

## **Baldwin County Historic Churches**

### **North Baldwin County, Alabama**

Latham United Methodist Church  
59980 State Highway 59  
Latham, Alabama

Located along State Highway 59, among a forest of dogwood, oak and pine trees in the Latham community, of North Baldwin County, Alabama, Latham United Methodist Church was erected in 1906 and remain the forth sanctuary built by Methodists in the community of Latham.

Montpelier Methodist Church  
Blacksher, Alabama

Located along State Highway 59, among the thick pine trees of the Blacksher community, in North Baldwin County, Alabama, Montpelier Methodist Church was built around 1895-1900 to replace Holly Creek Church formerly located near this present location.

Montgomery Hill Baptist Church  
13884 Danny Hill Road  
Tensaw, Alabama

Located in the Tensaw community of North Baldwin County, Alabama the Montgomery Hill Baptist Church is distinguished as the oldest surviving religious sanctuary in Baldwin County.

Organized and built in 1853, eight years before the beginning of the Civil War, the Montgomery Hill Baptist Church takes its name from the former name of the community with which it is situated, known prior as Montgomery Hill and, today, as the Tensaw community.

First Baptist Church of Bay Minette  
Municipal Public Library of the City of Bay Minette  
205 West Second Street  
Bay Minette, Alabama

Located at the County Seat, in Bay Minette, Alabama, the former First Baptist Church of Bay Minette and current Bay Minette Public Library was built in 1915; however, its congregational history began only a few months after the conclusion of the Civil War when the first Baptist sermon was preached in, what was then, this tiny little railroad

town. Within a year, a sixty-five year old Baptist and his Methodist nephew began a joint Sunday School and established a "Union Church" where area Baptists and Methodists alternated worship services at one location. As time progressed, and after several years of taking worship at the same location, each congregation saw the need to separately organize and on the first Sunday of August 1870, area Baptists began worshipping at a log cabin, located in the community on Byrne Street.

First United Methodist Church of Bay Minette  
120 West Second Street  
Bay Minette, Alabama

Located in the heart of the City of Bay Minette, Alabama, the First United Methodist Church of Bay Minette was built in 1925; however, its congregational history dates as far back the mid-19th Century when area Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians established, at a different location in the City, a Union Church which, collectively, served the spiritual needs of their respective faiths.

Stockton United Methodist Church  
53390 State Highway 59  
Stockton, Alabama

Located along State Highway 59, situated at the heart of the historic Stockton community in North Baldwin County, Alabama, the Stockton United Methodist Church was built in 1930 but has congregational roots commencing as far back as the beginning of the 18th Century.

The official date of the organization of the church dates to 1885; however, upon the settlement of the Stockton community, accounts indicate that forty years prior, in 1845, a local prominent citizen of the community, Benjamin Metcalf, gave money that was designed to build a Union Church to provide a collective sanctuary for both Methodists and Presbyterians of the area. However, by 1890, the two faiths saw the need for separate houses-of-worship.

### **Central Baldwin County, Alabama**

Clear Springs United Methodist Church  
27889 State Highway 112  
Clear Springs, Alabama

Located on State Highway 112, in the Clear Springs community of East-central Baldwin

County, Alabama, Clear Springs United Methodist Church was officially dedicated in 1900.

According to records, the first deed of the Church provided for three acres and was dated April 14, 1883, where the congregation erected their first sanctuary built entirely of unpeeled logs and affectionately named, by worship-goers, as "Little Barkey." As time progressed, and the congregation grew in number, the Church built another house-of-worship at this location which was nicknamed "Old Swayback" to reference the faulty roof which was constructed with a middle section lower than each of the roofs ends.

Swedish Zion Lutheran Church  
15875 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Silverhill, Alabama

Located on 4th Avenue, in the Town of Silverhill, situated in Central Baldwin County, Alabama, the Swedish Zion Lutheran Church has strong ties to the rich Swedish history with which the community was founded -dating to the late 19th Century.

The church, built in 1916, was originally, conceived by Swedish immigrants of the area eleven years prior, in 1905, when they held their first meeting for the purpose of organizing the church. Directly after this meeting, the church was formally organized with a congregation of just sixteen members.

St. Raphael's Catholic Church  
Municipal Public Library of the town of Loxley, Alabama  
1050 East Loxley Avenue  
(Adjacent to Town Hall of Town of Loxley, Alabama)  
Loxley, Alabama

Located directly adjacent to the Town Hall of the Town of Loxley, Alabama, and situated in the heart of the Town of Loxley, St. Raphael's Catholic Church was built in 1924; however, the congregation has a history beginning around 1907 when Priests, from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Mobile, visited Loxley and provided Mass at, what records term, a station, which was a small church seating less than twenty persons, in the community.

### **Eastern Shore Baldwin County, Alabama**

Sacred Heart Chapel  
Point Clear, Alabama

Located on Scenic Highway 98, in the Battles Wharf Historic District of Baldwin County, Alabama, Sacred Heart Chapel, part of the Parish of St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Fairhope, remains the third oldest historic religious sanctuary in Baldwin County.

