

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

Sharpton, Delos L. is a native of Alabama. He graduated from Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sharpton served as pastor of churches in Indiana, Georgia Florida including Southside Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, and Miami Shores Baptist Church, Miami. In 2005, Sharpton became the President/CEO of Baptist Village.

Florida Features

Fori dal Baptist 4/3/1980



Delos L. Sharpton

Delos L. Sharpton has been called as pastor of Miami Shores Church, Miami, effective April 20. Former pastor of Southside Church, St. Petersburg, he goes from First Church, Donalsonville, Ga., where he has served for four years.



Barry L. Kelly

Barry L. Kelly was called as minister of music of First Church of Indian Rocks, Largo. A graduate of Georgia State University, Atlanta and of Southwestern Seminary, he served 3½ years as associate minister of music of South Main Church, Houston, Texas.



Richard L. Wright

Franklin Street Church, Jacksonville has called Richard L. Wright as pastor, effective April 6. Wright has pastored at Calvary Church, Eustis and Emmanuel Church, Panama City. He comes to Jacksonville from First Church, Southport, where he has pastored for the past four years.

Paul Elmore, a theology student from Crystal River, was among six students from Southern Seminary who read the entire Bible between Nov. 20, 1979, when the challenge was issued, and the beginning of the spring semester.

Five of the six students were congratulated by Southern Seminary President Duke K. McCall who made the challenge during a weekly chapel service.

William R. Fox was called as assistant pastor of First Church, Riverview. Fox attended Baptist Bible Institute, when it was in Lakeland, and is a graduate Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and of Southern Seminary.

Edward B. Johnson was ordained to the gospel ministry by Ochwilla Church, Hawthorne. He is available for supply and may be reached at Ochwilla Baptist Church, Route 2, Box 387E, Hawthorne, Fla. 32640, (904) 481-2077.

Homecomings

First Church, Homosassa, April 20; dinner on the grounds; special music by the Musical Bets; former members and friends invited; Daniel Forbes, pastor.

First Church, West Melbourne, April 20; Grover Lee, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; everyone invited; Major Arrowood, pastor.

Inman Park Church, Winter Haven, May 4, 50th anniversary; Jack Nightingale and Ormond Kite, guest speakers; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; Jimmy W. Rogers, pastor.

Suwannee Station Church, Live Oak, April 6; dinner on the grounds; former pastors, members and friends invited; J. L. Gates, pastor.

Springhill Church, Fernandina Beach, April 20; dinner on the grounds, everyone invited.



MADEDONIA CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE recently burned the second mortgage on the sanctuary. Burning the note, which was used to complete the pastorium, are Goerge Greek (left) and E. O. Heck. Jack Stolte is pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, SANFORD burned the 15-year note on the Fred B. Church Memorial Education Building. Participating (from left) are: Fred Wilcox, chairman of the board of trustees; L. McIntosh, vice chairman of the building committee which recommended construction on the building; Jay Cosmato, pastor; and L. Burke Stearns, treasurer.

Floyd Cliff Johnson, 67, died of heart attack in Plant City on March 11.

A native of White Springs, he was serving as minister of visitation at Springhead Church, Plant City. He has pastored many Florida churches, including First Church, Mulberry; Dan Highway Church, Auburndale; Southside Church, Wauchula; and Antioch Church, Bartow.

Memorial services were held at Springhead Church, with Pastor W. A. Robinson and Bennie Baker officiating.

Johnson is survived by his widow, Irene; two daughters, Alene Meeks of Bartow and Margie Watson of Braley; one son, Floyd C. Johnson Jr. of Temple Terrace; four sisters, three brothers and seven grandchildren.

Dan Able of Tarpon Springs was called under the Foreign Mission Board to serve as interim pastor at Swakopmund, South Africa, for one year, beginning April 1.

Leaders have two important characteristics; first, they are going somewhere; second, they are able to persuade other people to go with them.

Shores church expanding programs to serve area needs

By VICKI SALLOUM
Herald Staff Writer

The leaders of Miami Shores Baptist Church call it a new era.

"In the 1950's it was 'come and see.' Now we're going to go get," proclaimed the Rev. Ralph Burrage, associate pastor of the 1,200-member church at 370 Grand Concourse.

The church has a new chef, a new two-story addition and a lot of new ideas from its new Alabama-born pastor, the Rev. Delos L. Sharpton, who succeeded the Rev. Dr. Floyd Folsom in April.

The Rev. Mr. Sharpton, who preached his first sermon at age 15

He then plans to work on the church's image, and to have up to 45 church members visit potential members weekly to promote church activities.

Beginning in October 1982, the Rev. Mr. Sharpton said, plans are to invite Miami residents to several events a year, including concerts, Thanksgiving services and lectures by well-known religious, business and political leaders.

"It's a fresh start for Miami Shores Baptist Church," the Rev. Mr. Sharpton said. "A new day has dawned."



Rev. Delos Sharpton
... 'fresh start' for church

The Rev. Mr. Sharpton, who preached his first sermon at age 15 and pastored his first church at age 19, is "the best thing that has happened to us," the Rev. Mr. Burrage said. "God has blessed us with a compassionate, sincere and capable man."

The new pastor said his goal is to bring a strong Southern Baptist influence to the community. He has embarked on a campaign to increase church membership, which dropped by 57 members in 1979. He hopes to recruit 45 new members beginning in October.

Then he plans to lead the church in ministering to the Miami community, which he said "desperately needs a positive Christian word that there is hope."

