

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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Saunders Clarence E. (1892-1960) was born in Clay County, Florida. He was a bi-vocational pastor in Florida and organized four churches, Murray Hill, Lake Shore, and Edgewood Heights in Jacksonville, and Maxville Baptist Church in Maxville. He also served as pastor at Lowery Memorial Baptist Church, Jacksonville, First Baptist Church in Grand Park, Trinity, Callahan, Yulee Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church Black Creek, Penney Farms. Saunders taught school for 35 years in Duval, Clay, and Nassau County schools. He and his wife, Gladys, had two children.

PASTOR C. E. SAUNDERS



LOWERY MEMORIAL.
C. E. SAUNDERS, Pastor

The Lowery Memorial Church was organized August 15, 1915, with twenty-eight members, on Spencer street, under the name of the Baptist Tabernacle.

In 1919 the present building was erected and the name was changed to the Lowery Memorial Baptist Church.

The church has had three pastors, namely: Rev. W. W. Lowery, who was the founder and pastor for nearly eight years; Rev. C. W. Kneeland, who was pastor for about three years, and the present pastor, Rev. C. E. Saunders, who took the pastorate of the church a little over three years ago. The church has grown under the present leadership from 139 members to 245; the Sunday School enrollment has reached over 400; the school is standard, nine B. Y. P. U.'s, with an enrollment of 140 and eight of them doing A-1 work.

A splendid Woman's Missionary Society with a Y. W. A., two G. A.'s and R. A. and Sunbeam, with a total membership of 124, all doing good work.

BELOVED LOUIE B. WARREN

Beloved Louis B. Warren, the blind evangelist, is out again after a year of rest and is able to hold meetings again. Pastor John W. Inzer, of Chattanooga, writes: "The Lord has richly blessed him during these last few years. In no way does his blindness detract. His meeting with us was one of the best we have ever had in spiritual power and visible results." His address is Atlanta, Ga., in care of First Baptist Church.—Baptist and Reflector.

HOLIDAY SPECIALS*For the Family and Friends***These Gracious Years**

George W. Truett

\$1.25

Doctor Truett has been persuaded to put into book form his Christmas messages of the last seventeen years. These are printed just as they went from him to his people and with all the informality of such communications. A moment's reflection will show what these seventeen years have meant in the life of a church and in the history of the denomination. They vividly reflect the period which produced them. Special Deluxe Gift Edition \$3.00.



GEO. W. TRUETT

Edgar Young Mullins
The Biography of a World Leader

Iola May Mullins

\$2.00



E. Y. MULLINS

For a generation the tall, quiet, reserved figure of Dr. E. Y. Mullins moved among his fellows. Almost by common consent, he led the forces of Southern Baptists and became the spokesman of the Baptists of the world. Men respected him for his versatile ability, honored him for his monumental achievements, loved him for his unflinching devotion to truth; but few knew the real man. Mrs. Mullins has given us an intimate picture of her husband and has done it in such a beautiful way that the book becomes at once biography and literature.

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JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

FBC Black Creek, Penney Farms

Pastors

ted a wall clock and a church covenant to

first paid nursery worker.
e held on October 2, 1977, for a new 325

December 3, 1978.
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Pastors who have served this church:

Rev. J. F. McBride	1899
	1902-1904
	1906-1914
Rev. P. M. Riggs	1899-1900
Rev. Charles Conway	1900-1902
	1916-1917
Rev. J. E. Black	1904-1906
Rev. L. A. Donnelly	1914-1916
	1917-1919
Rev. C. E. Saunders	1919-1920
Rev. G. A. Prevatt	1920-1923
	1924-1930
Rev. Ivan Bohannon	1923-1924
	1930-1932
	1940-1942
Rev. J. F. Conway	1932-1934
Rev. L. F. Godwin	1934-1935
Rev. J. A. Saunders	1935-1940
	1942-1943
Rev. J. E. Lingerfelt	1943-1945
Rev. C. A. Sikes	1945-1947
Rev. Harold Baxley	1947-1948
Rev. C. F. Padgett	1948-1950
Rev. C. A. Crosby	1950-1952
	1955-1960
Rev. C. W. Carter	1952-1954
Rev. Claude Hall	1960-1962
Rev. Edward Summersill	1962-1964
Rev. Philip Stough	1964-1968
Rev. Jerry Milton	1969-1970
Rev. Fred Johns	1970-1972
Rev. T. L. Lambert	1972-1973
Rev. Paul Stapsel	1973-1975
Dr. Harold Warren	1975-1979
Rev. Frank Hagerman	1979-
Rev. I. C. Johnson	1979-1981
Rev. Ray Dobbins	1981-1982
Rev. James Deas	1982-

