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FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Inventory of the
First African Baptist Church of
Savannah, Georgia, 1871 - 1981**

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	First African Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia,
Dates:	1871 - 1981
Creator:	First African Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia.
Abstract:	<p>George Liele, a slave preacher who ministered along the Savannah River, formed the First African Baptist congregation sometime in the early 1770s. During the Revolutionary War, Liele left the United States and appointed Andrew Bryan, also a slave, to lead the church. Bryan built the first church in 1795. In 1833 a division split the congregation into the Bryant Church and the First African Baptist. The present structure of the First African Baptist Church at Franklin Square was erected in 1859.</p> <p>The records in this collection consists of articles and clippings regarding First African Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia. The collection also contains photocopied minutes from Zion Baptist Association meetings (1871-1872 and 1874) held at First African Baptist as well as their rule book and constitution (1921). Of note is a booklet (1981) regarding an academic conference titled, "The Black Church in Savannah," discussing the impact of the black church on the Savannah community.</p>
Extent:	.25 linear feet(1 archival box)
Repository:	Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston
Call Number:	AMN 1022
Language of Material:	Material in English

Historical Note

George Liele, a slave preacher who ministered along the Savannah River, formed the First African Baptist congregation sometime in the early 1770s. During the Revolutionary War, Liele left the United States and appointed Andrew Bryan, also a slave, to lead the church. Bryan built the first church in 1795. In 1833 a division split the congregation into the Bryant Church and the First African Baptist. The present structure of the First African Baptist Church at Franklin Square was erected in 1859.

Collection Overview

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Collection Arrangement

1. Historical Information

2. Administration and Organizational Records

3. Programs and Publications

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

African American Baptists -- Georgia -- Savannah.

African American churches -- Georgia -- Savannah.

African Americans -- Georgia -- Savannah -- History.

African Americans -- Georgia -- Savannah -- Religion.

Baptist associations -- Georgia.

Baptists -- Georgia -- Savannah -- History.

Church records and registers -- Georgia -- Savannah.

First African Baptist Church (Savannah, Ga.)

Georgia -- History -- 1865-

Slaves -- Georgia -- Savannah -- Religious life.

Zion Baptist Association.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

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Processing Information

Processed by Lance Brodrero, June 2006

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010

Edited by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010

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Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Historical Information, undated

Box 1 Folder 1 Brief Histories of the First African Baptist Church by Bob Lee, Wanda Yancey and Lawrence McKinney

Also contains brochures regarding the church and its museum as well as a calendar with biographical information of the pastors.

2. Administration and Organizational Records, 1871-1921

Box 1 Folder 2 "Minutes of the Annual Sessions of the Zion Baptist Associations," 1871-1872 and 1874

Photocopies contains information regarding black churches throughout the Savannah area.

Box 1 Folder 3 "Constitution and Rules of Order of the First African Baptist Church," 1921

Pamphlet describes the rules and by-laws of the church.

3. Programs and Publications, 1940s-1981

Box 1 Folder 4 Anniversary Program of First African Baptist Church, 1981

Includes list of officers, members and various church organizations; also church and NAACP donation envelopes, circa 1940s.

Box 1 Folder 5 Booklet of Essays "The Impact of the Black Church on the Educational and Cultural Lifestyles of Local Communities in Savannah, Georgia," undated

Delivered at a conference held at the First African Baptist Church with topics on the history of the First African Baptist, black education in Savannah, Catholicism among the black community, and black women in the church. Churches discussed at the conference include West Broad Street Seventh Day Adventist, St. Philip African Methodist Episcopal, First Congregational, Tremont Temple Baptist, Asbury United Methodist, Butler Presbyterian and Beth-Eden Baptist.