

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

Shell, J. C. served as pastor of Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Holt, 1953-1954, First Baptist Church, Gulf Breeze, 1955-1956 and Baldwin Avenue Baptist Church. He and his wife, Sylvia E. Shell had four children.

Pleasant Home, Holt (Santa Rosa)

Due to incomplete records we are unable to give an accurate list of the faithful pastors who have helped to make Pleasant Home Church. Each of the following, and others, played an important role, however, they are not in chronological order:

PASTORS

Rev. John Senterfeit
Rev. D. Anderson
Rev. C.C. Eiland
Rev. E.T. Pitts
Rev. P.M. Scott
Rev. A.W. Langley
Rev. James Sutley
Rev. J.C. Floyd
Rev. W.W. Clifford
Rev. C.L. Perry
Rev. J.B. Ward
Rev. J.J. Cooper
Rev. H.D. Wilson
Rev. G.C. Eubanks
Rev. L.L. Henderson

Rev. Alvin C. Higdon
Rev. Grover Key
Rev. George Pugh
Rev. John Smith
Rev. B.L. Shirley
Rev. Ralph J. Noles
Rev. Theodore Smith
Rev. J.C. Shell
Rev. C.C. Morris
Rev. H.G. Thornton
Rev. Eric Arrant
Rev. L.G. Stewart
Rev. Chas. B. Sansom
Rev. Harold A. Anderson

The record of deacons, ordained to aid these worthy ministers since August of 1900, is also incomplete:

DEACONS

John T. Cooper, Charter deacon
E.M. Pitts
Hatley T. Pierce
W.W. Parker
L.B. Cooper
J.D. Pitts
J.W. Gilmore
Raymond Andrews
Dewie F. Pittman
Clifford R. Parker
James E. McDonald

The Church Trustees Are: W.M. Ivey, L.B. Cooper and Mason Howard

It is not feasible to attempt to enumerate the conversions and other additions to this church. Our present enrollment is 182, Mrs. Ella H. Pitts is our only Charter member.

Faith

Gulf Breeze NEWS

First Baptist turns 50, celebrates mil

SUBMITTED BY JOE GILSTAP
First Baptist Church

January 2007 marks the 50th birthday of First Baptist Church, Gulf Breeze. Please join the congregation as First Baptist celebrate this milestone in the march toward the century mark as members accept the past as only a prologue to a greater and brighter future.

Members of First Baptist are grateful for the precious memories they have of days gone by and are especially thankful for those living and deceased who have been a part of this body of Christ. The great American Poet, Oliver Wendell Holmes made a profound statement that well portrays the churches position: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are what matters compared to what lies within us."

As members reflect on these memories we need to do so as the Apostle Paul, as he wrote to the church in Philippi, "I give thanks to my God for every remembrance----"

The same as members today, those who started the church fifty years ago, experienced joys and sorrow of life, yet they managed to keep their eyes focused on the future with a strong hope in the promise of a better tomorrow. As they take a look backward, they do so with the wisdom of Sir Winston Churchill who said: "History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revise it's echoes and kindle with pale gleams the passion of forever days."

As in the past, members continue the strong focus on missions, both in the community and around the world. Rev. D. R.



Franklin Hayes/ Gulf Breeze News
First Baptist Church will be celebrating its 50th birthday this Sunday, Jan. 21.

Inset: First Baptist Church after construction in 1955 with the help of Billory Baptist Church.

Tucker and the good people of Billory Baptist Church of Holley had a vision in 1955 of what First Baptist could become. They put feet to that vision and the first step involved holding a tent revival. Salvation Army Major, Rev. Bugin stepped forward and gave permission for the tent to be erected where the Youth Building now stands. The tent revival in May 1955 led the early congregation to meet next under the trees at the Futrell residence. They continued to meet at this location until the Futrells moved from Gulf Breeze. It was there that plans were made to start a mission church.

God continued to provide; the Graham Renfro family then opened their home. Soon the group outgrew this space. It was

then that Mr. Mark Benson a good Methodist friend stepped forward and offered the use of the back part of the Benson Building. Rev. Tucker, pastor of Billory continued to conduct Worship services on Wednesday nights. In June of 1955 construction began on a concrete block building on the property given by Rev. Burgin. Money was furnished by the Florida Baptist Convention (FBC) to finish the building and in September, 1955, and Rev. J. C. Shell became Mission Pastor and continued as pastor after the mission was officially constituted as Gulf Breeze Baptist Church in January, 1956.

After becoming a church, FBC money made available for the pastor's salary discontinued. The FBC salary supplement was

only available for mission churches. Because of this financial difficulty the church found it necessary in March, 1956 to revert again to mission status. The Brownsville Baptist Church of Pensacola delayed their pending building plans and accepted the sponsorship of the Gulf Breeze mission. At this time, Rev. Shell resigned as pastor and the Brownsville church sent Rev. Bob Jones to serve as interim pastor. In August, 1956 Rev. Arthur Haylock became mission pastor.

