

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

Singleton, Laneir C. graduated from Charleston Southern University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in South Carolina and Florida including Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Conway Baptist Church and Poplar Dell Baptist Church. Singleton and his wife, Connie Hardwick Singleton have two children.



HISTORY OF HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Heights Baptist Chapel began as a mission of East Hill Baptist Church in 1947 under the pastoral guidance of W. G. Stracener. Eighty-five members from East Hill formed the nucleus of the new congregation. This work was self-sustaining almost from the day it opened. The mission was the first church of any kind to be erected in the East Pensacola Heights area.

In October of 1949, 249 members of Heights Baptist Chapel were organized into Heights Baptist Church, and called Willard A. Brown, Sr., as first pastor. After the church was organized, the Chapel property with a total value of \$45,000 was given by the East Hill membership to the new church without any indebtedness.

Construction of the first educational building was begun in 1951, allowing the young church to increase its Sunday School enrollment and other ministries. This was soon outgrown and in 1955 plans were formulated for another educational building. This same year the auditorium was refurbished with new floor, pews and other additions.

Ground breaking for this building was in 1957. Also this year, the church sponsored the organization of the New Hope Mission into Scenic Bay Baptist Church. In November 1957 additional property was purchased for desired future expansion.

The George V. Axelson Building was dedicated June 13, 1958. This provided not only additional class room space, but much needed space for recreation and a dining-fellowship hall. The building was named for one of the East Hill deacons whose faith helped to establish this church and whose perseverance helped to uphold it in its beginning years.

Six times during the period from 1957 through 1965, Heights Baptist Young People represented the association at the State Sword Drill Eliminations. In 1968, two of our young people were sent by the church to British West Indies to do summer mission work there.

Also in the sixties and early seventies, other remodeling work was done and the building air-conditioned. During 1977, the Sanctuary was remodeled.

Other pastors have been: James L. Knight, Jr., called 1953; Richard E. Roberts, called 1958; Chaplain Wallace Whatley, called as interim pastor 1965; Fred J. Martin, Jr. called 1966; Thomas L. Lide, called as interim pastor 1977; James G. Hamacher, called December 1977 and is presently serving.

HISTORY OF POPLAR DELL BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1910 people in the Poplar Dell community, near Century, gathered together to erect a church building. On June 4, 1911, the Poplar Dell Baptist Church was organized, with nine members. The church became a part of the Elam Baptist Association.

The name of the church was suggested by Gertrude Seymour, because of the poplar trees in the branch head located behind the school house in which she taught.

In 1914 they petitioned the Pensacola Bay Association for membership. In the October, 1915, associational meeting held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Poplar Dell Baptist Church was accepted as a member of Pensacola Bay Association. Our church continues to take an active part in the work of the association.

The following men have served as pastor of the church:

W. B. McCreary

H. W. Rumbley

H. G. Roley

J. J. Nelson

A. S. J. Countryman

D. W. Bosdell

J. T. Fillingim

Rev. Noblet

W. A. Adams

H. S. Higdon

C. C. Eiland

Leo B. Roberts

Billy Forte

Frank Booth

C. R. Beal
R. B. Davis
O. A. Forehand
L. J. Watson
L. G. Stewart
F. M. Mote
F. O. Robison

James E. Copeland
C. C. Morris
Wilson Adkinson
George Kell
Jere Hendricks
Nathan Little
Lanier Singleton

The present pastor, J. B. Wells, has served since February, 1975. In June, 1977, our church called Charles Davis as minister of music and youth.

The present church building was erected in 1946. Later, an educational building was added and the sanctuary was enlarged. In 1963 a pastorium, next to the church, was completed. Through the years the membership of the church has grown to 211.

In 1976 the history of Poplar Dell Baptist Church was written and, since then, the written history has been brought up to date with the printing of two supplements. Copies of these history books have been presented to the Director of Associational Missions of Pensacola Bay Association, to be placed in the associational office.

In May, 1978, our church was recognized by the Florida Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention for being in the top twenty-five churches in the Southern Baptist Convention in doctrinal study courses. We were twenty-second in SBC and sixth in the Florida State Convention.

Our minister of music and youth led in the formation of the North Pensacola Bay Baptist Youth Association, which is made up of ten churches in the north end of our association.

Our prayer is that our church will continue to be a beacon in our community, drawing men and women to Christ, and that our future will be even greater than our past.

Pensacola Bay

1978

The Baptist Courier

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Laneir Singleton has announced his retirement effective the end of January. He has pastored Hoffmeyer Road Baptist Church in Florence for the the last 13 years of his 43-year ministry. Singleton is a graduate of Charleston Southern University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Connie, are both natives of Conway and have two children — Becky, who is a Spanish teacher in Greenville; and Cory, who is a youth associate with the South Carolina Baptist Convention — and three grandchildren. After January, they will reside at their Lake Murray home. <https://baptistcourier.com/2014/11/laneir-singleton-retires-43-years-ministry/>

The Greenville News
Wed, Mar 01, 2000 - Page 72

PROFILE

■ **Name:** Laneir Cord Singleton

■ **Education:** Singleton is a graduate of Conway High, Charleston Southern University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Previous pastorates: Cedar Grove Baptist, Conway; Poplar Dell Baptist, Century, Fla., 1972-74; Providence Baptist, Johnston, 1974-76; Double Branch Baptist, Orangeburg, 1976-79; New Salem Baptist, Sumter, 1979-85; Friendship Baptist, Lyman, 1985-95.

■ **Family:** Wife Connie Hardwick Singleton, a teacher at Greenville Middle School; son Cory, music minister at Jackson Baptist Church in Wellford; daughter Becky Bogan teaches Spanish at Daniel High School.

