

## **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)

**Simpson, Kenneth C., Jr.** (1952-2002) was born in Monroe, North Carolina the son of Kenneth C., Sr. and Aileen Simpson. He graduated from the University of South Florida and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Simpson served as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ellenton; Causeway Baptist Church, Tampa; Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Keysville; Bloomingdale Baptist Church and Knights Baptist Church, Plant City, 1993-1997. He and his wife, Janet Zimmerman Simpson had two daughters

## Area church celebrates homecoming

KEYSVILLE — Cedar Grove Baptist Church observed its homecoming recently with worship services and a dinner marking the church's 84th anniversary.

The **Rev. Kenneth Simpson**, who has been pastor of the 448-member church for two years, officiated during events at the Cedar Grove Road church near Keysville Road.

The homecoming committee organized the July 28 activities for more than 100 people attending the morning worship hour. Following worship services, a homecoming dinner was held on the church grounds.

The evening worship was a sing-and-praise service. Congregational and special singing commemorated the occasion.

The **Rev. J.W. Johnson** and the **Rev. W.M. McDonald** began working on July 7, 1907, with 17 neighbors to organize as Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Later, the congregation changed its name to Cedar Grove Baptist Church and became affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The church was built of lumber taken from another church in the Lithia area that was destroyed. The materials all were hauled to the Cedar Grove Road site by wagon.

**Johnson**, who served as pastor until his death in 1915, donated the land. Members of the congregation began meeting on the fourth Saturdays and Sundays each month until August 1912, when weekly meetings began.

**T.H. Rushing**, the church's first deacon, was ordained in October 1921. Sunday school began in May 1923, with the first homecoming service held in November 1928.

Funeral services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at the North Lockwood Ridge Baptist Church, with the **Rev. Kenneth Simpson**, pastor of the church, officiating. Burial will be in Old Myakka Cemetery. Roberts Funeral Home, 2200 South

### **Kenneth Simpson**

The **Rev. Kenneth C. Simpson**, 49, of 2901 13th St. W., Palmetto, died Wednesday in Arcadia.

Born in North Carolina, he came to Palmetto seven years ago from North Carolina.

He was a minister of the Mill Creek Baptist Church in Bradenton.

Survivors include his widow, Aileen of Palmetto; three sons, **Kenneth Simpson Jr.** of Bradenton, **Randy** and **Gregory Simpson**, both of Palmetto; a daughter, Mrs. Patricia Daughtery of Bradenton; five brothers, **Oscar Simpson**, **Paul Simpson**, **Bill Simpson**, **Deryl Simpson** and **Harold Simpson**, all of North Carolina; three sisters, Dorothy Summerland, Betty Jo Broome and Waunita Belk, all of North Carolina; and his mother, Mrs. Lola **Simpson** of North Carolina.

✓ - Indicates church has framed photo in historical collection.  
JRJ, FBHS - 2/31/09

*A Fellowship of Memories*

PASTORS

Knights Baptist Church has had a total of 29 pastors since  
its organization in 1902. They are:  
Thonotosassa, Hillsborough County, Florida

Plant  
City

- ✓ J. W. Tucker 1902-1903
- ✓ Walter M. McDonald 1903-1905
- E. L. Todd 1905-1906
- Noah E. Norwood 1906-1907
- S. Craft Sloan 1907-1908
- ✓ Walter M. McDonald 1908-1913
- J. W. Johnson 1913-1915
- B. S. Gay 1915-1916
- J. R. Wells 1916-1919
- S. Craft Sloan 1919-1923
- Irvin Walden 1924-1927
- L. S. Murphy 1928-1929
- J. T. B. Anderson 1929-1936
- ✓ Walter Lampp 1937-1938
- Guy V. Lee 1938-1940
- Dr. Charles Williams 1940-1941
- ✓ Charles A. Sutton 1942-1944
- ✓ R. L. Lampp 1945-1950
- ✓ Harold Bowe 1950-1952
- ✓ E. E. Earnest 1952-1953
- ✓ William W. Tyre 1953-1957
- ✓ R. T. Porter 1957-1959
- ✓ Chester T. Estes 1959-1961
- J. C. Boatwright 1962-1964
- ✓ W. Floyd Yarbrough 1964-1969
- ✓ C. Frank Jordan 1970-1976
- ✓ Dr. Bob Reaves 1976-1980
- ✓ Michael Brown 1981-1984
- ✓ R. Marcus Marshall 1985-1992
- ✓ **Kenneth Simpson** 1993-1997
- ✓ Alvin N. Livingston, Sr. 1997-

(also p/o Grand Pond)

## Manatee Southern, 1996

### EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

In the mid-seventy's, the land became available and a group of ranchers in the area, bought it and gave it to the Association for a mission. In 1972, the Manatee Baptist Church agreed to be the sponsoring church.