FBC Callahan

continuous growth, all to the glory of God through Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Among former pastors beginning in the 1900's were: Rev. D. C. Andress, Rev. J. C. Forter, Rev. L. W. Kickliter, H. C. Pellman, A. E. Caulkins, C. M. Button, A. Z. Carswell, D. J. Sikes, C. E. Saunders, W. L. Spears, J. N. Davis, DeWitt Jackson, Rev. Burke, J. D. Poindexter, Thurmond Spell, W. C. Rice, Paul Carmichael, Jr., A. L. Bonner, Willard Brown, David Lundin, and Samuel C. Lee.

1979

Rev. Lynn Hyatt and wife Peggy became pastor in July, 1979

1980

Renovation of the auditorium was completed in December 1980.

1986

The Family Life Center was completed on July 6, 1986 – almost debt free.

1989

The church had outgrown her present auditorium and a second morning worship service was begun in the main auditorium starting at 8:30 a.m. to make room for more growth.

1994

A new worship facility was completed in the spring of 1994 and was paid off in four years. This building accommodates 1,700 people. The goal of First Baptist is that Callahan and the surrounding area may know Christ. The vision to reach the lost and disciple the saved.

1998

The new worship facility was paid off on December 27, 1998.

In recent years, this church has been impacted by the strong growth patterns in the Callahan area. This church believes that where the population is growing, the church should be growing. As long as there are people to reach, a church can grow. An aggressive outreach program has been the single greatest factor contributing to the growth of First Baptist. Each week the body of First Baptist has been involved in outreach visitation in the community carrying forth The Great Commission.

2004

The church is in the planning stages of building a new education building and parking spaces.

The Florida Times Union, Jacksonville, Florida, July 10, 2004.

Yulee

OUR PASTORS

This is a feeble attempt to describe our pastors. The information that has been given to me may be incomplete, but I feel it should be passed on.

J. S. GEIGER - Before 1911-18 ✓

He lived in Jacksonville and preached at Yulee twice a month, 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings.

He baptised Mrs. Annie Lee Jones and Mrs. Maggie Lee Hurlbert in 1911 at Lumber Bluff after a revival led by G. E. Jones. He was pastor before 1911 but since the church was not constituted, records were not kept and thus it cannot be verified.

He led the services in the Union Church before 1918.

During his ministry, the church was constituted in 1914, joined the Jacksonville Baptist Association in 1915, and moved into their own new buildings in 1918.

JAMES M. CONNER - 1918

He was pastor and school teacher, residing in Yulee and teaching at Yulee School.

C. E. SAUNDERS - 1921 *Clarence* ✓

He was a student at Stetson University at Deland, Florida. His home was in Green Cove Springs, Florida.

He rode the train/bus to Jacksonville and someone would pick him up on Friday and return him on Sunday afternoon. Services were held every 3rd Sunday of the month.

GILBERT E. JONES - 1920, 1932-33 ✓

He led a revival in 1911 before the church was constituted. He was a Baptist Evangelist residing in Jacksonville, Florida. He served as pastor twice.

This, That and the Other

MAIN ST. CHURCH CALLS MINISTER OF EDUCATION



Homer Durham, minister of education for the past 12 years at Main Street Church, Greer, S. C., will become minister of education at Main Street Church, Jacksonville in latter part of October.

A native of South Carolina, Durham completed his education at Furman University. During the past eight years he served with the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in enlargement campaigns in South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee and Florida. He was sociational Training Union director for five years, and has also been sociational Sunday school work. Mrs. Durham, the former Missillian Campbell, is also active in enlargement campaigns. They have one daughter, Joretta, a recent graduate of Furman University.

ACCEPTS CALIFORNIA CALL

Harry M. Leichty, Jr. has resigned as pastor of Lake Maggiore Church, St. Petersburg, effective October 31, to accept a call to the First Southern Baptist Church, Acacia, Calif.

