

## N. Miami Calls Key West Pastor

The Rev. Wallace P. Rivers has resigned a 6-year pastorate at Fifth Street Baptist Church, Key West, to accept a call to First Baptist Church of North Miami. He began his new ministry this month.

He is a graduate of Stetson University and Southwestern Baptist Seminary. Before going to Key West, he was pastor of First Baptist Church at Waldo.

# Florida Features



Wesley D. Lawson

Wesley D. Lawson was called as minister of music of First Church of St. Cloud, St. Cloud. He is a graduate of William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., and of Southern Seminary.

Ken Klager has accepted the call from First Church, Melbourne to become minister of radio missions and station manager of the new Christian radio station, WCIF-FM, owned and operated by First Church.

Going to Melbourne from First Church of Oakland Park, Fort Lauderdale, he will begin his new duties Jan. 21.

R. Wayne Stacy, pastor of First Church, Austin, Ind., was called as pastor of North Stuart Church, Stuart. A graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic College and of Southern Seminary, he has served at Crossroads Church and Central Church, West Palm Beach; Chosen Church, Belle Glade; and First Church, South Bay.

Wallace Rivers became pastor of Flagler Street Church, Miami on Dec. 23. A graduate of Stetson University, DeLand and of Southwestern Seminary, he goes from First Church, Alachua.

A. C. Teston retired as pastor of First Church, Citrus Park effective Jan. 13. He is available for interim or supply and can be reached at 7811 Almark St., Tampa, Fla. 33624, (813) 920-6109.

Friendship Church, Live Oak called Norman Logan as pastor. He goes from First Church, Cross City where he served as minister of education.

Dick Burrell resigned as minister of music of Parkview Church, Lake City to serve in the same capacity at Parkwood Church, Jacksonville.

Frank Taylor was called as pastor of Union Church, Branford. He goes from Mosley Hall Church, Greenville.

First Church of North Miami, North Miami, called Larry M. Chambers as pastor effective Dec. 30. Former pastors include Clarksville Church, Clarksville; Bridge Creek Church, Ponce de Leon; and Beverly Hills Church, Jacksonville. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville and of Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas.



PARK LANE CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE held bond-burning ceremonies Jan. 6. Participating (from left) are: Hardy Harrell Jr., Tom Philpott, Frank Kodati, Heidi Douglas and Pastor Carl A. Hoffman.

## Missionary Addresses

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McClelland (Bophuthatswana, associates)—1242 Irving St., Queenswood, Ext. 2, Pretoria 0186, South Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Wayne Wheeler (Honduras)—Apartado 100, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Frances Horton (Japan)—Uehara Plaza 4-A, Uehara 2-19-18, Shibuyaku, Tokyo 151, Japan.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry E. Turlington (India)—Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bangalore 560 024, India.

## Homecoming

First Church, Sunrise, Jan. 27; dedication of William T. Semmore and Roy A. Wolfe Buildings; dinner on the grounds; former pastors, members and friends invited; Charles B. Bissell, pastor.

Wildwood Church, Bartow, Jan. 27; J. W. Sibole and Guy Matthews, guest speakers; bond-burning ceremony; H. Cecil Chance, pastor.



James E. Graham



J. Charles Priester

## State Board of Missions Elects Two Staff Members

In its meeting in Jacksonville, Jan. 11, the State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist Convention elected James E. Graham as associate director of the Camps and Assemblies Department, and Charles Priester as associate resident manager of the Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Vero Beach.

Graham, who is superintendent of buildings at Lake Yale, will be assuming a position that has been vacant since 1973. Besides assisting the director of the Camps and Assemblies Department, he will supervise personnel in food services, buildings and ground maintenance and housekeeping. Graham's former positions include assembler and purchasing agent for W. dynamics in Greenville, Tenn., a owner/operator of an appliance repair service in Greenville.

Priester, former pastor of First Church, Titusville for nine years, was assistant William H. Lord Sr., resident manager of the Florida Baptist Retirement Center. He will serve as activity coordinator and chaplain, act as Bible study teacher and counsel with students. Priester is a graduate of Eastern Texas State University, Commerce and of Southwestern Seminary.

