

Randy Randall served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Punta Gorda, 1985-1986.

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FBC, Punta Gorda

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Crosland Chapel. The educational building was completed in January 1976. Phase three consisted of paving, drainage and landscaping.

During this busy period, the church sponsored the South Punta Gorda Baptist Mission. Rev. Jack Edgeman was the first pastor there. The Mission became Trinity Baptist Church.

Punta Gorda First Baptist has 700 members guided by the Rev. Charles Mack Hutson — and is still growing.

Today, the first sanctuary awaits a new mission. The spire roof was taken off in the early 30s (prior to 1935) when the wood shingles needed replacing and no one could be found to undertake the dangerous job. The belfrey was removed by the Rebekahs in the late 60s (after 1962) when the flat cap replacing the spire began to leak. The bell was given to the Palmdale Methodist church in Glades County.

PASTORAL ROSTER

Records of early pastors are missing, but those remembered by long-time parishoners or discovered in the *Herald* are:

Rev. Thomas J. Sparkman, 1889-93

Rev. _____ Graham, June 1904

Rev. W.P. Head, April 1908

Rev. M.S. Stevens, 1895-6

Rev. Thomas R. Woodson, 1914-15

Rev. Dr. Martin A. Wood, 1910

Rev. R.A. Sublette, 1/16/19

Rev. W.R. Poindexter, 4/17/19

Rev. Harry Grady Kenney, 1919

Rev. _____ Swain

Rev. E.L. Andrews

Rev. Dr. A.J. Holt, 1924-26

Rev. Dr. James S. Day, Jr.

Rev. James H. Sutley, 1934.

Conducted 50th Anniversary service on Oct. 5, 1939.

Rev. Arvil Miller, Early 1940's

Rev. John F. Price, 1945 His 1945 welcome in the church included a large delegation of visiting Methodists.

Rev. George Wehrman, 1956-64.

Conducted last service in original sanctuary on Jan. 25, 1962.

Rev. Dr. Reaves Dean

Rev. Ray Bateman, 1968-75

Rev. Dr. Harold Brown, 1976-81.

Rev. Milford Howell, 1981-82.

Rev. Dr. Charles Haywood Day, 1982-85.

No relation to James Day.

Rev. **Randy Randall, 1985-86**

Rev. Charles Mack Hutson, 1986-present.

Conducted Nov. 5, 1989, Centennial Service.

(NOTE: Roster includes some interim ministers.)