

## **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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**Sheridan, Earll C.** (1892-1960) was the son of Thomas James and Geneva Gertrude Reynolds Sheridan. He served as pastor of churches in Georgia and Florida including First Baptist Church, Apalachicola and Phoenix Baptist Church, Jacksonville. Sheridan and his wife, Annie Perl Liddon Sheridan had three children.

1969  
HISTORICAL SKETCH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA

The First Baptist Church of Apalachicola was built about 1850 (before the Civil War in 1861) and located on 6th Street and the corner of Avenue H. This land was purchased in 1860 from Charles Ellis of the Apalachicola Land Company by the trustees of the church.

In 1885, after the War, the church had to be repaired and reorganized. Rev. R. D. Burroughs was pastor in 1885 with eleven members. Pastor's salary was \$25 per month.

On March 26, 1902, the trustees purchased the land for a new church on 9th Avenue at a cost of \$400. This is the present location of the church. The new church was built, and the name changed to Calvary Baptist Church.

In 1908 new seats were purchased. In 1910 electric lights were installed at a cost of \$20. Later that year, plans were made for a pastorium next to the church. This was completed in 1912.

The earliest recorded pastor was R. D. Burrows in 1885. Other pastors have been: Rev. Trice, 1889; Rev. Bryant, 1890; Rev. Norwood, Rev. Wombolt, Rev. Birton, Rev. Clark, 1900; F. W. Cramer, 1901; T. O. Reese, 1903; C. B. Wright, 1905; W. F. Wagner, 1905-06; George Hyman, 1906-08; P. O. Cason, 1908-10; B. F. Brooks, 1910-11; Rev. Daniels, 1912-13; H. S. Howard, 1913; E. C. Sheridan, 1913-16; O. E. Tabow, 1916-18; A. J. Folsom, 1920-21; Dr. Feldman, 1922; W. C. McGill, 1923-24; William Lee Popham (SS Supt.), 1925; P. O. Cason, 1925-26; Mayfield, 1925; Hollifield, 1927-28; Royal Callo-way, 1929; E. H. Garrett, 1930-40; Paul McCullers, 1940-43; T. O. Reese, 1943; D. F. Hickman, 1945-47; W. A. Frye, 1947-51; E. L. Mixon, 1951-54; Joe Hough, 1954-57; John Stewart, 1957-60; William Green, 1960-66; Lowell Crawford, 1966-68; Bill A. Oswald, 1968-Present.

In October, 1935 Calvary Baptist Church changed its name back to First Baptist Church. E. H. Garrett was pastor.

In 1947 the organ was purchased and paid for with gifts. In 1950 carpeting was installed. Centennial services were held June 25, 1950 with W. A. Frye, Pastor. Former pastors present were Rev. D. F. Hickman, Rev. Paul McCullers, Dr. **E. C. Sheridan**.

In 1955, ground was broken for the first unit of a three unit brick veneer educational building. This was completed the same year and the second unit completed in 1956.

In 1957 the church sponsored a mission in Eastpoint which was established as a church. The mortgage was paid in full in 1964 and the property dedeed to the First Baptist Church of Eastpoint.

The present pastorium on 6th Street was purchased in 1964.

In October, 1969 the church had 418 members with Sunday School, Training Union and Woman's Missionary Union organized and functioning.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

The Immanuel Baptist Church was organized on August 27, 1900. The 16 charter members had requested letters of transfer from the St. Andrew Baptist Church for the purpose of constituting the new church in Millville.

The first building was erected in 1902 and was used until the early 1960's.

A long-range building program was begun in 1945. Following the unit plan of building, the church completed the present plant in 1962 and now has all units under one roof. Property is valued at \$400,000.

Membership in the church has grown from the original 16 charter members to a present membership of 1,434.

Out of the Immanuel Baptist Church has come several other full-time

churches in our association. Immanuel has invested thousands of dollars and many of her members in helping establish these churches. The church is now sponsoring a mission at Green Hills and Sunday afternoon services at the Baptist Center.

Approximately 50 full time Christian workers have gone out from Immanuel through the years.

A total of 23 pastors have served the church during the 70 years of its history.

