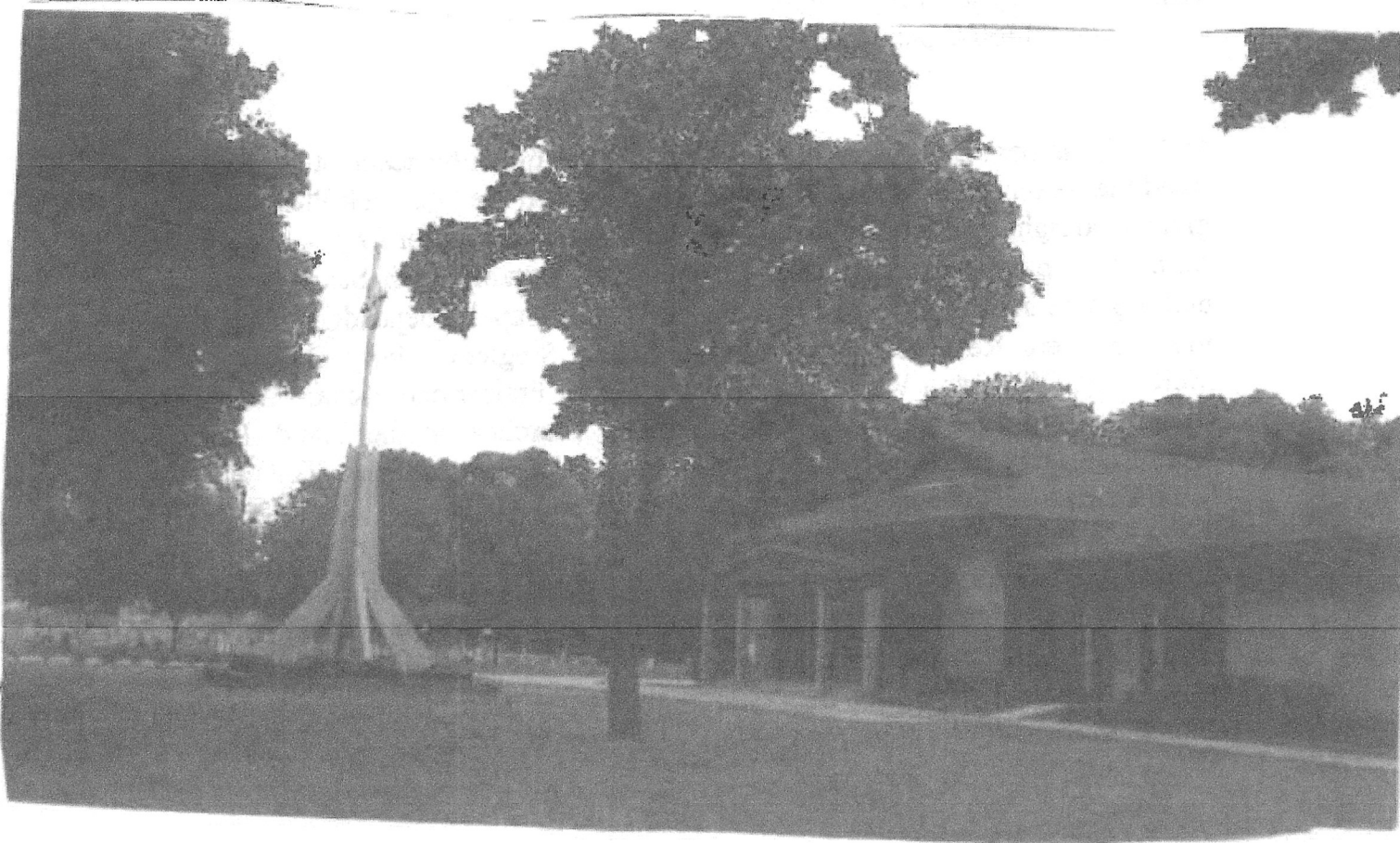
*The first Church building in 1886 had the same style as the Church on
Bohicket Road on Johns Island.*



