

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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Shower, W. Arnold (1917-1996) was born in Summerfield, Kansas, the son of Wesley I. and Dora Fralin Shower. He graduated from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Shower served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma, North Carolina and Florida, including First Baptist Church, Oneco, 1957-1966, First Baptist Church, Fort Myers Beach, 1966-1973, Beach Baptist Church, Fort Myers Beach and Kathleen Baptist Church. He and his wife Marjorie Ford Shower had three children.



DEDICATION



Rev. Arnold Shower

W. Arnold Shower was born on a farm near Summerfield, Kansas September 24, 1917. At the age of twenty-two, he married Marjorie Ford of Sand Springs, Oklahoma. They have two sons, one daughter, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Rev. Shower began his ministry in 1946 and was ordained on September 26, 1948 at the Limestone Baptist Church in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. He pastored three churches in Oklahoma while attending the University of Tulsa. Graduate work was done at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

God used Marjorie's health to necessitate the family move to the West Coast of Florida. During the next twenty-two years Arnold pastored three churches. He also served as Moderator of two Baptist Associations, served six years on the Board of Trustees at the Florida Baptist Theological College, and was named Florida Rural Pastor of the Year by Stetson University.

The Shower's purchased their Bailey Hills property in 1970, but had to wait until 1985 to move permanently to Franklin, after they each had retired.

Rev. Shower set retirement aside to accept the pastorate of Wells Grove Baptist Church in 1985. He pastored just over two years, and then returned later to serve as interim. He has served as President of the Macon County Pastor's Conference.

Arnold and Marjorie have been members of Iotla Baptist Church since 1983, with the exception of the time served at Wells Grove Baptist Church.

Oneco Baptists To Dedicate New Building Ceremonies At 10:55 Tomorrow

First Baptist Church of Oneco will have dedication services for a new educational building Sunday at 10:55 a. m.

Rev. Arnold Shower, pastor of the church, announced that this is the second in a series of six units adopted by the church in a long-range program in 1958. It will house four nursery departments, three Sunday school areas, kitchen and dining room, and the church offices.

Featured in the dedication program will be Dr. John H. Whitt, field secretary for the Florida Baptist Convention; the **Rev. Frank T. Anderson**, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bradenton and moderator of the Southwest Florida Baptist Association.

Frank Larsen of Larsen Brothers Construction Co. will present the building keys to the church. The structure was designed by Bradenton architect Sidney Wilkinson.

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The building and planning committee is composed of Roy Hollowell, chairman; Mrs. Lewis Douglas, Mrs. Roy Johnson, L. L. Goodman and Laurence De Sear. Chairman of the board of Deacons is Earl Littlefield and Joe Powell is head of the committee.

A basket dinner will be held in the dining hall following the services.

The 42 by 100-foot educational building was put up at a cost of \$35,000; it is a one-story concrete-block unit.

The **Rev. Shower** has been pastor of the church since August, 1957. During this time, he reports, there have been 367 new members received into the church and the annual budget has increased from \$5,000 to \$26,000.

The **Rev. W. Arnold Shower**, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fort Myers Beach, will be leading revival services at the Southside Baptist Church beginning Sunday.

Formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oneco for nine years, Reverend Showers has been serving his present pastorate since 1966.

A native of Oklahoma, the evangelist completed his undergraduate study at Tulane University prior to attending the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

After serving in various

of the Southwest Florida Baptist Association and Moderator of the Baptist Association in the Fort Myers area. He is a trustee of the Baptist Bible Institute.

In addition to his regular duties, he serves as 'Pastor on Call' for the Holiday Inn and as Treasurer of the Kiwanian Club of Fort Myers Beach.

The **Rev. Warren Ruby**, pastor of the Samoset First Baptist Church since 1956, will serve as Song Leader for revival services.

Also a graduate of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Reverend Ruby completed his undergraduate work in Georgia.

A past president of the Manatee County Ministerial Association, he has also served as Moderator of the Southwest Florida Baptist Association.

The **Rev. J Sterling Forrester**, Pastor of Southside, has issued a cordial invitation to all who would join in the services of revival to be held at 7:30 nightly, February 18-25.

churches in Oklahoma, Reverend Showers came to Oneco in 1957. He has served as Clerk

News-Press (Fort Myers, Florida)
16 Jun 1973, Sat
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The Son Shine troupe from Panama City will present a musical concert on the Life of Christ as told in the four gospels at the 11 a.m. service Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Fort Myers Beach.

