

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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Speight, Joe (1916-2004) was a native of Cottdale, Alabama the son of Thomas E. and Ida Pearl Speight. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corp., serving during World War II. Speight served as pastor of Alturas Baptist Church, Winston Baptist Church, Green Pond Baptist Church, Union Hill Baptist Church, 1960 and First Baptist Church, Okahumpka. He and his wife Grace B. Speight had two daughters.

PASTORS

R.T. Caddin	1902		R.T. Barrett	1956
J.T. Pittman	1904		E.D. Foster	1957
*J.B. Rushing	1907		William H. Bledsoe	1958
W.D. Levy	1911		Eugene Schultz	1960
C.C. Hancock	1913		Joe Speight	1962
Bro. Sutton	????		*Leonard S. Townsend	1964
*E.E. Taylor	1920		T.E. Ellerbee	1969
Bro. Parrish	1920		Quinn Cooper	1970
Will Cooper	1921		George C. Voyles	1972
Calvert	1922		Herbert Combee	1975
W.E. Cooper	1925		E.L. Kirkland	1977
H.G. Devane	1926		Felton Osteen	1979
Frank Farris	1929		John W. Brown, Jr.	1979
W.E. Cooper	1930		*Rodney P. Scott	1986
*Felton Osteen	1934		Leonard Branton	1988
C.F. Williams	1942		Marshall Mines	1991
Morgan Hughes	1946		Jerry Stokes	1991
Roy Bryant	1948		Bert Harbison	1997
Moree Taylor	1948		Lindsey E. Elliott	1999
Morgan Hughes	1950		Claude A. Walker, Jr.	2001
*James Ellis	1950			

* Ordained by Green Pond Baptist Church.

Green Pond,
Polk City

Forty Fruitful Years

By

P. V. Nelson

HISTORY LAKE COUNTY ASSOCIATION of BAPTIST CHURCHES 1924 - 1964

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OKAHUMPKA, FLORIDA

The First Baptist Church of Okahumpka was organized November 12, 1923, with ten charter members. Five of the ten charter members are deceased, two are members of the Largo Baptist Church, Largo, Florida. Both are teachers in the Sunday School. One is a member of Central Baptist, Leesburg, Florida, and serves as a Sunday School teacher. Only one is still a member of the First Baptist at Okahumpka, and takes an active part in all the church activities. He serves as adult men teacher, church treasurer and deacon. The other charter member has been gone several years, but has never called for her letter.

Rev. T. J. Knight, Green Cove Springs, Florida, helped to organize the church and supplied as pastor until May 1, 1924, when Rev. B. M. Anderson was called and served until October 1, 1924. Until this time the church had been a member of the Alachua Association. In 1924, the church became a charter member of the Lake County Association. Rev. L. A. Donnelly was called as pastor and served for one year. Rev. B. F. Johns was then called and served for one year. In October of 1926 Rev. G. T. Hinton was called but resigned in March 1930. Reverend Raymond Strickland was called again and served until May 1932. Reverend C. C. Long

supplied then until October 1933. Then Maurice Brantley was called. He was then a student at Stetson University. He served until December 1935.

Reverend Brantley was ordained soon after being called. In March, 1936 Reverend Rufus Kenney was called and served until September of the same year. In October 1936, Reverend W. L. Spears was called and served until September 1939. Reverend C. L. Crissey was called in January 1940 and served until June 1942. Reverend Crissey was ordained in April 1940. Reverend Raymond Strickland was called again in 1942, and served until October 1943. It was during this time, under the leadership of Brother Strickland, that the present educational building was built. Robert Clark, a ministerial student at Stetson, supplied as pastor from January 1944 to August 1945. Mr. M. R. Avery supplied as pastor from October 1945 to September 1948. The church grew rapidly under his leadership and it was during that time that the present church building was erected. Reverend Rufus Kenney was called in October, 1948 and was ordained shortly after he was called. Under his leadership the church bought a pastorium and paid off all debts.

