

**Church Name:** Saint Augusta Missionary Baptist Church

**Year the Church was established:** 1904

**Names of Pastors and their years of service:**

- Rev. Bonnie Bethea
- Rev. Hector McLean
- Rev. Dan McMillan
- Rev. Neil H. Lockany
- Rev. Jessie M. Jackson 1950 — Dec 1972
- Rev. R. Pierce 5 months 1972(73)?
- Rev. C.A. Alford 1973
- Rev. F.D.R. Williams
- Rev. J.E. Kearney
- Rev. J.E. McNeill (Nov. 1983-1996)
- Rev. Corey Thompson (1996-1999)
- Rev. Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr. (May 2000- present)

**Additions to the building or new structures and the year this occurred:**

- 1907- First building erected
- 1909- Second building erected under the leadership of Rev. Dan McMillan
- 1911- Third building erected under the leadership of Rev. Dan McMillan
- 1972- Construction began on a new sanctuary at the present location
- March 1977 - Construction for the new sanctuary was completed and dedicated
- January 2005 - Construction began on the Christian Education and Family Life Center
- August 2005- Construction for the Christian Education and Family Life Center was completed

**Current Number of Membership:** 300

**Picture of Current Church:**



SAINT AUGUSTA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. Box 836 - 605 Bridge Street - Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526  
Church: (919) 557-1483 Fax: (919) 557-1483  
Pastor Office: (919) 552-3825  
Reverend Marvin Connelly, Jr., - Pastor

CHURCH HISTORY  
1904  
"It's All About God"

The Saint Augusta Missionary Baptist Church Incorporated (formerly The Saint Augusta Free Will On November 14, 1904 one-half acre of land was donated to the church by L. E. Wilson only for the purpose of erecting a Free Will Baptist Church on site.

With this organization process Reverend Bonnie Bethea was elected as Pastor. The first building was erected in 1907. Deacons were borrowed from neighboring churches:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ● Churches        | ● Deacons Served |
| Black River Grove | Dalton McLeod    |
| Saint Anna        | Neil Stewart     |

Some of the first officers that served are as follow:

<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Mothers</u>	<u>Church Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Arthur Norris	Dalton McLeod	Lillie Spain	Betty Spain	Benny Pretty
Frank Green	Manual Lyons	Betty Spain		
Thomas Turner	Boyd Smith	Hattie Adams		

Service was held every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday; Morning and Evening. With faith and hope burning brightly; and the spirit of the Lord leading them, they were sustained by prayer and determination.

Reverend Hector McLean served as pastor for one year.

Once again the church was in need of a leader and Reverend Dan McMillan was selected as the third pastor. The second and third building was erected under his leadership in 1909 and 1911. He was the Moderator of the Cape Fear Annual Conference of the U.R.F.B. Church A Division. Under his leadership the membership growth exceeded the church seating capacity. The church was full of people hungry for the Word of God.

■ Members who dedicated time and free labor were:

Lillie Spain	Dave Spain	Hurb Judd	Annie Jones
Betty Spain	Annie Judd	Hilmand Lawrence	Betsy McLeod
Frank Green	Hattie Jones	Annie Jones	Jait Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Hampton McKoy	Mr. & Mrs. Preston Stewart		
	Mr. & Mrs. Owens & Mattie Scott		

The church hosted The Free WILL Baptist Conference in 1921, 1932 and 1952.

Reverend Neil H. Lockany was selected as pastor. Reverend Lockany was a warm loving, humorous and compassionate leader. He was a powerful preacher and was a great speaker. He served as Moderator of The Cape Fear Conference B Division. The membership continued to grow, as did the many auxiliaries that had been organized over the years.

Reverend Jessie M. Jackson was selected as pastor. Reverend Jackson was a strong, steadfast, powerful, bold, dramatic preacher with great experience. Under his leadership the church began to have Morning Worship Services every 2<sup>nd</sup>. and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. The membership continue to grow and the spirit of the Lord filled the church each Sunday with the Original Gospel Chorus and Junior Choir singing from their hearts and Reverend Jackson preaching the Word of God with authority. Other singing groups at that time were The Sons of David and the McGuirelite Singers. There was even a Vocal Choir lead by James McKinney.