"I believe this church can have

"I believe this church can have an impact on the city. I will do everything in my power to see that happen," said the Rev. Mr. Sharpton, 33, pastor of the 600-member First Baptist Church of Donalsonville (Ga.) for four years before coming to the Shores.

Church members plan to conduct a door-to-door survey in September to find out the ages, religious preference and needs of Shores residents. The church will create new programs or expand existing ones to fulfill those needs, whether they be for day-care facilities or services for the elderly, he said.



The Miami Herald
Thu, Apr 24, 1980 · Page 260

FIRST SERMON — The Rev. Delos Sharpton will preach his first sermon Sunday as pastor of Miami Shores Baptist Church, 370 Grand Concourse.

Sharpton, a native of Alabama, has been pastor of the First Baptist Church of Donaldsonville, Ga., for the past four years. A graduate of Samford University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Sharpton succeeds

Dr. H. Floyd Folsom, who retired last June.

Churches merge seeking to better serve

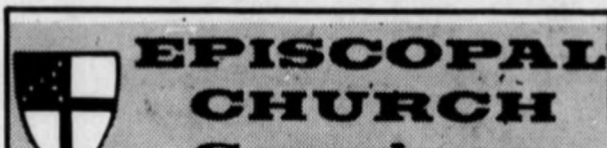
By LEE KELLY

St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

The difficulties facing a predominantly white church ministering in a predominantly black neighborhood have prompted in part the merger of three Southern Baptist churches in St. Petersburg.

On Sept. 7, the predominantly white Southside Baptist Church, 3619 18th Ave. S., will merge officially with Tabernacle Baptist Church, 930 18th St. S., predominantly black, to become the Southside Tabernacle Baptist Church. The new church will occupy Southside's present facilities, while Tabernacle's property will be offered for sale.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 120 Fourth St. N, will assume financial responsibility for the merger, assuming Southside's debt liability of approximately \$66,000. Members of Southside desiring membership in First Baptist have been welcomed to join the downtown church by Dr.



"ALSO, GENERALLY speaking, there are cultural differences between black and white communities," **Rev. Sharpton** says. "And although I think the Church must be open to all people because we are all children of God, I also think generally a black man can minister more effectively to another black man. **Rev. Lampley** and I dismissed the idea of working as co-pastors because then you get two pastors and don't have one leader."

Although Tabernacle Baptist will be moving, its pastor **Rev. Lampley** says its new location will enable his church to minister more effectively to inner city people.

"We aren't abandoning the inner city," **Rev. Lampley** says. "In fact, the merger will enable us to strengthen our commitment to it for two reasons. Our old sanctuary was located in a residential area, but since most of our members are scattered all over the city, it was difficult to reach. The new sanctuary is located on a thoroughfare easily accessible by public transportation. Also, we'll be expanding our bus ministry to reach the people near our old location and others because now we'll have room for them in our new sanctuary."

ACCORDING TO **REV. LAMPLEY**, Tabernacle with its 300 members had outgrown its old sanctuary and

James Graves, First Baptist's pastor.

Rev. Delos Sharpton, Southside's pastor since October 1974, will become an assistant pastor at First Baptist while **Rev. Lewis Lampley**, pastor of Tabernacle, will be the senior minister of the new church.

The reason for the merger is a desire to minister more effectively in the community, according to church spokesmen.

Southside Baptist was designated a "crisis church" by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, "due to the changing community where it is located," according to First Baptist.

"Church membership was at a standstill, financial giving was down and the congregation was composed primarily of elderly persons," says Southside's pastor, **Rev. Sharpton**.

"And I discovered through a three-month study that we weren't meeting the needs of the community. Since I feel if a church is going to exist in a community, it must be a vital part of it, something had to be done.

"We had neither the finances nor the personnel to establish such necessary classes as reading or sewing, or to set up a referral program or a clothes closet project.

educational facilities. Southside's sanctuary seats 500.

The Southside church parsonage and mission property at 2175 Pinellas Point Drive S will become assets of First Baptist, which plans to operate it as a "satellite ministry center" offering on weekdays Bible classes and activities for senior citizens and youth groups.

Money realized from the sale of Tabernacle property, an estimated \$45,000 to \$60,000, will be contributed to Southside Tabernacle for further mission expansion in the St. Petersburg area, to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, to the Pinellas Baptist Association with its 38 member churches in Pinellas County and to the South Florida Progressive Baptist Association, of which Tabernacle Baptist is a member.

Currently, plans are going ahead on an estimated \$30,000 to \$40,000 improvement and renovation project on the new church's grounds. They include repainting the sanctuary and parking lot expansion, says **Rev. Lampley**, and are not part of the merger plan.

SOUTHSIDE TABERNALE Baptist Church will form a new corporation, **Rev. Lampley** says, adding that a new constitution will be adopted and church officials elected at its dedication service, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7.

Speaks Here

The **Rev. Delos Sharpton** will speak during a youth-sponsored weekend revival at the Huntsville Park Baptist Church. Services will be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 25. **Sharpton** is pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church at Leesburg, and a student at the University of Alabama. Music will be directed by Johnny Henderson, also a UA student.



Clearspring Baptist

Rev. Delos Sharpton, pastor
Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.
Morning Worship, 10:30 a. m.
BYF meets at 6 p. m.
Evening Worship at 7 p. m.

in October of 2003 the Trustees unanimously elected Mr. Delos L. Sharpton, Executive Vice-President of Baptist Village, to become the next President/CEO of Baptist Village. He was elected to serve a transition period until the retirement of J. Olan Jones on December 31, 2004. Mr. Sharpton assumed the President/CEO position January 1, 2005