

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, Josh served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Campbellton, 1983-1984 and Aletheia Brentwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

FBC,	1938		No Pastor listed
Campbellt	1938	1941	Bill Oswald
on	1942		J. E. Pelham
	1943		No minutes on file
	1944		P. M Yeargin
	1945		No Pastor listed
	1946	1947	R. E. Upton
	1948	1950	E. E. Henry
	1951		W. W. Hall
	1952	1953	E. H. S. Beall
	1954	Sept. 1957	S. J. Britton
9/30/1957		1959	J. R. Morrow
	1960	1962	Milton Overby (interim)
	1962	1963	J. Eugene Hodges
	1963		A. E. Lightfoot
	1964	1966	W. Gordon Longshore
	1967	1969	Luford Pope
	1969	1970	E. B. Scruggs (interim)
	1970	1971	R. C. Belcher
	1971	1972	W. D. Draughon (interim)
	1973	1974	Lewis A. Curtis
	1974	1974	Buddy Nowell
	1974	1974	Bill Catlett (interim)
	1974	1976	Thomas R. Steward
	1976	1976	E. B. Scruggs (interim)
	1976	1982	Julian Fleming
	1982	1983	J. W. Lee (interim)
	1983	1984	Josh Smith
	1984	1986	Thomas R. Steward
	1986	1988	Lewis A. Curtis (interim)
	1988	1990	Ron Malott
	1990	1991	J. W. Lee (interim)
	1991	1993	Michael C. Hildebrandt
?		?	Dr. Richards (interim)
?		?	Dr. Curtis
1995		1998	Jamie Archer
1998		1998	Dr. Oswalt (interim)
1998		1998	Rob Lightsey
Dec. 1998	Feb. 1999		Luther Pumphrey
Feb. 1999	...CALLED		(interim)
			Luther Pumphrey

COVER STORY

Two churches react to change, continue mission

By Barbara White

The Florida Times-Union
Sat, Oct 14, 1989 · Page 84

Clip

Print/

The Rev. Josh Smith, pastor of Aletheia Brentwood Baptist Church, leads his small congregation in a worship service.

— Gary T. Clark/staff

We just weren't reaching the people in the community for the Lord and we wanted the Lord's work to go forward.

"We voted on a Wednesday evening and they [Faith Community Baptist Church] moved in on Sunday," he said.

Faith Community Baptist lost a few members in moving from Arlington, where they had been meeting in the annex of Terry Parker Baptist Church, to the new church home on Wigmore Street.

"The Arlington members don't come that often now," said the Rev. Curtis Telfair, the mission congregation's pastor.

"But we gained a lot. Our enrollment was about 55 to 65 when we moved. It's now at 180."

"We were also able to buy a property valued at \$100,000 for \$50,000. We have eight lots and a parsonage, so if we need to build, we have the room."

Their biggest problem is the church's location in the Old Eastside, the area located between the Springfield neighborhood and the St. Johns River. Potential congregants pass several other churches getting to Faith Community.

"But we are growing. And we've been able to buy a bus for transportation," he said.

Telfair said he understood why none of the former members of Parkland has become a member of Faith Community Baptist Church. He said the white Baptists were simply not comfortable with their style.

But being a Southern Baptist has not cramped his congregation's worship style at all.

"We're just as emotional as we

ever were."

In fact, being a Southern Baptist congregation has meant a great deal to his flock, Telfair said.

"They have so many things to offer — workshops for those who want to grow, want to learn, camp and conference facilities and much more," he said. "I'm trying to recruit other black churches to affiliate with them."

Thorn, who is now starting a mission congregation north of Macclenny, said he still keeps in touch with some of the former members of Parkland, who have all joined other churches.

He also drives by his former church every now and then.

"That church ordained me in the 1960s," he said. "It looks good and it makes me feel good to know that it is a lighthouse in the area."

The situation at Brentwood was not quite as upbeat as that at Parkland, said the Rev. Joe Folmar, former pastor of Brentwood.

"I wish I could say our giving the property to the association was all altruism and love of the community," Folmar said. "But the fact is that because of the changing community, Brentwood's future as a church was down to numbered days."

Folmar had been at Brentwood for 16 years, struggling to help the church keep going, when he decided to enter the clinical pastoral education program at Baptist Medical Center.

"The situation came to a head because of my situation," he said. "I had thought of trying to serve Brentwood part time, but the people at Baptist Medical Center said their program was too tough

“ We had money. It wasn't that we were broke. We just weren't reaching the people in the community for the Lord and we wanted the Lord's work to go forward. ”

— Rev. Dewey Thorn

for that and that I should resign."

Brentwood had reached the younger members of the community around it, Folmar said, but had not reached the adults.

"We had a number of black children and youths in our Sunday school program — in fact, [they were] the majority, at the end. But it wasn't working with the adults."

After Folmar announced his resignation, church leaders met with Harley and others from the Jacksonville Baptist Association to examine their options. They finally decided to disband and give the property to the association.

The Rev. Josh Smith, pastor of the Aletheia Baptist Mission, said his congregation was happy to move in from rented quarters in Sherwood Plaza.

They combined the two names into Aletheia Brentwood Baptist Church, to honor the original congregation and in the hope that some of the Brentwood members would stay, but that did not hap-

pen.

"Some said they would stay, but I guess they were afraid they would stop others from the community from coming," Smith said. "But quite a few of them have come back to homecoming."

One former member of Brentwood has a new relationship with the present congregation. Harley Sykes is now a member of First Baptist Church of Orange Park, which is the primary sponsor for Aletheia Brentwood.

As a member of the missions committee, Sykes visits the mission every now and then "to encourage them" and to see how things are growing.

"It may be a little overwhelming for them to see their small congregation in the large sanctuary," he said.

Aletheia Brentwood has not grown very rapidly and Smith says he and his people need to become better known in the community.

"But we are looking forward to a great harvest," he said.