

Lee W. Ratliff was a native of Alabama. He graduated from Howard College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ratliff served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Florida including Island Baptist Church, Anna Maria. He and his wife, Betty Lou Parker Ratliff had two sons.

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Baptist Minister Assumes Duties At Anna Maria

ANNA MARIA, May 13 (Special)—The **Rev. Lee Ratliff** formerly pastor of the Baptist Church of Warrior, Ala., has arrived on the island to assume the pastorate of the Island Baptist Chapel in Anna Maria. With him are his wife and sons, Tommy, 4, and Wesley, 9 months old. They are living in the parsonage on Bay boulevard in Anna Maria.

A veteran of three years Navy service in World War II, the new pastor is a native of Alabama and is a graduate of Howard College in Birmingham and of Southern University. In addition to the pastorate in Warrior, he was previously pastor of a Baptist church in Gadsden, Ala.

Mrs. **Ratliff** the former Betty Lou Parker, is a native of Falmouth, Ky., and was graduated from Georgetown College at Georgetown, Ky., and from Kentucky Baptist Hospital in Louisville as a registered nurse. She was born in China and is the daughter of Baptist missionaries who served in China more than 20 years and in Korea four years.



CHURCH MUSIC

W. G. STROUP, Secretary
W. H. MIKELL, Associate

**FESTIVAL POSTERS
BEING MAILED**

Posters giving the date, time and place for your Associational Festival and the dates and places of the State Festivals are being mailed this week to all ministers of music or music directors. In case the church has no one in charge of the music, the poster will be mailed to the pastor.

Please open these brown envelopes and put these posters up in a conspicuous place in your church. This is the only copy that will be sent to any church.

**HATS OFF TO THE PAST,
COATS OFF TO THE FUTURE**

We want to thank each and every officer in every association, every minister of music, director of music, pastor, singers, song leaders, instrumentalists, and all those who had a part in the Music Ministry in any way for their wonderful contribution to better music in Florida during 1963.

For 1964, let us not be satisfied with the accomplishments of 1963. Let us press forward to greater heights in the development of all our people in appreciation and participation in the music program. Let us make the best use of music in the worship services, in Sunday school, Training Union, W.M.U. and Brotherhood. It is up to you and to me what we do with this God-given instrument of music.

**BAPTIST MALE CHORUS AT
EVANGELISTIC CONFERENCE**

Dr. Paul Meigs, director of Evangelism, has again invited the Florida Baptist Male Chorus to sing on Tuesday Evening, January 14 at 8:00. The service will begin at 7:00. He is anxious to have the choir loft full of ministers of music, singing educational directors and pastors to lead in the singing for this first service.

There will be one special rehearsal at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday in Adult #1 department of First Baptist Church on the second floor of education building to prepare the special numbers to be used by the chorus. This is a special invitation to you to rehearse and to sing for God's glory.

**PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

Someone has said, "Plan ahead or go behind." All of us want to be ahead and the way to be ahead is to plan for it.

The Church Music Department will furnish one summer worker for any church for one week to conduct a school of music. The department will pay the traveling expenses one round trip for the worker and pay an honorarium of \$50.00. The church will take care of the worker while on the field providing room, board and local transportation.

Application blanks for summer workers in schools of music will

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

PAUL A. MEIGS, Secretary

CHURCH-RELATED VOCATIONS CONFERENCE REACTIONS

"I have been happy to learn of the many phases of church-related vocations. Coming from a small-town church, I had not been aware of how many vocations there are. The importance that the speakers and conference leaders have put on preparation and a broad basic education has impressed me greatly."

"I have enjoyed this conference very much. Every part of the conference has been an inspiration to me. I know that I have found God's will for my life in the field of nursing."

"I have learned a great deal from this conference. It has been a great help to my personal and spiritual life. We have had some of the finest speakers I have ever heard."

"I believe during the Friday meetings, I found the Lord's will for my life. I came to this meeting curious, but not quite sure what the Lord wanted me to do for Him. I strongly feel that God has called me to do some kind of mission work, and I thank and praise God for it."

"These days have been helpful and inspiring days to my life. I have been in much prayer for this meeting and I believe God has worked a miracle in my life."

"When I came, I was still undecided what God wanted me to do. But now, I know for sure that God wants me to be a foreign missionary. I am going back home and start planning for that."

