

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

Smith, Andrew M. (1895-1996) was born in Newton County, Mississippi the son of Christopher Columbus Colon and Mittie Smith. He served as pastor to Seventh Avenue Baptist Church (aka Central/Ellyson) (1943-1948), Hickory Hammock Baptist Church, New Bethel Baptist Church and Klondike Baptist Church (1961-1967). Smith married Clara Callahan Smith in 1917 and they had six children. Smith lived to be 101 preaching until the 1995 in the Pensacola area.



Rev. Andrew M. Smith, age 101, died October 23, 1996. After funeral services at Brownsville Baptist Church, he was laid to rest beside Clara at Bayview Memorial Park Cemetery in Pensacola.

Rev. Andrew M. Smith

Rev. Andrew M. Smith, son of Mittie and Christopher Columbus "Lum" Colon Smith, was born March 18, 1895 in Newton County, Mississippi. He grew up at Rawls Springs, Mississippi, near Lux. On February 25, 1917 at Providence Baptist Church in Lux, he married Clara Callahan. She was born May 7, 1892 in Jones County, Mississippi, the daughter of Joe and Laura Granberry Callahan. Rev. and Mrs. Smith were parents of six children, Christine, Grace, Joe Ellis, Erma Jean, and twins Mary Jeanette and Martha Jewel, all born in Mississippi.

He and his family came to Pensacola in 1936 when he accepted a position with American Creosote Works on South "J" Street. He worked first as a yard foreman and then as an inspector until his retirement in 1965. He helped develop a lay ministry, known as Southside Baptist Chapel, at the Pensacola waterfront. The work was later named Eighth Avenue Baptist Church and today is Cedarlawn Baptist Church.

The family joined First Baptist Church, Pensacola, and Rev. Smith, then age 48, was ordained to the ministry there on October 20, 1943. When asked by a *Pensacola News Journal* reporter about his call to the ministry, Rev. Smith responded that he felt called as a young man, but "didn't figure with six children and the depression that I could go to school and prepare for the ministry."

Rev. Smith pastored Seventh Avenue Baptist Church (later named Central Baptist Church and then Ellyson Baptist Church) from October 1943 to October 1948. During the 1950s, he pastored Hickory Hammock Baptist Church and New Bethel Baptist Church in Santa Rosa County. His last pastorate was Klondike Baptist Church, which he served from 1961 to 1967.

He was well known as the friendly minister who walked from his home to Baptist Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital on 12th Avenue. He also walked to nursing homes and the jail, encouraging and praying with those he met. He never owned a car and was driven to the churches he pastored by his daughter, Grace.

Clara Callahan Smith died September 28, 1977. Funeral services were held at Klondike Baptist Church, where she and Rev. Smith were members. Sometime later Rev. Smith joined Brownsville Baptist Church and remained there for 20 years.

On October 9, 1988, Klondike Baptist Church, where he was named pastor emeritus, gave recognition to Rev. Smith, honoring the 45th anniversary of his ordination. Messengers to the Pensacola Bay Baptist Association annual meeting on October 27, 1988, applauded as Rev. Smith received the dedication of the annual.

At age 99 he preached at Ellyson Baptist Church. Not wishing to remain seated, but unable to stand alone, he was supported on each side by a deacon. His last sermon was preached at Laurel View Baptist Church in May 1994. Brownsville Baptist Church celebrated "A.M. Smith Day" in March 1995 in honor of his 100th birthday.

Per message from granddaughter 6/11/2020
death year 1996. Active preaching up to 1995

Rev. Andrew M. Smith, age 101, died October 25, 1996. After funeral services at Brownsville Baptist Church, he was laid to rest beside Clara at Bayview Memorial Park Cemetery in Pensacola.

Judith Richbourg Jolly
Florida Baptist Historical Society
December 15, 2001
Published in *The Heritage of Escambia County, Florida* (2004)

Rev. Smith's family came to Pensacola in 1936 when he accepted a position with the Florida Electric Works on South "J" Street. He worked there as a yard foreman and later as an inspector until his retirement in 1961. He helped develop a lay ministry, called the Seaside Baptist Chapel, at the Pensacola waterfront. The work was later called English Avenue Baptist Church and today is Grace Street Baptist Church.

