

SCENIC HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Pensacola

The Scenic Heights Baptist Church, formerly known as Escambia Bay Baptist Church, was organized in the home of E.A. Rivers in 1943 with thirty members. Rev. C.G. Kellum was the first pastor. The church soon moved to its present location and used the building of the disbanded Fairview Church. The name of the church was changed to Scenic Heights Baptist Church in 1958.

The first worship center was built in 1959 for approximately \$8,000. Sunday School rooms were added in 1961 for \$40,000. Through the years additional property has been purchased for future use. In 1972 a new two-story educational and recreational building was finished. In 1983 the present worship center, seating 600, was completed.

There have been fourteen pastors who have served the church: C.G. Kellum, J.E. Hancock, E.E. Roberts, Carlton Riddles, W.M. Philips, Hugh Mitchell, A.G. Abney, B.L. Owens, J.M. Crutcher, J.P. Gwyn (who served the longest, 1967-80, plus two interims), Terry Booth, Frank Hendry, Scott Weinmann, and Morris Denman. The first full-time staff minister in addition to the pastor was called in 1974.

There are now approximately 900 members of the church. The church cooperates with the Pensacola Bay Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The mission of the church is to present Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world and to minister in a redemptive way to the community.

Submitted by Nell Campbell Gwyn, 4807 Longleaf Dr., Pace, FL 32571-1204

Photo Caption: Scenic Heights Baptist Church - 3351 Creighton Boulevard - Pensacola

Millview/Blue Angel Baptist Church

In 1943 members from the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church answered the plea of Mrs. Emma Smith to begin a mission in the Millview community. The group, which included Eugene Salvant,

Mamie Roberts, Hattie Bailey, Leonice Brewton, and Eileen Andrews, met on Mrs. Smith's porch. They were soon joined by Rev. Richard Beal, Emmaline Bailey, and Ernest Blum.

Charter members from the community included Emma Smith, Mattie Nix, Lil Helton, Granny Strehle, W.H. and Minnie Lee Strehle, Laura Medlock, Gib Smith, and Mrs. Bill Billing.

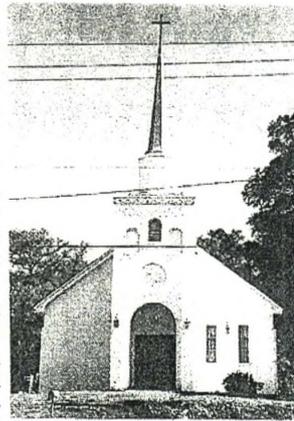
The Sunday afternoon porch services were soon forced indoors by the winter cold. The group then met in the dairy barn of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Medlock. The first building (now a fellowship hall and kitchen) served the congregation until the sanctuary was built. A third building provides education space.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church originally sponsored the mission. The group was later sponsored by Myrtle Grove Baptist Church. The mission organized as Millview Baptist Church in 1958 and joined the Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1959.

Pastors have included Richard Beal, Leo Roberts, Ernest Roberts, Leroy Joseph, Frank Wilson, C.E. Autry, James Benefield, Hugh Smith, Sidney Jones, David Shaw, and Chaplain Hoyt Swann.

In 1990 Millview Baptist Church reverted to mission status and joined with Blue Angel Baptist Mission, sponsored by Bellview Baptist Church. The two congregations merged and met in Millview's facilities. The church was organized and incorporated as Blue Angel Baptist Church in February 1996. It is located at 10900 West Highway 98.

Submitted by: Hoyt Swann, 10900 West Highway 98, Pensacola FL 32506.
Sources: Printed Church History compiled by Eileen Smith; Pensacola Bay Baptist Association Records.



Blue Angel Baptist Church
(formerly Millview Baptist Church)

Roberts

Ernest E. Roberts

Ernest E. Roberts was born February 17, 1898, in the Pleasant Grove community of southwest Escambia County, Florida. For thirty years he served as treasurer of Pensacola Bay Baptist Association. Per the 1975 Pensacola Bay Baptist Association Annual, "Brother E.E. Roberts is loved and respected by all. His gracious spirit and faithful service have honored God and edified this family of churches which we call Pensacola Bay Baptist Association. We dedicate this book to Brother Earnest Roberts who was our treasurer from 1945 to 1975."

Ernest E. Roberts was a son of Robert Lee Roberts (September 20, 1874-May 25, 1955) and Theodosia Frances Jones Roberts. Robert Lee Roberts served Pensacola Bay Baptist Association as treasurer for 26 years prior to his son's service in the same role.

Ernest E. Roberts was a grandson of Zachariah Wesley Roberts (September 1, 1849, North Carolina-April 23, 1921) and Samantha Richards Roberts (April 6, 1855-June 13, 1936). The Roberts family and the Richards family were pioneer settlers of the Pleasant Grove community as well as founders and early members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Although referred to as Rev. Ernest E. Roberts in newspaper articles, Ernest E. Roberts, per Pensacola Bay Baptist Association records and interviews with those who knew him, was not an ordained minister. He was an ordained deacon and served many churches as interim or associate pastor. He was called Brother E.E. Roberts.

