

## 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)

Shuler, Edward Leander (1886-1959) was born in Choestoe, Georgia the son of William Jackson and Elizabeth Townsend Shuler. He graduated from Mercer University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Shuler was ordained at Oakwood Baptist Church, Hall County, Georgia. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Blountstown, 1919-1920 and Okeechobee Baptist Church. Shuler and his wife, Laura Collins Shuler had three children.



# First Baptist, Blountstown (Apalachee)

the sermon. The service was followed by a luncheon at the W.T. Neal Civic Center. The Centennial Planning Committee was composed of co-chairs Howard Johnson Jr. and Doris Traylor, and Brenda Seay, Latrelle White, church secretary Sandy Marchant and Pastor Throckmorton.

## THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND 100 YEARS

On Sept. 4, 2011, Deacon Frank "Bud" Guilford Jr. preached the first sermon of the Church's second 100 years. A new pastor, Timothy F. Rhoads, began his tenure on Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012.

## CONCLUSION

Today, First Baptist Church provides worship services for all ages on Sunday morning and evening as well as Wednesday night prayer service. Current ministries include serving those in need; ministering to shut-ins with comforting visits and by furnishing them with tapes of our worship services; sponsoring camps, community programs, prison ministries and missionaries; and offering choir programs and Bible-study activities for children, youth, adults and senior adults.

Thanks to the leadership of pastors, a dedicated congregation and a faithful and loving Father in Heaven, the First Baptist Church has been richly blessed. As history is recorded over the coming years, may God be glorified by the service of His people.

## Pastors and Their Years of Service

Herman S. Howard 1911

T.F. Hendon 1912

A.L. Loftin 1913-1914

B.B. Blicht 1915

J.S. Judah 1915-1916

H.G. Kenney 1917-1918

E.L. Shuler 1919-1920

W.J. Peters 1921-1922

J.D. Wilkes 1923-1924

W.E. Findley 1925-1926

W.P. Hines 1927-1929

Henry Mangum 1930-1932

H. Bryant 1933

G.E. Everett 1934-1935

A.E. Lightfoot 1935-1939

J.O. Simms 1939

Dewey Mann 1940-1942

Rex Thompson 1942-1944

R.W. Acree 1944-1948

A.E. Lightfoot 1949-1953

Fulton Bryan 1954-1957

George Q. Edens 1957-1966

William E. Green 1966-1971

Samuel Lee 1972-1974

Rea Mangum 1974-1988

David Williams 1988-1993

Mark Rathel 1994-1996

Jerry Chumley 1997-2000

Tom Stallworth 2001-2006

David Throckmorton 2008-2011

Timothy F. Rhoads 2012-

## Choir Directors Through the Years

John Brown

Edwin Strawn

Joseph Sustarsic

Wes Johnson

Linda Adams

Shelly Chandler

Howard Johnson Jr.

Debbie Van Lierop

2001- 2012

FBC, Blountstown

tober.

## Rev. E. L. Shuler

### Will Fill Pulpit For His Brother

The **Rev. E. L. Shuler**, associate pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Riverside Park and Roselle Street, will fill the pulpit during the 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. services Sunday in the absence of his brother, the **Rev. A. C. Shuler**, pastor.

A graduate of Mercer University and the Southern Baptist Seminary of Louisville, Ky., tomorrow's speaker has held several successful pastorates in cities throughout Florida, having one term on the Florida Baptist Mission Board.

Dr. A. C. **Shuler**, the pastor, has entered evangelistic work which will cause him to be away from the city on various occasions, the announcement added. He gives assurances to his congregation that the newly selected assistant pastor will give the church able and competent leadership during his absence.

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## Veteran Baptist Minister Dies

JACKSONVILLE — (AP) — The Rev. E. L. Shuler, 70, pastor of 25 small Baptist churches in Georgia and Florida before he retired, died in a hospital after a long illness.

He was a native of Blairsville, Ga. During his 33 years in the ministry he also taught in public schools.

Funeral services and burial will be here Thursday. His widow, two daughters and a son survive.

