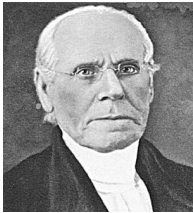
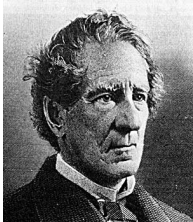




In 1795 Henry Holcomb became the first resident mission pastor of the Euhaw Baptist Church mission in Beaufort. He later organized Savannah First Baptist, and then accepted the influential pulpit of Philadelphia First Baptist.



William B. Johnson, lawyer, converted here in 1804, went on to pastor Savannah, Columbia, and Edgfield churches. He was the first president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845. He was instrumental in starting Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.



Richard Fuller, graduate of Harvard and prominent lawyer, was converted in the 1831 Revival along with 100+ leading citizens. He pastored here, led in the building of the present sanctuary, was chairman of Constitution-By-Laws Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. As pastor in Baltimore, he baptized Annie Armstrong.



Annie Armstrong, baptized by Richard Fuller in Baltimore, became the first president of the Women's Missionary Union, and after receiving a letter from Lottie Moon helped create the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is a mission tribute to her.

Dr. James G. Wooten, Pastor  
 Dr. Melanie N. Williams, Minister of Music  
 Rev. Anne England, Children's Minister  
 Rev. Matt Cumbow, Minister to Students  
 Mrs. Debbie Marcil, Director of Child Enrichment Center

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 Beaufort, SC 29901-0879  
 July, 2010

## Our Services

### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Covenant Worship  
 10:10 a.m. 10:10 Bible Study  
 11:15 a.m. Convergent Worship

### Wednesday

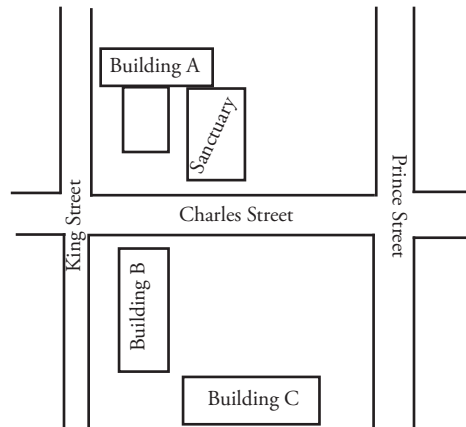
5:00 p.m. Church Supper  
 5:50 p.m. Children's Ministries  
 6:00 p.m. Adult and Youth Gatherings

Our church offers Bible studies, personal growth classes, service opportunities, music activities and mission study groups for all ages. If you are interested in any program of our church or would like to know more about us, please inquire at our church office. Our phone number is 843-524-3197 and our web address is [www.bcob.org](http://www.bcob.org).

THE PURPOSE of The Baptist Church of Beaufort is to reach people for Jesus Christ and help them to become like Him.

THE VISION of The Baptist Church of Beaufort is: Because God so loved the world, The Baptist Church of Beaufort has a heart for

- Experiencing God
- Loving Each Other
- Serving the Community and
- Touching the World



# A Brief History of The Baptist Church Of Beaufort



 **THE Baptist Church of Beaufort**  
*A Community with Heart*

601 Charles Street  
 PO Box 879  
 Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-0879  
 (843) 524-3197

[www.bcob.org](http://www.bcob.org)

## The Baptist Church of Beaufort

Long before the American Revolution, Baptists, then called dissenters, were preaching in this village where the Anglican (Episcopal) Church was the established faith. Welcome to The Baptist Church of Beaufort, a historic congregation with improbable links to the earliest Baptist conventions in America.

The Baptist Church of Beaufort was a “branch” of Euhaw Baptist Church on the mainland when Rev. Henry Holcomb became the first resident mission pastor in 1795. Holcombe later organized Savannah First Baptist, then accepted the influential pulpit of Philadelphia First Baptist. There, in 1814, he hosted a national gathering of mission-minded men who formed the first Baptist congress in the land, the Triennial Convention.

