

SAVANNAH'S TOUR OF HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP IS DEC. 27

Wednesday, December 24, 2003

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Visitors will be able to view holiday decorations and explore the richness of history and architectural uniqueness of many of Savannah's beautiful houses of worship during Savannah's Fourth Annual Tour of Historic Houses of Worship on Dec. 27.

Eighteen houses of worship will participate, most from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The annual event was first held in 2000 with 13 participating congregations, and has since grown to become a highlight of Savannah's holiday season.

During the event, visitors are welcomed into the houses of worship to take self-guided tours, ask questions and enjoy musical performances by organists and traditional choirs.

Many of the participating houses of worship are providing presentations on their history and architecture, and offering refreshments to visitors.

Visitors may tour any or all of the houses of worship on the program, and may begin at any of the locations. Organizers suggest that visitors allow a minimum of 30 minutes at each location. A program will be available at each stop to provide a schedule of events and a map.

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 222 E. Harris St., is on the tour from 12:30-3:30 p.m. only; the hours at Temple Mickve Israel, 20 E. Gordon St., are from 1:30-4 p.m. only; and the tour for St. Philip's AME, 613 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., is from 1-2 p.m. only.

Other participating houses of worship are Epworth United Methodist Church, 2201 Bull St.; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1707 Bull St.; St. Paul CME Church, 1601 Barnard St.; St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 10 W. 31st St.; St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, 14 W. Anderson St.; Hallmark Of Faith - Bull Street Baptist Church, 17 E. Anderson St.; St. Paul's Episcopal, 1802 Abercorn St.; Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, 429 Abercorn St.; Unitarian Universalist Church, 307 E. Harris St.; First Baptist Church, 223 Bull St.; Trinity United Methodist Church, 225 W. President St.; First African Baptist Church, 23 Montgomery St.; Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 120 Bull St.; Christ Church, 28 Bull St.; Second African Baptist Church, 123 Houston St.

They will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors may visit www.hhw.armstrong.edu for information about the tour and the participating churches. The development of the Web site was supported, in part, by a grant from the Regional ICAPP Program at Georgia Southern University, and by the Center for Regional Analysis at Armstrong Atlantic State University.