

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

Shirley, Hoke H., Jr. (1931-2018) was born in West Point, Georgia, the son of Beth and Hoke H. Shirley, Sr. He graduated from Stetson University and Tulane University School of Medicine. Shirley was ordained in 1951 by First Baptist Church, Pahokee where his father served as pastor. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Lady Lake in 1951 while attending Stetson University. Shirley and his wife, Sarah Greenwood Shirley had four children.



HISTORY OF THE LADY LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

The exact date and details of the organization of the Lady Lake Baptist Church is not known. It is believed to have been organized in 1882, under the name of Equity Baptist Church, and was located about one mile East of the present location. Mrs. R. D. Mathews of Fruitland Park remembers a church of this name, at this location.

The present church auditorium was started June 10th, 1884. The late Mr. E. H. Reynolds made this notation in his diary dated June 10th, 1884, "today the first lumber was piled for building the church", but no further mention of how long the building was in progress. Mr. Reynolds owned a sawmill near Lady Lake and cut and prepared the lumber to build the church.

Through the years the records have been destroyed, and nothing is known of the early activities of the church, nor of it's first pastor. It is presumed that services were continued in the Equity Church until this church building was completed. When the name was changed, or when the building was first occupied is not known. However, from information obtained from the Organizational Minute of the Lake County Baptist Association it is known that the Lady Lake Baptist Church was included as a charter member of the Association coming from the Alachua Association with an enrollment of 30 members with J. H. Martin as Pastor.

For many years the church had only morning services on the first and third Sunday of each month. On October 19, 1947, the church voted to have two services on the first and third Sunday of each month. Rev. V. A. Higgs was Pastor at that time and his salary was \$40.00 per month. On December 26th, 1948, the church started having full time services. Rev. H. W. High was pastor and his salary was \$10.00 each Sunday.

The present pastorium^{ic} was built about the same time as the church, 75 or 80 years ago. For many years it was the home of Mrs. L. N. Withers. Mrs. Withers deeded the house to the church for use as a pastorium after her death. In April, 1930, the church came into possession of the house and has been using it as a home for their pastors. Even though the house is old, it is quite comfortable.

An educational building, under the leadership of Rev. Bob Carnes, was started in May, 1957. This building is located just behind the auditorium and consists of eight class rooms, a pastor's study, kitchen (not complete) and two rest rooms.

There is no complete list of the pastors who have faithfully served the Lady Lake Church, but have the following incomplete list:

No record-----	1882-1923	Rev. W. P. Wheeler-----	1941-1943
Rev. J. H. Martin-----	1924-1925	Rev. L. B. Johnson-----	1944
No record-----	1926	Rev. J. W. Johnson-----	1945-1946
Rev. R. J. Blackmon-----	1928-1929	Rev. V. A. Higgs-----	1947
Rev. L. W. Simmons-----	1930	Rev. H. W. High-----	1948
Rev. H. B. Reynolds-----	1931	Rev. Eugene Baxley-----	1949-1950
Rev. J. B. Webb-----	1932	Rev. Hoke Shirely, Jr.---	1951-1953
No record-----	1933	Rev. T. M. Pinner-----	1953
Rev. G. Brant-----	1934-1935	Rev. George Painter-----	1954-1955
No record-----	1936-1938	Rev. Wayne Chastain-----	1955
Rev. M. E. Brantley-----	1939	Rev. Bob Carnes-----	1956-1958
Rev. W. Lavender-----	1940	Rev. Page Williams-----	1958-1960
		Rev. Jack Rowland, Jr.--	1960-

Brotherhood To Dine

The Brotherhood of the First Baptist Church, J. M. Coursey, president, will honor the sons of its members with a father-and-son supper tomorrow at 7 p.m.

A special feature of the program will be a talk by the Rev. Hoke Shirley Jr. a junior at Stetson University and pastor of the Lady Lake Baptist Church. R. J. Hancock is chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements.

