

An Anniversary Chronicle
175 Years
Of The South Carolina Baptist Convention
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Early South Carolina and Baptist Beginnings:

- 1521** - The first Europeans to visit the land later called South Carolina were Catholics from Spain who landed at Winyah Bay.
- 1562** - The first Protestants were Huguenots, under Captain Jean Ribaut, who settled at Port Royal and built Charlesfort in honor of Charles IX of France.
- 1607** - James I of England "harried out of the land" any who did not conform to the Church of England causing John Smyth and a wealthy layman, Thomas Helwys, to lead a group to Holland.
- 1609** - The first Baptist church was established by this group in Holland.
- 1611** - Thomas Helwys returned to London and established the first Baptist church on English soil at Spittlefield. He suffered a long imprisonment, resulting in his death, for challenging the King and for claiming no one can have control over another's conscience.
- 1629** - Charles I of England, in granting territory in North America to Sir Robert Heath, named the area "Carolina," the French word for Charles.
- 1638** - Roger Williams, due to religious intolerance, fled to America and established the first Baptist church in America at Providence, Rhode Island.
- 1640** - Dr. John Clarke, lawyer, doctor, teacher and preacher, established the second Baptist church in America at Newport, Rhode Island.
- 1670** - Charles Town, on the coast of Carolina, was permanently settled. Baptists were among the first settlers.
- 1682** - A Baptist church was constituted at Kittery, Maine with William Screven as elder. Screven was baptized and ordained by First Baptist Church of Boston.
- 1683** - After continued harassment by New England Puritans, Screven and 28 members of his church left for Charles Town. As Screven traveled to Charles Town there were other Baptists-many of whom Screven knew - already there, but they were not worshipping as a church. Screven became the first Baptist preacher in the South, uniting the Baptists into what became the First Baptist Church of Charleston - the first Baptist church in the South. The church grew to 100 members under Screven, who also extended missions efforts to nearby Edisto Island. This is the traditional date given for the beginning of Baptist work under William Screven.
- 1696** - This is the actual date of the first reference to William Screven in South Carolina records when he obtained a warrant for 1,500 acres of land. (King).
- 1699** - Screven's congregation settled on lot No. 62 Church Street, Charles Town.
- 1707** - Screven and others successfully opposed an effort to make the Episcopal Church the official state church- a move that would have curtailed religious freedom.
- 1713** - William Screven died at the age of 84. He was buried in Georgetown.
- 1736** - Ashley River at Charles Town, the second Baptist church in South Carolina, was constituted. This church later disbanded. The current Ashley River Baptist Church was constituted in 1943.
- 1738** - About 30 Welsh Baptists left their church in Pennsylvania to settle in Society Hill. This was the Welsh Neck Baptist Church, the third Baptist church in South Carolina. Abel Morgan

led this flock to be the fountainhead of many other churches, and from it would come the first president of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

1746 - Euhaw Baptist Church began on Edisto Island as a mission of the Charles Town Church. A dispute at Edisto Island over property caused Baptists to establish preaching points on Hilton Head, St. Helena, Beaufort, and Euhaw, with Euhaw becoming a strong center of Baptist work.

1749 - Oliver Hart, a former carpenter, arrived from Philadelphia to offer himself as pastor of First Baptist Church, Charleston (formerly the Charles Town Church). He became pastor on February 16, 1750, and served in South Carolina for 30 years. As Charleston grew into one of the most prosperous and cultured colonial cities, Hart developed into a preacher, scholar, church-starter, encourager of preachers, patriotic citizen and denominational organizer.

1751 - Hart, as pastor of First Charleston, led in the founding of the Charleston Baptist Association. The association, patterned after Philadelphia, became the first association in the South and the second in America. The first members of the new association were First Charleston, Euhaw, Ashley River and Welsh Neck churches. This made possible the future development of missions and education on a great cooperative scale for Baptists. Through a call offered by the Charleston Association, Hart invited John Gano to do "home mission" work in the South, ministering to Indians and settlers in South and North Carolina. Gano gained fame as George Washington's favorite chaplain and for starting the First Baptist Church of New York City. Hart cultivated and ordained many others, the most famous of whom was Richard Furman.

1755 - The Religious Society was started by Oliver Hart to collect funds to pay for books and boarding for young men who needed training for the ministry. In 1756, 100 British pounds were collected. Hart was so loved and respected that citizens raised 700 pounds when it was learned that he had been robbed of 30 pounds. This society was the first religious partnership among Baptists in America in the interest of ministerial education. (King)

Period of Expansion and Organization 1755-1844

1755 - 1825 - Richard Furman, born in New York and reared on Daniel Island near Charleston and High Hills of the Santee, was converted at 16, ordained at 18 and was a combination of genius and deep Christian commitment. So powerful a preacher and so loyal a patriot was he that Cornwallis offered 1000 pounds reward for his capture, reportedly fearing the prayers of this man more than the armies of Sumter and Marion. (King) Furman and Hart were a mighty force, enlisting and encouraging churches and ministers. After serving High Hills for 14 years, Furman accepted the call to First Charleston where he was one of America's leading ministers for 38 years. For 25 years, he moderated the Charleston Association. For 34 years, he presided over the association's General Committee, which was built upon Hart's Religious Society, to administer a permanent education fund for the training of young ministers.

