

## **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](http://FloridaBaptistHistory.org)

**Shofner, David E.** was the son of James Earl and Elizabeth Betts Shofner. He graduated from Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Shofner served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida including Circle Baptist Church, Pensacola, 1968-1969. Shofner was married to Myra Sims Shofner.

# Pensacola Bay 1992

## **HISTORY OF CIRCLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Circle Baptist Church was established as a mission by First Baptist Church of Pensacola in 1954 with Rev. Frank Bledsoe as pastor. On October 7, 1956, Circle Baptist became a fully constituted church and Rev. Bledsoe continued to serve as pastor until December 31, 1959.

Ground-breaking took place October 3, 1965, for construction of a sanctuary and a two-story education building. A loan was acquired by selling church bonds. This loan was paid off January 30, 1983, making the church debt free and no mortgage on the buildings. The present fellowship hall was the original sanctuary. It was also used as the adult Sunday School department. The men and women met together for Sunday School. When the present sanctuary was constructed the old building was converted into classrooms and assembly room. Where the pulpit and choir area had been, a kitchen was built. The rear building housed the children's Sunday School classrooms and church office area. The church office was later moved to the front rooms of the fellowship hall building for security and convenience.

Pastors who have served Circle Baptist Church are:

Rev. Frank Bledsoe	10-03-54	12-31-59
Rev. Charles E. Morris	09-01-60	08-25-68
Rev. <b>David E. Shofner</b>	12-15-68	04-27-69
Rev. E. E. Roberts (Interim)	09-01-69	02-25-70
Rev. W. A. Luckie	02-25-70	02-28-74
Rev. R. Terry Vaughan	07-01-74	02-18-79
Rev. B. Jack Harris (Interim)	06-10-79	05-25-80
Rev. James C. Butler (Deceased)	08-24-80	07-05-85
Rev. Steven E. Bailey	08-25-85	01-28-91
Rev. Henry Willett (Interim)	03-10-91	07-17-91
Rev. C. Steve Brassell	07-17-91	Present

Records for October - December 1954 show 45 resident members and 3 baptisms. Records for 1991-92 indicate 105 resident members, 9 baptisms and 15 new members.

The 1991-92 church year marked a new beginning for Circle Baptist Church as we began to dream again. We now have a clear vision of the future and a plan to move our church forward. We know that God has called us to be a church which ministers to the needs and lifestyles of families in the 90's. We strongly emphasize our worship and education ministries. Our worship style is a combination of traditional and contemporary approaches.

Our goal is to have 300 in attendance by September 30, 1995. Our action plans revolve around our three-fold approach to the ministry of exalting the Savior, equipping the saints, and evangelizing the sinner.

## Belleville Baptists Have New Pastor, Fulltime Program

Effective this month, Belleville Baptist Church has adopted a full time church program. They have called as their pastor, **Rev. David E. Shofner**, who is attending the Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La. Brother **Shofner** and wife, the former Miss Myra Sims of Mobile, are in Belleville each weekend. They plan to spend the entire summer in Belleville.

For three years, while he attended college at Mississippi College at Clinton, Miss., Brother **Shofner** pastored the Central Baptist Church at Bentonia,

Miss.

Brother **Shofner** is the son of the late James Earl **Shofner** and Mrs. **Shofner**, who was formerly Miss Elizabeth Betts of Burnt Corn. His paternal grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Fred **E. Shofner** of Burt Corn, and his maternal grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Betts of Burnt Corn.

Services are held at Belleville Baptist Church twice each Sunday, with Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and preaching services following at 11:00 a.m. Sunday evening, training union at 6:00 p.m. with church services following at 7:00 p.m. There will be no preaching services on fifth Sundays. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.