

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

Spivey, Marvin (1938-2024) was born in Homosassa, Florida. He served as pastor of churches in Kentucky and Florida including Calvary Baptist Church, Eustis, 1964, Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church, Apopka, 1966-1968, Webster Memorial Baptist Church, Lakeland, Island Baptist Church, Anna Maria and Wimauma Baptist Church. Spivey and his wife, Lynnett Cotton Spivey served as missionaries to Hong Kong for the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board. The Spivey's had three children.



pastors while we were waiting for God to send us the pastor he wanted for our church. In 1964 Pastor Brantley West came and served until 1966. In 1966 Pastor Marvin Spivey came and served until 1968. Then a young man named Louis Crenshaw was called to be our pastor from 1968 until 1970. Joel Wade, a retired minister who was also an active member of our church was called to serve as our pastor. Pastor Joel Wade served from 1971 until 1973.

In March 1974 Pastor David S Martin was called to be our pastor. He and his lovely wife Elaine with their children came and began their ministry with our church family. Pastor Martin retired in March 2005. As with all churches there were good times and bad times. The biggest hardship the church suffered was a fire on April 18, 1975 that burned the church to the ground. The church building was completely destroyed....but not the church. The church is the people and the people stuck together and continued to have faith. It wasn't easy but the church was rebuilt. During reconstruction the church services were held in many different locations.

In September 2005 Pastor Mike Davis was called to be our pastor. He and his wife Rhonda are serving our church as God directs. With God's leading we have many things happening within our church. In March 2006 the church launched its first website, this was a new technology for outreach for our church. We also joined Facebook in September 2010 to further our outreach. We have a Health Ministry that covers all aspects of a person's health. We have a new Youth Ministry that is going strong. We have remodeled and enlarged the Fellowship Hall. As we continue to follow as God directs, many great and wonderful things will continue to happen to Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church. Please join us and become a part of our church family.

The following is a chronological listing of the men who have served as pastor of our church with faithfulness doing as God directed them.

- 1953-1958 Ray Kennedy
- 1958 Interim Kenneth Magilliean
- 1958-1962 Robert Lingle
- 1962-1964 Interim Pastors
- 1964-1966 Brantley West
- 1966-1968 Marvin Spivey
- 1968-1970 Lewis Crenshaw
- 1971-1973 Joel Wade
- 1974-2005 David Martin
- 2005-Present Michael Davis

Footnote:

Wekiwa - Wekiva

Have you ever wondered if that was a spelling error and if not what's the difference between the two words. Well let me answer that question. No, it's not a spelling error.

Wekiwa Springs, for which the park is named, is one of the region's familiar and popular geologic features. The spring's name is derived from the Creek

By Oct. 1, 1952 the rest of the offices and organization were filled.

Three days after Christmas in 1952 the church moved into its new home on Citrus and Hawley purchased from the First Methodist Church.

This gave the permanent room needed for expansion of the church offices.

Due to prolonged illness Rev. Epperson resigned on Mar. 29, 1963 and moved to Orlando to be near his son.

The church had several supply pastors until a regular pastor could be found. Gerald Simmons served until Dec. 22, 1963 and the church called Marvin Spivey. He served from Jan. 26, 1964 til June 10, 1964.

Don Gravenmier was called and is now serving as pastor.

The first ordination service was held on Nov. 8, 1964. Harry Smith and Elmer Higgins were ordained as deacons.

The Calvary Baptist has instituted a perpetual building program and in this way we feel that we can better the community while bettering ourselves.

Marvin Spivey

Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Hobbs

Forty Fruitful Years

By

P. V. Nelson

Be ye doers of the word
and not hearers ^{only} James 1-22.
P. V. Nelson

HISTORY
LAKE COUNTY ASSOCIATION
of
BAPTIST CHURCHES
1924 - 1964

Brief History 1979 South Florida
Baptist Association Minutes
pp. 74-83



HISTORY OF THE WEBSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH LAKELAND, FLORIDA

In April of 1925, a band of Christians numbering seven met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Everett of Sixth Street for the purpose of holding a cottage prayer meeting. Interest in the weekly prayer meeting, organized under the leadership of R. E. Cheshire, grew steadily until every home in the community was open. Services were held each Thursday throughout the year. Attendance grew until the homes were taxed to hold the people.

So on January 10, 1926, a meeting was held under a tent; furnished by the State Board, on Webster Avenue, on a lot given to the organization by the First Baptist Church, for the purpose of organizing a church. There were forty-eight members in the organization and the organization was named the Webster Avenue Baptist Church.

After meeting under the tent for a month, they moved to the Webster Avenue School auditorium through the courtesy of the Board of Education.

March 21st Rev. S. W. King was called as their first pastor. After a groundbreaking service held on the lot, work began immediately on the foundation.

Rev. King found it necessary to resign June 1 due to declining health. Dr. J. T. B. Anderson was called to the pastorate.

1979

The third pastor was Rev. Dewey Mann. Then Rev. Harry Day, Rev. W. W. Dossey and Rev. Charlie Sutton followed. The old church was dedicated during Bro. Sutton's pastorate. Bro. Roscoe Hall came on the field of service December 27, 1939 and served until March 1945.