The family joined First Baptist Church, Pensacola, and Rev. Smith, then age 48, was ordained to the ministry there on October 20, 1943. When asked by a *Pensacola News Journal* reporter about his call to the ministry, Rev. Smith responded that he felt called as a young man, but "didn't figure with six children and the depression that I could go to school and prepare for the ministry."

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He was well known as the friendly minister who walked from his home to Baptist Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital on 12th Avenue. He also walked to nursing homes and the jail, encouraging and praying with those he met. He never owned a car and was driven to the churches he pastored by his daughter, Grace.

Clara Callahan Smith died September 28, 1977. Funeral services were held at Klondike Baptist Church, where she and Rev. Smith were members. Sometime later Rev. Smith joined Brownsville Baptist Church and remained there for 20 years.

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At age 95 he preached at Ellyson Baptist Church. Not wishing to remain seated, but unable to stand longer, he was supported on each side by a deacon. His last sermon was preached at English Street Baptist Church in May 1994. Brownsville Baptist Church celebrated "A 100 Years of Rev. Andrew M. Smith" in August 1995 in honor of his 100th birthday.

Rev. Andrew M. Smith
died October 25, 1996

1988

Pensacola Bay Baptist Association Annual

IN DEDICATION



REV. ANDREW M. SMITH

Brother Smith was born March 18, 1895 in Newton County Mississippi. At the age of 93, he feels that he may possibly be the oldest pastor in Escambia County Florida. Bro. Smith began his ministry as a "lay preacher" while a young man in Mississippi. In 1917 he married Clara Calahan, also a native of Mississippi, and their six children (5 daughters & 1 son) were born in Mississippi.

He came to Pensacola with his family in 1936 to accept a job with American Creosote Works where he worked, first as a yard foreman and then as an inspector, until his retirement in 1965.

On moving to Pensacola Bro. Smith continued his lay ministry at the waterfront here. He and another preacher made appointments to have services where they would preach and teach Sunday School lessons. It soon became known as the Southside Mission, which later became Eighth Avenue Baptist Church, and today is Cedarlawn Baptist Church.

Through the insistence of the Baptist minister with whom he worked as a lay preacher on the waterfront, Bro. Smith was ordained to the ministry on October 20, 1943, by Pensacola First Baptist Church. He was subsequently called to the pastorate of Seventh Avenue Baptist Church, which later became Central Baptist and now is Ellyson Baptist Church.

Bro. Smith later served as pastor of Hickory Hammock Baptist, near Milton and New Bethel Baptist, between Chumuckla and Jay. He was pastor of Klondike Baptist on Mobile Highway when he resigned from the pastorate. He continues to be a minister, in the Biblical sense of the word, as he continues to visit the hospitals and nursing homes.

The friendly pastor who went from room to room, floor to floor, carrying his Bible along with a word of cheer and a prayer for those who wanted it, was a familiar figure at the old Sacred Heart Hospital on 12th Avenue. For many years he visited all the local hospitals and nursing homes but after taking up residence in the west side of town, he has confined his visits to Baptist Hospital and nursing homes in that vicinity.

Klondike Baptist Church gave special recognition to Bro. Smith on Sunday, October 9, 1988, in honor of the 45th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry.

His wife, Clara, died in 1977, after a marriage of 60 years. Four of their six children are living in the Pensacola area; one daughter lives in Miami and one is in Peru. Bro. Smith now lives with his daughter, Grace, on West Jackson Street in Pensacola.

99-year-old minister still preaches

By Lucy Quina
News Journal

Years have passed since the Rev. Andrew M. Smith was ordained a Baptist minister. But he can still reel off the exact day and year it happened — Oct. 20, 1943.

