

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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Schofield, Dayton served as pastor of Istachatta Baptist Church, 1969-1970 and Chassahwitzka First Baptist Church, 1973.

Chassahowitzka First Baptist was organized in August 1973

On April 23, 1973, a few "fishers of men" at Chassahowitzka, in southwest Citrus County, gathered together to worship the Lord in a little, white building at the corner of highway 480 and Palm Drive.

This led to more meetings and finally the group decided on August 19, 1973 to organize a Southern Baptist Church there. The initial membership was 14. W.K. Jenkins served as moderator.

On Sept. 5, 1973 the **Rev. Dayton Schofield** was called to serve as the first pastor at a salary of \$30 a week. In that same meeting these officers were elected: Trustees, Bill Brittle, Dale Collett and D.J. McDonald; Clerk, Alma Weinberg; treasurer, Eleanor Brittle; Sunday School Superintendent, D.J. McDonald; activity coordinator Betty Jean McDonald; pianist, Betty Collett; and

song director, Dale Collett.

The church building and property was obtained through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Brittle, and was officially turned over to the church on Oct. 11, 1973. The **Rev. Schofield** served for three months, and was followed by the **Rev. William T. McChesney**. In 1974 the church was accepted into the Alachua Baptist Association, and established cooperation with the Florida Baptist and Southern Baptist Conventions.

The first nuptial service performed in the church was to unite in marriage Miss Janice Eleanor Dourm and Conrad Gringas. The **Rev. McChesney** performed the ceremony. The first homecoming service was on the first Sunday in April, 1974.

The **Rev. McChesney** resigned on Nov. 6, 1974, because of ill health, and

asked to be named "Pastor Emeritus." This honor was granted to him. The **Rev. N.M. Bodenhorn** was called on Dec. 4, 1974 and served until November of 1975. The first Vacation Bible School was held in August 1974. Next came the **Rev. Bill Jackson**, in November, 1975 to serve until April 1976. He was followed by the **Rev. D.L. Stallings**. Then, on Nov. 3, 1976 the **Rev. R.F. Leggett** became the fifth pastor. Under his leadership the church was recognized as the leader in the state in number of Baptisms.

The church continued to grow and to set records in attendance and worship.

The present pastor, the **Rev. Elwyn Edwards**, took over the pulpit January 30, 1980. He is a retired Colonel from the Chaplain Corps, U.S. Army.

Alachua 1973

For Him our church must look beyond
Its stately walls and spire
To soothe the anger and the hurt,
The lonely to inspire.

And so with "lively stones" we build
His house of living souls,
Cemented by the Spirit's power -
In love our hearts made whole.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ISTACHATTA BAPTIST CHURCH 1945-1973

The beginning of this church was the outgrowth of a Sunday School organized in 1940 after a revival held here by Rev. Frank Smith and Mr. Homer Morgan, evangelists of the Baptist faith. This Sunday School was held in the Istachatta School House Sunday afternoons, and preaching services were also held here after Sunday School by Brooksville pastors, including J. A. Sawyer, and J. H. Killebrew of Lake Lindsey, Simmons Wade of Bushnell, Rev. Walden of Dade City, and a layman, T. J. K. Funderburk of Brooksville.

Several years went by and money had been saved and several lots were purchased for a "sometime Church". At the same time, 10% of offerings was given to missions, which was later increased to 50% above expenses, and the other 50% was saved toward a church building.

In 1945 the same evangelists returned to this community and after talking over the prospects with Mrs. Carrie Baxley, they encouraged us to organize a church and to build a church house as soon as possible so we would have our own place of worship. Several of us met at the evangelist's tent one afternoon and had special prayer before going further, but we felt led to call a meeting at the home of Mrs. Carrie Baxley. Rev. Orvil Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Brooksville, and several others who were interested in this community were invited. Bro. Miller was elected moderator and Mrs. Baxley was elected clerk. The clerk was instructed to write all the pastors of the Alachua Baptist Association inviting them to meet at the school house Sunday, March 11, 1945 at 3:00 P.M., at which time the organization took place. After different ones had been asked to give their reason for organizing a Baptist Church, the moderator read the church covenant, and the articles of faith. Mr. I. B. Turnley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marvin Peterson, that we organize a church.