1759 - The Back Country - or Upstate- of South Carolina first received Baptists when Philip Mulkey and 13 people came from North Carolina to establish Fairforest church near Union. This was an outgrowth of the work of Shubal Stearns, a Connecticut Congregationalist converted by George Whitfield. Stearns moved through Virginia to North Carolina and in 16 years started 42 churches and nurtured 125 ministers. Mulkey learned well, and the Fairforest church gave birth to many of the early Piedmont area churches.

1760 - Daniel Marshall, a friend of Stearns, took the Baptist cause near Augusta where he started the Steven's Creek Church. By 1760 "feeder" churches were in the four strategic areas of South Carolina. In the north, there was Fairforest Baptist Church; in the east, Welsh Neck Baptist Church; in the south, First Baptist Charleston; and in the west, Stevens Creek Baptist Church.

1771 - The Congaree Association, the first in the South Carolina back country, was organized but was disbanded in 1778.

1772 - Daniel Marshall moved from South Carolina to Kioka, Georgia, where he established the first Baptist church in Georgia.

1776 - Silver Bluff Church near Aiken was established as the first black Baptist church in South Carolina and, possibly, America. While Silver Bluff Church has not affiliated with either the South Carolina Baptist Convention or the Southern Baptist Convention, its place in Baptist history in South Carolina and the nation is of great importance. One of the early pastors, David George, was the first black preacher to go to a foreign field for the purpose of missions. He went to Canada and later Africa.

1782-1862 - William Bullein Johnson was the first native-born Baptist theologian and denominational leader. All pastors and leaders until this time had been imported from England, Switzerland, Wales or the North. Born on John's Island, near Charleston, Johnson grew up in Georgetown and was a lawyer in Beaufort when he was converted and baptized in 1804. Leaving his law practice, he was ordained and began as pastor of Euhaw. In 1807 he became chaplain of South Carolina College in Columbia. He was credited with starting the First Baptist Church of Columbia, meeting at first in the court house. He baptized the first 13 members. Johnson later started First Baptist Church, Greenville in the Greenville Court House and was instrumental in supporting Furman University – the forerunner of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. At Anderson, he founded and was chancellor of Johnson Female College (1853- 1858). Johnson served as president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention from 1825-1852.

1789 - Bethel Association, the most influential early association in the back country, was constituted. (King). Bethel disbanded in 1876.

1791 - The General Committee of the Charleston Association, designed to administer funds for ministerial education, held its first meeting. Pee Dee Baptists from South Carolina started the first Baptist church in Mississippi at Salem (Cole's Creek).

1798 - Bailey E. Chancy left South Carolina to become the first Baptist preacher in Louisiana. Later a group from Edgefield established the Rehoboth Church at Natchitoches.

1800 - The Broad River Association was organized.

John M. Roberts established an academy at High Hills, the earliest educational institution among Baptists in South Carolina. Roberts and Joseph Cook Jr. were the first two South Carolina-born preachers to be educated at Rhode Island College and return to their native state. Following the Revolutionary War, there was a "spiritual depression" (King) that launched a revival movement which peaked in 1789. Prayers for revival became more prevalent in churches, and in 1800 what became known as the "Great Revival" was begun in Kentucky.

1802 - The Savannah River Association was organized. As a product of the "Great Revival," several inter-denominational meetings began across the state. Richard Furman attended one of these meetings and estimated "the number present as about three or four thousand." (King) Five Baptist ministers preached during the three-day meeting and were "continually engaged in singing, prayer, exhortation, or religious conversation". Similar meetings were reported in Union County, Spartanburg and Woodruff. The Bethel Association, which included most of the churches in the back country, was a leader in the revival movement and from it came two associations, Broad River and Saluda. The Charleston Association also grew through this revival movement.

1807 - The first Edgefield Association was organized.

1811 - Probably in this year Mrs. Hepzibah Jenkins Townsend led in the organization of the Wadmalaw and Edisto Female Mite Society. (King)

1813 - Luther Rice came to Savannah, enlisting support for the Judsons who were missionaries in India. William B. Johnson, serving in Savannah, gave the idea to Rice that a national convention be organized in Philadelphia. Johnson provided the wording for the Constitution and Bylaws ". . . for the purpose of eliciting, combining and directing the energies of the Baptist denomination of Christians, for the propagation of the gospel . . ." Luther Rice first appeared before the Charleston Association on behalf of foreign missions. The meeting was at Welsh Neck Church. The first ministerial relief organization in the South began in 1813, failed in 1880, and was revived in 1890.

1814 - Richard Furman was elected as the first president of the national Triennial Convention's organizational meeting in Philadelphia. This was the first national Baptist Body. Furman served two, three year terms as president.

