

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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Sheppard, G. W. served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Lakeland in 1910 and 1911.

1885

1945

A Historic Sketch



CELEBRATING THE

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

120466

The Ministry of G. W. Sheppard

DR. W. D. NOWLIN, R. S. GAVIN

There is no record of the duration of Rev. G. W. Sheppard's pastorate. The Association minutes for 1910 record a membership of 696 for that year. These figures prove how well the work had been carried on by Rev. Sheppard and his predecessor, Rev. Tharp. Rev. Sheppard baptized 30 members in 1910 and received 87 by letter. This is a growth of 481 members in seven years. Maybe this growth was because or through the nine ordained ministers and the five licentiates who were of the congregation.

The financial condition of the church had improved, for \$4,391.00 was contributed that year, with the Pastor receiving eighteen hundred dollars a year.

The Missionary Society flourished with sixty-four members, and contributed \$288.35. The Sunbeams were thirty in number.

This we know about Rev. Sheppard's ministry. "His works do follow him."

Dr. William D. Nowlin was called to serve the church March 12th, 1911, by a unanimous vote. The following resolution was made and adopted at the same time.

"As the Bible plan is God's, which is always the best plan in finances as well as in all other things. Resolve that we adopt the Bible plan as our financial system. Every member bringing to the Lord's house on the first day of the week and putting into the Treasury as the Lord has prospered them . . . and this fund shall be used, first, to pay the actual expenses of the Church, and at the end of each quarter the surplus, if any, shall be distributed among the different missions and charities."