

Our Church History

Although most of the early history of our church has not been recorded, we recognized the rich heritage, which has been ours. First Baptist Church has been a potent force in the lives of the residents of Annapolis since 1893. In that year, our church was organized by the late Reverend William Raddick and was located at the lower end of Market Street. According to earlier records, William H. Butler, one of the early Black businessmen, donated to the church this property, including land and the first building. After serving the church for 2 years, Reverend Raddick was succeeded by the Reverend George Reed in 1895.

The next 35 years of the young church's history were very important. Dedicated to promoting the Kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth, the church increased spiritually and numerically. However, in 1916, through misunderstanding, the congregation was split. Some reports revealed that one group held services in a hall believed to be on what is now known as Monument Street.

Later another group erected a new church structure on West Washington Street under the leadership of Reverend T.L. Jones and Rev. Thomas, his assistant. Because of financial difficulties, Reverend Henry McCoy, an assistant pastor, kept the building from being sold by paying taxes due. The church was closed until this



money could be returned to Reverend McCoy. Deacon J.B. Johnson, Deacon Moore, and Deacon Russell were instrumental in securing funds to reopen the church. Reverend H.U. Pierce became pastor. During the succeeding years other ministers served. Among them was the Reverend Norris H. Morgan who served until 1930.

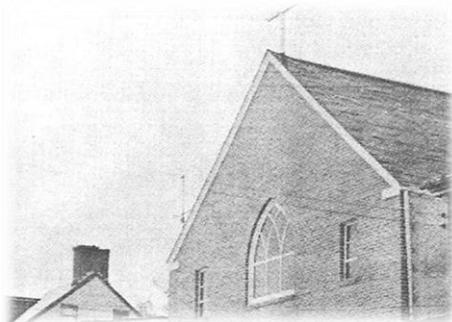
Reverend Daniel S. Sample was called to the pastorate in 1930. Under his guidance, church groups were organized to facilitate the work of First Baptist. In 1934, Reverend Sample resigned and reverend James H. Robinson, who had frequently served the church, became its pastor. During the 9 years in which he served First Baptist, Reverend Robinson added much to the spiritual and material growth of the church. During his pastorate, an electric organ was purchased, lending

dignity and solemnity to the church service. During this period, Mrs. Rebecca Thomas organized a Junior Choir accompanied by pastor, Reverend Robinson.

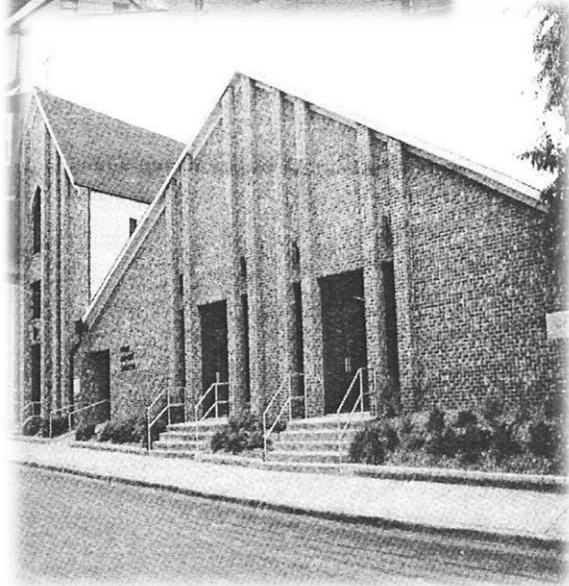
On April 27, 1943, Reverend Leroy Bowman of the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., accepted the call to become pastor. Under his zealous leadership, all departments of the church were strengthened. With "Let All Things Be Done Unto Building" as its motto, the church wholeheartedly accepted the pastor's challenge to press on toward the construction of a new edifice which would take care of the ever-increasing church family, and be dedicated to the Glory of God and the Salvation of Mankind.



To safeguard its future in the life of the community of Annapolis, the church was incorporated in 1952 and became known as the First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Incorporated. Through trials and triumphs, the dream of a new edifice became a reality. On November 29, 1953, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the lot purchased by the church at 31 West Washington Street, a few doors from the original structure.



The ancient City Lodge No. 175, I.B.P.O.E., assisted the pastor and members of the congregation in the cornerstone laying service on Sunday, August 8, 1954.



Dedication of the New First Baptist Church was held on Sunday, September 16, 1954.

From 1954 to 1976, the church was strengthened in its Christian witness in several areas. A Department of Christian Education was established. This ministry coordinated efforts in evangelism through the Church School with the assistance of a church bus to reach outlying areas. The Baptist Training Union now called Nurture for Baptist Churches, is providing

training in discipleship for all members, including New Church Member Orientation. The Church School presently serves youth and adults.

The church remains a focal point for community activities and takes an active part in civic affairs.

First Baptist Church is a member of the United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries of Maryland and supports all convention objectives. The church also holds membership in and supports the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., and the Baptist World Alliance. The church was represented at the Plenary Session of the Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, and the church was a member of the Executive Committee and the Commission of the World Relief of the B.W.A.

Having outgrown the structure, which was dedicated in 1954, the church completed plans for the construction of a new sanctuary of approximately 7,344 square feet. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in June 1976. With the acquisition of the new sanctuary, the church increased its ability to coordinate and develop quality Christian programs. These programs involve the whole spectrum of Christian ministry and witness, concentrating on Worship, Evangelism and Missions, Christian Education, Stewardship, and Social Services.

On January 7, 2006, Reverend Louis J. Boston was elected pastor of First Baptist Church and installed on April 2, 2006. His first sermon entitled “Can a Person Who is Once Really Saved Ever Be Lost?” “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my Word and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”—John 5:24.

