



St. Michael's Church
CHARLESTON, SC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026
THE 275TH BIRTHDAY OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

ACTS 1:6-8
MATTHEW 9:35-38

PREACHER: THE REV. AL ZADIG, JR.

ON THIS DAY OF OUR CHURCH BIRTH
HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME YOUR DISCIPLES
AND THE SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM,
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM,
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE.

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Happy Birthday St. Michael's Church!

Happy Final GIC Mission Sunday!
275 years ago to the day, maybe even the hour...

A bill for dividing the parish of St. Philips Church was read in council---

to build a new Church, called:

St. Michael's Church!

In that moment, we as a family... were born!

We have a wonderful 275th Anniversary team,
wanting you to live the spirit of this Anniversary,

including dressing your clergy up in 18th century vestments!

And This is where it gets fun:

- Imagine what your spiritual cousins would have come to church dressed in during those early days of the revolution....
- and on through the centuries..

More importantly... think of those early leaders, and the sacrifices they made to plant St. Michael's Church...

One of my favorite stories is that of the Rev. Gideon Johnston...

He like all the first clergy, came from London...

Gideon sailed from England with no trouble until he got to the mouth of the Charleston Harbor..

a STORM comes up-

stranding he and his boat on a sand bank- where they sit for 2 days until their rescue!

It gets no better for this missionary pioneer.

After ministering in the city awhile,

Fr. Gideon writes to His Bishop in London:

I have never repented of anything,

my sins excepted as my coming to Charleston.

The people

here are the vilest race of men upon earth.

They have neither: "

- *Honor*
- *honesty*
- *or religion,*

- *being a perfect mix of*
- *bankrupt pirates*

● *and decayed libertines*
They are the most:

- factious
- and seditious

people in the world

with large and loose principles-

- who have come here from

- Bermuda,
- Jamacia,
- Barbados,
- Pennsylvania
- and ...

- **this one hurts...**
- **New England!**

Apparently, Charlestonians didn't like Gideon much either, so they send him back..

but amazingly, as his boat is leaving Charleston harbor,

another storm hits, and the Rev. Gideon Johnston's boat capsizes

on the very same sand bar where he was stranded those years before,

but tragically, this time, Ol' Gideon Drowned.

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Oh the sacrifices made that we would be here today!

You will hear many more stories of our church family during these next 12 months,

Dr. Jerry Reves and his committee have an amazing plan for us...

**But on our 275th Birthday today,
What I need you to hear is that when we look at history,**

it's not with a bland disinterested look at the past..

No, when we read history, as Charlie Baldwin likes to say, we read it with '2' S's..

**His-
Story.**

God's Story...
on earth..

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St. Michael's

**His-
Story.**

is a collection of God's transformational work among us..

In fact, There are 4 essential **HiS**-Stories-

You and I must to know.

1. Salvation
 - **HiS-Story.**
2. Biblical
 - **HiS-Story.**
3. Church
 - **HiS-Story.**
4. And Your Family
 - **HiS-Story.**

If we don't know these '4' his-stories--
several things happen:

- We become a disconnected- depressed people with no hope.
- We repeat the mistakes of the past
- We think we are the first to suffer or be victorious

So, 4 His-stories we must know..

Beginning most critically with Salvation His-Story which in a nutshell, is this:

- Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of God's plan-
- To restore humanity from Adam and Eve's fallen sin...to Himself--
- Through His birth, life and substitutionary death and resurrection-Jesus
- IS the New Adam,

- the Messiah

reconciling God with humanity...

- allowing all who believe in Him-forgiveness and Eternal life-

That's why St. Michael's was born..

To tell:

HiS-
Story!

And Jesus loves us so much, He gave us a love letter to fill-out the Salvation His-Story...

the Bible.

It's The Second history we must know..
Biblical HiS-Story...

It's why 18th Century Anglican Clergy wore preaching tabs,

Representing we are under-not over the authority of Biblical History, with two tabs representing the

Old
And
New
Testaments!

We are Under- Biblical authority:

From Genesis to Revelation,

Biblical His-Story where we hear how:

- God created everything
- but humanity rebelled against Him AND
- brought sin into the world,
- So God sent Himself in the form of Jesus to pay the price for the sins of humanity

- That all who believe in Him, will never die-the Hope of world!

In fact, today's 4 verse reading from Matthew 9-

Is Biblical-History summed up!

Verse 35:
Jesus-went...