Also the church had 146 additions, of which 75 were by baptism. He resigned in September of 1958. Reverend Joe Speight was called October 1958 and served until September of 1960. Brother J. T. Forrest supplied for church from November 1960 until April 1961. At this time Reverend Albert Whitehead was called and served until June 1963. During his ministry the church was air-conditioned and pastorium re-modeled. Reverend Paul Hofmeister was called in November of 1963 and is serving the church as pastor at the present time.

The church has a present enrollment of 96 resident members and 66 non-resident members. Church services include Sunday School, B.T.U., worship services both morning and evening, and Wednesday night prayer service.

Joe Speight (1916-2004) a native of Cottdale, AL. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corp., serving during World War II. Speight served as pastor of Alturas Baptist Church, Winston Baptist Church, Green Pond Baptist Church, Union Hill Baptist Church, 1960 and First Baptist Church, Okahumpka. He and his wife Grace B. Speight had two daughters.

The Rev. Joe Speight, 88, of Brooksville, died on Sunday, Sept. 5, 2004, at Tangerine Cove Assisted Living in Brooksville.

The Rev. Joe Speight, 88, of Brooksville, died on Sunday, Sept. 5, 2004, at Tangerine Cove Assisted Living in Brooksville.

A native of Cottdale, he moved to Brooksville in May from Lakeland where he resided since 1943. He was a retired meat market manager for Publix. He pastored several churches in the area, including Alturas Baptist Church, Winston Baptist Church and Green Pond Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corp., serving during World War II.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace B. Speight.

He is survived by two daughters, Ann Beasley of Daleville, Ala., and Sandra Budowski of Brooksville; three sisters, Beatrice Stansky of Huntsville, Ala., Avie Smart of Charleston, S.C., and Deborah P. Mahoney of Chipley; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will take place Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. at the New Home Baptist Church, 901 N. Galloway Road, in Lakeland. Funeral service will follow at 10 a.m. at the church.

The Tampa Tribune
Fri, Nov 14, 1958 -Page 2

THOMAS E. SPEIGHT
LEESBURG, Nov. 13. (Special)—Thomas Edward Speight, 72, of Cottondale, died Wednesday in Leesburg after a brief illness. Mr. Speight was visiting his son, the Rev. Joe Speight, who is the pastor of the Okahumpka Baptist Church.

Other survivors include his widow, Mrs. Ida Hamm Speight, Cottondale; five sons, Rex Edward Speight, Cottondale; Jack Speight, Dunedin; Grady Speight, U. S. Air Force in Germany, and Holland Speight, Brooksville; three daughters, Mrs. Beatrice Stanskey, Cottondale; Mrs. Avice Smart, Charleston, S. C., and Mrs. Deborah Peas, Elgin, Ill.; two brothers, Holland King and Grover King, Cottondale; 25 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Ida Pearl Speight
COTTONDALE Mrs. Ida Pearl Speight, 81, of Cottondale, died Sunday night in Jackson Hospital after a long illness. A native of Coffee County, Ala., she had lived in the Cottondale area for most of her life and was a member of the Cottondale First Baptist Church.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today at Cottondale First Baptist with the Rev. Lannis Taylor and the Rev. Danny Thomas officiating. Interment in Cottondale Methodist Cemetery will be directed by Brown Funeral Home of Chipley.

Survivors include: four sons, Edward Speight of Cottondale, the Rev. Joe Speight of Ft. Meade, Grady Speight of Bushnell, and Holland Speight of Brooksville; three daughters, Mrs. Beatrice Stansky of Cottondale, Mrs. Avice Smart of Charleston, S. C., and Mrs. Devora Pease of Elgin, Ill.; 30 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Grace Speight, 74

Homemaker

LAKELAND — Mrs. Grace B. Speight of Lakeland died Thursday (May 12, 1994) at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. She was 74.

Born in Samson, Ala., on Feb. 1, 1920, she came to Lakeland from Brooksville in 1980. She was a homemaker. She was a member of Mount Tabor Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Joe Speight, Lakeland; daughters, Ann Beasley, Daleville, Ala., and Sandra Budowski, Brooksville; brother, Ben White, Quincy, Mass.; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 tonight at Gentry-Morrison Northside Chapel, 5245 U.S. 98 N., Lakeland. Services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Mount Tabor Baptist Church.