

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

Harold Glen Sanders (1907-1986) was born at Aurora, Missouri the son of Charles Theodore and Margaret Ellen Wheeler Sanders. Sanders was converted at age 17, and baptized into First Baptist Church in Webb City, Missouri. He was licensed in 1927 at Webb City, and ordained by the Pleasant Home Baptist Church in Spruce, Missouri in 1933. He graduated from Southwest Baptist College (A.A., 1930), William Jewell College (A.B., 1932), and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Th.M., 1937; Th.D., 1941). Sanders married Mary Lou Myers on April 30, 1936. They had two adopted children; Margaret Ellen (1946), and Harold II (1946). Mrs. Sanders was killed in an automobile accident on October 4, 1950. Dr. Sanders married June Celeste Holloway on August 1, 1952 at Marion, Ohio. They had two children; Susan in 1953, and Ronald in 1954. Sanders served as pastor in Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, and Alabama. He served as a U.S. Navy Chaplain in the Pacific in World War II (1943-1946). He served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida from 1946 to 1961. In 1954, Sanders served as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention. He then served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention from 1961 until his retirement in 1972.

First Baptist Bulletin

DR. HAROLD G. SANDERS, Pastor
Published Weekly by The First Baptist Church
College Ave. at Adams & Duval, Tallahassee, Fla.

Vol. 9

Tallahassee, Florida, February 10, 1955

No. 20

NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR SUNDAY



“Something New Has Been added” to the pastor’s family—it’s Ronald Shelton, born November 30, 1954! Then, left to right are: Margaret Ellen, June and Susan, Dr. Sanders, Harold II.

Sunday morning the church will observe the beginning of the 10th year of fellowship with Dr. Sanders as our pastor. Will the 10th year see the completion of our “Second Century Church”? Sunday morning his sermon will be “Our Source of Sufficiency”; Sunday evening, “The Spirit-Filled Life.” Be in four services Sunday!

MRS. BARNEY GATLIN AND
1326 N. ADAMS ST.
TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

First Baptist Bulletin

DR. HAROLD G. SANDERS, Pastor
Published Weekly by The First Baptist Church
College Ave. at Adams & Duval, Tallahassee, Florida

Vol. XII

Tallahassee, Florida, February 13, 1958

No. 21



PASTOR'S FAMILY ON 12TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Harold and June Sanders and children (left) Susan, Ronnie, Margaret and Harold. This is "SANDERS SUNDAY" and All Five Primary Departments — children, parents and faculty, will be "Pastor's Guests" at 11:00 worship. Break all records in Sunday School (1612) and Training Union (812). (All members register at preaching, A.M. & P.M., p. 4) "FROM PRISON TO PULPIT" Sunday night at 7:30—hear Don Brandeis. FLASH! Polk County Drys Win! (21,760 to 19,548). Praise God!

Sept 20 1986

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Champion of lay involvement

Former SBC president, Owen Cooper dies

Owen Cooper, 78, the last layman to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Nov. 8, after a three-week illness with cancer. He headed the SBC in 1972-74.

A leader in religion, politics, economics and humanitarian causes, Cooper in 1985 was named Layman of the Century by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. At the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Cooper was presented the Distinguished Service Award of the SBC Christian Life Commission in recognition of his contributions to moral and social concerns.

He also had been a member and former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, president of the Pan-American Union of Baptist Men, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, president and secretary of the Mississippi Pioneer Missions Commit-

tee, member and chairman of the board of trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foundation.

He also had been one of the founders of the *Baptist Layty Journal*, a publication aimed at giving the laity a voice in the denominational controversy. Cooper long had been a champion of the involvement of the laity in church and denominational affairs and had been a speaker at numerous meetings concerning lay involvement.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, four daughters, a son, a brother, a sister and nine grandchildren. (BP)

Kentucky's Sanders dies, buried in Tallahassee

Harold G. Sanders, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, died Oct. 30 at his home in Louisville, Ky., following an extended illness. Following services Nov. 2 at Louisville's Crescent Hill Church, his body was carried to Tallahassee for burial.

