

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.

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Samples, Edward, Jr. (1923-2004) was born in North Carolina the son of Ben Edwards, Sr. and Lucille Fisher Sample. He served as pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Zephyrhills, 1975-1976 and San Mateo Baptist Church, during his ministry the name was changed to First Baptist Church, San Mateo. His wife was Elizabeth H. Samples.

San Mateo First, St. Johns River minutes 1972

pipe was stuck out the window, Mrs. Ramsey sold an organ to the church for five dollars and Mrs. Effie Jewett became the organist. Two of the members played the violin. The room was lighted by a gasoline lantern, which had mantels, and every time a bug hit it, it would go out. Thus the present San Mateo Baptist Church had its beginning in a very humble way.

On the first Sunday in November 1922 Dr. H.L. Lawson, father of Mrs. Claude Conway, became pastor. The State Mission Board of the Florida Baptist Convention assumed the responsibility for paying the pastor.

During the spring of 1923 Dr. Lawson had charge of two services each month, and his brother-in-law, Rev. Fred Quell preached for two Sunday nights each month for a period of several months. Rev. Quell was then called to Peniel Baptist Church. Dr. Lawson took over again as pastor and served until December 1, 1928.

With the church debt paid, the members now thought they could afford a full time pastor, and they called Rev. William Poppell on December 28, 1928 at a salary of fifty dollars per month. Rev. Poppell pastored the church for about six months when he was called to Texas because of the serious illness of a member of his family.

From July 1929 until the Spring of 1935 Dr. W.C. Norman, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Palatka, pastored the church. To accommodate Dr. Norman's schedule, services on Sunday were held in the afternoon. This period of about six years was considered as the most successful period in the history of the church. At a meeting held July 18, 1929, Mr. A.E. Turman was elected as a deacon and ordained on October 10, 1929. Others who served the church during this period were: Walter Lewis, Secretary and Treasurer; Clarence Wells, taught an Intermediate Class; Lynn Burling, was Sunday School Supt. In 1933 Mrs. A.E. Turman was Secretary and Treasurer and Mr. A.E. Turman was Church Clerk. In 1932 Miss Geraldine Ryals (Mrs. Lynn Burling) was elected as Sunday School Pianist. On January 18, 1934 it was voted for the church to go on record to meet all church expenses according to the Scripture and not have any more suppers and bazaars to raise money. This method is still in force today. Mrs. Norman was a great help in the work of the W.M.U.

Rev. James Albert Sawyer served the church as Interim Pastor from August 11, 1935 to April 1936. Rev. Raymond Gomes served as pastor from April 1936 to July 1, 1938. During Rev. Gomes' pastorate, a Mission Sunday School was started at Yelvington. After several months the church voted to ask Mr. Abe Ferrell, the driver of a school bus, to bring folks at Yelvington to Sunday School in San Mateo. From this mission work came a young man, Penny Yelvington, who graduated from Stetson University, and Golden Gate Theological Seminary Mill Valley, California, and now with his wife and family are working with the Indians in New Mexico.

The church has several other pastors to serve from 1938 until the present day: Rev. J.C. Sims, July 3, 1938 - Dec. 28, 1941; Rev. Don McClellan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Palatka served the church from April 5, 1942 - October 4, 1942 by holding afternoon services; Rev. John Allen was pastor from Nov. 1, 1942 - May 23, 1943, and was the only pastor to be married in the church. Rev. Richard A. Kelley, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hastings, also served as pastor here from June 13, 1943 - Nov. 26, 1944. Rev. Gordon Wood served as pastor from February 4, 1945 - Dec. 16, 1945. He was also pastor of the Palatka Heights (Hillcrest) Baptist Church. He ended his pastorate to attend Seminary. Rev. Yelton, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Palatka, was also pastor here from Jan. 16, 1946 --? Rev. James Knight was pastor here from April 2, 1947 - May 2, 1949. Rev. George Downs was

