

Ray, Emit O. (1920-2004) was a native of Texas and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a bombardier in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. During Ray's ministry he served as pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Miami for 20 years (1970-1990) and First Baptist Church, Homestead, 1992-1993. He served on the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and served as a missionary in the Caribbean. He served as pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas. and as chairman of the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions. Ray and his wife, Katheryn, had three children; Karen, Steven, and Kurt.

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Clip



**KURTH**

## Two local churches to hear new pastors speak tomorrow



**RAY**

Miami has two new pastors.

Rev. Emit O. Ray, of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., will begin his ministry at Riverside Baptist Church, 900 SW 1 St., at tomorrow's morning service.

He replaces Rev. Mack R. Douglas, who resigned from Riverside recently to go into private business.

The new pastor was born in Texas and grew up in Oklahoma. He has been a missionary to the Bahamas and Trinidad, flying a seaplane to the "Out Islands"

He was also director of mass communications in that area for the Foreign Missionary Board. He has pastored churches in Oklahoma and Texas.

Elder R. A. Kurth is the new pastor of the Miami Springs Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 701 Curtiss Parkway in Miami Springs. He is from the Ft. Pierce area.

Pastor Kurth received his B.A. degree in 1955 from Columbia Union College in Washington, D.C., and afterwards attended the Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary. For nearly three years, he was chaplain of the Putnam Memorial Hospital in Palatka, Fla.

Death Notices



**RAY, REV. DR. EMT O.**, 84, of Miami, passed away on November 17th, in his beloved Baptist Hospital of Miami of which he was Chairman of the Board Emeritus, having served as Chairman of the Board of Baptist Hospital from 1997 to 2004. He also served on the Board of Baptist Health South Florida, making 31 years of total contribution. Dr. Ray moved to Miami in 1970 to become pastor of Riverside Baptist Church for 20 years, having previously pastored churches in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. He also served as missionary to the Bahamas from 1954 to 1962 and then in Trinidad, WI from 1962 to 1967. He was a WWII combat veteran who served as a bombardier in the 864th Squadron of the 494th Bomb Group flying B-24's in the Pacific Theater. He maintained contact with his Bomb Group by attending bi-annual reunions. He received his B.A. from Oklahoma Baptist University a Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Fort Worth Texas, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Ray was born in Mosheim, Texas on April 7, 1920. He married Kathryn McClincy in 1941. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; three children: Dr. Karen Ray of Montreal Canada, Dr. Steven Ray of Miami, and Kurt Ray of Tulsa, OK; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Viewing will be at his beloved Riverside Baptist Church located at 10775 SW 104 Street on Friday, November 19th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. His funeral will also be at Riverside Baptist Church on Saturday, November 20th at 10:00 a.m. Interment will be at Miami Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that contributions be made to Living Hope Haitian Mission through either Riverside Baptist Church or Gateway Baptist Church. To visit this Guest Book Online, go to [www.herald.com/obituaries](http://www.herald.com/obituaries).

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**DEDICATION**



**DR. EMIT O. RAY**  
**RIVERSIDE BAPTIST**  
**MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**PASTOR**

**MARCH, 1970 - MAY, 1990**

**PASTOR EMERITUS - 1990**

**MODERATOR, MIAMI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**1983**

IN HONOR OF THIS DEDICATED SERVANT OF GOD WHO HAS FAITHFULLY FILLED SEVERAL OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE CONVENTION, WE DEDICATE THIS EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL OF THE MIAMI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Send to Dr Joiner

# STETSON UNIVERSITY NEWS

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DATE: APR 17 1987

## STETSON HONORS FLORIDA BAPTIST MINISTERS OF THE YEAR

DELAND -- Three Florida Baptist ministers were honored by Stetson University during the 17th annual Baptist Appreciation Luncheon April 10.

This year's honorees were: the Rev. Dr. Emit O. Ray, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Miami; the Rev. Mr. Raymond Coppage, King's Baptist Church, Vero Beach; and the Rev. Mr. Bob L. Christie, Lake Maggiore Baptist Church, St. Petersburg.

*Biog File*

Nominations for "Ministers of the Year" are made by various Florida Baptist churches and organizations. The final selection is by a Stetson committee on the basis of outstanding service, not only to their congregations but to their communities.

Among those paying tribute to the Ministers of the Year were Stetson and Florida Baptist Convention dignitaries, including Dr. Dan Stringer, executive director/treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention; Dr. Pope A. Duncan, president of Stetson; Dr. John Pelham, Stetson's vice president for church relations and a former FBC president; and Dr. E. Earl Joiner, chairman of the religion department.

Dr. Ray was unable to attend the luncheon because he is in India, but will receive his award later in Miami. He has served the congregation of Riverside Church since 1970. He is a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, and has been chairman of the State Board of Missions Executive Board and chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Florida Baptist Convention.

-more-

appreciation/last add

A former missionary in the Caribbean area, Dr. Ray also has been pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas, the largest Baptist church in the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists.