The month of December, in the 1972 brought devastation to the St. Augusta Church Members. There had been a controversy over whether Reverend J.M. Jackson, the pastor for 21 years, should be appointed to continue to serve as pastor. The church was divided and many were confused, heart broken and devastated over the actions of some of the leaders and members. Things got out of control and the fight was taken to the Wake Superior Court, at which time a judge ruled that each faction would be allowed to use the church a half day Christmas Eve. This never happened because the church caught fire late that Wednesday evening and was completely destroyed. Fireman stated the following day they didn't know what caused the fire, and added they did not suspect arson.



Mrs. Alice McKoy looks over the remains of the church.

Some of the members started construction on a new building at the present location. During the time of construction, First Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina opened their doors so we could have regular Morning Worship Services and Sunday School was held at The Trice Funeral Home. God opened the windows of heaven and showered the church with blessings after blessings. The church went through many trials and tribulations but through praying and fasting God brought us through.

Reverend R. Pierce served as an interim minister for about 5 months in 1972.

In 1973 Reverend C.A. Alford was called to be the pastor of the St. Augusta Church as we continued the construction on the new church building. He was a quite, humble minister who loved the Lord, and supported the church in all of our endeavors as we worked toward completing the building, trusting in the Lord as we went forward.

Thanks and recognition go out to the men at St. Augusta; Deacon Marshall McKoy, Trustee Garland Johnson and Trustee James W. Heggie who were instrumental in the negotiation of acquiring money from the Mechanics and Farmers Bank where Dr. George Debnam was on the Board of Trustees, who also work in our behalf. The officers of the church that signed for the loan were Deacon Marshall McKoy, Deacon Ezzie Leach, Deacon Rubin McNeill, Deacon Jasper Stephens, Deacon James Blue, Trustee James Montgomery, Trustee Garland Johnson, Sr. , Trustee Charles Moore, Trustee Clarence Briley, Trustee James Heggie, Trustee Mack Neil Bush. Attest: Church Secretary Eula Mae Smith. The total amount of the loan was \$60,000.00. We are thankful the men for going the extra mile to get the loan to build the church but most of all we are thankful God for making the building become a reality.

The new building was finally completed and was dedicated in March 1977. Members gathered at the old site to sing and praise God. After a period of devotion, the members marched in the rain to the new church site. It was a time of joy and thanksgiving to God for his grace and mercy and for his guidance.

The first service held other than Sunday School and Morning Worship Service was the Gospel Chorus Singing Anniversary. We didn't have any pews so we rented chairs and the church was filled to its seating capacity. Reverend Alford remained as our pastor as the church purchased new furniture and other items for the church.



After the Lord called Reverend Alford to another location, Reverend F.D.R. Williams was selected as pastor. He was a ball of fire, an aggressive, inspiring preacher. The membership began to grow as God added to the church daily.

Elder J.E. Kearney was called to be the pastor. He was a leader, planner and a great teacher, who also could preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He had great ideal and implemented many things. The membership continued to grow as wounds slowly healed and the past was left behind. We strive to look forward to the prize of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus. Reverend Kearney loved the church and had great vision. Our church became a stationary church under Reverend Kearney leadership. Elder J.E. Kearney was caught in the middle of Insurance Fraud and the church agreed to his dismissal as Pastor.

Elder J.E. McNeill was selected as pastor in November 1983 and preached the 1<sup>st</sup>. and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sundays and his Associated Elder Geraldine Williams preached the 2<sup>nd</sup>. and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

In July 1984 Reverend McNeill became our full time pastor. He was a great preacher, teacher and leader with great vision. Under his leadership the following was purchased and accomplished.

