

Here's a brief historical snapshot of Ferndale Baptist Church!

- Ferndale Baptist Church started on July 23, 1944 in the garage of Mr. And Mrs. Finklea, when a group of Christians felt the need for a church in the community. The church started with 31 charter members. Rev. G. K. Revels was acting minister. The congregation met for several months in the garage until it moved into a large tent which was borrowed from the Home Mission Board.
- On August 13, 1944 the pulpit was declared vacant due to the fact that Rev. Revels was ill. Rev. M. O. Alsing came to pastor our church on October 8, 1944.
- In October of 1944, construction began on the first real home of Ferndale Baptist Church at the corner of Piedmont Avenue and Bolton Street. The brick was put up by a contractor and the rest was built with free labor, paying as it was built.
- In May of 1945 the Home Mission Board sent us a check for \$500 for the Building Program. We moved into the church with our canvas benches before the church was completed because it was too hot in the tent. During the first year, church membership increased from 31 charter members to 82 with a Sunday School enrollment of 167.
- In December of 1946, Rev. Alsing resigned as pastor to accept a call to the Warrentville Baptist Church. Dr. J. E. Bailey became the supply pastor on December 15, at which time membership totaled 167.
- On March 16, 1947 Rev. Lowder came to pastor Ferndale Baptist Church from Lowry's Baptist Church in Lowry's, SC. Additions to the church in 1947 were 40 by baptism, 60 by letter for a total membership of 251.
- In 1948 additions to the church were 19 by baptism, 49 by letter for a total membership of 312. Eight Sunday School rooms were added to our building by Mr. C. L. Harbeson with the help of Jimmy Scarborough.
- On January 8, 1954 construction began on the Education Building. The church moved into them on September 26, 1954. This building was to serve as Sunday School space for the church. The attendance goal for the first Sunday School in the new building was 500, and the Lord blessed with a Sunday School attendance of 501 that morning. The Educational Building consisted of 27 classrooms and a pastor's study. Our Sunday School and Training Union was departmentalized for the first time. Additions to the church in 1954 were 38 by baptism, 28 by letter for a total membership of 552.
- In 1956 the property in the rear of the church was purchased to build additional Sunday School rooms upon later.
- On August 16, 1961 the church voted to borrow money to buy property on Bolton Street and Piedmont Avenue over to Alton Street for a new auditorium and parking.
- Rev. Thomas E. Moore, Jr. became pastor on October 11, 1964. The new sanctuary was begun on January 1, 1965 with the cooperation of the men of the church giving much of their own time for the work. The pews and pulpit furniture were given to the church by members of the church in

memory or in honor of someone. Dedication services were held June 30, 1965. A new parsonage was also built on the corner of Piedmont Avenue and Alton Street.

- In March of 1968, Dr. Bob and Gladys Besançon began their ministry at Ferndale Baptist Church on the condition the church would leave the Southern Baptist Convention which it voted to do. The church was now officially an Independent Baptist Church.
- In September of 1969, Ferndale Baptist School opened with an enrollment of 38 students. Gladys Besançon was the elementary school principal. FBS would be the first Christian School in the north area of Charleston and would become second only to First Baptist in downtown Charleston for being the oldest Christian School in Charleston County.
- Construction began on the Gymnasium and High School annex in May of 1983 on property that was purchased between Alton and Bolton Streets. School enrollment was 325 in grades one through ten.
- In August of 1988, the newly constructed Day Care facility opened on Clifton Street.
- In March of 1993, Dr. Bob and Gladys Besançon celebrated 25 years of ministry at Ferndale Baptist Church.
- Dr. Bob Besançon retired on June 10, 2002 after 34 years here at Ferndale and 54 years in the ministry. He was given the title Pastor Emeritus at his retirement celebration on June 30, 2002.
- A year later, on June 29, 2003, Ferndale Baptist Church called Dr. Tom Wheeler as its next pastor. He and his family faithfully served the Lord here until he resigned in September 2007 to accept a position at the Bob Jones University Press.
- In May 2008, after thirty-nine years of ministry as the first Christian school in the North area of Charleston, Ferndale Baptist School had to close operations due to financial difficulties. On August 15, 2008, daycare operations had to close as well.
- In May 2008, from the sale of the parsonage, gymnasium and high school building, Ferndale Baptist purchased new property in Hanahan on which to relocate the ministry. The church is currently debt free and owns 7.499 acres of prime real estate in the Tanner Plantation area of Foster Creek Road, a new area bustling with growth. The congregation voted to change its name to “Foster Creek Baptist Church” when it moved in order to identify with the new community.
- On July 30, 2008, our youth/assistant pastor, Miguel Betancourt II accepted the church’s call to be its seventh pastor. “Pastor Mike” and his family have been serving with us since their arrival to North Charleston in September 1992.
- In August 2009, our church voted to hire [Teamway Builders](#) to be our general contractor/project manager for our new property in Hanahan, SC, just eight miles up the road from our current location. Later an architect and civil engineer were hired to assist in the development of the new Foster Creek property.
- In April 2012, Ferndale Baptist launched its newly redesigned website in preparation for promoting the new Foster Creek Baptist Church ministry. The website is fully featured and among

other resources, features a 24/7/365 streaming of sacred music, seasonal music and children's programming by way of the Abiding Radio ministry.

- On June 26, 2013 Construction drawings for phase 1 of the Foster Creek Baptist Church development project was submitted to the City of Hanahan for their review. Civil Engineering is due by December 27, 2013. The Lord has blessed with bringing twenty-five new members to the congregation within the past two years. We look forward to His continued blessing.
- Civil Engineering plans and site development were submitted on December 23, 2013 to the City of Hanahan for Land Development Review. Various local and state agencies will take the next thirty days or so to review plans and bring to our attention any changes that need to be made.

Proposed Foster Creek Baptist Church Auditorium

- On August 15, 2014, our church's pastor received word from our realtor that our prospective buyer has agreed to our terms and late this afternoon signed the sales agreement to purchase our campus: we are now officially under contract with them and the due diligence period was begun. After the sale goes through, the plan is to hold worship services in a temporary location until the phase one construction project is completed in the Tanner Plantation area of Hanahan, SC, where the church will be replanted in a thriving new section of the city. We are thankful for the many hours and for all the hard work that our leadership team has invested into this effort so far.
- For four consecutive weekends our church family came together to work very hard at packing and moving our property to temporary storage units while awaiting the completion of renovations at our new temporary facility. All our property had to be out of all 24,370 sq. ft. of building space in three buildings by the time closing took place with our buyer. Our people demonstrated incredible servant's hearts and wonderful, sacrificial spirits. They enjoyed a great time of bonding together.
- On Wednesday night, October 22, 2014 our pastor received a text message from the pastor of the church purchasing our campus that all the paperwork had been signed and the closing on the sale had been officially completed. Rutledge Ave. Church of Christ (n/k/a Harvest Pointe Church of Christ) was now the official owner of our former campus. Part of the terms of the agreement was to allow us to hold our Sunday School, Worship Services and Wednesday night Kids 4 Truth program and mid-week prayer meeting in the Educational building and Social Hall rent free for a couple of weeks after closing while renovations to the temporary facility are being finalized.
- Sunday, November 2 was the last day of services at our former campus. The following Wednesday, November 5 and Sunday, November 9, the church holds its services at its new 4,964 sq ft suite in North Charleston. The new location is on the opposite side of the Goose Creek Reservoir and just six miles away from where our new property in Hanahan is located.

We look forward to God's continued blessing in the future as we seek to serve Him and influence the lives of others for Christ and eternity. We are "thankful for God's goodness in the past; looking to His greatness for the future."