

Rev. George Rector, pastor of the Baptist church at Inverness, with his wife and others, were visitors here Saturday.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
2nd & E STREETS  
CEDAR KEY, FLORIDA A

P. O. BOX 94  
CEDAR KEY, FLORIDA 32625

*Bible Centered -- Love Motivated*

#### RESPECT TO A NOBLE PAST

Due to the destruction wrought by fire and hurricanes much of the early history of the Church is hazy. Any help you can give in this area please write the information and hand to one of the leaders of the Church.

The First Baptist Church was organized in the year of 1891. The Church property and first church was located at the corner of 4th and E streets. (The present home of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Demerritt). This property was sold to one of the church deacons, J.J. Saunders prior to the purchase for the new location.

Sunday School was held at 10:00 o'clock a.m. with preaching services at 11:00 o'clock. Evening services were held at 8:00 o'clock. Preaching services were held the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The pastor serving another small church on alternate Sundays.

The charter members were as follows:

Mr. & Mrs. F. Wadley  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Hughes  
Mr. J. S. Bodiford & family  
Mr. J. H. Thomas & family  
Mr. R. T. Walker & family

The congregation and Sunday School increased in numbers and the membership of the Church grew rapidly.

Miss Leah Webster (Kepote) and Miss Ola

Wilson (McLeod) served as organists. Later Miss Virginia Tooke (Pugh) became pianist. The present pianist is Mrs. Ruth Wagner.

Serving as Trustees were:

J. S. Bodiford  
Y. H. Thomas  
R. T. Walker

In the year of 1922, due to the lack of room the Deacons of the Church decided with the consent of the Church to purchase land in order to build a new and larger Church building. Trustees and building committee appointed were as follows:

J. E. Hughes  
J. C. Hodges  
J. F. Taylor

February 2, 1923, Lots 1,2,3,4, Block 9 on Second street were purchased, deeds filed April 30, 1923. J. F. Taylor was chairman and supervisor of construction. He gave of his time and money to this building.

Many of the young men of Cedar Key donated their time to the building of the Church. The pews of the Church were built by Henry Taylor. The sacred Lectern was built by Joseph Wilson (deceased).

Thanks to the members for their splendid cooperation and generous gifts of money and time. The Church was built under the leadership of Rev. Forester Jones.

This year the Church building is fifty-three years old.

The First Baptist Church has been serving the Cedar Key Community for the past eighty-five years. At first the Church was pastored by itinerant preachers. Following are a list of names of pastors serving the Church since 1920.

Brothers: Hilton, Kersey, Ridenour, Forest James, O. B. Kersey, O. B. Davis, E. D. Boyer, Harris, Franklin, Horace McElroy, C. S. Smith, **George Rector**, Joe Wilson,