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.

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Smith, Jerry M. served as pastor of Northwood Baptist Church, Bartow. He used his skills as a chalk artist and a ventriloquist in his sermon presentations. Smith and his wife, Diana had four children.

South Florida Baptist Association minutes, 1975, p. 72

Smith, Jerry-Northwood Baptist Mission, 1140 Woodlawn, Bartow33830
Sponsored by First Baptist Church, Bartow

Florida Baptist Convention *Annual,* 1975, p258.

The Orlando Sentinel
Sun, Dec 07, 1975 · Page 71

Artistry Aids Ministry

By JUNE BOWER
Correspondent

BARTOW — He stands there, chalk in hand.

A few deft strokes and a lighthouse takes shape as the Rev. Jerry M. Smith, pastor of Northwood Baptist Church, begins an illustrated sermon.

The Rev. Smith opens his service by drawing freehand, in chalk and pastels, a picture depicting the message for the evening.

Then his wife, Diana, sings a song the drawing represents, such as the Lighthouse, or the Three Crosses, and the picture is lighted.

THE REV. Smith studied drawing in college, then perfected his artistry on his own. The drawings usually take 5 minutes; 12 minutes for the more detailed drawings.

Born in Woodbury, Tenn., he was called to the ministry at the death of his 8-year-old sister in an accident when he was 21 years old.

He attended Tennessee Temple College in Chattanooga and Vanderbilt Seminary in Nashville. He also took a one-year extension course at Stetson University in DeLand.

THE REV. Smith, who describes himself as a pastor and short-term evangelist, also uses his artistic skills in other churches, schools and at ministerial meetings.

He is adept with "Chuck," a ventriloquist's dummy and has held Christmas services with "Chuck" at Arcadia State Penitentiary.

The son of a Baptist minister, the Rev. Smith also has a bus ministry in his church, and Thursday evenings he hosts meetings of the AWANA ("A Workman Not Ashamed") club. In this program, about 75 children participate in games and contests, and are given guidance in memorizing the Scriptures.

NORTHWOOD Baptist Church is sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Bartow and, in the three years the Rev. Smith has been pastor, the attendance has grown from 3 families to 70, and from 20 members to 167.

The Rev. Smith and his wife have four children — Regina, 13, who likes chalk drawing and draws illustrations for the Thursday programs; Joel, 12, who also works with a dummy; Salena, 11, and 10-month-old Jason.