

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



Sims, James C. attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville and the University of Miami. Sims served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Groveland, 1922, Riverside Baptist Church in Miami, 1922-1937, San Mateo First Baptist Church, and Antioch Baptist Church, Gainesville, 1947-1948.

Groveland - FBC

Forty Fruitful Years

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
GROVELAND, FLORIDA

The First Baptist Church of Groveland was organized February 5, 1922, following a series of evangelistic meetings conducted by Reverend A. A. Holmes, State Evangelist.

Twenty-one women and twenty-two men were present at the organization meeting which was held in the school auditorium.

Reverend A. A. Holmes was called as pastor with his services to start March 5, 1922.

Mr. Charlie J. Anderson was appointed temporary clerk. The first Deacons were W. H. Plowden, John N. Nelson and O. B. Johnson. The first Deaconesses were Mrs. Charlie J. Anderson and Mrs. W. A. Lyon.

Our second pastor was Reverend J. C. Sims of Adel, Georgia, called July 30, 1922, and resigned December 19, 1922, to accept a call from the Riverside Baptist Church of Miami.

On December 12, 1922, our third pastor, Reverend Walter J. Meade was called.

In February, 1924, a number of the Church Officers and Members left for the purpose of uniting with the Swedish Baptist Mission, then being organized.

During the summer of 1924, our church building

CHURCH HISTORY

On September 21, 1921, seventeen people met in the home of M.L. Carrier, 737 SW 2 Street, Miami, and a committee of five persons was appointed to secure a suitable site for a new church. A decision was made to purchase property at the corner of 9th Avenue and South West 1st Street. The actual organizational meeting of the Riverside Baptist Church was held at the Carrier home on October 13, 1921. Early in 1922, a new church building was completed and occupied, and Rev. A.E. Gammage became the first pastor on November 3.

In less than a year Rev. Gammage resigned and Rev. **J.C. Sims** became the pastor and preached his first sermon on December 17, 1922. During his ministry, the church grew both numerically and spiritually. Additional buildings were erected. During the 1926 hurricane the auditorium was badly damaged and the church was forced to conduct services in the Seventh Day Adventist church and in the Riverside school auditorium. In 1937, Rev. **Sims** resigned.

In March of 1938, Rev. W.G. Stracener began his ministry. It was under his leadership that a unified budget was established and new Sunday School buildings were added.

Following the resignation of Rev. Stracener, Dr. C.H. Bolton began his ministry as pastor in June 1944.

Dr. Bolton resigned in 1949, and Dr. James W. Parrish became pastor on August 17 of that same year. A major educational building had been

planned under Dr. Bolton's leadership, and the construction took place under Dr. Parrish's leadership. In October 1949, a Kindergarten was organized and in 1957, the first Spanish mission was begun. The mission became a church in March of 1970. The climax of Dr. Parrish's ministry was the completion of a new sanctuary in 1959. A radio ministry was also begun during his term of service. Dr. Parrish resigned in January of 1960, and Dr. James L. Monroe became pastor in May of 1960.

In September of 1968, Dr. Monroe resigned as pastor and on February 16th, Rev. Mack Douglas became pastor. After 8 months of service Rev. Douglas resigned.

On March 8, 1970, Dr. Emit O. Ray began his ministry with the church. In 1971, by-laws and the personnel manual were adopted under the leadership of Dr. Ray. In 1974, the congregation voted to relocate the church, and beginning in January 1975, part of the congregation met in the auditorium of Miami-Dade Community College South Campus and part met at the old Riverside site. In September of that year the old church property was sold and the united congregation met in the Community College until May 1977, when a new building was completed.

During the life of the church several missions have been established and one of the leading persons in helping constitute the missions has been Rev. Samuel B. Jordan, Sr., who is still a member of the congregation.



