

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

Sloan, Samuel Craft (1875-1933) graduated from Stetson University. He served as pastor of Tenth Avenue Baptist Church, Tampa, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Linden, 1900-1901, Turkey Creek Baptist Church, 1902, and Kathleen Baptist Church, both of Pasco County, Bethel Baptist Church, Socrum and Knights Baptist Church, Plant City. Sloan and his wife Eula Flossie Sloan had eight children.



plant that will cost about \$75,000. Today they boast of 687 members and are doing a splendid work. In connection with their regular work, they have charge of a live mission. The following ministers have served this church: Revs. J. N. Thompson, S. C. Sloan, J. F. Russell, J. C. Kazee, A. E. Albritton and the present pastor, L. A. Rawls, who is a full-blooded Florida Cracker, but he has held pastorates in Florida and Georgia.

S. C. Sloan

PALM AVENUE

Palm Avenue Baptist Church, Florida and Palm avenues, was organized February, 1, 1900, with 76 members. The church soon outgrew the original building and in 1912 completed the present church house. The following men have served as pastors: C. H. Nash, W. J. Bolin, A. S. Pettie, J. E. Skinner, W. C. Golden and the incumbent, A. M. Bennett.

During the last three years, under the leadership of Dr. Bennett, the church has had a most marvelous growth.

The membership has increased from 618 to 1,300 and the Sunday school has grown to an enrollment of over 1,500 and several times the attendance has passed the 1,000 mark. More than 1,000 members have been added to the church during the past three years. This church has charge of three missions: The West Tampa Heights, under the direction of Mr. Jack Berry; Main Street, under H. W. Cornett, and Twenty-Second Avenue, under the leadership of B. F. Bowen. These are located in growing sections of the city and will no doubt soon be churches.

BUFFALO AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Buffalo Avenue Baptist church of this city came into being through the untiring missionary efforts of the Palm Avenue Baptist church, when on March 10th, 1907, a mission was organized on Buffalo Avenue, one block east of Nebraska Avenue.

The first house, a small building, was erected in October, 1916. Up to this time the services of the mission were held under the trees.

On October 24th, 1916, a Council was called to consider the advisability of organizing a permanent church organization.

The Council recommended that a church be organized and a call was made for the presentation of Membership by letter when thirty-six brethren and sisters presented letters to constitute the Charter Membership of the church.

On October 31st, 1916, the church in Conference elected Rev. W. G. Doyle, its first pastor and Bro. S. F. Fisher its first deacon. On November 5th, 1916, Rev. W. G. Doyle preached his first sermon in the Buffalo Avenue Baptist church.

Rev. W. G. Doyle, the first pastor of this church, served faithfully and for two years, presented his resignation in August, 1918, which the church reluctantly accepted.

Bro. Doyle was succeeded by Rev. J. M. Lewis, who continued as pastor for four years, having resigned in September, 1923, to accept the church at Fort Pierce, Florida.

During the pastorate of Bro. Lewis the church outgrew the small building on East Buffalo Avenue and a new location was secured on the corner of Buffalo and Stowell Avenues, where the present building now stands, which has already become inadequate to meet the demands of this rapidly developing section of the city.

In September, 1923, Rev. W. N. Swain was called to the pastorate of this church. Under his ministry the church has had a marvelous growth. Nearly three hundred members have been received, and the finances of the church under the Budget System have more than doubled. Plans have been made for a new modern church building to cost approximately fifty to sixty thousand dollars. This church maintains a thriving mission on the corner of Louisiana and Powell Avenues. Later a mission building will be erected on a lot 100x107 on Louisiana Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets, that was purchased by the City mission board this summer. There are some funds already on hand for the erecting of this building.

The church has a splendid Bible school under the able leadership of Supt. H. C. Stringfellow with an able corps of assistants and teachers. It also maintains an active W. M. U. under the able leadership of Mrs. L. H. Hale. There are in its Auxiliary Organization five B. Y. P. U's. doing splendid work. This church now has a membership of four hundred and fifty, and with wise leadership, it is destined to become one of the leading churches of the city.

