

F. M. Ross served as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Hawthorne prior to 1910 and First Baptist Church, Cocoa and Eau Gallie. .

Source:

Florida Baptist Historical Society files.

Florida Baptist Witness, March 12, 1910, p. 7.

# Greetings of Former Members To Be Heard by First Baptists

Members and friends of Cocoa's First Baptist Church will hear greetings from many former members and friends of the church Thursday night when the Golden Jubilee service of reminiscing takes place.

Among those sending greetings is Mrs. T. D. Simmons of Orlando, wife of the Rev. F. M. Ross, first pastor of the church. Mrs. Simmons lived in Eau Gallie with her husband, Rev. Ross, who served the Eau Gallie Baptist Church from May to November, 1910. Ross, who was present at the organization of the Cocoa Church and served as first pastor, died in

1923. Mrs. Ross later remarried. Now 85 years of age, she makes her home at 1116 Hardy Street, Orlando.

Mrs. Guilda C. Geiger, anniversary chairman, has announced that communications have been received from many people from across the nation who have been related to the church in years past. These will be included in the memorabilia presented Thursday night.

Approximately 300 reservations have been made for the Golden Jubilee anniversary dinner set for Wednesday night at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, first event

in the anniversary schedule.

The historical pageant, "Building for Tomorrow on Yesterday's Heritage" will be presented at 7:45 p.m. following the dinner. Personalities and events in the church's history will be dramatized.

Friday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. the Woman's Missionary Society will honor special guests at a tea in the social hall.

It was learned with regret that the Rev. and Mrs. O. L. Riggs of Durham, N. C., would not be able to attend the Jubilee. Rev. R. Paul Kercher of Hickory, N. C., will preach at the 8:30 service Sunday. Kercher is a former youth director of the local church, and preacher for the Saturday night youth rally June 11th.

All former members and friends

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*100 Years of Pastors' Leadership  
First Baptist Church of Cocoa*

<i>Rev. F. M. Ross</i>	<i>1910 - 1911</i>
<i>Rev. Robert Jones</i>	<i>1911</i>
<i>Rev. J. R. Parsons</i>	<i>1912 - 1914</i>
<i>Rev. J. M. Springfield</i>	<i>1914 - 1915</i>
<i>Rev. W. Ira Sanders</i>	<i>1916</i>
<i>Rev. J. C. Kazee</i>	<i>1916 - 1918</i>
<i>Rev. W. Ira Sanders</i>	<i>1918 - 1920</i>
<i>Rev. H. S. Howard</i>	<i>1920 - 1922</i>
<i>Rev. O. L. Riggs</i>	<i>1923 - 1927</i>
<i>Rev. Charles M. White</i>	<i>1927 - 1931</i>
<i>Dr. John C. Sycamore</i>	<i>1932</i>
<i>Rev. Claude L. Bridges</i>	<i>1932 - 1935</i>
<i>Rev. J. Ray Garrett</i>	<i>1936 - 1940</i>
<i>Dr. James A. Sawyer</i>	<i>1940 - 1967</i>
<i>Rev. James T. Dunnam</i>	<i>1968 - 1978</i>
<i>Dr. Frank H. Thomas, Jr.</i>	<i>1979 - 1985</i>
<i>Rev. W. Henry Green</i>	<i>1986 - 1993</i>
<i>Dr. William R. Marr</i>	<i>1994 - 2007</i>
<i>Dr. O. Charles Horton</i>	<i>2007 - Present</i>

*Present church Staff*

<i>Dr. Charles Horton</i>	<i>Pastor</i>
<i>Dr. Alan Foster</i>	<i>Assistant Pastor</i>
<i>Barry Aymond</i>	<i>Minister of Music</i>
<i>Jeb Godbout</i>	<i>Minister of Students</i>
<i>Eve Reeves</i>	<i>Church Administrator</i>
<i>Cheryl Beck</i>	<i>Pianist</i>
<i>Myrna Mason</i>	<i>Organist</i>

take notice and attend if possible. This is a very important meeting.

S. B. ROGERS,  
Secretary.

**FROM BRO. ROGERS TO PASTORS:**

My Dear Brother: I cannot possibly visit you now and talk to you face to face about the many things in which we are mutually interested, but I would be derelict to the great interest of our Home and Foreign Boards, should I not lay their burdens on your heart and beg in these last and trying days of their struggle, that you help them.

In obedience to the express command of our Southern Baptist Convention, these two great Boards projected the work on the Home and Foreign field for 1909 and 1910, simply as our servants. They have carried out our wishes, not theirs, and we should not allow them to be crushed by a heavy debt at the close of the conventional year. The Home Board owes today approximately \$200,000.00; the Foreign Board \$250,000.00, and only forty days in which to raise it. Florida is today \$11,900.44 short in the apportionment as her share of this great work. Brother, please do your best. See your people personally, beg them to help, gather their gifts and remit to us at the earliest possible moment. April the 30th is the last day. Don't fail us, we are depending on you.

God has graciously blessed us, let us honor Him. Do not lay this aside and forget it. Please don't, but for the sake of the Kingdom, committed to our care, do your best and DO IT NOW. And may God bless you.

Yours very fraternally,  
S. B. ROGERS.

extend to me a unanimous call to become their-pastor, and I have decided to accept. I spent the second Sunday with the people at Oviedo and had a very enjoyable day. These people have their work well in hand and are a good people. They are looking for a pastor. On Tuesday I visited at the home of Rev. J. W. Wildman, pastor of the Sanford Baptist church. Bro. Wildman recently came to this church from North Carolina, and is getting his work well in hand. I am now on the ground here at Winter Garden, where Rev. E. Lee Smith has wrought so nobly for nearly four years. Bro. Smith closed his work here last Sunday, February 13, but waited until Wednesday in order to welcome me and introduce me to the brethren. I expect to preach for them next Sunday, the 20th, after which I shall return to Winter Haven to take up the work for half time and wait the leading of the Lord in further work.

Editor Witness:—I have accepted call to Eau Gallie and Cocoa for full time and begin work the third Sunday at Eau Gallie.

This move necessitates giving up my appointment at Hawthorne on first Sunday, which I do most reluctantly after most pleasant relations with them. — May the spirit speedily direct the right man to this field. I will take pleasure in "boosting" the Witness in my new field and issue a standing invitation to its editors to visit us at any time. I most gladly commend editorial on "Yellow Divinity." Wish every pastor in the State might read it from their pulpits and give it all the publicity possible. With prayers for "the paper that is worth the money," I am fraternally yours,

REV. F. M. ROSS.  
Orlando, Fla., March 12, 1910.

Florida Baptist Witness

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"LAST CALL" FOR TAMPA-JACK.

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