Beulah Baptist Institutional Church was organized in 1865 on the heels of the Emancipation Proclamation as a church that taught freed men and women how to read and write. Beulah has been blessed with 14 Pastors in 150 years. Beulah’s goals are to save the lost, move membership to discipleship, invest in our children and serve our community. Over the years, Beulah has made a contribution to the community, to its church training program and teaching its ministers and members to serve.

1919

1938

1969 - Present
From Our Pastor...

This is one of the greatest days in the 150th year history of the Beulah Baptist Institutional Church. We are an amazing Church and there are amazing facts that we all should know about our Church. In a difficult economy, we have been able to succeed in many areas. We have been moving members to become disciples; we have created church growth opportunities for our children and our Adults’ and Seniors’ Day Ministry is second to none.

Presently, we are a debt-free church that became a church before the city of Tampa was incorporated. I believe Beulah can be described, in the words of the song writer: ‘All day long, I’ve been with Jesus...’ and I believe this song epitomizes the Beulah Baptist Institutional Church because all day long we’ve been with Jesus. Beulah is a Church that has been and is in the Hands of the Lord and we are grateful. We are grateful that God is using us today, the same as He did one hundred and fifty years ago. Beulah is and always will be a church on the cutting edge of Education and Evangelism. In our beginning, we were organized following the Emancipation Proclamation as a church that taught freed men and women how to read and write and we are still doing that with a cadre of educators willing to step up and do their part.

Our success over the years is due to the fact that we are blessed with the ministerial gifts of our Deacons and Trustees that continue to fulfill the mission of care for our members and the beautification and maintenance of our facility. We are blessed with resourceful members. We are blessed with Care Givers, Professionals, Technicians and Entrepreneurs, all of whom are willing to lend their collective talents to fulfilling our mission to save the lost and move members from Membership to Discipleship. As a result of all of the talent we have, we have been able to utilize these talents to host and sponsor Convocations, Job and Health Fairs, Summer Camps and After-School programs. Additionally, we have fulfilled our commitment to the community through our sponsorship of Community Forums and by being a facility that welcomes community meetings.

As the fourteenth Pastor in the long history of this Church, I am proud to have as many as seven sons and daughters in ministry. And what a blessing it is because we have one of our sons preaching and sharing this historic anniversary with us. My most recent past assistant, Pastor Melvin Henry Harris, was my right arm, a man who loves Beulah and was with us for more than five years as my assistant. He is the God man who will bring the Word on Sunday. We were doubly blessed to have Rev. Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., the man who grew his veracity and his ministry under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as our Anniversary Banquet speaker. Dr. LaFayette learned values from the walk and the work of Dr. King. What a celebration we are experiencing this weekend!

All of this came together as a result of the hard work of a hard working committee. We are grateful to the Anniversary Committee members for their persistence and perseverance. Putting this once-in-a-lifetime program together was no easy commission and I truly want them to know how much the ‘Beulah Family’ appreciates their effort. This occasion represents the most grandiose celebration we have hosted in our history and we are proud that we were able to celebrate with God smiling on us. Thank you committee and thank you Beulah!
Beulah’s Legacy Families

Brown Family
Lomas Family
Wilson Family
Jackson Family
Andrews Family
Fields Family
Cutler Family
Felder Family
Forbes Family
Mason Family
Larry Family
Peterson Family
Bryant Family
Franklin Family
DuBose Family
Hammond Family
Carley Family
Rockwell Family
Ulmer Family
Wright Family
Kegler Family

Proceeds from this Event to Benefit Beulah’s Youth and Educational Programs
About Our Keynote Speaker
The Nationally Renowned Civil Rights Icon
Reverend Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr.

The Reverend Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. is an ordained minister, a longtime civil rights activist, organizer, educator, lecturer and an authority on nonviolent social change.

When asked why he joined the civil rights movement, Dr. LaFayette, a Tampa native replied, “When I finally got old enough to realize that segregation was destroying people’s lives, I decided to do something about it”. It was that thought that allowed Dr. LaFayette to found the Students’ Nonviolent Coordination Committee (SNCC) in 1960. He was also a leader of the civil rights movement in Nashville in 1960, and participated in the Freedom Rides (1961). He directed the Alabama Voter Registration Project (1962) and the Selma Movement.

He was appointed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be national program administrator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and later served as Chair of the National Board of the SCLC. He was also the National Coordinator of the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign. Additionally, Dr. LaFayette served in the following capacities: Director of Peace and Justice in Latin America, Chairperson of the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development, and Director of the PUSH Excel Institute. He earned his B.A. from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee; he matriculated further at Harvard University where he earned his Ed.M. and Ed.D.

He has served on the faculties of Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta and Alabama State University in Montgomery, where he was Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. LaFayette is a former President of the American Baptist College of American Baptist Theological Seminary and Pastor Emeritus of the Progressive Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee and Scholar in Residence at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia.

He is the Founder and National President of GodParents Clubs, Incorporated, a national community-based program aimed at preventing the systematic incarceration of young Black youth; a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and founder of the Association For Kingian Nonviolence Institute, Education and Training Works.

Dr. LaFayette was recently a Distinguished Scholar-In-Residence and Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island; he chaired the International Nonviolence Executive Planning Board. He also held the position of Chairman for the Rhode Island Select Commission on Race and Police Community Relations.

His publications include In Peace and Freedom: My Journey in Selma, published in 2013. Other publications by our speaker include a curriculum and training manual for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Community Leadership Training Program, his doctoral thesis titled “Pedagogy for Peace and Nonviolence: Campus Ministries and Social Change in the ’60’s”.

He has traveled extensively to many countries and has lectured and consulted on peace and nonviolence. Currently, Rev. Dr. Bernard LaFayette is a Distinguished Senior Scholar in Residence at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. By God’s grace and favor, we are truly blessed to have this distinguished man of God as our speaker for our 150th Church Anniversary Banquet Celebration! To God be the glory!

150th Church Anniversary Banquet
Saturday, August 15, 2015

Program

Opening & Greetings
Fredrick H. L. McClure, Master of Ceremonies

Prayer
Rev. Maurice Taylor

Solo/Selection
Minister Isaac Ruffin

The Occasion
Sandra Davis

Blessing of the Meal
Minister Jacqueline Johnson

Dinner Served

Introduction of Speaker
Rev. Dr. W. James Favorite

The Speaker
Rev. Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr.

Acknowledgements of Special Guests
Fredrick H. L. McClure

Recognition of Sponsors
& Legacy Families
Rev. Dr. W. James Favorite

Expressions
Rev. Dr. W. James Favorite

Prayer
Rev. Brenna Taylor

Dr. LaFayette will be available for book signings immediately following this event