Like a wedding or the birth of a child, it was one of the most important dates of his life — the day he fulfilled his dream to serve the Lord. And at age 99, he is still doing it.

"(Smith) is a very dedicated minister to the Gospel. He meets the needs of the people and inspires them to repentance," said the Rev. Steven Bailey, pastor at Klondike Baptist Church where Smith still preaches on occasion.

When he preaches, everyone comes out, Bailey said.

Smith was 48 when he entered the ministry. He says he got the call as a young man. But family responsibilities and time kept him from pursuing it sooner.

"I didn't figure with six children and the Depression going on that I could go to school and prepare for the ministry," Smith said.

An official ordination, however, never prevented Smith from ministering to people. He estimates he's been preaching for a good 75 years. He'd visit the county jail, nursing homes and hospitals, talking to people, asking them how they were doing and if they'd mind if he said a prayer for them.

Shirley Aeppli, a retired nurse from Baptist Hospital, remembers Smith walking to the hospital, his main mode of travel since he didn't have a car. He always had his Bible in hand, she said.

"He was so faithful about looking in on patients," she said.

"They loved his visits."

The first church he pastored was the Seventh Avenue Baptist Church, which was followed by two subsequent churches in Santa Rosa County and ended with Klondike Baptist Church where he preached from 1961-67. Since that time he has been pastor emeritus.

Smith is rarely seen without a Bible, whether walking the streets in his younger days or sitting on the porch of his Jackson Street home now.



Lucy Quina/News Journal

The Rev. Andrew M. Smith, 99, still fills the pulpit on request. And even when he's sitting on his porch, his Bible is never far away.

"The desire of my heart and soul is to glorify my precious Lord and to be a blessing to people in this ol' sinful world," Smith said.

ON

laims he can prove God exists

onmental sci-
ntist at the
niversity of
Michigan -
Dearborn.



Tipler

Scientists op-
rate on the
remise that,
given enough
ime, they can
answer all the
questions of the
universe.

Theologians,
on the other hand, are comfortable
with not knowing everything. In-
deed, they argue that mystery is a
part of religious faith.

On the surface, they appear to be
in a collision course. Viewed from
a higher plane, however, they can
be seen to pursue a broad, com-
mon objective. They both seek
greater knowledge of the universe
and their place in it.

But they probe with very differ-
ent tools, and this is what divides
them.

Tipler's proofs of God and resur-
rection must be teased from a
kaleidoscope of theories and formulas.
Any attempt to crystallize them
runs the risk of oversimplifica-
tion.

His god is not a personal entity
but a force. He views resurrection
not in spiritual terms but as a
reconstitution of the atoms in the
human body.

Scientists believe that a force —
popularly known as the Big Bang

— started the universe — expand-
ing from nothing billions of years
ago.

Some cosmologists theorize that
eventually the universe will stop
expanding, start contracting and
ultimately be forced back to its
point of origin.

Tipler calls that the Omega
Point. The Omega Point is his
idea of god.

Scientists also say that matter
can neither be created nor de-
stroyed but can change its form.
When the universe shrinks to the
Omega Point, all matter, includ-
ing the atoms of all humans who
ever lived, will be reconstituted in
a different chemical form. In other
words, they will be "resurrected."

"The Physics of Immortality" is
only one example of several books
venturing into the science-religion
minefield.

Books are not the only bellweth-
ers of the changing climate.
There's Zygon: Journal of Reli-
gious Science. And last month, a
headline unthinkable in the past
surfaced on the front page of The
Scientist, a bi-weekly newspaper
for the science community: "Reli-
gious Scientists Sense The Divine
In Their Work."

The story under the headline
dealt with scientists who contend
that science and religion are com-
patible. A survey done more than
three decades ago reported that
two-thirds of practicing scientists
were atheists.

"My gut feeling is it's probably
more like one-third," says Donald
Munro, a physiologist and execu-
tive director of the American Sci-
entific Association (ASA), an Ips-
wich, Mass.-based organization
with some 2,400 members.

The ASA promotes the interac-
tion of science and theology in a
positive light.