Photographer Billy Rutherford

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Saint James Presbyterian Church



Erected 1977



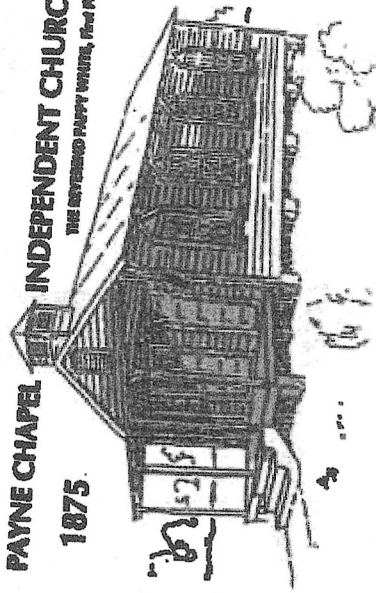
TO: Town of James Island History Committee
FROM: Inez Brown-Crouch
DATE: May 1, 2017
RE: Payne RMUE Church
1560 Camp Road

In 1865, the period of Reconstruction brought the first advancement for the newly freed blacks on James Island. The blacks that worked the Seabrook Plantation were given land rights to set up a "Bush Tent" for one cent a year for 99 years, and blacks from other plantations were able to come and worship each Sunday. The first building was built in 1875 and was named Payne Chapel Independent Church. The founders were Reverend Pappy White, Scipio Singleton, Jerry Drayton, John McKelvey, Willington White, Peter Brown, Henry Fraizer and Richard Green. The church was one of the oldest wooden frame churches on the island. In 1962, restoration work began to return the sanctuary to its present state. Today, Payne RMUE stands on the spot of the original church.

Payne RMUE (Reformed Methodist United Episcopal) Church was founded in 1869 by James Island freedmen. The church building was renovated in 1962. Reverend Hercules Champaign was the minister at Payne RMUE Church on Camp Road for 30 years before founding his own church, the James Island United Congregations Church on Signal Point Road, in 1997.

121 YEARS of HISTORY

PAYNE CHAPEL
1875
INDEPENDENT CHURCH
THE EVERING HAPPY WARRIOR, First Pastor



"COME NOW, AND LET US REASON TOGETHER
SAITH THE LORD." *Isaiah 2:14*

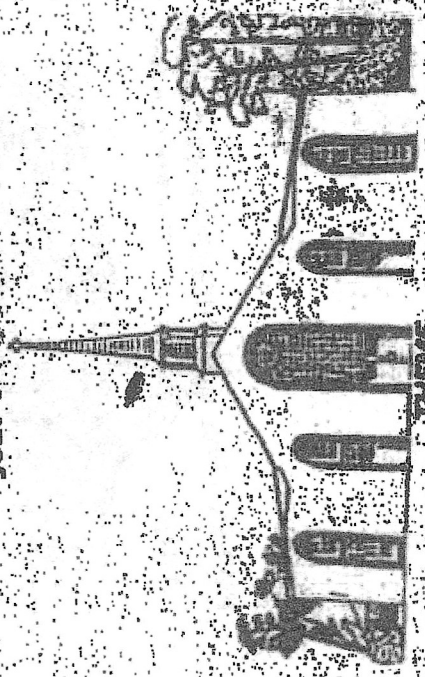
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PINE REFORMED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1560 Camp Road
James Island, South Carolina

121ST
ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR BOOKLET
JULY 9-14, 1996



THEME
COME NOW, AND LET US REASON TOGETHER
SAVING THE LORD
Isaiah 1:18a

Reverend Hercules Chappaigne, Pastor

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First Baptist Church of Jones Island
Past Pastors from 1869 to Present

Rev. Alston

Rev. Frayer

Rev. Briton

Rev. Weston

Rev. Jacob DeLong Dash
(1978-1984)

Rev. Dr. Bernard J. Goodstein, Sr.
(1983-2011)

Rev. Charles L. Albarran, Jr.