Following the service Sunday an "old-fashioned dinner-on-the-ground" will be held honoring Rev. Arnold Shower. Shower is leaving after serving as pastor of the beach congregation for the past seven years.

The Naples Daily News (Naples, Florida)
10 Oct 1975, Fri
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EVANGELIST — Rev. Arnold Shower is the evangelist for the weeklong revival being held at East Naples Baptist Church beginning Sunday evening, Oct. 12 through 19. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Shower is pastor of the Kathleen Baptist Church in Kathleen, Fla.

News-Press (Fort Myers, Florida)
10 Apr 1971, Sat
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The traditional Fort Myers Beach Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Beach Ministerial Association, will be held at Johnson Park, Black Island on the Bonita Causeway, at 6 a.m. Sunday. Rev. Arnold Shower, minister of the Beach Baptist

Church will deliver the Easter message. Music will be provided by area church choirs. Worshippers are urged to bring folding chairs and blankets.

* * *

LAKELAND — The **Rev. Arnold Shower**, retired pastor of Kathleen Baptist Church, will speak at the 10:45 a.m. and the 7 p.m. service Sunday, at Eastside Baptist Church, 630 N. Eastside Drive.

ing two weeks in Franklin.
Other Beachites there they
said are **Rev. and Mrs. Ar-**
nold Shower. Rev. Shower,
as you may know, is pastor
of the Beach Baptist Church.

* * *

The First Baptist Church of Bonita Springs will have revival October 11 - 18 at 7:30 each evening. **Rev. W. Ar-**
nold Shower will be the guest evangelist.

Born in Summerfield, Kan., **Rev. Shower** was educated in Kansas and Oklahoma schools before entering and graduating from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana. Pastoring churches in Oklahoma, he then came to Oneco, Fla. in 1957 where he ministered until 1966 at which time he became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fort Myers Beach.

Rev. Shower is active in the Asscciatonal Ministerial and civic work in Fort Myers Beach. His wife, Marjorie, is a first grade teacher at Bonita Springs Elementary School. They have three children.

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Rev. Shower 291

Rev. William "Arnold" Shower, 78, of 107 Bailey Hills Rd., died Sunday, July 21, in a local nursing home.

Shower was a native of Summerfield, Kansas, and son of the late Wesley I. and Dora Fralin Shower. He was educated at the University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Okla., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained by the Limestone Baptist Church in Sand Springs, Okla., on Sept. 26, 1948. In 1979, Shower was named "Minister of the Year" by Stetson University in Deland, Fla. He conducted revivals in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, West Virginia and Florida. He was a member of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the last church he served as full time pastor was Wells Grove Baptist. He was a member of Iotla Baptist Church and was a member and past president of the

Shower named as pastor at Wells Grove Baptist Church

Wells Grove Baptist Church recently announced the selection of Rev. W. Arnold Shower as full-time pastor, effective Sunday, Nov. 3. Rev. Shower has served the church as interim pastor since August, when the church's former pastor, Rev. Lester Evans, returned to seminary in preparation for missionary work.

Rev. Shower is a native of Summerfield, Kan., and attended the public schools of Topeka, Kan. He continued his education at the University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Okla., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He

was ordained by the Limestone Baptist Church in Sand Springs, Okla., on Sept. 26, 1948.

Rev. Shower has more than 30 years' service as pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Florida. He has been active in denominational service, having served three years as association moderator, two terms as president of the Pastors' Conference Committee, two years on the Cooperative Program Committee of the Florida Baptist Convention, and four years as clerk-treasurer of the Southwest Florida Baptist Association.

He also served for six years on the board of trustees of the Baptist Bible Institute of Graceland, Fla. In 1979, he was named "Minister of the Year" by Stetson University, in Deland, Fla. He has conducted revivals in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, West Virginia and Florida.

Married to the former Marjorie Ford, Shower has been frequent visitor to the Franklin area since purchasing property here 15 years ago. The couple made Franklin their permanent home in April of this year. They have three children. Rev. Shower is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Franklin. //



Rev. W. Arnold Shower