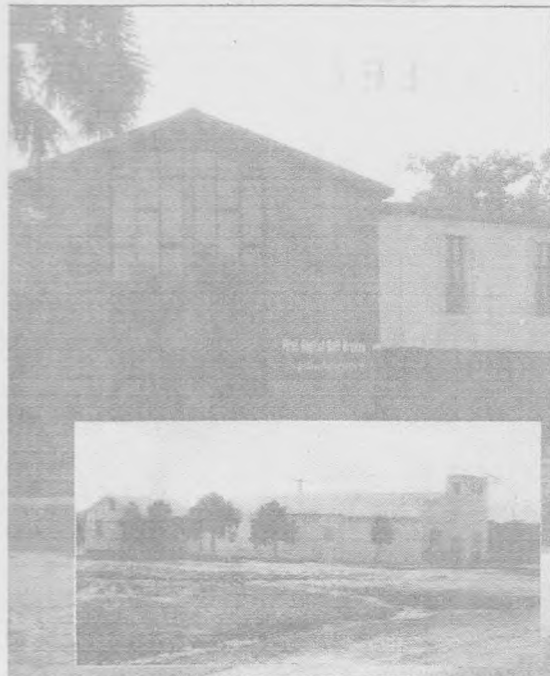
Under the leadership of Rev. Haylock the congregation experienced rapid growth and the mission was again constituted, January, 1957 into what is now, First Baptist Church of Gulf Breeze. Rev. Haylock continued as pastor until he surrendered to go as a Missionary to Honduras and later Dominican Republic.

First Baptist Church of Gulf Breeze continued to grow under the continuing leadership of the following pastors:

Rev. Robert H. Glass, 1960 - 1971; Rev. T.D. Lide*, 1971 -

1972;
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Franklin Hayes/ Gulf Breeze News
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1972; Rev. J. Lester Hawkins,
1972 - 1977; Dr. James W.
Hackney, 1978 - 1991; Dr.
Wendell W. Ray, 1992 - 2000;
Dr. Henry Willett*, 2000 - 2001;
Rev. Michael Cosgrove, 2001 -
2004; Rev. Jeff Spooneybarger,
2004-present. * - Interim Pastor
Celebrate the anniversary
with First Baptist Church, the
Lord's Day on Sunday, January
21.

Initial Services Of Church Set

Baptist Edifice Will Seat 300

First services will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday in the new Gulf Breeze Baptist Church which has been constructed in the Town Point community, the **Rev. J. C. Shell** pastor, said Saturday.

Dedication services will be conducted in about two weeks, following a revival by the **Rev. Doc Tucker**, of the Holly Baptist Church, which starts Sunday.

The Gulf Breeze congregation has been meeting in homes in the community for several months, **Mr. Shell** said. Men of the area have donated materials and labor for the construction of the masonry church building. It will seat 300 when the new pews arrive. It also contains four Sunday school rooms and a nursery.

The church is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Revival services by Mr. Tucker will be held at 7:30 p.m. daily for eight days.

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ng held on Baldwin Avenue with the
id address given by the Rev. J. C.
ts Shell, pastor of the Baldwin Ave-
a nue Baptist Church.
b- The Rev. Gayle Threlkeld, pastor
s. of the Presbyterian Church, and
the Rev. Sam Jones, pastor of the
ed First Methodist Church, will also
a- take part on the program.
z- Col. E. L. Beatty will act as mas-
ter of ceremonies for the event.

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announced by Waters & Hubert.
PERRY WALKER SHELL
JAY—Funeral services will be held
at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Concord

Primitive Baptist Church for Perry
Walker Shell 82, of Jay, who died
Thursday morning in a Brewton,
Ala., hospital. The Rev. Clint Myers
and the Rev. L. F. Miller will officiate.
He was a native of Conecuh County,
Ala., but has been a resident of
Jay for the past 55 years.
Mr. Shell, a retired farmer, was a
member of Concord Primitive Baptist
Church.
Survivors are eight sons, Arris,
Farris, Escar, Luman, and Oris, all
of Jay; Omar of Milton, Fritz of
Brent, the Rev. J. C. Shell of De-
Funiak Springs; two daughters, Mrs.
Sidney Reeves of Century and Miss
Elsie Shell of Milton; three brothers;
one sister; 19 grandchildren; 13 great
grandchildren.
Burial will be in the church ceme-
tery. Flomaton Funeral Home is in
charge of arrangements.

COMANDER FUNERAL HOME
DeFuniak Springs
INFANT SHELL

DE FUNIAK SPRINGS—Funeral services for Mark Allen Shell, 2-day-old son of Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Shell of DeFuniak Springs, who died Thursday morning in a Pensacola hospital, will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at the graveside in Cora Baptist Church Cemetery south of Jay. Rev. L. F. Miller will officiate.

Besides the parents, he is survived by three brothers, Michael, Gary and Ronnie Shell, all of DeFuniak Springs; and his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Ashworth of Jay.

Comander Funeral Home of DeFuniak Springs is in charge of arrangements.

SYLVIA E. SHELL

Sylvia E. Shell, age 91, of Helena, AL, formerly of Aliceville, AL, died on July 9, 2016. Services: First Baptist Church of Helena on Tuesday July 12, 2016 at 10:00 am. Presiding clergy Rev. Dr. Greg Walker and Rev. Morgan Bailey. Burial: 4:00pm graveside service at Cora Baptist Church Cemt. in Jay, FL. Skelton Funeral Home of Reform directing. Visitation: The body will lie in state one hour prior to service at the church.

Preceded in death by: her husband of 58 years: Rev. J.C. Shell, her parents and 2 sisters: Earline Shell and Sue DuPont. Survived by sons Michael Shell (Sandra) of Helena, AL, Gary Shell (Nevalene) of Wichita Falls, TX, and Ronnie Shell of Enterprise, AL; 7 grandchildren: Stephen, Jennifer, Chris, Timothy, Matthew, Kimberly and Amanda; 19 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

Mrs. Shell was born September 19, 1924 in Blount County, AL to the late Tillie Ashworth and Gordie Malone Ashworth.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Alzheimer's and Brain Research Center, www.alz.org.

Express your condolences in our guestbook at pnj.com/obits