

## **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](http://FloridaBaptistHistory.org)

**Sams, M. W.** served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Ocala.

## FBC, Ocala (Marion)

which is erected our present building. A portion of the lot purchased through the efforts of Dr. Chapman has recently been sold at a nice profit and the proceeds used in liquidating entirely the debt then remaining in building our present church home.

Rev. Bunyan Stephens came to us in 1912 and remained until 1918, when he entered the Y. M. C. A. work during the World's War. Perhaps no minister who had ever served us left more friends when he relinquished his work.

Dr. W. H. Wrighton came to the church in 1918 and served for about a year, and the church was richly blessed in many ways under his leadership.

Dr. W. P. Himes next served the church for a short while; and was succeeded by Dr. C. M. Brittain, the present capable and beloved secretary of our State Mission Board. Under his leadership the church responded liberally in the seventy-five million dollar campaign of Southern Baptists.

Dr. C. L. Collins came as pastor October 1st, 1920, and continued for almost ten years. Our present beautiful edifice was erected during his pastorate.

Dr. G. J. Rousseau began his ministry here October 1st, 1930. The church was dedicated during his ministry, and the Skinner organ was purchased and installed. The church adopted the Budget system, also at this time. Dr. G. J. Rousseau served the church 3 ½ years. A leave of absence of 3 months was granted him to return to Cape Town, Africa to visit his aged mother, who was hopelessly ill. During his absence, Drs. Ed. Solomon and Tinnan served as supply pastors most acceptably. Within a year after his return, Dr. Rousseau's health failed and he resigned.

Dr. Grady Wheeler began a nine year pastorate. He was especially interested in departmentalized Sunday School work and during his pastorate the lower floor was divided into assembly and class rooms. A pastorium was built on Lake Weir Avenue.

Dr. Crutcher followed as supply pastor for several months until Dr. Hoke Shirley was secured. For 3 years he shepherded the flock and saw to it that the auditorium had a coat of paint and a red carpet.

Dr. Bowers supplied until Dr. Malcolm Knight was secured as Pastor some four years ago. Being especially concerned for the young people, Dr. Knight began early to emphasize the need of a youth building and money was contributed to that end over a period of three years. The church also became more mission minded and began to support partially two missionaries, J. H. Ware and Charles W. Knight. Last year Mary Catherine Adams volunteered for the Foreign field. Dr. Knight is most evangelistic in his preaching and the church has prospered greatly during his pastorate. We now have some 1465 members and the budget for 1949 was \$64,000.00.

### Pastors

July 3, 1850     Rev. Isaac Newton  
March 1851     Rev. William Royall  
                  Rev. Charles. B. Jones  
                  Rev. F. C. Johnson  
                  Rev. R. W. Perry  
1868-1873     No Pastor  
1873     Rev. P. P. Bishop  
                  Rev. G. T. Gresham  
                  Rev. **M. W. Sams**  
                  Rev. J. A. Crompton