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, Theodore served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Florida including Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Holt, 1950-1952, Springhill Baptist Church, Red Oak Baptist Church, Gully Springs Baptist Church, Beaver Creek Baptist Church and Wallace Baptist Church (aka Smyrna). He and his wife, Donie Smith have four children.

Holt

Pleasant Home Baptist Church Pastors
(Sources: Available PBBA and SRBA Minutes; Church History)

1902	John Walton Senterfitt
1903	John Walton Senterfitt
1904	Ingraham Spence
1905	John Walton Senterfitt
1906	Irvin Lafayette Taylor
1907	John Thomas Mapoles
1909	Dan Anderson
1910	Dan Anderson
1911	Elisha Tanner Pitts
1912	Elisha Tanner Pitts
1913	Elisha Tanner Pitts
1914	A.W. Langley
1916	A.W. Langley
1922	C.L. Perry
1924	Charles Carey Eiland
1928	James B. Ward
1929	James B. Ward
1930	Hernando DeSoto Wilson
1933	J.J. Cooper
1934	J.J. Cooper
1940	J.L. Henderson
1940	Alvin C. Higdon
N/D	R.Grover Key
N/D	George Pugh
1945	John Smith
1946	B.L. Shirley
N/D	Ralph J. Noles
1950	Theodore Smith
1952	Theodore Smith
1953	J.C. Shell
1954	J.C. Shell
1955	Clettus Columbus Morris
1956	Clettus Columbus Morris
1957	Clettus Columbus Morris
1958	Harvey G. Thornton
1959	Eric Arrant
1960	L.J. Stewart
1962	L.J. Stewart
1964	Charles B. Sansom
1965	Charles B. Sansom
1966	Charles B. Sansom
1967	Charles B. Sansom
1968	Harold A. Anderson
1969	Harold A. Anderson
1970	Harold A. Anderson
1971	J.H. Jordan
1972	John H. Jordan
1973	John H. Jordan
1974	John H. Jordan
1976	Michael Jones
1977	Michael Jones
1978	Ben Walters
1979	Benjamin Walters
1980	Benjamin Walters
1981	Benjamin Walters
1982	Benjamin Walters
1983	M. Lon Roberts III
1984	M. Lon Roberts III
1985	M. Lon Roberts III
1986	M. Lon Roberts III
1987	M. Lon Roberts III
1988	M. Lon Roberts III
1989	Mark McCullough
1990	Mark McCullough
1991	Jack Goldfarb
1992	B. Smith
1993	Gregory Robarbs
1994	Gregory Robarbs
1995	Gregory Robarbs
1996	Gregory Robarbs
1997	Gregory Robarbs
1998	Gregory Robarbs
1999	Mark Oaks
2000	Mark Oaks

(Addendum)

1947	Elisha Tanner Pitts
1949	Theodore Smith
N/D	P.M. Scott
N/D	James Sutley
N/D	J.C. Floyd
N/D	W.W. Clifford
N/D	Grover C. Eubanks

Wallace Baptist Church

Smyrna Baptist Church, the original church, was organized in 1905. It was located approximately 300 yards west of the present pastorium at 3287 Wallace Lake Road.

The church relocated on Chumuckla Highway on land donated by a family in the community. In about 1943, a one-room, red tile building was constructed where the church is located today. In October 1946, the name was changed to Wallace Baptist Church. In April 1949, the church began a Baptist Training Union and in February 1952, held its first weekly prayer meeting.

In 1963, the church added an auditorium to the building and converted the red tile structure into Sunday School rooms. Approximately five years later, the red tile building was torn down and the present sanctuary constructed by the men of the church. Others were employed to do the block laying or jobs the men could not perform.

On August 1, 1990, the church voted to construct a fellowship hall, and in 1992, dedication services were held for the completed building.

