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Smith, J. A. served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Alachua Baptist Association.

Mr. Willard Caruthers
Mr. Malbert Stewman

PLEASANT HILL

Mr. Bob Harrod

SUMTERVILLE

Mrs. Blanche Hogans
Mrs. Bessie Perry
Mrs. T. M. Hudson
Mr. T. M. Hudson
Mr. Elbert Upthegrove

WEBSTER

Mrs. DeHie Churchill
Mr. R. R. Reddish

HOMOSASSA FIRST

Mr. Bruce Ayers
Mrs. Ethel Leggett
Mr. Ernie Wichmann

WILDWOOD FIRST

Mr. S. P. Caruthers
Mrs. Mable Singleton
Mrs. Lizzie Degraw
Mrs. H. W. Lomison
Mr. Harold Clayton
Mr. J. S. Dyess, Sr.
Mr. H. C. Wise

THE HISTORY OF INDIAN HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

About the middle of the 1800's a small group of people living in the sparsely settled community of Gum Slough decided they wanted a place of worship. At this time Florida was "Open Range" country; stock was free to roam, and people fenced in what they did not want trampled. Near Gum Slough there was a sink hole, never known to go dry, where cattlemen drove herds to water when water was scarce elsewhere. On a hill near this "sink hole" the people gathered to worship. The brotherly love, Christian fellowship and neighborly spirit was seen and felt by all as they gathered to build some sort of worship house. Upon designated days, families met to work. Brush was gathered and hauled, and a BRUSH ARBOR was erected. Blocks were cut off logs, boards were hewn, and thus benches were made.

The people... the place.... but no preacher. This was the state of affairs for some time. They met every Sunday, read from the Bible, prayed, and sang hymns. Very few Bibles were among them, and most of these were well worn with use. The song books contained words, but no notes; few were alike, but most of them had the familiar songs in them. Many songs were sung from memory. "Amazing Grace", "How Firm a Foundation", "Jesus Lover of my Soul", and "Judgement Day". The meeting days were ones of great fellowship; lunch was brought and the entire day was spent in worship and visiting.

News traveled slowly in those days. A few months passed before a preacher just showed up one Sunday. He accepted the invitation to preach, and after some visiting and discussing, began services. Approximately thirty minutes was spent in song service, for about forty minutes the preacher talked about himself, and then he complimented the congregation on their faithfulness and really got down to business. He preached for one and one-half hours. Lunch followed the service. Then there was more visiting.

The church had no denominational name, but the men who came preached salvation by Grace. "The Church By The Sink" (as it was known) continued for quite some time having no regular minister, but meeting for worship every Sunday expecting God to send a messenger. The brush arbor began to rot with time and exposure. A "log rolling" was announced and neighbors gathered to participate in the work and fellowship. Logs were cut and hauled by ox cart, boards were rived with fro and mallet, and the building slowly rose. Poles were pegged together for the floor. There was still no organized church, just people of all denominations meeting for worship. No night services were held, but the days were filled; sometimes three sermons were preached, and they were not short ones.

This building deteriorated as time passed. Now the congregation was almost all of the Baptist faith. Because the organization had been worshiping on public land, they decided to purchase land before erecting a more permanent building. In seeking a site the committee was told by James J. Knight that he would donate the property when they decided exactly where they wanted a building. After much looking and discussing, the group decided upon a hill adjacent to the only route between Ocala and Brooksville. This spot was a favorite camping place for travelers, and already had a cemetery started ... J. R. Cousar had died while camped here, and had been buried nearby. The name chosen was Indian Hill, for this was a well used spot by the Indians during the Indian War.

Early in 1892 Indian Hill Baptist Church was organized. Three trustees were elected, and James J. Knight deeded property, and timber to cut for the building. Volunteer labor erected the house. No record is available concerning a dedication service, but some of the pastors were Thurman, Pickett, Gideons, Hayes, Tucker, and Towusend.

An effort to consolidate Indian Hill, Pleasant Hill, and Wahoo created a confusion resulting in Indian Hill being inactive for several years. Rev. W. J. Bryant was able to re-activate Indian Hill, and became the pastor. Much credit must be given him.

The building was neglected for so long that intensive repair was necessary to restore it to a useful condition. Once again the congregation "rallied round" and the church again had a meeting place. Pastors serving since then have been Barbee, J. H. Palmer, Clark Segrest, Louis Merritt, and W. S. Wade (present pastor). The building has been remodeled, and educational building and a recreational building have been built, and central heating and cooling has been installed.

During the time W. S. Wade has been pastor, illness has made it necessary to have someone else fill the pulpit occasionally. These have been Rev. Brown, Rev. Hayes, Rev. Stewart, Rev. Gresham, and Layman Reid.

Throughout the years most of the labor on the buildings has been donated. The people were cooperative, and truly the Lord has been extremely good to Indian Hill Baptist Church.

HISTORY OF PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Sometime in the early part of 1872, the people in the vicinity of what is now called Pleasant Hill saw the need of a place of worship. In a tiny log cabin, used as a school house and a church house, the meeting was called to order. William Monden was elected Moderator, S. W. Grant was elected Clerk, R. W. McClamma, John C. Norman, and Wiley Thurman were chosen as Deacons. On March 19, 1872 these three were ordained, and the organization was named Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. On March 23, 1879 the following By Laws were presented by the committee, approved by the body, and for several years were read at every business meeting.

ARTICLE I - Conference shall be opened with prayer.

ARTICLE II - No member shall be guilty of using profane language or using strong drinks to an excess and if he so does, he shall make acknowledgement to the church.

ARTICLE III - There shall be no tattling or backbiting. Any Brother or Sister guilty of same shall be dealt with.