- 9Bus purchased
- 9Copier
- 9Computer
- 9Mortgage Liquidated
- 9Steeple Installed
- 9 Became affiliated with the Reformed F. W. Baptist Conference

Pastor McNeill got upset and walked out of a church meeting because the Deacons and Trustees did research on the rules of how tax should be with held and the proper way that they should be

processed for Pastors. He has stated that he would do all the research and bring it back to the church. In his anger he resigned as pastor and later changed his mind. Bishop G. D. McNeill Moderator of the RFWB Conference came and talked to the church in hopes that the church would not honor his resignation. The Deacons recommended to the church body that in the best interest of the church that we honor his resignation and so it was done.

Reverend Corey Thompson became pastor in 1996. He was a young minister who loved the Lord and was on fire and excited about his mission for the Lord. He desired a TV Ministry but started a Radio Ministry. The membership continued to grow as some fell by the wayside. Under Reverend Thompson leadership we became affiliated with the Wake Missionary Baptist Association and the church name was changed to the Saint Augusta Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Thompson had a desired and passion to persue a TV Ministry and since the church was not financial able to fulfill all of his requests he decided to relocate to seek his desires.

After Reverend Thompson decided to leave Deacon Wallace Garrett alone with Minister Leona B. Hemby and the Deacon Staff were our leaders while the church Pulpit Committee through prayer and supplication began the task of reviewing applications and interviewing applicants. Deacon Wallace Garrett was a devoted, committed, and humble leader as he was confronted with this great mission. The church owes a great debt of gratitude to Deacon Wallace Garrett, Minister Hemby and the Deacon Ministry (Deacon Charles Moore, Deacon Jasper Stephens, Deacon James Moore and Deacon Frankie McKoy) for their spiritual and administrative leadership. We know God was with them and we give God all the glory and honor for him working through and with them.

In May 2000 God sent Reverend Marvin Connelly, Jr. to be our Shepherd. He is a preacher, teacher, administrator, planner, organizer, and counselor but most of all a man of God, and a man that fears God. His motto is "It's All About God". Pastor Connelly is our leader for the new millennium. He has a contagious spirit that exemplifies a loving spirit and determined leadership. He leads with humility and joy and has led and is still leading the congregation to new dimensions and fellowship. He has a strong emphasis on the expository preached Word of God and taught Word of God. He has served as a pastor throughout the nation and internationally in many locations over seas. He is an outstanding preacher-pastor.

Under Pastor Connelly leadership God has given him a great vision for the church. We are in the planning stage of building a Family Life Center, which includes an educational department, kitchen, office space, and gym, class rooms and administrative officers. Due to rapid growth of the membership and a need to minister to the total needs of the people God gave Pastor Connelly a vision to expand the church by adding a Family Life Center. The construction is scheduled to begin in year 2004.

Since Pastor Connelly arrived God has blessed the church with:

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Web Site             | ■ Parking Lot Paved      |
| ■ Increased Membership | ■ Carpet Installed       |
| ■ Van Purchased        | ■ Purchased New Computer |
| ■ New Ministries Added |                          |

Education Ministry, Elder Care Ministry, First Aide Ministry, Funeral Ministry, Health Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, Pastoral Support Ministry, Public Relations Ministry, Recreation Ministry, Van Ministry, Youth Ministry and Singles Ministry.

Another year has passed and under the dynamic leadership of Reverend Marvin Connelly, Jr., we have experienced tremendous growth spiritually, economically and numerically. The Sunday School has expanded adding a Young Adult Class, the Music Ministry has gone to a higher level, and the other ministries and boards of the church have been expanded. Many things has happens as God has had mercy upon us and we know he is going to be with us as he has promised. We are excited and look forward to the Ground Breaking of the Family Life Center. God has called and placed several Associated Ministers under Pastor Connelly's leadership and training. We currently have 10 ministers on the Pastoral Staff:

Reverend Betsy L. Hemby  
Minister Iva Moore  
Minister Angela Gorham  
Minister Michael McDuffie  
Reverend Michael Hudgins  
Evangelist Tina Stephens

Reverend Robert Smith  
Minister Martha Moore  
Rev. Dr. Isaiah Capers  
Minister Joyce McDuffie  
Minister Gary Wilson, Sr.