During the past seven years and in months, Leichty has led Lake Maggiore Church from zero to a membership of nearly 900 (including a mission), a budget of over \$60,000, and property to an estimated value of nearly a quarter million dollars.

COCOA'S LARGEST BUDGET

Members of First Church, Cocoa edged \$90,000 of its \$104,800 budget on October 9. The following of absentees is expected to produce final results far in excess of the largest budget ever undertaken by the church. Thomas O'Keefe, associate minister, directed a church in the Forward Program of Church Finance. James Sawyer is pastor.

C. E. SAUNDERS, ORGANIZER OF FOUR CHURCHES, DIES

Clarence E. Saunders, pastor of Edgewood Heights Church, Jacksonville, died on Sunday evening, October 9. Funeral services were held on October 12 at Edgewood Heights Church with Joe Martin, Carl Howell, James F. Conway and C. C. Matthew officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery.

A native of Clay County, Saunders had lived in Jacksonville since 1923. He organized Murray Hill, Lake Shore and Edgewood Heights Churches in Jacksonville, and Maxville Church, Maxville. Other churches he pastored include Grand Park First, Trinity, and Callahan. He was also a retired school teacher, having taught for 35 years in Duval, Clay and Nassau County schools.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Gladys Saunders of Jacksonville; a daughter, Mrs. Annie Rhodes; one son, Curtis E. Saunders; and one granddaughter, Miss Joe Ann Rhodes, all of Ft. Lauderdale.

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Larry A. Stracener recently began his duties as minister of music and director of public relations at First Church, Eustis.

Stracener attended Stetson University and Florida State University. He assisted with the choirs at Avondale Church, Jacksonville, and was interim minister of music at Mayfair Church, Jacksonville before going to Eustis. He is the son of Editor and Mrs. W. G. Stracener.

ENTERS CHAPLAINCY

William R. Jones, Jr. has resigned as pastor of Haines Road Church, near Largo, to enter the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain.

Jones is a graduate of the University of Florida and Southwestern Seminary, and has pastored churches at Boca Grande and Osprey.

Evangelist Pat Wimberly, Sr. of Orlando conducted revival services at Fellowship Church, Tampa, September 28-October 9, which resulted in 21 professions of faith and ten additions by letter.

Attendance records were set on October 9 with 233 in Sunday school and 109 in Training Union. J. T. Terry is pastor.

Evangelist Clyde Kendall of Winter Haven led revival services September 18-25 at First Church, Port Wentworth, Ga., C. Monroe Warren, pastor. Bob Walker of Oakland, Fla. led the music. There were 43 additions (32 by baptism).

"A smile is a language that even a baby understands."

WINTER GARDEN CHURCH CALLS BYLAND AS PASTOR

George A. Byland has been called as pastor of Oak Level Church, Winter Garden, which was recently organized from a mission of First Church, Winter Garden.

A graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Byland has studied through the Extension Department of Mercer University. He goes to Winter Garden from Southside Church, Camilla, Ga. He has also served churches in Lakeland, Perry and Orlando, Fla., as well as churches in Donaldsonville and Colquitt, Ga.

The Bylands have a daughter, Judith Anne.

FRIENDSHIP CALLS PASTOR

David Shirley Hall, a student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, became pastor of Friendship Church near DeFuniak Springs on October 1.

Mrs. Hall is the former Mary Frances Phillips of Quincy. They have two children: Linda Loraine, 5; and David Michael, 4.

There were 20 additions (15 by baptism) to Lake View Church, Miami during revival services September 18-25 in which the pastor, Richard E. Whipple, preached and Ralph Smith, from Stetson University, led the music.

Jacksonville University's BSU began their first organized luncheon devotional October 7th in the new Baptist Student Center.

Seven Floridians are among 308 students enrolled for the Fall session at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Enrollees are Donald E. Fowler, St. Petersburg; Charles E. Hancock, Jacksonville; C. Patrick Hancock, Miami; James E. Otis, Ft. Lauderdale; Dewey F. Barefoot, Bowling Green; Melvin G. Gentry, Pensacola; and Kenneth H. Watkins, Bartow.

Thirty-four states and eight foreign countries are represented in the enrollment.

Miss Nita McCullough, Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria who is now in the States for furlough, has moved from Lee, Fla., to Nashville, Tenn., where her address is Box 782, Peabody College, Nashville 5. She is a native of Jasper, Fla.

