

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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Sentell, W. Marion (1883-1962) was born in Forney, Alabama the son of Allen Tupper and Frances Elizabeth Kerr Sentell. He graduated from Mercer University and Moody Bible Institute. Sentell served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Florida including First Baptist Church, Belle Glade, 1936-1949 and First Baptist Church, Alachua.



In 1934, Rev. A.W. Taylor was called as Pastor. Under his leadership, the Tabernacle was built east of our present office building.

In May, 1936, Rev. W. Marion Sentell was called as pastor. Under his leadership, our first pastorium was built on N.W. Ave. B. The pastorium is now our present office building. Also, under his leadership, our auditorium was started.

In 1940, Rev. J.E. Dillard was called as pastor. Under his leadership, our auditorium was completed, free of debt and other property was added.

In 1944, Rev. I.E. Enlow was called as pastor. Under his leadership, our membership grew and our building was expanded.

Our first Vacation Bible School was held in 1945.

Rev. Wade Griffin was called as pastor, May, 1950 and served until December of 1952. At that time, our north educational building was begun and our nursery was made available. Also, during this time, our envelope system of giving was put into practice.

In 1953, Rev. U.W. Malcolm was called as pastor. Under his leadership, the educational building was finished and equipped and our auditorium renovated. Three lots were acquired for the North Belle Glade Mission on Avenue L. and N.W. 12th Street. The mission officially opened November 16, 1958.

Rev. Edward Strainer was called as pastor of the mission.

In 1959, Dr. S.S. Hill was called as pastor. Under his leadership, our attendance grew and 2 services were held on Sunday mornings. One service was held at 8:30 a.m. and another service

Big Lake 1985

SENTELL RESIGNS CHURCH POST

First Baptist Pastor Ac- cepts Call From Ala- chua Church

BELLE GLADE—At a business meeting of the First Baptist Church following the Sunday morning service, the Rev. W. Marion Sentell, announced his final decision to vacate the pastorate of this church, which he has held for the last four years and accept a call to the First Baptist Church, Alachua.

The official board in a special session recently held, had gone on record as not accepting the pastor's resignation which had been offered several weeks ago, and the church in its meeting Sunday morning also voted not to accept the resignation. But after Doctor Sentell explained that the call to another field was in his opinion of divine direction, the congregation voted to release him after next Sunday and unanimously passed the following resolution:

The Resolution

"Whereas, Rev. William Marion Sentell, B.A.D.D. after a successful pastorate of approximately four years, has seen fit to resign the First Baptist Church of Belle Glade, and declines to reconsider even after the board of deacons and the church as a whole refused to accept his resignation, believing that God is leading him into another pastorate; Whereas, under his wise leadership and by the blessings of God upon his efforts, a fine and comfortable pastor's home and a beautiful and modern church building have been erected and two hundred and twelve have been added to the church roll; Whereas, by his exemplary life in our midst and by his faithful ministries as pastor, preacher and leader our church and community have been blessed of the Lord—

Be it resolved: First that we the officers and members of the First Baptist Church, Belle Glade, express to our beloved pastor and friend our deep appreciation for his life and ministry among us, and that we shall ever remember him in our prayers and be grateful that the Lord sent him and his good wife our way for these years. Our beautiful new church will ever stand as a monument to his untiring efforts and wise leadership. He drew the plans, superintended its construction, personally raised most of the funds for material and labor and clad in overalls, he did more actual labor on the building than any other one man without any compensation other than his salary as pastor, and without neglecting his pulpit ministries Sunday after Sunday. Second, that we commend to the First Baptist Church, Alachua, Brother Sentell as a consistent Christian gentleman, a faithful pastor, an able preacher of the gospel of Christ and a zealous defender of the faith once for all delivered to the saints and Mrs. Sentell as a sympathetic cooperative helpmate in his work."

The above resolution was signed by J. K. Baker, acting moderator, and W. T. Forsee, Jr., acting clerk.



Left to right, are: Dr. W. M. Sentell, pastor of the Alachua First Baptist Church, who will fill the pulpit of the Springfield Baptist Church during the special Evangelistic Campaign, which will be held in all Jacksonville Baptist Churches during the next two weeks, and the Rev. Lee Enfield, Lawtey, Fla., who will preach at the Fellowship Baptist Church.

