

Dr. Stephen N. Rummage

Biography

Stephen Rummage is the senior pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He and his wife, Michele, have been married and in ministry together since 1991. They have one son, Joshua, a pharmacist, who lives in Florida with his wife, Morgan.



Throughout his ministry, God has given Stephen a vision to grow healthy congregations, preach expositional messages week by week, bring people to faith in Christ, and provide faithful and dynamic pastoral leadership. An extension of Stephen's pulpit ministry, his daily Bible teaching broadcast, *Moving Forward*, airs on over 500 radio stations nationwide. Stephen has authored seven books and preached in 15 foreign countries. Among the highlights of Stephen's ministry is being chosen by the Southern Baptist Convention to preach the Convention Sermon for the 2019 SBC meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. He also served as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention in 2016-2018.

Stephen trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior at age 6, and was baptized the following year. Six months after completing college, God called Stephen to preach the gospel. The earliest part of Stephen's ministry consisted of pursuing seminary training and pastoring smaller churches. Then, God called him to serve for a number of years as a seminary professor, training future pastors and missionaries. In 2004, the Lord led the Rummages back into full time church work and has given Stephen the opportunity to serve three leading Southern Baptist churches with wide influence to reach people regionally, nationally, and globally with the gospel.

Michele was saved at a Vacation Bible School at the Rummages' home church. She and Stephen grew up together and were high school sweethearts. Following graduation from college, Michele began her career as a teacher in Christian and public schools. She received the Master of Arts in Christian Education with an emphasis in early childhood education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to supporting Stephen and her family beautifully, Michele also teaches new believers' classes for children, mentors other women, and is a frequent speaker at women's conferences.

Video and audio of Stephen's preaching is available at qsb.org under "Media," as well as at movingforwardradio.org, and on the "Stephen Rummage" app.

Personal Information

- Born December 26, 1968, in Greensboro, North Carolina
- Married to Michele Henderson on June 8, 1991
- Son, Joshua Nelson, born July 21, 1997, married to Morgan Routh on December 1, 2018
- Ordained to the Gospel ministry, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina, June 30, 1991

Education

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana
Doctor of Philosophy in Preaching, Minor in Theology, December 1998
Dissertation: "Toward Contemporary Apologetic Preaching: An Analysis of Argumentative Methodologies"

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina
Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages, December 1993
Vance Havner Memorial Scholar

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, Minor in English, May 1990
Graduated *magna cum laude* in three years
Katherine Smith Reynolds Competitive Scholar

Pastoral Experience

Senior Pastor, Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 2019-Present
One of *Outreach Magazine's* "100 Fastest Growing Churches in America," 2020
Contributed \$1.5 million to Southern Baptist Convention causes in 2021-2022
Created "Leading Forward" quarterly Christian leadership forum for OKC business professionals

Senior Pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, Florida, 2009-2019
Average weekly attendance of over 3,100
Started four new campuses in addition to original campus
Baptized 444 people in 2017
Developed racially diverse "United" community services with other Tampa Bay Christian leaders

Co-Pastor, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2004-2009
Five-year average annual baptism rate of 390
Membership of 16,100 in 2009

Other Pastorates and Interim Pastorates include:

First Baptist Church, Cary, North Carolina, 2003-2004 (*Interim*)
Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, North Carolina, 2001-2003 (*Interim*)
Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Covington, Louisiana, 1994-1997
Cedar Rock First Baptist Church, Castalia, North Carolina, 1992-1994

Teaching and Academic Administrative Experience

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministry (instructional faculty), 2019-Present
Senior Preaching Fellow, Spurgeon Library, 2019-Present

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Associate Professor of Preaching (full-time elected faculty), 1997-2004
Director, Doctor of Ministry Program, 2001-2004
Visiting Professor of Preaching, 2004-Present

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Instructor of Preaching (full-time elected faculty), Leavell College, 1996-1997
Adjunct Professor of Preaching, 2023-Present

Denominational Service

- President, SBC Pastors' Conference, 2024
- President, Florida Baptist State Convention, 2016-2018
- Chairman, SBC Executive Committee, 2016-2018
- Member, SBC Executive Committee, 2006-2009, 2013-2019
Chairman, Business and Finance Committee, 2014-2016
- Chairman, SBC Committee on Resolutions, 2016
- Member, SBC Committee on Resolutions, 2015
- Chairman, Committee on Order of Business, Florida Baptist Convention, 2012-2014
- President, Florida Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, 2012
- Second Vice President, Southern Baptist Convention, 2009-2010