"I came to this church kidding myself about not becoming a nurse. I know differently now. Besides being a nurse, I want my life to count for God by doing His will. I only wish there were more conventions like this one, because it helps remove the confusion of the world."

"I think that the pageant last night was a great inspiration to me in helping me to find God's will for my life. Also, the testimony of Mr. Rhea was a great challenge to me and revealed more of the love of God and His concern."

"The conference has helped me to decide that I will do whatever God leads me to do with my life."

"I had already made a decision in my life before the conference, but being able to attend has given me firmer convictions that I have made the right decision. It has also opened my eyes concerning missions. I am already looking forward to next year's conference."

"The one main thing that made me feel God wanted me to serve Him was the tremendous need. After hearing Mr. Rogers Smith and Mr. Glendon McCullough, particularly, tell of the few people who are serving now, I know He wants me. I only wish I could go more than one place; live more

be mailed with the February issue of "Grace Notes." Please look for the application blank, fill it in and return to this office as early as possible.

than one life; and do more than one thing for my Lord."

"This conference has been one of the most pleasurable things I have ever experienced. The different group conferences have helped me to start to find what God is calling me to do and how to get ready for the call."

"I especially enjoyed Dr. Graves' message on preparation. It helped me tremendously in knowing God's will in my life."

"This conference has helped me to decide that I will do anything or go anywhere God leads."

"This meeting has been exceptional. I work with G.A.'s in my church. This meeting has inspired me to go back to my home church and emphasize missions more to my girls."

"I went to the Social Work Conference and enjoyed it very much. The people that I stayed with were very wonderful and very fine Christians and I am

grateful that they wanted us and gave us such a good time. The Social Work Conference influenced me into wanting to become a social worker."

"All the speakers we have heard have been very inspirational. I feel that God wants me to be a missionary nurse, a home missionary. Also, Mr. Rhea's messages in song have been very beautiful."

"I can truly say that this has been the greatest experience in my whole 14 years. The conferences have left a deep impression on me and have helped me to find the vocation I was most interested in. I plan to attend next year also."

"Each year during the conference, my eyes are reopened to the needs of our world today. I think the conference is an invaluable aid to the finding of future work. Each young person in our convention should be exposed to this type of vocational aid."

"This conference has opened up several new fields of services for me." Upon coming to this conference, I have felt led to medical missions. Now, however, I am considering religious journalism. The conferences and messages have helped and inspired me greatly."

Fresh from the Field... (Manatee Southern)

ISLAND BAPTIST CHURCH ORGANIZED WITH 162 MEMBERS

The Island Baptist Chapel on Anna Maria Island was constituted into the Island Baptist Church with 162 charter members on December 1, 1963. Frank Anderson of the sponsoring church presided, with W. W. White, chairman of the Missions Committee of the First Baptist Church, Bradenton, giving the invocation, and John H. Whitt, Field Secretary of District 11, reading the scripture and leading in prayer.

The reason for organizing Island Baptist Church was given by R. W. Hoard, Resolution to Constitute by Johnny W. Keeth and Ratification of By-laws by James Clark. Herb Parkinson led in the reading of the Church Covenant which was adopted by the church. Transfer of the deed of the property was made by Wheeler Leeth, chairman of the Deacons of the First Baptist Church, Bradenton. Lee Ratliff gave the charge to the church and the benediction was given by James B. Reynolds.

Lee W. Ratliff, who has been pastor of the Chapel since 1960, received a unanimous call from the new church.

In 1950, people on Anna Maria Island felt the need of Baptist work on this island of tourist people. They sought and obtained a sponsorship of the First Baptist Church of Bradenton. Frank T. Anderson came with his choir, January 8, 1950, and began the work in the Anna Maria Community Hall. The actual organizational date of the Island Baptist Mission was April 23, 1950. The first building program was begun in the fall of 1950.

The construction of the present sanctuary was begun with ground-

breaking on May 28, 1950. The first service was held in the new building on December 3, 1950, at which time the corner stone was laid in a formal ceremony and the building dedicated.

For thirteen years the great missionary-minded First Baptist Church of Bradenton has given loving service and financial support, as well as encouragement to this fine Christian body.

