

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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Speller, H. C. served as pastor in of First Baptist Church, DeLand.

DR. SPELLER RESIGNS.

Was Pastor of DeLand Baptist Church, and Well Known Here.

The last issue of the DeLand Weekly News contains the following concerning **Rev. H. C. Speller**, who has preached in this city, and has a host of friends here:

"The numerous friends of **Rev. H. C. Speller** will regret to learn that he has resigned as pastor of the First Baptist church, in DeLand, the resignation to take effect January 31, 1895.

"Mr. **Speller** is one of the most popular men who have ever graced the pulpit of any DeLand church—popular with all classes, in all denominations, as well as his own, and his many warm friends will regret to lose him. He is a fluent, eloquent speaker, his words are well-chosen and forcibly delivered, and he has made numerous converts during his two years' work as pastor of the DeLand church.

"The best wishes of all will follow him to his new field of labor, wherever it may please his Master to send him."

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Pe

Baptists Open Nostalgia Journey, Commemorating Near Century Mark

By EMMET KELLY

Church to be founded in Volusia lists of the town, who also used the church building apparently was congregation.

church and academy a gain

FROM 1886 to the turn of the century there followed a succession of pastors, whose average sojourn with the First Baptist Church was no more than two to four years per man. These pastors were: Rev. John McKinney, 1887-92; Rev. H. C. Speller, 1892-95; Rev. P. F. Journagan, 1895-96; Rev. J. B. English, 1897-98; and Rev. T. E. Stevens, 1898-1901.

DELAND — The First Baptist Church of DeLand will celebrate its 95th anniversary Friday, and throughout the month of November there will be a series of commemorative activities featuring former pastors of the church. The celebration prompts a nostalgic look backward as the church approaches its centennial.

When Speller was pastor, plans for a new church building were adopted in 1894, and — despite a severe freeze which hindered initial construction — the new church building was completed and dedicated in 1895.

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This new church building was paid for in part by contributions from John B. Stetson, wealthy hat manufacturer who lived on a large estate in DeLand, and for whom Stetson University is named.

By 1901, First Baptist Church

13 Turned Out To Be A Lucky Number For DeLand Baptists

By KAY VANDERVOORT
From The News-Journal Bureau

the prime movers in the organiza-
tion of the First Baptist Church.

in 1902. During his ministry two
of the church's and the city's

trance is through a wide terrace
and porch. The porch extends
down both sides of the building

During the pastorate of **Rev. H. C. Speller** from London, Ontario, plans for a new church building were adopted in 1894, and in spite of the big freeze of 1894-95, it was built and dedicated in 1895.

A parallel can be distinguished here. In two major construction phases, the First Baptist Church was hindered by a freeze—in 1895 and again in 1957-58, when losses slowed the progress of the fund drive for the 1961 church.

John B. Stetson, the hat manufacturer, a liberal supporter of the University which was renamed for him in 1889, gave a third of the money raised for the new church. The site, on the corner of N. Woodland Blvd. and E. Church St., was given by him and DeLand. Services were held in this church until last year.

The original church building

PASTORS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DELAND

1.	A. L. Pharr	1881
2.	Dr. J. H. Griffith	1884
3.	John McKinney	1887
4.	H. C. Speller	1892
5.	P. F. Journagan	1895
6.	J. B. English	1897
7.	E. T. Stevens	1899
8.	J. E. Oates	1901
9.	C. A. Owens	1909
10.	H. C. Colebrook	1914
11.	C. L. Collins	1915
12.	R. W. Thiot	1921
13.	J. H. Thayer	1926
14.	L. B. Grice	1929
15.	D. H. Hall	1938
16.	R. Grady Snowden	1941
17.	James G. Stertz	1954
18.	Dr. J. Winston Pearce	1957
19.	Dr. John E. Howell	1962
20.	Norman E. Shockley	1966
21.	Dr. Joseph R. Estes	1970
22.	Dr. Charles B. Bugg	1976