THE "WRITTEN" BIBLE

The World's largest Bible, every word of which was written by hand, has just been completed by the Maine Bible Society. The volume, which weighs eighty-eight and one-half pounds, was produced to attract wider attention to the Scriptures. It is the result of the combined efforts of 1,607 persons during the past year.—Ex.

MAKE YOUR DEAR ONES HAPPY THIS XMAS
With a Gift Worthwhile, and if your heart is bigger
than your pocket book, Charge it.

DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVERWARE

Open A Charge Account Only The Standard Lines
Small down payment Easy Weekly Payments

J. W. ECKART, JEWELER

213 E. LAYFETTE Street—Phone 2815

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

DESIRES TO JOIN ORGANIZATION OF
SOME CHURCH THAT NEEDS AN EXPERIENCED
MAN TO HELP PUT OVER THEIR FINANCIAL
PROGRAMS AS WELL AS DO THE REGULAR
ACCOUNTING. WILL DO PERSONAL WORK IN
CONNECTION. GOOD REFERENCES.

R. J. BOWDEN,
GENERAL DELIVERY,
SOUTH JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Turkey Creek,
Plant City

P A S T O R S

T.H. Jaudon	1878	Irvin Walden	1917
R.Y. Walden	1893	G.W. Messer	1928
W.M. McDonald	1895	W.W. Pace	1938
T.H. Jaudon	1897	F.A. Delk	1940
J.W. Johnson	1899	Henry Locklear	1942
R.Y. Walden	1900	F.R. Rightmire	1949
S.C. Sloane	1902	Oscar Lee Smith	1953
Irvin Walden	1903	Harry E. Dawkins	1957
R.T. Cadden	1906	Fred E. Richardson	1960
E. Sanford	1908	James A. Fortinberry	1962
W.M. McDonald	1910	Thomas A. Steele	1972

HISTORY
OF
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
AND
HISTORIC
SOCRUM, FLORIDA

S. C. SLOAN

1901-1904, 1905-1908 and 1910-1923



Reverend Sloan was born February 11, 1875 and was reared in Polk County, Florida. In early manhood he was converted and joined Bethel Church. He attended Stetson University and was a Seminary graduate.

S. C. Sloan

He was ordained to preach the gospel in 1901 by Bethel and served as pastor faithfully longer than any pastor has served the church. Reverend Sloan did not serve his years as pastor consecutively, but, beginning about 1901, was called to serve the church three times.

Historical records show on a Sunday morning, Reverend S. C. Sloan of Socrum, preached a rousing and eloquent sermon that convinced his hearers that he was one of his denomination's most brilliant young preachers.

Brother Sloan was a man of unusually strong faith. Few Christians are blessed with the amount of faith which he possessed and in this lay the secret of his strength and success as a minister. He passed away August 28, 1933, and is buried in the Socrum cemetery.

E. L. TODD

1904-1905



Reverend E. L. Todd is first listed in the South Florida Baptist Associational minutes as being one of seventeen charter members of Shiloh Baptist Church and was their first pastor. He preached once a month from February to October in 1886. Brother Todd remained at Shiloh until 1891 when it

HISTORY OF PASCO COUNTY

Emmaus Baptist Church

Established 1879 - Demised 1937

Section 4, Township 25 South, Range 20 East

Two Miles West of San Antonio, Pasco County, Florida

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1901. Pasco Baptist Association - S. C. (Samuel Craft) Sloan, Kathleen, pastor; J. W. Hudson, Dade City, clerk; J. W. Hudson and L. R. Abbott, messengers; \$1.10 to PBA; 44 members 1900; -18 letters; 6 males; 20 females; 26 total; L. R. Abbott, San Antonio, SS superintendent; 5 officers; 18 pupils; SS expenses \$3.43; church expenses \$60.20; value of house \$350; value of church property \$100; church property value \$450; state missions \$3; home missions \$2.30; foreign missions \$1.05; association purposes .50; aged ministers \$1; miscellaneous \$1. (-18 letters - PBC org'd?)

