



# LEGACY

*Our Mission: Researching, preserving and promoting the Legacy of Florida Baptists*

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As the year 2018 draws to an end, your Society staff thought it would be beneficial to the Society's members to receive a retrospective on the past year's activities to help you better understand the mission and ministry of the Society. The following are highlights of the 2018 Annual Report of the Florida Baptist Historical Society.

## **2018 Annual Report to Members**

**Who We Are:** The Historical Society is managed by a six-member Board of Directors appointed by the State Board of Missions. The recently revised governing document of the Society provides for three members appointed by the State Board of Missions and three permanent members who serve by virtue of their administrative position: Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Inc (Dr. Thomas Green); the Secretary-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Historical Society (Donald Hepburn); and the Curator, Florida Baptist Archives, (Dr. Roger Richards), maintained by The Baptist College of Florida. The Historical Society receives a \$20,000 Cooperative Program allocation, from the Florida Baptist Convention, which is the only source of the Society's annual operating budget. Two staff persons serve the Society and include Donald Hepburn, who as the non-compensated volunteer Secretary-Treasurer, has served since 2017; and the part-time employee, Administrative Ministry Assistant Penny Baumgardner, who has served since 2007.

**The Society's Ministry:** The primary mission and ministry of the Society is the *researching, preserving and promoting the Legacy of Florida Baptists*. These tasks are accomplished through assisting churches and individuals seeking historical information on Florida Baptist churches, individuals and events. Additionally, the staff produced a monthly newsletter, LEGACY, and the annual *Journal of Florida Baptist Heritage*, which were provided to Society members and interested Baptists.

**Journal 20th Anniversary:** During 2018, the Society staff selected and prepared for publication 15 articles for inclusion in this year's *Journal of Florida Baptist Heritage*. The earmarked articles, approved by the Society Board of Directors, were considered to be the best representative examples of significant Florida Baptist history-related articles, published in the 19 previous annual issues of the *Journal*.

The **2018 Baptist Heritage Award**, as previously reported, was presented posthumously to the family of Dr. Sid Smith, who researched and produced an outstanding history narrative on African American Florida Baptists. Since 1997 the Historical Society has conferred the Baptist Heritage Award upon 22 Florida Baptists, including four laymen, three women, six pastors, and nine Baptist college or seminary professors/administrators.

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Florida Baptist Heritage



*A 20 - Year Journal Legacy  
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**Church Anniversaries:** The Society staff prepared and distributed a “Certificate of Recognition” to those 25 Florida Baptist churches that were to observe milestone anniversaries in 2018. **Florida Baptist Association’s 175-year anniversary observance** was enhanced this year from a variety of resources the Society provided to Executive Director of Missions Sean McMahon. Included were copies of several different history narratives, produced over the years, on the association’s organization and development.

**Filling the gaps in Florida Baptist “history holes:”** This task was a major on-going project by the Society staff, particularly as it relates to the missing copies of Florida Baptist association annuals – missing at least in the files of the Society and the Florida Baptist Historical Collection. These annuals serve as the primary and critically important historical record of Florida’s Baptist association, as well as a primary source of the statistical record of the association’s cooperating churches down through the years. Without these records, a “history hole” or gap exists in the official history of Florida Baptists.

During the year the Society staff worked to track down and retrieve the original or photocopies of the missing years of selected association annuals. This effort has required the person-to-person contact with association office secretaries or the respective director of missions. As a result of this effort, the Society was able to secure selected years of published annuals from the following Florida Baptist associations: Apalachee, Beulah, Black Creek, Florida, Gadsden, Holmes, Miami, Middle Florida, Northeast Florida, Northwest Coast, Okaloosa, Peace River, Pensacola Bay, Santa Rosa, Southwest Florida and West Florida.

Additionally, one of the Society’s history partners – the **Georgia Baptist History Collection** – assisted the Society’s efforts to acquire photocopies of nineteenth century annuals for the Florida Association and the St. Mary’s River Association (which subsequently changed its name to the Jacksonville Baptist Association).