Selected Guest Speaking and Mission Journeys

- Chapel speaker and lecturer for many Christian colleges and universities, as well as SBC seminaries
- Frequent guest preacher for pastors' conferences, state Baptist conventions, and other events
- Keynote speaker for the National Conference on Preaching, 2015, 2018, and 2021, and International Congress on Preaching, Cambridge, England, 2017
- Convention Sermon for North Carolina Baptist State Convention, 2009, and Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, 2011
- Convention Sermon for the Southern Baptist Convention, 2019, Birmingham, Alabama

- Mission journeys to the Bahamas, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Romania, and Thailand

Selected Books and Publications

Rummage, Stephen Nelson. *A Moment in God's Word: 365 Day Devotional*. Bennington, VT: Northeastern Baptist Press, 2023

_____. *Healing Your Hidden Hurts*. Bennington, VT: Northeastern Baptist Press, 2022

_____. *The Shape of Things to Come*. Brandon, FL: Moving Forward Publications, 2017

_____. *Moving Forward Day by Day*. Brandon, FL: Moving Forward Publications, 2015

_____. *Planning Your Preaching: A Step-by-Step Guide for Developing a One-Year Preaching Calendar*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2002

Rummage, Stephen Nelson with Michele Henderson Rummage, *Praying with Purpose: A 28-Day Journey to an Empowered Prayer Life*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2006

Akin, Daniel, Bill Curtis, and Stephen Rummage, *Engaging Exposition*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011

Fries, Micah, Stephen Rummage, and Robby Gallaty, *Christ-Centered Expository Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2015

Contributor to a number of other devotional and academic books

Doctrinal Statement

My ministry is based on a strong commitment to the inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture. I fully endorse the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000* as a summary of the doctrines to which I subscribe.

Bell Shoals calls Rummage as pastor

BRANDON (FBW)—Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon called Stephen Rummage to serve as their new pastor May 3.

According to a news release, Rummage informed of the 99.8 percent vote affirming his call by live webcast from Bell Shoals worship center and accepted the call. He will preach his first sermon as pastor June 28.

Rummage is a native of Greensboro, N.C. After completing his undergraduate studies in 1990, he earned a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. in 1993 and a doctor of philosophy degree in preaching from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1998.

Rummage has served pastorates in North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. He currently serves as pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

(since 2004). Before going to Hickory Grove, Rummage served as associate professor of preaching at SEBTS.



Rummage and his wife Michele have one son, Joshua.

Bell Shoals Baptist Church has been without a senior pastor since the death of Pastor Forrest Pollock on May 12, 2008. Forrest (44) and his son Preston (13) were killed in a plane crash.

The church suffered another loss in August when pastor of music and worship ministries, Simeon Nix (47), died of a heart attack.

"God's sustaining presence has been obvious during this period of search for a new pastor," said George Thomasson, senior associate pastor, in the release.

FBW May 7, 2009 p17



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knology.net. 05/21

Full Time MINISTER OF EDUCATION/CHILDREN needed at Scott Lake Baptist Church, 5811 Scott Lake Road, Lakeland Florida 33813. Seminary preferred. Full-time ministry experience required. Familiarity with AWANA and dual Sunday schools a plus. May e-mail to dkress@scottlake.org. 05/07

Baldwin Baptist Church, a Traditional, Conservative Southern Baptist Church, located near the Beautiful NE Georgia Mountains, is seeking a **FULL-TIME PASTOR** who has a heart for all people and will be a Player/Coach Leader. Please send resumes to (Search Committee, P.O. Box 100, Clarkesville, GA 30523) by May 30, 2009. 05/21

First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach is seeking a full-time **WORSHIP LEADER**. We are a growing, conservative church with a blended style of worship. Send resumes to FBC, 1600 S. 8th St. Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. ATTN: Worship Leader Search Committee. Resumes received through May 31. 05/21

BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER—Please send resume to Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 525, Mulberry, Florida 33860 or fax to 863-425-2786. For more information contact Harmon Alderman at 863-425-0362. 06/04

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Ethicist Mitchell joins Union faculty


JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—Leading biomedical ethicist C. Ben Mitchell will join Union University's faculty in the fall as the Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy.

