

First Baptist Church Graniteville, SC

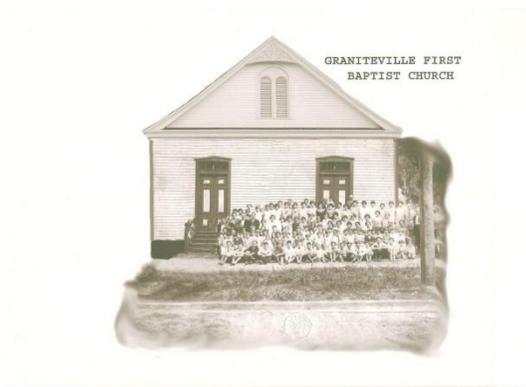
When discussions began for the 150th Homecoming Celebration for First Baptist Church, it was realized that the actual founding date of the Church was, in reality, unknown. Little was known of the early Church prior to 1886 when the first church burned and the original records were lost. Relatively detailed verbal descriptions of the original Church existed, but neither a sketch nor a picture of that Church could be located.

The history of First Baptist is closely intertwined with William Gregg, founder of the town and the Graniteville Company textile mills, which were incorporated in late 1845. Through extensive research by Charles A. Hilton, conclusive evidence exists that a Baptist congregation was established in Graniteville probably by late 1846, and certainly by 1847. The first Church building was completed by June 1848 and was located at the foot of Gregg Highway (Cemetery Hill Rd.) on the canal, the first church building completed in Graniteville.



Courtesy: [Avery School of Architecture](#)
[Columbia University 1](#)

The Church continued to grow until 1886. By then the Church had grown to 280 members with a church library of 1,031 books. This amazing library is



most likely attributed to the compulsory school attendance that Gregg had established for the children of his mill workers. However, on March 14, 1886, disaster struck when a fire was discovered in the Church, resulting in its total destruction. Nevertheless, by

June 1886, the Church had been rebuilt on the present site at the corner of Montgomery and Canal Street.

The second church was extensively remodeled in the late 1920's and by late



1929 a second story had been added.

On June 25, 1934, the first service

was held in the newly completed

Sanctuary. On May 1, 1960, the

Education Complex was completed

as well as a remodeling of the

Sanctuary portico, completing the

building phases of the Church's

facilities.

The church has been served by 34 Pastors during its long history. Our 34th

and currently serving Pastor is the Rev. Todd Sessions, who has served

churches in Georgia and Louisiana, and served as a short-term missionary to

Brazil.