

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MULBERRY, FLORIDA

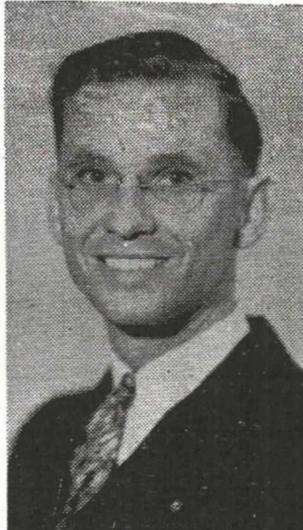


The South Florida Association met in the First Baptist Church, Mulberry, Fla. We were so impressed with the beauty of this building and the progress of the work we asked Miss Helen Lane to send pictures and facts.

The First Baptist Church of Mulberry was organized in 1896. Unfortunately, the church suffered many hurtful experiences during the years, but stemmed all tides and is now heading for the mountain top. The erection of a new building was begun in 1935 under the leadership of Dr. R. E. Reed. The building is completed except the interior of a few Sunday School rooms. The auditorium is one of the most beautiful of its size in the state. The building is free of debt. Possibly the most notable and praiseworthy progress in the history of the church has been under the leadership of its present pastor, S. E. McLaughlin.

He took up his work in November of 1936. There has been great growth in all the departments of the church, which has marked his three-year ministry with it. offerings for all purposes have more than doubled. The W. M. U. has seen an increase in membership of 134; the church membership has increased 134; crease in membership of 83 with the organizing of all the auxiliaries, which are steadily growing. The Sunday School attendance has increased 125, and the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and B. A. U.'s have been organized with an average attendance of 80.

Brother McLaughlin was born in Rome, Ga., in 1910. He came to Florida with his parents in 1925. He was baptized, licensed to preach and ordained to the ministry by the First Church in Plant City in 1931-32. Upon receiving his seminary training at Louisville, he took up his work with the First Baptist Church of Mulberry. He is blessed with a most loyal wife or helpmate and two lovely children.



REV. S. E. McLAUGHLIN
Pastor First Baptist Church

Knighthood or Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth. We covet your prayers for a great victory.—Helen Lane, Clerk.

THE CALVARY REVIVAL AT CLEARWATER

Calvary has just experienced a gracious spiritual awakening. Evangelist Lloyd L. King of Orlando came to us November 6 and was our preacher, singer and Story Hour leader for the two weeks following. The special services came to a close last week and we find the Lord has given us exactly fifty-three additions to the membership of the church, forty-seven by baptism. Since the new association year began we have had seventy-six added to the church. fifty-seven of these by han-

ble, but one hundred is the minimum.

I have known Lloyd King since June, 1926. King is a sane, safe evangelist, having no traps or foolish methods by which to influence folks into "joining" a church, but he "ploughs a deep Gospel furrow," and hews to the line in all his preaching. His morning messages on "The Life of Christ" were helpful indeed, and enjoyed by a fine congregation at each service. I feel like saying of King what a Negro pastor said of a visiting minister in his church as he was introducing him to his congregation. Among other things, the pastor said, "Our brudder as a preacher ranks among the rankest." "Uncle Rex" will "rank" with any of them who are rated as safe, sane, sound Scriptural evangelists. His preaching as an evangelist will honor God and help any church in Florida that uses him. We commend him unreservedly to any and all pastors and churches in Florida and out of Florida who would like to have a good helper in revivals.

I must not fail to mention his Story Hour services for children. Each afternoon at 3:30 and for one hour following, he held his own Story Hour for 250 children of the city. What a gift he has in this respect! What marvelous control he has over these children! How they love him! King is in a class all by his "lone little self" when it comes to this kind of work in connection with evangelistic campaigns. Many are they this morning throughout the city of Clearwater whose hearts beat with gratitude toward Calvary Church for having brought this fine man to our city and given their children an opportunity to be members of the Story Hour for two weeks.

The prayers and good wishes of Calvary Baptist Church will ever follow King in all his labors for Christ and our Baptist cause in this and other states throughout the South and British Honduras.—W. B. Feagins, Pastor.

The class in Religious Dramatics of the School of Religious Education of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary gave its first production of the year in "Esther," a sacred drama on the Bible story. Dr. Floy M. Barnard, Professor in Educational Arts, directed the play which follows very closely the Bible account. This is the second presentation of the play, the production last year being met with such success that it has been repeated this year. Among the twenty-five students in the cast the main characters were Miss Margaret Mattison and Mr. Oliver Wilbanks of Alabama, Mr. Woodrow Wall of North Carolina, and Mr. Rogers Smith of Texas. The play was given by permission of Longmans Green & Co., Chicago.

SALESMAN WANTED for one of the oldest and largest monument concerns in the

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|-----------------|--------------------------|
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| | Rev. Bascom Sutton |
| | Rev. Anderson |
| 1921 | Rev. R.E. Reed |
| 1927 | Rev. Deane |
| | Rev. W.W. Forbes |
| | Rev. Boseman |
| 1935 | Rev. Owen Reynolds |
| | Rev. Henry Alderman |
| | Rev. W.W. Dossey |
| | Rev. Durrance |
| 1939 | Rev. Fred Burnette |
| | Rev. Cornell |
| 1940 | Rev. Roy Forbes |
| 1942 | Rev. Sam DeVane |
| 1943 to 1945 | Rev. Owen Reynolds |
| 1945 to 1946 | Rev. L.W. Milles |
| 1946 | Rev. William Stanley |
| 1946 to 1947 | Rev. Jessie Gilbreath |
| 1947 to 1948 | Rev. Richard Rightmire |
| 1949 to 1950 | Rev. Roy Forbes |
| 1951 | Rev. Rufus Phelps |
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| 1953 to 1954 | Rev. W.W. Dossey |
| 1955 to 1958 | Rev. Andrew Boney |
| 1959 to 1966 | Rev. Tom Burge |
| 1966 to 1970 | Rev. Kermis Frost |
| 1970 to 1971 | Rev. Paul Murray |
| 1971 to 1975 | Rev. Bill Burris |
| 1975 to 1978 | Rev. Henry Stamey |
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| 1983 to 1992 | Rev. John Scarborough |
| 1992 to 1999 | Rev. Paul Parrish |
| 2001 to 2003 | Rev. Jerry Stokes |
| 2004 to present | Rev. Robert C. Knowles |



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First Baptist Bartow



R.E. Reed had a longer pastorate, from 1912 to 1923. He and Mrs. Reed has no children and often their home was open to the children and youth for social occasions. He walked all over town visiting the people, always carrying his umbrella. Several Sunday School "Normal" Schools were conducted during these years by the State Sunday School Secretary.

On October 11, 1923, Dr. J. E. Martin came from Jellico, Tennessee, to begin a pastorate which ended with his retirement on July 1, 1947. Most of the church records for those years are missing, but for almost twenty-four years Dr. Martin served faithfully and well. His vision and dedication led to the erection in 1925 of the multiple purpose building room and Sunday School rooms. Mrs. Martin was instrumental in procuring the fine Moller pipe organ which was installed in early 1926. She served as organist and choir director for many years. Mrs. Clyde Gibson assisted in the music ministry by directing a children's choir for about ten years. The church grew and prospered through these years, in spite of the depression years and a changing community.

