

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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Sims, Kenneth served as pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church, Newberry, 1966-1971.

1998
(Harmony
minutes)
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HISTORY OF OAK DALE BAPTIST CHURCH *Newberry*

On September 6, 1961, a group of Christians met to organize and establish a Southern Baptist church in the Jonesville area of Alachua County, Florida. They were meeting in a vacant house owned by one of the charter members. They called themselves People's Missionary Baptist Church.

A committee was appointed to locate a suitable site to erect a building. On September 20, 1961, a special business meeting was called to vote on the purchase of the property that had been found. It was approved for purchase for \$1,500. The church is currently located at this sight.

The Lord provided and a new building was constructed. The name was changed to Oak Dale Baptist Church. The first building was constructed in 1961-62, the fellowship hall in 1971, the sanctuary and pastorium in 1973-74, and the new fellowship hall in 1995-97.

In 1984, the adjoining 2 1/2 acres were purchased for \$32,000. The church became debt free on September 14, 1997.

Oak Dale is now 37 years old. Its membership is 182 and its property is valued at \$564,000.

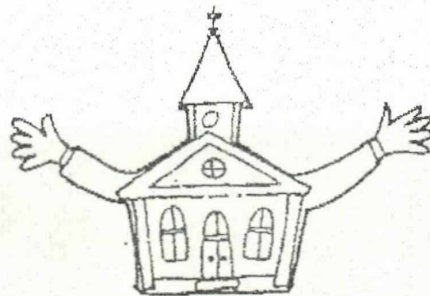
We praise God for His provision through the years! God has sent the following pastors to the church:

Brother T. Hayden	1961-62
Brother T. H. Waters	1962-66
Brother <u>Kenneth Sims</u>	1966-71
Brother J. Lee Tester	1972-77
Brother Clarence Pender	1977-78
Brother E.V. (Gene) Coons	1978-86
Brother W.L. (Bert) Harbison	1986-89
Brother James M. Taylor	1989-Present

Brother Henry Rodgers served faithfully for 26 years (1969-95) as deacon, minister of music, and associate pastor. He was called and ordained to the ministry at Oak Dale. He now is the pastor of Corinth Baptist Church, High Springs.

We thank God for the leadership He has provided through the years. There has been a multitude of souls saved, a host of believers that have grown, a faithful witness to the community, many dollars and efforts given to missions, faithfulness to the preaching and teaching of God's Word, and much praise and worship to the One who is worthy, Jesus Christ.

"Unto Him be glory in the church... throughout all ages, world without end."
(Ephesians 3:21)



October 25, 1998