

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, Ray served as pastor of Frist Baptist Church, Ridge Manor, 1985-1986.

HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RIDGE MANOR, FLORIDA

In **November 1974** the *FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RIDGE MANOR* began as Ridge Manor Baptist Mission. The mission was sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Dade City and met in the Ridge Manor Community Center.

In **April 1978** the current site of 7.5 acres was purchased for \$20,000, and construction began on the sanctuary.

In **August 1978** the first services and church dedication were held in the new building.

In **September 1979** the *FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RIDGE MANOR* was incorporated and the mission became a constituted, self-supporting Southern Baptist Convention church, on **September 30, 1979, at 2:00 p.m.**

In **1984** the church obtained an interest-free loan of \$50,000 from First Baptist Church of Dade City, and built the educational building.

In **January 1987** the pastor serving at that time proposed a goal to retire the remaining loan balance of \$9,600, owing on the sanctuary, education building and property.

On **September 20, 1989** this goal was reached and the church has remained debt-free.

Pastors who served *FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RIDGE MANOR*:

Rev. O G Hall (1974)

Rev. Pleasant Vause (1974-1977)

Rev. J Lee Tester (1977-1984)

Rev. Ray Smith (1985-1986)

Rev. Jim Carrigan (1986-1989)

Rev. HL Herndon (1989-1991)

Rev. Allen J Heneisen (1992-1994)

Rev. William P Webb (1994-2005)

Pastors serving in 2006 were: Rev. Don Walton; Rev. Steve York, Rev. John Kuespert

Rev. Claude English - November 2006 to date