pastor from June 15, 1949 - December 25, 1949. He resigned as pastor to go into evangelistic work. Dr. Henlee Barnette, professor at Stetson University served as pastor from March 5, 1950 - August 12, 1951. Dr. O. Lafayette Walker, Head of the Department of Religion at Stetson University, was pastor from September 23, 1951 -- March 29, 1963. During his ministry the church voted to buy the lot joining the church property at the back for \$400.00. On June 20, 1952 Lon Turman gave a report as to the estimate cost of \$6,000 for one unit of the new building. Rev. George Prom was called as a full time pastor on June 10, 1953 and served until August 4, 1955. On September 8, 1954, Calvin Biggers was elected as a deacon. Rev. Mehali Zarnpampas served as pastor from August 21, 1955 till March 10, 1957. On December 14, 1955 the following men were elected as deacons: A.B. Grooms, Jr., Leon Cain, and G.W. Bledsoe. On May 23, 1957, Rev. Stewart R. Clark was called as pastor and he served until November 10, 1963. Rev. Edward Holmes, professor at Stetson, served as Interim Pastor from November 1963 - March 1964. Rev. William D. Wainwright was called as pastor March 18, 1964 and served until January 16, 1967. Rev. Wayne Frederick served as pastor on two different occasions: February 11, 1967 to September 30, 1969, and from January 18, 1970 to August 16, 1970.

Following Rev. Frederick the church had several ministers fill the pulpit until Rev. Swinton Futch was called to be Interim Pastor on January 24, 1971. Rev. Futch was with the Ford Philpot Evangelistic Crusade Team at the time. He served until October 24, 1971.

On March 26, 1972 Rev. **Ben Edward Samples**, of North Carolina, was called as pastor. At the September business meeting the church voted to change its name from the Baptist Church of San Mateo to the First Baptist Church of San Mateo. It was also voted to incorporate the church.

The church celebrated its 50th Anniversary on November 5, 1972.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE

St. Augustine is the nation's oldest city by virtue of its being the first permanent settlement made by Europeans in what is now the continental United States. Jamestown, Virginia, was established 42 years later. St. Augustine was 55 years old by the time the first pilgrims came to New England.

St. Augustine is the county seat of St. Johns County and in 1970, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, had a population of 12,352. The population of St. Johns County was established as being 30,727.

St. Augustine, because of its antiquity and history, its many points of interest and proximity to the excellent Atlantic Ocean beaches is an important tourist center. St. Johns County ranks high as a producer of agricultural products, primarily potatoes and cabbage. Other key commercial activities include commercial fishing, airplane modification and repair, boat building, book binding, food processing and garment manufacturing. The general offices of the Florida East Coast Railway are located in St. Augustine as is the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and the headquarters of the Florida Military Department.

The history of St. Augustine and Florida falls naturally into four main periods. Following the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon, the first period of actual Spanish rule and occupation lasted almost two centuries. It began with the founding of St. Augustine in 1565, and extended down to 1763 when Spain, defeated in the Seven Years' War, ceded Florida to England.

HISTORY OF WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

aka Six Mile Pond, Zephyrhills

The history of Westside goes back many years beyond what we have records or information. In 1953, Six Mile Pond Baptist Church had a rebirth and began to organize.

July 6, 1960, as recorded in the church minutes, the church's name was changed to Westside. At this time, there was one wooden building on the property. This building served as the sanctuary and later as an educational building.

During the 1970's, the church build a pastorium and a new sanctuary.

In 1984, the church sold the pastorium and built another one in Lake Bernadette. The church also built a new educational building.

In the 1990's, Westside had helped sponsor two new works, Agape Baptist Church, and Jericho Baptist mission.

