

Here and Now

Here and Now is an electronic update of the work of the Florida Baptist Historical Society

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Board members

Joe Butler, Orange Park; Elaine Coats, Fernandina Beach; Clysta De Armas, Port Charlotte; Don Graham, Graceville; Thomas Kinchen, Graceville; Dori Nelson, Miami; Paul Robinson, Pensacola; Guy Sanders, New Port Richey; John Sullivan, Jacksonville.

Dear Members and Friends of the Florida Baptist Historical Society,

We want to welcome three new FBHS board members to our organization. Elaine Coats has come on board for one year to finish out the term of Jean Ducanis. Elaine lives in Fernandina Beach and works in the Clerk of Court office in Nassau County. She and her husband are members of North Jacksonville Baptist Church in Jacksonville. Dori Nelson of Miami also joins our board for a three year term. Dori and her husband are members of New Vision Emmanuel Baptist Church in Miami. Paul Robinson of Pensacola has also come on board (no pun intended. Paul is retired Navy) and he is a retired English/Literature Professor from The Baptist College of Florida. Dr. Robinson and his wife are members of FBC, Pensacola. Thank you Elaine, Dori and Paul for your willingness to serve with us.

Our digitizing efforts are moving closer and closer to reality. Bottom line this is a technology that can place association and state convention records on line for instant research. This technology is brand new as applied to indexed Baptist association minutes. This means that if you want to sit at your personal computer and see who the pastor of your church was in 1911 you can do it. You can find out how many missionary organizations your church had in 1948 and their enrollment. This technology will not only enhance research it will encourage it.

Case in point. We received a request on Sunday, January 17, 2010 to produce a list of the pastors of Gritney Baptist Church within 72 hours so they would have the information for their services the following Sunday. This was done. Penny Baumgardner and I went to the library and searched microfilm and hard copy minutes to produce this list for the Holmes County church. With this new technology we hope to eventually

have all these records on line so that any church member can review their own church basic records from the beginning of their church fellowship. This will enhance more Baptist research and more local church participation. High school, college and seminary papers and projects can be gleaned from these records.

Initially we are posting the records of the Florida Baptist Association because it is the oldest Southern Baptist association in our state. Reading the early Florida Baptist Association Minutes (1843-1880) is like reading Hebrews chapter 11. Stay tuned because this could be the largest and most influential project ever in the history of the Florida Baptist Historical Society.

The 2009 journal is still being requested and distributed. The 2010 journal will be based upon the theme "They Came Preaching." We want to include such stalwarts as C. Roy Angell, E. J. Daniels, Jerry Vines, Jim Pleitz, Jess Moody, Wiley Richards, Roland Q. Leavell and Mordecai Hamm. It may be that there are preachers you would suggest and we would be happy to hear from you. A constant need for any journal is a pool of writers. If you know of someone who enjoys research and writing in the field of preaching please let me know.

The Historical Marker has been ordered. We started this process on November 7, 2006. We wanted to put up a historical marker through the Florida Department of State and for three years it got bogged down. I just could not get any traction. I could not find the right entree. Then in October, 2009, I found Dr. Barbara Mattick, Chief, Bureau of Historical Preservation. She got the project moving. Then Barbara introduced me to Michael Zimny, Historical Site Specialist, and things then moved swiftly. Thanks to Dr. Mattick and Michael it appears our Children's Home marker to be placed at Arcadia, Florida should be delivered in March, 2010. Richard Englert, pastor of FBC, Arcadia has been kind enough to be our contact person on site so we hope to have the marker installed and erected in spring, 2010.

The 2010 FBHS sermon contest has been announced and the subject is "Proclaiming the Word of God." Submitted manuscripts are to be Biblical, 2,500-3,000 words, preached in a Florida Southern Baptist church within the last 12 months and submitted before April 1, 2010. The winner will receive a check for \$250.00 and an opportunity to deliver the sermon at the FBHS spring meeting. The sermon may be submitted electronically (jmw@wfeca.net) or in hard copy.

Our FBHS spring meeting is set for Madison, Florida, April 15-16, 2010. Details will follow but the meeting will begin on Thursday noon, April 15

and end at Friday noon, April 16, 2010.

We invite you to visit our website for some helpful Baptist history updates.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor