

Raneu, W. L. served as pastor of Lamont Baptist Church. Visit our website floridabaptisthistory.org

Middle
Florida
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1979

HISTORY OF LAMONT BAPTIST CHURCH LAMONT, FLORIDA

The Olive Branch Baptist Church was organized in May of 1897 with seives being held once a month. It continued under the name of the Olive Branch Baptist Church until October 3, 1908. The name was then changed to Lamont Baptist Church. The church through the years has had the following pastors: J. F. Farnell, Stephen Crockett, J. E. Evans, W. Frank Moore, A. N. Woodward, C. E. Glover, D. F. Barney, A. W. Smith, J. M. Cannon, J. P. McCan, S. L. Loudermilk, A. W. Rowe, L. W. Branch, Brother Gardner, Brother Axion, Brother Persons, L. N. Catlege, A. W. Rowe, **W. L. Raneu**, W. C. Taylor, R. C. Rittenhouse, Lewis Dobson, R. C. Hines, W. L. Robbins, E. A. Sapp, V. L. Ward, Durward Kilpatrick, E. A. Sapp, Dewitt Rehberg, Colburn Hobbs, and Verner Wheeler, who serves at the present time. It has been and continues to be a member of the Middle Florida Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention. The following have served as the church's Clerks: W. H. Walker, G. F. Andrews, T. P. Williams, David Walker (who served for 50 years), and Mrs. Ada Bell Davis who serves at the present time.

The church voted to move to a half-time program while Rev. R. C. Rittenhouse was pastor in July 1917. They tried on one occasion to move to a full-time program but it was not successful and remained a half-time church until July 6, 1975, with Rev. Verner Wheeler as the pastor.

The church has the following orgnaizations: Sunday School, Church Training, W. M. U., Brotherhood and Music Ministry.

On March 3, 1976, the church voted to build a pastorium. A Building Fund was started for the project and a Building Committee was appointed for this purpose. In July of 1976, the church voted to accept one acre of land on Old Saint Augustine Road donated by the children of Uncle Bud and Aunt Sallie Timmons. This land was to be used for the pastorium site. On February 20, 1977, the ground was broken for the pastorium. The three oldest members of our church, Brother David Walker, Mrs. D. W. Shealy, Sr., an Brother Elijah Denmark, with Mrs. Mamie Capps (a daughter of Uncle Bud and Aunt Sallie Timmons) breaking the ground. A beautiful and spacious three bedroom house was finished in November of 1977. This was the biggest undertaking in the history of the church. Many people donated free labor and made monetary donations to the building of the pastorium for which we are grateful.

Since moving to the full-time program, our church has experienced spiritual, numerical and stewardship growth. In March of 1978, John R. Field was licensed to preach. He was the first person in our church's history to be licensed. In September, 1978, Harold Reams also felt the call of our Lord to preach and our church licensed him to the Gospel Ministry.

In 1979, we felt the need of a Constitution and By-Laws. Upon recommendation from the Deacons, the Church Council wrote the Constitution