



# LEGACY

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

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**As the year 2022 draws to an end, your Society staff is providing a retrospective on the past year's activities to help Society members to better understand the mission and ministry of the Society. The following are highlights of the 2022 Annual Report of the Florida Baptist Historical Society.**

## 2022 Annual Report to Members

**THE SOCIETY'S MISSION AND MINISTRY:** The primary mission and ministry of the Florida Baptist Historical 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 produces a monthly newsletter, LEGACY, and the annual *Journal of Florida Baptist Heritage*, which are provided to Society members and interested Baptists.

**WHO WE ARE:** The Historical Society is managed by a six-member Board of Directors appointed by the State Board of Missions, Florida Baptist State Convention. Of the six, three members are appointed by the State Board of Missions and there are three permanent members who serve by virtue of their administrative position: Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Inc (Dr. Thomas Green); the Managing Director (formerly designated as 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. **Those persons who have been appointed to serve on the Board (and their term of service) are: Dr. Joel Breidenbaugh, Apopka (2022-2024); Ms. Arlene Vause, Sopchoppy (2022-2024); and Dr. Donald Minshew, executive director, Gulf Stream Baptist Association, Ft. Lauderdale (2021-2023). Please note that Dr. Roger Richards and Dr. Don Minshew are retiring from their respective employment posts and as a result will step down from Society Board service at the end of December.**

**FUNDING SUPPORT:** The Historical Society received a \$20,000 Cooperative Program allocation, from the Florida Baptist Convention, which is the only source of the Society's total annual operating budget. Two staff persons serve the Society including Donald Hepburn, who as the non-compensated Managing Director, has served since 2017; and the part-time employee, Administrative Ministry Assistant Penny Baumgardner, who has served since 2007.

**LEGACY NEWSLETTER-2022:** During the year, the Society produced a monthly newsletter that was distributed to the membership. This year's LEGACY featured Florida Baptists' missions' commitment as reflected in the people and events that inspired their fellow Baptists in the fulfilment of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to faithfully, "go and make disciples of all nations."

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**The Journal of  
Florida Baptist  
Heritage**

Florida Baptist Historical Society



*The Legacy of Florida Baptists'  
Sunday School Ministry*

**THE JOURNAL OF FLORIDA BAPTIST HERITAGE- 2022:**

During 2022, the Society staff selected and enlisted writers to produce ten articles for inclusion in this year's *Journal of Florida Baptist Heritage*. The topical articles, approved by the Society's Board of Directors, focused on the "Legacy of Florida Baptists' Sunday School Ministry." In addition to several summary articles on the Florida Sunday School movement, historically and currently, profile articles featured several people who made significant contributions to the Sunday school movement. [insert thumbnail of Journal cover]

**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*. We also access information from the on-line resources of Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, and Find-A-Grave.com. Since January we have assisted persons that needed help with history or biographical information as follows:

**Historic people information, among others, researched:** Florida Baptist Convention staff persons Dr. Sid Smith and James Frost; pastor William Daniel Payne; former pastor, Riverside Baptist Church, Miami; pastor/missionary G. W. Hall; former pastor Howard Eugene Heaton; Louisa Lulu Fleming, a Floridian African-American foreign missionary; former Florida pastor Adrian Rogers; pastor William Pitt Richardson (1834-1913); former pastor Daniel Hayes; Florida Panhandle pastors Harry Hall, Claude Talmadge Hall and Ancil Parker, and layman C.M. Parker; James Oren Stephens; and Mrs. Elsie M. Guinn, an early missionary to Florida's Seminole Indians

**Church and Association history, among other inquiries, for which the Society researched or provided information included:** Bay Haven Church, Sarasota; Mt Gilead Church, Greenville; West Florida Association; Long Branch Baptist Church, Middleburg; Mt Olive, Bonifay; Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Greenville; First Baptist Church, Graceville; Northwood Baptist Church, West Palm Beach; Corinth Baptist Church, Hosford; the Eliam Baptist Church, Melrose; Lebanon Baptist Church, Banford; First Baptist Church, Tarpon Springs; Friendship Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs; Cornerstone Baptist Church, Panama City; Ancient City Baptist Church, St. Augustine; Chinese Baptist Church, Miami; Normandy Park Baptist Church, Jacksonville; Eastside Baptist Church, Plant City; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Trenton; Pine Grove Baptist Church, Trenton; Eighth Avenue Baptist Church, Pensacola; Lake Ellen Baptist Church; Forest Grove Baptist Church, Alachua; we researched and provided church minutes from the Mount Elon Baptist Church, Wakulla County; Jonesville Baptist Church; and New Hope Baptist Church, Alachua County.