The following have served the Chapel as pastors: A. D. Dawson, April-December, 1950; Eugene Baxley, December, 1950-June, 1951; Malcom Smith, August, 1951-May, 1952; A. J. Gross, June, 1952-October, 1953; Riemán J. Shaffer, November, 1953-October, 1954; Edward L. Jackson, October, 1954-December, 1959; Lee W. Ratliff, April, 1960.

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THE NEW PARSONAGE of the Island Baptist Church was the scene of a housewarming Tuesday night when Rev. and Mrs. Lee Ratliff were honored. Pictured, Tommy and Wesley Ratliff in front, and at the left, Rev. Ratliff, his wife, her mother and father, Mrs. Earl Parker and Reverend Parker, visiting here. (Herald photo by Patterson).



Housewarming At Island Baptist New Parsonage

By BERNICE BIRKMAN
The congregation of the Island Baptist Church held a housewarming party Tuesday night for their pastor and his family, Rev. and Mrs. Lee Ratliff and their two sons, Tommy (aged 9) and Wesley (aged 5). The Ratliffs moved into the new parsonage at 404-72nd Street, Holmes Beach, on the first of May.

A "love-gift" of cash was presented to Reverend and Mrs. Ratliff during the evening. Mrs. Ratliff's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Earl Parker of Lineville, Ala., were guests at the party. The Parkers were en route to the Baptist World Congress in Miami.

Church Plans
The purchase of the new parsonage is part of an extensive repair and building program started about two years ago by members of the Island Baptist congregation. At that time the auditorium was renovated. Church repairs continued with a section of new roof, followed by painting sections of the interior and the outside trim of the church. Air-conditioning was recently installed, and a 16 MM movie projector, a 500 Watt slide projector, and

a movie screen were purchased.

A long-range planning committee consisting of Church Trustees Lewis C. Bricker, C. M. Bayless, and William A. Britt, spear-headed much of the work done up to the present time, and it will plan for additional building and expansion needed in the coming 15 years.

The Island Baptist Church was at first a mission chapel sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Bradenton. On Dec. 1, 1963, it was constituted as a church.

The Ratliffs

Reverend and Mrs. Ratliff came to Anna Maria Island on April 24, 1960, when Wesley was nine months old. Pastor Ratliff had previously served at two other churches in Warrior, Ala. Selma, Ala., was his hometown, and he attended Howard College at Birmingham. He served in the Navy for three years during WWII. At the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky., he received his BD and TCM degrees. While attending the Seminary, he met and married Betty Lou Parker in 1953. They were married by Mrs. Ratliff's father in her own home church.

ed a school on the coast. It was run by American business people, and the children came home only twice a year. Later they attended a British school in another coastal city, and then they went to a Korean school which was finally closed just before World War II, when all the children were ordered to return to the United States.

Betty Lous speaks Chinese, and had to learn English when she came to her native land. She attended high school in Falmouth, Ky., Mrs. Parker's home town, and then continued her studies at Georgetown Baptist College in Georgetown, Ky. At Baptist Hospital in Louisville she became a registered nurse.

Was War Prisoner

Reverend Parker stayed on after his family returned, and when he tried to leave in November, just before Pearl Harbor, he was made a prisoner-of-war for two years before he could rejoin his family in Kentucky.

The Parkers just recently moved to Rev. Parker's home state of Alabama, and for a man of 76 years, he is unusually spry and active. As for Mrs. Parker, she demonstrated an exceptionally fine ability in

is married to a man in the services and recently returned from several years of residence in Hawaii.

Party Arrangements

Those who were in charge of general arrangements for the housewarming party were Mrs. Lewis Bricker, Mrs. G. Reynolds Jones, Mrs. James Reynolds, and Mrs. Herbert Parkinson; table arrangements, Miss Mary Kaekel and Mrs. Millie Kaekel; and refreshments were arranged and donated by Mrs. Ruth Beeman, Mrs. Jeanette White, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Parkinson, Mrs. Ray Bricker, Mrs. Robert Baer, Mrs. Joseph E. LeVay, Mrs. Ralph White, Mrs. Georgia Britt, and Mrs. R. H. Crawford.

The planning committee for Monday's luncheon meeting were Mrs. James Clark, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Jeanette White. Attendants for the Children's Nursery were Marsha and David Parkinson and Debbie and Nancy Welch.

