

## 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](http://FloridaBaptistHistory.org)

**Smith, Gail B.** (1917-2002) was born in Athens, Georgia. He graduated from Moody Bible College, Stetson University and the Philadelphia College of the Bible. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Mims, Calvary Baptist Church, Palatka, Central Baptist Church, Sanford, First Baptist Church, Aurantia, First Baptist Church, Osprey and Norwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville. Smith and his wife, Alice Lorraine Smith had six sons.



## Rev. Smith To Assume Duties

AURANTIA — Sunday, the **Rev. Gail B. Smith** assumes the duties of the first full-time pastor of the First Baptist Church of Aurantia.

**Rev. Smith** has been a minister in the Southern Baptist Convention for twenty-two years. He believes in its missionary program and stands ready to support it at all times. He has pastored five churches in Florida. In his early ministry

### **Rev. Gail Smith**

he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mims. He served nine years at the Cavalry Baptist Church at Palatka and comes here from the Central Baptist Church at Sanford where he has been the pastor for the past seven years. Many additions have been made to the church membership as well as the church property. In the past year a new house of worship was erected with a seating capacity of 600, complete with church offices and lounges. For five years **Rev. Smith** served as clerk and treasurer of the St. John River Baptist Association, and he also conducted a successful radio ministry over the Sanford station.

**REV. SMITH** received his training from The Moody Bible Institute, Stetson University, and the Philadelphia College of the Bible. Mrs. **Smith** graduated from college in Atlanta. The couple has six sons. The oldest is married and lives in Sanford. The others will move here with their parents. The parsonage is west of the church on Fairfax Drive in Plantation Estates north of Mims.

Being led of the Lord to move to this fast growing area and eager to work with the church membership, **Rev. Smith** comes to the First Baptist Church of Aurantia with high expectations of accomplishing a great work here.

## **Mims Baptist Pastor Accepts Palatka Call**

TITUSVILLE, Nov. 17—The **Rev. Gail Smith**, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Mims, has accepted a call to the Calvary Baptist Church in Palatka.

The **Rev. Mr. Smith** served in Mims nearly three years, during which time he added 20 new members to the church.

**SMITH** - Alice Lorraine **Smith**, 85, went to be with the Lord on Friday, March 16, 2001. Mrs. **Smith** was a resident of the local area since 1969. Alice was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Salvation Army with 7 years service. She was married for 60 years to **Rev. Gail B. Smith** and with him, served the congregations of Maderia Drive, Norwood, Black Pond, Brannanfield and other Baptist Churches within the state of Florida. Mrs. **Smith** is survived by her loving husband, **Gail B. Smith**, sons, John (Jon), Roy (Dottie-in-Heaven), Reuben (Millie), Phillip (Marie), Robin (Mary) and David (Susan), sister, Priscilla (J.T.); 30 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 7 great great grandchildren. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2001, 2:00 PM, in the chapel of JACKSONVILLE MEMORY GARDENS FUNERAL HOME, 111 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, FL with **Rev. Jack Lee** and **Rev. Jessie Wooten**, officiating. Friends may visit from 1:00 until 2:00 PM, prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Brannanfield Baptist Church Benevolent Fund, 908 Brannanfield Road, Middleburg, FL 32068.

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Please sign the Guestbook at Jacksonville.com

### SMITH

Rev. Gail B. Smith, 85, passed away on March 11, 2002. He was born in Athens, GA and resided in the Jacksonville and Clay County areas for 33 years. Rev. Smith's ministry covered Central and Northeast Florida over 50 years. He was a member of Brannanfield Baptist Church and served in the US Army.

He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Alice, March 12, 2001. Rev. Smith is survived by his 6 sons: John, Roy, Reuben, Phillip, Robbin and David Smith; 19 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and 3 great great-grandchildren.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday (Today) 6-9 PM and funeral services will be held Thursday, 2PM at Hardage-Giddens Rivermead Funeral Home, 127 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, with Rev. Jack Lee and Rev. Jesse Wooten officiating. Burial will follow in Jacksonville Memory Gardens.

Please sign the Guestbook at Jacksonville.com

# Florida Features

May 1, 1980

**Homer G. Lindsay Sr.**, pastor emeritus of First Church, Jacksonville, was honored for his 10 years of service upon his retirement from the board of trustees of Midwestern Seminary during their annual meeting, April 14-15, on the seminary campus in Kansas City, Mo.



Homer G. Lindsay Sr.

Lindsay has served on the board since 1970 and has played a significant role in the seminary's history. He was a member of the SBC Executive Committee in 1956 when the convention voted to establish a sixth seminary in Kansas City and has served on the board along with the two presidents in Midwestern history and nearly all of the former and current faculty members.

**Jim Brewer** was called as an associate to the pastor of West Flagler Park Church, Miami. A graduate of Southern Seminary, he has served with the Home Mission Board and churches in Illinois and Kentucky.

