



12/12/2000 6:28 P.M.

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## Pinopolis, SC

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Plantation owners began this pineland village in the 1830's, to escape lowcountry plantation summer nights which was thought to cause "country fever" (malaria). By 1844 Pinopolis comprised about 12 homes. The village served as a shelter for refugees during the Civil War. The Post Office began in 1894 with Elizabeth Ravenel as postmaster. Pinopolis has 2 historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



The St. John's Baptist Church in Pinopolis was constituted June 15, 1851 with 8 members transfer from Goose Creek and Mt. Olivet Churches. The location was about one-fourth mile from the current on a lot donated by William Cain. The first pastor Reverend D.M. Breaker.

On December 15th, 1884, A.D. Hare conveyed a or lot on which the present building now stands and th church was relocated there. On September 26, 192 members of St. John's Baptist Church transferred membership to Moncks Corner Churh and St. John Church lay dormant until April 5th, 1970, at which time the building was renov and services were resumed. The buildings and grounds are now in the custody the First Baptist Church of Moncks Corner, SC.

St. John's Baptist Church

Santee Circle

Moncks Corner, SC

29461

(843) 899-1790

843 761 8116

Already called  
They'll send me some information

At the next regular meeting Rev. George Owens was elected to become pastor.

The church being now duly constituted, the pastors and visiting laymen extended a cordial welcome into the family of churches.

The moderator then presented Rev. W. Edgar West, Sr., who brought an inspirational address. His subject was "Magnifying The Church." Rev. Philip Altman presented the Bible, and Rev. John T. Lisenby delivered the charge.

At this point the ministers and visiting deacons present laid hands upon Dannie Morris, consecrating him to the office of deacon. Rev. D. K. Murray led in the ordaining prayer, and pronounced the benediction.

"Now unto God and our Father be the glory for ever and ever. Amen."

## CHURCHES THAT ONCE EXISTED BUT ARE NOW CLOSED

### ST. JOHN'S — Constituted 1851

The records of this church were destroyed when the home of J. C. Hare was burned. In July, 1951, it was decided to celebrate the Centennial of the organization of the church. Hon. Lewis G. Fultz, a long time member of the church, and who knew more about the history of the church than any other, was asked to prepare a sketch of its history to be read at that time. This article is a reproduction of Mr. Fultz's article, with some rearrangements and changes.

St. John's Baptist Church, situated between Moncks Corner and Pinopolis, was constituted on June 15, 1851, with eight members holding letters of dismission from the Goose Creek and Mt. Olivet Churches. Rev. C. M. Breaker and Rev. Samuel Lynes directed the organization. The Church Covenant and Declarations of Faith were adopted. Rev. D. M. Breaker was elected pastor and William J. Dennis and John W. Walling deacons. The deacons were to serve one year on probation. At the end of the year they were ordained.

In December of 1881, \$200 was raised for a building. Messrs. Walling and Dennis submitted building plans—a building thirty by thirty feet square, the walls to be fifteen feet high, and three doors and fourteen windows. The plan was adopted unanimously, and in September, 1883, the building was completed at a cost of \$275. It was located on a lot donated by William Cain, about a quarter of a mile north of the present location. J. L. Driggers was the contractor.

Mr. Breaker resigned in July 1856, and was succeeded by Rev. Peter Huxford. Mr. Huxford being only a licentiate, the church called for his ordination. A presbytery was invited to examine the candidate and make a recommendation to the church. The presbytery consisted of Revs. D. M. Breaker, James E. Hinton, and Peter Huxford, Jr. This was a most interesting event in which a minister assisted in the ordination of his father.

Just before the war the church experienced a dark period. It may have resulted from the slave controversy, which affected so many churches at this time. This affliction became so grave that on December 22, 1857, the church considered disbanding. Letters were written to

the pastors and members of sister churches asking their advice in the matter. Whereupon the Charleston Association appointed a committee consisting of Revs. J. R. Kendrick, E. T. Winkler, and James Tucker (a layman) to meet with the church and make recommendations. The committee met and after prayerful consideration recommended that the church maintain its existence "for the present."

There is no further information until after the war. It is safe to suppose that regular services were discontinued through the period of the war, as was true with most of the churches.

The minutes of the Association, dated October 14, 1868, contains this note: "This church is fast recovering from the demoralizing effect of the war . . . The Rev. J. C. C. Brandon is ministering to the needs of the church."

By deed dated October 1, 1884, A. D. Hare conveyed the one-acre lot, on which the present building stands, to A. D. Hare, J. W. Walling, and A. Jones, trustees of St. John's Baptist Church. It is not clear just how soon the new building was erected, and the place of worship moved, but it must have been very soon after the land was donated.

It was about this time that what is known as the "Graves Doctrine" (See Wassamassaw history for details of this doctrine) became a disturbing element in the church. It is not stated that this church adopted the doctrine as a policy, but on May 11, 1886, the church adopted the following resolution: "Resolved that hereafter we extend an invitation to visiting brethren of sister churches in good standing to partake of the Lord's Supper."