Fifteen persons became charter members; their names are as follows: Mr. & Mrs. I. B. Turnley; Mrs. George McNabb; Miss Vada McNabb; Mrs. J. C. Graham; Mrs. Retta Petteys; Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Peterson; Mrs. Carrie Baxley; Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Gideons, Jr.; Miss Marie Hayes; Mrs. E. Shindeldecker; Mrs. Anita King; and Mrs. D. F. Downs. The name of the church was voted to be THE ISTACHATTA BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. Orvil Miller was asked to preach in the afternoons after Sunday School which he did for several months. He then gave it up as his own church required all his time. Mr. I. B. Turnley and E. W. Gideons were the first deacons; Mrs. Carrie Baxley was church clerk; Mr. Gideons was treasurer. A weekly prayer meeting was instituted and the church became a member of the Alachua Baptist Association in October 1945. The membership was now 27 persons, and a Training Union for adults was organized, then an Intermediate Union.

Rev. Walter Rector was called as pastor; he served 8 months and resigned on account of ill health. We now changed the Sunday School and preaching services from afternoon to morning and added evening preaching services. Rev. Fletcher Weston was called as pastor. At this time there were 36 members, and by September 1946 we began the construction of a concrete block church building. This building was dedicated December 22, 1946, and was paid for by the next month. An Army barracks and the Istachatta School building were purchased and moved onto the church property to make class rooms and an apartment for the pastor. Rev. Weston resigned after serving 5 years & 8 months.

The Church then called Dorman Peterson from BBI at Lakeland who served 7 months, then returned to BBI to finish his training. After this, Leonard Halbrook was called and ordained by

this church and he served 18 months before resigning and moving to Lakeland to attend BBI.

In 1954, Rev. Robert Haines of Altoona was called. He resigned in 1955 after serving 15 months. On October 9, 1955, Eugene Alderman was called and ordained. He served 10 months and resigned August 5, 1956 to enter Stetson University. On August 12, 1956, Rev. J. H. Palmer was called. He served until June 1958. In July 1958, Glen Thompson was called and served until August 14, 1960. Preston Duvall was called October 23, 1960 and served until June 16, 1963. Charles Nelson was called July 24, 1963 and ordained. He served as pastor until July 12, 1964.

The Church used supply pastors until E. M. Fleming was called February 10, 1965. Bro Fleming resigned in June 1966. Brother Clark Segrest was called in September 1966, and served until April 1967 when his illness made it impossible for to stay in harness, but he continued to serve and witness whenever possible until his death. In December 1967, Rev. W. S. Gresham was called and served until his resignation was accepted in February 1969.

In May 1969, Dayton Schofield was called as pastor and ordained in June 1969. He resigned September 6, 1970. Brother O. G. Hall was called November 2, 1970 and accepted call to be effective January 1, 1971. Bro. Hall became sick after his first week on the field, and was forced to resign on account of ill health. His resignation was accepted March 7, 1971.

On November 10, 1971 Rev. Paul Shipman was called as Pastor. During this time, the R.A.'s were organized, carpet was installed in the church, and the spire was erected on the church. Rev. Paul Shipman resigned and on July 2, 1972, Rev. Carl Adams accepted the call as Interim Pastor. By this time, the church membership had increased to 115 members - 75 resident, 40 non-resident.

On October 22, 1972, Rev. Adams was called as full-time pastor. During the 1972-73 church year the church purchased additional property adjacent to the church, and started a building fund. A Brotherhood was organized in January 1973, and the W.M.U. added another organization, that of Mission Friends, by April 1973. Musical equipment was installed in the steeple for recorded music, church porch was enclosed as a vestibule for the church, and a bus fund was started. The church continued to grow, and at the end of the 1972-73 year the membership had increased to 136 members - 84 resident, 52 non-resident.

Alphabetical List of Available Filmstrips

Name of Strip	Helps
A Learning Experience for Children Ages 1-6	Record
And on Earth Peace	Manual
Associational Sunday School Work	Manual
Baptists in New Orleans	Manual
Baptist World Alliance 1965	Manual
Ceiling Unlimited	Manual
Challenge of the Moslem World	Manual
Children of Japan	Manual
Choosing Methods	Manual
Christmas Homes	
Christmas Gift for the World . . . Lottie Moon	Manual
Class Officers at Work	Manual
Concern Is	Manual
Concern, Where is Your	Manual
Confronting the New South	Manual
Discovering New Dimensions	Manual
Effective Church Officers and Committees	Manual
Extending the Light	Manual
Foundations of the Curriculum	Manual
Freedom's Holy Light	Manual
Fundamentals of RA	Manual
Good Tidings to all People	Manual