The present pastor, Adolph Bedsole, has served 27 of those years.

One of the major services of the church through the years has been its response to the needs of the community, not only in evangelism but also in the areas of human need and suffering.

Rather than follow the traditional W.M.U. and Brotherhood concept in formal building centered "meeting" activities, the men and women of the church work in cooperation in some 9 service groups. These service groups are:

1 — New resident; 2 — Hospital Visitation; 3 — Baptist Center; 4 — Soul Winning; 5 — Morning Prayer Group; 6 — Evening Prayer Group; 7 — Intercessory Prayer Group; 8 — Mission Study; and 9 — Handicapped Children.

The members of these groups must move out of the church buildings and formal meetings to accomplish their goals. The church believes this is actually "following Christ."

ST. ANDREW BAPTIST CHURCH, PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

The St. Andrew Baptist Church was organized on the fifth Sunday in June, 1894, under the leadership of the first pastor, M. J. Webb. This was 21 years before electric current was furnished to this area and only 75 years after the treaty was signed between the United States and Spain, giving the territory of Florida to the United States.

St. Andrew Baptist Church is the oldest Baptist Church in Bay County and is the mother church of four other Baptist churches in the county: Immanuel Baptist, First Baptist, Drummond Park Baptist (now Westview) and West Bay Baptist Church.

The first building purchased by the church was at the corner of West Fifteenth Street and Deer Avenue. The purchase price was \$125.00 — this was in 1895. In 1900 the congregation had outgrown this building and they voted to build a new house of worship. The minutes do not report this being done until 1949. The financial condition of the church was very poor apparently and there seemed to be a lot of turmoil among the members.

The present "Old Auditorium" was built during the pastorate of J. H. Christie. There was a resident membership of 338 and a Sunday School enrollment of 322 at that time.

"The Lighthouse," a weekly church paper, was first published on April 16, 1952. The church library was begun in the same year. In 1954 two morning worship services were begun.

The present interim auditorium was dedicated in February, 1966, during the pastorate of Charles Jim Marsh. Guest speakers for the dedication ceremonies were Dr. John Maguire, Dr. Hal Bennett and the Rev. Dan Thomas.

The present pastor, J. Sidney Sample, began his ministry in October of 1967. A \$40,000 pastorium was built and dedicated in 1968. The church now has a resident membership of almost 1200 and 600 non-resident members. The budget has increased from \$73.33 in 1896 to \$118,525 for 1970.

Earll Cooley Sheridan

Birth 18 Jul 1892

Death

19 Apr 1960 (aged 67)

Burial Westover Memorial Park Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia, USA

Family Members

Parents

Thomas James Sheridan 1856–1931

Geneva Gertrude Reynolds Sheridan 1862–1916

Spouse

Annie Pearl Liddon Sheridan 1893–1983

Children

Geneva E. Sheridan Hollingsworth 1915–1998

Thomas Liddon Sheridan 1918–2000

Earll Cooley Sheridan Jr 1922–2010

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141858509/earll\\_cooley-sheridan](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141858509/earll_cooley-sheridan)

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of Mr. and Mrs. Earll Sheridan  
e- Jr. of 322 Oakridge Blvd. have  
e. been called to Augusta, Ga., be-  
a- cause of the death of Mr. Sheri- at  
- dan's father, the Rev. Earll at  
- Cooley Sheridan, which occurred bu  
Tuesday night. F

## HISTORY OF PHOENIX BAPTIST CHURCH

In March, 1908, a religious revival began in the small settlement of Milldale, a suburb of Jacksonville, Florida. This was the result achieved by Dr. W. L. C. Mahon, who at the request of Mrs. Fred Phillips, interceded to the State Board of Missions and obtained a former Chinese missionary, Rev. Earl D. Simms, to conduct a revival. Mr. W. W. Cummer gave permission to erect a tent on his property where the meeting was held, and gave the use of the property, as long as it was used for religious purposes. During the course of the meeting twelve people brought their letters from Main Street Baptist Church, and fifty-eight came on a profession of faith and were baptized. With this group of seventy people the Phoenix Baptist Church of Milldale was organized. The name, Phoenix, was suggested by the oldest and youngest members. It was taken from the legend of the Phoenix bird which is a symbol of immortality.