And this was Tipler's aim at the
outset. But Donald Kobe, a pro-
fessed Christian and a physicist at
the University of North Texas in
Denton, who encourages the sci-
ence-religion dialogue, thinks Tip-
ler has missed the bullseye.

The book is "sort of mind-bog-
gling," he says, "but it doesn't
have much relation to reality."

"I think he has completely mis-
understood the role of science and
faith. He purports to be unifying
science and religion, but he's re-
ducing everything to a sort of sci-
ence fiction."

Sunday, March 12 will be A.M. Smith Day at Brownsville Baptist Church. On this date we will recognize Rev. Smith in the morning service in honor of his 100th birthday. Service begins at 10:50 a.m. The church is located at 2601 W. Strong Street at the corner of "U" and Cervantes.

Happiness?

Vinkler

Confusion so many are
evangelist, educator, and author

0 p.m. nightly

10:00 a.m.

ts Church of Christ

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7, 1995
STIAN COLLEGE

SMITH

Clara Estella Smith, 85, of 2409 W. Jackson St., died Wednesday afternoon at a local hospital.

Mrs. Smith was a native of Jones County, Miss. and had resided in Pensacola for the past 40 years. She was a member of the Klondike Baptist Church.

Survivors include her widow, the Rev. A.M. Smith of Pensacola; five daughters, Christine Gladden, Grace Smith, and Erma Jean Bishop all of Pensacola, Mary Jeanette Hamilton of Tacna, Peru, and Martha Jewel Hansen of Miami; a son, Joe Ellis Smith of Cantonment; two brothers, Walter Callahan of Jackson, Miss. and Clarence Callahan of Mobile, Ala.; three sisters, Ruth Callahan, Erma Brown, and Marie Kendrick all of Columbia, Miss.; nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are pending with McNeil-Keyes Funeral Home.

SMITH

Clara Estella Smith, 85, of 2409 W. Jackson St., died Wednesday afternoon at a local hospital.

Mrs. Smith was a native of Jones County, Miss. and had resided in Pensacola for the past 40 years. She was a member of the Klondike Baptist Church.

Survivors include her widow, the Rev. A.M. Smith of Pensacola; five daughters, Christine Gladden, Grace Smith, and Erma Jean Bishop all of Pensacola, Mary Jeanette Hamilton of Tacna, Peru, and Martha Jewel Hansen of Miami; a son, Joe Ellis Smith of Cantonment; two brothers, Walter Callahan of Jackson, Miss. and Clarence Callahan of Mobile, Ala.; three sisters, Ruth Callahan, Erma Brown, and Marie Kendrick all of Columbia, Miss.; nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday in Klondike Baptist Church with the Rev. Robert E. Lowery, the Rev. Clayton

Baker, the Rev. W.E. Pinkerton and the Rev. J.R. Vasser officiating.

Burial will be in Bayview Memorial Park Cemetery with McNeil-Keyes Funeral Home directing.

Active pallbearers will be C.J. West Sr., R.J. Trowick, John Tisdale, Richard Searles, Frank Howard and R.B. Hastings.

Honorary pallbearers will be George Moyers, E.E. Land, Herbert Ebersole, Walter Kirksey, E.E. Eiland and L.B. Mills.

Baptist minister Smith, 101, dies

By Amie Klanke
News Journal staff writer

The Rev. Andrew M. Smith spread God's word for more than 75 years, even before he became an ordained Baptist minister in Pensacola.

His mission ended Friday after a bout with pneumonia. He was 101.

The Rev. Smith last preached in May 1994 at Laurelview Baptist Church at the age of 99, and was known for having been rarely seen without a Bible.

"The desire of my heart and soul is to glorify my precious Lord and to be a blessing to people in this ol' sinful world," he told the News Journal in March 1994.

Visitation is 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at McNeil-Keyes Funeral Home at 1380 North Palafox Street. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Brownsville Baptist Church at 2601 West Strong Street. Burial will be at Smith Bayview Memorial Park, 3351 Scenic Highway.

