

Rankin Named Interim Pastor

The **Rev. Joe D. Rankin** has been named as interim pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church.

Rev. Rankin received his degree from Stamford University in Birmingham, Ala., and attended Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The **Rev. Rankin** came to Pensacola in 1955, where he and his wife served as teachers at Ferry Pass Elementary School. He then served as a chaplain for the federal prisons in Washington, D. C.

Rev. Rankin, now teaching at Brentwood Elementary School, is a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Kappa Pi Kappa fraternity and the Civitan Club.

in charge of arrangements.

**THE REV. JOE DILLARD
RANKIN**

Rev. Joe Dillard Rankin, 79 of Pensacola died Monday, February 17, 1997 in a local hospital.

Rev. Rankin was a member of the Kapp Pi Kappa Fraternity. He was former pastor of the Airport Baptist Church, also pastoring in Grand Bay, Ala., and Georgia. He was a graduate of Sanford University achieving a Bachelor of Science Degree. He was a member of the Ensley Masonic Lodge #278 and Scottish Rite. He and his wife entertained senior citizens in nursing homes, hospitals, and churches. He was also Chaplain for the WBCC.

Survivors include his wife, **Rose B. Rankin**; two sisters-in-law, **Maggie Rankin** and **Lavada Rankin**; and several nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Friday at Faith Chapel Funeral Home with **Rev. Michael Hill**, Pastor of Airport Boulevard Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Mobile Memorial Cemetery 12 noon, Friday.

Pallbearers will be Frank Nielsen, Paul Billy, J.E. Nowell, Jim Busby, David Reynolds, and Don Lehman.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jerry Higdon, Gene Rosenthal, John Deal, Houston Hawkins, J.C. Raybon, and Cecil Terry.

FAITH CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME, is in charge of arrangements.

Friends may call at the funeral home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday.

The Masonic services will be recited at 7:30 p.m., at Faith Chapel, Thursday.

First Baptist Church of Harold, Florida

First Baptist Church of Harold, Florida, in east Santa Rosa County, had its beginnings Easter Sunday, April 6, 1958. A small group of Baptists met with the missions committee of First Baptist Church of Bagdad, Florida for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church in the Harold community. Rev. Joe D. Rankin was called as mission pastor and Sue Wilson was elected secretary-treasurer.

Charter members were Grafton L. Andrews, Grafton Andrews, Ida Andrews, Kathern Andrews, Lucille Andrews, Newman A. Andrews, Victor Andrews, Francis A. Baldwin, Anna Barnes, John Barnes, Rudolph Barnes, Joan Broxson, David Brahier, John Brahier, Lorretta Brown, William H. Brown, Archie Cauley, Alvie Mae Collinsworth, Elizabeth Collinsworth, Ester Mae Collinsworth, Robert Lee Collinsworth, Lucy Dell Crain, Barbara Davis, Jared Lee Davis, George T. Edge, Libby Edge, Opal Edge, Glen Forte, Vida Forte, Joe Hatcher, Grover C. Hawkins, Charles Hester, Walter W. Hyde, Mary Lou Justice, Viola Justice, Vincent Meixsell, Mrs. Lena Melvin, Clettus C. Morris, Sr., Mary Dell Morris, Patricia Ann Morris, Wanda Morris, Chester R. Moore, Dorothy Myers, Evelyn L. Myers, J.H. Myers, Jimmie Earl Myers, Linda Myers, Nettie Ruth Parker, Mrs. W.T. Parker, William T. Parker, Ethel Parker, Kathleen Parker, Mae Parker, Evelyn Parker, Wilma Jean Parker, Sandra K. Poston, W.M. Richardson, R.E. Richardson, Ida Lee Richardson, Billy Richardson, Brenda Richardson, Mary E. Richardson, Charles Richardson, Liza Richardson, Sherry Smith, Raymond Smith, Ann Saddler, Le Grand Thompson, Lurise Thurman, Rose Thurman, Ann Thurman, Arthur Williams, Frank Wilson, Niccie E. Wilson, Clifford Wilson, Sue Wilson, Van Leslie Wilson, Marc Ross Wilson, and James Gary Wilson.

The group met in the Estes Chapel on what is now Goodrange Drive. VBS was held and missions organizations were established during the first year.

Mrs. Dorothy Myers donated the property, and a \$4,000 loan to build a sanctuary was secured from the Florida Baptist Convention. At 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 1959, men, women and children met at the site to begin clearing the lot for construction. Donations helped toward construction expenses, and pews were given by deacons Frank Wilson and Bill Richardson. The building was dedicated September 27, 1959.

The mission was officially constituted as a church April 2, 1961 and joined the Santa Rosa Baptist Association in October 1961. On October 11, 1964, a mortgage burning service was held, signifying that all debts on borrowed money had been paid.

Pastors include Joe D. Rankin (1958), Clettus Columbus "C.C." Morris, who planted the dogwood trees in the church yard (1958-1967; 1969-1972), Eugene Trawick (1967-1969), Tommy Parrish (1972-1973), Auburn Hayes (1973-1980), George Pugh (1980-1983), Donnie Hood, J.W. "Woody" Hunsucker, interim (1985), William Cyler "W.C." Chavers (1985-1988), Donald A. Leavins (1988-1997), and Ronnie L. Champion (began 1997).

Judith Richbourg Jolly
Florida Baptist Historical Society
June 8, 2002