

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

Visit our website at FloridaBaptistHistory.org

Walter H. Salter Sr. (1904-1994) was born in Wilcox County, Georgia. He moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 1926. Salter retired from the Jacksonville Electric Authority in 1946, and served as pastor of Ephesus Baptist Church in Hilliard, North Fourteenth Baptist Church in Fernandina Beach, and Barford Baptist Church in Jacksonville. He and his wife, LaVerna, had four children.





Rev. J. M. deVette - was born in the Netherlands - Newendyke, Almkerk on December 25, 1884. In 1888 the family settled in Muskegon, Michigan. The deVettes belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church and Rev. deVette learned woodworking in the Muskegon area. As a young man he worked in a Rescue Mission in Muskegon and it was there that he had a real conversion. He felt led into the ministry in 1913. He was ordained one week and the next week, August 20, 1913, was married.

In between serving churches in the North Florida and South Georgia area - Yulee, Callahan, Hilliard, St. Marys, Ephesus, and Ruhamah - Rev. deVette had a woodworking shop in Fernandina.

Rev. deVette served Ephesus at different intervals during the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s. During his pastorate at Ephesus he built a house for

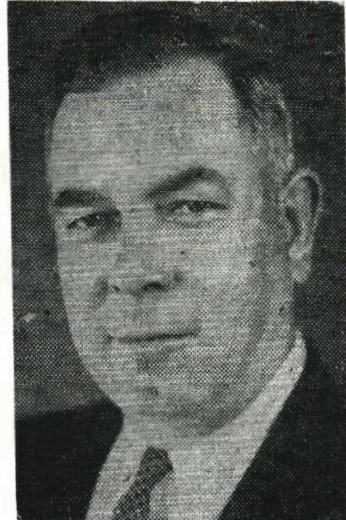
the Don Haddocks; two sisters and two brothers who lived together; built the plywood pews for the church, and donated a piano which is still in use.

"I recall that Mother and Dad both enjoyed the fellowship with folks at Ephesus and they called on folks on occasions during the week making the trip from Fernandina. I also recall their making Wednesday night trips to Ephesus for prayer meetings. I recall that Dad said on one occasion, jokingly of course, that the Apostle Paul had nothing on him for he had also preached at Ephesus."

Robert O. deVette
May 1994

Rev. Walter H. Salter, Sr. - was born August 1, 1904, native of Wilcox County, Georgia and lived in Jacksonville since 1926. He and his wife, LaVerna had the following children: Richard Gaston Salter, LaVerna Salter McKinney, Walter Salter, Jr. and Robert Salter. Rev. Salter died on June 5, 1994, the 149th Anniversary of Ephesus Baptist Church.

While working for the Jacksonville Electric Authority, Rev. Salter felt the call into the ministry. He worked shift work and for a while was able to make arrangement to have Sundays off so that he could preach. This arrangement did not last very long, so Rev. Salter retired from the City and went into the ministry full time. His first sermon at Ephesus was August 1, 1946 but was called as pastor on November 16, 1947.



Staff changes:

Steve Armstrong has been called to First Church of Trenton to serve as minister of education. He comes from New Hope Center in Billings, Mont., where he was a church starter for the SBC Home Mission Board.

First Church of Jensen Beach welcomes Franklin Whitfield "Whit" Seay as associate pastor/minister of youth and Thearon Wade Landrum as minister of music. Seay graduated from Louisiana State and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Landrum is an alumnus of Southwest Texas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

James Malcolm Henry has been called as pastor of First Church, Sebring. He previously served as vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Home and as pastor of Buffat Heights Church in Knoxville, Tenn.



Bradley

First Church, Lake Butler, has called **Chuck Romain** as associate pastor/minister of education and youth. He served Canaan Church in Bessemer, Ala., after graduating from Florida Baptist Theological College in 1989.

Stephen Bradley has accepted the position of minister of education and music at First Church, Largo. Bradley comes from Eastern Heights Church, Bartlesville, Okla. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary.

First Church of Citrus Park in Tampa has called **Ron Beck** as its new senior pastor. Beck comes from Calvary Church in Normal, Ill.,

where he served as assistant pastor. Joining Beck as staff members are **Elbert Nasworthy**, associate pastor of administration, **Bill Brown**, minister of education and youth, and **Jonathan Fisher** as minister of music.

People news:

Timothy A. Norton has been named assistant vice president for development at Palm Beach Atlantic College. The Orlando



Norton

native graduated from the University of Central Florida and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He comes to PBA from the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., where he was director of marketing.

Gary D. Townsend recently celebrated his 12th anniversary as pastor of First Church, Jensen Beach.

Obituary:

Longtime Florida pastor **W. H. Salter Sr.**, died June 5. He was 89.

A native of Wilcox County, Ga., Salter lived in Jacksonville since 1926. He served as pastor of Ephesus Church,



St. Augustine Church in St. Augustine, held a groundbreaking ceremony in May for phase one of its building program. Pictured from left are: **John Burnett**, pastor; **William Nicholas**; **Marvin Mills**; **Louis Jones**; and **Bill Shierling**.

Photo by R.O.S.



Salter

Hilliard; North Fourteenth Church (formerly Thomas Memorial), Fernandina Beach; and **Barford Church**, Jacksonville. He served as moderator of the Northeast Florida Association

and was a member of the board of the Jacksonville Baptist Home for Children.

He was a member of North Jacksonville Church. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Church news:

First Church, Eau Gallie, will have vacation Bible school July 31-Aug. 5, with time set for 6:30-8:30 p.m. A special pre-registration adventure day will be held July 30, 10 a.m. to noon.

A gospel sing, featuring the New Heart Ministries, will be held at **Rosemont Church, Orlando**, on July 28 at 7:00 p.m.

On July 4 the junior and senior high youth groups of **Skycrest Church, Clearwater**

JOIN US FOR THE TOUR OF A LIFETIME

AND VISIT THE LANDS OF JESUS AND MOSES
Jordan, the Holy Land and Egypt

Hosted by:

Paul and Minnie Carmichael

11 days: Feb. 27-March 9, 1995
\$2,345 from Jacksonville, Fla.
Our sixth tour to the Middle East

For a brochure, contact:

Paul Carmichael

1821 Twelve Oaks Lane, W.
Neptune Beach, Fla. 32266
(904) 241-2974

Arrangements by: TTI Travel, Inc.

LAST CHANCE

Make reservations immediately for the following conferences by calling the department listed or the Registration Office at (800) 226-8584 or (904) 396-2351.

Lake Yale

August 1-6

August 1-6

August 5-6

August 8-10

August 11-13

August 11-13

August 11-13

Young Musicians Camp, Church music

Youth Music Camp, Church music

Prestol M&M Clinic/Korean Leadership Conference, Church music

Church Secretaries Workshop, Pastoral ministries

MasterLife Conference, Discipleship training

Discipleship Training Leadership Conference, Discipleship training

Bivocational Ministers & Wives Retreat, Mission ministries