

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, William served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church (now First Baptist), Campbellton, 1895-1896 and Piney Grove, Baptist Church, Cottdale, 1898 and 1901-1903.

Bethlehem Baptist Church

YEARS from	YEARS to	NAME
April 8, 1826	2-10-1827	B. Foscue
May 22 1830	April 2, 1842	James Watson
April 1842	1853	Joshua Mercer
Nov 18, 1854		William M. Davis
March 1857	1859	L. Sims
1859	1864	W. B. Lacy
1864	1868	W. W. Howell
1869	1871	J. M. Poiner
1872	1888	T. W. Langley
1888	1892	J. J. White
1892	1893	Robert Harris
1893	1895	S. W. Locke
1895	1896	J. Deal
1895	1896	William Sapp
1896	1897	W. A. Bryan
West Florida Association		
1897	1898	J. P. Smith
1898	1900	Benjamin F. Urton
1901	1902	J. E. White
1903		No minutes on file
1904		J. W. White
1905	1906	No minutes on file
1907		C. J. White
1908	1909	No minutes on file
1910		J. W. White
1911	1917	No minutes on file
1918		J. W. White
1919		No Pastor listed
1920	1924	J. W. White
1925	1926	C. W. Monk
Jackson County Baptist Association		
1926		A. W. Boswell
1927		No Pastor listed
1928		J. H. Patton
1929		C. A. Cozart
1930		No Pastor listed
1931		R. M. Hall
1932		Church not listed
1933	1937	E. H. S. Beall

The first record of church minutes were written in April 1891. The first pastor serving was Bro. J.W. Johnson. In February 1892 a Standing Committee was elected to tend to the church business at that time.

In 1892, Bro. D.W. (Dan) Creamer was elected as pastor and John Jefferson Ebnezer Washington Taylor was elected Clerk of the church.

In 1893, Rev. S.W. Locke was elected pastor and served for three years. Also in 1893 the church sent delegates to the association in August.

In 1896, Bro. J.W. Johnson served as pastor again. About 1896 the church finally agreed to observe the service of foot washing once a year on the Friday before the last adjournment of the pastoral year. They also set up the rules a member must follow.

In May 1897, Bro. Charley Locke was ordained at Piney Grove Church and then was called to preach there the same year.

Bro. William Sapp served as pastor for one year in 1898. Bro. Loudermilk was called and he preached for the next two years, 1899-1900. During his tenure the church began talking about a new church.

In April 1900, Bro. John Walker came and served about 8 months. A meeting was called to get a committee to see about securing a plot of ground for a church and a grave yard.

Then in 1901-1903, Bro. William Sapp was called again to serve the church as pastor. They continued to work on ways to earn money for the new church for the next couple of years.

In 1903, the church approved taking bond for title from George Tharpe to build the church house on. Mr. Tharpe donated the land but the pine trees were to be cut off the land in order to build on it.

On August 21, 1904 the church called Bro. Adams to serve as pastor. At the same conference they approved a plan for the church building to be built.

In December 1904, Bro. Carter was called to serve as pastor, he served the until sometime in 1906.

In May the land was deeded to the church and the building was completed. They moved into the new frame church during this month and at the business meeting for that month, the cost of the new church was quoted as \$181.03. The amount that have been raised was \$140.71 so they had to finish paying the debt. The actual date that the church moved into the frame building was May 16, 1906.

The next preacher who served Piney Grove Church was Bro. W.H. Bryan. He was called in late 1906 and served until 1910. An interesting note is that his salary for the one weekend a month services was \$6.08. It was the amount they collected at those services. Sometimes he was given vegetables and produce from the families.

In 1911, Bro. C.L. Burns came as pastor and served until 1914.

Bro. C.T. Stuart served as pastor in 1916. In 1917, Bro. L.M. Jones served as pastor. He was followed by Bro. C.S. Locke who served in 1918. The Association letter dated 1918 stated that the church had 168 members at that time.

In November of 1919, Bro. Samuel Carter came to serve as pastor and served until 1925.

In November, 1926, Bro. C.E. Locke came to serve the church as pastor and served for three years.

In 1929, Bro. E.B. Riddles came to the church. He served for either 2 or 3 years. During his tenure as pastor the church began to discuss adding Sunday School rooms to the side of the church.

In 1931, the records show that the church was involved in Cooperative Program. Mr. J.W. Holley donated a quarter acre of cotton for the Cooperative Program. And in 1932 the church had begun to support an orphanage in Pensacola.

In September 1933, the church called Bro. B.R. Camp to serve as pastor. In September 1935, the church called Bro. F.L. Dykes as pastor. In December 1936, the church voted to have half-time services.

In 1937, Bro. C.L. Rooks was called as pastor. And the church was again discussing the need for Sunday School rooms. At the end of Bro.

Rooks tenure, Preacher Manuel was called, but he only served for two months. Then the church called Bro. E.H.S. Beall as pastor, he began his service in January 1939 and continued to serve for five years.

In 1939, the church began to build the needed Sunday School rooms. In 1940, electrical service was installed.

In October 1944, Bro. C.G. Garrett was called to serve as pastor. During this pastor's tenure the church became concerned about the shape of the frame church and appointed a committee to collect funds for a new church.

The church minutes for the period of 1945-57 were missing, but the following information was either obtained from associational minutes or members. During this time Bro. Robert Middleton was called as pastor and he served for one year.

The church then called Bro. J. Tolbert Hagler of Bascom to serve as pastor. During this time the church began actively discussing the need for a new church building. Bro. Hagler served from 1947 to 1950.

At this time the church called Bro. Willis Melvin to serve as pastor, he served the church from 1950-1953. It was during this time that the church really got busy and moved forward with the building plans and earning the money to finance it. The new church was finished in late 1953 or early 1953. The new church was a welcomed change to the church family and is still a beautiful building. Bro. Melvin was soon called to serve another church.

In 1954 the church called Bro. C.N. Walker to serve as pastor. He was a professor at the newly opened Baptist Bible Institute at the time of his tenure at Piney Grove. He served the church from 1954 to 1956.

At this time the church recalled Bro. Willis Melvin to serve as pastor. Bro. Melvin returned to the church in 1956 and still serves the church today.

Some of the things that have been done since Dr. Melvin's tenure began are the addition of the annex that is used for Sunday School rooms, the remodeling of the front part of the church, upholstering of the pews, stained glass windows installed, central heat and air conditioning was installed, carpet throughout the auditorium and the Sunday School rooms, drapes in front of the church, and a baptistry was installed.

He has served the church faithfully and has inspired the church to look toward new goals of service for our fellow man and our community. He has been serving the church since 1956 which really is a record for one pastor in continual service.

Piney Grove
Cottondale
(Chipola 1984)