1821 - On Tuesday, Dec. 4, the South Carolina Baptist Convention was formed at First Baptist Church, Columbia, where William B. Johnson was serving. Nine men from three associations met to form the convention: Richard Furman, William Dossey, Joseph B. Cook Jr., William B. Johnson, Richard M. Todd, and Lee Compere, all from the Charleston Association; John Landrum and Col. Abner Blocker from the Edgefield Association; and Thomas Gillison from the Savannah River Association. Blocker and Gillison were laymen. Furman was elected the convention's first president, and Blocker the secretary. Johnson and Landrum were appointed to write a constitution; Furman, Cook, and Compere were committed to prepare an address to the associations of the state. There were seven associations in South Carolina: Bethel, Broad River, Charleston, Edgefield, Moriah, Saluda, and Savannah River. On Wednesday, Dec. 4, the nine men were expanded to 10 to include Colonel Davis, a deacon at Rock Creek Church. The constitution committee's report was adopted on Thursday, Dec. 5. Johnson was chosen to challenge the churches to voluntary cooperation and to overcome ignorance, sectionalism, and suspicion. There were about 213 churches in the state and 122 pastors.

1822 - William B. Johnson was elected as the first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

1825 - Richard Furman died. He was buried at First Baptist Church, Charleston.

1825-1851 - Furman Academy was established in December 1825 and began operation on a site across from the present Edgefield High School. It was the first Baptist college in the South. It was named in honor of Richard Furman because of his belief in ministerial education. Today there is a marker at the Edgefield site. When the academy closed at Edgefield, Jesse Hartwell took over the ministerial students and taught them for a while at Stateburg near Sumter. Hartwell was forced to close Furman in 1834 due to financial reasons. In 1837 the school was moved to Winnsboro where it was operated until 1851. The main building and the president's house still stand and there is a marker between the two. The campus moved to Greenville in 1851. Little remains of the campus occupied by Furman from 1851-1958, though the bell tower at the new campus is a reminder of the school's tradition in Greenville.

1832 - The Welsh Neck Association was organized.

1835 - William "Singing Billy" Walker published the Southern Harmony and Musical Companion, which he reported had sold 600, 000 copies by 1866. The book was reprinted for the fifth time in 1987 by The University Press of Kentucky. Walker was regarded as one of the most famous Southern Baptist composers of the singing school tradition in the pre- Civil War South. He was born near Cross Keys in Union County and died in Spartanburg. He was a deacon, associational messenger and congregational singing leader at First Baptist church Spartanburg. Other tune books he published are Southern and Western Pocket Harmonist (1864) and Christian

Harmony (1867) - both still in use today - and Fruits and Flowers (1873).

1836 - Luther Rice died in Edgefield District and was buried at Pine Pleasant Church near Saluda.

1837 - Zacharias N. "Wildcat" Morrell, a South Carolina native, started the first missionary Baptist church in Texas.

Formation of the Southern Baptist Convention and Civil War 1845 - 1865

1845 - The Southern Baptist Convention met in May and organized in Augusta, Georgia. William B. Johnson had been president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention since Furman died in 1824. Johnson also was president of the Triennial Convention, resigning in 1844 as he foresaw the split between the northern Baptists and southern Baptists. In Augusta the 232 delegates chose Johnson as the first president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He continued to serve simultaneously as president of the state convention. Dr. M. T. Mendenhall, a layman and physician from Charleston, was elected the first treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention. At the annual regular state session at the Gillisonville church in December, South Carolina Baptists voted unanimously "approving the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention." (King). Limestone Springs Female High School began operation under the direction of Thomas and William Curtis.

1846 – Richard Fuller, a Beaufort lawyer, graduated from Harvard, turned Baptist pastor and was chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at the organization meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Augusta. Fuller’s legacy, however, was in his preaching. At the SBC annual meeting in 1846 in Richmond, Fuller delivered the first convention sermon which was so powerful that he was asked to preach at each of the next 29 annual meetings. In an 1846 Charleston revival, Fuller’s preaching of the gospel led to “some 500 conversion experiences” being recorded – among them James A. Boyce, who helped to establish the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and H.A. Tupper, a leader in the Foreign Mission Board. In 1870 Fuller converted Annie Armstrong (who had declared she would never become a Baptist) while serving as a pastor in Baltimore. .

1854 - The State Convention voted to establish the “Greenville Baptist Female College”.

1859 - Southern Baptist Theological Seminary began its first session in Greenville under the direction of James P. Boyce. There were two classrooms and a library in the building. This building also was the first meeting house of First Church, Greenville. The dormitory, used from 1866 - 1877, was a Confederate hospital and then a garrison for Federal troops after the Civil War.

1863 - The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention began in Greenville, South Carolina. It was established to supply Sunday School materials for the Southern churches. At the time, John Broadus of Greenville and Basil Manly Jr. of Charleston were both on the seminary faculty. When the seminary suspended operations during the Civil War, Broadus and Manly served as the first editors of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The Broadman Press, established in 1932, of the present Sunday School Board was named for these two men.

1864 - The Fairfield Association was organized through the disbanding of the Columbia and Salem associations.