In response to the original sin of Adam and Eve and the rebellion of humanity,

Jesus went...

Taught in cities, villages, and synagogues...

What did he teach? Salvation His-Story!

That men women and children could be forgiven upon repentance-and given new life!

But Matthew also says..Jesus heals--

EVERY DISEASE-
EVERY AFFLICTION..

Heals Our:
Sin-dis-ease,

our physical
dis-eases..why?

Because the character of Jesus IS Compassion!

Throughout Biblical His-Story-Jesus spent fare more time:

- Healing the sick
- feeding the hungry
- and comforting the sorrowful than just talking about God.

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AND HERE..

Jesus adds one more dimension to Biblical His-tory..

By saying, be part of the next chapter..as He proclaims:

- **The harvest is plentiful...**
 - o **the laborers are few...**

- **Pray the Lord of the harvest**
 - o **to send out more laborers**

Isn't that why ole Gideon Johnston came over?

Like Gideon, we are the hands, eyes, ears and feet of Jesus to enter year 275 with that same conviction!

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- Salvation His-Story
- Seen through Biblical His-Story

Lived out in Church His-Story..

Church-History. The church is where we work it all out!

Church, we, are the bride of Christ where we come to be discipled and share His-Story..

Now, I've heard from some, I don't need the church, I have Jesus.

But that's impossible,

If the Church is the bride of Christ,

it would be like me saying John I really like you, but your bride not so much...

St. Michael's Church was planted to be that mission station on earth

where new generations of men, women and children worship and fall in love with Jesus all over again!

Case in point...1812, Richard Turnbull.

Richard was a member of our Vestry, and helped devise something called the Society for the Advancement of Christianity in South Carolina.

It would be the first mission society in our nation!

Its goal was to tell the Salvation and Biblical His-Story by giving away:

- Bibles
- Prayer Books
- religious tracts

AND

send missionaries and clergy to empty churches, and encourage and educate youth for ministry!

Turnbull and the Rector at the Time,

The Rev. Nathaniel Bowen began a library in our North Vestibule Stairwell for the Society,

it grew to 600 books in '4' years!

Simultaneously, St. Michael's church gave a 4th of its budget away to mission and planted:

- St. Stephens Church, Anson Street
- and St. John's Hanover Street and more beyond our state!

SHARING AND SENDING His-Story is our DNA.

Which is why it's so thrilling to combine our birthday with the end of GIC Mission Week!

It's who we've always been.

- Salvation His-Story
- Biblical His-Story
- Church His-Story..

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Leading to our Family His-Story.

The church should be training us to bring His-Story into our families.

So..Let me ask you..

How has Salvation and Biblical His-Story played out in your family of origin?

Just a month ago,

I was visiting my 94 year old father, and he presented me with something I had not known existed.

My father as many of you know is a convert from Judaism to Christianity and long story short, became a priest.

He was ordained in 1961,

And at his ordination his

WIDOWED

Jewish Grandmother

presented him with a chalice...

And at the base of that chalice she put a Christian Cross, and added

5 diamonds

from her wedding ring...

into the center

and

four ends of the cross...

It inspired me! Perhaps my Jewish Grandmother came to faith!

These family His-Stories make us who we are,

for better...

and well-

for worse.

If we have generations before us of:

- unbelief
- unforgiveness
- unresolved addictions
- unresolved resentments
- ...and don't recognize them

- We WILL continue those patterns in our own day...
- Those patterns, those chains
- MUST BE BROKEN
- AND CAN ONLY BE BROKEN -by-
- HiS-Story!
- Only Jesus can bring redemption and release...!

Therefore, if you have not asked Jesus into your heart, or its been awhile..

Today, this birthday of the church is that day to say come into my heart Jesus,
make your Story...my story..

BUT finally...

let me pull that string and go deeper with you:

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What do we collectively need to un-block in our lives..

To allow His-Story to be our Story-in such a way that we become His laborers in the harvest..His
Richard Turnbull's today.

That we would be the eyes, ears and Feet of Jesus to others..**Now!**-

So we can write this next chapter of
HiS-Story-

What will future generations write about you
and

what we did together through the Holy Spirit-in OUR DAY?

Birthday merging with Mission Celebration Sunday...
It's the perfect day to ask!

Ask Jesus to **Em-bed** HIS-STORY

AND

HIS missional calling into your heart and mind..

As He is doing through one such couple, David and Lisa Floyd...(roll video).