

5 Fantastic Facts about St. Bartley Church's History

1. St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church is recognized as the oldest African American congregation in the State of Alabama, and is one of the oldest African American congregations in the United States.



2. The original Church structure was built in the Old Georgia Graveyard which is now the location of the Huntsville Hospital. There is a special memorial to the graveyard and St. Bartley at the Hospital.



3. The original church name was Huntsville African Baptist Church. It was later named after the Church's second pastor Bartley Harris. He is a Huntsville, Al legend. The second picture is a picture from one of his baptism services in the heart of Huntsville, where Big Spring Park now sits. He is said to have baptized over 3000 people in Big Spring.



4. The original church building in the Old Georgia Graveyard was burned down during the Civil War by Union Soldiers. President Ulysses Grant heard about it and allotted money for the St. Bartley Church to be rebuilt. It was rebuilt in 1872, and remained there until 1964 when Urban renewal took place.



5. St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church has only had nine pastors in nearly 200 years. Their names are Elder William Harris, Elder Bartley Harris, Elder Felix Jordan, Elder Elias Patton, Elder Richard Moore, Elder Amos Robinson, Elder V Castle Stewart, and Elder Dr. William T. Gladys and Elder Jaymes Robert Mooney. Elder William Gaston served as the Associate Pastor of Saint Bartley in the late 1800's and was Huntsville's first black Councilman/Alderman.

Why Our History Matters to Us

- a. Because by God's Grace, our congregation has stood the test of time.***
- b. We recognize that we must be good stewards of that which the Lord has entrusted to our care for such a long time.***
- c. Our history is an encouragement to us to look back on the past with gratitude, but we do not live in the past. We believe that our best days are ahead of us.***
- d. We are thankful to God that he has used this local body of believers who began as slaves in a graveyard to minister to thousands of believers in North Alabama for the last two centuries.***