Reorganization of the State Convention and Start of Institutional Ministries 1866-1924

1866 - The State Convention changed its constitution to provide for an “Executive Board.” For many years, the convention had been operated by a Board of Agents working with

elected convention officers. The Board of Agents had supervisory responsibilities over other boards, including the Education Board, Bible and Mission Board, and Sunday School and Colportage Board. The convention abandoned these multiple boards and created one Executive Board with a paid general agent instructed to visit the various associations in the state, to represent the convention, to work with state missions, and to promote ministerial education. The first general agent was J.O.B. Dargan.

1868 - Thomas H. Pope was called as the convention's general agent.

1869 - *The Working Christian*, a privately owned state Baptist publication, began operation in Yorkville.

1870 - J. F. Morrall was called as the convention's general agent.

1871 - The first Woman's Missionary Society (by that name) in the South was organized at Newberry.

1872 - A. W. Lamar was called as the convention's general agent.

1874 - General agent A. W. Lamar's title was changed to corresponding secretary and general agent.

1875 - The Central Committee of the Baptist Woman's Mission Societies was organized at Welsh Neck Church, Society Hill. This was the beginning of a southwide Woman's Missionary Union among Baptists.

1877 - Southern Baptist Theological Seminary moved to Louisville, Kentucky.

The first issue of *The Baptist Courier* was published. *The Courier* was a private publication endorsed by the convention. Its roots were in *The Working Christian*, owned by T. R. and William Gaines. Gaines later sold the publication to C.M. McJunkin, working with W. C. Lindsay, pastor of First Columbia, and A. W. Lamar, corresponding secretary and general agent of the state convention, worked to cease publication of *The Working Christian*. Ending publication of *The Working Christian* brought birth to *The Baptist Courier*. Publication of the newspaper was moved from Columbia to Greenville.

1879 - W. H. Strickland was called as the convention's corresponding secretary and treasurer. The title of general agent was no longer used.

1882 - R. H. Griffith was called as the convention's corresponding secretary and treasurer.

1883 - The state convention met in Charleston to aid in celebrating the bicentennial of the First Baptist Church.

1884 - Among South Carolina Baptist churches, 63,374 members gave a total of \$160, 517 to state convention causes. This is the first year records of voluntary giving from the churches to the convention are available. By 1904, 108, 185 members gave \$342, 000 to convention causes.

1886 - Thomas M. Bailey was called as corresponding secretary and treasurer.

1887 - The first meeting of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of South Carolina assembled at the First Baptist Church of Sumter. The forbearer of today's Pastor's Conference, the ministers' conference convened the day before the annual meeting, and until 1914 its minutes were included as a part of the annual meeting's minutes. In the early ministers' conferences, there were pre- assigned subjects that were presented by individual speakers. Following each presentation, there was a time of discussion. At the first meeting, subjects included "The Importance of a Right Interpretation of Scripture, " presented by J. C. Furman; "The Pastor's Relation to Our Denominational Work, " by R. W. Lide; and "Pastoral Work and How to Do It, " by W. T. Hundley. T. J. Earle and J. A. Brown were the first president and secretary of the ministers' conference, respectively.

1888 - An Executive Committee of Woman's Mission Societies, Auxiliary to the Southern

Baptist Convention, was formed with Miss Martha McIntosh of the Welsh Neck Church in South Carolina as the first president.

1888 - 1892 - As the state convention met in Orangeburg in 1888, discussion (prompted by an editorial in *The Baptist Courier*) took place on the need for a Baptist orphanage. A committee was formed to advise the convention on the feasibility of the project. In 1889 chairman W. W. Keys returned a report that recommended the convention proceed to create an orphanage. By 1891 the town of Greenwood offered 10 acres in combination with 470 acres deeded in mortuary for the home by Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Maxwell. The Maxwell's donation came in honor of their fourth daughter, Constance, who was their only child to live beyond infancy. Later Connie contracted scarlet fever and died at the age of seven.

1890 - Since its semi- centennial in 1871, Baptists had an interest in preserving the history of the special cooperative organization they had formed. J. B. Patrick of Sumter presented a resolution at the 1878 convention which recognized a loosely organized historical society in 1870. In 1890 the historical society received official organization from the convention.

1891 - The North Greenville Association voted to establish the North Greenville High School (Academy). Interest in this school, which later became North Greenville College, was sparked at the association's annual meeting in September. The committee selected Tigerville and citizens donated 10 acres and \$2, 500 to create the school.

1892 - Susie H. Burton of Newberry County was admitted as the first child at Connie Maxwell Orphanage.

The first building at North Greenville Academy was completed at a cost of \$1, 280.

1894 - The Welsh Neck Baptist High School began operation. This school, created by the Welsh Neck Association, existed until 1908 when the state began assuming more and more responsibility in the area of high school education.

1899 - Cooper- Limestone Institute became Limestone College and was affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

1900 - The first Woman's Missionary Society offering for state missions was received - \$235. Today, the WMU offering is called the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions, Missions Education and Empowering Kingdom Growth.

