

Wallace Baptist Church

Smyrna Baptist Church, the original church, was organized in 1905. It was located approximately 300 yards west of the present pastorium at 3287 Wallace Lake Road.

The church relocated on Chumuckla Highway on land donated by a family in the community. In about 1943, a one-room, red tile building was constructed where the church is located today. In October 1946, the name was changed to Wallace Baptist Church. In April 1949, the church began a Baptist Training Union and in February 1952, held its first weekly prayer meeting.

In 1963, the church added an auditorium to the building and converted the red tile structure into Sunday School rooms. Approximately five years later, the red tile building was torn down and the present sanctuary constructed by the men of the church. Others were employed to do the block laying or jobs the men could not perform.

On August 1, 1990, the church voted to construct a fellowship hall, and in 1992, dedication services were held for the completed building.

Some of the pastors of Smyrna and Wallace include James Arzo Abbott, Nathaniel Timothy Cardwell, Richard Wyche, James B. Ward, Charles Rockwood Beal, Hernando DeSoto Wilson, Theodore Smith, Rev. Rogers, B.H. McWaters, K.E. Hawley, Howard Higdon, Richard Edward Morris, Clettus Columbus Morris, Rodney Riddles, Holly Secrist, Joe Secrist, John Smith, Russell Sauls, Roy Barrow, Robert Grover Key, E.L. Kirkland, David Strickland, John Suarez, Earl Plant, C.B. Raley, George Westmoreland, Joe Bradford, and LaDon Hall.

The church joined Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1907 and Santa Rosa Baptist Association in 1913.

Judith Richbourg Jolly
Florida Baptist Historical Society
April 2, 2002

Source: Church and association records;

Research of Beverly Campbell and Sandy Wyrosdick

Rev. Rodney Burt Riddles, Sr.

Rev. Rodney Burt Riddles,

Sr., 57, of Marianna Route Three was found dead at his home Monday at 2:30 of an apparent heart attack. He was born in West Bay and was reared in Jackson County. He was a retired Baptist minister and a civil service worker, a veteran of World War II, a member of the Cypress Baptist Church, a member of Harmony Lodge No. three, F&AM and Eastern Star Chapter 129 in Marianna.

Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced later by Maddox Funeral Home.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Mable Riddles; three sons, Rodney Riddles, Jr. and Zane C. Riddles, all of Marianna Route three, and Sgt. Charles E. Riddles of the U.S. Army at Eglin Air Force Base; one daughter, Mrs. Bobbie E. Enfinger of Germany; three brothers, Benny Riddles, Rev. Carlton Riddles, and Raymond C. Riddles, all of Pensacola; four sisters, Mrs. Sally Odom of Century, Mrs. Thelma Spell of Warrington, Mrs. Pauline Mathewson and Mrs. Lillian Gardos, both of Pensacola; and eight grandchildren.