

Aug. 20, 1959

This, That and the Other

PUCKETT JOINS STAFF OF FIRST CHURCH, BARTOW



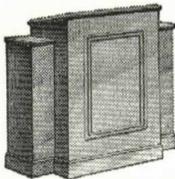
Paul E. Puckett recently joined the staff of First Church, Bartow as minister of music and education.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Puckett received a B.S. degree from the University of South Carolina, attended Columbia Bible College, and School of Church Music, Southern Seminary. Churches he has served are First, Gastonia, N. C.; First, Camden, S. C.; First, Lancaster, S. C.; and Pageland, Pageland, S. C. In all of these areas he has been a leader in associational and state work. He and his wife have written texts and composed music for several forms of church music, and both have taught at state camps and Ridgecrest.

Mrs. Puckett is the former Martha Louise Roberts of Columbia, S. C. They have two daughters: Elaine, 11 and Beth, 8.

Arvel G. Miller and his family have returned to Florida after four years of mission work in the west. He pastored Southern Baptist churches in Tooele, Utah, and Superior, Arizona.

Miller reports the magnificence of witnessing for Christ amid physical and spiritual hardships matches the superb splendor of the west. Florida Baptists who would like to hear Miller's message may contact him at 1603 W. Bella Vista, Lakeland, Fla., or through Southside Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.



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CORA CHURCH, JAY MARKS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On August 22 and 23, Cora Church, near Jay, will hold special services commemorating her fiftieth anniversary. The oldest living former pastor, T. G. Burgess, will deliver the message on Saturday, and the pastor, L. F. Miller, will preach on Sunday. A homecoming dinner will be held at noon.

Cora Church began her history on August 22, 1909 with 26 members who held the first meeting under a brush arbor near the spot where the present building stands. Membership now exceeds 300.

In 1910 the State Board of Missions gave to the then struggling organization \$50 to assist in erecting the first building, which served until 1950 when the present building was erected. A few years later a three-bedroom brick parsonage was built. Present property is valued at \$25,000 and is debt free.

Fifteen pastors have served Cora Church. The first was J. T. Fillingim. T. G. Burgess, the anniversary speaker, has served the church several times for a total of ten years. The present pastor has nearly completed three years. The church held quarterly services until 1947, when a half-time pastor was called. Then in 1948 full-time services were started.

A budget was set up in 1947 which designated \$10 a month for world missions through the Cooperative Program. It is estimated that this year's Cooperative Program giving shall exceed \$1,000 (13 per cent) for the first time in the church's history.

More than 200 are enrolled in Sunday school and 155 in Training Union. Baptisms have tripled this year over last year.

ANDREW W. REAVES DIES IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrew W. Reaves, retired minister, died in Hollywood, Fla. July 24. He was buried in Ft. Lauderdale Memorial Gardens on July 27.

Survivors are Mrs. A. W. Reaves and three daughters: Mrs. Henry A. Parker of Orlando, Mrs. D. B. Nicholson of Coral Gables, and Mrs. Frank Baker of Pine Bluff, Ark.

In the active ministry for 44 years, Reaves held pastorates in Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and Florida. The Florida churches he served are Stanton Memorial, Miami; Brownsville, Pensacola; and Pleasant Grove, Pensacola.

After retirement Reaves served many mission churches and led them in building programs. He was also interim pastor in numerous churches in the South Florida area.

JACKSONVILLE PASTOR PREACHES IN BAHAMAS

Russell C. Carter, pastor of San Jose Church, Jacksonville, and his family recently returned from a visit to Nassau in the Bahamas where he spoke to the annual conference of the Bahamas United Baptist Mission. This conference, largest of the three organized Baptist bodies in the Islands, met July 20-26 in the Zion Baptist Church, oldest and largest Baptist church in the Islands. This church was organized in 1835 under the auspices of English Baptist missionaries.

Highlights of the conference were an ordination service for several Baptist preachers from the various Islands, at which service Carter brought the ordination sermon, and the closing service on July 26 at which His Excellency, the British governor, spoke.

Carter also preached in another church in Nassau and in Tarpum Bay on the Island of Eleuthera.

At present Southern Baptists have two missionary couples serving the Bahamas. A combination church and school building has been erected in Nassau.

W. H. Gray resigned as pastor of Bright Pond Church, Jasper, effective October 1.

Gray began his 19½-year ministry at Bright Pond in a one-room building holding services once a month with an annual budget of \$150. The church has remodeled the auditorium, added ten Sunday school rooms and two restrooms, and has held full-time services for the past 12 years. Annual gifts have reached approximately \$10,000.

Gray may be reached at Live Oak, Fla. for revivals, supply, or other service.