Through the following years the church grew and prospered until September 26, 1926, when a majority of the members transferred their membership to the Moncks Corner Church. The few remaining members were not able to maintain regular services, and the work became dormant.

On March 25, 1945, the majority of the remaining members agreed to transfer title of the property to the Moncks Corner Church. The conditions of the transfer were: "The name St. John's Baptist Church is to be maintained; the building and grounds shall be maintained in good condition for such services as shall be necessary or expedient; in case the building is destroyed or damaged it is to be repaired or restored as soon as possible and in event that the church be reorganized as a Missionary Baptist Church, with a membership numerically and financially able to employ a pastor and maintain an active congregation, with regular services at least once a month, and with reasonable prospect of so continuing, the Moncks Corner Church shall reconvey it to its original owners." The Moncks Corner Church agreed to hold at least one service each year in the church.

On February 21, 1945, J. O. McCants deeded to the trustees of the Moncks Corner Baptist Church 2½ acres more or less of land, to be held in trust for the St. John's Baptist Church. The burying ground of the St. John's Church being so much in demand that most of the space had been taken up, this gift was land joining the present property and is to be used as an addition to the present burying ground.

### The Centennial Celebration

On June 17, 1951, the old members and friends of the church met in the afternoon to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the church. Plans had been made well in advance, and a large congregation gathered for the occasion. Rev. James E. James, pastor of the Moncks Corner Church, presided. Rev. Arthur Guyton of Holly Hill, and a former pastor of the church, preached the centennial sermon. Hon. Lewis G. Fultz, a former deacon of the church and at this time a deacon and clerk of the Moncks Corner Church, read a history of the church from its origin. He referred to the men who were instrumental in the founding of the church as "men with sublime faith or a monumental nerve, and perhaps some of both, to start a new church with so few members." It may be added that the glorious history of the church is proof of their wisdom. Rev. W. Edgar West, Sr., a retired minister of Moncks Corner led in the prayer. It was indeed a season for the awaking of precious memories, and of the renewing of tender ties of Christian love. To many there was a double tie—the old members could remember the blessed fellowship at that place in other years, and many had loved ones sleeping there. There were at this time only two living former pastors, Rev. Arthur Guyton of Holly Hill, who preached the centennial sermon, and Rev. S. P. Cogburne of Rock Hill, who could not be present because of his age and infirmity.

#### Officers have been:

Pastors—D. M. Breaker, Peter Huxford, Peter Huxford, Jr., J. C. C. Brandon, J. W. Bishop, S. T. Russell, Thomas L. Riggs, E. H. Cuttino, J. F. Smith, J. R. Hyatt, J. E. Edwards, Hugh F. Oliver, J. M. Kirtin, J. S. Finch, C. W. Salters, S. P. Cogburne, Arthur Guyton, M. W. Gordon, and J. T. Ratcliff.

Deacons—William T. Dennis, John W. Walling, Matthew P. Walling, E. C. Bunch, S. K. Jones, A. F. Guyton, J. O. McCants, L. P. Walling, Lewis G. Fultz, and others.

Clerks—J. W. Walling, M. P. Walling, Thomas H. Winter, J. O. McCants, S. D. Guyton, Lewis G. Fultz, and J. C. Hare. When the large number of members moved their membership to Moncks Corner, J. C. Hare was made permanent clerk to transact any business pertaining to the interest of the church.

### MT. HOLLY — Constituted 1917

Early in 1917 Reverend G. A. Martin, pastor of the Ridge Church, began a work at Mt. Holly and constituted a church. Since this church was in existence for only a short time and no records have been preserved, all the information that can be gathered is from the minutes of the Charleston Association. It is not known how many charter members there were. The names of C. V. James, J. S. Antley, J. A. Hoyle, C. B. Linder, Y. H. Simmons, W. A. Williams and G. W. Dangerfield appear in the Association minutes. The largest number of members reported any one year was fifteen.

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# *Berkeley County* *Baptists*

By

*W. Edgar West, Sr.*

Retired Baptist Minister



Edited By

*B. Wallace Edwards*

Pastor of Summerville Baptist Church

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**Patricia Fleury**

Pastor's Secretary

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January 25, 2001

Rev. Robert Breaker  
731 East Maple  
Cushing, OK 74023

Dear Mr. Breaker,

I'm sorry it has taken this long to get these materials to you, and hope they will help. If you come this way anytime, please stop in and we'll try to find someone to talk with you about St. Johns.

Enclosed is a program from a service we had at St. Johns last May, and also a few pages from an old book that is no longer available for sale, but you are most welcome to look at it when you come this way.

Thanks for your patience!

Sincerely,

*Patricia Fleury*

Patricia DeHay Fleury

*"... like a tree planted by streams of water. . ."* PSALM 1:3



## St. John's Baptist Church History

One of the oldest churches in the area, St. John's Baptist Church was organized June 15, 1851, with eight members from the Goose Creek and Mt. Olivet churches. Although records of the church were destroyed by a fire in the home of J. C. Hare, the Hon. Lewis G. Fultz, a long-time member, prepared a sketch of its history in 1951 for the Centennial. Much of this information is from his account.