Be
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presentation to the Legislature.

H. L. Brown Rites To Be Held Today

GAINESVILLE, March 29, (AP)—Funeral services for Herman L. Brown, 50, former prominent road contractor of Florida and Georgia, will be held at the home of his father, T. L. Brown, in Alachua, at 3 o'clock Sunday. The Rev. Dr. W. Marion Sentell of the First Baptist Church of Alachua, will officiate and interment will be in the family plot at Forest Grove Cemetery near Newberry.

A World War veteran, he was in the Medical Department at Fort Screven, Ga.

He was connected with the Duval Construction Company at Jacksonville until his health failed.

Survivors include his father, T. L. Brown, of Alachua; four sisters, Mrs. T. H. Willard of Alachua; Mrs. D. W. Mathis and Mrs. Emma O'Steen of Gainesville; Mrs. J. W. Wilson of Lacoochee; three brothers, J. W. Brown and C. E. Brown of Alachua, and T. H. Brown of Tampa.

William Marion Sentell

Birth 31 Aug 1883 Alabama, USA

Death 1 Jun 1962 (aged 78) Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, USA

Burial Elmwood Cemetery and Mausoleum Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, USA

William Marion Sentell's first wife and mother of his children was Bertha Riley Sentell (1887 - April 14, 1968) She died in Birmingham and was living with their daughter, Jessie May Sentell Griffith and son in law Bryce Hillman Griffith in the 1940 and 1950 census.

Sons are William Howard Sentell born March 7, 1909 in Macon, Ga and Frank Sentell.

Family Members

Parents

Allen Tupper Sentell 1856–1936

Frances Elizabeth Kerr Sentell 1860–1919

Spouses

Alice Foote Sentell 1889–1947 (m. 1936)

Bertha Riley Sentell 1885–1968

Children

H. Frank Sentell 1905–1981

Jessie Mae Sentell Griffitt 1906–1984

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/245568772/william_marion-sentell

Rev. Sentell dies, minister 54 years

The Rev. William Marion Sentell, 78, of 4309 Fifth Ave. South, a Baptist minister 54 years, died Friday at his home after a long illness.

Born at Forney, he served many pastorates until retirement in 1954, including South Avondale Baptist Church from 1922 to 1927. He was a supply pastor until three years ago.

He was a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and was a Mason and Shriner.

Services at 3 p.m. Sunday will be at South Avondale Baptist Church. The body will lie in state an hour before the service.

Officiating minister will be the Rev. J. E. Davidson. Burial will be in Elmwood, Johns-Ridout's directing.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs.

Berta Riley Sentell of Birmingham; two sons, Frank and Howard Sentell; a daughter, Mrs. Jessie Mae Griffitt, all of Birmingham; a sister, Mrs. George Pinley of Camilla, Ga.; two brothers, H. A. Sentell of Atlanta and Luther Sentell of Knoxville, and a grandchild.

Deal

Continued from Page 1

met by President Kennedy and that he would get me a job."

BURTON WAS given shelter at the Cape Cod Community College with other Southern Negroes, including 33 children, sent to Cape Cod by Southern integrationists.

The council has sent 33 of the



DIES — The Rev. William M. Sentell.

Rev. Sentell Rites Held

Funeral for the Rev. William Marion Sentell, 78, of 4309 Fifth av. s., who died Friday at the residence was yesterday with burial at Elmwood. Johns-Ridout's directed.

A native of Forney, the retired Baptist minister was active throughout the Southeast for 54 years before his retirement in 1954. The Rev. Sentell served as a supply pastor until three years ago.

He was a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Moody Bible Institute in New York City. The Rev. Sentell was general chairman of the Avondale Civic Assn. and was a Mason and a Shriner.

A member of the South Avondale Baptist Church, he also served this church from 1922 to 1927.

He is survived by his widow; two sons, Frank and Howard Sentell; a daughter, Mrs. Jessie Mae Griffith, all of Birmingham; a sister, Mrs. George Pinley, Camilla, Ga.; two brothers, H. A. Sentell of Atlanta, and Luther Sentell of Knoxville.