**Ralph A. Tullis** was called as music director of Allendale Church, Jacksonville. He comes from Normandy Park Church, Jacksonville and has also served at Heckacher Drive Church, Jacksonville and in Tampa and Lakeland.

First Church, Titusville called **Ray Johnson** as pastor. A graduate of New Orleans Seminary, he has pastored churches at Newberry and Pahokee.

Poplar Head Church, Altha has called **Gary Grant Hoover**, a student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, as pastor.

**Joseph C. Loving**, a student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, has been called as bus director of First Church, Monticello.

Normandy Park Church, Jacksonville, has called **Oliver J. Graham** as interim pastor.

**CORRECTION:** Teresa Byrd was called as minister of education of First Church, DeLand, not Teresa Boyd as stated in the April 17 issue.

## Homecomings

**Easley Memorial Church, Pensacola;** May 18; Fred J. Martin Jr., guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; special music; former members and friends invited; Henry Willett, pastor.

**First Church, Riverview,** May 4; dinner on the grounds; special music; singing in the afternoon; former members and friends invited; Ben L. Earnest Jr., pastor.

**Parkwood Church, Jacksonville,** May 18; 20th anniversary; John Maguire, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; mortgage framing; Don Everson, pastor.

**Elam Church, Melrose,** May 4, 121st anniversary; Jerry Milton, guest speaker; special music; everyone invited; Leslie Harris, pastor.

**Pleasant Grove Church, DeFuniak Springs,** May 4; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; Herbert W. Patterson, pastor.

**Norwood Church, Jacksonville,** May 4; John Maguire, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; former members invited; Gail Smith, pastor.

**Lighthouse Church, North Palm Beach,** May 4; dinner on the grounds; special music; former members and friends invited; Earl Wilson, pastor.

**Riverdale Church, Fort Myers;** Jay Strack, evangelist; 302 professions of faith; 43 by letter; William D. Love, pastor.

**First Church, Cutler Ridge** called J. Larry Mayo as pastor, effective April 27. A graduate of the University of Florida, Gainesville and of Southern Seminary, he goes from a 20-year pastorate at Warrington Church, Pensacola.

**Michael D. Grenfell**, a student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, was called as pastor of West Bay Church, Panama City.

**Omar Dean**, a student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, was called as interim pastor of First Church, Bayou George.

**First Church, Glen St. Mary,** May 4; Larry Finley, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; special music by Luther Rice Ensemble and the Spokesmen Quartet; former pastors, members and friends invited; Ray McKendree, pastor.

**First Church, Spring Hill,** May 18, ninth anniversary; Cecil Frazier, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; special music by Gospel Echos; former members and friends invited; Leonard T. Melton, pastor.

**First Church, Zellwood,** May 4; dinner on the grounds; Wiley Howell, guest speaker; J. V. Long, pastor.



**NEW OFFICERS OF GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES** are E. Glen Paden, Sacramento, Calif., chairman; Mrs. Mildred Carlton, Wausula, Fla., vice chairman; Jack Pollard, Fort Smith, Ark., secretary; and Frank Barnes, Spokane, Wash., assistant secretary. From left are Barnes; William M. Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate; Carlton; Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Paden and Pollard.

CHARTER MEMBERS

V.A. Saunders	Mrs. J.C. McCrea
Mary Saunders	Horace Driggers
Jack Holland	Mrs. Freddie Driggers
Harley Holland	Lloyd Holland
Florence Shumard	K.D. Cowart
Clara Shumard	Mrs. Axie Cowart
Edith Holland	Malissa Skinner
W.E. Stephens	Mrs. W.E. Stephens
Idella Stephens	Mrs. J.M. Rogers
Eunice Hopkins	Mrs. Mandie Shumard
Flossie Shumard	Turner
Ragan	

PASTORS

J.A. Redd	Gordon Halbert
E.L. Hendry	Gene Hitchcock
John Coker	Grady Herndon
Ishen Murphy	John Sible
J.W. Long	Earl Haynes
John Coker	Clyde Burke, Interim
John Roberts	W.R. Jones
Joe McLeod	J.F. Gill
Vernon Coker	Edward Owens
W.C. Miller	Wm. J. Guess, Interim
Carl Alderman	Herbert Goodroe
Henry Alderman	Hubert Webb, Interim
O.C. Guess	Daniel Rupp
Ray Forbes	M. Glenn Smith
J.M. Gilbreath	Royce Beasley
<u>Gail Smith</u>	G.R. Henson, Interim
Henry Johnson	Hudson Slaughter
J.W. Hinton	

MINISTERS ORDAINED BY CHURCH

O.C. Guess	Kenneth Conner
Tom Smith	Vernon Bass
William J. Guess	Kenneth Holland