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## First Salem Missionary Baptist celebrates 80th anniversary

Submitted by Brandie Sours

First Salem Missionary Baptist Church congregation and Pastor, the Reverend Craig A. Tatum will celebrate their 80th Anniversary April 29, 2007. The Program begins at 3:30 p.m., with Reverend Kenneth M. Gavin, Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Benton Harbor, MI and congregation as our special guests.

Pastor Gavin was born in Ft. Myers, Florida and lived there until 1959 he came to Michigan to attend Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan. He majored in Pharmacy, later transferring to Michigan State University, where he changed his major to Chemistry. His education was interrupted when he served five years in the US Air Force, serving in the Philippines and in Viet Nam. He returned to Michigan State University and completed his education and earned a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science. In May, 1973, he received his Jurist Doctorate of Law Degree from the University Of Detroit School Of Law and on December 19, 1973, Pastor Gavin passed the Bar Exam and was sworn in as an attorney. In 1974 he opened his law office in Benton Harbor, where he continues to practice law.

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Men's Class. In 1982, he acknowledged and accepted the call to the ministry and gave his first sermon


Pastor Gavin joined Second Baptist Church, Benton Harbor in 1978 under the leadership of Reverend Donald B. Adkins. In 1980 he became an Ordained Deacon and a Sunday School Teacher for the

December, 1982. He was appointed Assistant Pastor of Second Baptist Church in 1988, and served in that capacity until Pastor Adkins retired in 2000. Pastor Gavin was then appointed the pastor of Second Baptist Church, where he continues to lead the congregation by teaching and preaching the Word of God.

Pastor Gavin's many community activities include Chain Lake District, Wolverine State and National Baptist Convention, Inc; Southwestern Michigan Ministerial Alliance as Secretary; General Counsel for Benton Harbor Area School District; Governor Granholm's Task Force; Member of State Bar of Michigan; Todd Phillips Board of Directors; Board of Berrien County Legal Services for past 18 year. He is a mentor for members of the Workforce Development A-Step Program, HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) and Michigan Prison Re-entry programs.

Pastor Gavin is married to Jerri Gavin and they have seven children and six grandchildren.

All former First Salem members, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ are cordially invited to come help us celebrate.

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