Smith is survived by his son, Joe Ellis Smith of Cantonment; five daughters, Christine Gladden, Grace Smith, Erma Bishop and Mary Hamilton of Pensacola and Martha Hansen of Houston; nine grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Smith was ordained as a Baptist minister Oct. 20, 1943, but for many years prior to that he visited jails, hospitals and nursing homes, talking to people and praying with them.

The Rev. Smith moved to Pensacola in 1936 and pastored several churches in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. He said he'd gotten the call as a young man but family responsibilities and time kept him from pursuing it sooner.



A.M. SMITH

The Rev. A.M. Smith, 101, of Pensacola died Friday, October 25, 1996, in a local hospital.

Rev. Smith was a native of Newton County, Miss. Mr. Smith had been a resident of Pensacola since 1936, coming from Hattiesburg, Miss. He was a retired ordained Baptist minister who served as the pastor of several churches in Pensacola and in Santa Rosa County. He also was retired as a foreman of Pensacola Croosote Company.

He is survived by his son, Joe Ellis Smith of Cantonment; five daughters, Mrs. Christine Gladden, Miss Grace Smith, Mrs. Erma Jean Bishop and Mrs. Mary Jeanette Hamilton, all of Pensacola, and Mrs. Martha Jewel Hansen of Houston;

nine grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 29, 1996, in the Brownsville Baptist Church with the Rev. John Paulus of Brownsville Baptist Church, the Rev. Ralph Morgan of Bayou Grove Baptist Church and Retired Rev. W.E. Pinkerton officiating.

Burial will be in Bayview Memorial Park Cemetery.

MCNEIL-KEYES FUNERAL HOME is in charge of arrangements.

Friends may call at the funeral home from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday.

Asked to serve as pallbearers are Clarence J. West Sr., John Tisdale, O.E. McBride, Ernest E. Land, Richard Searles and Hong Dang.

Honorary pallbearers will be H.C. Paterson, Dr. Henry Yonge, Kenneth Cranford, N.L. "Nob" Jernigan, Arthur Miller, John D. Thomas, Fred Williams, William P. Lunsford, Herman McCurdy and the Men's Sunday School Class S A 1 Department, Brownsville Baptist Church.

Memorial gifts may be made to the General Fund, Brownsville Baptist Church, 2601 W. Strong St., Pensacola 32505.

Pensacola News Journal

GRACE SMITH 1921-2006

Grace Smith, 84, of Pensacola, passed away February 28, 2006 at a local nursing home. She was born September 2, 1921 in Lux, MS to the late Rev. A. M. and Clara Smith. She moved with her family to Pensacola in 1937. She was a graduate of Pensacola High School, and retired from the Naval Hospital after more than 30 years of service.

She was an integral part of her father's hospital ministry and his pastorate at several Baptist churches in the Pensacola area. She was a member of Brownsville Baptist Church.

She is survived by her brother, Joe E. Smith of Cantonment; sisters, Erma Bishop and Jeanette Hamilton of Pensacola, and Judy Hansen (and husband, Duane) from Houston, TX. She was preceded in death by her sister, Christine Gladden. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends are invited to a visitation with the family at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 4, followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. at Brownsville Baptist Church, Pensacola, FL. Dr. John Pavlus will be officiating. Interment will follow at Bayview Memorial Park.

Rose Lawn Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Grace Smith was a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. A.M. Smith. She reviewed and gave approval for the biographical sketch I wrote about her father that was later published in *The Heritage of Escambia County, Florida*.

Per Rev. Joe Gwyn on June 5, 2005, Patsy Folsom (Mrs. David Folsom), music minister at Heights Baptist Church in Pensacola, is a granddaughter of Rev. Smith.

MILESTONES



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100th or
over
birthday?
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REV. ANDREW M. SMITH

Age: 100

Birthdate: March 18, 1895

Place of birth: Newton County, Miss.

Family: He has six children; nine grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. His wife of 60 years, Clara Callahan **Smith**, died in 1977.