< | > 1 of 16 matches

## REV. E. L. SHULER WILL FILL DR. WHITE'S PLACE

In the absence of Dr. J. [ ] White, pastor of the First Baptist church, the pulpit will be supplied tomorrow by Rev. E. L. Schuler, of Atlanta. Rev. Mr. Schuler is a close friend of Dr. White, they having served as co-pastors in Macon, Ga., about five years ago.

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Denikine Ta  
London, Aug.  
received here today  
army of General D  
most important of  
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of Poltava.

Constitution  
Berlin, Aug. 1.  
tional assembly at  
the new German

## Federation Is Entertained Here

### INDIAN RIVER B. Y. P. U. HOLDS SESSION AT LOCAL BAP- TIST CHURCH.

Members of the Indian River B. Y. P. U. federation were entertained by the B. Y. P. U. of the local Baptist church Thursday at a session beginning at 3:30 o'clock and continuing throughout the afternoon and evening. The program arranged for the meeting was as follows:

Devotional.....Miss Juanita DuBose  
How to Obtain Better Results  
from Missionary Programs.....

.....Durant Frink  
Round Table Discussion. Putting  
"Spizzerinktum" into Unions  
During Summer .....

.....A. B. Cannady, Leader  
Intermediate Possibilities .....

.....Miss Wilma Wilson  
Verbal Reports from all Unions.  
How Our Federation May Be Im-  
proved. Three-minute Talks by  
Pastors.

Larger Training in Christian Ser-  
vice.....Lester Cain

Supper at the Beach. "Nuf Sed."  
Devotional.

Business.

