

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, D. E. served as pastor of Fort McCoy Baptist Church, Marion County, 1940-1941.

PASTORS

Our records of the pastors who served First Baptist Church through the years is incomplete. The following are the pastors that have been identified:

From 1849 through 1886:

Rev. Stanley – Grahamville
Rev. Williams - Citra
Rev. Williams - Ft. McCoy
Rev. Billie Carlton - Island Grove
Rev. Hall – Melrose
Rev. Holt - Island Grove
Rev. H.C. Martin - Ft. McCoy

From 1887 through 1909:

Rev. Zack Crumpton – Fellowship
Rev. H.C. Martin – Fellowship
Rev. Priso - Fellowship
Rev. Thompson - Island Grove
Rev. R.F. Rogers – Lynn

From 1910 through 1973:

Rev. Rogers
Rev. Strickland
Rev. W.L. Martin
Rev. Ed Boyer
Rev. McCullars
Rev. Straham
Rev. Franz
Rev. S.R. Lane
Rev. Dedman
Rev. Scarborough
Rev. Gus Padgett (four periods 1919-34)

Rev. L.R. Love 1930-32
Rev. Denman 1936-?
Rev. **D.E. Smith 1940-41**
Rev. J.J. Dorough 1944-?
Dr. Bell 1945-?
Rev. Harold Mitchell 1947-?
Rev. H.C. Harvey 1948-?
Rev. L.L. Batts 1949-?
Rev. Theo Farr 1950-?
Rev. L.E. McRae 1951-54
Rev. B.B. Hicks 1955-57
Rev. Clyatt 1958-?
Rev. P.G. Safford 1959-64
Rev. C.E. Simpkins 1964-75
Rev. Robert Brown (Asst. Pastor) 1975
Dr. Frank Jessup 1976-89
Rev. George Pizzi (Interim) 1989-90
Rev. Don Burgess 1990-96
Rev. Ted Burrell 1996-2008

First Baptist Church had part-time or bi-vocational pastors until Rev. L. E. McRae came in 1951. Rev. Gus Padgett's grandson William Padgett is one of our present deacons, and is an ordained minister of the gospel.