Ministerial Student, 20, Holding First Revival

By VENA TIFFIN SCHRODER
Herald Correspondent

PAHOKEE—Hoke Harold Shirley, Jr., of Pahokee, ministerial student, is conducting his first revival meeting at Westville, Fla.

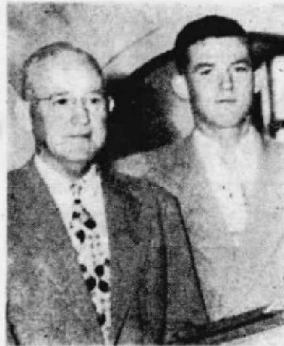
The preaching business is nothing new to young Shirley who has had a church of his own since Jan. 1. But this is his first venture in an evangelistic campaign.

The 20-year old minister is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Hoke H. Shirley, Sr., of Pahokee. The Rev. Mr. Shirley, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, has been in the ministry for 31 years.

Hoke, Jr., was ordained at the local church six months ago at the request of the Lady Lake Baptist Church which had called him as its pastor.

Dr. Helee Barnett, professor of religious education at Stetson University in Deland, delivered the ordination sermon and the Rev. Mr. Shirley presented the Bible to his son in the ordination service.

Hoke was graduated with honors from the Fort Lauderdale High School in 1949. He was valedictorian of his class, which was



FATHER AND SON

Hoke was graduated with honors from the Fort Lauderdale High School in 1949. He was valedictorian of his class, which was composed of 205 students. He has maintained this scholastic record at Stetson University where he has the distinction of being a straight "A" student.

Following his sophomore year at Stetson Hoke was booked by the Rev. Carl Parker, pastor of Westville for his first revival engagement which started through July 20.

When he completes his college course at Stetson, young Shirley plans to enter the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., where he will work for his Ph. D. degree.

Rev. and Mrs. Hoke Shirley Sr., 224 NE 15th Ave., Pompano Beach, returned yesterday from New Orleans where they attended the graduation exercises of their son, **Hoke Harold Jr.**, at Tulane University.

The **Shirleys** were accompanied by their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burris, Ft. Lauderdale.

Hoke was valedictorian of the 1958 graduating class of 128 students. He won the presidency of Alpha Omega Alpha, a national medical fraternity, which goes to the student who holds the highest scholastic record. **Hoke** has held this record all four years at Tulane when he became "top man" in his class each year.

Dr. **Shirley** also is the first member of the Order of the Gold Tipped Stethoscope, an order in which each year one outstanding student is chosen. At the conclusion of 10 years, Dr. George Edward Burch, head of internal medicine at Tulane, will hold a reunion for them.

Hoke Jr. graduated from Ft. Lauderdale High School in 1949 as valedictorian. At that time his father was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale.

Hoke Jr. graduated from Ft. Lauderdale High School in 1949 as valedictorian. At that time his father was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale.

Hoke Jr. finished Stetson University in 1953, summa cum laude. He was presented the Rosche Award, an Omega engraved watch for his outstanding record in his sophomore year at Tulane.

Dr. **Shirley** will interne in Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

He married the former Sarah Greenwood of Miami and the couple have a two-year-old son, **Hoke Harold Shirley III.**

Rev. Shirley participated in the Tulane University graduation exercises by giving the invocation.

Interim Pastor Called

The **Rev. Hoke Shirley** has been called as interim pastor of Wyomina Park Baptist Church. A former pastor of First Baptist Church of Ocala, he is retired and makes his home in Pompano Beach.

THE REV. Mr. **Shirley** and his wife are making their temporary home at 1918 Silver Springs Blvd. Their daughter Kathryn, now Mrs. Robert A. Burris of Pompano Beach, graduated from Ocala High School while her father was serving his pastorate here.

Hoke Shirley Jr., only son of the minister and his wife, is presently serving his residency in internal medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. He was graduated top in his class of 129 students at Tulane University Medical College in New Orleans.