This year (2004) has been a favorable year for us as God has blessed us with His grace and mercy. Pastor Marvin Connelly, Jr. continues to minister to the total needs of the St. Augusta saints. Under Pastor Connelly leadership in 2004 two ministers were added to the Pastoral Staff, Carolyn Norris and Gerald Heggie, making the current total 12. Other ministries have been added to help minister to the people total needs. The Missionary Ministry has been blessed to minister to the needs of the people in the community and surrounding areas. Our Health Ministry has made us aware our health needs and has provided us with resources to better take care of our physical body. The entire church body has moved to another level spiritually as we are taught the unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ.

As our membership grows we praise and thank God for adding to the church body daily. We are excited and give God all the glory and thanks for the groundbreaking to be held today September 12, 2004 and for sending us a God fearing leader with that vision and the faith knowing that God would expanded our territories. God had smiled on St. Augusta with his loving kindness and has sustained us through it all. To God be the glory.

In 2005, two additional ministers, Charles Dent and Nevada Banks, were added to the Pastoral Staff to complete our ministerial staff with 14 associate ministers.

This year brought several new milestones to St. Augusta Missionary Baptist Church as we started a summer tutorial program, began our "Sowing Seeds" before and after school program, formed the Youth Council, initiated our first scholarship fund for our youth, added a Foundations Adult Sunday School class, and added of a Young Adult and Sunshine Choir.

On April 10, 2005 at 3:00 pm St. Augusta ordained the first woman deacon, Deacon Roseann Douglas Bowe. The speaker for this great day in the lives of the St. Augusta Disciples was Reverend Otis Byrd, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Holly Springs, NC., his sermon's title "The New Age Deacon", scripture "Acts 6:1-5". The Charge to the Deacon; Pastor Marvin Connelly, Jr. – The Charge to the Church; Pastor Marvin Connelly, Jr., - Presentation of the Bible; Deacon Jasper

Stephens – The Presentation of the Hymnal; Deacon Charles Moore – The Presentation of Deacon Guide; Deacon James Moore – Presentation of License; Deacon Wallace Garrett.

The construction on the Family Life Center began with Phase I in January 2005 and completed in August. We are now blessed with an administrative office, conference room, a pastor's office, computer lab, 7 classrooms, a full service kitchen and a fellowship hall. With the increased growth of our membership and continued commitment of our dedicated members, it is expected that we will break ground on Phase II, the gymnasium, within 5 years.



The Family Life Center Ground Breaking and the Church 100<sup>th</sup> Year Homecoming Celebration was held on Sunday; September 12, 2004 at 3 pm. The Guest Speaker was Reverend T.B. Jiles, Pastor of Compassionate Tabernacle of Faith Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC.

The Lord has showered us with blessings upon blessings as we know have a Computer Lab, Centralized Computer Networking (Wired & Wireless) and Computer Networking Systems Room, and a Network and IT person (Reverend Michael Hudgins) within our membership to take care of the Networking Systems & Systems Administration.

In 2006, three additional ministers, Martha Barnes, Shannon Sharpe and Laura Bryant, were added to the Pastoral Staff to complete our ministerial staff with 16 associate ministers

In 2007, the St. Augusta Church continued to grow at a steady pace as our Family Life Center continued to flourish. During tax season with a grant from Weed and Seed, we were able to provide free tax preparation for over 100 families; provide Before and After School care and tutoring for over 20 children and hosted almost 140 children in our second year of summer camp. There was also the addition of the College Ministry, Garden Club, Boy's Club and Young Adult Usher's Ministry.

Additionally, the Family Life Center was blessed and was granted 501©(3) status allowing programs to be funded by Federal Grants to service the Fuquay-Varina community.

2008 brought forth another year of abundance for St. Augusta Missionary Baptist Church. As the membership increased with the addition of new disciples and two additional preachers, Reverend Dorothy Carrington and Evangelist Rosalind Capers, so did the ministries of St. Augusta MB Church. There were additions of the Couples Ministry, Community Relations and Young Girls Fellowship Ministries. The Family Life Center received a \$50,000 grant from Wake County to use for the third year of the Sowing Seeds Summer Camp and Before and After School program. The Before and After School program was also officially licensed as a child care facility. We assisted in

administèring the VITA tax program through Weed and Seed and after the completion of the 2007 tax' season; we were blessed with 10 computers As a result of the program's success over the past two years.