Under his leadership, Riverside Church relocated and built a new facility in 1977. During the last eight years, church and Sunday School attendance have grown an average of 10 percent each year.

Mr. Christie was graduated from Stetson University in 1952 and is a former president of the Stetson Ministerial Alumni Association. He has been pastor of Lake Maggiore Church since 1985.

He is a member of the Florida State Board of Missions, a former trustee and chairman of the board of Florida Baptist Children's Home, and former second vice president of the Florida Baptist Convention. He also has been active in the Pinellas Baptist Association and in other associations where he has been a pastor.

Mr. Coppage served a number of churches in his native Georgia and in Tennessee and Alabama before coming to King's Church in 1972. He is a former member of the State Board of Missions, participated in the Florida Baptist mission trip to Korea in 1980, and has been active in the Indian River Baptist Association. He has been moderator of the association and chairs the Personnel Committee.

## *Pastors and Interim Pastors of First Baptist Church and Staff Who Served Under Each*

1. Henry Howard Sturgis\* ..... 1909-1911
2. J. W. White\* ..... 1911-1912
3. J. C. Rogers\* ..... 1913
4. Milton M. Bales\* ..... 1913-1916
5. J. W. Barton\* ..... 1916-1918
6. J. A. Sutton\* ..... 1918-1921
7. Charles M. White\* ..... 1921-1922
8. Charles N. Walker\* ..... 1922-1938
9. J. E. Johnston\* ..... 1939-1943
10. Bob Willets\* ..... 1943
11. L. B. Crantford\* ..... 1943-1947  
Virgil Lyons\*, W. H. Rowe\*,  
Lena Helen Martin
12. J. L. White\* ..... 1947- 1948
13. J. H. Witt\* ..... 1948- 1954
14. B. A. Bowers\* ..... 1954
15. F. H. Rice\* ..... 1954-1957  
Josh Wilson, Lawrence Stewart\*
16. Luther Key\* ..... 1957-1961  
Lawrence Stewart\*, Roy Cotton,  
Gratten Tomlinson, James Justus,  
M. C. Walker
17. Otis W. Garland\* ..... 1962-1968  
O. L. Jarvis\*, I. L. Griffin\*, Ida Mabel Clark,  
King Abernathy, John Christmas,  
Allen Simmons
18. J. Elwood Rawls\* ..... 1968-1974  
J. L. Griffin\*, Jack Goldfarb, Katie Burdick,  
Sherrie Winkleman, Richard Schinman,  
Gary Cason, Leon Essex\*, J. W. Smith,  
Jerry Todd
19. Doyle Wetherington ..... 1975-1979  
Jimmy Crews, Steve Parris, Tim Lee,  
Harold St. Gemme, Tom Ledbetter,  
David Cochran
20. David Cobb ..... 1980-1985  
Pam Helms, Harold St. Gemme,  
Bubba Cox, Ivan Cason\*
21. Nathan Pulling ..... 1985  
Pam Helms
22. James Doyle ..... 1985-1992  
Russell Philpot, Jim Kilpatrick,  
Pam Helms, David Watts, Eddie DelRio
23. Emit Ray\* ..... 1992-1993  
Pam Helms, Russell Philpot,  
Jim Kilpatrick
24. Jack Auten ..... 1993-2002  
Russell Philpot, Pam Helms, Brad Higerd  
Matt Gilmore
25. Ray Van der Wal ..... 2002-2003  
Russell Philpot, Pam Helms, Matt Gilmore
26. Howard Harden ..... 2003-Present  
Pam Helms, Russell Philpot,  
Matt Gilmore, Joe Friman

Pastors listed are according to their tenure. Staff are according to records available at the present and may not include all staff members who served First Baptist as Associate Pastor, Music Director, Educational Director and Youth Director.

\* Deceased

## Emit Ray, 84, dies in Miami Nov. 17

MIAMI (FBW)—Emit Ray, retired pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Miami, died Nov. 17. He was 84. He served as chairman of the board of the Baptist Hospital of Miami, on the North American Mission Board and State Board of Missions 1977-80.

Ray was a native of Texas and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He volunteered as a bombardier in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, participating in the bombing of Kure Harbor, a Japanese naval base.

He and his wife, Kathryn, served

as Southern Baptist missionaries in Nassau, Bahamas, and Trinidad. They returned to the U.S. to a pastorate in Wichita, Kansas, before moving to Miami in 1970. As pastor of Riverside, he led the congregation to support a Hispanic church in the downtown location and to move the Anglo ministry to the suburbs. He led several mission groups from Riverside to minister in the Caribbean during his 20-year tenure. In retirement he served as interim pastor of several Miami-area churches and worked on the board of Baptist Hospital of Miami.



RAY

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; three children, Karen, Steven and Kurt; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Steven Ray is pastor of Gateway Baptist Church in Miami.

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December 2, 2004  
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