

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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Simpson, Kenneth C., Sr. (1927-1976) was born in North Carolina. He served as pastor of Lockwood Ridge Baptist Church and Mill Creek Baptist Church, Bradenton, 1972-1976. Simpson and his wife, Aileen Simpson had four children

HISTORY OF

MILL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

On July 29, 1959, the heirs of Mrs. Ella Harlee donated a parcel of land on Upper Manatee River Road to Manatee Baptist Church, for the purpose of establishing a church. On May 4, 1960, a checking account was opened for Mill Creek Mission and contributions were deposited in hopes of building a place of worship and study on the land.

In June, 1960, volunteers began clearing the land and on April 16, 1961, the ground breaking ceremonies were held at the new mission site following dinner on the grounds at Manatee Baptist Church.

On May 10, 1961 the Florida State Board of Missions granted a \$7,000 loan for the construction and on January 28, 1962 the work was completed. The mission opened with a week long revival led by Brother Thad Entzinger and Rev. J.B. Smith. The Charter Members were members of Manatee Baptist Church who lived in this area.

For awhile Bro. Entzinger would preach at the mission at 9:30a.m. and return to Manatee Baptist Church to preach again at 11:00a.m. Rev. J.B. Smith began alternating with Bro. Entzinger at the mission.

On August 28, 1963, Rev. Don Gay became pastor. His ministry was well received and he was very helpful to the young people. He resigned in August, 1964.

On March 31, 1965, Rev. George Henderson was called as pastor. Under his leadership the mission experienced several momentous events. On Oct. 2, 1966, Mill Creek Baptist was constituted into a church and the same year the church held a mortgage burning ceremony. Rev. Henderson resigned in 1969 to return to a former pastorate in Moore Haven.

In December, 1969, Rev. James Lee became pastor and during the time he was here, the church purchased a mobile home for them to live in. He resigned in May, 1970 to return to school or teach in a Christian school.

In May, 1970 the church called Rod White and a short time later he was ordained. It was during this time we built an excellent choir and our first Christmas cantata was directed by Mrs. White with a membership of 24 voices. Rev. White had a Sunday radio show and a cabana was added to the mobile home used as a pastorium and a classroom. Rev. White resigned on January 17, 1972. He accepted the pastorate of Bayshore Bible Church near Clearwater.

From January, 1972 until July, 1972 our church was served by Rev. H.T. Rafnel and Rev. Guy Saunders, two retired ministers.

In July, 1972 the church called Rev. **Kenneth Simpson**. During his pastorate, we built our fellowship hall, the auditorium was remodeled and the steeple was built and installed. Rev. Simpson died on February 4, 1976.

In July, 1976, Rev. Marshall Crane was called as pastor. He was with the church seven and one-half years and during this time many things took place. The church purchased a modular to serve as classrooms and on October 4, 1981 the church held its 15th Anniversary Homecoming. On April 18, 1982 ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the building of the new auditorium. March 27, 1983 was the first Sunday in the new auditorium. A note burning was held on April 24, 1983 after the modular was paid in full. Rev. Crane resigned on December 18, 1983.

From January, 1984 until January, 1985 several men of God filled the pulpit. During the time Mill Creek was without a pastor several improvements were made. February, 1984 the old sanctuary was painted to match the new one. July, 1984 we began to renovate the old sanctuary to make several Sunday School classrooms.

On January 13, 1985, Rev. Edwin Tharpe accepted the call of pastor to Mill Creek. During his pastorate a note burning was held for the new auditorium. Rev. Tharpe resigned in December, 1987.

In August, 1988, Rev. Randy Umberger was called as pastor.

Mill Creek Dedicating New Building

Mill Creek Baptist Church will dedicate phase one of its building program, a completely remodeled sanctuary, at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Rev. Kenneth C. Simpson, pastor, and the Rev. Thad Entzinger of Greenville, Fla., will give the dedication message along with Dr. Milford Howell, associational missionary.

Special music by Lynn Ball and the newly organized youth choir will be led by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Simpson Jr. Mr. Simpson was recently licensed by Mill Creek Church to preach the Gospel.

Phase two of the building program will include a new fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms.

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.