1902. Pasco Baptist Association - S. C. (Samuel Craft) Sloan, Kathleen, pastor; J. W. Hudson, Dade City, clerk; Sisters A. A. Abbott and S. W. Hill, messengers; \$1.25 to PBA; hosted union meeting in August, collected \$20.50; 26 members 1901; -1 exclusion; 25 total; Mrs. A. A. Abbott, San Antonio, SS superintendent; 3 officers; 25 pupils; Kind Words literature; \$6.50 contributions; 1 of 5 Pasco Baptist Association churches w/SS; church expense \$127.50; SS expense \$3; state missions \$1.50; home missions \$8.70; foreign missions \$4.40; poor/home charities \$32.10; association purposes \$1.25; ministerial education \$4; association missions \$3; total \$183.70.

✓ - Indicates church has framed photo in historical collection.
JE: FBHS - 2/3/22

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
○ I. 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 Green Pond)

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OF
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
AND
HISTORIC
SOCRUM, FLORIDA

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JRI F345 - 03.09

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(also p/o Green Pond)

FBC, Linden (Alachua) 1975

appointed to select and secure a lot on which to build a church here at Linden. And at this same meeting the Clerk was instructed to inform the Church Clerk at Webster Baptist Church of those who had united with this Church and request that their names be removed from the Webster roll.

These two events being recorded as taking place at the same time leads us to believe that worship under the historic oak was not long continued--that the church dream became a church reality.

There is nothing in the records to show how the first church was financed or built; but knowing the limited resources of the early founders, we are led to surmise that the timber was doubtlessly owned by the small membership and that the work of sawing and building was of their own hands.

On two occasions, during the mid and late thirties, the doors of this church were closed--perhaps brought about by the "Depression" but this did not long continue. Reverend Freer graciously offered his services for whatever donation of farm produce the membership could give.

A.C. Parrish and E. Balck represented this church at the Associational meeting. We are not certain of the date they served, but the fact we were affiliated is substantiated by the following excerpt from the minutes of the Alachua Association for the year 1894: "Elected N.A. Bailey as delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention and D.B. Farmer as Alternate." So we can see as far back as the records go this church has been working with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Our records are not as inclusive and detailed as we could wish them to be, but these are a few of the significant events that have been recorded. The first communion service was held, the first revival was conducted, and the first recorded instance of a "paid minister." The record states that the Church agreed to pay a yearly salary of \$60.00.

The first Sunday School was organized April 10, 1900, with G.W. Gideons as Superintendent. On May 19, 1900, a bell was purchased for the Church, which is enshrined in the belfry of our present building.

It was not until August 17, 1913, that we find any mention of the Church Building having been painted.

Many ministers have given of their all--since Reverend Parrish's beginning in May of '94 down to Reverend Bohner of 1975. According to our records, these are the persons who have given so much for so little material returns:

Rev. A. C. Parrish	May 1894 to October 1895
Rev. G. A. Bryant	December 1895 to October 1900
Rev. S. C. Sloan	October 1900 to September 1901
Rev. G. A. Bryant	September 1901 to September 1902
Rev. J. W. Gideons	October 1902 to August 1904
Rev. J. W. Tucker	September 1904 to September 1907
Rev. D. T. McLeod	October 1907 to January 1909
Rev. W. D. Entzinger	February 1909 to September 1911
Rev. O. N. Williams	October 1911 to January 1913
Rev. W. D. Levy	February 1913 to 1916
Rev. E. L. Gillintine	1920 to 1922
Rev. G. A. Martin	1923 to 1925
Rev. R. Strickland	1925 to 1927
Rev. Simmons Wade	1927 to 1931
Rev. Stapleton	1931 to 1932
Rev. Aldrick	1932 to 1933
Rev. Ed. Bryant	1933 to 1934

Student pastors from Stetson University filled the pulpit for a period of time. Then the Church doors were closed until 1937.