Rev. Russian Cate, the first pastor, also a contractor, was loaned by the Home Board of Missions. He, with the aid of the men of the church, a large portion of the lumber being donated by the Cummer Lumber Company, built a church. The first meeting was held in the building, which consisted of a main auditorium and three small classrooms, and was on October 27, 1908. Soon after Rev. Cate was called to another church, after which Rev. M. A. Clouts became pastor and stayed for one year. In the spring of 1910 the Rev. Stephen A. Crockett accepted the pastorate until 1913 when he was called to another church. Then for a few months the Rev. R. C. Fenner supplied until the church called Rev. P. T. Taylor. During his work here a church and Sunday School were organized on Talleyrand Avenue. Also a Good Will Center for recreation and educational purposes for the community was established, as well as three new classrooms for the Sunday School being built. Rev. Taylor served until 1916, part of which time he spent in the seminary on leave of absence, continuing his studies. The Rev. E. C. Sheridan then became pastor. During his stay a Sunday School and a Woman's Missionary Circle were organized in Norwood, where later the people organized a church of their own. In 1918 Rev. Sheridan was called to another church and Phoenix Church turned from one pastor to another seeking the right leader. The Revs. Dempsey, Yarborough, C. S. Thomas and W. W. Lowry held the pastorate in turn, each staying six months to a year. Then in 1922 under the leadership of Rev. B. F. Green, the church began to thrive in spiritual development once more and came to be called "The Friendly Church." In 1926 the Cummer Lumber Company gave the church the title to the property on which the building stands. Later two extra Sunday School classrooms were added to the church building. In 1930 Rev. Green was called to another church and Rev. George A. Jeffers, the present pastor, took up the work in Phoenix Church. In 1932, seeing the growth

## B. S. U. ACTIVITIES

By Bob Matthews, Publicity Director

Capping off the social season of the college year in denominational activity, the University of Florida Baptist Student Union has scheduled a Farnyard social and general mass meeting for all members of the organization at the Gainesville First Baptist Church Friday evening, April 21, at 8 o'clock.

The young women's Sunday School classes and the Young Women's Auxiliary of the W. M. U., under the direction of Mrs. John Hall Jones, are cooperating with a special committee of the college B. S. U. in making preliminary arrangements. Preparations, refreshments, decorations are being made to take care of over 500 guests.

The program will consist of stunts, plays, skits, games, plenty of good eats, election of B. S. U. council members for next year, and a unique hog calling contest; the winner of which competition will be presented with a live pig for his efforts. This coming affair is taking on interest and importance similar to that attained by the "Wild West Party" staged last fall, which attracted more than 400 from Gainesville and the college campus.

An evening of hilarity and a varied inspirational program will be enjoyed by all who attend. An absolutely unique succession of activities will occur rapidly after this gala occasion once gets into full swing. This will be an enlargement of the regular weekly social program for Baptist young people. It is sincerely expected that all persons who are interested in real wholesome entertainment will avail themselves of this opportunity to attend this season of festivities and frolics.

Officers of the Florida State Baptist Student Union are planning a Spring Retreat to be held at the Suwannee Hotel, Live Oak, April 29 and 30, for newly elected and retiring council members of the various colleges.

This meeting, which will also include associational leaders from the 32 divisions of

and needs of the church, the Cummer Lumber Company gave what is now known as the educational building to be added to the church plant. While at present plans are being made for an enlargement program of the church property.

Though small in itself, Phoenix Church has spread its influence into other communities and the outside world. In that first revival Rev. Earl Calkins, present pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Augustine, Florida, became converted and baptized, felt the call of the ministry, and through the church was ordained and licensed to preach.

Mrs. Ruth Brothers Marsh, who attended this church, is at present in Jamshedpur, India, with her husband, who holds a pastorate there. Miss Kate Martin, former member of Phoenix Church, is now teaching in Teheran, Persia.