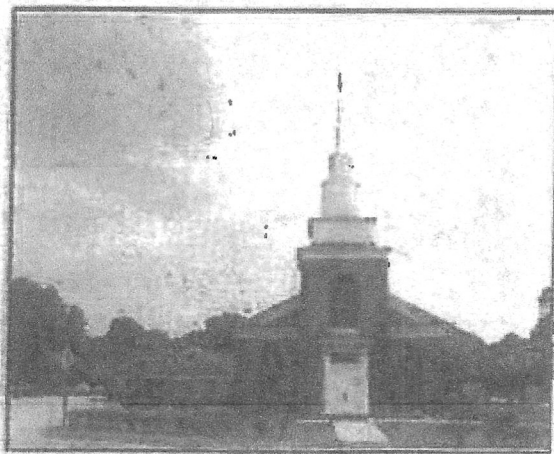
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY



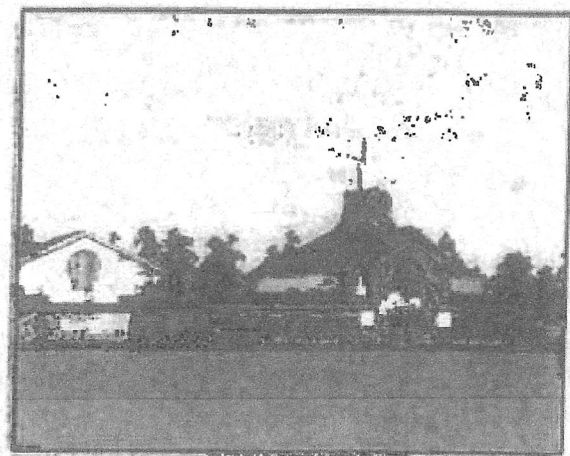
The first building
1869-1960



1960-1972



1972-2007



The future (2008)

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TO: Town of James Island History Committee

FROM: Inez Brown-Crouch

DATE: June 20, 2017

RE: Greater Bethel African Methodist (AME)
1890 Central Park Road

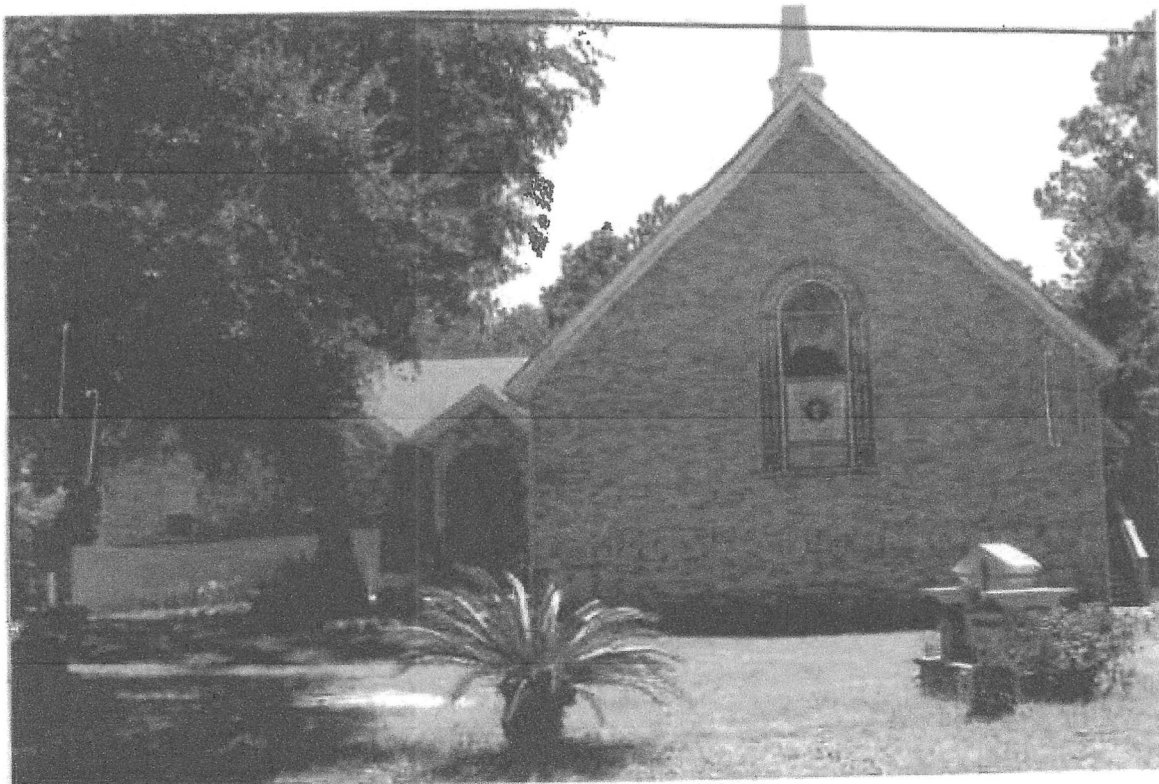
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TO: Town of James Island History Committee
FROM: Inez Brown-Crouch
DATE: June 20, 2017
RE: Greater Bethel African Methodist (AME)
1890 Central Park Road

