

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.

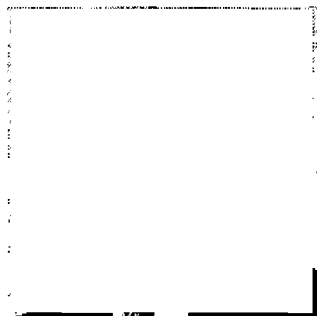
The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist 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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Spencer, Michael C. was born in Richmond, Indiana. He graduated from Southwest Bible College and Seminary. Spencer served as pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Flagler County. He and his wife Bobbie Rosenberg Spencer have two daughters.

L.D. is a 1978 graduate of Interlachen High School. He received his diploma as an Instrument Technician from St. Johns Community College. He received his diploma in practical Theology from International Seminary, Apopka, Florida. He also received his Associate of Ministry from Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently working on his Bachelor degree.

Rev. L.D. is married to the former Pamela Brenda Jaspersen of Savannah, GA., July 6, 1978. They have two children, Krissi Leigh, age 18, and Travis Lloyd, age 11.



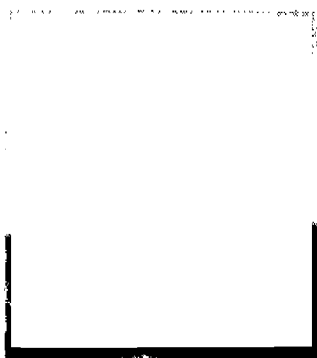
REV. EDWARD E. SIMMONS

Rev. Eddie Simmons was born October 8, 1962 in San Antonio, Texas. He came to know Jesus as his Savior when he was a boy, but did not serve the Lord until after he was married. Since the time he was called into the ministry, Bro. Eddie has served the Lord as opportunities have been presented. Rev. Eddie was licensed to preach the gospel in October, 1993 and was ordained to preach the gospel August, 1995 at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Palatka.

Rev. Eddie graduated from Winston Churchill High School, San Antonio, Texas, with honors in 1981; from the University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, with a Bachelor's Degree in management in 1987; and from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina, with a Masters of Divinity Degree with Languages in May 1995.

Rev. Eddie and his wife, Amanda, have been married since July 17, 1982 and have three sons: Nathan, age 9, Josiah, age 6, and Seth, age 3. They are expecting their fourth child in April, 1998.

Rev. Eddie's hobbies are fishing, camping, and spending as much time as possible with his family.



REV. MICHAEL C. SPENCER

Rev. Mike Spencer became the pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Flagler County, in April of 1996. This is his first pastorate, but he has nine years experience as a Youth Pastor and as a College and Career Minister in several churches in Volusia County. Prior to coming to Westside, Mike had been serving as Minister of Youth at Community Baptist Church in Korona.

Born in Richmond, Indiana, Mike's family came to Volusia County, Florida, when he was three years old -- so he considers himself "almost a cracker". He is married to the former Bobbie Rosenberg, and they have two grown daughters, and one granddaughter.

Mike has just received a Master of Ministry Degree, and has started work on a DMin degree through Southwest Bible College and Seminary.

Mike spent eight years in the Army as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (the Bomb Squad!). He then spent eight years as a Police Officer in Ormond Beach, followed by one year as a Child Abuse Investigator for HRS. For the past eight years, he has worked for the Court System. He is currently the Training, Research, and Quality Assurance Officer for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, which includes Volusia, Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Mike feels that God has uniquely prepared him for the ministry at Westside, as he is faced with handling many substance abuse, legal, and marital problems. In the past year, God has tremendously blessed the church. Old wounds that date back several years have been healed, and the average attendance has increased from 15-20 to 90-100.

Probably the most unusual thing Mike has done at Westside has been to institute a "jeans" policy. When folks in the community were visited, they frequently stated that they could not come to church because "they didn't have anything nice to wear." To eliminate that problem and make everyone feel welcome, the staff and deacons do not wear coats and ties -- blue jeans are the standard dress, even on Sunday mornings (except for special occasions, such as the Lord's Supper).

The goal of Westside is to help everyone understand that a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to find true peace. That relationship must not be just a "Sunday Morning" relationship, it must be the basis for every part of life. Doing away with the "religiosity" of church helps to accomplish that goal.

REV. WILLIAM (BILL) WILLIAMS

Rev. William (Bill) Williams, Pastor of Francis Baptist Church was born August 3, 1949 in Toledo, Ohio, where he attended area public schools. He served ten years in the Army.

At the age of thirty Bill accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of his life. The Lord began to work in his life and lead him into the gospel ministry in July 1980. Upon his call into the ministry, Bill attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri and later Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida.

He has served as Youth and Outreach Director, Associate Pastor, and Minister of Education in Green Cove Springs; Associate Pastor in Harlem, Georgia; Pastor in Jacksonville, Florida, Wrens, and Chatsworth, Georgia.

Rev. Williams has served as Vice-Moderator, AssisTeam Leader, VBS Director, Treasurer of the Pastor's Conference, and Nominating Committee on Associational Councils in Georgia and Florida and on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Rev. Williams was called to Francis Baptist Church in October 1995. Along with his church responsibilities, he is also involved with his community and in the St. Johns River Baptist Association as Discipleship Training Director.

Rev. Williams' wife, Mary Lou, is a native of Clinton, Iowa, and attended local public schools. They have been married for 22 years. Mary Lou also serves the association as Family Life Director.