Disaster struck February 13, 1944 after evening services. The building caught fire and burned to the ground destroying all records. However, dark as it seemed, remembering this was during wartime, we raised \$35,000. With the \$7,000 insurance payment, this gave us \$42,000 to rebuild.

In 1945 Rev. K. P. Puffer was called and he served eight years. After Bro. Puffer resigned, the church called Rev. H. G. Wheeler who served from June 1953 to November 1956.

Next, the church called Rev. James A. McKeithen. Under his leadership, we experienced the first forward program of Church Finance. We called our first Educational Director, Bro. Frank Delrose. Bro. I. E. Enlow served as Interim until January 1959 when Bro. J. C. Walters accepted our call.

Bro. Bascom Sutton filled the pulpit as Interim until October, 1961 when the Lord sent Bro. Ernie Habaker.

There were many racial strifes resulting from the Civil Rights Law being enforced. What was once a neighborhood church ceased as members began moving out. In the best interest of the church, the Deacon Board recommended we seek a buyer for the property and relocate. It was over four years before this came to pass. Bro. Habaker submitted his resignation in September, 1965 to return to fulltime Evangelism.

In December Bro. Don Sietman accepted our call. Four months later we purchased our present property, a five-acre tract across from Kathleen High School on Chestnut Road.

Serving with Bro. Sietman was Bro. Bill Baker as Music and Education Director. These two men led us through some very trying times as one after another for the property was accepted or rejected for various reasons. We went through some traumatic experiences resulting from decisions we made. We accepted plans for a new plant only to realize, too late, it was beyond our reach. We paid dearly for a bitter lesson, but God provided.

During the early part of 1970 there seemed to be a cloud of restlessness and indecision. Nothing had materialized in selling the property. Members were leaving; others were afraid to come at night due to the location. Yet others wanted to remain and not move. It was a crucial time for we

came close to dissolving the church. But God was faithful and continued to show His mercy as we sought His direction. There were several alternatives. We chose to continue with our plans and relocate. In the final analysis we saw our need to be more faithful to the Lord, allow our love to increase for souls and build up one another.

We licensed another young man to the Ministry and ordained Bro. Jimmy Hodges, who is in fulltime Music and Evangelism. For the first time colored children started attending Sunday School, VBS and one went to camp. She was well received and no one seemed to notice the color of her skin.

Bro. Sietman resigned in September, 1970, and we called Bro. Carl Storey as Interim. Then, Praise the Lord, we sold the property and buildings, and plans were made for the big exodus. Bro. Storey became the Pastor and suggested we consider more than just erecting a building but a ministry for the future of this church. We had our last service in the old building September 27, 1970, forty-four years to the day when the first service was held in the wooden building that burned.

For a second time Webster met in a school. This time at Kathleen High. We purchased a Modular unit mobile home and placed on the property. It was used for office and storage space, and doubled for the Nursery and younger children on Sunday. As it was the center of all our activities, it became known as Webster Center Building. We changed our name to Webster Memorial Baptist Church.

We broke ground for the first building Nov. 15 on a pay-as-you-go basis with much of the work done by the members. In five months we held a dedication service and moved in.

The church called Bro. Marvin Spivey as our 15th pastor. His pastorate was shortlived as he was with us one year.

In the next twenty months we learned more of God's mercy as He sustained us. Bro. Harold Burkey came as Interim and served until March 1, 1975. Serving as Minister of Music and Youth was John Tagliarini, part-time, and served faithfully until this August, 1979 when he resigned to accept a professorship in Music at Tusculum College, Greeneville, Tenn. Bro. Burkey taught us much about the Lord Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

During the next five months, the church went through a period of disunity in calling a pastor. Then Bro. Preston Baker finished seminary and returned home. Feeling we would be beneficial to each other, he accepted our call as Associate Pastor with emphasis on the Youth. Actually he performed the duties of the pastor. We ordained him and under his leadership grew in numbers and spiritually. He served alone in this capa-

city until April 1976, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of Berea Baptist in Auburndale.

The next three years brought many changes and additions. Bro. Harold Poage of Clio, Michigan, accepted our call and began his ministry in April. This month marked the fiftieth anniversary of Webster, and a special committee made plans to hold a celebration and homecoming the last Sunday in April.

Bro. Poage immediately launched the church into Andy Anderson's program of Action and Outreach on witnessing and how to grow a Sunday School. Bro. Frank Land, of Ft. Myers, led us in this. Consequently, the church voted to begin a bus ministry and outreach program, securing Carl Freeman as parttime Bus Director and Mrs. Vickie LaForest as Outreach Director. Later they would be added to the staff fulltime.

Due to increased enrollment, our needs became space and trained leadership. The church voted to erect building "B" to house Preschool, Children's and Youth Divisions, fellowship hall, kitchen and offices. The building was completed in Feb. of '78 and dedicated March 5.

In 1978 we added a Special Ministry Class for the handicapped ranging from age 4 to 30. The class, led by Mrs. Pat Foster, has an enrollment of 15 and an attendance of 14 each Sunday.