Address

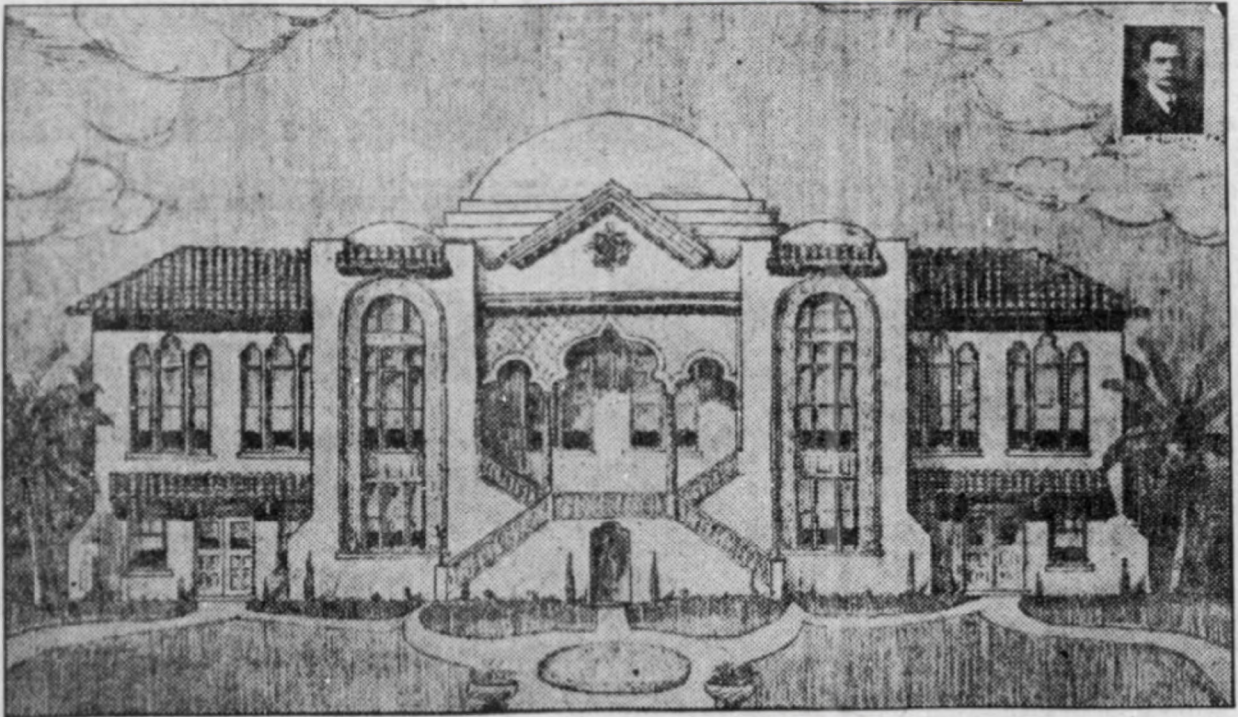
.....Rev. E. L. Shuler, Okeechobee

# GOSPEL TEAM AT OKEECHOBEE

## Longest Trip Reported by Evangelist Brotherhood Team

The local evangelistic brotherhood gospel team arrived last evening from a trip to Oklawaha, which according to evangelistic brotherhood officials of this city is the longest extension trip yet made by them, covering a distance of 650 miles. The purpose of this pilgrimage was to stage a gospel field day with the men of the Indian River Baptist association. E. L. Schuler, pastor of Okeechobee Baptist church and his congregation extended the invitation and arranged for gospel team meetings at Pica's Bluff, Big Mill, On the Lake, East Oklawaha, colored cypress quarters, convict camp and other points. The field day was participated in also by E. Willis Drake, H. R. Stratford and others from West Palm Beach evangelistic brotherhood and B. F. Schram, and J. A. Conway and others from Palatka evangelistic brotherhood. The field day program began on

## ARCHITECT'S SKETCH OF OKEECHOBEE BAPTIST CHURCH



Above is shown the architect's drawing for the new proposed Baptist church at Okeechobee. The drawings call for a spacious structure of attractive architectural design, and large enough to accommodate the demands of a congregation much larger than the present membership of the church. Plans for the building were drawn by John N. Sherwood, architect of Miami and Fort Pierce. The Rev. E. L. Shuler, shown in the inset above, is pastor of the church.

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~gaunion/mm050709.htm>

Union County, Georgia

THROUGH MOUNTAIN MISTS

Early Settlers of Union County, Georgia

The GAGenWeb Project

Their Descendants...Their Stories...Their Achievements

Lifting the Mists of History on Their Way of Life

By: Ethelene Dyer Jones

The Rev. Edward Leander Shuler—mountain lad

Rev. Edward Leander Shuler (1886-1959)    Rev. Edward Leander Shuler (March 15, 1886-October 21, 1959)

Pictured at Mercer University, 1914



In the Mercer University, Macon, Georgia college yearbook of 1914, underneath the picture of Edward Leander Shuler who received his AB degree from that institution that year was this quotation which he had chosen as representative of his life to that point:

"A man that fortune's buffets and rewards

Has ta'en with equal thanks."

One of fourteen children born to William Jackson Shuler (1830-1936) and Elizabeth Townsend Shuler (1861-1947) of Ponder, Georgia, a section of Upper Choestoe along the Logan Turnpike, Edward Shuler knew it was through "buffets and rewards" of fortune and the grace of God that he had succeeded in completing his college degree. He would go on to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky for a master's degree, and then return to Georgia and Florida where he completed his career as a minister and teacher. Born March 15, 1886 in Choestoe, Edward Leander Shuler died October 21, 1959 in Jacksonville, Florida.

I have just reread Edward L. Shuler's book, *Blood Mountain*, his memoirs, published in 1953 by the Convention Press of Jacksonville, Florida. The subtitle of his book is "An Historical Story about Choestoe and Choestoeans." He says in his foreword: "This is a rambling tale, combining the deeds and sayings of Choestoeans who lived in a small rural district in the Georgia mountains, which was called Choestoe." (iii)

Written in a folksy manner, with avid use of the mountain vernacular language in the dialogue, Edward Shuler recalls a time past when frugal and hard-working parents, even though limited themselves in formal education, held a strong ambition for their children to go to school and make a difference in the world of their day. The wisdom he quotes from his Uncle Enoch Shuler, his father, Jack Shuler, and his mother, Elizabeth, is well-embedded in the book's story line and shows how the author benefited from their sage advice.