The Parkers
Reverend and Mrs. Parker went to China the day after their wedding, back in 1922, sent by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Betty Lou and her three brothers were all born in China. They lived in the walled city of Pingtu, with a population of 50,000, in the North of China. Their Mission was interior, about two days from the coast.

Distance was often measured there by how long it took to reach a destination. A day's journey was about 35 miles. Travel was accomplished mostly by 'shantza'—a canvas-covered rig connected between two mules. This was the "only way to travel" during the rainy season. The Parkers eventually got a car, which was usable in the dry season, but during the rains, bridges were often washed out, and travel was doubtful.

Taught By Mother

Betty Lou was educated at first by her mother; then she and her oldest brother attend-

exceptionally fine ability in making a book come alive last Monday (the day of her arrival on the Island), when she reviewed "Go Home and Tell" by Betty Smith. Miss Smith was a fellow missionary friend who served for over forty years in China and Taiwan. The book review was given at a meeting of the Women's Missionary Society at the Island Baptist Church.

Present And Future

Reverend and Mrs. Ratliff love Florida and hope it will be their permanent home. They both have varied interests. Mrs. Ratliff works nights at the Manatee Veterans Memorial Hospital in Bradenton. She also teaches Sunday School, sings in the choir, plays the piano and organ when needed, and has charge of the Junior Girls' Auxiliary, which meets once a week.

The pastor loves golf and is looking forward to the new course on Key Royale. He has his own boat and enjoys boating, taking his boys for rides whenever possible. Tommy is a member of the newly formed Anna Maria Pram Fleet and plays on the Pee-wee League. Wesley's interest, at the time of this writing, focused on a study of caterpillars. Mrs. Ratliff has a brother who is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Port Charlotte, one who lives in Clearwater, and one who is a dentist in Kentucky. Pastor Ratliff's two brothers and one sister live in Alabama. Another sister

Personals

Miss Jenny Campbell, who is spending the summer vacation here from Wake-Forest with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Lewis Campbell, has as her houseguest a classmate, Miss Ann Hunt of Greenville, N.C. Miss Hunt is en route home from the national convention of Young Republicans in Miami; she holds the title of the North



Ratliff In 4th Year At Island

The Rev. Lee Ratliff will observe his fourth year as minister at the Island Baptist Church, Anna Maria Island, tomorrow.

He moved to Anna Maria Island April 24, 1960 from Warrior, Ala., where he was First Baptist Church pastor. His first sermon as pastor of the Island Baptist congregation was preached April 26, 1960.

The past four years has brought many changes to the Island Church and with these changes have come change within the Island Baptist congregation and within the worship facility.

On the arrival of Mr. Ratliff, the congregation was a mission chapel sponsored by the First Baptist Church, Bradenton.

The Chapel had 92 resident members and was averaging 67 persons attending Sunday School each week.

The Chapel membership had just completed a new 1660 square foot building to be used for religious education.

On Dec. 1, 1963, the Island congregation was constituted a church and presently has 112 resident members. The weekly Sunday School average attendance is 114.

The record high Sunday School attendance was recorded March 29, with 139 present. The highest worship hour attendance was recorded in February, 1963, with 180 present.

In recent weeks a part of the building has been renovated and a baptistry installed. The first baptismal service was conducted Easter.

There have been 93 additions to the church membership in the past four years through efforts of pastor, deacons and Sunday School teachers, 45 coming by profession of faith and baptism.

Of the present 112 resident members, 61 came into the membership during the past four years.

Thirteen of the 93 additions are numbered among the 51 non-resident members.

Nineteen of the 93 additions have moved their membership to other churches. Of the total present membership 45 per cent have joined the church during the tenure of the present pastor.

During this period of time the WMU has grown from a membership of 17 to 78. Mrs. Ratliff has had a great influence upon the growth and work of this local church WMU.

Southside Baptist

The Southside Baptist Church, 17th Ave. W. and 17th St. W., will have as permanent supply preacher, the Rev. Lee Ratliff, former pastor of Island Baptist Church.

The Sunday morning services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. followed by worship service at 11 a.m. The Rev. Lee Ratliff's topic for the morning will be "Why Preach Christ."

The Sunday evening service starts at 6:30 p.m. with Training Union and the evening worship at 7:30 p.m. the Rev. Ratliff's topic for the evening will be "The Inextinguishable Light."