Built in 2006

Photographer: Judy Singleton



History of Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Greater Bethel was organized in 1868 under the leadership of Rev. Lucas . Greater Bethel still stands as the only A.M.E. Church on James Island. The church has continued to hold onto God's unchanging hands.

The History of Greater Bethel church is preserved with the hope of inspiring our present and future congregation during this new millennium. It is our prayer that they will preserve the ideas and dreams of those who labored for so long, enduring many hardships while working on this area of the Lord's Vineyard. Certainly, God has been our shield and strength. He has guided us with his counsel; blessed us by His providence and inspired us by his spirit.

Great Leadership has been afforded to the Greater Bethel family. The most recent pastors were The late Reverend Smalls (specific dates unknown); the late Reverend Elijah Green (1971-1978); the late Reverend Leon Townsend (1978-1983); Reverend Jeremiah McKinley (1983-1987); the late Reverend Luther Gibbs, Sr (1987-2005); Reverend Eduardo Curry (Sept. 2005-March 2007); Reverend Dr. Betty Clark (Mar. 2007- Nov. 2007); Reverend Dr. Arthur L. Holmes (Nov. 2007- Sept. 2011).

September 2001 began the spirit filled ministry of our current pastor, Reverend Myra D. Meggett. She brings new visions to Greater Bethel. We pray that our congregation will continue to follow the vision of our great pastor as she makes us disciples that we may become better persons for Christ.

