

FRIENDSHIP AFRICAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BLAIR, SOUTH CAROLINA

Bishop Henry Allen Belin, Jr.  
Presiding Elder Lee Seward  
Pastor, Rev. Gloris E. McClinton



1878

2003

126<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

MARCH 30, 2003

3:00 PM

Mrs. Eartha Lee Ginyard  
Church Secretary

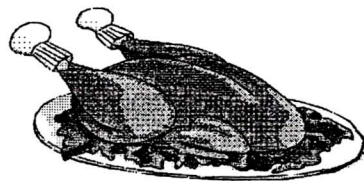


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ORDER OF SERVICE

Doxology.....Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow  
Opening Hymn.....  
Prayer..... Sister Eartha Lee Ginyard  
Scripture.....  
Selection.....Friendship AME Youth Choir  
Welcome.....  
Response.....  
Introduction of Speaker.....Rev. Gloris McClinton  
Selection..... Visiting Choirs  
Guest Speaker.....Rev. E. Ginyard  
Offering.....  
Offertory Prayer.....  
Selection..... Visiting Choirs  
Remarks.....  
Benediction.....



**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

Many Blacks ventured out to organize their place of worship in the United States after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War of 1865 granting Negroes freedom from slavery.

During the year 1876 Mrs. Cindy Brown, Mr. Brown, Mr. Tom Heller, Mrs. Edith Heller, Mr. Henry Harts, Mrs. Harriet Harts and other immediate family members united and agreed to establish Friend Ship Church located in Dawkins Community in Western Fairfield County, constructing a building on property given by an unknown contributor.

After uniting themselves for a number of years they affiliated themselves with the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

After worshiping at the original site for 49 years or more, due to deterioration of the church structure it was necessary to relocate. After search for a new location, Mr. John W. Lyles made a contribution in the sum of one acre of Land, which was designated to be used for church services.

In 1927 during the pastorate of Rev. Prince William Davis, the church began to construct the present building. The builders were Mr. Steve Wilson and Mr. Dan Feaster who, with help of individuals living in the community who were members of the church as well as non-members, among these were Toney Brown, Willie Brown, Nathan Brown, Jim Brown, Talf Brown, Henry March, Jim March, Toney Workman, Jim Workman and their families. These men and women constructed this present building out of love for the church. The ladies in the community while construction was underway and being completed in 1929 provided food.

The membership flourished during the years of and after the depression. After the 1940 the membership began declining because of factors, farming, migration to the city, employment, etc. Those that

remained, the Browns, the Marches and the Martins, continued to worship until declining in health.

For a period of time services were not held until 1965 when Mrs. Eartha Lee Ginyard returned to her birth home and she gave new birth to a parallel church of Sardis.

To this day Mrs. Ginyard and the remaining members, along with the people of the community and other denominations work untiring to keep alive the church of her beginning.

The church has had a wealth of trials and tribulations, but it continues to strive in trying times of the 2000s.

Some of the ministers who served at Friendship A.M.E. Church are, Rev. Vance, Rev. John S. Martin, Rev. John H. Baten, Rev. Geter, Rev. William Geter, Rev. Prince William Davis, Rev. Bowman, Rev. Nathan Rabb, Rev. Charlie Robinson, Rev. Clarke R. Hawthorne, Rev. Melvin Coleman, Rev. Christopher C. Dixon, Rev. Metz, Rev. Brunson, Rev. Whitaker, Rev. Leon Thompson, Rev. Ginyard, and the present minister Rev. Gloris McClinton.