Dr. and Mrs. H. P. McCormick, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Nigeria and later to Hawaii, have retired and are living at 2924 Rogers Ave., Tampa 11, Fla.

John L. Henderson, pastor of Hinesville Church, in Georgia, for the past seven years, recently moved to 101 S. Hale Ave., Tampa, Fla., upon his doctor's advice to seek a more temperate climate.

BAPTIST BIBLE INSTITUTE MARKS IMPROVEMENTS

Institute alumni would still feel at home, but if they looked they would see improvements on campus property at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville.

Where there once were 17 student apartments, there are now 14. Three were eliminated when walls were changed to make each apartment have three rooms instead of two. All apartments were redecorated, with added closet and shelf space, and plastic tile on the floors. All now have outlets for both electric and gas ranges.

Classrooms in Ray Hall have been repainted, and tile laid on the floor. The library has been rearranged, with new shelf space for 3,000 books. Even now more space is needed.

The new class of 76 freshmen, up from 35 last fall, made 50 new classroom chairs necessary. Several classes have been divided. Two still meet in the chapel, because no classroom is large enough. Dean Martin V. McKinster has added a new course, Expository Preaching.

Grass on the main campus, that for so long was spotty and slow to grow, now stays ahead of the mowers. The trees, also, set out during the administration of Dr. A. H. Stainback, now almost touch across the front campus lawn.

Ray Hall shines with a new exterior paint job. The nursery is completely redecorated this year, and averages 25 pre-school children each morning.

Only one thing is completely unchanged. The fish in Albert Lake still refuse to bite.

Revival services were held at First Church, Crescent City, Sept. 25-Oct. 5 with Virion Griner of Waverly Hall, Ga. preaching and Marion Fox of Palatka singing which resulted in 21 additions (six by baptism). Felder L. Rowan is pastor.

Arthur Carter, a native of Jacksonville and former member of Woodlawn Church, Jacksonville, recently became a member of the Baptist Hour Choir.

For a Chuckle or Two



"HOW DID IT HAPPEN? Q. THEY ALL TRIED TO GET IN THE BACK PEW."

Rev Clarence E. Saunders

Birth 23 Jun 1892
Clay County, Florida, USA

Death 9 Oct 1960 (aged 68)
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, USA

Burial [Evergreen Cemetery](#)
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, USA

Memorial ID 84021424 · [View Source](#)

OBITUARY

FROM THE FILES OF DORA NORTH

NAME OF NEWSPAPER UNKNOWN

OCTOBER 11, 1960

REV. CLARENCE E. SAUNDERS

Funeral services for Rev. Clarence E. Saunders, 68, will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Edgewood Heights Baptist Church, 4011 Gilmore St., with Rev. Joe Martin, Rev. Carl Howell, Rev. James F. Conway and Rev. C. C. Matthews, officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, under the direction of Hardage and Jones Riverside Funeral Home, 517 Park St.

Rev. Saunders of 1029 Talbot St., died Sunday in a local hospital after several weeks of illness. He was born in Clay County, and had lived in Jacksonville since 1931. He was pastor of the Edgewood Heights Baptist Church. He organized the Murray Hill Baptist Church, the Lake Shore Baptist Church, the Edgewood Heights Baptist Church and the Maxwell Baptist Church. He formerly was pastor of Grand Park First Baptist Church, Trinity Baptist Church, Murray Hill Baptist Church, Lake Shore Baptist Church and the Callahan Baptist Church. He was also a member of the Royal Arch Masons. Rev. Saunders was a retired public school teacher, having taught in the Duval, Nassau and Clay County schools for 35 years.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys Saunders of Jacksonville; a daughter, Mrs. Annie Rhodes of Fort Lauderdale; one son, Curtis E. Saunders of Fort Lauderdale; three sisters, Mrs. William Harris of Penney Farms, Mrs. Robert Knight of Doctors Inlet and Mrs. E. W. Newsom of Jacksonville; five brothers, C. L. Saunders and W. J. Saunders both of Penney Farms, R. M. Saunders and E. D. Saunders both of Orange Park and S. D. Saunders of Green Cove Springs and one granddaughter, Jo Ann Rhodes of Fort Lauderdale.

Pallbearers will be J. S. Noble, L. J. Jackson, Thomas T. Green, John A. Chesser, J. H. Sorrell and Curtis Van Hoose.