Rev. G. A. Martin	1937 to 1938
The Church doors closed for nearly a year.	
Rev. E. M. Freer	1940 to 1943
Rev. R. Strickland	1945 to 1946
Rev. D. E. Pait	1946 to 1947
Rev. Donald Martin	1947 to 1948
Rev. C. A. Crosby	1948 to April 1950
Rev. Wallace Bierer	August 1950 to October 1950
Rev. J. P. Kessler	November 1950 to May 1952
Rev. C. A. Crosby	May 1952 to February 1955
Rev. W. Carroll Townsend	September 1955 to September 1956
Rev. Virgil T. Smith	September 1956 to June 1957
Rev. Jack Harris	July 1957 to June 1959
Rev. Gene Shultz (supply pastor)	
Rev. L. J. Coker	June 1960 to September 1961
Rev. L. O. Calhoun	November 1961 to May 1962
Rev. O. M. Sweat	July 1962 to November 1965
Rev. C. A. Crosby	February 1966 to November 1968
Rev. O. M. Sweat	January 1969 to October 1969
Rev. Glen Brooks	March 1970 to July 1970
Rev. P. M. Shipman	September 1970 to August 1971
Rev. James Presly	September 1971 to December 1973
Rev. Thomas N. Channell	February 1974 to January 1975
(Interim pastor)	

These God-called men served well in the First Baptist Church of Linden and I do not question but that the community was better because of each of them having come this way.

Four of these men were called a second time as pastor at this church. They were:

Rev. G. A. Bryant	1895 to 1900 and 1901 to 1902
Rev. C. A. Martin	1923 to 1925 and 1937 to 1938
Rev. R. Strickland	1925 to 1927 and 1943 to 1944
Rev. O. M. Sweat	1962 to 1965 and January to October 1969
Rev. C. A. Crosby was called three times as pastor: 1948 to 1950, 1952 to 1955, and 1966 to 1968	

Rev. C. A. Crosby, was a member of our church, Dec. 4, 1970, when he went home to meet his Saviour, whom he served faithfully for many years.

The idea of a new church building was born with the damage done by the hurricane of 1950. The building was so badly damaged that it was deemed unwise to try to repair it. The great question of how to finance a building such as we needed and hoped for during times of such extreme inflation preyed upon the minds and spiritual beings of our membership. The inflation of 1950 has grown to such size and effect now that we are not just sure that inflation adequately describes the condition of 1950. But faith in God prevailed and the membership worked, gave God's tithe and their gifts, and God blessed their efforts.

So the church elected a Building Committee and March 9, 1950 to devise ways and means to raise funds for a new building. Thus the plans for our new building came into being and began to materialize into actuality. This, our church, has been financed by church members giving--giving until it hurt. The rest came from the inexhaustible riches of Divine Providence. And great is our appreciation of all of those whose names fill the long list of givers.

Those who thought not of themselves but our church, our community, have helped to build this noble edifice. On November 9, 1952 a dedication service was held in honor of finishing our building.

Samuel Craft Sloan

Birth

11 Feb 1875

Death

28 Aug 1933 (aged 60)

Burial

[Socrum Cemetery](#)

Lakeland, Polk County, Florida, USA



https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10552666/samuel_craft-sloan



THIRD GENERATION — De-
Land, Oct. 14. — William C.
Sloan, of Fort Meade, repre-
sents the third generation of
his family to attend Stetson
University here. His grand-
father, **Samuel Craft Sloan**,
was an outstanding football
player for Stetson from 1898 to
1900. His father, Stanley D.
Sloan, is a 1922 graduate. Young
Sloan is a freshman.