

## **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.

Visit our website at [FloridaBaptistHistory.org](http://FloridaBaptistHistory.org)

**Shaffer, Rieman J.** served as pastor of Island Baptist Church, Anna Maria Island, 1953-1954.

FBW

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**CHURCH MUSIC**

W. G. STROUP, Secretary  
W. H. MIKELL, Associate

**EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT**

PAUL A. MEIGS, Secretary

**FESTIVAL POSTERS  
BEING MAILED**

Posters giving the date, time and place for your Associational Festival and the dates and places of the State Festivals are being mailed this week to all ministers of music or music directors. In case the church has no one in charge of the music, the poster will be mailed to the pastor.

Please open these brown envelopes and put these posters up in a conspicuous place in your church. This is the only copy that will be sent to any church.

**HATS OFF TO THE PAST,  
COATS OFF TO THE FUTURE**

We want to thank each and every officer in every association, every minister of music, director of music, pastor, singers, song leaders, instrumentalists, and all those who had a part in the Music Ministry in any way for their wonderful contribution to better music in Florida during 1963.

For 1964, let us not be satisfied with the accomplishments of 1963. Let us press forward to greater heights in the development of all our people in appreciation and participation in the music program. Let us make the best use of music in the worship services, in Sunday school, Training Union, W.M.U. and Brotherhood. It is up to you and to me what we do with this God-given instrument of music.

**BAPTIST MALE CHORUS AT  
EVANGELISTIC CONFERENCE**

Dr. Paul Meigs, director of Evangelism, has again invited the Florida Baptist Male Chorus to sing on Tuesday Evening, January 14 at 8:00. The service will begin at 7:00. He is anxious to have the choir loft full of ministers of music, singing educational directors and pastors to lead in the singing for this first service.

There will be one special rehearsal at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday in Adult #1 department of First Baptist Church on the second floor of education building to prepare the special numbers to be used by the chorus. This is a special invitation to you to rehearse and to sing for God's glory.

**PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

Someone has said, "Plan ahead or go behind." All of us want to be ahead and the way to be ahead is to plan for it.

The Church Music Department will furnish one summer worker for any church for one week to conduct a school of music. The department will pay the traveling expenses one round trip for the worker and pay an honorarium of \$50.00. The church will take care of the worker while on the field providing room, board and local transportation.

Application blanks for summer workers in schools of music will

**CHURCH-RELATED VOCATIONS CONFERENCE REACTIONS**

"I have been happy to learn of the many phases of church-related vocations. Coming from a small-town church, I had not been aware of how many vocations there are. The importance that the speakers and conference leaders have put on preparation and a broad basic education has impressed me greatly."

"I have enjoyed this conference very much. Every part of the conference has been an inspiration to me. I know that I have found God's will for my life in the field of nursing."

"I have learned a great deal from this conference. It has been a great help to my personal and spiritual life. We have had some of the finest speakers I have ever heard."

"I believe during the Friday meetings, I found the Lord's will for my life. I came to this meeting curious, but not quite sure what the Lord wanted me to do for Him. I strongly feel that God has called me to do some kind of mission work, and I thank and praise God for it."

"These days have been helpful and inspiring days to my life. I have been in much prayer for this meeting and I believe God has worked a miracle in my life."

"When I came, I was still undecided what God wanted me to do. But now, I know for sure that God wants me to be a foreign missionary. I am going back home and start planning for that."

"I came to this church kidding myself about not becoming a nurse. I know differently now. Besides being a nurse, I want my life to count for God by doing His will. I only wish there were more conventions like this one, because it helps remove the confusion of the world."

"I think that the pageant last night was a great inspiration to me in helping me to find God's will for my life. Also, the testimony of Mr. Rhea was a great challenge to me and revealed more of the love of God and His concern."

"The conference has helped me to decide that I will do whatever God leads me to do with my life."

"I had already made a decision in my life before the conference, but being able to attend has given me firmer convictions that I have made the right decision. It has also opened my eyes concerning missions. I am already looking forward to next year's conference."

