

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, Forrest served as director of missions for the West Florida Baptist Association, 2013-2018. He has served various ministerial positions in Florida churches. Smith and his wife, Kelly Smith have three children.



West Florida Baptist Association Seeks Community Input

Local Baptist Churches Desire to Make a Difference in Country Oaks Community

Chipley, FL: The West Florida Baptist Association announced a community meeting at Country Oaks Baptist Church on Sunday, October 23, at 2:30 pm in a desire to work with the community to bring an effective ministry to the Country Oaks church facility. Country Oaks Baptist Church closed its doors at the end of 2014 after more than 20 years of ministry. In that time, the church struggled to maintain an autonomous congregation and the association provided a majority of the funding for all of its 20 years in existence. A decline in membership and the economic downturn has required the association to close the doors of the church and reassess the use of the property. The association had begun investigating an opportunity to house a prison transition ministry at the facilities. After rumors caused negative fallout from community members, the association chose to halt that effort before they had completed their exploratory efforts.

The association remains hopeful that the Country Oaks property can be used in an effective way for ministry that is also appealing to the community. Associational Missionary, **Forrest Smith** stated, “The West Florida Baptist Association has had a gospel influence in the community of Country Oaks for 20 plus years. We desire to continue to have a ministry there that the community supports and where lives are transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.” The association sees its decision to call a second meeting with the community as a genuine effort to work with and engage their input so that future use of Country Oaks church will be a positive influence in the area and for God’s Kingdom.

About West Florida Baptist Association: West Florida Baptist Association (WFBA) is a voluntary fellowship of Southern Baptist Churches in the Washington County area working together to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ. WFBA assists in proclaiming the Gospel to the lost, discipling Christians, and ministering to the needs of our community in the name of Jesus Christ. Their purpose is to promote fellowship among the churches and to encourage missionary and evangelism work in every church of the Association. WFBA also carries out community ministries throughout the Association that would not be possible by any one church. The Association also keeps an open line of communication between the churches and both the Florida and Southern Baptist Conventions.

<https://shilohbaptist.net/meet-our-staff/>

Forrest Smith

Shiloh Baptist Church, Chipley

Family Pastor

Forrest Smith serves as our Family Pastor. God has given Forrest a passion to see lives transformed through the grace of God. His desire is to see Ephesians 3:19 fulfilled in each life “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. He has served God’s church in a variety of areas including: Director of Missions for the West Florida Baptist Association 2013-2018, founder of CROSSover Ministries, Inc. for local at-risk youth, and most recently as Youth Pastor of Damascus Baptist Church Graceville. He has a heart for the nations and led annual mission trips to the Dominican Republic for One More Child, along with serving internationally in Peru and Malaysia. He was ordained into the Gospel Ministry in 2014. He and his wife Kelly are raising three incredible children: Sydney (14), Ethan (12) and Jason (8). He enjoys watching his children participate in performing arts productions and spending time with them outdoors, especially at the beach.