

Rittenhouse, Ralph C. (1912-1974) was a native of Saskatchewan, Canada, and was a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as moderator of the Miami Baptist Association, as president of the Florida Baptist Pastor's Conference, and as trustee of the Miami Baptist Hospital. Rittenhouse served as pastor of Olympia Baptist Church, Miami, First Baptist Church, Sopchoppy, 1948-1953, Ray's Chapel, 1953-1954 and Lamont Baptist Church. He and his wife, Frances, had two sons, Ralph Jr. and Raymond, and two daughters, Frances and Mary. Visit our website floridabaptisthistory.org

8-B

THE MIAMI HERALD

Fri., June 7, 1974

R. C. Rittenhouse, Minister, Trustee Of Baptist Hospital

The Rev. Ralph C. Rittenhouse Sr., 62, former pastor of Olympia Baptist Church, died Monday in Ocala, where he kept a summer residence. He lived at 9470 SW 34th St.

The Rev. Mr. Rittenhouse was born in Saskatchewan, Canada, and came here in 1924 from Georgia. He graduated from Miami High School.

He was an insurance salesman before he became a part-time pastor serving several small communities in northern Florida.

MR. RITTENHOUSE attended the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and served as pastor on weekends at Ray's Chapel near Cantonment in north Florida. He graduated in 1955.

He was a former moderator of the Miami Baptist Association in 1972 and former president of the Florida Baptist Pastor's Conference. He also was a trustee of Baptist Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Frances J.; two sons, Ralph C. Jr. and Raymond H.; two daughters, Mrs. Frances Eileen Meister and Mrs. Mary Agnes Maddox; three sisters, Mrs. Jean Albury, Joan and Wilma Rittenhouse; and 10 grandchildren.

Repose is from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the Philbrick and Son Coral Gables Funeral Home. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Olympia Baptist Church, 3520 SW 97th Ave.

RITTENHOUSE

REV. RALPH C. SR., 62, of 9470 SW 34th St., Miami, passed away Mon. in Ocala. He was born in Saskatchewan, Canada. Rev. Rittenhouse was Pastor of Olympia Baptist Mission which later became Olympia Baptist Church from Jan. 1, 1956 until his retirement, March 18, 1973. He entered the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated in 1955. He served as Moderator of the Miami Baptist Assoc. in 1972, and was President of the Florida Baptist Pastors Conference for the year 1966, as well as serving as one of the Trustees of Baptist Hospital. Survivors include his wife, Frances J.; 2 sons, Rev. Ralph C. Jr. of Atlanta, Ga. and Raymond H. of Cerritos, Los Angeles, Calif.; 2 daughters, Mrs. Frances Eileen Meister of Mia. and Mrs. Mary Agnes Maddox of Tallahassee; 3 sisters, Mrs. Jean Albury, Joan and Wilma Rittenhouse all of Miami and 10 grandchildren. Funeral Services will be 11 A.M. Sat. at the Olympia Baptist Church 3520 SW 97 Ave. Friends may call at the PHILBRICK & SON CORAL GABLES FUNERAL HOME 837 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 7-9 P.M. Fri. Interment will be in Woodlawn Park Cemetery.



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 Dr. Richards, BBI,
 Graceville, Florida 32440

Missionary News

Miss Becky Shurtz, missionary journeyman to Korea, has completed her term of service and may be addressed at 910 N. Collins, Plant City, Fla. 33566, her hometown.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Haylock, missionaries to the Dominican Republic, have arrived in the States for furlough. Their address is Route 4, Box 113, Pensacola, Fla. 32503. Haylock, a native of

Painter To Direct
Alumni Affairs

George L. Painter has been named director of Alumni Affairs of Stetson University, according to President John E. Johns.

Painter, a 1955 graduate of the DeLand School, returned to Stetson in 1965 as assistant director of admissions. He was named director of Church Relations and the Extension Division in 1966.

A native of Jacksonville, Painter received the master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C. He has served churches in North Carolina, Virginia and Florida, and is past president of the Southern Baptist Extension Education Association.

Ryan Leaves BBI

James L. Ryan, professor of religious education at BBI, has been named associate director of the newly-approved Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Ky. He will assume this position August 1.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Ryan has pastored churches in Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Kentucky. He has degrees from Ouchita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky.

