

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, Ray attended Mercer University, GA. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Williston.

FBC Williston

The old brick sanctuary was dismantled on April 10, 1989, after the congregation encircled it in an emotional service led by Rev. Travis Hudson and Rev. Edwin Douglas. The service included prayer, interspersed with testimonies and personal witnessing of the church had meant to families within the congregation.

Pastors who have served our Church:

Daniel Edwards	G.T. Leitner	J.M. Sullivan
A.M. Geiger	N.E. Norwood	Ray Smith
F.C. Edwards	J.M. Morris	J.L. Bobo
J.J. Kirkland	G.S. Daughtry	W.M. Burns
Frank C. Johnson	J.C. Collum	Ed McCollum
W.W. Williams	J.B. Boney	W.W. Lavender
J.H. Greaser	H.M. Long	James McKeithan
R.F. Marlowe	W.E. Entzminger	H.H. Link
J.H. Tomkies	J.F. Rorex	James Shelton
Lamar Bryant	G.G. Mullins	T.R. Harvell (1952-1963)
W.J. Hews	H.L. Chapin	M.D. Durrance (1964-1971)
Z.A. Crumpton	J.B. Webb	Ray Newcomb (1971-1975)
N.A. Bailey	E.A. Burnette	Bill Courington (1976-78)
J.S. Geiger	C.L. Berry	Travis Hudson (1980-1988)
A.H. Damon	J.G. Gunter	John Jarrard (1990-1995)
A.A. Keith	E.Z. Golden	Tony Clubb (1997-present)
J.C. Porter		

Assistant Pastors:

James Corbin	Ray Jenkins
Jerry Hayes	Edwin Douglas

Music Ministers:

Don Galarneau (1966-1969)	Ronald L. Robert (1982/83)	Don Stark (1989-2000)
Gerald Linton (1969-1973)	Jim Shelton	Bill Bush (2003-2005)
Joe Ray Wheat (1974-1979)	Jack Screws, Jr.	Nick Start (interim 4/05-2/06)
Mitch Marsh (1980-1982)	Wesley D. Lawson (85/88)	Jack Screws, Jr. (2/06-10/06)
		Mario Martinez, III (10/06-present)

Youth Ministers:

Larry Limbaugh (1982 - 1984)
John Ridley (1999 - 2002)
Steven Phillips (2003-2005)
Steven Refowich (2005 -2007)

c. Present clergyman: Rev. **Ray Smith**

Dates of tenure: 1935--

Education: Grade College and Seminary, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia

Address: Williston, Florida, one block east of church at parsonage.

20. Unpublished historical sketches (author, title, period covered, date written, location, -- note if written in one of church record books):

◆A Historical Sketch of The **First Baptist Church of Williston**◆, by Mr. Jasper Willie, Williston, Fla., written at the time of the dedication of the present church building, December 12, 1921; covers entire period, 1852-1921; two type-written sheets posted into ◆Church Roll and Record◆, minute back, referred to in Item 22 (a); original of sketch located at home of Mr. Jasper Willie, Williston; condition, good.

(Continued on attached sheet, paragraph #3).

21. Published histories, historical sketches, or directories, (author, title, published, place and date of publication, number of pages, location.):

(Historical Sketch) of Williston Baptist Church, appearing in ◆The Williston Advocate◆, Feb. 23, 1911, Vol. I, #44, a brief sketch in a booster number of paper written by Jasper Willis, 1911, covering period of church 1866-1911. This is not in exact agreement in content with data found in Church record, or with sketch referred to in Item 20. Located at home of Jasper Willis, Williston, Fla. Condition, good.

WPA Form 20 HR FLORIDA Revision (Continued)

Sheet 2 of 2 sheets

Worker◆s Full Name: Grace K. Raborn

Date: 10/4/38

County: Levy

City or Town: Williston

Exact name of church: ◆First Baptist Church of Williston◆

Address or location of church: Noble Avenue three blocks east of depot

Present Clergyman: Rev. Ray Smith

22. Church records (Have you tried to locate records as of date of church organization in Item 9? Make statements under a, b, c, and d concerning this. Give under, a, b, c, and d, actual title in quotation marks or assigned title in parentheses, dates by years, number of volumes or file boxes, description of contents, locations, condition, i.e., good, fair, poor, for each record kept.)

(a.) Minutes:

◆Stafford◆s Pond Church Record◆, 1858-1900, 1 vol. Includes organization of church, covenant and rules, minutes; rolls of members, roll of members dismissed by letter, baptisms, deaths and all business including receipts and disbursements, shows appointment of building committees, buying of church sites, mentions Campbellites, 1874; Pleasant Hill Church in 1886; Sunday School at Williston in 1887, change of location and name in 1889, frequent disciplining of members, activity (See supplement).

For what body, (vestry, board of deacons or stewards, etc. or entire congregation) are minutes kept: Entire congregation.

Rev. Ray Smith To Open Revival Here April 23



Rev. Ray Smith, pastor of the First Baptist church, Williston, will conduct revival services at the Second Baptist church beginning April 23 and running through May 5. The week preceding the revival, prayer services will be held each morning at 10 o'clock at the church.

Dunedin

Special to The Times

Dunedin, Aug. 3.—Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Niven and daughter, Jean, left Saturday for a visit in Raiford and other communities in North Carolina. They plan to be gone for about a month.

Mrs. Marshall Beatty plans to leave this week for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. McLean at Raiford, N. C.

Rev. and Mrs. T. I. Deane have returned after a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Deane, of Sanford. Rev. Deane is pastor of the local Presbyterian church.

Rev. Ray Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Williston, was guest at the Dunedin Baptist Church Sunday morning, and was also the pastor at the union services held at the local Presbyterian Church Sunday evening. Rev. Smith recently conducted revival services at Ozona.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Eaton between Duval and
Simonton Streets

Rev. Ray E. Smith,
of Williston, Florida,
Guest Preacher