Mitchell comes to Union from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., where he is associate professor of bioethics and contemporary culture.

Mitchell holds a doctorate in philosophy with a concentration in medical ethics from the University of Tennessee. He is the editor of *Ethics and Medicine: An International Journal of Bioethics* and a longtime consultant to the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. He also has been a consultant with the Center for Genetics and Public Policy at Johns Hopkins University and co-director for biotechnology policy and fellow of the Council for Biotechnology Policy in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his academic work, Mitchell also consults on matters of public policy and has given testimonies before such groups as the U.S. House of Representatives, the Institutes of Medicine and the Illinois Senate. He has published in major news media, including the *Washington Post* and Baptist Press, and is regularly enlisted as an expert resource on National Public Radio, FOX News, MSNBC and other media. He has contributed chapters to 25 books and has written dozens of articles and reviews.

Prior to his tenure at Trinity, Mitchell was assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas and a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. A native of Tampa, Mitchell and his wife Nancy, from Dalton, Ga., have been married for 34 years.



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SBC PRESIDENT IN FLORIDA MAY 13

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS (FBW)
 Johnny Hunt, Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., will speak at Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights, Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30 pm, for a pastor's recognition service.

Hunt will join the congregation in celebrating 15 years of service by senior pastor James Peoples. For more information, please contact the church office at 407-874-7361 or www.trinity

We asked....

Describe your vision for the Florida Baptist Convention

Dr. Rummage: Florida Baptists are pacesetters, making substantial contributions to the increase of God's kingdom with a well-deserved reputation for mission focus. While there are always needs for adjustments along the way in any ministry, I believe the overall trajectory of Florida Baptists is on target. As the next Executive Director-Treasurer for Florida Baptists, I come with a vision to continue the current direction of the convention, helping Florida Baptist pastors and churches to pursue our mission with faithfulness. My immediate vision as Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention includes:

Leading people throughout Florida to follow Jesus as Lord. At the root of everything, my greatest desire is to lead people to know and follow Jesus Christ. We will evaluate everything the Florida Baptist Convention does by asking: Can we draw a straight, solid line between what we're doing and Christ's mission to seek and save the lost?

Getting to know Florida Baptists. Leadership is always relational, and I want to know Florida Baptists at every level. I will seek to understand the lives and ministries of pastors in every size of church, every region of the state, and every ethnic and racial group. I will also work to know associational mission strategists because they are vital in understanding what is happening in our churches. Additionally, building relationships with our Florida Baptist Convention staff, including regional catalysts, Baptist Campus Ministry directors, Disaster Relief leaders, and others, will be a high priority.

Contributing value to Florida Baptist pastors and churches. The "right beside you" commitment of the Florida Baptist Convention to pastors and churches should strengthen and grow. Intentionally serving Florida pastors and churches has been a monumental strategic and cultural shift in Florida, and it has met with an incredibly positive response. We will create opportunities for Florida pastors and other ministry leaders to pray with one another, share best practices, and develop cooperative strategies for ministry. Because emotional and mental wellness are significant issues for many pastors and their families, we will strengthen the way the convention addresses those needs, making care and counseling readily accessible.

Developing healthier churches. While many churches in Florida are flourishing, others are merely surviving. Recent reports of baptisms and other measurables among SBC churches have been encouraging, but the overall trend line for Southern Baptist congregations continues to go downward. We will help local churches become healthier, including facilitating revitalization efforts, helping churches with pastoral transition, and connecting distressed churches with healthy congregations that can strengthen them.

Enhancing training and encouragement opportunities. We will engage innovative Florida churches of all sizes to collaborate with other Florida churches to strengthen their efforts for God's kingdom. Working with FBC catalysts to identify church needs, we will continue training opportunities led by key ministry leaders for pastors and their staffs and churches.

Championing ministry education in Florida. The immediate future holds amazing possibilities for the Baptist University of Florida and will result in more opportunities to train God-called men and women, with long-term implications for gospel work and the health of Florida Baptist churches. I will energetically advocate strong support from the Florida Baptist Convention for BUF among Florida pastors and churches.

What does cross-cultural cooperation look like for you?