## Barry Pledges Endowment

C. F. "Lynn" Barry Jr., a successful North Carolina radio executive with stations in Selma-Smithfield and Edenton, N.C., has pledged \$500,000 to endow a chair of Christian communications at Southern Seminary.

The new professorship, to be established with an estate gift, will be named for Barry's father, Charles Franklyn Barry of Jacksonville, a tired Sunday School director of the Florida Baptist Convention.



C. F. Barry Jr.

## Keys Pastor Will Conduct Revival Here

The **Rev. Wallace Rivers**, pastor of Fifth Street Baptist Church, Key West, will conduct evangelistic services at Gateway Baptist Church, 6500 SW 97th Ave., next week. The revival will begin with morning services tomorrow. **Rev. Rivers** will preach his first sermon at 7:30 p.m. Monday.



**RIVERS**

He is a former resident of Miami who worked as a postman before entering the ministry. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.

Songleader will be Jack Crowe.

The revival will continue through March 1. It is a part of the Jubilee revivals being conducted by Southern Baptist churches.

**Layton Community Baptist Church (LCBC)** is pleased to announce that **Rev. Wallace Rivers** has been called to be Interim Pastor. Prior to joining LCBC, **Rev. Rivers** served as Associate Pastor for the Perrine Baptist Church in Miami for nine years. **Rev. Rivers** will begin his ministry on Sunday, August 7, 2005. Worship Service begins at 11:00 A.M. Please come and join us in making **Rev. Rivers** welcome as he begins his ministry in the Keys. LCBC is located on the ocean side at Mile Marker 68.5. Please call 305-664-3570 or 305-393-9441 for more information.

The **Rev. Wallace Rivers**, pastor of Tamiami Baptist Church, performed the ceremony. Dr. Walter

Wallace P. Rivers

Birth 30 Nov 1922 High Springs, Alachua County, Florida, USA

Death 27 Sep 2019 (aged 96)

Burial Woodlawn Park Cemetery South Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA

Reverend Wallace P. Rivers, 96, of Louisville, KY, went to be with the Lord, whom he loved with all his heart, on September 27, 2019. Wallace was born November 30, 1922 in High Springs, Florida. He lost his father, a veteran of World War I, tragically at the age of 9, and was subsequently raised by his widowed mother. He joined the U.S. Navy as a 19-year old high school senior - with the reluctant permission of his mother since he was underage - shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He served honorably in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, aboard both PC (Patrol Coastal) 544 and Destroyer Escort (DE-162) USS Levy, achieving the rank of Quartermaster First Class. He was a gifted navigator, ship's photographer, and for the last year before his discharge in 1945, taught celestial navigation at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Miami, Florida.

In 1943, while serving in World War II, he married Ernestine Balentine, to whom he was married for 54 years. In the early years of their marriage and following his discharge from military service, he worked as a house painter, postal carrier, package delivery truck driver, and accountant. In 1951, he surrendered to the call of God to preach and for over six decades served in the gospel ministry as a Southern Baptist pastor at churches in central Texas as well as north and south Florida, with Ernestine at his side. During that time, he conducted 1,436 funerals, a ministry he found particularly rewarding. He also served as the Director of Operations for the South Florida Jail Ministry and was Chaplain at the VA Hospital in Miami.

After his official "retirement" at age 65, Wallace continued to serve God as Minister of Pastoral Care at Perrine Baptist Church in South Florida. He accomplished much for God's kingdom during his decades of

ministry, but was particularly proud of baptizing and marrying all three of his children. Wallace was a graduate of Stetson University in Deland, Florida, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

After Ernestine's passing, Wallace married Madelyn Joyce Roper. They moved to Louisville, KY, in 2017 to be closer to his youngest daughter, Darlene Holzbach, a retired nurse, who oversaw their care. He loved being a member of Highview Baptist Church East Campus in Louisville, and enjoyed attending Classic Worship at Southeast Christian Church on Thursdays.

In 2018, he was proud to be among other World War II veterans aboard an Honor Flight Bluegrass trip to Washington, DC, escorted by his daughter, Darlene. Later that same summer, he was thrilled to be a passenger on a WWII B-25 bomber. In June 2019, he was honored to give the invocation at the 75th Anniversary of D-Day at Memorial Auditorium in Louisville.