Occupation: An ordained minister since 1943, **Smith** attributes his long life to dedicating his life to serving the Lord. **Smith** was honored by his church, Brownsville Baptist Church.

— Compiled by Sandra Brown

Smith preaches on Sunday, turns 90 on Monday



Rev. Smith rocks in his favorite chair holding his Bible that he rarely without.

"The thing that has kept me here as long as I have been is the Lord. I don't know why he has done it. That's the source of my strength — the Lord. I've never had but one relative that I've ever heard of that lived to be as old as I am. He was an uncle, my daddy's brother."

— The Rev. Andrew M. Smith

By GOREN ANGELES

The Rev. Andrew M. Smith will celebrate his 90th birthday by presiding at an evening service Sunday at St. Dominic's Episcopal Church.

"I'm planning to preach the message in the words of one of King's 17th sermons," said Smith, gray-haired and balding. "I have been open to you that he says we

celebrate the victory he is preparing to deliver Sunday at the 10:30 p.m. worship service.

"We should pray for God to open our eyes that we might see, and then that we might see ourselves, then that we might see God, that we might see the plan for sharing the Gospel with a lost world, and finally that the Lord open our eyes that we might see the glory and the wisdom of our mission here. That's the mission. We need to pray for a conversion from God."

Smith resigned from his postulate in 1967 but was not too ready to the work and elderly. He is now at home on a blue sofa in his parsonage. He is a member of the St. Dominic's Episcopal Church and he has written his usual leather-bound Bible commentary for years.

"It's not for show, it's just a chronicle of his," said Smith, a former deacon, who says he has been for his father at their West Jackson Street home.

The son, about 60 years old now, has been without more miles in his ministry than most preachers have done in their years. But the gentlemanly figure, who has never driven a car, attributes his longevity to his habit of walking out to his abatement from smoking and other unwholesome habits, although he does abstain.

"The thing that has kept me here as long as I have been is the Lord," he says. "I don't know why he has done it. That's the source of my strength — the Lord. I've never had but one relative that I've ever heard of that lived to be as old as I am. He was an uncle, my daddy's brother."

"I've been a Christian all my life. Yet I couldn't say I was raised in the church. My father and step-mother were Protestant Baptists, and there wasn't a church of that kind where we lived."

"I've read the Bible quite a bit. I couldn't begin to say how many times I've read through it. I've done more than that. I've read it in 1947, about a month or so after I was 17. I read the Bible through 12 times a year. I have read through it twice since January this year and started on the third time."

The Bible reading served good purposes when asked to write a devotional message. "There's some language that might be a bit to me. I've always been interested about translating God's word into plain John, Chapter 1, verses 1 and 2, in a sentence with me."

He quotes: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

"That's an interesting one. It makes me want to say, 'Beloved, I can't wait to bring. I think God's people are going to be just like Jesus, when he will be here in glorification.'"

Smith began his ministry as a "free preacher" on a young man in Mississippi when he was 16. In 1947, he returned to his father's place, a small Missionary Baptist church, and then to his father's home in Mexico City.

Editor in Pensacola in 1956 to accept a job with the News-Journal. Page 35

THE NEWS-JOURNAL TELLS YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD TODAY. VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PENSACOLA.COM

Catholic convert builds interfaith ties

By DORENE ANGELES
Journal Staff Writer

The **Rev. Andrew M. Smith** will celebrate his 90th birthday by preaching an eye-opening sermon Sunday at Brownsville Baptist Church.

"I'm planning to preach the message in the sixth chapter of Kings, the 17th verse: 'And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee open his eyes that he may see . . .'"

Smith summarizes the sermon he's preparing to deliver Sunday at the 10:50 **a.m.** worship service:

"We should pray for God to open our eyes that we might see, and first that we might see ourselves; then that we might see God, that we might see the plan for sharing the Gospel with a lost world, and finally that the Lord open our eyes that we might see the glory and the wonder of our eternal home. That's the outline. We need to pray for a revelation from God."

