

## Biographical Sketch

Ray E. Roberts

---

Born and reared in Asheville, North Carolina. Attended Wake Forest College, where he was a member of the football squad.

Attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., where he received the Bachelor of Theology Degree.

Received Doctor of Divinity Degree from Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., June, 1961.

Following graduation from the seminary, he pastored South Fork Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and then, for four years, the First Baptist Church of Danville, Ky. During these years of pastoral work, God blessed his ministry in an unusual way in evangelism and missions. During the last four of these six years, the church he pastored baptized approximately 200 per year, and organized three local missions. All of these are now strong, self-supporting churches.

The emphasis of his ministry has been in the field of evangelism and missions from the beginning. As a pastor and now as a denominational worker, he has served widely as an evangelist; having preached in evangelistic campaigns in most of the U. S. A., including Alaska. He has also preached in evangelism conferences and rallies in many of the States, and preached before convention-wide groups at Glorieta, Ridgecrest, and Southern Baptist Convention pastors' conferences. Brother Roberts was chosen to preach the annual sermon for the SBC meeting in Detroit, Michigan in 1966.

In 1966 he and Mrs. Roberts made a mission tour which included 16 foreign countries and four continents. An extended period of time was spent with our missionaries in the Middle East, filling preaching engagements as well as visiting spots significant in Bible background.

*Continued*

*In 1970 they conducted a three week mission tour in the Orient and attended B. W. A. in Tokyo, Japan. He served on the Central Committee for Crusade of Americas which included two trips and several engagements in South America. He has served as President of the SBC Executive Secretaries Fellowship.*

*He came to Ohio as pioneer missionary in July of 1952, at which time there were 19 churches and 6 missions. When the State Convention was constituted in January, 1954, there were 39 churches and 15 missions. At that time he was elected Executive Secretary of the new convention, the position which he now holds.*

*At the present time there are \_\_\_\_\_ churches and \_\_\_\_\_ chapels. The membership has grown from 4,000 in 1954 to more than 90,000 at the present time.*

*During these years, Southern Baptists in Ohio have worked in New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. There are now State Conventions operating in each of these three states. Over 100 congregations sponsored by and affiliated with the Ohio Convention helped to make up these three new State Conventions.*

*Revised - March, 1972*

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA  
Richard E. Roberts  
~~P.O. Box 130~~ Rt 2 Box 1636  
Palatka, Fla. 32077

DATE OF BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

August 11, 1929. Akron, Ohio. Reared in Canton, Ohio until 15 years old.  
Moved to Stuart, Florida.

CONVERSION AND CALL TO MINISTRY

Accepted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour at the age of 12 in First Baptist Church, Canton, Ohio. Surrendered to preach at Ridgecrest, BSU Week, 1948.

EDUCATION

Graduate of Martin County High School, Stuart, Florida.  
Graduate of Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, Florida B.A.  
Graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas B.D.  
and M.R.E.

FAMILY

Married to the former Virginia Snyder of Charlotte, N. Carolina. She is a graduate of Mars Hill and Wake Forest, N. Carolina.  
Three sons: John Howard, 17; David William, 12; and Richard Harrison, 9.

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

10 years total.  
Pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church, Nemo, Texas.  
Pastor Heights Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.  
Associate Pastor (Music and Education) of North Central Baptist Church,  
Gainesville, Fla.  
Interim Pastor, Rattan, Oklahoma.

ASSOCIATIONAL WORK

President, Pastors' Conference, Pensacola, Fla.  
Vice-Pres., General Ministerial Association, Pensacola, Fla.  
Member of Missions Committee, Pensacola Bay Baptist Association.  
Member of Camp Committee, Pensacola Bay Baptist Association.

STATE WORK

Served on the Time, Place, Preacher Committee.  
Served on the Annuity Committee.

STATE DENOMINATIONAL WORK

Associate Secretary Sunday School Department, Florida Baptist Convention,  
5 years and 3 months.

Responsibilities:

General Sunday School promotion with Pastors, Ministers of Education and all Sunday School workers in churches and associations.  
Specific work with Youth Leadership such as Intermediate and Young People workers.

Specific work of Vacation Bible School work.

--VBS state clinics for associational teams.

--Mission VBS clinic for summer student work.

PRESENT STATUS AS OF JUNE 1970

*Director*  
~~Superintendent~~ of Missions of Black Creek and St. Johns River Baptist Associations.



# FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION

JNO. MAGUIRE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

FLORIDA BAPTIST BUILDING • TELEPHONE 359-2351 • 1230 HENDRICKS AVENUE • JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, C. F. BARRY, SECRETARY

ASSOCIATES: FRANK DELROSE, JR., RICHARD E. ROBERTS

HERBERT W. MCGLAMERY

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

of Richard E. Roberts

Reverend Roberts was reared in Stuart, Florida. He graduated from the University of Florida with a B.A. degree and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a B.D. and M.R.E. degrees.

He has pastored for ten years serving the New Prospect Baptist Church in Nemo, Texas, and the Heights Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida.

He is married to Virginia Snyder of Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a graduate of Mars Hill and Wake Forest with a B.A. degree. Their three sons are John Howard, David William and Richard Harrison.

He <sup>served as</sup> ~~is presently an~~ Associate Secretary in the Sunday School Department of the Florida Baptist Convention giving special attention to Intermediate, Young People's work and Vacation Bible School.

*On June 15-1970 he became the Dept. of Missions for Black Church & New River Area*

CHILDREN  
GROWTH PLAN



HARRY VARNADOE, FEBRUARY 1970



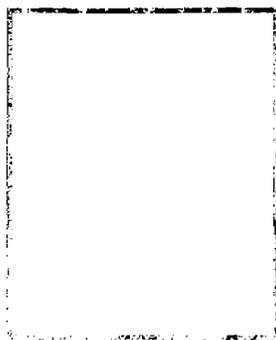
Harry Varnadoe, pastor of the Francis Baptist Church, was born in Palatka on August 24, 1926. He is married to the former Merle Cannon, and they have two sons, Jeff and Keith, and one daughter, Marsha. He is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, and also of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Forth Worth, Texas. He is presently pastoring the church where he was saved in 1955. His only other pastorate is the First Baptist Church of Nocatee, Florida, 1966-1970. He served as Moderator of the Peace River Association, 1967-69. as Vice-Moderator of the St. Johns River Association 1970-71, as Moderator of the Association, 1972-73, as a member of the State Board of Missions, 1974-77, and is presently serving on the Associational Missions Committee, 1973-78.

REV. RICHARD E. ROBERTS, 1970



Rev. Richard "Dick" Roberts, Director of Associational Missions, Black Creek and St. Johns River Baptist Association, Inc., until recently, was born in Akron, Ohio. He graduated from Martin County High School, Stuart, Florida, graduated from the University of Florida with an AB Degree, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Ft. Worth, Texas with M. Div. Degree and M.R.E. Degree. He was converted at the age of twelve. He was pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church of Nemo, Texas and Heights Baptist Church of Pensacola, Florida; associate pastor (music and education) of North Central Baptist Church of Gainesville, Florida. He was Interim Pastor, Rattam, Oklahoma; and an Associate Secretary, Sunday School Department, Florida Baptist Convention. Mrs. Roberts is the former Virginia Snyder of Charlotte, North Carolina. She has an A. B. Degree in Religious Education from Wake Forest College, North Carolina. They have three sons, John Howard, David William, and Richard Harrison. His hobby is flying. He has a private pilot license and EAA. Rev. Roberts has recently accepted a call to become pastor of the Parkview Baptist Church of Ft. Pierce, Florida.

SWINTON FUTCH 1971



Dr. Swinton Futch, pastor of the Lemon Heights Baptist Church of Palatka, was born in Willacoochee, Georgia, April 22. He was reared in Nashville, Georgia where he attended school. He received an Associate in Arts Degree from Normon College, Norman Park, Georgia and his B. A. Degree from Mercer University, Macon, Georgia. He received his B.D. Degree and Master of Divinity Degree, and Doctor of Ministry Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Futch was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Nashville, Georgia on November 20, 1955 after being called as pastor of Masee and Union Baptist Churches of Abel, and Quitman, Georgia respectively. He has pastored churches in Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida. From May 1969 to November 1971 he served as Crusade Director of the Ford Philpot Evangelistic Association of Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. Futch has served one term on the State Board of Missions, Florida Baptist Convention, 1976. He has served on the Credentials Committee, Florida Baptist Convention, 1976 at Daytona Beach. He has served two terms as President of the Putnam County Ministerium, two terms as President of the Pastor's Conference of the St. Johns River Baptist Association, and in other positions of leadership. He has served as host of a daily religious radio program, "The

#### HISTORY OF HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Heights Baptist Chapel began as a mission of East Hill Baptist Church in 1947 under the pastoral guidance of W. G. Stracener. Eighty-five members from East Hill formed the nucleus of the new congregation. This work was self-sustaining almost from the day it opened. The mission was the first church of any kind to be erected in the East Pensacola Heights area.