Wallace was an avid fisherman, carpenter, and model ship builder. He was fond of saying, "The more you serve God, the more you grow to love God. And the more you love others, the more you love God."

He is survived by his wife, Joyce, his children, David Rivers (Kathy) of Leesburg, FL; Diane Rivers (Bryan Beane) of Hendersonville, NC; Darlene Holzbach (Bill) of Shelbyville, KY; granddaughters Allison Rivers (Tony Nicosia) and Teresa Ann Rivers; and his stepchildren Daniel Roper (Lisa) of Armuchee, GA, their children Laura Ann Nolan (Bryce), John Roper, and Jackson Roper; Chris Cox (Dave) of Miami, FL, and their children David Cox (Kim) and Daniel Cox. In addition to his parents, Wallace is predeceased by his twin brother, Hollis, and his sister, Martha Stripling.

Wallace's family is grateful to Atria Blankenbaker for their kindness and compassion.

Visitation will be 1 to 3 pm on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at Newcomer Cremations, Funerals and Receptions, East Louisville Chapel, 235 Juneau Drive, Louisville, KY (in Middletown), with a celebration of Wallace's life at 3 pm.

Visitation will also be held 9:30 to 10 am on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at First Baptist Church of Cutler Ridge, 10301 Caribbean Blvd, Cutler Bay, FL 33189 with a service there at 10 am. Burial will follow at Caballero Rivero Woodlawn South, 11655 SW 117th Ave, Miami, FL 33186.

Family Members

Parents

Percy Rivers  
Percy C. Rivers

1894–1931  
Ruby Richardson  
Ruby R. Bryant Richardson

1898–1980

Spouse

Ernestine Rivers  
Ernestine Faysouix Balentine Rivers

1921–1997 (m. 1943)

# Mother, teacher, healer leaves a legacy behind

By ANA ACLE  
Herald Staff Writer

Ernestine B. Rivers devoted her life to others.

She dedicated her attention to her husband and their three successful children, taught in Baptist Sunday schools throughout the state, substituted for teachers in Dade's public schools and cared for the sick as a registered nurse in her later years.



Rivers

daughter Diane Rivers.

Rivers, 75, died Thursday of cancer at Baptist Hospital.

"She was to me the model of commitment to her family, to her husband and to the Lord," Diane Rivers said. "She was such a gentle, loving person. When we were all discouraged, she was the encourager."

Rivers was born in Spartanburg, S.C. On a

blind date, she met her future husband. The courtship lasted three weeks. The marriage lasted 54 years.

While her husband studied Baptist theology, she attended and graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

When he became a Baptist minister, she taught Sunday school at all the churches where her husband worked, including First Baptist of North Miami, Flagler Street Baptist Church, Tamiami Baptist Church and First Baptist of Perrine.

"No man could ask for a faithful, more dedicated wife," said her husband, the Rev. Wallace Rivers. "She was not only a wife, but a friend and a partner in everything we did."

Their three children learned the importance of serving the community from their parents. Son David Rivers works as a sergeant for the Metro-Dade Police homicide bureau, daughter Diane Rivers works for the FBI, and daughter Darlene Holzbach works as a registered nurse in Kentucky.

David Rivers said he'll remember his mom by "how proud she was of her three kids [and] how much she loved us."

"She's my mom, and I'm prejudiced, but

she was such a sweet lady," he said.

When Holzbach began her nursing training at Miami-Dade Community College, Rivers decided to join her daughter and fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse. The two became certified as licensed practical nurses in 1976 and then as registered nurses in 1978.

"She set a fine example for all of us how to live our lives," Holzbach said.

In addition to her husband and children, Rivers is survived by brother Frank Balentine of South Carolina; sisters Emily Gregory of South Carolina and Eleanor Sweet of Atlanta; and granddaughters Allison and Teresa.

Viewing will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Allgood Carroll Funeral Home, 17345 S. Dixie Hwy. Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at First Baptist Church of Perrine, 8900 SW 168th St., followed by the burial at Woodlawn South Cemetery, 11655 SW 117th Ave.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be sent to the Free the Future Fund at First Baptist Church of Perrine, 8900 SW 168th St., Miami 33157, or the American Cancer Society, 3901 NW 79th Ave., Miami FL 33166.