1902 - The Woman's Missionary Society changed its name to Woman's Missionary Union.

1905 - North Greenville High School received support from the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention through its system of mountain academies (high schools).

1906 - Rev. J. W. Michaels was appointed by the Home Mission Board as General Evangelist to the Deaf. In 1914 he reported 20 deaf Bible classes - one of which was the Michaels Bible Class at First Church Columbia. In 1948 the class began meeting during the regular Sunday School hour. In 1955 the church began a sign language class for hearing members of the church to strengthen its ministry to the deaf.

1908 - Coker College for Women was born out of the Welsh Neck Baptist High School. The high school property was transferred to build a college for women in Hartsville. It was named for James Lide Coker from Society Hill.

1910 - Since 1848 Anderson had been the home of higher education for women. Johnson had organized the Johnson Female Seminary, which became the Johnson Female University in 1853. With Johnson's death and the Civil War, the university closed. From 1881-1888, The Anderson Female Seminary operated until the school's president, Gen. Lewis Ayers, died. The Anderson Female College opened in 1890 under the direction of A. A. Marshall, pastor of First Church, Anderson. The school closed two years later when Marshall's health failed. The state convention,

in 1910 at Laurens, established Anderson College mainly due to the work of J. D. Chapman, pastor at First Anderson, and A. M. Carpenter, editor of the *Anderson Daily Mail* and secretary of the chamber of commerce.

William T. Derieux began his service as corresponding secretary and treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

1911 - Anderson College opened as a four- year women's college. Louis J. Bristow offered a resolution at the annual meeting in Greenwood. The resolution provided for a committee of seven, appointed by the president, to consider establishing a "sanitarium." The committee visited other denominational hospital ventures in the United States, especially in the South, and did research among Baptists, finding a strong sentiment of support.

1912 - At the annual meeting in Abbeville, messengers approved a committee recommendation to create a hospital and appointed a 12-member committee to implement the decision. Columbia was selected as the site over locations in Greenwood and Chester.

1914 - The name "Greenville Female College" was changed to "Greenville Woman's College." South Carolina Baptists purchased the Knowlton Hospital in Columbia to begin its involvement in offering healthcare services. On September 1, the facility opened as the Baptist Hospital.

1918 - Dr. William Marion Whiteside, who had started a clinic in his church, was called to be the administrator at Baptist Hospital. He served 40 years.

1919 - Provision was made for the creation of a General Board of the State Convention. North Greenville Academy began its affiliation with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Charles E. Burts began his tenure as general secretary- treasurer of the state convention.

1920 - The State Convention purchased *The Baptist Courier*.

The General Board purchased "the Gibbes property" on the corner of Hampton and Sumter Streets in Columbia for \$38, 250. The Board staff occupied the building in March.

Baptist college students attended a Foreign Mission Student Conference. Of the 150 students, 94 were women encouraged by the state Woman's Missionary Union.

1924 - Announcement was made of the Duke Indenture which included provisions to benefit Baptist institutions in South Carolina.

North Greenville Academy chose to affiliate only with the Home Mission Board and did not receive state convention funding. The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention established a Mountain School Department in 1900 that aided four academies in South Carolina - North Greenville, Six Mile, Long Creek, and Edisto.

Birth of the Cooperative Program 1925-

1925 - Charles A. Jones was elected general secretary- treasurer of the state convention. The Cooperative Program began. In South Carolina, 214, 072 church members gave \$504, 416.39 through the Cooperative Program.

South Carolina's first Baptist Student Conference was Feb. 13- 15 at Coker College in Hartsville. There was a second statewide conference Nov. 20- 22 at Greenville Woman's College.

1928 - South Carolina Baptist students voted to organize themselves into a State Convention of the Baptist Student Union at the state conference at Limestone. This was the formal organization of the South Carolina BSU. The first president was Shields Hardin of Furman.

1930 - Anderson College changed its operation, allowing men as day students, and became the first junior college in South Carolina.

1932 - Greenville Woman's College and Furman University began to coordinate their work.

1934 - The state convention established a Social Service Commission. This grew out of the

Committee on Social Service and Public Morals.

North Greenville Academy began operation as a junior college but kept its academy division open.

1935 - North Greenville Junior College added a second year of college to its program.

The first report of the Social Service Commission, later named the Christian Life Commission, dealt with citizenship, crime, economic justice, education, leisure, race relations and war and peace.

1937 - The state convention gave final approval to the merger of Greenville Woman's College and Furman University.

1938 - Southern Association of Colleges & Secondary Schools approved North Greenville as a junior college.

From the sale of an old residence on its Columbia property, the General Board was able to enlarge and remodel its headquarters building, which became known as the Baptist House.

The state's first Baptist Student Center was constructed at Winthrop College in Rock Hill.

Supported by the Woman's Missionary Union, First Baptist Church Rock Hill and area churches, the building included an auditorium, kitchen and storage area.

1939 - North Greenville Junior College requested that state Baptists include the school in Cooperative Program funding and that funding be discontinued from the North Greenville Association. This was approved.