Dating back to 1880, the Chapel presides over an impressive panorama of trees accentuated peripherally by the soft currents of the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

Old Daphne Methodist Church  
405 Dryer Avenue  
Daphne, Alabama

The Old Daphne Methodist Church, located on Dryer Avenue, in the Eastern Shore community of Daphne, Alabama, was built in 1858 on land donated, in 1833, by Captain William & Elizabeth Howard and is one of only two remaining antebellum churches and is the second oldest church building in Baldwin County.

Lebanon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church  
19796 Young Street  
Fairhope, Alabama

Located at the corner of Young Street and Middle Street, in the Eastern Shore community of the City of Fairhope, Alabama, the Lebanon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.)

Church was constructed beginning in 1919 and completed in 1923.

Twin Beech African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E.Z.) Church  
6664 Twin Beech Road  
Fairhope (Point Clear), Alabama

Located on Twin Beech Road, and nestled in the Eastern Shore community of Point Clear, Alabama, the Twin Beech African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E.Z.) Church was formally constructed in 1925.

However, the Church has a rich history beginning in 1867, two years after the conclusion of the Civil War, when a group of area citizens, desiring to establish a house-of-worship, banded together and organized and erected their first sanctuary, located not far from the site of their present church, under the name: Zion Chapel. As time progressed, the church renamed their sanctuary the Twin Beech African Methodist Episcopal Church to signify the fact that their church was built nearby two beech trees with limbs extending and growing into one another.

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
301 Fels Avenue  
Fairhope, Alabama

Located on Fels Avenue, in the Eastern Shore community of Fairhope, Alabama, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, is founded on the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, a New England Religious Leader who discovered Christian Science in 1866 and founded the Church of Christ, Scientist, in 1879, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Fairhope's congregational roots date back to 1914 when a small group of Fairhophians began holding services at a private residence, located on Magnolia Avenue, in the Fairhope community.

### **South Baldwin County, Alabama**

Swift Presbyterian Church  
23208 Swift Church Road  
Miflin, Alabama

Swift Presbyterian Church, located on Swift Church Road in the Miflin community of Baldwin County, Alabama, remains one of the most impressive reminders of Baldwin County's past. Built among the thick pine trees of the Miflin community, the Church continues to be affectionately referred to, from area residents, by its original name -the "Church in the Piney Woods."

Built with lumber reclaimed from trees felled by a Hurricane, which ravaged portions of Baldwin County in 1906, and transported, directly thereafter, to this site, the congregation began working, in earnest, toward the establishment of the Church and completed construction in 1907.

St. Paul's Episcopal Chapel  
14755 Oak Street  
Magnolia Springs, Alabama

St. Paul's Episcopal Chapel, located on Oak Street, in the South Baldwin County community of Magnolia Springs, Alabama, sits in a community developed from a former Spanish Land Grant which was conveyed in 1800.

The initial construction of the Chapel began in 1901 and was officially completed and consecrated in 1902.

Marlow United Methodist Church  
16135 County Road 9  
Marlow, Alabama

In the Historic Marlow community, of South Baldwin County, Alabama, one of the earliest communities settled in the county, the Marlow United Methodist Church, located at

16135 County Road 9, has a history beginning in the latter part of the 19th Century.

It was not until 1904 that the congregation built their own and first sanctuary, entirely of wood, near the former location of the Marlow Ferry and old Marlow Cemetery, located near  
County Road 9 & County Road 32.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
13220 Main Street  
Elberta, Alabama

In a community with strong German roots, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, located on Main Street, in the South Baldwin County community of Elberta, Alabama, had its beginnings when  
settlers, seeking new land and a new life, began moving into the Elberta area in 1906.

While the Church began the process of organizing in the early part of 1908 it was not until the former Baldwin County Colonization Company donated, during this period, four acres to the congregation for the purpose of building the Church's original house-of-worship. This original  
sanctuary, which sat on the same property the present Church today is situated, was dedicated on April 18, 1909, and served as the congregation's active worship-place, Sunday School building & parish hall until 1927, when the present Church was officially erected. The congregation, in the early 1980's and through their Historical Committee, decided to donate the original sanctuary to the Baldwin Heritage Museum where the entire building was relocated directly behind where the Museum is located at 25521  
U.S. Highway 98, in Elberta. Today, the original building, which served as St. Mark's Lutheran Church from 1909 until 1927, remains commissioned a  
museum  
where historical religious artifacts, from the various Churches in the county, are placed for public viewing.

Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church  
6325 Bon Secour Highway  
Bon Secour, Alabama

Located on the Bon Secour Highway, in the South Baldwin County community of Bon Secour, Alabama, and situated directly across from Baldwin County's oldest public school -the Swift School, Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church remains distinguished not only as a  
historic church, but also, internationally, as one of the year 2000's newest houses-of-worship.

The Chapel, constructed entirely of cypress timber on its exterior with an interior of tongue and groove pine, remains in nearly the same condition as upon its original dedication in

1931. Brandishing a history which, prior, saw the use of a wood heater to comfort the congregation during the coldest seasons, coupled with a panorama illuminated by kerosene lamps, the congregation remained an active house-of-worship until the late 1960's when the Chapel's original members began to pass away.