In the summer of 1977, they obtained the services of two seminary students to come and help. They surveyed the area and meetings were held in the club house of the Terra Siesta Mobile Home Park across the highway from the property.

Coach Bill Bomar came as a lay preacher to lead us. We continued to meet in the Club House until the winter residents came back. We tried everywhere in the area to find a suitable place to meet, but none was available, so we met in different homes of the members that lived in the area. We tried to find a building to move on the property. Every time we thought we had one, the Lord shut the door. We felt that He was saying "I have given you that land, now build on it."

We selected one of the homes as a temporary meeting place. The home of Mrs. Dixie LeVeske seemed to meet the needs best. We continued there with Bill Bomar as the leader and Bill Short as our music leader.

Coach Bomar transferred to North Carolina, so we were again without a preacher. With the help of the mother church, we obtained the services of another student who was studying for the ministry. Ken Simpson became our second pastor. (He was paid \$25.00 per week at first.)

In December 1978, we broke ground for the first building and moved into it the first Sunday in September 1979.

A call was extended to Rev. Ted Francis, the present Pastor, in February of 1987.

In February of 1988, the construction of the worship center was completed.

On March 1, 1992, our newest facility, a combination educational building and fellowship hall was dedicated.

7:00 p.m. Phone 755-9286.

**ELLENTON**

Emmanuel Baptist Church: 8305 E. U.S. 301. Sunday School 9:45 am, Worship 11 am, Sunday evening 7 pm. Wed Bible Study 7 p.m. Rev. Kenneth Simpson 758-3543.

Faith Baptist Church (Independent): Highway 301, North Ellenton, Rev.

different churches every night. information call 729-1959.

**BRETHREN CHURCH**

3704 53rd Ave. East. Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10

## Obituary for Reverend Kenneth "Ken" C. Simpson

Reverend Kenneth C. Simpson, 70, of Plant City, Florida, born in Monroe, North Carolina on August 28, 1952, entered into eternal rest on December 16, 2022. He graduated from the University of South Florida, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, earning a Masters's Degree in Religious Education. He served several churches in Florida over 46 years, including Mill Creek Baptist Church, Bradenton, and Anna Maria Island Baptist Church as a youth pastor and music director, and Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ellenton, and Bloomingdale Baptist Church as head pastor. He loved the Lord and his family dearly and was a "people person". He enjoyed chess and music. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Janet Zimmerman Simpson; daughters, Alison Berardino (Giovanni), and Amanda Richter (Jason); 5 grandchildren; siblings, Patricia Sixbey (John), Randy Simpson, and Greg Simpson; and many other families, and friends. He was preceded in death by parents, Reverend Kenneth and Ailene Simpson, Sr. A funeral service will be held Friday, December 23 at 10:00 A.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 South County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 9:00 A.M. In place of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to an Alzheimers and/or diabetes association of your choice.

**GUAGLIARDO**

TAMPA — Funeral services for Barbara Elizabeth "Boots" Guagliardo, 58, will be conducted

from the graveside at 11:00 A.M. Monday, with **Rev. Kenneth Simpson**, pastor of the Causeway Baptist Church officiating. She was a



Mr. Evelyn W. Gray, 47, of Tampa passed away Wednesday afternoon. Funeral services will be

held Saturday morning at 11:00 A.M. from the Glass Funeral Home Chapel with **Rev. Joe Sciame**, Baptist Minister Retired officiating. Private interment will



**KEYSVILLE** — Cedar Grove Baptist Church observed its homecoming recently with worship services and a dinner marking the church's 84th anniversary.

The **Rev. Kenneth Simpson**, who has been pastor of the 448-member church for two years, officiated during events at the Cedar Grove Road church near Keysville Road.