

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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Sapp, Earl A. (1931-2012) was a native of Leon County. He graduated from Florida State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sapp served as pastor of churches in North Carolina and Florida including First Baptist Church, St. Marks, Aucilla Baptist Church, Lamont Baptist Church, Central Baptist Church, Indian River City, 1957-1959, Ocean Park Baptist Church, Jacksonville, and Parkway Baptist Church, Tallahassee. Sapp taught Philosophy of Religion and Psychology at Tallahassee Community College for 26 years. Sapp and his wife Elna had one son.

Earl A. Sapp 1931 - 2012 Obituary



Earl A. Sapp (1931-2012) was a native of Leon County. He graduated from Florida State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sapp served as pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Marks, Aucilla Baptist Church, Lamont Baptist Church and Parkway Baptist Church, Tallahassee. Sapp taught Philosophy of Religion and Psychology at Tallahassee Community College for 26 years. Sapp and his wife Elna had one son.

Earl A. Sapp died February 11, 2012 in Tallahassee. Visitation is 11:00 am, February 16, 2012, and the service will start at noon, at Abbey Funeral Home.

A native of Leon County, Earl graduated from Leon High School and received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science from Florida State University. He received a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

While attending Florida State University, Earl was pastor of several local churches including First Baptist Church of St. Marks, Aucilla Baptist Church and Lamont Baptist Church. He and his wife, Elna, were instrumental in beginning a Mission from Immanuel Baptist church which later became Parkway Baptist Church.

Mr. Sapp began teaching at Tallahassee Community College in 1969 and taught Philosophy of Religion and Psychology for 26 years, before retiring in 1995. He loved his work and said that "working with young people keeps one young." He was a life-long member of Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity and sang with the University Singers, while at FSU.

Earl was an avid fisherman, spending many weekends at his home on the Wakulla River. He also raised beautiful Bonsai trees and shared them with many of his friends. He was honored as "Golden Poet of the Year" in 1990, by the World Poet Organization for his poem "Caretakers".

Earl was known for his sweet nature and great sense of humor. He was loved by many and will be missed by all of his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Elna W. Sapp; one brother, Bryan G. Sapp and his wife, Elise; three brothers-in-law, Edward T. Ward and his wife, Mary; Bobby J. Ward and his wife, Betty; and Tony B. Ward and his wife, Helen; many loving neighbors; and special family friends Susanne Wood, Roger and Nell Hewitt, Ken McCullough, and Edward and Evelyn Borschel.

He was preceded in death by his son, E. Allen Sapp, Jr.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tallahassee

The Mission's Committee of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida found, under the leadership of the Holy spirit, a great need for a church in the Indian Head Acres area. On December 9, 1953 the church voted to sponsor this effort. In January of 1955 the church called Earl Sapp as part-time pastor of the mission. Meetings were first held in private homes, then in a block building on Lafayette St. In 1954 the present church property was acquired in the amount of 2.42 acres.

August of 1955, Bro. Warren Rush was called as permanent, full-time pastor. As the church grew, the basement of the Masonic Lodge, next door was rented for Sunday School classes. The Mission was constituted into a church and named Parkway Baptist Church on November 5, 1956, with 129 charter members. November 5, 1961 was the ground breaking for the educational facility and temporary auditorium. In 1962 the current auditorium was completed with seating capacity of 1000 including the balcony.

PASTORS:

Jan., 1955 - Aug., 1955	Rev. Earl Sapp
Aug., 1955 - Sept., 1977	Rev. Warren H. Rush
Jan., 1978 - Jan. 1979	Dr. Jeffrey N. Castleberry
Oct., 1979 - Nov. 1981	Rev. Charles Pinkerton
Aug., 1982 - Aug. 1986	Rev. Jay Bolejack
March, 1987 - Mar. 1991	Rev. Charles Groover
Sept., 1991 - present	Rev. Ray Hester

INFORMATION SHEET
EARL A. SAPP

AGE: 31

MARRIED: Elna W. Sapp

CHILDREN: One boy, Allen Age 5

EDUCATION: B. A. Degree from Florida State University in
Education 1953

B. D. Degree from Southeastern Seminary 1957
Wake Forest, North Carolina

FORMER PASTORATES:

North Carolina: Brantley Grove Baptist, Ahoskie, N. C.
Fishing Creek Baptist, Rocky Mount, N. C.

✓ Florida:

Parkway Baptist, Tallahassee - prior to Seminary
Central Baptist, Indian River City 57-59

PRESENT PASTORATE: Ocean Park Baptist, Jacksonville Beach 59 -
(I have been at present location for three years)

POSITIONS HELD IN ASSOCIATION: Vice Moderator of Brevard Asso-
ciation 1959 -
Associational Music Director, Brevard Asso. 1958
Committees

POSITIONS HELD IN CONVENTION: President of Southeastern Alumni
Association Florida, 1960.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Dr. Sydnor Staley, Southeastern Seminary,
Wake Forest, N. C.
Dr. Leo Green, Southeastern Seminary,
Wake Forest, N. C.
Dr. George Shriver, Southeastern Seminary
Wake Forest, N. C.
Rev. Harvey L. Duke, St. Johns Baptist Church,
Jacksonville, Florida
Dr. John McGuire, Executive Secretary, Florida
Baptist Convention, Jacksonville
Rev. D. O. Alderman, Superintendent of Missions,
Florida Association, Tallahassee
Rev. Charles E. Peterson, Jacksonville
Rev. Orrin Stites