

## ***The Reverend Fred Garnett***



In the early 1970's, Fred Garnett returned to his hometown of Moncks Corner, South Carolina after living in Boston, Massachusetts. Upon his return and pursuing his love of music, he opened a record shop on Main Street in Moncks Corner. No matter how good the disco life was, Fred faithfully attended his home church, Bethlehem R.E. Church.

One Sunday, the then president of the Sunday School Convention was visiting Fred's church and asked him to be the Lower Berkeley Chairperson. Fred said No! However, the president returned the following week with the same ask and this time, Fred agreed to serve as a chairperson. He began to study the Sunday School lessons to be prepared as he visited the different churches. What became obvious was that there were teachers teaching who did not (as Rev. Garnett puts it), "...know John the Baptist from John the disciple." He thought that if he was going to be apart of this church and leadership, he was going to know what he was talking about. This experience opened the door for him to go to seminary and begin his ministry.

While in seminary, he served as the Sunday School Convention President, Men of the Church President and he was asked to serve as a student minister to Atonement R.E. Church. He served there for two years. Following Atonement, he was called to Holy Trinity R.E. Church and served there for eight years. The church grew and Rev. Garnett undertook several projects to uplift the church building. He was then called to Good Shepherd R. E. Church and served there for nearly three years. While there, Rev. Garnett was instrumental in leading the church's building of its current fellowship hall.

After serving Good Shepherd, Rev. Garnett was called to be the pastor of Grace R.E. Church. He served Grace for 15 years and officially retired as a pastor. While at Grace, Rev. Garnett was an advocate for youth ministry and used his creativity to birth many youth focused initiatives such as the youth talent shows, Joy Night and the many youth fun and educational trips.

In his retirement, Rev. Garnett is still very active in ministry. He was assigned as supply pastor for Redeemer R.E. Church for two Sundays and it turned into three years. Just like Redeemer, he followed the same pattern and was scheduled to serve Holy Comforter R. E. Church for two Sundays and it turned into nearly four years. Rev. Garnett continues to serve as a supply pastor in the Diocese of the Southeast. One year, he served this diocese as a member of the Board of Trustees and Foreign Missions Board.



During all of this, Rev. Garnett has also served as the President of the Berkeley County Ministerial Alliance. This interdenominational organization has and continues to provide vital resources to vulnerable populations in the county. Rev. Garnett has conducted prison ministry, community advocacy and crisis assistance as part of his service with this organization.

Without doubt, Rev. Garnett's ministry is one that inspires us all and serves as an example of what is possible when you keep God first in all things. His wife, friend and biggest supporter throughout his life and ministry, Mrs. Linda Garnett, shines right along with him in this moment...***To God be the Glory!!***