Clyde Bailey, former deacon of Boulevard Baptist Church, where Ernest E. Roberts was associate pastor, "picked up Brother Roberts at his home about 6:00 p.m. for our weekly Thursday night visitation for the church. In a few moments, Brother Roberts just stopped talking." He had a heart attack and died in Clyde Bailey's car.

"Brother Roberts' daddy was the first secretary of the (Pensacola Bay Baptist) Association. He was a carpenter, and he and E.E. would hook up the mules and go where they had carpentry work. They'd work a week before returning home.

"Brother Roberts was interim at Boulevard Baptist Church twice. Mrs. Roberts predeceased Brother Roberts. Sometime later he had a stroke and went to live with his daughter in Tennessee. Then he came back to Pensacola."

Clyde Bailey's children called E.E. Roberts "the little man" because of his small stature. Clyde Bailey continued, "E.E. Roberts preached in over 32 churches in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. All had problems. Within three months they were all meeting together again and not divided. God never gave him a church that didn't have problems. He was a sweet man, a wonderful man."

Ernest Roberts was married to Rosa Bell Etheridge Roberts (January 20, 1899-November 17, 1970). She was a native and lifelong resident of Escambia County. At the time of her death she was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter Number 9 and Circle Baptist Church. She was survived by her husband; their daughter, Alethea (Dolly) Beyer, and grandson, Bryan Beyer, both of Memphis, Tennessee; two brothers, Peter H. Etheridge and Phillip Etheridge, both of Pleasant Grove; and a sister, Mrs. Virgie Colvin of Pleasant Grove.

Ernest E. Roberts died October 5, 1979 in a Pensacola hospital. Fraternal memberships included the Naval Lodge No. 24 F & AM, the Scottish Rite Bodies, and the Hadji Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. He was serving as associate pastor of Boulevard Baptist Church. In addition to his daughter and grandson, he was survived by a sister, Vera Pullen of Pensacola. Services were held at Boulevard Baptist Church, and he was buried at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Masonic services at graveside.

Judith Richbourg Jolly
Florida Baptist Historical Society
October 19, 2007

Sources:

1975 Pensacola Bay Baptist Association Annual
1980 Pensacola Bay Baptist Association Annual
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church 1869-1969
The Pensacola Journal - Monday, October 8, 1979
June 5, 2005 interview with Clyde Bailey
(former deacon at Boulevard Baptist Church;
current deacon at Scenic Heights Baptist Church)



**MCNEIL-KEYES
FUNERAL HOME
ROBERTS**

The Rev. Ernest E. Roberts, 82, of Route 6, Box 595, Pleasant Grove, died Friday night at a hospital.

The Rev. Roberts, a native and lifelong resident of Escambia County, was a retired civil service employee at NAS with 42 years of service. He was a member and treasurer of the Pensacola Bay Baptist Association for the past 30 years and served as interim pastor of many churches within the association. At the time of his death, he was a member and associate pastor of the Boulevard Baptist Church. He was also a member of the Naval Lodge No. 24 F&AM, the Scottish Rite Bodies and the Hadji Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.

Survivors include his daughter, Alethea (Dolly) Beyer of Memphis, Tenn.; a grandson, Bryan Beyer of Memphis, Tenn.; and a sister, Vera Pullen of Pensacola.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by the McNeil-Keves Funeral Home.

Friends may call Sunday after 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

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Survivors include his daughter, Alethea (Dolly) Beyer of Memphis, Tenn.; a grandson, Bryan Beyer of Memphis, Tenn.; and a sister, Vera Pullen of Pensacola.

Funeral services will be 3 p.m. Monday at the Boulevard Baptist Church with the Rev. John Jordan and the Rev. Roger Gilbert officiating.

The body will be placed at the church one hour prior to services.

Burial will be at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery with masonic services at the graveside and McNeil-Keves Funeral Home directing.

Active pallbearers will be Ray Terry, Clyde Bailey, Fred Hawkins, Oran Hall, Dub Plum and Bob Williams.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Naval Lodge No. 24 F&AM.

The lodge will open at 2 p.m. for members to attend the service.

1980 Pensacola Bay Baptist Association Annual
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IN MEMORIAM

1898 - ERNEST E. ROBERTS - 1979

Bro. Roberts served this association from 1945 to 1975 as treasurer and when the Lord called this servant home he was serving Boulevard Baptist Church as assistant to the pastor.

E. E. Roberts was an ordained deacon. However, he served ably as the "Interim Pastor" of countless churches in this association, with special ministry in the financial security of these churches. He felt a special "call" to serve as interim pastor and did not wish to be ordained as a minister. He felt that working on a secular job was God's plan for his life that enabled him to serve the Lord's church.

He loved the pastors of this association and was their friend.