1942 - William S. Brooke was elected general secretary- treasurer of the state convention.

Woman's Missionary Union completed Camp Rawls near Wagener. The 50 acres of camp property was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Rawls of First Batesburg.

1948 - The state convention approved the establishment of the South Carolina Baptist Foundation. The foundation provided a way for Baptists to make gifts and donations of money and property to the convention. J. E. Rawlinson was the first executive secretary of the foundation. He took office in 1950.

1949 - North Greenville Junior College came under the sponsorship of the state convention.

The Fairfield Association recommended the convention establish a home for the aging. Dr. and Mrs. P. A. Bethea donated \$100,000 and their farm site near Darlington.

Charles F. Sims was elected general secretary-treasurer of the state convention.

Annie D. Denmark, former Anderson College president, became the first woman elected to serve as second vice president of the convention. When she became president of Anderson in 1928, Denmark was the first female president of a college in South Carolina. She was named president for life at Anderson College. It was during her administration that Anderson became the state's first junior college.

1951 - The convention approved establishment of Bethea Baptist Home in Darlington.

There were a record number of baptisms averaging 12 per church after a special emphasis on prayer, visitation and soul-winning in churches,

1953 - Trustees were appointed for Bethea Baptist Home.

1954 - Baptists began consideration of a Baptist college in the Lowcountry region of the state. South Carolina Baptists participated in the Southern Baptist Convention's "A Million More in Fifty-Four" campaign for Sunday School expansion.

1955 - The state convention appointed a committee to search for property for a Royal Ambassador camp.

Baptist Hospital began construction of a 50- bed-hospital in Easley after citizens there purchased six acres of land and gave \$300, 000 for the project.

1957 - North Greenville's "Academy Division," preparing older ministerial students, was

discontinued.

1958 - The Easley Baptist Hospital began operation.

Furman University vacated the downtown men's campus and began operation on its new site. Surveying and grading began on the Royal Ambassador Camp of South Carolina in Pickens County. The Royal Ambassador Camp of South Carolina name was changed to McCall Royal Ambassador Camp in honor of layman Roy McCall, Sr. who donated the property.

1959 - Construction on buildings began at the Royal Ambassador Camp.

1960 - The General Board authorized the purchase of two additional buildings and lots on Richland Street in Columbia for a new Baptist Building.

Sixty churches reported having a weekday kindergarten ministry. First Baptist Aiken was the first church to begin this type of ministry.

The cornerstone at Bethea Retirement Community was laid, and the new healthcare institution opened.

The state Royal Ambassador Camp enjoyed its first full season of operation.

Furman University began construction of dormitories for women, the McAlister Auditorium was completed, and the James B. Duke Library was dedicated.

Messengers approved the establishment of a college in the Charleston area.

Charles F. Sims, general secretary- treasurer, announced his intention to retire on March 1, 1961, but he was asked to continue through the remainder of the year.

1961 - Furman University vacated the downtown women's campus and consolidated all of its work on the new site in Greenville.

The contract was awarded for the new Baptist Building, and ground was broken July 17.

The South Carolina Baptist Hospital began an estimated \$2.5 million expansion program.

In letters to associations, churches reported a total property value of \$133 million, up by \$9.7 million over 1960.

Retiring general secretary- treasurer Sims was honored as messengers elected him as the 1962 convention president, but he died on December 11 before taking office on January 1.

1962 - The new Baptist Building in Columbia was completed and dedicated on September 4.

There were 65 offices, assembly rooms, a book store, large storage area, library, and canteen.

Horace G. Hammett was elected general secretary- treasurer of the state convention.

The Baptist House and adjacent Columbia property were transferred to the South Carolina Baptist Hospital.

The convention completed a 10- year capital needs program and set up a five- year program with a goal of \$3.7 million.

1963 - The annual evangelism conference was moved from Columbia to Greenville.

1964 - A service commemorating the 150th anniversary of the organization of cooperating Baptist work in the United States was held at Pine Pleasant Baptist Church, the site of Luther Rice's grave.

Plans were approved to establish Baptist College at Charleston. Trustees announced the election of John A. Hamrick, Charleston, as the college's first president.

1965 - Furman University became the first school in South Carolina to voluntarily admit black students. Joseph Allen Vaughn of Greenville became the first black undergraduate to enroll.

Baptist College at Charleston opened on September 7 with over 500 students enrolled, holding classes temporarily in facilities provided by First Church, North Charleston. Groundbreaking at the permanent site was on September 12.

1966 - Baptists and other Protestant denominational groups sponsored the Southern Piedmont

Religious Crusade. The 10- day meeting with evangelist Billy Graham drew 300, 000 people to Greenville's Textile Hall.

Baptists joined with other church groups and individuals to defeat a proposed state constitutional change that would permit the sale of liquor in open bars.

A special campaign for funds to replace a rejected federal grant raised \$300, 000 for the science hall at Furman.

McCall Royal Ambassador Camp became General Board property.

Though not complete, Baptist College at Charleston began its second academic year in buildings on its campus.

