

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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Shultz, Ezra K. (1886-1961) was born in Ohio County, Kentucky. He served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Illinois, Louisiana and Florida including First Baptist Church, Fort Myers. Shultz and his wife, Susan Elliott Shultz had two children.

First Baptist Church, Ft. Myers Dedicates Church Building

I am enclosing a few paragraphs in connection with the dedication of our church, which was held on Sunday, May 9. We had a glorious day. Dr. C. T. Tew was present and brought greetings at the morning service and preached the sermon at the night service. Rev. C. L. Crider, of Riverside Church, Ft. Myers was also present at morning service and brought greetings from the church he pastors.

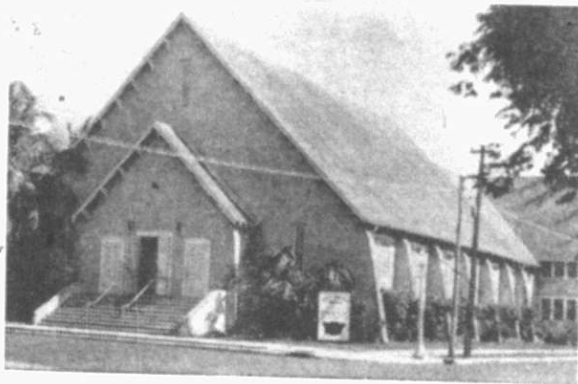
The mortgage was burned as a part of the morning service with Mr. Harry Fagan, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, assisting Mrs. J. B. Ryals, who had been chosen as Church Mother. Mrs. Ryals applied the match to the paper and did a good job.

This church has paid over \$6,000 on the church debt since January and it was a great day for all when the last penny was

location at Second and Jackson Streets and two small Sunday School rooms added.

Dr. W. C. Martin of Boston, Mass., became pastor in 1912. During his pastorate the building was remodeled, enlarged, and six Sunday School rooms added. Until then the church had been a mission, supported largely by the Home and State Mission Boards of Missions, but when the new building was dedicated the church became independent of the Boards.

Under the pastorate of Rev. C. T. Tew, of Waynesville, N. C., beginning January 1st, 1927, the church soon launched into a \$15,000 building program. The contract was let April 12, 1929. The old building was moved to the rear of the lot, remodeled into an up-to-date Educational



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Fort Myers, Florida

paid. This present pastor can take no credit whatsoever. Some time ago the men decided that now was the time to pay it off and they went to work. Everything was done in a very quiet way but everyone was given an opportunity to help, and everyone came through in a fine way.

At the same service a special offering for Chinese Relief was taken, in honor of our mothers, and the offering amounted to \$180. Some more came in at the night service and I'm sure the offering will reach \$200. That will be sent to our Foreign Mission Board for use in China. (It did reach \$200.)

Very sincerely yours,
Milner C. Brittain

History

More than fifty years ago, in 1889, in an endeavor to further the cause of Christ, nine souls joined themselves together as the First Baptist Church of Fort Myers.

The original small one-room building was erected on the east side of Jackson Street at Main.

In 1905 with the Rev. Ezra K. Shultz, from Kentucky as pastor, the church was moved from the original site to the present

Building and equipped for a graded Sunday School. The present auditorium was then erected on the site from which the old building was moved. The first services were held in the completed auditorium the next fall. Serving on the building committee was the late C. W. Bartleson, the late A. H. Draughton, Dr. Baker Whisnant, and L. B. Penrod, now of Dearborn, Michigan. Two of the charter members of the church, Mrs. Mary F. Hill and Capt. J. J. Dinkins, were regular in attendance during Bro. Tew's ministry, though none are living at this time.

Rev. E. Bernard Evans, formerly of Arcadia, Florida, became pastor of the church June 1st 1937. During his ministry the art scene was placed near the baptistry, the Hammond organ was purchased and installed in the auditorium, a full-time educational secretary engaged and a fully equipped kitchen was built.

Rev. Milner C. Brittain, Florida's missionary to China, is serving our church as pastor during his enforced furlough in the States. Though he has been here only a few months he has led in freeing the church of debt and in the dedication service.

STETSON NEWS

Stetson University will stage its 1943 Commencement exercises here next week end, when the graduation-time activities on the campus will be climaxed Monday morning, May 31, with the conferring of degrees upon 65 men and women.

President W. S. Allen, in reporting the details of the exercises, said here that the year's class virtually is the first to give definite evidence of the effect of the war upon college students. He pointed out that many members of the class are graduating earlier than normally they might have due to the installation at Stetson shortly after Pearl Harbor of the accelerated educational program.

