



# Then & Now

Vol. 8

An update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and friends

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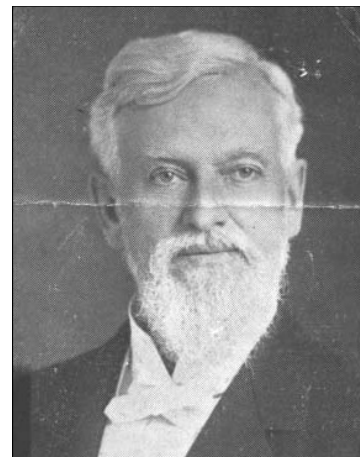


Penny Baumgardner  
Secretary

Dear Board Members and Friends of FBHS,

Our total ministry is built around the life of the local church. Therefore we are always pleased when a church permits us to become the custodians of their historical documents, pictures and artifacts. The week of May 27-30, 2009 was very special in that we became the stewards of the records of Central Baptist Church of Miami. We received hundreds of documents, special pieces of furniture, and invaluable minutes and photographs. Central Baptist Church was begun in 1896 as First Baptist Church, Miami. On May 17, 1936, FBC, Miami and Temple Baptist merged to form Central Baptist Church. In 2005 the name of the church was changed to Christ Fellowship Church. This downtown Miami Baptist church has one of the most beautiful church buildings in the whole state. In honor of the 70 years of Central Baptist I want us to highlight that church and three of its pastors for this issue.

Dr. William Edwin Stanton (1839-1909) was the organizing pastor of FBC, Miami. He was born in Preston, Connecticut and graduated from Colgate University (B. A., 1862; M. A., 1865). He also graduated from Hamilton Seminary and was ordained at FBC, Lowell, Massachusetts in 1865. He came to Florida about 1870 and was pastor of Lemon City Church for five years and pastor of FBC, Miami from 1896-1910. Technically J. R. Jester, a Mercer University student was the one who helped to organize the church on July 26, 1896 but Dr. Stanton was the minister who came as the first pastor and saw the first house of worship erected.



Dr. Jacob Lee (J. L.) White served as pastor of FBC, Miami from 1916-1936. He was a native of North Carolina and graduated from Wake Forest (1881) and received an honorary doctorate from Stetson in 1934. Dr. White came to Miami in 1916 when there were only ten Southern Baptist churches with a membership of 1,461. Twenty years later there were 43 churches and 19,722 members. FBC, Miami organized seven new churches while Dr. White was pastor. Dr. White served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention (1924-1925) and in 1934 preached the Southern Baptist Convention Annual sermon at Washington D. C., with his four minister sons on the platform. In 1936 FBC, Miami had 1,905 members.

1936 was a very special year in the life of the church. Central had 1,696 members when Dr. Charles Roy Angel (1889-1971) became pastor of the church. Dr. Angel was born in Boone Mill, Virginia and graduated from the University of Richmond (B. A.), Pennsylvania University (M. A.), Crozier Theological Seminary (B. D.) and Johns Hopkins University (Ph. D.). Angel was one of the best known preachers in America and he served as pastor of Central from 1936-1962. Previous to coming to Florida Dr. Angel had served as pastor of FBC, Charlottesville, Virginia and FBC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention in 1949 and preached the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention in 1951. He published numerous articles and books but is best known for his sermon books *Iron Shoes*, *Price Tags of Life*, *Shields of Brass* and *God's Gold Mines*.



The gospel has gone forth from downtown Miami for over 100 years. On May 27, 2009, Jerry Mae and I attended the Wednesday noon Bible Study for business people at Christ Fellowship and over 150 young business men and women enjoyed a wonderful lunch and a great gospel sermon. First Baptist Church; Central Baptist Church and Christ Fellowship Church: We salute you.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer

Matthew 6:33