



NEWS RELEASE

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BEAUFORT'S 58TH ANNUAL SPRING TOUR OF HOMES SHOWCASES PRIVATE HOMES, GARDENS, PLANTATIONS AND CHURCHES

April XX – XX, 2014

January XX, 2014, Beaufort, S.C. - Beaufort's Annual Spring Tour of Homes returns for its 58th year providing visitors with a unique and memorable tour of Lowcountry private residences, plantations, gardens, historical sites and churches from April XX to April XX, 2014.

On April XX, tour participants can enjoy the Historic Walking Tour from 3 to 6 p.m. that includes entertainment and a reception, and is followed by an optional, free organ concert at St. Helena's with a surprise guest performer. On April XX, the Spring Tour of Homes features its Plantation Driving Tour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. that includes a Lowcountry lunch and entertainment.

Ticket options and prices are as follows:

- Historic Walking Tour (day one) - \$40
- Organ concert, guest performer - Free
- Plantation Driving Tour (day two) - \$60

“Each year, we look forward to our historic city’s Spring Tour of Homes,” said Robb Wells, tourism division executive for the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. “The experience of this tour is very memorable because it provides a unique perspective of the great history in Beaufort and the architecture that can be found here.”

For more information and to purchase tickets, please call (843) 524-0363 or visit 505 Church St. Beaufort, S.C. 29904.

The first Spring Tour of Homes was organized in 1956 by St. Helena's Women of the Parish as a fundraiser for a new parish house. This annual event has grown in popularity over the decades and has gained national recognition.

About the Parish Church of St. Helena

The Parish Church of St. Helena is an evangelical parish in the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and represents the second oldest ministry in the state. In 1712, England’s Commons House of Assembly

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established St. Helena as a colonial parish. By 1724, the parish had been completed. During the Civil War, Union troops used the church as a hospital. Later, during the Reconstruction Era, the officers of the USS New Hampshire gifted its present altar and its sailors carved the altar. In 1896, a hurricane destroyed a portion of the church and underwent a series of reconstruction and renovation projects throughout the 20th century. In 2000, the church reopened its doors following 19 months of its latest restoration.

For additional information about the Parish Church of St. Helena, call (843) 524 0363.

About the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce represents the city of Beaufort, the second oldest city in South Carolina. Founded by the British in 1711, the city has a rich history that dates back centuries with ties to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Beaufort is made up of Port Royal Island and its surrounding area within the Lowcountry. The city generates approximately two million visitors annually, and is regarded as one of the most diverse communities because of its historic character and prominent architecture. It is home to one of the largest population of Gullahs, a culture known for preserving its African linguistic and cultural heritage more than any other African-American community within the United States. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot for the Eastern Seaboard can also be found in Beaufort, in addition to the Marine Corps Air Station and Naval Hospital.

The Beaufort Visitors Center is located at 713 Craven Street in downtown Beaufort.

For more information about Beaufort, visit www.BeaufortSC.org, www.pinterest.com/VisitBeaufortSC.com and www.facebook.com/VisitBeaufortSC.com.

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