Smith resigned from his pastorate in 1967 but not from his ministry to the sick and elderly. Neatly attired in a blue serge, or sometimes gray, business suit, always worn with white dress shirt and tie, he carries his small leather-bound Bible everywhere he goes.

"It's not for show; it's just a characteristic of his," says **Smith's** unmarried daughter, Grace, who keeps house for her father at their West Jackson Street home.

The active, alert 90-year-old says he has walked more miles in his ministry than most preachers have driven their cars. But the peripatetic Baptist minister, who has never driven a car, attributes his longevity neither to his habit of walking nor to his abstinence from smoking and other unhealthful habits, although he does abstain.

"The thing that has kept me here as long as I have been is the Lord," he says. "I don't know why he has done it. That's the source of my strength — the Lord. I've never had but one relative that I've ever heard of that lived to be as old as I am. He was an uncle, my daddy's brother.

"I've been a churchgoer all my life. Yet, I couldn't say I was raised in the church. My father and step-mother were Primitive Baptists, and there wasn't a church of that kind where we lived.

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"I've read the Bible quite a bit. I couldn't begin to say how many times I've read through it." For three years after his wife died in 1977, after a marriage of 60 years, **Smith** read the Bible through 12 times a year. "I have read through it twice since January this year and started on the third time."

The Bible-reading retired pastor hesitates when asked to name a favorite passage: "There's some Scripture that means a lot to me. I've always been reluctant about classifying God's word, but First John, Chapter 3, verses 1 and 2, is a favorite with me."

He quotes: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

"That's so precious to me, it makes me want to say, 'Hallelujah!'" **Smith** says with feeling. "I think God's people are going to be just like Jesus, robed in white and clothed in righteousness."

Smith began his ministry as a "lay preacher" as a young man in Mississippi, where he was born. In 1917, he married Clara Calahan, also a native Mississippian, and their six children were born in Mississippi.

"I came to Pensacola in 1936 to accept a job work-

See **SMITH**, Page 2D

Smith

From Page 1D

ing in the creosote business. The people running the creosote plant here used to work at the plant in Hattiesburg with me. We had just come out of the Depression a little, and they wrote and asked me to take a job here."

Smith continued working for the American Creosote Works here, first as a yard foreman and then as an inspector, until his retirement in 1965.

On moving to Pensacola, **Smith** continued his lay ministry at the waterfront here. "Another preacher and I made appointments to have services. He took me down there to do the preaching and conduct Sunday school lessons. It was known as the Southside Mission. It later became the Eighth Avenue Baptist Church, and it's the Cedar Lawn Baptist Church now."

Through the insistence of the Baptist minister with whom he worked as a lay preacher on the waterfront, **Smith** was ordained to the ministry. He was subsequently called to the pastorate of Seventh Avenue Baptist Church, which later became Central Baptist and is now Ellyson Baptist Church.

Smith later served Hickory Hammock Baptist congregation near Milton and New Bethel Baptist Church between Chumuckla and Jay. He was pastor of Klondike Baptist Church on Mobile Highway when he resigned from the pastorate, but he has continued to be a minister in the biblical sense of the word.

For many years, he visited all the local hospitals and nursing homes, but after taking up residence in the west side of town, he gradually confined his visits to Baptist Hospital and nursing homes in that vicinity.

His walking is now mostly confined to the neighborhood, but family members and friends drive him to hospitals and nursing homes, where he continues to carry faith, hope and cheer to the sick.

Smith's dedicated service has been lauded by many through the years, including the Pensacola Rotary Club. This men's service group bestowed on the tireless minister the Rotarians' Active Retiree Award in the 1970s.

Smith says he is expecting all six of his children for an early family celebration of his 90th birthday on Saturday night at Adrian's on Mobile Highway. His actual birth date is March 18, 1895.

