

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, George T. served as pastor of churches in Ohio and Florida including First Baptist Church, North Lauderdale (aka Oakland Heights).

Florida Features

... May 29, 1980



Peyton Moore



Elwood Little



Hollis Bass



Joe Gwyn

The new director of missions of Gulf Stream Association is **Peyton Moore**, former missionary to Vietnam and Hong Kong. He will begin his service June 1.

Elwood Little was called as pastor of Miller Memorial Church, Orlando on May 11. Little attended Baptist Bible Institute at Lakeland; Clarke Memorial College, Newton, Miss.; and Hannibal La Grange College, Hannibal, Mo. He has pastored churches in Missouri and Florida.



Martin Duncan



Kenneth G. Sanders

Martin Duncan was called as minister of music of First Church, North Lauderdale.

Turkey Creek Church, Plant City called **Kenneth G. Sanders** as pastor. A graduate of Stetson University, DeLand and of Southeastern Seminary, he has pastored Trinity Church, Apopka and Edgewood Church, Lakeland.

The church also called **Michael W. Williams** as minister of music. Churches he has served are First, Bellview; Southside, Plant City; and Sandusky, Birmingham, Ala.

Joe Bailey was called as minister of education of First Church, Avon Park. A graduate of Southwestern Seminary, he goes to Avon Park from Northwood Church, West Palm Beach.

Hollis Bass has been called as pastor of Kathleen Church, Kathleen, effective June 8. He goes from a five-year pastorate at First Church, Bunnell.

Joe Gwyn was called as pastor of Immanuel Church, Pace. He goes to Pace from Scenic Heights Church, Pensacola, where he served nearly 13 years.

The directors of the Home Mission Board approved 54 persons for mission service work during their May meeting; six of these were Floridians. Approved as missionary associates were **Celso and Maria Mendoza** of Miami. They will work in Miami, where he will be a pastoral missionary. He graduated from the Baptist Theological Seminary of Cuba and has been pastor of churches in Cuba and Florida.

Approved as mission pastor interns were **Larry and Sara Hasebo** of Leesburg. Named to receive church pastoral assistance were **Robert and Carol Ann Toton** of Jacksonville.

First Church, Winter Park called **Tony Dyer** as minister of youth education. A graduate of Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Miss., and Midwestern Seminary, he has served Northwood Church, West Palm Beach; First Church, Euless, Texas; Red Ridge Church, Kansas City, Mo.; and Way-side Church, Miami.

Oakland Heights Church, Fort Lauderdale has sold its property and relocated as First Church of North Lauderdale. The church is meeting in rented facilities while looking for land and preparing to build. **George T. Smith** is pastor.

Danny White resigned as pastor of Calvary Church, Milton to accept the pastorate of Dallas Church, Dallas, Penn., to do pioneer mission work.

Two Florida Baptist communicators received honors at the 1980 Awards Competition of the Baptist Public Relations Association, held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

Michael Duduit, director of public affairs at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, received second place honors in the Catalog category for PBAC's 1979-80 catalog, "Come Grow with Us." He also received second place in the Advertising Series competition for a series of PBAC ads, appearing in the *Witness*, entitled "Surprise!"

Dorie Rockefeller, communications associate at Stetson University, DeLand, received second place in the Development Brochure category for the publication "Pro Veritate."



FIRST INDIAN CHURCH OF BRIGHTON in Big Lake Association was dedicated on March 23. **Pastor Elliott Leitka and J. Woodrow Fuller**, director of Missions Division, Florida Baptist Convention; stand by the cornerstone.



WESTSIDE CHURCH, DAYTONA BEACH burned the \$130,000 mortgage note May 4. Participating (from left) are: **Mrs. Dorothy Bennett**, charter member; **George Allison**, director of missions, Halifax Association and guest speaker at the service; **Gordon Bennett**, charter member; and **Preston Baker**, pastor.

Malcolm B. Knight concluded his interim pastorate at Terry Parker Church, Jacksonville to assume the interim pastorate of the International Church, Jurbize, Belgium, under the sponsorship of the Foreign Mission Board.

the big givers."

Normally, the First Baptist Church of North Lauderdale, which holds services in a Kimberly Boulevard storefront, worries about having enough people — and enough money.

With 120 active members, about 110 attend on Sunday. New members are drawn from those who come to services as visitors. There are about four visitors each Sunday, the Rev. George T. Smith said.

The church has 15 new members this year and Smith is "amazed.

"We're not even advertising," he said.

Still, "You have to work as hard as you can to stay even," Smith said. "You have to increase the family members and recruit them because they're very transient."

But it's not only the church coffers that suffer from the moving syndrome, said Pastor Walter D. Volz of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Plantation. The congregation suffers a personal loss.

"People have a hard time establishing a sense of community. It's a very transient community," he said. "But then, we're all pilgrims."

Smith, who formerly was a pastor in Ohio, said it wasn't unheard of to have four generations of one family represented at a service there.

This year, Smith said, things seem to be "looking up" at his North Lauderdale church.

"People come in the church and say

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — The Rev. George T. Smith will conduct a ground-breaking service at 2 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church of North Lauderdale, off Kimberly Boulevard, at Ninth Court and 62nd Avenue. Call 974-6486.