1967 - North Greenville Junior College and Connie Maxwell Children's Home celebrated 75th anniversaries.

A Committee of 15 was appointed to make a two- year study of the state's Baptist institutions and agencies "in respect to expansion, consolidation, correlation, fiscal and financial responsibility, and convention support."

1968 - Furman University raised \$9.5 of \$10 million in its "Campaign For Greatness."

Baptist College at Charleston broke ground for its library.

Almost \$3.5 million in loans were approved by messengers for new construction at its colleges and social service institutions.

The Baptist Courier completed and dedicated its first office building.

Preston H. Callison of First Columbia, a representative in the state's General Assembly, was elected convention president. He was the first layman elected in the 20th Century.

1969 - The General Board celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

The Baptist Courier celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

Following the retirement of Horace Hammett, A. Harold Cole was elected the convention's general secretary- treasurer.

The South Carolina Baptist Foundation reported that its assets had grown to more than \$3 million in 1969.

1970 - An office of church- pastor- denominational relations was established. The South Carolina Baptist Convention was the first state convention to establish this office. Charles H. Rabon was its first director.

Baptist Foundation assets doubled to reach \$6 million.

Bethea Baptist Home celebrated its 10th Anniversary.

Baptist College at Charleston received full accreditation and dedicated a new library.

Churches oversubscribed the convention's record \$5.3 million Cooperative Program budget by giving \$5.38 million.

1971 - All previous attendance records at annual meetings were broken in a sesquicentennial convention at Carolina Coliseum, Columbia. The meeting drew 2, 500 messengers and 1, 614 registered visitors for a total registration of 4, 134. A historic first occurred when Rev. W. L. Wilson brought greetings from the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, a black convention of over 300, 000. A resolution urging churches to observe November 21 as a day of reconciliation and prayer on race relations was adopted.

Saints of Clay, a book on South Carolina Baptist history, by Loulie Latimer Owens was released. Initial steps were taken to seat the Baptist Student Union president as a voting member of General Board.

The annual Preaching Conference at Anderson College began.

Capital funds were set aside to provide a state conference center.

In August, Sgt. Raul Garcia of Fort Jackson began the state's First Spanish Baptist Church at Woodfield Park, Columbia. The church was constituted in 1977 as Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana.

1972 - A constitutional amendment was defeated that would have rejected messengers from any church accepting members not been baptized by immersion. Messengers reaffirmed the Baptist Faith and Message of 1925 and 1963 statement on baptism by immersion.

A statewide Youth Night packed Carolina Coliseum with a reported 13, 000 attendance.

1973 - A 10- member committee began to study the feasibility of a state conference center. Jimmy Carter, former governor of Georgia, was one of the speakers at the annual meeting in Charleston. Carter, a Baptist, was elected the country's president in 1976.

1974 - The General Board recommended and messengers approved the purchase of 740 acres in upper Fairfield County for \$367, 000. Development of the facility, later named White Oak Conference Center, was projected to take five to eight years.

Campus ministers became members of the General Board staff.

1975 - The convention entered a partnership with the Home Mission Board and began work in Christian social ministries, interracial cooperation and language ministries.

The convention purchased 275 acres of land adjoining the site at White Oak. James L. Beacham, former director of McCall Royal Ambassador Camp, was elected as director of the conference center, which was still in the planning stages.

1976 - The convention approved a resolution commending churches in South Carolina which had opened their membership to all racial, ethnic and minority groups.

The convention approved construction of a building on its Richland Street property for the Baptist Book Store. Upon completion, the new building was leased to the book store.

A fund- raising drive produced \$225, 000 for the conference center at White Oak.

The Missions Department of the General Board staff began its annual Christmas project of providing gift packets to South Carolina prisoners.

1977 - A merger between North Greenville College and Furman University was rejected.

The South Carolina Baptist Ministries for the Aging was created. Dr. Tom Garrett, administrator at Bethea, became the first executive director.

Funds were approved for Connie Maxwell Children's Home to open an off- campus home for disturbed children.

Baptist Hospital was asked to develop the Easley hospital into a regional facility.

Messengers voted to deed 164 acres of White Oak property to Woman's Missionary Union for an assembly, which would become Camp LaVida.

1978 - The South Carolina Baptist Convention became the first state convention to install and utilize word processing in communications.

The Woman's Missionary Union accepted the convention's gift of land for a camp at White Oak to replace Camp Rawls near Wagener.

Infrastructure work began at White Oak, and an on- site residence for the maintenance superintendent and the picnic shelter were completed.

1979 - Dedication services were held for White Oak Conference Center on May 12. In its first 26 months of operation, White Oak was used by more than 20,000 guests.

Retired missionary Martha Franks of Laurens offered her home, 11 acres of property and \$300,000 from her thrift store as seed money for a retirement center in Laurens.

As convention president, Alastair Walker pursued a world hunger ministry, leading the convention in developing an annual World Hunger Day. Walker, born in Scotland, was the first

foreign- born president of the state convention.

1980 - The first World Hunger Day offering collected Sunday, August 3 raised \$950, 837. 20. Woman's Missionary Union approved the name of its new camp as La Vida, meaning "the life."