■ **Hobbies:** Fishing, golf, softball

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CHURCH PROFILE

Closer to his God

Quintuple heart bypass makes the Word even sweeter at Laurel Baptist for **Rev. Laneir Singleton**

Abe Hardesty
City People Writer

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■ **Hobbies:** Fishing, golf, softball

For the **Rev. Laneir Singleton**, who turned 50 years old last month, the middle-age crisis came a few weeks early. In November, the pastor of Laurel Baptist Church was playing softball when his life took an unexpected turn. Feeling fine, he was rounding first base and headed for second when he felt a mysterious pain in his left shoulder.

A few days later, he underwent quintuple bypass heart surgery. For an active softball player who had never experienced any medical problems, it was a harsh reminder of mortality.

"I learned a lot from that experience. I learned that when you have major heart surgery, your body dies, in a sense. It shuts down completely. When you think about that, you tend to come to grips with what is really important in life," says Singleton, whose father died at an early age as a result of a heart attack. "I realized there was a lot more I want to do."

Singleton in his 30th year of full-time ministry, says he also realized "that what I had been teaching for a lot of years is the truth. I felt a nearness of the Lord, and I was reminded that he is 100 percent faithful.

"None of us is privileged when it comes to illness. We're all fragile. And life is precious," Singleton says.

Another realization to Singleton, who since childhood had been accustomed to spending Sunday mornings in church, was how important his Sundays with his congregation have come to be.

"I realized the value of the community of faith. I missed one Sunday, and I couldn't wait to get back to church," Singleton says. "There's a genuine thrill in being part of a church."

Singleton missed only that one Sunday of fellowship, but needed a month before he could step back into the pulpit at the Laurens Road church, which has been a Christian

meeting place for 121 years. About 200 congregate most Sundays at the corner of Haywood and Laurens Roads, where Singleton was a little surprised by the cordial atmosphere when he arrived in 1995.

"It's an extremely friendly church," says Singleton, who celebrates his fifth anniversary there this month. "I had some reservation about what I would find here, some fear that a city church would be a little stuffy."

"I had always been in country churches. But I found this to be one of the friendliest churches I've ever seen. We have a lot of support groups, a lot of people who are interested in the problems of others."

Singleton is among that group, in part because of a crisis that jolted his life 29 years ago. In 1971, while Singleton was a student at Charleston Southern, then called Baptist College, a heart attack killed his father.

"It had a profound impact on my life," says Singleton, the oldest of 10 children. "Dad had been patriarch of the family. He was a deacon in the church. Suddenly, I had to run the show."

"His loss hurt deeply, but at same time, it gave me foundation for ministry I couldn't have had if I had not suffered a loss like that. It gave me an insight a lot of folks don't get until years later," Singleton says. "It caused me to grow up."

It also set into motion a career as a minister. In the year of his father's death, Singleton worked on the farm, held a job as meatcuter at the local A&P grocery and was asked to speak at local churches so often that he was booked every Sunday in the summer of 1971.

"I didn't set out to be a preacher," Singleton says. "I went to Baptist College not knowing what I would do. I had given my life to Christ when I was 11 years old, but, by the time I entered college, I planned on going into business and thought I could do layman work for the Lord."

It was during his junior year of college, at a retreat in Myrtle Beach, that Singleton sensed "Jesus dealing with my heart, felt like telling me to be more involved." The next day, the pastor explained that he had to travel the following week and asked Singleton to do the Sunday speaking.

His work as an occasional speaker there and in the following summer pushed Singleton in the direction of full-time ministry. He entered the seminary the following year, 1972, and became full-time pastor at Providence Baptist in Johnston two years later.

"The best part of my job is working with people," Singleton says. "People are my life. The job has some pressures and drawbacks, like any job, but I enjoy what I do."

■ City People writer Abe Hardesty can be reached at 298-4202.



ALAN DEVORSEY / Staff

The **Rev. Laneir Singleton** moved to Laurel Baptist from Friendship Baptist in Lyman five years ago.

The Times and Democrat · Sat, Oct 22, 1977 · Page 10 · (Orangeburg, South Carolina)

Revival Oct. 23-28 At Double Branch

The Double Branch Baptist Church will be in revival from Oct. 23 through Oct. 28. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

Guest speaker will be Owen Duncan of Hendersonville, according to the pastor of the church, the **Rev. Laneir Singleton**.

Robert Jumper, minister of music and youth at Double

Church's mission reach is wide and ranging

At Laurel Baptist Church, local mission work takes a different twist.

A church that has a long tradition of support for foreign missions also does some mission-like work in its chapel each Sunday, where the Rev. Winston Chou conducts services for Chinese-speaking Christians.

The mission is now in its 12th year at the Laurens Road church, where a group of about 40 Chinese-speaking Christians meets each Sunday morning. Occasionally, the mission holds united services with the English-speaking congregation.

The work fits well into the philosophy of the Rev. Laneir Singleton, who came very close to entering the foreign mission field 20 years ago.

"Foreign missions is my passion," says Singleton, who vividly recalls meeting a missionary to Pakistan at age 12, a time in which "God drew

me to the field as much as he could a 12-year-old."

Singleton was later convinced that his work was in the United States, but he has been part of a foreign mission trip nearly every year since 1983. He's worked on mission projects in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela, and he's been to ministries in Brazil on four occasions.

The missionary priority has always been high at Laurel Baptist, a 121-year-old church that has planted four other churches in the Greenville area and one that has given \$1.3 million to the Southern Baptist Cooperative program.

Closer to home, Laurel Baptist is the meeting place for support groups such as the Piedmont Women's Center and Survivors of Suicide. Several Laurel members are also active in a Carpenters for Christ ministry.