The **Rev.** Mr. **Shirley**

College in New Orleans
The **Rev. Mr. Shirley** served First Baptist of Ocala from 1941-1944. After leaving Ocala he was pastor of churches in Ft. Lauderdale, Pahokee, and Eustis. He retired from his position in Eustis. While in Ft. Lauderdale the church he was serving constructed a new sanctuary building costing over \$300,000.

A NATIVE of Apple Valley, Ga., the **Rev. Mr. Shirley** holds B. A. and M. A. degrees from Mercer University in Macon, Ga. His early ministry was spent in Georgia.

Since his retirement he has served interim pastorates in more than 15 churches. These include pastorates in Leesburg, DeLand, Live Oak, First Baptist of Miami, North Park in Orlando and other smaller churches.

Pastor Call Accepted By Hoke Shirley, Jr.

PAHOKEE — Hoke H. Shirley, Jr., son of the Rev. and Mrs. Hoke H. Shirley of Pahokee, has accepted a call as pastor of the Baptist Church in Lady Lake, Fla. He is a second year student at Stetson University, DeLand, and plans to continue his studies there.

Mr. Shirley's examination for the ministry will be conducted by a presbytery composed of the Rev. R. Kelly White, West Palm Beach; the Rev. Wade Griffin, Belle Glade; the Rev. W. H. Reed, Clewiston; the Rev. C. J. Smyly, Canal Point, and others to be named later. His ordination will take place at the Pahokee First Baptist Church after he has passed his examination.

In Medicine

Scholarship Is Granted To Student

POMPANO BEACH—Hoke H. Shirley Jr., son of the Rev. and Mrs. Hoke H. Shirley, 224 NE 15th Ave., was one of ten students selected Saturday to receive state medical school scholarships.

The scholarships, established by the 1955 legislature, amount to \$1,000 per year for four years in medical school and are designed to increase the number of doctors practicing in Florida's rural areas.

Shirley was selected from 42 students who applied for the first annual scholarships. The selections were made by an advisory committee of the State Board of Health.

Shirley, who is 24 years old, was born in West Point, Ga., and graduated from Ft. Lauderdale High School in 1949. He was valedictorian of the senior class of 205 students.

He attended Stetson University in Deland, and graduated from there in 1953 summa cum laude. He stayed at Stetson for another year and completed his pre-med training in one full term and one summer session.

He is in his second year of

and one summer session.

He is in his second year of medical school at Tulane University and in his freshman year was listed as top man in his class scholastically out of 129 students.

Shirley was married last year to Miss Sarah Greenwood, Miami, who is also a graduate of Stetson University.

Rev. Shirley, now semi-retired, was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale for four and a half years.

Hoke H. Shirley Jr.

May 30, 1931 - July 25, 2018 (87 years old)

Naples, Florida

Hoke H. Shirley Jr. Obituary

We are sad to announce that on July 25, 2018, at the age of 87, Hoke H. Shirley Jr. (Naples, Florida), born in West Point, Georgia passed away. Leave a sympathy message to the family on the memorial page of Hoke H. Shirley Jr. to pay them a last tribute.

He is survived by : his wife Sarah Greenwood; his children, Hoke (Cheryl), Kathy, Scott (Vikki) and Lori; and his grandchildren, Kayla, Elizabeth, Kristen (Will), Austin, Charles, Steve, Connor and Ben.

HOKE SHIRLEY OBITUARY

Hoke H. Shirley, Jr.

San Antonio, TX

Dr. Hoke H. Shirley, Jr., age 87, born May 30, 1931, passed away on Wednesday, July 25 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born in West Point, Georgia, to Hoke and Edna Shirley on May 30, 1931. After earning his undergraduate degree from Stetson University, he then graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in 1958 and was a physician in Florida for more than 40 years in the specialty of internal medicine. He was passionate about his work, and when not working, always loved a good book, music, movies, playing with his kids, legendary family vacations ("Are we there yet?") and finding a great spot in which to fish.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sarah Greenwood; their four children: Hoke (Cheryl), Kathy, Scott (Vikki) and Lori; and eight grandchildren: Kayla, Elizabeth, Kristen (Will), Austin, Charles, Steve, Connor and Ben.