

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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Smith, Archie served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Laurel Hill, 1940-1948 and Southside Baptist Church, Crestview. He and his wife, Naomi Steele Smith had three children.

First Baptist Church of Laurel Hill, Florida
1896 - 2007

1917-1950s Sketch by Mark Curenton

Hall of Pastors

Reverend Wiley F. Martin: August 1896

Reverend J. W. Wheeler: Early 1900s

Reverend C. T. Culpepper: 1911-1913

Reverend D. F. Sutley: 1913-1917(?)

Reverend Pitt M. Scott: 1917-1921(?)

Reverend C. L. Perry: 1921-1922

Reverend F. C. Hawke: 1922-1939

Reverend Archie Smith: 1940-1948

Reverend E. C. Fleming: 1949-1950

Reverend C. O. Stewart: 1950-1957

Reverend J. A. Nichols: 1957-1962

Reverend Richard Adleman: 1962-1965

Reverend Jere Hendrix: 1965-1967

Reverend Albert Locke: 1967-1973

Reverend H. C. Rutledge: Interim April – Dec. 1973

Reverend Jim Boyd: December 1973 November 1975

Reverend H. C. Rutledge: Interim Nov. 75 - May 1976

Retiring Minister Archie Smith Says 'My Christian Service Will Not End'

By ALLEN ROBINSON

CRESTVIEW — My active pulpit service ends Sunday night at the Southside Baptist Church, but my Christian service will not end so long as I live."

Those were the words of the Rev. Archie Smith of Crestview who is retiring from active church service after 45 years.

The Rev. Mr. Smith was honored Friday night at a banquet by the members of the

Southside Baptist Church where he has been pastor 15 years.

He is a second generation minister. His father, Rev. Edward Smith served countless churches throughout Alabama and Florida in a service that spanned 40 years.

Rev. Archie was studying music and planned to teach music when he was called to the ministry.

In summarizing his activities, the Rev. Mr. Smith said he had

spent 59 years studying, 49 years as a Christian, 48 years studying the Bible, 4 years studying music, 3 years studying for the ministry at Baptist College Institute.

He said he had been a licensed minister 23 years and an ordained minister 22 years; a public school teacher five years, a vocal music teacher at intervals over a 20-year period, sang in church meetings 12 years, served 22 years as secretary-treasurer of the Okaloosa Baptist Church.

treasurer of the Okaloosa Baptist Association and two years as moderator. Rev. Smith also lectured on the Bible nearly 12 years.

Two lesser known activities of this busy minister were operating the Southside Goodwill Center for several years and his active work in prison ministry at the Okaloosa County Jail over a 15-year period.

The Rev. Mr. Smith talked with enthusiasm about the Goodwill Center and he gave special recognition to the many firms, agencies, organizations and individuals who made the work possible.

The center served primarily as a haven for transients in the community who ran into difficulty or trouble. The Rev. Mr. Smith noted that much of the work was at night. The work of the center spread into adjoining counties during the years of operation.

He paid special recognition to the members of the Southside Baptist Church and to W. E. Duggan for support of the Center.

The work with prisoners at

the jail continues to reach across miles as many have continued corresponding after being released, he said.

The Rev. Mr. Smith said there were many moving experiences for him but he said the stories might embarrass the individuals and he takes those memories with him into retirement.

One of the incidents can be recalled. Two men attempting to make a jail break used him for a shield briefly while he was threatened with a gun. Although he was not harmed, he recalls that the harrowing incident marked the only real trouble he experienced in years of working with prisoners.

The Rev. Mr. Smith and his wife, the former Naomi Steele, are looking forward to moving to Jacksonville where they will near their three children.

The Smiths have been married 44 years. Mrs. Smith has been pianist for her husband.

The children, Mrs. D. M. (Mabeline) Urbanus, Jacksonville; M. Sgt. Edwin Smith, Cape Kennedy; and Truett

Smith Army Corps of Engineers on Merritt Island, will all be within 170 miles.

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