

W. J. Runnels was a native of Mississippi. He graduated from Southeastern Louisiana College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Runnels served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Louisiana and Florida including North Hill Baptist Church, Pensacola and First Baptist Church, Wewahitchka (1962-1969). He and his wife, Virginia Nixon Runnels had three children.

On Monday, June 25, the North

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Hill Baptist Chapel, begins its Bible School with the pastor, the Rev. W. J. Runnels, serving as principal.

Saturday, April 4, 1970 The Pensacola Journal 17A

Hillcrest Revival to Open

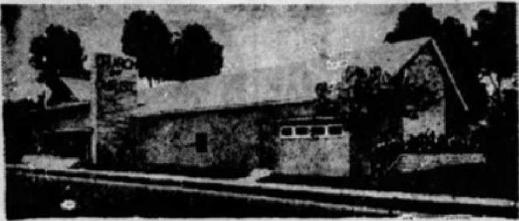
The Rev. W. J. Runnels, pastor of the Hodge Baptist Church in Hodge, La., will conduct a revival at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Monday through April 12 at the Hillcrest Baptist Church, the Rev. Don L. Lastinger, pastor, said Friday.

The music will be in charge of Cordell Harrison, minister of music at the Myrtle Grove Baptist Church.

The Rev. Mr. Runnels served as a pilot and public relations officer in the Navy. A graduate of Southeastern Louisiana College and the New Orleans Theological Seminary, he has served churches in Alabama, Florida and Louisiana.

The Hillcrest church is located at 317 Camden Road.

WEST HILL CHURCH of CHRIST



1508 W. LA RUA ST. PHONE HE 8-7434

Harold Jones, Minister

Come Visit With Us In Our Services

SUNDAY:

Morning Classes	10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:55 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:



REV. W. J. RUNNELS
... from Louisiana

Hurricane Creek Baptists Set Revival Dates

August 22-28 are the dates for revival at the Hurricane Creek Baptist Church. The revival team will be composed of the Rev. W. J. Runnels, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Wewahitchka, Florida, preaching, and David Grimsley of the Tylertown Baptist Church, leading the music.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. beginning in the evening service on Monday night.

Rev. Mr. Runnels is a former Mississippian and has been used throughout the South in the Ministry. He has pastored in Florida, Louisiana, and Ala-

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bama. He is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and has done special study at Tulane University, Louisiana State University, University of Georgia and the University of Minnesota.

Prior to entering the ministry, he served with the United States Navy as a Naval Aviator and Public Relations Officer from 1942 until 1950. He studied auditing and accounting in college and has worked with three companies as an accountant. He has had experience as a contractor and builder. The Rev. Mr. Runnels is married to the former Virginia Nixon of Virginia Beach, Va. and they have three children.

Mr. Grimsley is a native of Marion County, graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and served as minister of music in several local churches previous to going to Tylertown as minister of music and education.

The public is cordially invited to each service. The nursery will be open and the church is air-conditioned. Rev. Ronnie Herrod is pastor of the Hurricane Creek Church.

Seminole Baptists Planning Revival

Revival services will be held each evening at 7:30 p.m. beginning Monday at the Seminole Baptist Church. The services will conclude Oct. 2.

The Rev. W. J. Runnels, pastor of the Summerdale Baptist Church in Alabama, will be the speaker. The nursery will be open for each service.

First Baptist Church, Wewahitchka

OUR HISTORY

Having been organized about 1840, the First Baptist Church of Wewahitchka, Florida, is one of the oldest in the state. The church was first located in the vicinity of Jehu Cemetery about one mile north of Wewahitchka, which was the site of the first settlement.

In 1891, the church building (now newly renovated and used for offices and choir) was moved on logs, drawn by oxen, from Jehu to the present site. Deacons E.Z. Taylor, Dawson Stone, and N.A. Connell were listed as trustees on the original deed. In the early years, itinerant preachers from Blountstown and Apalachicola conducted services monthly.

During the early part of this century, some of the pastors who served were Bro. Wright (1906), Bro. Juda (1917), Bro. Bryant (1920), Bro. Bridges (1921), Bro. Wilkes (1930), Bro. Garrett (1935), Bro. Moncrief (1936) and Bro. Hodges (1936).

During the World War II years, the church was served by J.A. Nichols. It was during that time that the first parsonage was built. G.T. Hinton succeeded Bro. Nichols in January of 1944. During the ministry of Bro. Hinton, the old sanctuary was relocated on the property and a new sanctuary was built which was dedicated in November of 1952.

W.A. Frye was pastor from August 1955, to August 1962. While W.J. Runnels served the church from Sept. 1962, until July 1969, the church built the educational building on the south side of Church Ave. and started the Dalkeith Mission.

The present parsonage was built while Charles Johnson was pastor from early 1970 until April 1972. Harvey English was pastor from June 1972 through May 1975, and led the church in a major renovation of the old auditorium. Davis Ramsey was pastor from February 1976 through March 1978. In April 1978, Bro. English was called again and served until October of 1979.

In November 1979, Adolph Bedsole was called as interim pastor and served in that capacity until he was called as pastor in March of 1980. Bro. Bedsole led the church in surveying the entire area to locate prospects and instituted a workable visitation program. Also, during that time, the church purchased a new Rodgers organ.

In October 1982, Richard Bloodworth assumed the pastorate. In 1987, the church purchased a Yamaha grand piano and completely refurbished the auditorium which included painting, carpet, pew upholstery and drapes.

Richard Maddox served as pastor from Dec. 1989 until June 1995. January 1991 gave witness to dedication of the former home of Mrs. Alma Lee Jones, which the church purchased and named the Jones House. It was used for Sunday School, VBS and youth meetings. The home was remodeled in 2006 and is used as a Youth Minister home.

In June 1996, the church called Mike Stroud as pastor, and he continues at the present time. Due to the growth of the church and answered prayer, we have added a 16,200 sq. foot Family Life Center that was completed in February of 2007. Then, in 2008-09 the Education Bldg. was remodeled. We also have a bus ministry running on Sundays & Wednesdays. To God Be The Glory for His increase in souls.