Sanders, 79, held student pastorates in Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana. He was pastor of Norwood Church in Birmingham, Ala., 1941-43, and First Church of Tallahassee, 1946-61. He left that church to become executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky convention, the post he held until retirement in 1972. He was pastor of Morningside Church in Louisville from 1976-85.

He is survived by his wife, the former June Holloway, four children, five grandsons, one granddaughter, two sisters and a brother.

The family has requested expressions of sympathy be given to the Harold G. Saunders memorial fund for mission investors, care of Florida Baptist Convention, 1414 East Indianhead Drive, Tallahassee, 32207. (BP)

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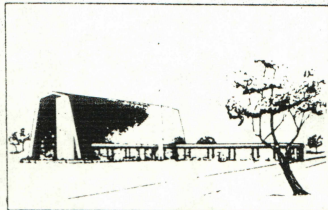
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Harold Glen Sanders (August 2, 1907-October 30, 1986) was born at Aurora, Missouri. He was the son of Charles Theodore Sanders and Margaret Ellen Wheeler Sanders. He had four brothers; Carl (1897), William (1899), Joseph (1901), and Earl (1909). He also had sisters; Mildred (1903) and Marie (1905.). Sanders was converted at age 17, and baptized into First Baptist Church in Webb City, Missouri. He was licensed in 1927 at Webb City, and ordained by the Pleasant Home Baptist Church in Spruce, Missouri in 1933. He graduated from Webb City High School in 1925, and attended Southwest Baptist College (A.A., 1930), William Jewell College (A.B., 1932), and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Th.M., 1937; Th.D., 1941). Sanders married Mary Lou Myers on April 30, 1936. They had two adopted children; Margaret Ellen (1946), and Harold II (1946). Mrs. Sanders was killed in an automobile accident on October 4, 1950. Dr. Sanders married June Celeste Holloway on August 1, 1952 at Marion, Ohio. They had two children; Susan in 1953, and Ronald in 1954. Sanders served as pastor in Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, and Alabama. He served as a U.S. Navy Chaplain in the Pacific in World War II (1943-1946). He served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida from 1946 to 1961, and received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Stetson in 1961. He then served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention from 1961 until his retirement in 1972.

Secondary Source:

Florida Baptist Historical Society files.

Florida Baptist Witness, February 28, 1946, p. 9; June 13, 1946, p. 1; November 20, 1986.



1946-1961

Dr. Harold G. Sanders

1946: The church purchased the second pastorium; began radio broadcast of 11:00 a.m. Sunday service; began holding two Sunday a.m. services; began building fund for First Baptist.

1947: Work was begun on University Heights Mission.

1948: University Heights Mission was completed; the church rented the old WTAL property on Thomasville Road and held services there—the beginning of Thomasville Road Mission.

1949: The church bought the old WTAL property for the Thomasville Road Mission; held a ground-breaking ceremony for Unit I of the new Second Century Church; held a Centennial Celebration.

1955: The church began televising 15-minute weekly program, *Windows toward God*; Frank Boggs came as first full-time Minister of Music.

1957: Deaf Ministry began; dedication of completed sanctuary and Adams wing of the Second Century Church; Crawfordville Road Mission started.

1960: The church purchased the Stewart property behind the Adams wing.

1961: Haywood Cates Mission began and finished a new church building; Dr. Sanders was honored by Stetson University with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

1980: Dr. Sanders was voted Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church.

FBC Tallahassee
Windows of the Past

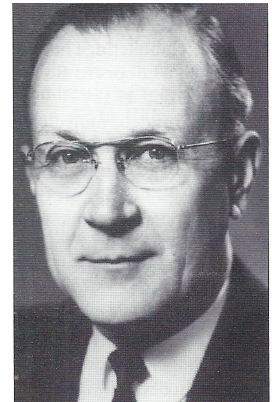
The Florida Baptist Historical Society seeks to **preserve the legacy** of Florida Baptist pastoral leaders and laity, the past and present functioning Baptist churches, the State Convention's cooperating ministries and milestone events that were historically significant to Florida Baptists. The Society's mission is accomplished through a variety of ministry services provided to Florida Baptists. To underscore this emphasis the Society's monthly newsletter, LEGACY, seeks to highlight the legacy endowed by the people, churches and events in Florida Baptist history. During the next several months this newsletter will feature those persons whose legacy in Florida Baptist life was achieved in part, by their service as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

As noted in previous issues of LEGACY, since 1854 (excluding the seven years at various times the State Convention did not meet), the persons elected as president have included 78 pastors and 16 laypersons. The first two issues of LEGACY featured brief profiles on those 16 laypersons. Continuing this month, we provide brief profiles on selected pastors who served as State Convention president.