In October of 1949, 249 members of Heights Baptist Chapel were organized into Heights Baptist Church, and called Willard A. Brown, Sr., as first pastor. After the church was organized, the Chapel property with a total value of \$45,000 was given by the East Hill membership to the new church without any indebtedness.

Construction of the first educational building was begun in 1951, allowing the young church to increase its Sunday School enrollment and other ministries. This was soon outgrown and in 1955 plans were formulated for another educational building. This same year the auditorium was refurbished with new floor, pews and other additions.

Ground breaking for this building was in 1957. Also this year, the church sponsored the organization of the New Hope Mission into Scenic Bay Baptist Church. In November 1957 additional property was purchased for desired future expansion.

The George V. Axelson Building was dedicated June 13, 1958. This provided not only additional class room space, but much needed space for recreation and a dining-fellowship hall. The building was named for one of the East Hill deacons whose faith helped to establish this church and whose perseverance helped to uphold it in its beginning years.

Six times during the period from 1957 through 1965, Heights Baptist Young People represented the association at the State Sword Drill Eliminations. In 1968, two of our young people were sent by the church to British West Indies to do summer mission work there.

Also in the sixties and early seventies, other remodeling work was done and the building air-conditioned. During 1977, the Sanctuary was remodeled.

Other pastors have been: James L. Knight, Jr., called 1953; Richard E. Roberts, called 1958; Chaplain Wallace Whatley, called as interim pastor 1963; Fred J. Martin, Jr. called 1966; Thomas L. Lide, called as interim pastor 1977; James G. Hamacher, called December 1977 and is presently serving.

#### HISTORY OF POPLAR DELL BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1910 people in the Poplar Dell community, near Century, gathered together to erect a church building. On June 4, 1911, the Poplar Dell Baptist Church was organized, with nine members. The church became a part of the Elam Baptist Association.

The name of the church was suggested by Gertrude Seymour, because of the poplar trees in the branch head located behind the school house in which she taught.

In 1914 they petitioned the Pensacola Bay Association for membership. In the October, 1915, associational meeting held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Poplar Dell Baptist Church was accepted as a member of Pensacola Bay Association. Our church continues to take an active part in the work of the association.

The following men have served as pastor of the church:

W. B. McCreary	Rev. Noblet
H. W. Rumbley	W. A. Adams
H. G. Roley	H. S. Higdon
J. J. Nelson	C. C. Eiland
A. S. J. Countryman	Leo B. Roberts
D. W. Bosdell	Billy Forte
J. T. Fillingim	Frank Booth

C. R. Beal  
R. B. Davis  
O. A. Forehand  
L. J. Watson  
L. G. Stewart  
F. M. Mote  
F. O. Robison

James E. Copeland  
C. C. Morris  
Wilson Adkinson  
George Kell  
Jere Hendricks  
Nathan Little  
Lanier Singleton

The present pastor, J. B. Wells, has served since February, 1975. In June, 1977, our church called Charles Davis as minister of music and youth.

The present church building was erected in 1946. Later, an educational building was added and the sanctuary was enlarged. In 1963 a pastorium, next to the church, was completed. Through the years the membership of the church has grown to 211.

In 1976 the history of Poplar Dell Baptist Church was written and, since then, the written history has been brought up to date with the printing of two supplements. Copies of these history books have been presented to the Director of Associational Missions of Pensacola Bay Association, to be placed in the associational office.

In May, 1978, our church was recognized by the Florida Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention for being in the top twenty-five churches in the Southern Baptist Convention in doctrinal study courses. We were twenty-second in SBC and sixth in the Florida State Convention.

Our minister of music and youth led in the formation of the North Pensacola Bay Baptist Youth Association, which is made up of ten churches in the north end of our association.

Our prayer is that our church will continue to be a beacon in our community, drawing men and women to Christ, and that our future will be even greater than our past.

*Pensacola Bay*

1978