

MORRIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

The Victorious Vessel

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161ST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated our 161st Church Anniversary May 13-17, 2026. We joined in fellowship with First See Wee Missionary Baptist Church and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church as Reverend Franklin Benjamin, Sr. (First See Wee MBC) delivered the message for **Night I** of our celebration and Reverend Larry Whaley (St. Paul MBC) delivered the message for **Night II**.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION BANQUET

What an incredible night we had at our 161st Church Anniversary Awards and Recognition Banquet, held on May 15, 2026. Congratulations to all award recipients! Also, a heartfelt thank you to Judge Tamara Curry for delivering such an inspiring message, and to all who contributed to making this event truly special. **[Click here to view Judge Curry's message.](#)** (Photos by Bro. Leroy Burnell)





COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE

A joint sunrise service was held at 6:30am on Resurrection Sunday (April 5th) at Calvary Baptist Church.

Eight historic baptist churches joined together for a Community Easter Sunrise Service on April 5th: Calvary Baptist Church (host church), Greater Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Green Chapel Baptist Church, Memorial Baptist Church, Morris Street Baptist Church, Salem Baptist Church, and St. Paul Baptist Church (*Photo credit: Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, Downtown Charleston Facebook page*)



78TH HATTIE P. HOLMES PALM SUNDAY TEA

Our awesome 78th Palm Sunday Tea Celebration, featuring the melodic voices of the MSBC Music Ministry, was held during our March 29th worship service with a followup fellowship brunch. Thank you to the Hattie P. Holmes Palm Sunday Tea Committee for their hard work and dedication.

[Watch the celebration here](#)



Sensational Senior Citizen of Morris Street Baptist Church
By Deacon Al Sumter



Edreca "Harris" Brown -Coleman Gray

Sister Edreca Gray was born in Beaufort, South Carolina to the late Edward and Matilda Green Harris. There are 4 living brothers while Leroy and Rosetta Green, Walter Lester Harris, and Joe Frank Harris are deceased.

She attended elementary and high school at Robert Smalls in Beaufort, SC, and graduated in 1964 with several musical scholarships. She and several seniors spent a day at the Penn Center on Helena Island for a planning session with the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

This memorial experience allowed her to enroll at Denmark Technical School and studied barbering and graduated. Would you believe that she played touch football in trade school and was very good at it too. She retired from barbering in 1998 after 31 years.

Sister Gray worked in the Beaufort and Charleston County school district for eight years before she started working with the South Carolina Head Start Child Development Program where she retired after 32 years. Her work ethic was to utilize diverse skills with families and communities as a Parent and Community Coordinator. She received multi-training and traveled throughout the state of South Carolina and to other states to incorporate different strategies to enhance the Headstart Program.

She attended Trident Technical College after moving to Charleston and received an Associate Degree in Applied Science in 1975. Sister Gray also continued her studies at Charleston Southern University in Humanities and Fine Arts where she minored in sociology.

Sister Gray united with the First African Baptist Church in Beaufort at an early age. In keeping with the church covenant, she joined Morris Street Baptist Church. She worked with the Cub Scouts for 15 years and became the Scout Leader. She is a member of the Senior Missionary and has served as Vice-President and President. With the encouragement from Mrs. Geneva Robinson, she chaired the Palm Sunday Tea Committee and did an outstanding job in the overall cooperation of members. In addition, she was a member of the Anniversary Committee, Nursery Committee, and Operation Christmas Child.

She joined a women's Bible group in West Ashley after retirement, where she volunteered with Water Mission for 8 years until Covid. She has been a volunteer at the Food Bank, and at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA). Sister Gray has 21 years as a member of the

Daughter Ruler of IBPOE of West Ashley. To her credit, she has earned many awards over the years including District Award of Merit with the Boy Scouts of America, Charleston County Partnership Board with SC First Steps, and recently received a 50-plus Year Church Membership Award as well as from the Charleston County Missionary Association.

Sister Gray is the proud parent of two children – Rodrecus Jerian Brown (deceased) and Sherese DeAnna Coleman. She is equally proud of her beautiful granddaughters – Kayla Simere and Avery Jerian Coleman.

Sister Gray recently celebrated her 80th birthday and gives "thanks to God" because both of her parents were deceased in their late 50's. She enjoys gardening and reading. Her motto is: Let the work I do, speak for me." Her favorite Scriptures are Philippians 4:13; and live by Galatians 5:22-25; and Romans 7:3.

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Edith Fulton Iracks

Sister Edith Iracks hails from Kingstree, SC and has lived in Charleston, SC for many years.

She received her degree in Math and Science from Benedict College, Columbia, SC in 1958, and has been teaching at Lincoln High School, Clio, SC; Bonds Wilson High School, and North Charleston High of North Charleston for 34 years. She has been an active member of the Charleston County Retired Teachers Association since retirement and received an appreciation Award in May 2026 from this organization.

While an active member of Morris Street Baptist Church, she has been a Sunday School Teacher for the youth (ages 6-10), a member of the Missionary Ministry, Women's Day Committee, the Education Committee, and she also served as former Chairperson of the Pool Committee. Over the years, she has been instrumental in witnessing the baptism of many members as they devoted their lives to Christ.

This remarkable Senior has been a devoted member of Morris Street Baptist Church for many years. Her unwavering commitment to faith is evident in her regular attendance, heartfelt participation in church services and steadfast support of church missions.

Through both words and actions, she exemplifies the teachings of compassion, humility, and love for Christian life.

She was married to the late Martin Iracks, and they are the proud parents of two sons - Reginald Glenn, and Martin Michael Iracks. Reginald graduated from Winthrop College while Martin graduated from South Carolina State University. She is also very proud of her granddaughters Cayman and Mya whose parents are Reginald and Sandra Iracks.

Sister Iracks has been honored with several awards and recently received a Certificate of Appreciation Award from the Missionary Ministry of Morris Street Baptist Church during the 161st Church Anniversary on May 15, 2026.

She enjoys attending Morris Street, reading the Bible as well as the Daily Word, and listening to songs which tell the message about Christ.

**Bible Study will
resume on
Wednesday,
August 5th**
See you there!



UPCOMING FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION DATES

July 18, 2026

August 15, 2026

September 15, 2026

10:00 am - 12 noon

on the lower level of the church

25 Morris Street, Charleston, SC 29403

July Birthdays

Erich G. Robinson - 1
Tiffany Deleston - 7
Nevaeh S. McCoy - 9
Jerome R. Clemons - 10
Benzina Holmes - 12

Zenia N. Green - 16
Belinda C. McLaughlin - 18
Lillian Mitchell - 19
Dolores M. Fizz - 27
Angela M. Orr - 28

Kayla S. Coleman - 29
Miriam D. Smith - 31

August Birthdays

Ricardo McPherson - 1
Olliemae T. Mack - 5
Cynthia Williams - 6

Dennia Taylor - 6
Emily Parker - 11
Geneva B. Robinson - 13

Sara W. Chapman - 24
Majes O. McCoy - 27
Karen Robinson - 27

September Birthdays

Leslie D. Riley - 3
Theodosia Becoate - 5
Carolyn A. Bartley - 5
LaPonda R. Greene - 13

Brenda R. McPherson - 17
Julius Dawson - 19
Garvin Green, Jr. - 20
Daralese F. McCullough - 22
Charles Goss - 23

Charliss Taylor - 26
Edward M. Brown - 27

MORRIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter submissions are due by:

- **September 15th** *(to be published in October's edition)*
- **December 15th** *(to be published in January's edition)*
- **March 15th** *(to be published in April's edition)*
- **June 15th** *(to be published in July's edition)*



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