Millard J. Berquist, President 1950

Millard J. Berquist (b. 1902; d. 1990) was serving as pastor (1947 — 1957) of the First Baptist Church, Tampa, at the time of his election to lead the Florida Baptist State Convention. He previously served the Riverside Baptist Church, Jacksonville (1942 — 1947). Berquist went from Florida in 1957 to become the first president of Southern Baptists' then newest and fifth theological education institution, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Kansas City, Missouri.

During the 1950 annual meeting at which Berquist presided, messengers approved a plan to establish a Camps and Assembly program that would result in the establishment of three permanent regional, geographically locations that would serve as Florida Baptist's retreat and training facility. Messengers adopted the 1951 annual convention budget, which authorized the continued split of Cooperative Program receipts on a 50-50 basis between the Southern Baptist Convention and the state convention.



Millard J. Berquist



Earl B. Edington

Earl B. Edington, President 1951

Earl Blackburn Edington (b. 1904; d. 1989) was the long-time pastor (1944 — 1971) of the First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg. The Tennessee native served as pastor of churches in Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama prior to coming to Florida. While in both Alabama and Florida, Edington served on a wide variety of local and state denominational entities.

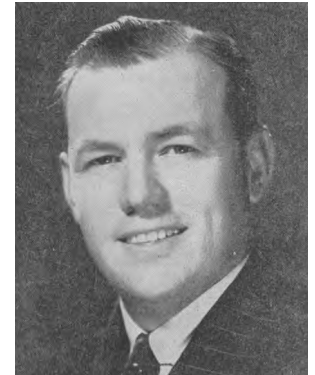
Following the conclusion of the opening Wednesday afternoon session of the 1951 State Convention, messengers were invited to the dedication of the Florida Baptist Children's Home which had re-located from Arcadia to Lakeland during the year. In a separate business session, messengers approved a report from a Special Committee on Survey of Convention Institutions and Agencies which outlined critical current and long-range capital needs of the various entities. Also considered and

approved by messengers was a motion to appoint a study committee to consider the potential of the then Baptist Bible Institute becoming an official agency of the State Convention.

Albert L. Carnett, President 1952

Albert L. Carnett (b. 1911; d. 1970) was pastor (1942 — 1954) of the Woodlawn Baptist Church at the time of his election in 1951 to serve as state convention president during 1952. He later served as the long-time pastor (1954 — 1970) of the First Baptist Church, Winter Haven. At the time of Carnett's death, *Florida Baptist Witness* Editor W.G. Stracener wrote, "he loved lost souls, he loved men, he loved people. . .he loved to preach, he loved to witness personally, he love to stand as vigorously against sin as he did for righteousness."

During the 1952 annual meeting, messengers discussed at length and then approved a motion to revise the State Convention Bylaws which defined the membership composition of the State Board of Missions. The change permitted each association to nominate their respective representative to serve on the State Board. In response to the report made by the Special Committee on Survey [1951 State Convention] the messengers approved a 10-year capital fund budget to be earmarked for facility needs at Stetson University, the camps and assemblies, and the children's home.



Albert L. Carnett

Harold G. Sanders, President 1954

Harold Glen Sanders (b. 1907; d. 1986) was in the midst of a 15-year stint as pastor (1946 -- 1961) of the First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, when he was elected state convention president. Prior to accepting the Florida pastorate, Sanders served as a U.S. Navy Chaplain in the Pacific during World War II. His earlier service as a pastor included churches in Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana and Alabama. In 1961, Sanders was elected as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, a post he held until his retirement in 1972.