Some of the Pastors and the years they served:

Rev. C.E. Wade	1953-1954
Rev. W.C. Saddler	1954-1955
Rev. Nathan Bennett	1955
Rev. A.H. Pridgeon	1956-1957
Rev. J.E. Kicklighter	1957-1959
Rev. Bob Shirley	1959
Rev. Robert Weaver	1959-1963
Rev. Milford J. Dennison	1963
Rev. Kenneth Tucker	1963-1964
Rev. John Davis	1965-1966
Rev. Orville R. Moyer	1966-1969
Rev. Pete Hall	1969-1970 (Interim)
Rev. John Huff	1970-1971 (Interim)
Rev. Joe Lawhorne	1971-1974
Rev. Edward Samples	1975-1976
Rev. Jack Yelvington	1977-1979
Rev. Virgil Choate	1979-1980 (Interim)
Dr. John Masters, Jr.	1980-1995
Dr. William Moyle	1995-1996 (Interim)
Dr. Dean Reule	1996-1997
Rev. Robert L. McKinney	1997-present

May God continue to keep His people at Westside in the center of His will.

During the course of this year we have lost two Pastors:

Rev. Joe Lawhorne, who served at this church from 1971-1974, on Feb. 22, 2002 went home to be with the Lord.

Rev. Jim Ketchum, on Aug. 2002 went home to be with the Lord.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/163015452/benjamin_edward-samples
Benjamin Edward Samples Jr.

Birth 26 May 1923 Polk County, North Carolina, USA

Death 21 Feb 2004 (aged 80) Burial

Catawba Memorial Park Hickory, Catawba County, North Carolina,

Family Members

Parents

Ben Edwards Samples 1887–1963

M Lucille Fisher Samples 1899–1989

Spouse

Elizabeth Hipp Samples 1926–2009

Rev. Ben Edward Samples, Jr., 80, of Newton, NC, died on Saturday, February 21, 2004 at Catawba Valley Medical Center.

Born on May 26, 1923 in Polk County, he was the son of the late **Ben Edward, Sr.** and Lucille Fisher **Samples**.

He was an Ordained Baptist Minister for 47 years and was presently a member of Providence Baptist Church in Hickory. Mr. **Samples** was a U.S. Veteran, having served in the Army and Air Force during WWII.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Elizabeth H. **Samples** of the home; three daughters-in-law, Janet and Mark Funk of Gainesville, GA, Jennifer and Chris Pitman of Hickory, and Judy Evans of Taylorsville; one son and daughter-in-law, Jerry L. and Carol **Samples** of Vale, NC; and nine grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on Monday, February 23, 2004 at Providence Baptist Church in Hickory. **Rev.** Dr. Carson Moseley officiated.

Burial followed in Catawba Memorial Park. Pallbearers were **Rev.** George Huffman, **Rev.** Bobby Langston, David Huffman, Jim Hildebran, Stephen Funk, and Daniel Funk.

American Legion Post #16 performed military rites.

Memorials may be made to Providence Baptist Church, 7618 Providence Rd, Hickory, NC 28602.

Condolences may be sent to the **Samples** family at www.drumfuneralhome.com.

The family has entrusted funeral arrangements to Drum Funeral Home and Cremations in Conover.

San Mateo Baptists Call Rev. Samples

Special To The News-Journal

SATSUMA — The First Baptist Church of San Mateo Heights has called a new pastor, the Rev. Edward Samples Jr., who arrived this week from the First Baptist Church in Mineral Springs, Oakboro, N.C. The Rev. Samples conducted the Wednesday evening midweek worship service and services Sunday morning and evening. A family fellowship welcome dinner was at noon Sunday in the San Mateo Women's Clubhouse with the Women's Fellowship of the church serving. For the afternoon program the Weeks Family Singers group was featured on the musical program.

Democratic National Convention starting July 10.

Some skeptics have said that settlements might place the United States at a military disadvantage. Nixon said, however, that an executive agreement to limit offensive arms is not followed by a broader treaty or other action in five years "it would constitute a withdrawal from (defensive) treaty" should national interests be jeopardized.

Either country can repudiate the ABM treaty on six months' notice.

Lithuania

The Tampa Tribune
Sun, Nov 09, 1975 · Page 14

noon from the Graveside in Holton Cemetery in Pasco County, with Rev. Edward Samples Jr., pastor of the Westside Baptist Church of Zephyrhills, officiating. Family will be at the Snipes-Hamilton Funeral