At present Phoenix Baptist Church consists of a membership of 319. Fully organized in all its departments with a graded W. M. U., a graded Standard Sunday

the State Baptist Convention, will place emphasis upon planning and training for the work during the coming months. Consideration will be given the ways and means of conducting programs in churches throughout the State during the coming vacation period, as well as the securing of delegates for the Southern Baptist Student Retreat, Ridgecrest, North Carolina, June 15 to 23, and the State Baptist Assembly at the Tampa Bay Hotel, July 11 to 19.

The list of speakers for this spring conference includes the Rev. John Hall Jones, Statewide student secretary; Miss Katherine Rawls, student secretary, Florida State College for Women; Preston Sellars, State B. S. U. president; Mrs. John Hall Jones, formerly student secretary at the Mississippi State College for Women, Columbus, Miss.; "Red" Fred Smith, former State B. S. U. president for two years, who is now preaching at Trenton.

These State B. S. U. officers will have parts on the program: Enlistment chairman, Thelma Tew, F. S. C. W., Sanford; fellowship chairman, Frances Huie, Bob Jones College, Lake Wales; devotional chairman, Gray Miley, University of Florida, Plant City; secretary, Wava Godwin, F. S. C. W., Avon Park; treasurer, Bruce Webster, Stetson University, Leesburg; publicity director, Bob Matthews, University of Florida, Gainesville; Sunday School representative, Griff Scholfield, Rollins College, Longwood; B. Y. P. U. representative, Joe Burnett, University of Florida, Tallahassee; Y. W. A. representative, Etter Turner, Stetson University, Williston. Presidents of the various college B. S. U. groups will also be among the speakers at Live Oak.

The opening program will be given at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, April 29, with the convocation being concluded at 4 o'clock the following afternoon. Among the many featured events will be a Sunrise Service Sunday morning, April 30, at 6 o'clock at the Live Oak Golf and Country Club and a farewell covenant service along the banks of the Suwannee River that afternoon at 3 o'clock.

School, Junior and Intermediate B. Y. P. U.'s and a department of teacher training constantly being conducted. The church plant consists of one main auditorium with each Sunday School department having individual assembly and class rooms.

The present officers of the church are as follows:

Deacons, S. N. Finney, Chairman; J. D. Clark, W. G. Rivers, J. E. Johnson, J. H. Fennell, W. C. Richardson, B. Altman, J. W. Sessions, W. H. Nickell.

Church Clerk, S. W. Finney.  
Church Treasurer, J. W. Sessions.  
Church Poor Fund, J. E. Johnson.  
Sunday School Superintendent, W. C. Richardson.

W. M. U. President, Mrs. Ida Horton.  
Young People's W. M. U. Director, Mrs. E. O. Harrison.

Intermediate B. Y. P. U. Leader, Miss Georgia Stephens.  
Junior B. Y. P. U. Leader, Mrs. George A. Jeffers.

Choir Director, W. Herman Nickell.



lines in the same region were repulsed.

## REV. E. C. SHERIDAN ASSUMES NEW CHARGE

### New Minister of Phoenix Baptist Church Preaches Sermon Tomorrow.

The initial sermon by **Rev. E. C. Sheridan**, new pastor of the Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix Park, will be delivered at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning. Mr. **Sheridan** having arrived in the city this week. The new minister comes from Apalachicola, where he was popular with his large congregation, and under his guidance the Phoenix Church is expected to show good results.

Mr. **Sheridan** fills the vacancy caused by the resignation of **Rev. P. T. Taylor**, who served the Phoenix church for three years. Mr. Taylor a short time ago accepted a call to the South Jacksonville Baptist Church, where his inspiring work has already shown results.

docks, already very pronounced, promises to become even greater with completion of the monster superdreadnoughts and battle cruisers which are soon to be constructed. The new dry dock, known as number one, is 1,000 feet long, 110 feet wide with a depth of 35 feet of water over the blocks at mean tide. Consequently it can accommodate the largest naval vessel in the world now being projected.

## HONESTY OF POSTAL AUTHORITIES SHOWN IN SENDING BONDS

Washington, Oct. 21.—Five thousand dollars in bonds, good as cash and readily negotiable, poorly concealed in a much torn envelope, which revealed their value to scores of employes, traveled safely in the ordinary letter mail from Rusk, Texas, to the Postoffice Department, where they were delivered today to the postal savings director.

