



Here & Now

Vol. 3

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

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Dear Board Members and Friends of the Florida Baptist Historical Society,

Olive Baptist Church of Monticello is one of our oldest churches in the Florida Baptist Convention. The beautiful church building has a beautiful fellowship and ministry on the Old Boston Highway between Monticello, Florida and Boston, Georgia.

For years the general area where the church building is located was known as "No man's land." There was a dispute over the Georgia-Florida line that affected over one million acres. In 1819 Spain ceded the area to the United States but this did not clear up the controversy of the state boundary locations.



On January 8, 1831, a deed was recorded in Thomas County, Georgia that included a "one acre parcel of land being conveyed to a Church Olive." The church had a Thomasville, Georgia address until April 9, 1872, when Congress settled the land dispute which gave the church a Jefferson County, Florida address.

Down through the years the church had faithful pastors to guide her. Wiley Blewett (1853-1857), J. B. Lacy (1860-1862), A. M. Manning (1867-1869), and W. W. Bostwick (1872-1873) were important early church and Florida Baptist Convention leaders. In the modern era long term pastors have included P. N. Shepherd (1919-1926), Freeman Johnson (1935-1943), Elbert Barineau (1974-1988), Jack Collins (1988-2002), and Harold Reams (2003-2010).



Pastor Art Beal, Olive Baptist Church



Harold Reams, who served as pastor of Olive Baptist Church, from 2003-2010

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The church has a very special place in Florida Baptist history. It was in 1853, at the eleventh annual session of the Florida Baptist Association, that a motion was made to organize the Florida Baptist Convention. The convention about in November, 1854, at the home of Richard Johnson Mays at Clifton near Madison, when seventeen men gathered and voted the convention into existence.

On Sunday, July 10, 2011, The Florida Baptist Historical Society assisted the Olive Baptist Church in erecting a marker to commemorate the November 19, 1853, Florida Association recommendation. The Olive church was a pro-Baptist, pro-missions, pro-cooperation, pro-unity church in a frontier world. The 2011 marker service was led by Art Beal, minister at the Olive church.

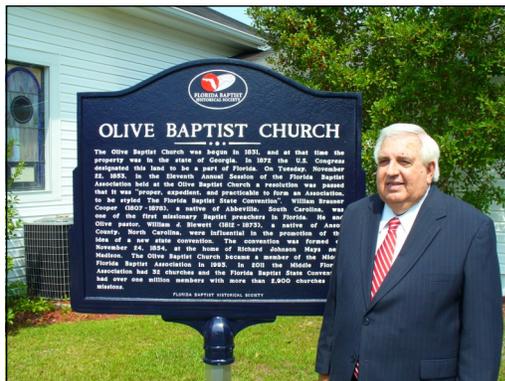
Local members Bury Fulford, song leader; and Wayne Prevatt, historical marker contact person, prepared the way for the marker dedication and the 180th Homecoming worship service. The church also hosted everyone present with a wonderful meal after the Sunday morning service.

It is a pleasure to work with people like the Christian fellowship called Olive. They have worshipped, worked, planned, and lived out the gospel for over 180 years in that beautiful north Florida setting.

Honoring those who honor Christ,



Jerry M. Windsor
Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew 6:33



Jerry M. Windsor, Florida Baptist Historical Society, at Olive Baptist Church marker dedication