Speakers for the week-end will be Judge J. Ollie Edmunds and Dr. C. H. Bolton, both of Jacksonville. Judge Edmunds, a law alumnus of Stetson, will be the commencement speaker, and Dr. Bolton, executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention, will be baccalaureate speaker. The service will be Sunday morning.

The candidates are: for the bachelor of arts degree—Pauline Bennett, Daytona Beach; Helen Ray Bryan, Bowling Green; J. T. Burdine, St. Petersburg; Mary Katherine Carlton Sparr, Lewis Cladin, Sarasota; Rachel Maude Clarke, Milton, N. Y.; Edgar Cooper and Elsie Merritt, Fort Pierce; Irma French, Winston McQuiddy and Dorothy Jennings, Jacksonville; Ruth French, Shirley Kagey, John M. Lewis, Edna W. Oyer, and Frank Watson Jr., Miami; Norman Pauline Gardner, Tavares; Carolyn Howes, Edith Knox, Helen Doris McCormick, Marion Merrill, and Vernon Sanderson, DeLand; David M. Lehman, West Palm Beach; Louise McClure, Vero Beach; Mary Mock, Phillipsburg, New Jersey; Ruth Odum Pelter, Lakeland; Onan W. Osburn, Dade City; Mary Patricia Peifer, Lincoln, Illinois; Mildred Raliff, Sanford; Bessie Lou Rumble, Forsyth, Georgia; Aaron Rutledge, Groveland; Anne Mayo Spinks, Leesburg; Elmer Ware, St. Andrews; and Ola Baker, Seville.

Candidates for bachelor of science are: Robert C. Allen, Harriet Steffens, and Raymond Spaulding, Jr., DeLand; Helen Anderson and Robert Herndon, Sanford; Constance Bennett, Babson Park, Don H. Black, Knoxville Tenn.; Garland Branch, Jr., Plant City; Grace Marie Hisey, Miami; Dorothy Howard, Cedar Keys; Carl Puritz, Jr., and Everett Whitman, Sarasota; Betty Smith, Stuart; and Henry Michael Todaro, Daytona Beach.

Candidates for a bachelor of science degree in business administration are: Robert Barnes, Jacksonville; H. A. Gardner, Jr., Miami; Pamela Lipscomb, DeLand; Max Mosler, West Palm Beach; and James Overton, St. Petersburg.

Candidate for bachelor of laws: F. Leroy Barkstrom, Chautauqua, New York.

Candidates for a bachelor of music are: Olive Lord, Orlando; Frances Arkley, Miami; William Mathis and Dora Valdes, Tampa; Doris Milligan, Ormond; Jean L. Rogy, West Palm Beach; Annie Frances Rossiter, Katherine S. Turner, and Betty Lee Zornes, DeLand; Elizabeth Welden Stacey, Jacksonville; and Mary Frances Smith, Daytona Beach.

"Be Wise—Don't Alcoholize!"

The Ohio County News
Wed, Jan 31, 1906 · Page 1

REV. E. K. SHULTZ.

A Sketch of His Life and Work From His New Home Paper.

The Taylorsville, Ill., *Breeze* says:
Rev. Ezra K. Shultz, who begins his work to-morrow as pastor of the Taylorsville Baptist church, was born in Ohio county, Ky., March 25, 1866. His early life was spent on the farm and in the country schools. At the age of 17 he entered West Kentucky College, from which he graduated in 1888. Seven years were spent in teaching.

He was ordained to the ministry at Brandenburg, Ky., on April 20, 1898, and soon became pastor at Sebree, Ky., where he served four years, during which time the membership of the church doubled. He then became pastor at Moweaqua, Ill., leaving there two years ago to become pastor at Brandenburg, Ky., and to do some special work in the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville, Ky.

At the invitation of the Baptist church at Taylorsville, he recently spent ten days here, preaching every evening and investigating the field. At a mass-meeting of the church, held at the close of the service on Sunday evening, January 7, he was unanimously called to become pastor of the church.

The Brandenburg paper has the following to say of him and his better half:

It is with profound regret that we announce that **Rev. E. K. Shultz** has resigned as pastor of the Baptist church here and has accepted a call to the Baptist church at Taylorsville Ill. In **Mr. Shultz** the town and community loses a valued citizen and the church an able and zealous preacher—one whose place will be hard to fill, especially in the hearts of his congregation, who hold him in the highest veneration as a man called of God.