Officials thought it a fine testimony to the honesty of postal employes. The bonds came as security deposits from a national bank.

## GEORGIA BAPTIST

The **Rev. E. C. Sheridan** of the Curtiss ave. Baptist church in Augusta, Ga., will preach at Miami Beach Baptist church during the coming city-wide Baptist revival campaign.

## Pastor to Give Series of Talks

CLEARWATER, Jan. 23.—The Rev. George R. Stair, who has been selected supply pastor of Calvary Baptist church, is beginning the first of his series of Wednesday night talks entitled "What is a Christian?" Dr. Stair came to Clearwater from the Englewood Baptist church of Chicago and has acted as supply pastor in many churches throughout Florida during the past 10 years.

His other subjects for Wednesday night prayer meetings are "How May I Know That I Am a Christian"; "How May Others Know That I Am a Christian"; "Are Christians Peculiar," and "What is the Christian Church."

Dr. Stair is to fill the pulpit of the church pending the acceptance of a call which has been extended to the Rev. E. C. Sheridan of Augusta, Ga., and formerly of this city.

**TARPON BAR REOPENS**

his vacation in New York.

Rev. A. T. Howell assisted in the ordination service at Curtis Baptist church Saturday when Liddon Sheridan, son of the pastor of the church, the Rev. E. C. Sheridan was ordained a minister. Mr. Sheridan has accepted a call to a Florida church.

Mrs. N. J. DeLoach is Memorial Day chairman and Mrs. Fritz Schulhofer is chairman of the Poppy Day. They will have charge of the program tomorrow afternoon.

The roll call will be answered with names of deceased World War veterans.

Friends of Mrs. Rembert DuBose

She is director in the Greensboro Schools where 1 years she has t Senior High Se

Mr. Wolfe is A. Wolfe and t of North. He Clemson College graduate work riculture at St

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and two daughters.

### THOMAS J. SHERIDAN

CLEARWATER, Oct. 1.—(Special.)  
—Thomas J. Sheridan, 74, pioneer resident of Clearwater, died at his home last night after a long illness. He came to Pinellas county from New Orleans when he was 17 years old. Funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Burial will be at the Clearwater cemetery. Surviving are two sons, L. R. Sheridan of Lakeland and the Rev. E. C. Sheridan, Augusta, Ga., and three daughters, Mrs. William Ellwood Hogan, Augusta; Mrs. D. B. Collier, Bradenton, and Miss Edna Sheridan, Clearwater.

## Gas Fumes Nearly Kill Family at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 7.—Rev. E. C. Sheridan, pastor of Curtis Baptist church; his wife, three children, and the family cook, narrowly escaped asphyxiation at their home on Adrian street Wednesday night when a broken gas pipe beneath the house filled it with poisonous fumes.

The Sheridans had just moved into the dwelling, a new one, and because of the odors of paint and varnish did not detect the escaping gas until all members of the family, except Mr. Sheridan, had been rendered unconscious. The cook was the first affected, falling out of the back door in an unconscious condition. Before she could be resuscitated, Mrs. Sheridan and the three children had been rendered unconscious. Mr. Sheridan said he became dizzy, but in running about the house to give aid to the others must have breathed enough fresh air to keep him going until a doctor arrived.

of beauty to the decorative arrange-

Haven, brothers of the bride.

## Marriage of Miss Helen Ficquette and Rev. Lidden Sheridan Is Announced

WINTER GARDEN, May 13. — The marriage of Miss Helen Ficquette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Ficquette of this city to the Rev. Lidden Sheridan of Augusta, Ga., and DeLand, has been announced. The ceremony took place in DeLand, April 20.

Mrs. Sheridan is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ficquette and was graduated from the local high school, last year. She is attending Stetson University in DeLand and is a mem-

ber of the Stetson Glee Club.

The Rev. Mr. Sheridan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Sheridan of Augusta. He was graduated from Augusta Military School and for the last two years has been a ministerial student at Stetson.

Following the close of college the Rev. and Mrs. Sheridan will reside in Orlando, where he has accepted the pastorate of the Lucerne Park Baptist Church.