

## HISTORICAL DATES—OUR HERITAGE

On **April 28, 1974**, twenty-one members from Murrells Inlet Baptist Church and the First Baptist Church of Surfside Beach met to discuss the organization of a mission in Garden City Beach.

By **May 8, 1974**, Murrells Inlet Baptist Church had decided to sponsor the Garden City Baptist Mission.

On **May 15, 1974** the first worship service was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Mizelle.

On **May 26, 1974** the first Sunday School meeting was held in their home with 15 people attending.

A small rental house on the west side of Highway 17 near the present church became the first official meeting place and services began on **June 16, 1974**. By the end of the service, 31 people had joined by letter and one by profession of faith. A business meeting was held immediately after the service to elect Sunday School and Training Union directors, teachers, a youth leader, secretary, treasurer, moderator and Wednesday night coordinator.



The pews were donated by Antioch Baptist Church, old hymnals by Murrells Inlet Baptist Church and various pieces of furniture from the members. Quoting from

those present, "The presence of the Holy Spirit was evident throughout the congregation."

The building was enlarged by the membership to seat 120 people. At the **September 8, 1974** service, Jesse Royster, Earl Holtzscheiter, , Ron Ferger, John Mizelle and D.J. Cox were elected as the first deacons.

At the regular business meeting held on **December 18, 1974** the membership voted to become a constituted church, to purchase 2.12 acres of land from S.D. Cox for \$30,000 and to begin building a permanent meeting place for the church. The members supplied the labor.

The mission constituted on **January 1, 1975** with 71 members and Rev. Burton Haseldon was called as part-time pastor.

On **January 8, 1975** Garden City Baptist Church affiliated with the Waccamaw Baptist Association.

A dedication service was held **January 26, 1975** for the newly formed church and the property. The cornerstone for the building was laid on Easter Sunday, **March 30, 1975**, enclosing a Bible and the list of charter members. The first service was held in the new building **February 1, 1976** with 151 present.



By **May 1976**, a pulpit committee was formed to seek a full-time pastor and a committee was formed to locate land for a parsonage near the church. In August, the

land was acquired, and in October, Rev. Denley C. Caughman, Jr., was presented to the church as a candidate for consideration. His first Sunday as the new pastor was **January 2, 1977**.

In **October 1977**, members of the church started work on the parsonage. It was ready for the pastor's family in **May 1978**.



In **September 1979**, membership was up to 242. Additional space for Sunday School rooms and a fellowship area were added to the existing building making it a U-shape. Our Sunday School was recognized as the fastest growing Sunday School in the Waccamaw Association in 1980.



On **November 20, 1983** Garden City Baptist Church was incorporated to become effective **December 1, 1983**. The church continued to grow with 343 members by January 1984

**October 1984** an educational building for youth was completed across the street.



On **January 1, 1987** the church newsletter, *The Link*, began circulation.

**April 1987** a new educational and fellowship building was attached to the present building complete with a fellowship hall, kitchen and more classrooms.



By 1991, there were 413 resident members, and the ground-breaking for a new worship center was started March 17. A consecration and dedication service for the new sanctuary was held **February 2, 1992**.



**March 1994** work was complete on the remodel of the original sanctuary into a day care facility (Kingdom Kids) and preschool department.

**June 21, 1992** the Ammons Education endowment went into effect

Over the next few years, there were many changes in personnel, membership, policies, goals, etc.

**April 21, 1999** Dr. Caughman resigned after 22 years.

**November 30, 2000**—Debt Free!

**February 4, 2001** Dr. Larry Tomlin arrived. There was an intentional interim pastor and many excellent preachers in the pulpit between our pastors. At the end of 2001, there were 275 resident members.

**August 2002** Lighted church sign was permanently installed.

**July 21, 2002** Dr. Tomlin had to resign due to health problems. By January, the Pastor Search Committee had good news for us; they had already found a pastor candidate for our approval.

**January 12, 2003** Rev. Mike Mills delivered the Sunday morning message. By a unanimous vote he and his family were called to service. Since then it has been a time of growth and learning, with activities for church members and outreach activities for the community. By the end of December 2006, we were 319 strong and growing with 360 by December 31, 2007 (we lost many members due to death or moving to be closer to family during the year).

**Easter Sunday 2007** was the first day of our early morning worship service, Horizon. It has a contemporary format with casual dress and contemporary music. The 11 a.m. worship service remained the blended format with a combination of choruses and hymns.

**August 10, 2007** Kingdom Kids Day Care was closed after many successful years

**June 1, 2008** Rev. Mills resigned after accepting a call to become Senior Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Florence, SC. We were fortunate to have

**September 1, 2008.** Rev. Rich McLawhorn, a church member, accepted the call to become our Senior Pastor. Resident members in December 2008 were 307.

**April 16, 2009** The men of the church met the first time to form Baptist Men.

**June 28, 2009** Our lives changed after a devastating fire destroyed most of our building.



The fire was officially out at 10:30 a.m. and we held our first worship service at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church. It was hard but we didn't miss a beat.

**June 29, 2009** the offices moved across Yaupon Avenue to the first floor of the Youth Building. Neighboring churches were very accommodating and offered and gave all kinds of help. We continued to hold Sunday worship services and Wednesday activities at St. Michael's until early August. The youth continued to meet in our Youth Building and we went to one worship service on Sunday. The rebuilding process started with the clean-up.

**August 9, 2009** We moved from St. Michael's to Garden City Chapel. At the Chapel we continued to meet on Sundays and Wednesdays, held special meetings and services, fellowshipped through luncheons, decorated for Christmas and held several baptisms (we borrowed a portable baptistery from St. James Methodist Church).



**January 6 & 10, 2010** we took the opportunity to put our favorite scripture verses on the floor before the tile & carpet went down.

**February 7, 2010** After meeting 1½ months at St. Michael's and 5½ months at Garden City Chapel, the Fellowship Hall and Children's Department were ready for us to move back. The Fellowship Hall was ready for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Fellowship Hall Dedication January 31.

**April 4, 2010** Easter Sunday, we went back to two services- Contemporary at 8:30 a.m. and Blended at 11:00 a.m. The first Sunday the total attendance was 418.

**December 2010** we went back to one service at 11 a.m.

**December 16, 2010** we received the Certificate of Occupancy and moved the offices back into the church building. Sunday School classes moved to their permanent locations. Resident members at the end of 2010 were 326.

**January 16, 2011** The Sanctuary was rededicated with a celebratory luncheon after the morning worship service. It has taken a lot of work and patience for everyone but it's all been worth the work—to have things back as they were before the fire (or in some cases better.)



**November 6, 2011** Rev. Richard McLawhorn resigned. Membership at the end of 2011 was 357. Rev. Robert Shaw provided Sunday morning and Wednesday night services until April 2012 when he had to turn his full attention back to the Garden City Chapel ministry. Rev. John Rickenbacker, Director of Coastal Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was able to pick up after Rev. Shaw and continued until a Senior Pastor was called.

**September 2, 2012** Rev. Brian Buckner preached his trial sermon and was overwhelmingly accepted—his first sermon as Senior Pastor was October 14. Rev. Buckner resigned after two months feeling led to return to his previous church. Dr. Bob Teems, a local retired minister, accepted the position as supply pastor until another senior pastor is called. Membership at the end of 2012 was 367. Another Pastor Search Committee was formed in February 2013.

**October 2013** Pastor Bob agreed and was voted in as the Senior Pastor. Membership at the end of 2013 was 393 and 384 on December 2014.