Christian society loses one of its most highly accomplished members by the leaving of Mrs. **Shultz** who has always been a conspicuous co-worker with **Mr. Shultz** in Christian work here. While this community regret their leaving, yet our loss will be to the everlasting gain of those among whom they go to labor.

The Brandenburg paper has the fol

Now is the time to spread the health

Ezra Shultz

Birth 18 May 1886 Prentiss, Ohio County, Kentucky, USA

Death 22 Feb 1961 (aged 74) Ohio County, Kentucky, USA

Burial Taylortown Cemetery Ohio County, Kentucky, USA

Family Members

Spouse

Susan Elliott Shultz 1892–1958

Children

Martha Gray Shultz Young 1924–2021

Anna Frances Shultz Mitchell 1930–2024

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/89779549/ezra-shultz>

REV. EZRA SHULTZ WILL PREACH HERE

Arkansas Evangelist Is Expected to
Make Deep Impression in Revival
of First Baptist

Rev. Ezra K. Shultz arrived on the 9.10 train last night from Ruston, La., and is being entertained at the home of Rev. J. E. Oates, pastor of the First Baptist church. The evangelist will conduct the regular evening meeting of the revival now in progress in the First Baptist church tonight.

Following the evening meeting, a social session will be held in the Sunday-school rooms of the church and a reception will be tendered the evangelist. Members and friends of the church are requested to attend the reception and become acquainted with the evangelist, who will be here during the remainder of the meeting. Reverend Shultz is an Arkansan.

Reverend Oates, who opened the meeting Sunday, has conducted the services until this time, but tonight's meeting will be under the direction of the evangelist. His success in various other meetings in many of the Southern states has been phenomenal and great results are expected from this special effort.

Successful Services Close Tonight

REVEREND **SHULTZ** MAKES DEEP
AND LASTING IMPRESSION
IN CITY

The last meetings of the revival services at the First Baptist church will be held today, after a splendid three weeks' meeting. **Rev. Ezra K. Shultz** has made a deep and lasting impression and will leave the city with a host of friends.

The subject for the sermon this morning at 10.30 will be, "How Can I Pay My Obligation to Christ?" In the evening the visiting minister will have for his subject, "The Fowler and the Snare."

Reverend **Shultz** is pastor of the Baptist congregation at Ruston, La., but has held pastorates in Florida and other states. He is a forceful speaker and preaches a logical and clear-cut sermon. The local church is greatly pleased with the results of the meetings.

SHULTZ WILL COME FOR BIG MEETING

First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg
Will Conduct Protracted Revival
Beginning Next Sunday

A protracted revival meeting will begin at the First Baptist church next Sunday. **Rev.** J. F. Oates, pastor of the church, will have charge of the Sunday and Monday services, and **Rev. Ezra K. Shultz**, the famous Arkansas pulpit orator, will take charge on Tuesday.

Reverend **Shultz** is well known over the entire South and his presence in the pulpit always means a forceful sermon. A large choir has been organized for the meetings, which will continue for several weeks.

GOLDEN WEDDING IS CELEBRATED

The Rev. O. M. Shultz and Mrs. Shultz who resided in Owensboro, while the Rev. Mr. Shultz was pastor of Baptist churches in Daviess county, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a dinner party at their home in Princeton, Ky., Tuesday. Mr. Ozna Shultz, of Owensboro, was in attendance at the dinner.

For several years, the Rev. Mr. Shultz and Mrs. Shultz have made their home at Princeton. He was pastor of the Island and Livermore Baptist churches, McLean county, and of Sugar Grove and other Daviess county Baptist churches for some years before going to Princeton. They have two sons, Mr. O. M. Shultz, Jr., who was a teacher in Bardstown before entering the Army, and Mr. Raymond Shultz who left his practice of law in Louisville to become a soldier. A daughter, Mrs. Thomas McConnell, and Mr. McConnell, live with her parents. Two other daughters died a few years ago. They have two grandchildren.

The Rev. Mr. Schultz was born near Hartford, October 22, 1864, and was educated at Hartford college and the University of Indiana. He taught in the Ohio county schools, at Hartford college, the West Kentucky college, South Carrollton, and headed the Bible department of Hazard institute, while pastor of a Baptist church at Hazard. Ordained July 29, 1906, he has been a pastor since, and nearing his eightieth birthday, is still preaching. A brother, the Rev. Ezra K. Shultz, Baptist minister, died about sixteen years ago in Louisiana. Mrs. Shultz, the former Miss Katie C. Combs, like her husband, is a native of Ohio county.

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