



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Willie Lee**

**Email – [lia@sccoast.net](mailto:lia@sccoast.net)**

**Phone – 843.457.2028**

## **“Blessing of the Inlet” & See Ya Saturday Celebrates 15 Years as Inlet Tradition**

MURRELLS INLET (SC) – On May 7, 2011, Blessing of the Inlet at Belin United Methodist Church, Highway 17-Business, Murrells Inlet, will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary as on the Inlet’s most revered festivals. The festival is held annually on the first Saturday in May from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and has grown to attract thousands of participants.

“When we first created Blessing of the Inlet 15 years ago, we wanted to create a festival filled with worship, food, fun and fellowship that was highlighted by a “Blessing” ceremony, celebrating our Lord’s continued blessings in our Inlet Community,” states Willie Lee, founder and chairman of Blessing of the Inlet committee. “And, generate funds for many missions, charities and nonprofit organizations.”

The festival has grown to include a day of entertainment, more than 70 arts and crafts vendors, various Murrells Inlet restaurants and local food purveyors, children’s play area with inflatable rides and fun events, the ever popular “Dunking Tank” and the Blessing Ceremony with bagpipes and liturgical dance.

The entertainment schedule is packed with outstanding entertainment featuring dance praise teams, gospel choirs, contemporary Christian musicians, shag performance, and much more. There’s guaranteed something for everyone on the entertainment schedule, Lee said.

This festival is highlighted by the “Blessing of the Inlet” Ceremony which starts at 11:30 a.m. The blessing will be administered by the Reverend Dr. Mike Alexander and the Reverend Marty Nason.

The festival is a free event with no admission or parking charge and is always held rain or shine. Due to Belin’s focus on the people and lives of Murrells Inlet and the surrounding South Strand, the “Blessing of the Inlet” does not include a blessing of animals.

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Blessing of the Inlet has partnered with Fisher Recycling to go green this year and will be recycling tin, glass, aluminum and plastic bottles. Organizers are encouraging all attendees to use the special marked recycle bins to dispose of their beverage containers throughout the event. Fisher is also working with the participating restaurants to recycle any waste that can be recycled.

“We invite everyone to come help us celebrate the Glory of God and all He has “blessed” us with,” Lee commented.

**About Blessing of the Inlet & See Ya Saturday.**

For more information about the event schedule, participating as a restaurant or crafter, visit [www.BlessingoftheInlet.com](http://www.BlessingoftheInlet.com) or [www.SeeYaSaturday.com](http://www.SeeYaSaturday.com).

**“SEE YA’ SATURDAY!!!” (May 7, 2011)**