**ASSISTED ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH:** The Society staff spent the final quarter of the year assisting representatives of the Monticello-based Elizabeth Baptist Church in collecting and organizing their history resources in preparation for publication. This ministry service to churches is provided in varying degrees of assistance upon request from church leaders.



**THE 2022 BAPTIST HERITAGE AWARD:** The Society’s Board of Directors, earlier in the year, authorized that the Baptist Heritage Award be conferred upon Carolyn L. Calhoun, a member of the Ancient City Baptist Church, St. Augustine. Mrs. Calhoun was recognized for her diligent efforts during the past 25 years to collect, organize and preserve the history of the church that was established in 1887. Since 1997, the Historical Society has conferred the Baptist Heritage Award upon 26 Florida Baptists, including five laymen, four women, six pastors, and eleven Baptist college or seminary professors/administrators.



[Insert photo of Mrs. Calhoun]

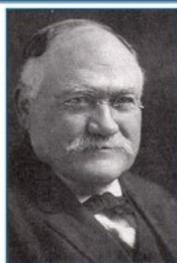
**CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES:** The Society staff prepared and distributed a “Certificate of Recognition” to those 80 Florida Baptist churches that were to observe 25-year milestone anniversaries in 2022. Among the 80 churches, that have continuously functioned since being organized, were two churches that observed 175-years, having been established in 1847: Bethlehem Church, Cottondale, and First Church, Pensacola. The other church anniversaries included: four observed their 150<sup>th</sup> year of ministry; four marked their 125<sup>th</sup> year of functioning; eleven achieved their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary; twenty observed their 75<sup>th</sup> year since organizing; twenty marked their 50<sup>th</sup> year; and twenty marked their 25<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. A Society Certificate of Recognition was prepared and sent to each church during January.

**DIGITAL DOCUMENTS ON THE WEBSITE:** Recently the Society staff re-designed the website page for the Society’s monographs. “Read them again for the first time,” could be the best encouragement for these narratives that were either oral presentations made at a meeting of the Historical Society or written exclusively for the Society’s monograph collection.



The Efficiency Movement in Florida Baptist History

By  
Dr. Glenn Hewitt



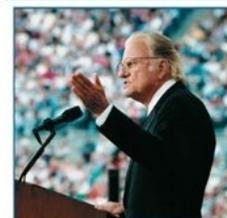
Adoniram Judson Holt

By  
Dr. E. Earl Joiner



Florida Baptists and the Orange Fever

By  
Dr. Jerry M. Windsor



The Rise of Billy Graham:  
The Media and His Message  
During the 1950s

By  
Dr. David T. Crum

Here is the link (you can copy and paste into your browser to reach that website page: <https://FloridaBaptistHistory.org/monographs-2/>

**BIOGRAPHICAL COLLECTION:** The Society’s has available on its website over 5,950 biographical profiles on Florida Baptist pastors and other church leaders. During the year, we added nearly 500 newly researched or recently updated biographical files. While the website entry is only a summary biographical profile, these are generally supported by other detailed information maintained in paper files.

**CHURCH HISTORY COLLECTION:** The Florida Baptist State Convention has over 3,100 cooperating congregations. Among these churches and some churches that were established but subsequently disbanded, the Florida Baptist Historical Society has secured and developed paper file histories on 978 active and deactivated congregations.

**BAPTIST HISTORY COLLECTION:** Since , 2020, the Society has resumed stewardship and maintenance of the Baptist History Collection. The collection, was originally established by the Society and initially maintained by Stetson University. In 1995 the Florida Baptist State Convention directed that the Collection be transferred to The Baptist College of Florida to be maintained by the college library. Last year the College requested the Society to resume stewardship of the collection to better facilitate the mission of the Society. During the 52-years the collection has existed, the Society continued to acquire books and resources that were added to the Collection. What had started as a collection of less than 1,750 volumes had grown to over 5,322 volumes.

**This concludes the summary highlights of the Society’s 2022 Annual report.**

**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 2022. Additionally, we are thankful for the gift of Jesus Christ whom God provided to us one and all. We rejoice with the scripture announcement, “And the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring to you Good News of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a savior, who is Christ the Lord.’” [Luke 2:10-11]**