In September of 1853, located on a lot donated by William Cain about a quarter of a mile north of the present location between Moncks Corner and Pinopolis, members constructed a building with Mr. J. L. Driggers as contractor at a cost of \$275. Prior to the War Between the States, on December 22, 1857 for unknown reasons, the church experienced a difficult period and considered disbanding. Letters to pastors and members of sister churches asked their advice; whereupon, the Charleston Association appointed a committee to meet with the church and make recommendations. After prayerful consideration, the committee recommended that the church maintain its existence "for the present." By October of 1866, a church letter stated that the church was "fast recovering from the demoralizing effects of the war." The *Baptist Courier* of January 5, 1882, indicated that the church was "on the verge of a glorious revival." According to E. H. Cuttino, Missionary, there were "22 conversions, 16 baptisms and 4 reclaimed" during his revival.

Mr. A. D. Hare, by a deed of October 11, 1884, conveyed one acre for the size of the present building; however, the minutes do not state exactly when this building was erected. Mr. Fultz found a rigid system of discipline was maintained during the original period. "Numbers of members were cited to appear before the church for trial on various charges including quarrels among members, excessive drinking, playing cards, taking chances in shooting matches, selling liquor, dancing, absenting themselves from the House of God for a number of months, and other charges."

Minutes from the Moncks Corner Baptist Church, now First Baptist Church of Moncks Corner, dated November 23, 1920, indicate that the two churches were working in accord since "it was agreed that the doors of the church as well as that of St. John's should be opened to the reception of members." By September 25, 1925, thirty-five people moved their memberships from St. John's to Moncks Corner. Because the few remaining members apparently could not maintain services, the work of St. John's became dormant.

On December 13, 1931, the Moncks Corner church authorized the sale of cushions on the St. John's pews to the First Baptist Church of Charleston for \$35. Although the minutes record no prior reference to a loan, a special business meeting on April 20, 1933, discussed a loan of \$500 made by St. John's to Moncks Corner, apparently for the construction program of the church. A committee composed of former members of St. John's were charged with providing that interest should accrue on the loan and the interest be used in the upkeep and maintenance of St. John's. At the same time, the church authorized a service in the St. John's building on the fifty Sunday if desired. At a meeting on February 5, 1945, church members received an offer from Brother J. O. McCants to convey properties adjacent to St. John's for cemetery purposes, and named Trustees. Brother McCants deeded to the trustees on February 21, two and one-half acres to be held in trust for the St. John's Baptist Church. On March 25, 1945, a Cemetery Committee was appointed, given authority over burial and general supervision of the grounds, and instructed to report on repairs or other necessary work.

A meeting on February 19, 1950, instructed the St. John's Committee to see that water be provided to the St. John's lots. As 100 years came to a close in March of 1951, the Committee was charged with providing a suitable service in celebration of the Centennial. On Sunday afternoon, June 17, 1951, old members and friends gathered with Rev. James E. James presiding. Rev. Arthur Guyton preached the sermon; Lewis Fultz read a history; and Rev. Edgar West, Sr., led the prayer. The afternoon gathering reunited former pastors, congregation members, and friends of St. John's. During 1951, the Moncks Corner church passed a motion on August 19 to hold a service at St. John's at least once a year. Also in 1951, Moncks Corner Baptist Church became First Baptist Church of Moncks Corner. While the Moncks Corner church grew rapidly during the 1950's, activity at St. John's remained relatively dormant. During the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of First Baptist, the old pump organ at St. John's, donated to the church by Jacob Carson, was refurbished.

St. John's held a dedication service on October 15, 1980, for the stained glass window to the rear of the pulpit erected in memory of Brother Homer D. High. This window, the addition of central heat, air, and electricity are the only structural changes to this original building; however, the two wings were built sometime subsequent to the original part since nails, rather than pegs, were used.

An Endowment Fund, established November 11, 1981, contains contributions for building and grounds maintenance of St. John's with its ultimate purpose for use by the church if St. John's is reconstituted as a separate entity. Present activity in the church began about twenty years ago with a regular Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Functioning as a mission church of First Baptist, St. John's has a regular attendance from the local community. On January 23, 1994, the Berkeley County Historical Society and the church erected a cast iron historical marker and held a special dedication service to commemorate the event.

*Compiled April 1995 with grateful appreciation for the words, work, and lives of my uncle, H. Norman West, and my grandfather, W. Edgar West, Sr., by Linda West Williams.*

During the last five years, several pastors have served part-time, including Dr. Lloyd Byers, Mr. Monty Polk, and Mr. James Copeland, as well as Deacons when needed. There have been regular Sunday services for Sunday School and Worship.

The ongoing maintenance program has been in place that includes regular repainting and normal maintenance. Several members of the Cemetery Committee oversee this process.

The "old" grounds have been surveyed to identify and mark each existing grave. Grave sites are maintained by the Cemetery Committee with suggested guidelines provided to insure that the grounds are maintained and present a neat and Christian appearance.

A new parcel of property adjacent to the existing property has been purchased and is under construction.