400 CHARTER MEMBERS WEST HIALEAH CHURCH

West Hialeah Chapel, Hialeah was recently constituted into a Baptist church. Guy Central, pastor, presided at the meeting with Thomas W. Fryer, pastor of Stanton Memorial Church, Miami (the mother church) bringing the sermons. Meigs, director of Evangelism and Mission Education, brought greetings from the Florida Baptist Convention and J. Raybins, field secretary, read Scripture, led in prayer, brought greetings from the Association. Ralph Baggett, chairman of Stanton's mission committee, brought words from the mother church, and Mrs. Sparks gave a brief history of the Chapel.

Allen Hanson, chairman of deacons at Stanton Memorial, acted as moderator. Guy Central was called as pastor of more than 400 charter members. Sunday school enrollment is with an average attendance over 300. Training Union has enrolled.

The mission was started August 24, 1952 in West Hialeah Civic Building with two adults and 12 children present. O. N. Nabb was the first pastor. He led in construction of the unit of the education building which was occupied in October 1956. Guy Futral became pastor in June, 1958.

PASTORIUM BURNS

The pastorium of First Church Tallahassee burned on the evening of July 29 from an undetermined origin, while Pastor O. G. Sanders and his family were in Miami on vacation.

PANAMA CITY MISSION COMPLETES FIRST BUILDING



Midway Mission, Panama City has enrolled over 100 in Sunday school and 85 in Training Union during the 20 months of its organization.

On January 19, 1958 three families met in an incomplete building under the sponsorship of Springfield Church, Panama. Leonard G. Irwin, pastor.

The mission is now located on a two and one-half acre plot the first unit of the church plant completed. L. F. Adams has been pastor for more than a year.

Woodlawn: Redecorating church.

William C. Carr Chapel: Completion of Chapel with dedication on April 24, 1974.

HISTORY OF BROWNSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday, February 20, 1944, the Whitfield Memorial Baptist Mission was constituted as the Brownsville Baptist Church, with 73 charter members. Chaplain Alvin J. Lee served as supply pastor during the time in which the church was seeking out and calling the first pastor.

During the first year the church was not only getting organized to do an efficient job, but also experiencing growth in membership. The acquiring of property and erection of buildings was a vital need from the very beginning. The church has baptized into her fellowship over 1,500 new converts, and has a present membership of 1,414. Records also show that \$2,368,031 have been given through the church to all causes, with \$379,183 of this amount going to mission causes at home and abroad.

Physical properties include land two blocks long upon which there has been built 3 permanent brick educational buildings and a church auditorium which seats 1,190. The total property value exceeds \$900,000.

Seven pastors have guided this congregation during its 30 years. They are: Clarence H. Eiland (1944-45), Dr. A. W. Reeves (1945-46), I. Beryl Roberts (1946-51), Dr. J. Kelva Moore (1951-53), Gerald Walker (1954-59), Dr. William Dodson, Jr. (1959-66), and Clayton Baker (1966-present).

Twenty-three men have been licensed and/or ordained during the church's 30-year history. Other young people have gone out from this church into other religious work.

Four missions have been sponsored by this congregation during her history. All are now self-containing churches. They are Oakcrest Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Gulf Breeze, Laurel View Baptist Church, and Pine Forest Baptist Chapel.

Financially, this congregation has experienced tremendous growth. The annual budget has grown from \$10,723 in 1944 to the present budget of \$128,256. Annual mission gifts show an increase from \$515 in 1944 to \$28,201 this year. \$22,687 of this amount was given to the Cooperative Program.

In addition to the full program of Bible study, evangelism and Christian growth, a special emphasis on music and youth ministry is present in the church. The spirit of missions that has characterized Brownsville's history finds expression in our present plans to sponsor another mission in the Pensacola area.

HISTORY OF OAKCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

Oakcrest Baptist Church was organized Oct. 16, 1955 as a result of the mission-minded Christians of Brownsville Baptist Church. Brownsville purchased property, in the then new Oakcrest Subdivision, on May 4, 1955, and applied to the Home Mission Board for a \$25,000 loan to erect the first building. All services at this time were being held in a lumber shed that was already on the property.

The Oakcrest Baptist Mission became a church after only 10 weeks of meetings with 94 charter members and Rev. J. W. Hunsucker was its first pastor.

In five years the membership grew to a Sunday School enrolment of 497 and Training Union enrolment of 187. The average attendance was 190 per week.

Seeing the need for enlargement, the church voted on Oct. 20, 1963 to apply for a loan and begin construction on another educational unit.

Rev. Reneau Dominey was called as the second pastor of the church on August 16, 1964. Sunday School enrolment at this time was 473 with an average attendance of 230 each week. In 1966 the church voted to purchase the adjoining property on the west for recreation and parking, and the property to the north and back of the church was purchased for a pastorium.

Rev. Overl Oglesbee accepted the call as pastor of the church on Nov. 10, 1968. The total membership at this time was 459. Since this time the church has seen a dream come true of finally having enough educational space and being able to begin work on a new sanctuary. On July 21, 1970, ground-breaking ceremonies for this building were held; on Aug. 6, 1972 the building was completed and dedication services held. There is much pride on the part of the people for this building since the labor was furnished almost completely by the laymen of the church under the leadership of the pastor.