Rittenhouse Dies

Ralph C. Rittenhouse, 62, of Miami died June 3 in Ocala where he kept a summer residence. Funeral services were held June 8 at Olympia Church, Miami, the church he pastored until his retirement in March of this year.

Rittenhouse, a native of Saskatchewan, Canada, was a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Active in denominational work, he served as moderator of the Miami Baptist Association; president of the Florida Baptist Pastor's Conference; and was a trustee of the Miami Baptist Hospital.

Survivors include his widow, Frances; two sons, Ralph C., Jr. and Raymond H.; two daughters, Mrs. Frances Ellen Meister and Mrs. Mary Agnes Maddox; three sisters, Mrs. Jean Albury, Joan and Wilma Rittenhouse; and 10 grandchildren.

Tampa, formerly served as pastor of First Church, Gulf Breeze.

Baptists Call New Pastor

The **Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse** has been called as the new pastor of **Olympia Baptist Church**. He succeeds the **Rev. Luther Key** who left to become associate pastor at Central Baptist Church.

The uncle of Dr. William Rittenhouse who for years was pastor at Southside Baptist Church here, the **Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse** has been serving as interim pastor at Southside since his nephew left last summer to take a church in Atlanta.

Members of Southside will vote after the 11 a.m. Sunday service on whether to call the **Rev. J. Marshall Walker**, of Durham, N.C., as their new pastor.

An insurance salesman before he entered the ministry, the **Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse** attended the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and the New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He received degrees both in theology and music.

He served in churches in northwest Florida before coming to Miami.

The **Rev. Mr. Rittenhouse** will lead the Olympia church in building a chapel starting next month.

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Olympia began as a mission of Central Baptist Church in September, 1953. It now has nearly 200 members, owns the entire block at SW 97th ave. and 36th st., and has erected a \$20,000 educational building which also has served as a chapel.

MIAMI DAILY NEWS

4A Saturday, January 7, 1956

OLDEST PAPER IN MIAMI
Founded in 1896

He's **Rev. Rittenhouse**

Olympia Baptists Call New Pastor

Members of the Miami Baptist Association might think something was amiss if they held their sessions without a Rittenhouse in the house.

For many years this family has supplied a number of active ministers in this area.

When the **Rev. William Rittenhouse, Jr.** resigned as pastor of Southside Baptist Church after many years' service to become pastor of Sylvan Hills Baptist in Atlanta, Ga., some months ago it left the association without a **Rittenhouse** on the roster.

This situation was soon remedied, however, when his uncle, the **Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse**, formerly pastor of a church near Tallahassee, took over as supply pastor at Southside. Last Sunday he was called as permanent pastor of Olympia Baptist, 3600 SW

97th St., and will assume his new duties tomorrow, succeeding the **Rev. Luther Key**.

Lt. James C. **Rittenhouse** (j.g.), brother of the **Rev. William Rittenhouse**, served as chaplain with the Third Marine Aircraft Wing at Opa-locka, for some time. He was transferred to California a short time ago.

The **Rev. William Rittenhouse, Sr.**, a chaplain in England during World War II, frequently visited his sons in Miami and occupied the pulpit at Southside church on a number of occasions. He is now pastor of the Baptist Church at Hopeful, Ga.

Frances Rittenhouse, Dade school teacher

Services for Frances J. Rittenhouse, 63, a Dade school teacher since 1948, will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Philbrick Funeral Chapel.

Mrs. Rittenhouse, a native of Chicago, died Monday at her home.

She was a graduate of Florida State University and member of Phi Beta Kappa.

She and her late husband, the Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse were founding members of Olympia Baptist Church.

Since 1955, she had taught at Fairlawn Elementary School where she was named teacher of the year for 1983.

Mrs. Rittenhouse was a member of the Polish-American Club, South Miami Baptist Church and Dade County Teacher's Association.

Survivors include sons, Ray and Ralph; daughters, Eileen Debish and Mary Maddox; 10 grandchildren; two brothers; and three sisters.

Repose will be from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

The family request donations be sent to the American Cancer Society.

**Youth Rally
To Feature
Folk Music**

sing, and special numbers will be presented by smaller ensembles. The **Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse**, pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church and a student at FSU, will deliver the main address. He is current president of the State BSU work in Florida.

Youth Week observances are

12—Saturday, March 9, 1968 Tallahassee Democrat

Suber and other relatives.