Sanders presided over the **Centennial year celebration** - 100 years since the organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention - although this was only the 93rd annual meeting for the convention. On seven separate occasions the state convention did not meet due to war or other restricting conditions. The state convention messengers learned of the significant gains made in Florida as a result of the year-long, heavily promoted, Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School enrolment campaign of "**A Million More in 54.**" The emphasis resulted in significant increases in local

church Sunday school enrolments, as well as reports of increased study course awards being earned by teachers who sought to improve the quality of their Sunday school teaching.

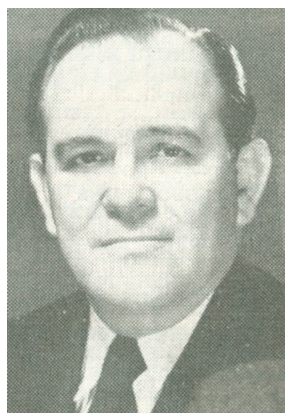
Julius H. Avery, President 1958

Julius Hillier Avery (b. 1908; d. 1994) was serving as pastor (1949 — 1965) of the First Baptist Church, Panama City, at the time of his service as state convention president. The native of Georgia had previously served churches in Mississippi and Alabama before accepting the pastorate in the Panhandle Gulf Coast church. From the pastorate, Avery became more widely known as the director (1965 — 1973) of the Florida Baptist Convention's ministry with National Baptists in Florida.

Facility expansion seemed to be the order of business for the 1958 State Convention annual meeting. Messengers approved a recommendation by a Committee on Home for the Aging to move forward with establishing housing for "the care of senior citizens." The State Board of Missions was authorized to proceed in securing an existing facility and to employ a program director. [The following year the state



Julius H. Avery



Harold G. Sanders

convention approved Articles of Incorporation for the proposed, then called, retirement center and was introduced to J. Perry Carter the new agency director.] In a separate property matter, messengers approved a plan by the State Board of Missions to re-locate the Convention offices from a downtown Jacksonville facility, built in 1924, to a south Jacksonville location. They planned to construct a five-story Baptist Building that could more adequately accommodate the convention's increased ministry program staffs.



Carl A. Howell

Carl A. Howell, President, 1959

Carl Alonzo Howell (b. 1901; d. 1978) was serving as pastor (1944 — 1966) of the Murray Hill Baptist Church, Jacksonville, at the time of his election as state convention president. Under his leadership, the Murray Hill church established 11 missions. He previously served Florida Baptist churches in Leesburg, Tampa, and Eustis.

During the annual 1959 State Convention meeting held in Tallahassee, messengers approved a resolution and separate recommendation to participate in the Southern Baptist Convention- promoted **Baptist Diamond Jubilee**, celebrating the beginning of Baptist work in America. In the course of the proposed five-year Jubilee observance, Florida Baptists committed to start 100 new missions and churches per year and increase yearly baptism records to 59,861 annually by the year 1964. Messengers also expressed chagrin at the growing “moral, social and economic problems afflicting the people of Florida and America.” The resolution called upon Florida Baptists to pursue "a true

revival of ethical values" by developing “Christian solutions” to alcohol abuse, gambling, indecent literature, juvenile delinquency and crime, and commercialization that “cheapens the Lord's Day”.

The sequential order of State Convention Presidents between 1950 and 1959:

Millard J. Berquist, 1950
Earl B. Edington, 1951
Albert L. Carnett, 1952
James W. Parrish, 1953
Harold Glen Sanders, 1954

Cecil B. Carroll, 1955
Preston Brooks Sellers, 1956
J. E. Stallings, 1957
Julius Hillier Avery, 1958
Carl A. Howell, 1959

[Series to continue next month]

Historical Society Endowment

You can create a personal, God-honoring Legacy by contributing to the Florida Baptist Historical Society endowment fund that will support the future on-going mission and ministries of the Society. Society ministries include researching, collecting, preserving, and publishing Florida Southern Baptist historical materials. The Society assists local churches in preserving their respective Legacy by offering assistance in research, writing and publication of local church documentaries and histories. Gifts to this fund are tax deductible and all checks may be made out to the Florida Baptist Historical Society Endowment Fund. Mail to: Florida Baptist Historical Society, PO Box 95, Graceville, FL 32440.