As our membership continues to grow, we give praise and thanks to God for adding to the church body daily. We are excited and give God all the glory and for sending us a God fearing leader with a vision and faith knowing that God would expand our territories. God had smiled on St. Augusta with his loving kindness and has sustained us through it all. To God be the glory!

To this end, we give God high and spirited praise and worship. The worship experience at Saint Augusta Church is filled with joy, praise to God, adoration of Him, Thanksgiving to Him, gospel singing and sound doctrinal preaching. **"It's Not About You, It's Not About Me, It's All About God".**



<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Mothers</u>	<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Church Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Dalton McLeod Manual Lyons Boyd Smith Paul Lewis Octavius Wilson *Fred Stewart, Jr. Curly Adams Wilson Dewar	Lillie Spain Betty Spain Hattie Adams Ora McNeill Lugenia Gilchrist *Betty Stewart Tempie McKoy Marion McKoy	Arthur Norris Frank Green Thomas Turner Leslie Scott, Sr. Leon Black Garland Johnson, Sr. James Montgomey John Lipscomb	Betty Spain Hurb Judd Dalton McLeod Tempie McKoy Leroy Heggie Auther Lee Utle Benny Pretty Irene Cofield	Benny Spain Charles Moore Cynthia Brown Velma Coleman

Belvin Holt  
B. Smith  
Essie Leach  
Ruebin McNeill  
\*Marshall McKoy  
Eugene Champion  
George Harris  
James Blue  
Willie Mack McKoy  
Horton Lee  
George Harris  
\*Coleman McNeill  
Pete Rochelle  
Dwayne Patterson  
Eugene Kinion  
Charles Moore  
James Moore  
Frankie McKoy  
\*Wallace Garrett  
Jasper Stephens  
Roseann Bowe

\* Served as Chairman

Veathrine McKoy  
Roberta Dewar  
Beulah Leach  
\*Virginia Lewis  
Lillie Wilson  
Portia Rochelle  
Arline McNeill  
Edith Stephens  
Roberta Dewar  
\*Luvertis McNeill  
Betty Moore  
Martha Moore  
Brenda Garrett  
Hattie Adams  
Janie Heggie  
Nessie Johnson  
Ernestine Heggie  
Ida Hood  
Nina Windom  
\*Peggy Stephens  
Mary Daymon  
Lois Briley  
Vioma Holland  
Velma Coleman  
Ruth Kearse  
Sally Lyons

\* Served as Chairman

Robert Lawrence  
George Harris  
Alex Stephens  
Alex Bullock  
Henry McKoy  
Octavius Wilson  
James Blue  
Leon Black  
John. R. Wilson  
Samuel Windom  
Joseph Stephens, Sr.  
\*James Heggie  
James Brown  
Frankie McKoy  
Jimmy Garrett  
Billy Wilson  
Charles Moore  
McNeill Bush, Sr.  
Albert Harris  
\*Clarence Briley  
\*George Coleman  
Edward McDonald  
Martha Moore  
Faye Cotton  
\*Elroy Austin  
Reginald McKoy  
Mildred Lucas  
Roseann Bowe  
Ellen Bragg  
Donna Diggs  
Louise Everette  
\*Bonswa Banks  
Maurice Coleman  
Charles Dent  
Dwight Bullock  
James Moore  
Danny Daye  
Johnnie Leggen  
Wilton McLean  
Milan Moore  
\*Gerald Walston  
Cornell Chandler  
Ronald Foxx  
Nathan Gould  
Deron McLean  
Benny Moore  
Brenda Taylor

\* Served as Chairman

Minnie Lou McKoy  
Alex Bullock  
Eula Smith Smith  
Faye Heggie Cotton



The Rev. N. H. Lockamy



The Rev. D. A. McMillan



The Rev. J. M. Jackson, Pastor  
*Joined the ministry in 1945.*



**Rev. Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr.**