

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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Sanders, Levant Gene was the son of Gene Arthur and Marjorie Yoder Sanders. He graduated from Stetson University. Sanders served as pastor of churches in Georgia and Florida, including Olga Baptist Church, Fort Myers, 1986-1988. He married Sharon Leigh Arthur Sanders in 1982

Olga Baptist Church, Fort Myers

Pastors list

March 3, 2020 - Present: **Rev. Jerome Anderson** (Wife: Erin | Daughters: Jasmine and Moriah)

2019 - 2020: Guest Speakers

1959 - 2018: See list below

Pastors and Interim Pastors

1959 – 1961	Ernest Harvey *	† left to go into the mission field where he became very ill and the whole world prayed for him	1989 - 1989	James Hutto	
1961 - 1964	Dwight Spillman		1990	Robert Rowe *	† served as interim pastor † over the years he also taught Adult Bible School and Sunday School classes and study courses
1965 - 1966	George Liner		1990 - 2010	Gary Pinkley *	† took a group to Lake Yale for a Sunday School Teacher training † took members of church on several medical missionary trips to Nicaragua and Honduras † he also took a group to help in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit the area † his wife Karen directed beautiful Christmas Cantatas - each year was better than the year before
1967 - 1975	Robert Miller	† played his trumpet for special music † conducted the first Hobo Convention (<i>still have the supper on the 2nd Saturday of November</i>)	2012 - 2014	Darrell Stephenson	† Trustees were appointed † Revised Church By-Laws † Revised Church Council
1976 - 1983	David Lathrem	† caught and fried fish for a church dinner † after serving other churches for several years Bro. David returned in 2017 and he and his wife Mary once again became members † has once again conducted several Sunday services, as well as, Wednesday services	2015 - 2016	Gray Harwell	
1984 - 1986	William Lewis *	† led a Vacation Bible School parade through Olga † took a group to Lake Yale for a conference	2017 - 2018	Rob Worthington	† started a Movie Night, as well as, a Game Night
1986 - 1988	Levant Sanders		2018	Dennis Norvell	† served as interim pastor

*denotes known deceased
as of October 2019

In a letter received from Mrs. Margie Sanders, the former Margaret Yoder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Yoder, deceased, long time residents of Inverness, announcing the engagement of Rev. Gene Levant Sanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Sanders of Jacksonville and Miss Sharon Leigh Arthur, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Neil Arthur, of Dunwoody, Ga., I was told the wedding will be performed on Saturday, May 15 at 7 p.m., in the First Baptist Church, in Leesburg.

The bride elect graduated from Peachtree High School, Dunwoody, and from the University of Georgia, in Athens. She is presently an instructor of mathematics in the Lake-Sumter Community College, at Leesburg.

Rev. Sanders graduated from Andrew Jackson High School, in Jacksonville, Florida Junior College, and from Stetson University, in DeLand. He also attended South-Western Theological Seminary, in Ft. Worth, Texas. He is now currently serving as Youth Minister at the First Baptist Church in Leesburg.

Rev. Sanders and his future bride says that friends from the area are invited to attend the wedding.



The Rev. **Levant Sanders** to marry in Leesburg

The Rev. **Levant Sanders**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene A. **Sanders**, Jacksonville, and Sharon Leigh Arthur, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Neil Arthur, Dunwoody, Ga., will be married May 15 at 7 p.m. in the First Baptist Church, Leesburg.

The bride elect graduated from Peachtree High School, Dunwoody, Ga., and from the University of Georgia in Athens. She is presently em-

ployed as a mathematics instructor at Lake-Sumter Community College, Leesburg.

Her fiance graduated from Andrew Jackson Senior High, Jacksonville, and from Stetson University in DeLand. He also attended Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He is currently serving as Associate Pastor/Youth Minister at First Baptist Church in Leesburg.

SANDERS, GENE ARTHUR, 70, of Floral City, died Sunday (April 12, 1998). Born in Tampa, he came here nine years ago from Jacksonville. He was a retired superintendent for the highway division and public works for the city of Jacksonville and a member of First Baptist Church, Inverness. He was an Army veteran of World War II and a member of the 82nd Airborne Division of the Army, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Yoder **Sanders**; two sons, Emory **Sanders**, Woodstock, Ga., and **Levant Sanders**, Flowery Branch, Ga.; and four grandchildren. Hooper Funeral Home and Crematory, Inverness.