

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

Sadler, George W., Jr. (1942- 2015) is the son of George and Alice Sadler. He was born in York, South Carolina. He was converted at age nine, and was baptized into the Fishing Creek Baptist Church in York. Sadler attended Chaplin College (B.A.), Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, Morehouse (M.Div.), and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (D.Min.). He has served as pastor in North Carolina and Georgia. He served as pastor of Fortieth Street Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida from 1989-2015. Sadler served as chaplain at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, and as president of Baptist Fellowship Bible College in Tampa. He received numerous denominational, government, and civic awards. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence, in 1995.

REGIONAL REPORTS CENTRAL FLORIDA

George W. Sadler Jr., pastor of **Fortieth Street Baptist Church** in Tampa, died March 27. He



George Sadler Jr.

was 72. A native of South Carolina, he was appointed by the North American Mission Board in 1975 to serve as director of the Baptist Fellowship Center

in Tampa. Sadler also served as pastor of churches in North Carolina and Georgia, and had served Fortieth Street Baptist since 1989. Sadler served as a chaplain with the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa since 1984, and as president of the Baptist Fellowship Bible College, also in Tampa. Sadler is survived by a brother, Terrance. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence, in 1995.

Idlewild Baptist Church in **Lutz** will host an "Autism and Your Church" symposium April 25 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Consultants, therapists and instructors in autism will speak on communication, positive behavior support, safety and social skills. The symposium is presented in partnership with the One Roof Initiative. For more information, go to www.theoneroof.com/events.

Lake Hill Baptist Church in **Orlando** will celebrate its 75th anniversary April 26. Paul Gordon, retired pastor of First Baptist Church in Apopka, will preach and the Space Coast Quartet will sing in the 10 a.m. service. Dinner on the grounds will be served. For more information, call 407-293-2832.

The Singleness of Heart Ministry of **First Baptist Church in Leesburg** will host its annual conference for single women, "Live Beyond Ordinary," May 8-9. Cheryl Strange will speak Friday during dinner at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call 352-787-1005 or go to www.fbceesburg.com.

First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake will sponsor its fourth-annual Acts 1:8 Golf Tournament on May 9 at the Schalamar Creek Golf and Country Club in Lakeland. Registration begins at 7 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit a mission trip to Crossover Columbus in June. For more information, call 863-534-1195 or go to www.fbceaglelake.com.

NORTH FLORIDA

After serving part time in a myriad of roles with the **Jacksonville Baptist Association**, including church planting coach/strategist and interim director of missions, **Walter Bennett** has begun working as a volunteer contributor to the as-

sociation, according to a JBA newsletter. Bennett previously served in the education division of the Florida Baptist Convention.



Walter Bennett

Shindler Drive Baptist Church in Jacksonville will host author **Priscilla Shirer's** simulcast April 25 from 10 a.m.-5:35 p.m. For more information, call 904-779-7066.

First Baptist Church in Raiford will celebrate its 111th homecoming April 26. The 11 a.m. service will feature music by the Heritage Highway Band and a message by Pastor Bob Christmas. After the service, a lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. For more information, call 386-431-1488.

Fort Caroline Baptist Church in Jacksonville will hold its spring revival May 4-6, starting at 10 a.m. daily. John Sullivan, evangelist in residence and minister to senior adults at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, will preach, and J. T. Taylor, minister of music at Franklin Street Baptist Church in Jacksonville, will lead worship. For more information, call 904-642-2288.

PANHANDLE

Bradfordville First Baptist Church in Tallahassee will host a Secret Church simulcast April 24. **David Platt**, president of the International Mission Board, will

speak on "Christ, Culture and a Call to Action." Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information, go to www.radical.net/secretchurch.

West Pittman Baptist Church in Westville will break ground for a new sanctuary April 26 at 3 p.m. A reception will follow. For more information, call 850-956-4100.

The men's ministry of **First Baptist Church in Bonifay** will host its H.E.R.O. Banquet April 27 at 6:30 p.m. H.E.R.O. stands for honor, encourage, respect and order. For more information, call 850-547-2420 or go to www.fbcbonifay.com.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

First Baptist Church in Lake Worth will host a ladies' spring brunch May 2 at 10 a.m. The program will feature gospel singer **Marva Lopez** and pastor's wife **Susan Westbrook**. For more information or for tickets, call 561-585-5559.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The **Southwest Florida Baptist Association** will hold its semi-annual pastor and leadership prayer gathering at Grace by Faith Church in Englewood on May 4 from 6:30-8 p.m. For more information, call 941-365-7501.

SUBMIT AN ITEM

One-time announcements are provided free by the *Witness* to Florida Baptist churches. Please email materials at least three weeks before the date of the event to floridafocus@goFBW.com.

Graceville photo exhibit to feature FBCH high schoolers

Five residents of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes Tallahassee campus—high school juniors and seniors—will be featured in a photography exhibit at Mattox Studio in Graceville on May 1.

The 7:30 p.m. "reveal party" will include an exhibit of students' portraits and a fashion show with samples provided by the Grace Drug Store in Graceville.

Each year, the studio photographs high school seniors from the Panhandle and south Alabama, and the Mattox family decided to "make it more special this year" by inviting the FBCH residents to participate, according to Josh Mattox, whose family owns the studio. Proceeds from ticket sales to the party will benefit FBCH.

The Mattox family, members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Graceville, volunteers frequently at FBCH through the ministries of the church's youth and men's groups.

For more information, call 850-263-2738 or e-mail josh@mattoxstudio.com.
Carolyn Nichols