There will be a homecoming at the Flat Creek Baptist Church Sunday May 5. The Church is near Greensboro and 92 years old.

The pastor **Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse** will preach. All friends and former members are invited to attend.

THE PASTOR'S OF RAY'S CHAPEL

1890-----	H. G. Ray (H.G.B. Ray) (Henry Green Berry Ray)	1982---1982	Emory Rodgers (I. P.)
1908---1914	J. T. Fillingim (John Thomas Fillingim)	1982---1985	Ronnie Jones
1914---1918	B. R. Beal (Richard R. Beal)	1985---1985	C. W. Williams (I. P.)
1918---1925	J. T. Fillingim	1986---1989	Don Coker
1925---1926	Bro. Myricks	1989---1990	C. W. Williams (I. P.)
1926---1930	W. E. Brunson (William Eugene Brunson)	1990-----	Mike Harper
1930---1936	Leo B. Roberts		
1936---1945	Bro. Pelham		
1945---1949	Claude Hidgon		
1949---1952	W. F. Joseph		
1952---1953	John Pittman		
1953---1954	Ralph Rittenhouse		
1955---1956	Alfred Williams		
1956---1958	L. J. Watson		
1958---1962	H. M. Stewart		
1963---1969	Roy Barrow		
1970---1973	Filmore Enfinger		
1974---1974	Garland Stewart		
1974---1982	Joe Digmon		

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOPCHOPPY

This Church became the Mt. Beasor Missionary Baptist Church in 1873 when 80 members withdrew from the Mt. Beasor Primitive Church which was constituted in 1853. The first church building was erected on a site in West Sopchoppy in 1873 and remained there until 1906 when Mr. John C. Hodge gave a lot in the present City of Sopchoppy and a second church building was constructed. The site was moved to the present City of Sopchoppy because of a shift in the community growth. The building erected in 1906 remained until the present building was constructed in 1967. The church went by the name of Mt. Beasor Baptist Church until 1942 when it was changed to the First Baptist Church of Sopchoppy. In 1964, the first gifts were made to a building fund for the present church building on this third site. In 1965, the church voted to build, and on December 17, 1967, the first service were held in the new building. However, Sunday School and Church Training were not held in the new building until February 11, 1968, when every part of the building was completed. The present building was dedicated on February 25, 1968. The new educational wing was completed the first part of 1982 and was dedicated on March 21, 1982.

Wakulla
1988
Now in
Florida
Association

Wakulla
1988

PASTORS WHO SERVED AT SOPCHOPPY FIRST
Approximately 1900 - 1983

Rev. Lewis Roberts (Mr. Johnnie Roberts Uncle)	
Rev. Steve Revell	
Rev. Judah	1921-1923.
Rev. O. N. Revell(son of Rev. Steve Revell)	1924-1927
Rev. G. E. Holified	1927-1928
Rev. Frank Bancroft	1928
Rev. O. N. Revell (Former Pastor)	1929-1934
Rev. L. E. Goodgame	1935-1936
Rev. A. V. Pickern	1937-1938
Rev. O. N. Revell (Former Pastor)	1938-1942
Rev. Homer Duggar	1942-1943
Rev. Virgil T. Smith	1944
Rev. C. J. Johnson	1945-1946
Rev. John E. Pelham, Sr.	1947
Rev. Ralph Rittenhouse, Sr.	1948-1953
Rev. Truett Smith	1954
Rev. DeWitt Cox	1955-Sept. 1957
Rev. Homer Duggar (Former Pastor)	Oct. 1957-Oct. 1960
Rev. Ted Rodda	1960-1962
Rev. O. G. Hall	Feb. 1963-Sept. 1969
Rev. Glenn Lawhon	June 1970-Aug. 1977
Rev. D. O. Goss	March 1978-Oct. 1982
Rev. Harold J. Crosson (interim)	Nov. 1982-Apr. 1983
Rev. Darrel Smith	May 1983-June 1986
Rev. Henry Jones	April 1987-Present



HISTORY OF LAMONT BAPTIST CHURCH LAMONT, FLORIDA

Middle
Florida
ASSO
1979

The Olive Branch Baptist Church was organized in May of 1897 with sevice 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

Minni Asso 1974

IN MEMORIAM



RALPH C. RITTENHOUSE

Born ----- March 18, 1912

Died ----- June 4, 1974