

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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Simcosky, Philip Dean (1952-) was born in Missouri the son of Roy and Norma Simcosky. He graduated from William Jewell College, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Simcosky served as pastor of churches in Missouri, Illinois and Florida including East Naples Baptist Church. He and his wife, Julie Simcosky have two sons.



East Naples 2011 (Royal Palm)

Don Houser

1980-1986

1996-1998

First full-time secretary hired, 1980

First full-time Minister of Education was called, 1981 (Becky Shurling Fager)

Silver Anniversary celebration
November 1, 1981



Rick Morrell

1986-1996

Establishment of annual week-long Easter Pageant, *The Promise*.

Jeff Fletcher

1998-2006

Fiftieth Anniversary celebration
October 22, 2006



During these past 55 years, we have also had numerous interim pastors that have blessed our church family.

Pastor Phil Simcosky

2007 - Present



Our current pastor, Philip Dean Simcosky, arrived in this world on September 29, 1952, the first son of parents, Norma and Roy. He came to know the Lord at the early and tender age of eight, then was baptized at Immanuel Baptist Church in Independence, Missouri. Growing up in Independence, Pastor Phil was quite athletic, playing baseball, basketball and other sports with The River Street Gang, a group of boys in the neighborhood. He began playing golf after college and remains an avid golfer today.

After graduating from William Chrisman High School, Independence, Missouri in 1970, Pastor Phil attended the University of Missouri for two years before graduating from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education. He began his theology studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas and graduated with a Masters of Divinity Degree, with an emphasis in church history and the New Testament. While serving as pastor of Waverly Baptist Church he began his doctoral studies. In 1988, Pastor Phil earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

After serving as senior pastor to several churches in both Missouri and Illinois, Pastor Phil and his wife Julie were called to our church family here at East Naples Baptist Church in June 2007. Not only has Pastor Phil encouraged stability and direction in the church, he also initiated a review of our church membership. He has led us to improve the look of the building and properties with new landscaping and architectural enhancements. And, he has planned and implemented a successful Sunday night small group ministry that is still in use today.

When asked about both his favorite and hardest parts of being a pastor, he shared with us that his favorite part, "is seeing individuals being transformed by the Living Word (life transformation)." The hardest part, "is seeing individuals reject Biblical counsel and suffer

the consequences of rejecting that counsel." And, when asked what sage advice he would give someone contemplating entering the ministry field, he was quick to reply, "If you can do something else, do it. Without the call of God on your life you cannot do it (ministry), and with the call of God on your life you can never be content doing anything else."

Pastor Phil and Julie have been married for 34 years and have two grown sons, Jonathan, who lives in Salem, MA, and Joshua, who lives in Kansas City, MO. We asked him how his calling as a pastor has helped his children over the years. We were pleasantly surprised to hear candidly from both his sons. Jonathan stated, "I learned how important it was to be part of a vibrant and diverse community and how much work it takes to cultivate and maintain such a community." And, Joshua's statement was a bit more succinct, "Always put others before yourself."

With his straightforward leadership approach, we asked the pastor about his goal as a pastor five years from now and where he would like to see ENBC in five years. He responded with, "a Scripture-driven Church with individual members using their gifts to build up the Body. In all we do we must seek to be Scripture-driven, NOT tradition, personal preference or culturally driven." He would also like to develop leaders within our church who can take small group ministry to the next level.

The Times - How They are a Changin...



circa 1956

1984



2011

East Naples Baptist Church

Changed By His Love - Challenged By His Life
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