**Promoting the ministry of the Society** was accomplished by several means. The staff developed a revised concept and materials that were used to refresh the Society display cases located in the Raintree building at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center; developed a Society promotional display ad that was included in the 2018 Florida Baptist State Convention Guidebook (program booklet); and the secretary-treasurer travelled to several churches, associations and private homes to collect Florida Baptist-related history materials being provided or loaned to the Society;

**Responding to inquiries** from individuals continued to be an on-going task of the administrative ministry assistant. Most of these requests were for information about church histories or information on a church’s prior pastors. To respond to these inquiries requires manually reviewing association annuals and back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness*. Since January we have assisted several persons that needed help with history or biographical information as follows:

**Historic people information** – J. B. Holley; pastor Dick Hall; I. A. Reed; J. B. and Louisa Lastinger; and Dr. John Maguire;

**Church history information** – Allapattah Baptist Church, Miami; First Baptist Church (Northridge), Haines City; Alafia Baptist Church, Litha; First Baptist Church, Winter Garden; Bay Haven Baptist Church, Sarasota; Mt. Ephraim Missionary Baptist Church (Glory Community) Quincy; Markham Missionary Baptist Church, Lake Mary; Oak Grove Baptist Church, Seminole County; Berean Baptist Church and Christian School, Pensacola; oldest Baptist church in America and St. Augustine; list of Pensacola Southern Baptist churches in 1962; Whitfield Memorial Baptist Church, Pensacola; Bethel Community Church, St. Petersburg; the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, St. Petersburg; and even inquiries about churches in Fredericksburg, VA., and Maysville, KY.

**Website inquiry** – We also have assisted a researcher, who is developing a history-related website, by providing history narrative information on specific historic Baptist churches in northwest Florida [with the respective organization date noted within parenthesis]: The Jackson County churches included: Damascus Baptist Church, Graceville (1865); First (formerly Bethlehem) Baptist Church, Campbellton (1825); Friendship Baptist Church, Malone (1857); Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood (1845); Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church,

Cottdale (1845); Providence Baptist Church, Grand Ridge (1865); Shady Grove (formerly Sardis) Baptist Church, Grand Ridge (1825); First Baptist Church, Cottdale (1894); and First Baptist Church, Marianna (1881).

Additionally, history information was provided on Okaloosa County Baptist churches: Ebenezer Baptist Church, Laurel Hill (1859); First Baptist Church, Holt (1888); First Baptist Church, Laurel Hill (1896); Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Baker (1888); and Yellow River Baptist Church, Baker (1840).

**Updating the Biographical Collection** on the Society’s website has been a continuing task of the administrative ministry assistant. In addition to updating existing biographical information, we have made a concerted effort to scan and post information on recently received and nearly 100 newly researched biographical files. The Biographical Collection of Florida Baptist legacy leadership currently numbers at over 3,700 individuals, including pastors, church staff and laity.

This concludes the 2018 Annual report.



**We are saddened by the recent death of first-year Board member Barbara Ann Carroll (1942 – 2018)**, who died on November 13, 2018. Her death came after struggling for months to recover from a serious infection that resulted from an August routine surgery to remove a kidney stone. Ms. Carroll, a longtime Society member, was added to the Society Board of Directors in January, 2018. Born in St. Petersburg, FL, Miss Carroll spent her elementary school years in Miami and moved with her family to Jacksonville in 1954. Barbara was the oldest daughter of Cecil and Lena Carroll. [Her layman father Cecil B. Carroll served in 1955 as the president of the Florida Baptist State Convention.] She graduated from high school in 1960 and from Stetson University in January, 1965. Barbara served for 38 years with the Duval County School Board, including 31 years as a social studies teacher at Ft. Caroline Middle School. A memorial service was held November 24 at the Southside Baptist Church, Jacksonville, where Ms. Carroll was a life-long member.

**As we enter this Christmas season, we are thankful for the many blessings of God that we personally, as well as the Society organization, experienced during 2018. But most importantly we are thankful for the gift of Jesus Christ which God provided to us one and all. We rejoice with the scripture, “And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men” and women. [Luke 2:13-14]**

A nine member board, appointed by the State Board of Missions, governs the ministry and mission of the Florida Baptist Historical Society, which is a fraternal organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention [2018]

JERRY CHUMLEY  
BRISTOL

DANA GREATREX  
OAK HILL

DONALD HEPBURN  
JACKSONVILLE  
ACTING SECRETARY-  
TREASURER

DAVID LEMA  
HIALEAH

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRY  
ASSISTANT  
PENNY BAUMGARDNER

DAVID ELDER  
ST. SEPTEMBERINE

THOMAS GREEN  
JACKSONVILLE

THOMAS KINCHEN  
GRACEVILLE

ROGER RICHARDS  
GRACEVILLE