"The one main thing that made me feel God wanted me to serve Him was the tremendous need. After hearing Mr. Rogers Smith and Mr. Glendon McCullough, particularly, tell of the few people who are serving now, I know He wants me. I only wish I could go more than one place; live more

than one life; and do more than one thing for my Lord."

"This conference has been one of the most pleasurable things I have ever experienced. The different group conferences have helped me to start to find what God is calling me to do and how to get ready for the call."

"I especially enjoyed Dr. Graves' message on preparation. It helped me tremendously in knowing God's will in my life."

"This conference has helped me to decide that I will do anything or go anywhere God leads."

"This meeting has been exceptional. I work with G.A.'s in my church. This meeting has inspired me to go back to my home church and emphasize missions more to my girls."

"I went to the Social Work Conference and enjoyed it very much. The people that I stayed with were very wonderful and very fine Christians and I am

be mailed with the February issue of "Grace Notes." Please look for the application blank, fill it in and return to this office as early as possible.

*Fresh from the Field... (Manatee Southern)*

**ISLAND BAPTIST CHURCH ORGANIZED WITH 162 MEMBERS**

The Island Baptist Chapel on Anna Maria Island was constituted into the Island Baptist Church with 162 charter members on December 1, 1963. Frank Anderson of the sponsoring church presided, with W. W. White, chairman of the Missions Committee of the First Baptist Church, Bradenton, giving the invocation, and John H. Whitt, Field Secretary of District 11, reading the scripture and leading in prayer.

The reason for organizing Island Baptist Church was given by R. W. Hoard, Resolution to Constitute by Johnny W. Keeth and Ratification of By-laws by James Clark. Herb Parkinson led in the reading of the Church Covenant which was adopted by the church. Transfer of the deed of the property was made by Wheeler Leeth, chairman of the Deacons of the First Baptist Church, Bradenton. Lee Ratliff gave the charge to the church and the benediction was given by James B. Reynolds.

Lee W. Ratliff, who has been pastor of the Chapel since 1960, received a unanimous call from the new church.

In 1950, people on Anna Maria Island felt the need of Baptist work on this island of tourist people. They sought and obtained a sponsorship of the First Baptist Church of Bradenton. Frank T. Anderson came with his choir, January 8, 1950, and began the work in the Anna Maria Community Hall. The actual organizational date of the Island Baptist Mission was April 23, 1950. The first building program was begun in the fall of 1950.

The construction of the present sanctuary was begun with ground-

grateful that they wanted us and gave us such a good time. The Social Work Conference influenced me into wanting to become a social worker."

"All the speakers we have heard have been very inspirational. I feel that God wants me to be a missionary nurse, a home missionary. Also, Mr. Rhea's messages in song have been very beautiful."

"I can truly say that this has been the greatest experience in my whole 14 years. The conferences have left a deep impression on me and have helped me to find the vocation I was most interested in. I plan to attend next year also."

"Each year during the conference, my eyes are reopened to the needs of our world today. I think the conference is an invaluable aid to the finding of future work. Each young person in our convention should be exposed to this type of vocational aid."

"This conference has opened up several new fields of services for me." Upon coming to this conference, I have felt led to medical missions. Now, however, I am considering religious journalism. The conferences and messages have helped and inspired me greatly."

breaking on May 28, 1950. The first service was held in the new building on December 3, 1950, at which time the corner stone was laid in a formal ceremony and the building dedicated.

For thirteen years the great missionary-minded First Baptist Church of Bradenton has given loving service and financial support, as well as encouragement to this fine Christian body.

The following have served the Chapel as pastors: A. D. Dawson, April-December, 1950; Eugene Baxley, December, 1950-June, 1951; Malcom Smith, August, 1951-May, 1952; A. J. Gross, June, 1952-October, 1953; **Rieman J. Shaffer**, November, 1953-October, 1954; Edward L. Jackson, October, 1954-December, 1959; Lee W. Ratliff, April, 1960.

**CHURCH FURNITURE & SUPPLIES**

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