Smith's five daughters and one son, in the order of birth, are Christine Gladden, staff member in the registrar's office at Pensacola Junior College; Grace **Smith**, who retired after 32 years as a civil service employee at the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory; Joe Ellis **Smith**, Cantonment, a long-time employee of the St. Regis Paper Co. and its successor Champion International; Irma Bishop of Myrtle Grove, homemaker; and twins, Judy Hansen of Miami and Jeanette Hamilton of Toquepala, Peru.

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Church between Chumuckla and Jay. He was pastor of Klondike Baptist Church on Mobile Highway when he resigned from the pastorate, but he has continued to be a minister in the biblical sense of the word.

"I have done more visiting of the sick than anybody I ever saw or knew of," Smith says. The friendly pastor who went from room to room, floor to floor, carrying his Bible along with a word of cheer and a prayer for those who wanted it was a familiar figure at the old Sacred Heart Hospital on 12th Avenue.

Smith's Cantonment, a longtime employee of the St. Regis Paper Co. and its successor Champion International; Irma Bishop of Myrtle Grove, homemaker; and twins, Judy Hansen of Miami and Jeanette Hamilton of Toquepala, Peru.

Smith warmed up for his birthday sermon, substituting for the absent pastor at Klondike Baptist Church last Sunday, a service he continues to perform from time to time. The congregation found their former pastor in good spirits and in good voice as he preached from the Scripture that has been his source of comfort through 90 years.

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Golden Anniversary

The **Rev.** and Mrs. **Andrew M. Smith**, 2409 W. Jackson St., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday at the Providence Baptist Church near Hattiesburg, Miss. They have five daughters, Mrs. Herbert Gladden, Mrs. Robert Ray Bishop, Miss Grace **Smith**, all of Pensacola; Mrs. Duane Hansen of Miami; and Mrs. Donald Hamilton of Questa, N. **M.**; one son, Joe Ellis **Smith** of Cantonment; and nine grandchildren. The **Rev.** Mr. **Smith** is pastor of Klondike Baptist Church on Mobile Highway.

History of Fort Kissimmee Church and its Ties to Lorida Baptist Church

Information provided by Ginger Waldron Lewis and Pam Waldron Richards

The present Lorida Baptist Church organized in the small community known as Fort Kissimmee was located on the Kissimmee River about 25 miles east of Avon Park, Florida. On August 16, 1911 a missionary, Rev. B. H. Guy, who was employed by the State Board of Missions, established the Fort Kissimmee Church with 11 members with one member as a deacon. Of this group Dora Thomas Rhymes was the last remaining member who passed away in 1985.

Services were held monthly and the church grew under Rev. Guy until he left September 12, 1912. The following pastor was Rev. A. M. Smith, who was the pastor at the church until 1914, also held monthly services on Saturday and Sunday at 11:00am. Rev. J. F. Gill was the next pastor who served until 1922.

In the year 1916, the pastor's salary was \$34.50. A business meeting was held at each service and members were "turned out" for many reasons, one of them being for missing three consecutive Sundays without a good reason. In addition to church, Sunday School was held throughout the years and when the roll was called you answered with a verse of scripture.

From 1922 until January 22, 1928 there is not record of a Pastor. In the minutes of January 22, L. E. Harvey was called and ordained by the Church on June 3rd. He served until 1929. Collections were for \$3.50 to 11.50 for each service. J. E. Altman was the next Pastor. On November 24, 1933, B. A. Guy, son of the first Pastor, was called and served until April 1, 1934. After him came W. F. Connell, Alfred Mears and M. M. Martin. During the time Rev. Martin was the pastor, he also preached at the Lorida church. The first service was held under an oak tree, down where the Bretheren Homes are located, with about 8 to 10 people present. Later, he preached a revival in an empty house located on the property which was owned by Jimmy Musselwhite. Sometimes after this, both he and Rev. Alfred Mears conducted a tent revival on the property where Boy Dean now lives. During the years many were baptized and united with the Fort Kissimmee Church. Also, somewhere during this time, the church changed from the Missionary to the Landmark Baptist.

*Fort Kissimmee Cemetery Association
In book page, above link posted*