1981 - Ray P. Rust, president of Anderson College, was elected as the convention's new executive secretary- treasurer, succeeding A. Harold Cole, who retired in early 1982.

The Convention accepted ownership of the Baptist Student Centers at various colleges and universities in South Carolina.

Ground- breaking ceremonies at Camp La Vida were conducted.

1982 - Plans for a 1984 joint Evangelism Conference with the Baptist Educational & Missionary (BE&M) Convention were announced.

1983 - The convention began a mission partnership with Puerto Rico Baptist Fellowship.

Camp La Vida was dedicated.

The first Evangelympics conference for youth was at North Trenholm Baptist Church, Columbia.

1984 - A majority of messengers at Myrtle Beach voted to uphold an abortion policy recommended by trustees of Baptist Hospital stating, "Abortions are performed only when, in the professional judgment of the attending physician, they are medically necessary and comply with the staff regulations of the hospitals."

1985 - A special fund- raising campaign was started for Baptist College at Charleston. The fund drive to help pay a \$4.5 million debt was approved at a called convention at St. Andrews Church, Columbia, on May 9.

The New Work area of state convention work was started.

Martha Franks Retirement Center opened in February.

1986 - A bylaw change was approved to seat the state Woman's Missionary Union president on the General Board. Irene Raffini of Anderson became the first WMU president to occupy the seat.

The General Board established a statewide Literacy Missions Task Force to develop and implement a literacy mission strategy

The General Board established a statewide Rural- Urban Missions Task Force.

The summer youth conference at White Oak Conference Center known as "Summersalt" was first conducted.

More than 1, 190 Baptist churches participated in the "Good News Jesus Cares for You." simultaneous revivals.

1987 - South Carolina Baptists entered a three- year partnership with Baptists in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

1989 - Anderson College was returned to its status as a four- year institution.

Hurricane Hugo struck the South Carolina coast at Charleston. Brotherhood Departments from 11 states served more than 2.3 million hot meals during the three weeks after the storm.

1990 - Furman University trustees took action to name their own successors. In November, messengers of the state convention decided to escrow Furman's funds while discussion took place between a committee of the state convention and a committee of Furman.

A three- year mission partnership between South Carolina and New England Baptists was approved.

The name for Baptist College at Charleston was changed to Charleston Southern University.

Messengers voted to purchase 4.77 acres of property at Stoneridge Drive, Columbia for a new convention building.

1991 - By a 38- vote margin, the convention voted to seek advice from the courts in the form of a

declaratory judgment against Furman University's trustees regarding the appointment of the institution's trustees.

B. Carlisle Driggers, a Hartsville native, was elected as the convention's executive secretary-treasurer to begin in March 1992.

A Church Growth Task Force was formed to examine innovative approaches to serving churches. The convention approved this emphasis as Empowering Kingdom Growth for the years 1992- 2002.

1992 - At a special meeting of the convention in May, messengers voted to sever its legal and financial ties with Furman University. Money placed in escrow was used to begin a Richard Furman Scholarship Fund for Baptist students preparing for ministry at the remaining three South Carolina Baptist colleges or the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, to hire a full-time campus minister at Furman and to assist the South Carolina Baptist Historical Collection housed at Furman.

The General Board launched the special emphasis, Empowering Kingdom Growth.

The Convention entered into a historic three-year mission partnership with the predominately black Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. The partnership focused on a mission project with the Baptists of Kenya, East Africa.

Messengers also voted to extend and expand a three- year mission partnership with New England Baptists through 1996.

North Greenville College celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

The Brotherhood Department began to develop a Disaster Relief ministry.

1993 - Baptist Hospital's trustees indicated they needed a "new relationship" with the convention. Hospital trustees and convention officers worked on a pragmatic agreement by which the convention would no longer fund the hospital but the hospital would continue existing ministry programs. The arrangement was adopted in November at the annual convention.

The convention sold its Richland Street property and broke ground at 190 Stoneridge Dr. Columbia in a special October 5 ceremony.

1994 - Messengers to the 1994 annual meeting took action to comply with South Carolina's new Nonprofit Corporation Act. The action revised the state convention's Constitution and Bylaws. Charters for the convention's seven institutions also were revised, and the relationship between the convention and its institutions was clarified.

The mission partnership with Kenya was extended through 1996.

The new Convention building at Stoneridge Drive opened for service on September 27, 1994.

1995 - The convention purchased an additional 188 acres of land at McCall Royal Ambassador Camp.

The first Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference was attended by more than 2, 500 women in Spartanburg.

The first "Shepherding The Shepherd" Conference, a retreat designed for the renewal of pastors and their wives, was attended by 387.

1996 - The convention celebrated its 175th Anniversary.

A youth rally at Carowinds Paramount Park attracted more than 8, 000 young people.

The Executive Board approved a foreign missions partnership with Romania.

John Roberts, editor of *The Baptist Courier* for 28 years, and Fred Lister, vice president and then president of the Baptist Foundation for 28 years, retired.