OFFICERS

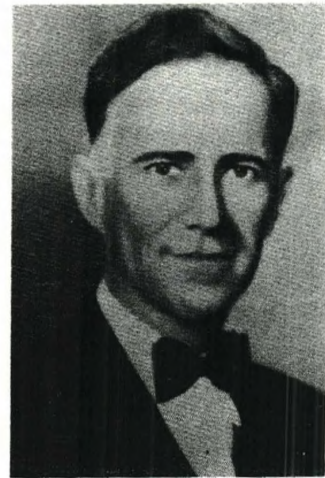
R. Todd, J. Wilkes, J. Gotsis



Riverside, Miami
THEY HAD THE VISION



Rev. A. E. Gammage
1921-1922



Rev. J. C. Sims
1922-1937



Dr. W. G. Stracener
1938-1944



Dr. C. H. Bolton
1944-1949



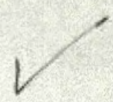
Dr. James W. Parr
1949-1960



Dr. James L. Monroe
1960-1968



Rev. Mack R. Douglas
1969-February-October



BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAN MATEO, c1878-82, 1914--. In San Mateo, Putnam County.

Constituted c1878. First services in little chapel, donated to "The Christian Association of San Mateo." The chapel was later known as V.I.A. Hall and later the Woman's Club was built on the same site; all denominations worshipped with the Baptists. The Church soon became inactive and disbanded because of the withdrawal of the Methodists, Presbyterian and Episcopalians. In 1914 the church was reorganized in the little chapel at the East End, built and owned by Mrs. Sarah Solano. This organization disbanded after a few years. In 1920 was re-organized as a mission of The First Baptist Church of Palatka (see entry). In the summer of 1923 services were held in the Ramsey store until the present, white, rectangular, frame building was purchased and dedicated, 1924. Present membership, 69. Active organizations, Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Union with 4 auxiliaries. First settled pastor, Rev. P.E. Bishop, 1878-unknown. Present pastor, Rev. J.C. Sims, 1936--, 520 Emmett St., Palatka; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; University of Miami, Miami. See printed sketch "Baptist Church of San Mateo is Over Sixty Years Old", by Mrs. Cary Ferrell, c1878-1938, published in Day by Day, San Mateo. Custody of Historical Records Survey, Jacksonville.

RECORD OF BUSINESS MEETINGS, 1922--, 2 vols. Showing church membership roll, baptisms, deaths, officers, minutes of meetings, receipts and disbursements. Custody of clerk, Clarence Wells, San Mateo.

J.C. Sims

Antioch, Gainesville

ROLL CALL OF PASTORS

Abraham Crosby	1872-1877
Silas Weeks	1877-1878
Abraham Crosby	1878-1882
R. B. Mosely	1882-1889
R. W. Jones	1889-1890
N. B. Plummer	1891-1894
Abraham Crosby	1894-1895
R. B. Mosely	1895-1897
W. F. Malphurs	-1898
S. S. Proctor	-1901
W. F. Malphurs	-1902
W. J. Parker	1902-1903
F. M. Hartman	1903-
S. S. Proctor	1907-1923
G. E. Larimore	1911-
J. W. Hilton	1913-
Z. A. Crumpton	1914-
J. L. Norris	1914-
A. M. Yarborough	1920-
N. T. King	1920-
S. S. Proctor	
J. D. Hacker	1923-1923
R. W. Bugg	1923-1929
F. F. Gable	1930-
G. W. Parker	1932-
W. D. Cowart	1934-
C. A. Crosby	1935-1938
J. L. Norris	1939-1941
C. A. Crosby	1941-
Terry Allen	1946-1946
Lee Cooper	1946-1947
James Sims	1947-1948
A. R. Graene	1948-1951
William S. Keene	1951-1952
T. E. Cappell	1953-1954
C. S. Smith	1954-1957
B. E. Haddox	1957-1962
Ralph Peek	Interim
W. P. McElroy	1962-1968
A. D. Martin	1969-1973
Jimmie Rogers	1974-1976
O. D. Moore	1976-
Jimmie Rogers	1976-1977
Gerald Langley	1977-1980
Shep Bryant	1981 Interim
Raymond Estes	1981-1985
Allen Wilson	1986-1992
William Pruitt	1992-Present