Dr. Rummage: One of the most wonderful aspects of Florida Baptist life is its diversity and cross-cultural engagement with multiple cultures, races, languages, and ethnicities working together for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. No other state convention surpasses Florida's diversity. I believe Florida has become a model of what cross-cultural cooperation can look like, and I am committed to enhancing our cross-cultural strengths. Under my leadership as Executive Director-Treasurer, we will seek avenues to work together with all the cultures, races, and ethnicities represented in our state convention, including the various ethnic fellowships and their leaders. We will work to ensure that all cultures in the Florida Baptist family not only have a seat at the convention table, but a voice and opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the discussion of our shared mission

You are following a beloved leader. How would you describe the Executive Director-Treasurer's purpose and role?

Dr. Rummage: I am thankful that an exceptional leader precedes me in this role. Dr. Tommy Green and I served alongside one another in our churches in Brandon, our relationship grew even more when I served as Florida Baptist Convention president early in his tenure as state executive, and we continue to have a close relationship. He has led with distinction, and my prayer is that I would follow in the same patterns of faithfulness and effectiveness he has established. My steadfast endeavor is for Florida Baptists to see the following qualities from me as your Executive Director-Treasurer:

Inspiring trust and confidence. I will seek to lead with trustworthy judgment, operating with personal and organizational integrity, and upholding biblical standards of righteousness, humility, and holiness. The more Florida Baptists see these qualities, the greater trust will grow and the more readily the Florida Baptist Convention will be able to fulfill its assigned responsibilities for the glory of God.

Focusing on the mission. Every function of the Florida Baptist Convention ultimately is aimed at the larger mission of helping Florida Baptist pastors and churches work together to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples. As Executive Director/Treasurer, I will continue to focus on the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and refuse to be sidetracked.

Promoting a cooperative spirit. When our fellowship becomes strained or impaired, our mission invariably suffers. Moving into the future, Florida Baptists will continue to need an Executive Director/Treasurer who encourages and models a spirit of unity around our biblical convictions and shared mission. Dr. Green has served wonderfully in that capacity, and my prayer would be to do the same.

Building relationships. God has allowed me to develop strong relationships with people in nearly every facet of Florida Baptist life. I have been enriched by these relationships because each person in our convention's work has distinctive gifts and personalities they are using for God's glory. As Executive Director-Treasurer, I will strengthen relationships with others, understand their perspectives, hear their concerns when concerns arise, and encourage them in our cooperative work.

Uncompromising biblical fidelity. I am committed to the inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture in every aspect of life, and I affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as the doctrinal parameters within which all Southern Baptist cooperation and shared mission operate. Even when tempted by more pragmatic considerations, my set point for decision-making always has been and will always be faithfulness to the Bible.

Treating others with dignity, value, and worth. Because every person is made in the image of God, every person deserves to be treated with kindness, grace, and consideration. That includes those who may feel disenfranchised, those who have been mistreated, those who are in error, and even those with whom we vehemently disagree. As Florida Baptist Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, I will ensure an organizational environment and culture that seeks to treat everyone in a Christ-like way and tolerates nothing less.

Holiness before God. Arrogance, dishonesty, immorality, and every other sin that eventually becomes public and disgraceful begin in quiet places of compromise and unholiness. As Florida's Executive Director-Treasurer, my first priority will be to walk with God daily.

Stephen Rummage is the senior pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Florida, a multi-campus church with over 8,000 members in the Tampa Bay area. He is a frequent guest speaker for churches and conferences across the United States. He and his wife, Michele, live near Brandon, along with their son, Joshua.

Dr. Rummage currently serves as the chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and president of the Florida Baptist State Convention. He spent more than seven years as professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, and continues to teach on a visiting basis at several institutions.

A *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Dr. Rummage also holds the M.Div. from Southeastern Seminary and completed the Ph.D. in preaching and theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His [Planning Your Preaching](#) is used widely as a textbook. He co-authored *Engaging Exposition*, named “Book of the Year” by *Preaching Today* in 2012. With Michele Rummage, he wrote *Praying with Purpose: A 28-Day Journey to an Empowered Prayer Life. Moving Forward Day by Day*, a yearlong devotional, features daily readings selected from his messages.

Dr. Rummage’s personal ministry vision is to teach God’s Word to transform lives. His radio program, [Moving Forward with Dr. Stephen Rummage](#), began in 2010. Each *Moving Forward* broadcast is 25 minutes and focuses on expositional Bible teaching. Dr. Rummage communicates with clarity, high energy, and humor, explaining and illustrating biblical truth in a style that has been described as profound, yet simple.