At present, the total membership is 494. We have a vision of continued outreach at Oakcrest.

HISTORY OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Central Baptist Church originated on the front porch of Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Johnson at 9th Avenue and Jordan Street as a small Sunday School class. The class grew to the extent that they erected a brush arbor on 7th Avenue between Jordan and Maxwell Streets. Here they started having regular church services. A Bro. Crabtree was secured to serve as pastor of the mission church until it grew enough to organize as Seventh Avenue Baptist Church in March, 1924.

In the fall of 1952 the church voted to move from its location on 7th Avenue and Maxwell Street to 12th Avenue and Yonge Street. The name was changed to Central Baptist Church, and ground breaking took place on December 7, 1952. \$60,000 in bonds were issued to finance the building. A pastorium was also built and on May 29, 1955 the present auditorium was started. In 1956 it was necessary to issue two additional bond issues of \$25,000 each in order to enclose the auditorium and provide additional educational space. The first full-time Minister of Music and Education, L. C. Rucker, was employed.

In July of 1962 the old bonds were called in and a new bond program was issued for \$220,000. Another for \$10,000 was issued in November and in July, 1966 a \$40,000 program was issued. During these years the auditorium was completed, as well as many improvements were done, such as air conditioning, etc. The old pastorium was sold and a new one built. The front of the auditorium was remodeled and an upstairs was added to the nursery building.

In 1973 another remodeling program was entered into which when completed will include the establishing of a suite of offices; the improvement of the halls leading to and from the auditorium; and a new portico drive-in entrance.

As best as can be determined the pastors were as follows:

1924 Bro. Crabtree, Bro. Grubbs, Bro. Pool; 1927 Bro. R. R. Beal; 1930 Bro. W. D. Mann; 1931 Bro. A. E. Middlebrooks, Bro. C. O. Stewart; 1938 Bro. G. C. Eubanks; 1939 Bro. C. G. Kellum; 1940 Bro. George Speake; 1941 Bro. D. F. Hickman; 1943 Bro. A. M. Smith; 1948 Bro. A. J. Roddy; 1951 Bro. J. E. McKinley; 1952 Bro. A. B. Allen; 1955 Bro. C. S. Wemp; 1962 Dr. James H. Wright; 1968 Bro. A. C. Phillips; 1971 Bro. James A. Coleman, Jr.

Stanton Memorial, Miami

CHARTER MEMBERS OF STANTON MEMORIAL

Mr. D. L. Drawdy
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Brelsford
M. & Mrs. W. J. Roach
Mr. & Mrs. S. L. Holder
Mr. & Mrs. G. L. Edwards
Mr. Pascal Harper
Mrs. Ruth Pleane
Miss Eula Lytton
Mr. J. P. Greene
Mr. Baskin Knight
Mr. Louis Cummings
Miss Vera Borden
Mrs. Marion Davis
Mr. Virgil Lanier
Mr. J. L. Perkins

Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. C. V. Dean
Mr. & Mrs. S. Rountree
Dr. & Mrs. H. C. Garwood
Mr. George Saunders
Mrs. H. Rich
Mrs. T. T. Davis
Mrs. B. B. Clark
Mrs. E. M. Fink
Mr. J. Paul Greene
Miss Williebelle Green
Mr. Jess M. Rowe
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cobb
Mr. Clyde Atkinson

PASTORS WHO SERVED STANTON MEMORIAL

1918-21	Dr. H. C. Garwood	1955-59	Dr. Thomas W. Fryer
1921-24	Rev. M. J. Bouterse	1959-63	Rev. Carl A. Moberg
1924-30	Dr. B. C. Hening	1963-67	Dr. Aaron A. Smith
1930-35	Rev. R. E. Downing	1968-68	Rev. Wayne H. Odom
1935-37	Rev. Russell C. White	1969-70	Rev. S. C. Randall, Jr.
1937-45	Dr. Andrew W. Reaves	1970-73	Rev. John C. Tucker
1946-52	Rev. Ralph F. Gwin	1973-74	Rev. Gene Hallstrom (Interim)
1952-55	Rev. Lawrence V. Bradley		

LAYMEN LICENSED TO PREACH AND LATER ORDAINED

Rev. Otis Garland
Rev. Roger Williams
Rev. Fred Lowery
Rev. William Hinson
Rev. Lyman McDonald
Rev. O. J. McNabb

Rev. Marshall Mines
Rev. Ewell Chalker
Rev. John C. Howell
Rev. William P. May
Rev. Norman M. Willie

MISSIONS TOWARD WHICH STANTON MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTED WHOLE OR IN PART IN THEIR BEGINNING AS CHURCHES

Allapattah Baptist Church
Westview Baptist Church
North Shore Baptist Church
Biscayne Gardens Baptist Church

West Hialeah Baptist Church
Red Road Baptist Church
Lake View Baptist Church
Good News Baptist Church
(Spanish)