Edward Leander Shuler received his education at Hood's Chapel School in his community with inimitable teachers Bud Miller, John Twiggs, Silas Chambers and others. With this foundation in his one-teacher country school, Edward went to "boarding and batching" school at Hiawassee Academy, the school founded by cousins and great men who went out from the mountains to make a difference. These founders of the mountain school were the Rev. Dr. Fernando Coello McConnell and Rev. Dr. George W. Truett. Edward remembers how he went with his mother and father to the home of Henderson Dyer to borrow money for Edward to pay his fees and set up his "batching" room in Hiawassee. At Hiawassee Academy, Edward was introduced to Latin and Greek and the classics of literature. He was also on the Truett Society debating team and learned to become a good public speaker through that experience. His years of learning at Hiawassee Academy, a Mission School in the mountains, were basic to all he did in his succeeding years.

While studying at Hiawassee Academy, Edward Shuler and Laura Collins began their courtship. She was a daughter of Archibald Benjamin Collins (1863-1897) and Mary Louise Jackson Collins (1862-1934). Her brother, Mauney Douglas Collins (1885-1967), was a good friend of Edward Shuler. Mauney Collins would become Georgia's state superintendent of schools and served in that capacity from 1933-1957. Laura Collins and Edward Shuler married August 18, 1906.

The next step in Edward Shuler's education was at Young Harris College. In his memoirs, Rev. Shuler describes Young Harris as "in that pasture was the tree of knowledge, and it had only good fruit on it, and it was ripe... That nearly every one who attended the little college did eat of the good fruit was shown by the life each one lived later on. In half a century, the college sent forth a hundred and forty young men as gospel preachers." (p. 95, Blood Mountain). At Edward's graduation from Young Harris, he heard the famed preacher, the Rev. Sam Jones, deliver the graduation sermon.

The next step in education for Edward Shuler was Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He and his wife Laura and their little girl, Ruby Jane Shuler (born March 7, 1908) went across the Logan Turnpike to Gainesville, caught a train to Atlanta, spent a day or two seeing the capitol and other sights there, and then on by train to Macon. Her brother, Mauney Douglas Collins, who was already a student at Mercer, accompanied the Shulers on this trip. Thanks to the president of Mercer, Dr. Jameson, who managed to find money from endowment scholarships, the Shuler family was able to live frugally with enough to eat in one of the Mercer cottages specifically set aside to house married Mercer ministerial students. Edward's account of how he studied hard for his first sermon at a church of any size outside those at which he had preached in the mountains before going to Mercer, the Wrightsville First Baptist, recalled both the anticipation and the nervousness of the encounter on Mother's Day. As it happened, all turned out well and the people

welcomed the "preacher man" who had grown up in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Edward's seminary degree was earned at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Edward and Laura Shuler had two other children besides Ruby Jane: a son, Paul Edward Shuler, was born November 12, 1909 and Mary Elizabeth Shuler was born November 23, 1915.

Edward Leander Shuler was ordained to the gospel ministry at Oakwood Baptist Church in Hall County, Georgia in 1910. Laura continued her education and graduated from Florida Southern College. In addition to rearing their children, she also became a teacher with a thirty-year career. She loved poetry, both reading and writing it, and some of her poems are included in Edward's book of memoirs.

Even though much of their work was in the Jacksonville, Florida area, Edward and Laura Shuler never lost the desire to return to the mountains. The serene valleys and hills and the mountain people remained dear to their hearts. Edward, as well as Laura, wrote poetry. In his "The Old Nottely" he lauds the tumbling river that cascades through Union County. The river became for this couple, moved away, a symbol of how life itself flows and cascades, touched by and touching a multitude of people.

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Ethelene Dyer Jones is a retired educator, freelance writer, poet, and historian. She may be reached at email [edj0513@windstream.net](mailto:edj0513@windstream.net); phone 478-453-8751; or mail 1708 Cedarwood Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061-2411

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