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Stephen Rummage To Pastor Oklahoma City Church - Florida Baptist Convention | FBC

By Keila Diaz

Last updated **Mar 15, 2019**



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Members of the church voted after each of the three services and invited Rummage as their new senior pastor. He will be replacing Hance Dilbeck who served from 2003 until January 2018 when he was called as executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

“Today, Michele and I joyfully accepted the invitation of Quail Springs Baptist in OKC to serve as their pastor, beginning March 3,” wrote Rummage on twitter Sunday night.

“Over the past months, God has worked to prepare our hearts for this transition,” Rummage wrote in a letter accompanying information about him and his wife Michele posted at the Oklahoma City church’s [qsbc.org](#) website. “We are convinced that Quail Springs is God’s chosen place for us to pursue the gifts and calling that God has placed on our lives for His glory.”

“Dr. Rummage is an incredible leader who greatly impacted the Florida Baptist Convention as President,” said Tommy Green, executive director treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention. “His example as a faithful pastor at Bell Shoals Baptist Church has inspired and encouraged others, as is evident in hosting a [Sharper! Conference](#). I had the privilege of being a fellow

pastor in Brandon and working together in Convention matters with Stephen. He will be missed in Florida, but we pray for Stephen and Michelle in this calling.”

“We know that God has great plans for Bell Shoals’ future,” said Rummage in a statement released by the church. “And we will be praying for God to make clear the man He wants to lead this great church going forward.”

Under Rummage’s leadership, Bell Shoals Baptist Church added four campuses and baptized more than 2,200 people. He also has led Bell Shoals to deploy dozens of local, national, and international missions’ teams, and the church’s Disaster Relief efforts have extended from North Carolina to the Florida Keys and Puerto Rico.

Rummage served as president of the [Florida Baptist State Convention](#) in 2017 and 2018 as well as chairman of the [SBC Executive Committee](#) from 2016 until 2018. Currently, he is a member of the Executive Committee [EC] search committee seeking a successor to former EC President Frank Page, who left the position last year.

As senior pastor at Quail Springs Baptist, Rummage says that his “ministry will focus on teaching and preaching God’s Word to lead Quail Springs in reaching people near and far with the Gospel, developing disciples of Jesus Christ, and continuing to be a healthy, caring, and growing congregation.”

Executive Pastor Gary Payne, who has served at Bell Shoals for 25 years, will lead Bell Shoals’ staff during this transition, according to the church’s statement.

“I will miss Dr. Rummage’s preaching, leadership and friendship,” said Payne. “I also am looking forward to seeing who God brings to Bell Shoals. I am convinced that our best days are yet to come.”

For more visit <http://www.bpnews.net/52283/sbc-digest-stephen-rummage-to-preach-in-view-of-call-to-okla-city-todd-deaton-to-rejoin-sc-baptist-courier-staff>.

By Keila Diaz, Florida Baptist Convention, January 28, 2019

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[SOURCE: Stephen Rummage To Pastor Oklahoma City Church - Florida Baptist Convention | FBC (flbaptist.org)]

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Rummage served as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention in 2017 and 2018 as well as chairman of the SBC Executive Committee from 2016 until 2018. Currently, he is a member of the Executive Committee [EC] search committee seeking a successor to former EC President Frank Page, who left the position last year.

As senior pastor at Quail Springs Baptist, Rummage says that his “ministry will focus on teaching and preaching God’s Word to lead Quail Springs in reaching people near and far with the Gospel, developing disciples of Jesus Christ, and continuing to be a healthy, caring, and growing congregation.”

Executive Pastor Gary Payne, who has served at Bell Shoals for 25 years, will lead Bell Shoals’ staff during this transition, according to the church’s statement.

“I will miss Dr. Rummage’s preaching, leadership and friendship,” said Payne. “I also am looking forward to seeing who God brings to Bell Shoals. I am convinced that our best days are yet to come.”

For more visit <http://www.bpnews.net/52283/sbc-digest-stephen-rummage-to-preach-in-view-of-call-to-okla-city-todd-deaton-to-rejoin-sc-baptist-courier-staff>.

By Keila Diaz, Florida Baptist Convention, January 28, 2019