

the summer of 1922, when he resigned, endeavoring at all times to serve every department of our church.

In December, 1922, the vacancy was filled by Reverend E. O. Thompson, who resided in the Lakeview Hotel a short time until the pastor's home was completed. It was also during his time with us that our present five room Sunday School building was erected, and the Lake County Baptist Association was formed here on October 19, 1924.

Brother Thompson's vacancy was filled by Reverend W. E. Fuller, who came to our church from Georgia, in March, 1926, remaining until October, 1930. Brother Fuller came with high recommendations as a pastor and citizen and his reputation was superseded only by his character. His vacancy was filled by Reverend D. L. Stewart of West Palm Beach, who during his eighteen months with us proved a faithful worker, making many friends while here.

In the fall of 1932 came another vacancy in the pulpit and the committee soon filled it by calling Reverend J. Alvin Inman of Lake Alfred, Florida, who remained with us for about eight years, leading the church in a very progressive way. He was followed by Reverend W. A. Hamlett, who served for one and a half years and was forced to retire because of poor health. Reverend Edwin Harwell came in December, 1942, and served until January, 1948. He was a leader in music and the church made much progress under his guidance. In March 1948, \$1,200.00 was transferred from the general fund to a building fund, and additional funds were added as rapidly as possible. October of 1948, Reverend B. L. Ray came as pastor. After serving only two months Brother Ray returned to his native State of North Carolina.

In January, 1949, C. L. Hargrove of Lexington, Kentucky, came as pastor for three months, after which he was given an additional year. Following this one year he was extended an indefinite call. During his pastorate a new house of worship was built.

First services were held in the new building on December 15, 1951.

In July, 1956, Reverend Krama Fay DeSha Jr., was called as pastor and under his leadership the church has grown in all departments and in every way. You only have to survey the plant and observe the workings of every organization in the church to conclude that "surely the Lord has called this man to this field."

In 1959-60 Fellowship Hall was constructed at a cost of \$70,000. This sanctuary and educational buildings have been airconditioned. Five lots adjacent to the church have been purchased and paid for. The Haines Creek Baptist Mission was organized in 1957. The mission property is now almost completely paid for and is evaluated at more than \$20,000. Reverend John Magness was called as Mission Pastor and began his ministry in April of 1962. The mission was organized into the Haines Creek Baptist Church November 15, 1964.

In 1964 the First Baptist Church of Tavares constructed a new pastorium at the approximate cost of \$24,000.00. All but \$6,500 of this expense was paid off by March of 1965. The old pastorium has been remodeled into a nursery.

There have been 508 additions to the church during the past six years, 214 of these were by profession of faith and baptism.

FBC Tavares

Forty Fruitful Years

# Forty Fruitful Years

By

P. V. Nelson

*Be ye doers of the word  
and not hearers only 1-22.  
P. V. Nelson*

**HISTORY**  
**LAKE COUNTY ASSOCIATION**  
of  
**BAPTIST CHURCHES**  
1924 - 1964

**Pastoral Service to the Lord!**

Ordained Ministers at Founding of Double Branch Baptist Church, June 2, 1878  
T.H. Jaudon and R.T. Caddin

1878-1879.....B.L. Ray	1935-1940.....Ed Bryant
1880.....H.D. Ryals	1941.....Nathan J. Bennett
1881.....B.L. Ray	1943-1945.....Will Bryant
1882.....J.I. Spivey	1946-1949.....W.D. Hand
1883.....B.L. Ray	1950-1951.....Clarence Long
1884.....J.G. Pittman	1952.....Charles Swartz
1885-1887.....R.T. Caddin	1953.....Alex Hendry
1888-1889.....H.D. Ryals	1954.....Lawton Cothorn
1890-1894.....J.I. Spivey	1955.....William B. McKendree
1895.....G.A. Bryant	1955-1962.....William Hill
1896-1897.....R.T. Caddin	1963.....Carl Patrum
1898-1899.....H.D. Ryals	1964.....Robert Clark
1900-1901.....J.I. Spivey	1965.....Frank Dickerson
1902-1904.....J.W. Giddeons	1965-1967.....Frank A. Scott, Sr.
1905-1907.....H.D. Ryals	1968-1970.....Jimmie Smith
1908-1910.....S.S. Pickett	1971-1972.....Lynn Foster
1911-1913.....N.T. King	1973-1974.....Clyde Livingston
1913-1914.....O.N. Williams	1975.....Rapley Armstrong
1914.....G.A. Bryant	1976-1978.....Randy White
1914-1916.....H.D. Ryals	1979-1981.....Gordon Henry
1917-1919.....B.F. McKinney	1982.....Duane Evans
1920.....H.D. Ryals	1983-1984.....Lyle Falkenhagen
1921.....O.N. Williams	1985-1991.....John Lennard
1922.....W.A. Holiway	1991-1992.....Frank A. Scott, Sr.
1923-1928.....E.E. Taylor	1992-1999.....Jim DuBols
1928-1934...No letters reported to Association	1999-Present...Frank A. Scott, Sr.

FBC, Wesley Chapel  
AKA Double Branch

**"Remember how the Lord your God  
led you all the way,"  
Deuteronomy 8:2**

We give thanks and praise to our God who has guided and directed our steps as His church. It is to Him that we give the glory as we remember and share the history of this church and our ministry.

Deuteronomy 31:12 states "Gather the people together, men and women and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law."

In the 1840's, an influx of pioneers came to our area--central Pasco County formerly Hernando County, and the Florida Baptist Convention was founded in 1845. As Hernando County continued to develop, the need for a place to worship arose. On June 2, 1878, Double Branch Missionary Baptist Church was constituted with 34 adult charter members (24 female and 10 male). It was named for two branches of water converging nearby. The church originally met at Matchet (Magic) Lake off Elam Road near Holton Cemetery. The Church Constitution read, "Whose names are here in this book...believing it to be the duty of true believers who have been baptized be united in church capacity believing the New Testament to be our only rule of our Faith and Practice lay it as our Foundation to constitute this church."

## FLORIDA CLERGY

[source: FACEBOOK PAGE-Florida Baptist Churches/Clergy] <https://www.facebook.com/Florida-Baptist-ChurchesClergy-349509378730654/?tn-%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDIAbmtQSa8MzxF-TpM3hQ2Q7GTfhnOqkQOCScnslOxpcCNedEu5K9iRSkPFuUiln241gZZ8KlsCP>

**Dr. Rev. Benjamin Lawrence Ray** (known as BL Ray) was born February 6, 1840, in Barnwell, SC. Following the Civil War, where he served in Hampton's Legion, he came to present-day Pasco County, Florida. As early as 1878, he was active in Hernando Baptist Association. He was also a trustee at Clear Lake School (Lake Jovita) and pastored Double Branch (Wesley Chapel), Midway, Good Hope, and Six Mile Pond. He was granted 80.27 acres "near Clear Lake," which is situated at the intersection of SR 52 and Prospect, Dade City, known today as Lake Ray or Ray Pond. It was nearby that he helped establish Bethany Baptist Church, the church where delegates voted to establish Pasco Baptist Association in 1887. He died November 14, 1911, and is buried in the Ray family plot at Williams Cemetery. [FB-January 1, 2020]