ARTICLE IV - We as a church request all members to meet on conference day, and if any member misses as often as two(2) conferences, he shall make known his reason for doing so.

ARTICLE V - No member shall participate in any dancing party in any respect.

ARTICLE VI - No member shall be guilty of any unchristian like sports.

The seventeen (17) Charter Members were: Wiley Thurman, Lou Thurman, R.W. McClamma, Mary Ann McClamma, Daniel Norman, Rachel Norman, Sally Norman, S. W. Grant, Sister S.A. Fields, Darkess Norman, Florence Christen, J.H. Swarengin, Elizabeth Swarengin, Elizabeth Glover, William Fields, William Monden.

Sometime in the year 1881, a small wooden building was erected as a house of worship, and was used until 1953. On November 1, 1887, Joseph W. White and his wife Nancy E. White gave a Warranty Deed to one and two-thirds (1 2/3) acres to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

In 1903 Wahoo Baptist Church was organized and a great effort was made to consolidate Indian Hill and Pleasant Hill with Wahoo. As a result of this effort both Indian Hill and Pleasant Hill were inactive for several years.

In the early months of 1920, Rev. W.J. Bryant came into the community and saw a possibility of reviving these two churches. He visited house to house and was instrumental in both becoming active again; he preached at both churches.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1922.

On January 10, 1953 L.G. Connell gave a deed to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church for land where the present building stands.

On December 7, 1953 Rev. J. H. Palmer, Pastor, called a special meeting to discuss building. Those who met recommended a block building. With faith in God to provide, with \$60.52 in the treasury, work began. On February 1, 1954 the foundation was poured, and on April 15, 16, 17 volunteers laid blocks. On June 7 the roof was put on. Money was borrowed to furnish the building, and on July 10, 1955 the building was completed, debt free; July 11, 1955 was Dedication Day.

Work began on the Pastorium in August 1959 and was completed in 1960. Additional Education rooms were added in 1964. Work on a baptistry was begun in the fall of 1968 and completed in January 1969. Dedication services were held in February, with five being baptised. In June 1970 two more educational rooms were added; a bell tower was erected. In May 1972, central heating and cooling was installed.

Through loving efforts of the people, the building has grown bit by bit; the cost has been nominal because "the people had a mind to work".

Preachers who have served from 1872 to 1972 are:

Wiley Thurman
Daniel Stone
N. A. Harrel
W. Young
J. A. Smith
.... Lastering
George Wilson

J. N. Aldrich
G. A. Martin
G. W. Mayberry
D. F. Berry
J. W. Owens
Elmer Crews
G. A. Bryant

L. C. Waldern
.... Barbee
Lewis Merritt
J. H. Palmer
C. W. Sadler
Jack Ponce
C. B. Burns

C. W. Parrish
W. O. Hare
W. M. Giddens
W. J. Bryant
R. L. Brown
W. S. Wade

.... Blizzard
H. E. Alderman
C. H. Calvin
B. F. McKinney
J. L. Milsap
J. H. Barnes

David Griner
C. A. Crosby
L. G. Green
Martin Hayes
Cecil A. Rogers
Tommy Bunch
K. B. Forbes (Now serving)

MINUTES OF NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH SERVICE AND HISTORY UP TO OCTOBER 1972

Seventy-nine persons gathered at the home of Miss Lois Hancock at 3:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon, October 16, 1960, to witness the organization of the Northside Baptist Church, Brooksville, Florida, which plans to locate in the vicinity of the DaMac Estates Development.

Field Secretary, Rev. Clyde H. Harless, Ocala, opened the meeting by requesting Rev. Harold Harlee, Oxford, to lead in the joyous singing of the Doxology. Rev. C.E. Simpkins, Eden Baptist Church, led in prayer invoking God's richest blessings upon this new church to be. Rev. Gene H. Hitchcock, Wildwood, Moderator of the Alachua Association, conducted a devotional period based on 1 Corinthians 13, the great Love chapter of the Bible.

Motions were made and then passed that Rev. Harless act as temporary moderator and that Rev. Richard Mazanec, Masaryktown, act as temporary clerk. Mr. C.E. Harper, Brooksville, made a statement of purpose for this meeting which essentially indicated the need for expansion and growth. Rev. Gene R. Hitchcock made a motion to accept this statement of purpose. The council, which consisted of the Baptist ministers present (Rev. Clyde Harless, Rev. Gene R. Hitchcock, Rev. Josh Long, Rev. L. G. Green, Rev. Richard F. Mazanec, Rev. Harold Harlee, Rev. C.E. Simpkins, Rev. J.E. McGraw, Rev. D.D. Townsend, Rev. Quin Cooper, and Rev. Leroy Cooper) accepted this statement of purpose as being valid reason for proceeding with the organization service.

After the reading of the Church Covenant (Rev. Harless) which was later approved, the group sang the stately hymn: The Church's One Foundation and was led in prayer by Rev. Josh Long, Webster.

The clerk read a list of those fifty-one persons who had requested that they be given their letters of transfer from First Baptist Church, Brooksville to become the charter members of this new church.

After reading the Articles of Faith, the members to be voted to accept them as read. Rev. Harold Harlee then put before the council the motion that this group organize into a New Testament Church. The motion was passed. It was after this action that Rev. D.D. Townsend, Bushnell, led in the organizational prayer.

Mr. C.E. Harper made the motion that this group take upon itself the name of The Northside Baptist Church. The motion was carried and thus officially accepted. The decision prompted Mrs. I.W. Vaughn to read a verse of Scripture which could well be taken as a motto: "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." (Psalm 48:2)

It was then expressed that this church make known its desire to affiliate with the Alachua Baptist Association. Discussion followed.