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, Ron serves as pastor of First Baptist Church, Palatka. He and his wife Christa have two sons. The Smith's developed an after-school program for Deaf and hard of hearing children.

From the Track to the Pulpit: Meet Pastor Ron Smith

- Robin RobinsonMay 6

Every month, we have the privilege of highlighting a local pastor who is faithfully serving our community—and this month's story is one you won't want to miss.

Our May Pastor of the Month is **Pastor Ron Smith of First Baptist Palatka**, and his journey is anything but ordinary.
Before stepping into ministry, Pastor Ron's life looked very different. He spent years in the world of racing—fast cars, high energy, and a completely different pace of life. But as he shares in our recent conversation, God had a bigger plan in mind. What began as a chance to be on the road traveling to race cars, eventually gave way to a calling that would change the direction of his life entirely. Today, Pastor Ron is leading First Baptist Palatka with a heart for people and a deep commitment to sharing the Gospel and seeing our community united.
I had the opportunity to sit down with Pastor Ron for our latest Pastor of the Month episode, and I think you'll really enjoy hearing his story in his own words. What stood out most to me was his heart—for people, for the church, and for seeing lives changed through the message of Jesus.
That's exactly why we love sharing this feature. It gives us the chance to introduce you to the pastors who are serving right here in our community—men and women who are faithfully leading, loving, and pointing people to Christ every single day, and we're thankful to Ultimate Mobile Detail for sponsoring it.
https://www.whif.org/post/from-the-track-to-the-pulpit-meet-pastor-ron-smith

Welcome to the First Baptist Family, Pastor Ron, Christa & Ryan Smith! We are so excited to have yall with us and we are looking forward to serving our Lord together!
August, 31 2020
https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistpalatka/posts/welcome-to-the-first-baptist-family-pastor-ron-christa-ryan-smith-we-are-so-exci/3376785659036356/

Christa Smith is a follower of Jesus Christ. Her husband, Ron, is the Lead Pastor at First Baptist Church of Palatka, Florida. They have been married for 32 years and have two sons, Ryan and Landon. Landon's bride, Abbie, joined their family three years ago. They have a sweet fur puppy named Phoebe.

Prior to joining The Tim Tebow Foundation, she served as Community Connections Coordinator at First Baptist Church of Palatka. Christa is fluent in American Sign Language and continues to serve as one of the ASL Interpreters for Lifeway Women's Events all over the United States. Christa's journey in learning ASL began as a necessity when her oldest son, Ryan, was diagnosed as profoundly Deaf at 18 months old (CHARGE Syndrome). What began as a desire to communicate with her son grew into a love for the Deaf and a desire to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their heart language.

In 2005, after meeting with parents and school administrators, God led Christa and her husband to develop an after-school program for Deaf and hard of hearing children at our church. This amazing program connected these children and their families to the local church and became a safe haven of learning about Jesus and His deep love for them. Because of her experience, she has witnessed first hand the profound impact the church can have on those living with disabilities and their families. That’s why she is passionate about the mission of TTF Shine On and continuing to elevate the hard work and resources of disability organizations to equip local churches in ministering to those often overlooked.
https://www.risingaboveministries.org/podcast/christasmith