

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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Simmons, Earl B. (1917-2008) was born in Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from Stetson University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Simmons was ordained at Calvary Baptist Church, Palatka. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Bayard (formerly Juliette Wing Memorial Baptist Chapel), 1967-1968. Simmons and his wife, Jimmie Tucker Simmons had two daughters.

Obituaries



SIMMONS

Earl
Ballantine
Simmons,
born in
Jacksonville,
Florida on
July 15, 1917,
passed away
on July 6,
2008, sur-
rounded by

his loved ones. A retired Baptist minister and school teacher, he was ordained at Calvary Baptist Church in Palatka, Florida, and educated at Stetson University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He taught language arts at Joseph Stilwell for many years, and his last pastorate was at Bayard Baptist Church.

He is survived by the love of his life, Jimmie Tucker Simmons, formerly of Glennville, GA. They celebrated their 67th anniversary on May 31st. Also surviving are his daughters Kathy Prosser (Richard) and Carol Wollitz (Jerry), seven grandchildren, Rob Placek, Mike Placek (Pam), Amy Wollitz Comeens (Ron), Gerald Wollitz (Lee Anne), Jason Wollitz (Melissa), Justin Wollitz (Sara), Jared Wollitz (Lori), and 13 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at Brannen-Kennedy Funeral Home in Glennville, GA, on July 9, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., with visitation at 2:00. Services will be led by his grandsons, Reverend Gerald Wollitz and Jason Wollitz. Pall Bearers will be grandsons, Rob, Mike, Jason, Justin, Jared, and Ron. Honorary Pall Bearers will be the Deacons of First Baptist Church, Glennville.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his honor to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32257, or the Building Fund of First Baptist Church, Glennville, Georgia 30427.

FBC Bayard
FBC St. Augustine Rd
Bartram, Jay



History of Pastors

The first sermon was delivered by Charles C. Dilworth, Pastor of First Baptist Church of South Jacksonville, which served as the sponsoring congregation. From 1925 to 1932, records do not indicate a permanent pastor. During those early years, as was common with mission churches, the pulpit was likely filled by itinerant preachers, association missionaries, or visiting supply pastors.

1932 – J.M. Moore	1952-54 – Milton C. Wyche
1933-36 – A.S. Jones	1955-57 – Floyd W. Thomas
1937 – George A. Jeffers	1958-59 – Frank D. Williams
1938-39 – H.A. Carlton	1960-63 – A.M. Anderson
1940-41 – Gorden Reeves	1964-65 – Charles J. Sharron
1942-45 – A.S. Jones	1966 – No Pastor
1946 – No Pastor	1967-68 – Earl Simmons
1947 – Russell Carter	1969-71 – William Price, Jr.
1948 – No Pastor	1972 – No Pastor
1949 – G.A. Bray	1973-2017 – Harper Bumpers
1950-51 – No Pastor	2018-Present – Gary Poplin