Thomas Jefferson was president when we formally constituted as The Baptist Church of Beaufort in 1804. An early convert was the pastor’s cousin, attorney William B. Johnson, who changed careers and stepped onto the Baptist scene. He helped start Furman Academy (University) and Southern Seminary, in addition to several important South Carolina churches. For 27 years he was president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the first organized state convention. Not only was Johnson the only man present at both the founding of the Triennial Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, he was the only man to serve as president of both. W. B. Johnson, baptized in Beaufort, is considered the architect of the 1845 Southern Baptist Convention.

Andrew Jackson was president during the Beaufort Great Revival of 1831. This was a landmark event for The Baptist Church of Beaufort and St. Helena Episcopal with spiritual reverberations felt for generations. Among the many converted, six lawyers and the Beaufort College President entered the ministry. Two became Episcopalian bishops, and Harvard-educated Richard Fuller abandoned his law practice to pastor The Baptist Church of Beaufort. On his 1833 ordination day he baptized 107 candidates. Led by the wealthy Fuller, the present sanctuary was completed in 1844 at a cost of \$17,000. Since most

of the 2,200 church members were slaves, Fuller raised funds through preaching engagements in surrounding states and gifts from his own fortune. This building is considered one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the country, and skilled slave artisans created the molded plaster decorations. Church members and townspeople paid \$12 to \$30 to rent pew boxes; the least expensive rows were the first one and the last three. The architect is undocumented, but the design is remarkably similar to the Second Baptist Church of Charleston, under construction at the same time, designed by the prominent Edward Brickell White.

Dr. Fuller gained renown as a gifted nineteenth century orator, the “Prince of Preachers,” and chaired the by-laws committee for the new Southern Baptist Convention in 1845. He delivered the first annual convention sermon, became its third president, and preached at every SBC annual meeting for the next 30 years. In 1847 he moved to a struggling church in Baltimore. As a southern, slave-owning, preacher he wanted to look at slavery “with a calm and impartial judgment” from a border state. There, Fuller built two strong churches, and in 1869 he baptized and mentored a headstrong young woman named Annie Armstrong. Her zeal and fierce focus would prepare the Woman’s Missionary Union for 20th century tasks.

At one time, leading Baptist churches in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Washington, Charleston, Baltimore, and Houston were all led by Beaufort-trained pastors.

By November 1861 when federal forces occupied Beaufort and white residents fled, this church counted 166 white members and 3,557 African-Americans. For the next four years this was a Union town and the church building was a hospital for black soldiers. Graffiti is still visible on the belfry beams. When a remnant reclaimed their chapel in 1866, a faithful black deacon brought in the communion silver he had hidden in his feather bed. Old pews were reinstalled without their doors, and the communion table was recovered from Charleston.

Difficult years fraught with financial problems continued for decades before a Sunday School building was added in 1917. More educational facilities came

in 1949, 1957, and 1985. The sanctuary ceiling was meticulously restored in 1953, using 98% of the original rosettes. Hurricane Gracie in 1959 damaged roof, walls, and carpet but spared the precious ceiling. The original 1844 church plan was completed in 1962 when a steeple was added, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Trask. The 1844 bell still rings for Sunday services and weddings.

The most comprehensive restoration to date took place in 1997-1998. The west wall was pushed back 29 feet and the sanctuary enlarged to create a new chancel and more flexible pulpit area. A historic pipe organ with 70 ranks, largest in the lowcountry, was added. Seventy-five percent of the exterior stucco was matched and replaced, and interior walls underwent extensive renewal. Historic colors - seven shades of white - were used, and original heart pine floors revealed for the first time in memory. The cost of the 18 month project was over \$2,200,000.

Our church has established missions or churches at Port Royal, Hilton Head, St. Helena, Laurel Bay, Grays Hill, Shell Point, and Sea Island (on Lady’s Island). We also touch people weekly through our Hispanic, homebound and assisted living Ministries.

As noted, The Baptist Church of Beaufort was in existence long before the Southern Baptist Convention. As a Baptist church we are autonomous and choose to associate with associations and denominations as our theology and conscience dictate. Presently, we are associated with the Savannah River Baptist Association, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Members can choose whether their monetary gifts go to Southern Baptist Convention or Cooperative Baptist Fellowship endeavors.

We are a church with 18th century roots carrying an unchanging gospel into the next millennium.