

# chronological timeline

## 1600

- 1682 Church began in Kittery, Maine
- 1696 Arrive Charleston
- 1696 Met in home of William Chapman
- 1699 Gift of 61 Church St. by William Elliott

## 1700

- 1701 First meetinghouse completed
- 1725 Members met on Ashley Road, also Stono
- 1730 Purchased land for members on Edisto
- 1731 Storm almost destroyed Church
- 1736 Ashley and Stono Churches form separate congregations
- 1745 Split - purchased lot 102 brick building built; down to three members
- 1746 Edisto formed separate congregation
- 1748 Church was held in Mariners Church
- 1751 Charleston Baptist Association (Oliver Hart - 1750-1780)
- 1752 Hurricane: house and all records destroyed
- 1755 Mission work by John Gano to upstate and NC
- 1755 Baptist Religious Society formed by Oliver Hart (first in America)
- 1778 Charter of Incorporation
- 1780 Revolutionary War: British seized meetinghouse for storage and salt beef; Oliver Hart forced to flee Charleston
- 1787 Richard Furman called as pastor; Sunday School established
- 1787 Property of 63 Church was awarded
- 1791 Church accepted Constitution; amended 1824; still in use
- 1792 Petition to incorporate the General Committee for the Charleston Baptist Association; By-product: Mercer College, Furman University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



## 1800

- 1804 Charleston Bible Society
- 1822 Present Sanctuary completed
- 1810 Furman led to Christ Hepzibah Jenkins who established the Wadmalaw/Edisto Female Mite Society (first organized women's missionary society in SC)
- 1841 Wentworth Street Baptist organized; 92 letters granted
- 1845 Southern Baptist Convention (August, GA)
- 1847 Sunday School for enslaved members
- 1853 Proposed church for African Americans (Morris Street Baptist)
- 1854 Citadel Square established from FBC
- 1857 Two members, Basil Manly, Jr. and James Boyce were two of the four founders of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- 1861-5 Civil War: met mostly at Citadel Square (Church Street under fire by federal forces)
- 1883 Bicentennial Celebration
- 1885 Cyclone: Church closed 6 months
- 1886 Earthquake: SS met at Circular Church
- 1888 Mission on Cannon Street begun by Miss Elizabeth Hyde, a church planter, who was the first statewide Secretary of the Sunbeams and an influence in local/foreign missions. After her death, the Sunbeams raised money to build a mission building on King Street which later became Hampton Park Baptist.
- 1890 Attempt made to disband the Church and dispose of the property. Nine faithful women later known as the "Old Guard" kept the Church open. Dr. Lucius Cuthbert came to serve as Pastor without salary.
- 1890 Pew rentals discontinued



## 1900

- 1911 Hurricane: great financial difficulties (sold some property)
- 1935 Worship service on the radio by Pastor, Vance Havner (WCSC)
- 1941 War: Navy Base brought large influx of members
- 1947 Building extended across back of property
- 1949 First Baptist Church School
- 1955 24 Water Street purchased
- 1958 48 Meeting Street purchased
- 1960 Charter for Baptist College of Charleston (now Charleston Southern University)
- 1965 22 Water Street purchased
- 1968 Renovations and installation of Wicks Organ
- 1971 Beach house burned, then rebuilt
- 1972 Property on Market Street purchased, gym constructed
- 1977 Mission group started new church Easter Cooper Baptist
- 1989 Hurricane Hugo: Extensive renovations to the sanctuary
- 1995 Period of division in the Church
- 1999 Property on James Island purchased (30 acres for school use)

## 2000

- 2000 Named by the International Mission Board "Global Priority Church" for missions partnerships
- 2010 Purchased George Griffith 62 acre tract, James Island for future development
- 2013: Sold property at Market Street
- 2013: 24 Water Street fire and restoration
- 2015: Athletic complex opened on James Island
- 2018: Grand opening of new high school campus on James Island
- 2018: Recognition to honor the memory of enslaved members of First Baptist Church and dedication of plaque, installed on sanctuary exterior
- 2019: Renovations on downtown campus carriage house; demolition of education building and temporary move to James Island campus for worship and activities
- 2022: Grand opening of new Learning Center and return to campus for all activities

