

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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Sellers, Preston Brooks (1921-1987) graduated from Stetson University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Winter Park, First Baptist Church, Tampa, East Hill, Pensacola, Norwood, West Palm Beach, and First Baptist Church, Tavares. He served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention in 1956. He and his wife, Christine, had one daughter and one son.



Housing bureau makes assignments for San Antonio

All available downtown hotel rooms have been assigned to messengers who will attend the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

"Almost 4,000 hotel rooms in the downtown area have been filled," said Tim Hedquist, vice president for business and finance of the SBC Executive Committee and manager of the convention.

San Antonio has about 9,000 hotel rooms in addition to the downtown block of 4,000, Hedquist said, but "housing is going to be very, very tight." Several groups already have blocked out rooms from the pool of 9,000, and others are attempting to block more.

Many of the blocked rooms are being reserved by people or groups who will at-

tempt to funnel them to convention participants who are affiliated with their faction within the SBC theological/political struggle, he said.

"What concerns me is that when we come to the convention, we will have rooms available (from these blocks) all over the city," Hedquist said. "But it will be very difficult to get messengers who need the rooms connected with hotels that can help them."

The 4,000 rooms were assigned Oct. 14 by the San Antonio Housing Bureau, an organization unaffiliated with the SBC, Hedquist said. All were assigned to people whose housing requests forms were mailed to the housing bureau and postmarked Oct. 1, the first day when requests were accepted.

Applicants submitted about 1,000 more requests than rooms available in the downtown block, Hedquist said, noting the majority of the unfilled requests also were mailed Oct. 1.

These leftover requests have been sent to the Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn., Hedquist reported: "We're notifying them immediately. People who did not get rooms will

know before the people who got rooms receive their confirmations. Each applicant who did not get a room will receive a list of the other 41 hotels in the city, as well as a list of travel agents who have blocked rooms."

Dallas Baptist president resigns

W. Marvin Watson Jr. bowed to a year of mounting pressure and resigned Oct. 21 as president of Dallas Baptist University during a special called meeting of trustees.

The 63-year-old Watson, who came to the beleaguered school in 1979 and led it from the brink of financial disaster, told the trustees in the called meeting that he has "been charged with everything except murder" and that there are certain people on campus, faculty and deans alike, that believe that I should leave."

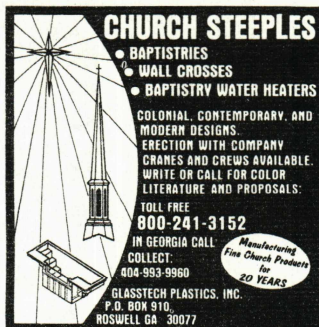
Watson had been charged with requiring new faculty and staff to give 5 percent of their salaries back to the university; requiring faculty and staff to sign up for "phantom courses" which they did not attend but which were designed to inflate the school's enrollment figure to increase Cooperative Program allocations; and cutting faculty and staff salaries if there were not enough students to give them a full teaching load. A special committee of the trustees was named to study the charges.

Watson became president in September 1979. He noted in his presentation to the trustees that the debt of the university had been reduced from \$6.5 million to \$3.5 million during his tenure and that enrollment had risen from 961 students to 1,866.

Former Florida pastor Preston Sellers dies

Preston Brooks Sellers, former Florida pastor and president of the Florida Baptist State Convention in 1956, died Sept. 14 in Texarkana, Texas. He was 76.

Before moving out of state, Sellers was pastor of First Church, Tampa; East Hill Church, Pensacola; Norwood Church, West Palm Beach; and First Church, Tavares. He is survived by his wife, Christine, a daughter, and a son, Robert, who is a Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia.



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Southwestern prof Douglass dies

Robert Douglass, professor of music history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for 32 years, died Oct. 12 of cancer.

Douglass had retired from Southwestern as distinguished professor of musicology in July 1986. He and his wife, Elaine, had planned to devote their retirement years as short-term volunteer foreign missionaries.

The couple had learned Spanish and already had made several trips to Spanish-speaking countries to do mission work. (BP)

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Christine Armbruster Weds Preston B. Sellers In Church Ceremony

The marriage of Miss Christine Armbruster to **Rev. Preston B. Sellers** took place at 8 o'clock last evening at the Riverside Baptist church which was elaborately

decorated for the occasion with palms and flowers forming a garden scene. The ceremony was performed by the **Rev. J. C. Sims**, minister of the church.

As the guests assembled Miss Ruth Mary Hall played a program of nuptial music. Miss Clarice Henning sang "I Love You Truly," and Mrs. Norman Fuls sang "Because." The "Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin was played as the processional, and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was played for the recessional.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her oldest brother, Mr. Joseph M. Armbruster, wore a smart gown of white satin with a long train and used all white accessories. She carried a beautiful shower bouquet.

She was attended by Miss Irene Edwards as maid of honor and Mrs. James I. Morris as matron of honor. The maid of honor wore a costume of orchid triple sheer and carried pink roses. The matron of honor was dressed in silk organdza with pink accessories and also carried pink roses. The other attendants, who included Miss Hilda **Sellers**, Miss Frances Weiser, Miss Evelyn Rankin and Miss Julian Morcock, wore simple afternoon frocks in rainbow shades. Little Mary Ann Armbruster and Joe Armbruster were the ribbon bearers.

Rev. Sellers was attended by Rev. James P. Parrish of Dade City, Fla., as best man. Ushers were Mr. Leslie H. Armbruster, brother of the bride, Mr. D. C. Coleman, Jr., Mr. Ray Bitting and Mr. Charles Durrance of Orlando. All of the men wore white linen.

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Immediately following the wedding a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Will Miller, 2342 S. W. 17th st.

Following their honeymoon which will be spent in North Carolina, the couple will make their home in Winter Park, Fla., where Reverend **Sellers** is pastor of the Baptist church.

... of Wagg Memorial Methodist Church, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Preston B. Sellers, pastor of Northwood Baptist Church. Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery.

THE PALM BEACH POST

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 1939

Ten Pages Today

The Rev. Preston Sellers of Wauchula, recent graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has accepted the pastorate of the Northwood Baptist Church, according to announcement at last night's prayer service at the church.

He's Third Pastor

In accepting the pastorate, made vacant by the resignation of the Rev. James P. Rodgers, who accepted the pastorate of the Northwood Baptist Church of Birmingham, the Rev. Sellers will be the third pastor the church has had since its beginning. The Rev. Charles D. Dilworth was organizer and first pastor.

Mr. Sellers with his wife and small daughter, Joanne, will arrive here early in August and will live in the parsonage at 418 Thirty-eighth Street. He will fill the pulpit on Aug. 6 for both services. A welcoming reception is planned for the young couple during the first week they are here.

Mr. Sellers is a graduate of Stetson University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Winter Park, which is located near the campus of Rollins College, following his graduation from Stetson. He then attended the seminary and filled the pastorate of a small church near Louisville, while attending school.

NORTHWOOD GETS BAPTIST PASTOR

Wauchula Minister To Take Over Pulpit On August 6