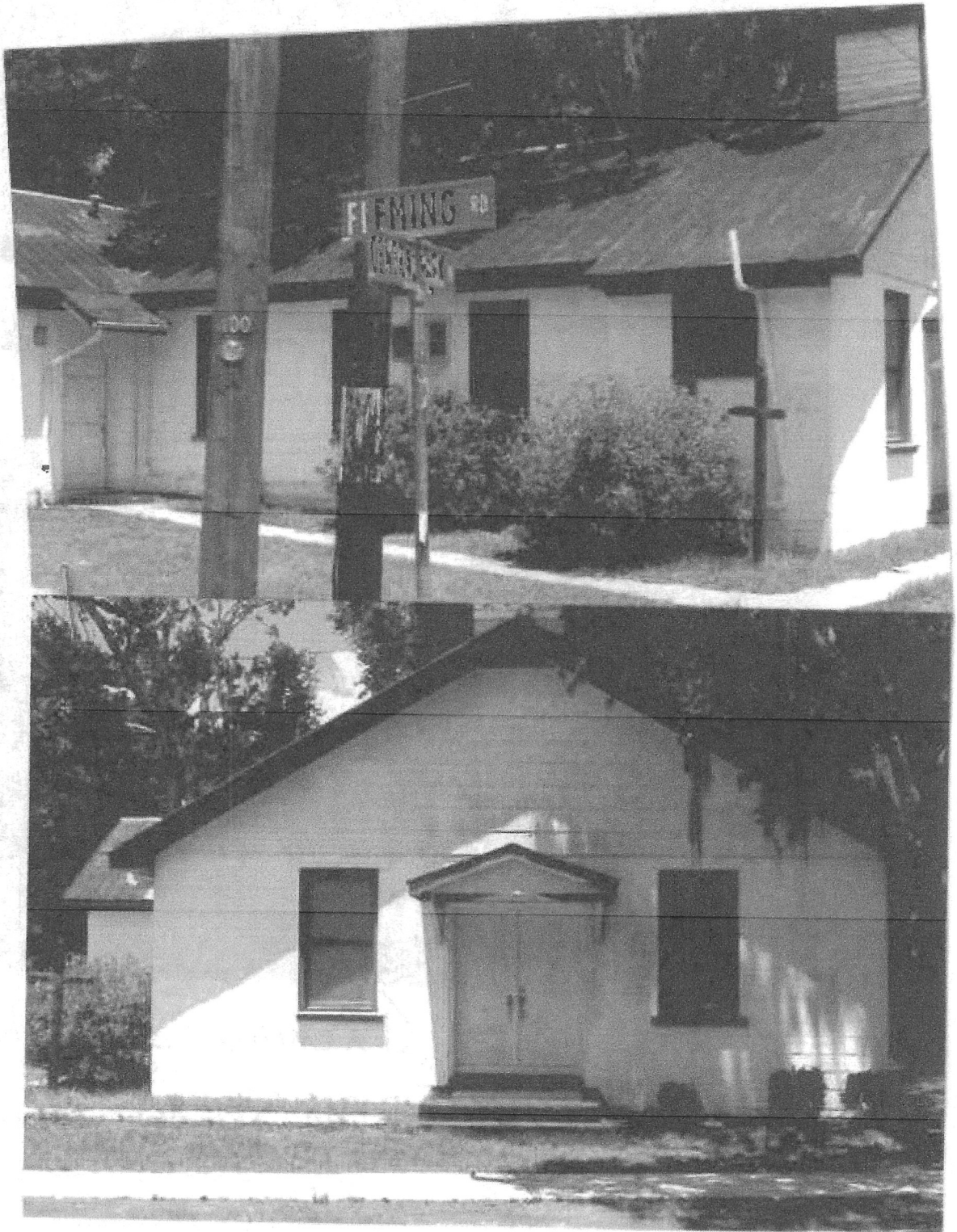
Under the leadership of Rev. Luther Gibbs the church was able to purchase the property that we are currently on, with plans to build a new sanctuary. The mortgage was paid off within five years of its purchase. With intensive fund raising programs and offerings, the church was able to build this new sanctuary. The church was dedicated on March 19, 2005 By Bishop Preston Warren Williams. Rev. Gibbs served diligently until his retirement in September of 2005.

Some of the recent associate ministers that have assisted at Greater Bethel include; The late Rev. Swackie Brisbane, The late Rev. Coleman Forrest, and Rev. Charles Seabrook.

We look forward to serving the Lord in this anniversary and more anniversaries to come.