Some of the pastors of Smyrna and Wallace include James Arzo Abbott, Nathaniel Timothy Cardwell, Richard Wyche, James B. Ward, Charles Rockwood Beal, Hernando DeSoto Wilson, Theodore Smith, Rev. Rogers, B.H. McWaters, K.E. Hawley, Howard Higdon, Richard Edward Morris, Clettus Columbus Morris, Rodney Riddles, Holly Secrist, Joe Secrist, John Smith, Russell Sauls, Roy Barrow, Robert Grover Key, E.L. Kirkland, David Strickland, John Suarez, Earl Plant, C.B. Raley, George Westmoreland, Joe Bradford, and LaDon Hall.

The church joined Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1907 and Santa Rosa Baptist Association in 1913.

Judith Richbourg Jolly
Florida Baptist Historical Society
April 2, 2002
Source: Church and association records;
Research of Beverly Campbell and Sandy Wyrosdick

The Pensacola News-Journal
Sun, Dec 08, 1968 -Page 53

Rev. Theodore Smith

Part-Time Pastors In Demand

MILTON — With the trend toward large-congregation urban churches, and population movement toward the city, it would seem the era of the part-time preacher would be about over.

The part-time preacher we are talking about is the one who works in his shop or at his trade through the week and on Sunday fills the pulpit in the small rural church not large enough to afford the well educated, highly trained and gifted product of church schools and seminaries.

Strangely enough the need for such men is as great or greater than in times past.

As small churches spring into existence on the outskirts of population centers and in rural areas experiencing unexpected growth there is a need for those felt led to this work at ages which make it impossible for them to obtain the normally required training.

A large number of today's churches were founded by just such individuals.

One such person in Santa Rosa County is the Rev. Theodore Smith, who has since 1948 been a popular barber and has preached in and assisted in starting many of the county's rural churches.

Rev. Smith began his ministry as a licensed preacher in the Pleasant Home Baptist Church in Northeast Santa Rosa County and while working there with his wife Donie was ordained a year later.

While he preached there, a new building was constructed and the congregation greatly increased.

Rev. Smith moved to the Springhill Baptist Church as pastor for two years and then was pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in South Alabama.

He then moved to the Clear Creek Baptist Church, which he assisted in organizing and for which he was first pastor.

Moving into the adjoining county, Rev. Smith was pastor of the Red Oak Baptist Church in Okaloosa County.

Afterward he attended the Baptist Bible Institute at Graceville for a year and completed an 18-months extension course from the Baptist Seminary in New Orleans.

While attending Baptist Bible Institute, he was pastor of the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2D)

The Pensacola News-Journal
Sun, Dec 08, 1968 ·Page 54

Rev. Theodore Smith: Part-Time Preacher

The Pensacola News-Journal
Sun, Dec 08, 1968 ·Page 54

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1D)

Gully Springs Baptist Church in Bonifay.

After completing a year's training at Graceville, Rev. Smith moved back into Okaloosa County to the Beaver Creek Baptist Church where a new building was erected while he served as Pastor.

Now in semi-retirement, he assists at the Floridatown Heights Mission, a branch of the First Baptist Church in Milton.

He feels there is much work to be done there and that a bright future is in store for the small mission.

In looking back over his years of service in the ministry, Rev. Smith has no regrets concerning his service while continuing his occupation as a barber.

Is such service rewarding? Theodore Smith has two sons who have completed their college training. Clemen the oldest, is an ordained minister, James, a civil engineer, and the two girls, Doris Alexander and Georgia Swayne, are teachers in Santa Rosa County schools.

The Pensacola News-Journal
Sun, Dec 08, 1968 ·Page 54

teachers in Santa Rosa County schools.

Rev. Smith and his wife are in excellent health and on evenings ride through the county in which they reside. They may see two churches they assisted in organizing and by crossing Okaloosa for just a few miles another large church at Beaver Creek, constructed while they worked there.

The many young ministers serving as part-time preachers may get some inspiration from the blessings received by this long-time servant from similar service.