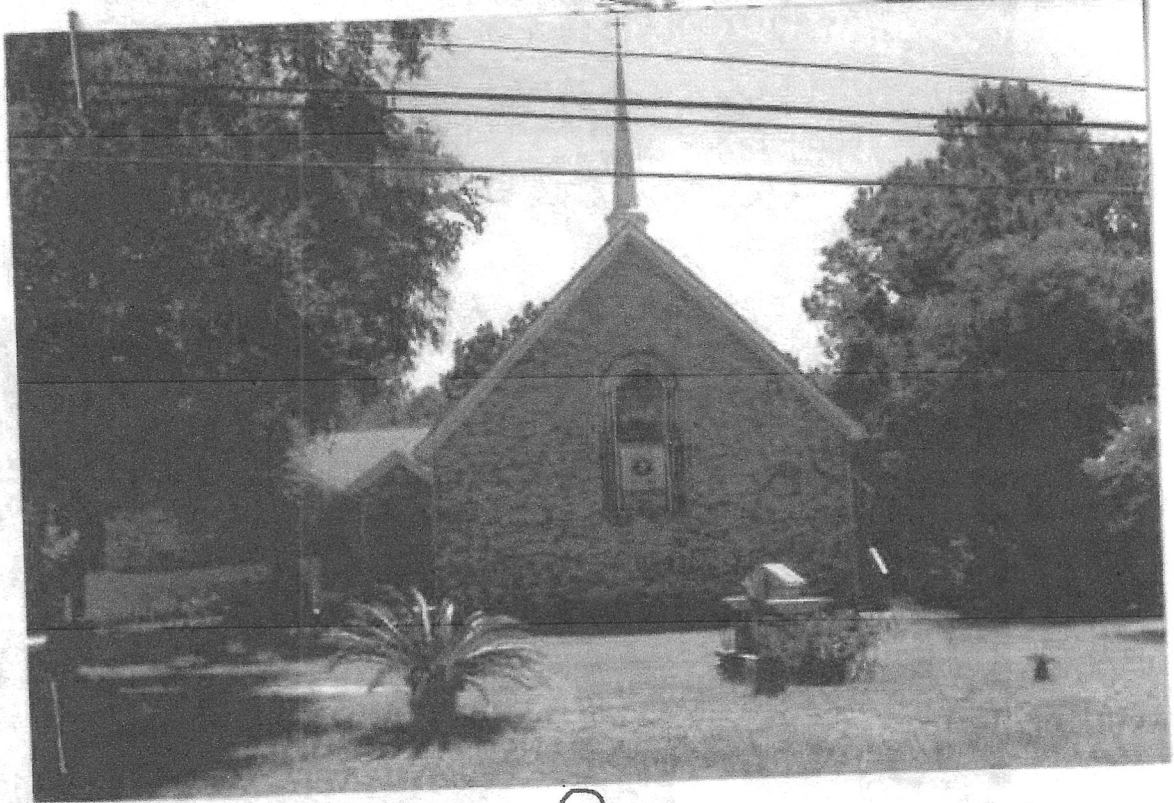
As our theme for this year says, we are "Standing on the Promises of God."
We Pray and we know that God will continue to keep us as we face tomorrow

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Greater Bethel African Methodist
The first Church 1868



Pictures given by Judy Singleton

Greater Bethel African Methodist
Built 2005



Pictures given by
Mrs Judy Singleton



First Baptist Church of James Island

The First Baptist Church was established in 1869 by some faithful freedmen. These freedmen found a house on what is now Camp and Dills Bluff Roads where they held worship service, and created a sense of community. The Ferguson family allowed the men to use the house to hold worship service, prayer, and as a praise house meeting place. Three times a week, in addition to Sunday they met for preaching, singing, shouting and clapping to music that set the mood of the week.

The first church building was built on the Camp Road site and was led by Reverend Green (1869). The church was a wooden structure and had a wood burning stove for heating during the winter months.

In 1959, a new church building was constructed and was led by Reverend Cooper Whaley. The building was remodeled in 1972 until 2007.

In 1985, Reverend Bernard J. Gadsden, Sr. was the ninth pastor and served from 1985 to 2014.

In 2007, the church constructed a new building directly across the street from the former church building which stands today.