Our growing Bus Ministry and Sunday School enrollment necessitated a third building. At this writing a multi-purpose metal building 50'x120' and 16' high, in a pod situation, is almost complete. But not soon enough for the largest VBS Webster has had. Enrollment was 575 with an average attendance of 324 for an eight-day school.

In these three years, we've experienced eight revival meetings, led by Evangelists Walter K. Ayers (twice), Tommy Phelps, Ernie Habacker, James McKeithen, Homer Martinez, David Ring and the Jack Hazlewood Team. Music for some of these meetings was provided by Richard and Jean Miller, John Tagliarini and Jim McNeill. We also participated in the James Robison Crusade at the Civic Center.

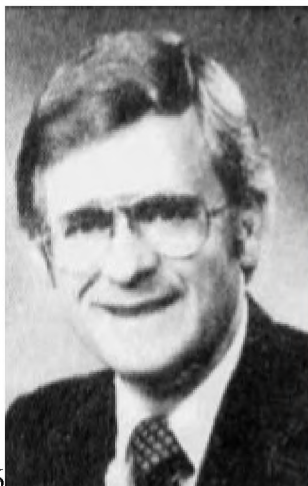
We increased our budget from \$72,202.00 to \$122,260.61. Webster has come to know Baptist Faith and Doctrine as taught by the Bible through Bro. Poage's Ministry. He impressed upon us "to win the lost" is the primary function of the church and taught several classes on soul-winning techniques. His deep convictions and great love for lost people compels him to preach the gospel. Since he's been at Webster, the membership increased by 353 giving a total membership for 1979 as 1,040.

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Serving as master of ceremonies was Sherman Ballou, Chamber president. **Rev. Marvin Spivey**, pastor of the Cave City Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

The Bradenton Herald
Sat, Oct 28, 1978 · Page 6

AND... THE WORM.
THE ISLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 8605 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria has worship services each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 7 p.m. at which time **Rev. Marvin Spivey**, pastor, brings the message.
Tomorrow will be high attendance day and people



Marvin Spivey, former area pastor, to speak in Tompkinsville



Rev. Marvin Spivey

A former pastor of the Cave City and Tompkinsville Baptist Churches will return to the area for a sermon and

presentation on the evangelistic ministry in which he is now engaged.

Marvin Spivey, who served the Cave City Church from 1974-78, will be at the First Baptist Church, Tompkinsville on May 29, at 11:00 a.m.

After completing successful crusade of witness and evangelism in Jamaica in January, **Rev. Spivey** has entered into a series of meetings sharing with churches this work of evangelism. His preaching has not only been evangelistic but includes prophetic signs of the times including the signs of the Middle East and their place in Bible Prophecy.

During July, **Spivey** and his wife, Lynn, will be leading in evangelistic crusades in Australia.

The **Spivey's** daughter,

Jayln, a student at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Florida is presently in Haiti on a mission assignment from her school as she continues

her studies on this foreign campus. She will return from Haiti this summer and continue her studies on the Florida campus.

Rev. Spivey will speak at Cave City Baptist

Rev. Marvin Spivey, pastor of the Cave City Baptist Church in Cave City, will be chapel speaker at Campbellsville College, Wednesday, November 5.

Raised in Plant City, Florida, **Rev. Spivey** attended Lindsay Hopkins High School in Miami, Florida. In 1969, he graduated from Stetson University in Deland, Florida, with an A.B.

Degree. Three years later, he received his M.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Rev. Spivey, his wife Lynn and their three children presently reside in Cave City.

Chapel services are held each Wednesday morning at 9:00 in the Alumni Chapel. Public is invited to attend.

Lakeland Pastor Loves Strawberries, Golf

By Rev. LENN SPEARS
Ledger Religion Editor

Rev. C. Marvin Spivey, pastor of Lakeland's Webster Memorial Baptist Church, was reared in Plant City and "naturally" loves strawberries "just about any way they're served."

He admitted his favorite was in cream and sugar.

Whenever time permits he also plays golf.

"I'm only a duffer but I find the game completely relaxes me. It is surprising how much the muscles will tighten during the week and the exercise of golfing works them all out."

He does like to walk the course "however, there are times when the cart is used on the back nine."

Pastor Spivey is another minister vitally concerned over family life. "We do a lot together. We all like golf, camping and reading."

"All" includes wife Lynn, Randy, 14, Jaylin, 10, "and the twinkle of our eye now, Alicia Lynn, three months."

Accepting the call of Webster only seven months ago, Rev. Spivey is still "discovering the so many wonderful people in the area." As a result of adjusting to a new field of ministry and "the little one being on her way" the Spivey family hasn't been camping yet.

"But, on the spring break from school we do anticipate taking our travel trailer and starting out." Trips have included from the mountains to the beaches.

Currently the president of Kathleen Junior High School Boosters Club, Pastor Spivey beams as he talks of his children. Randy attends KJHS and is a member of the band. He also "gives me quite a game of golf. I sometimes feel his mother and he team up against ole dad," Rev. Spivey laughingly joked.

Jaylin attends Padgett Elementary and "she is the scholar among us." She is almost a straight A student and is "always in the books. She has to get it from her mother."

Mom, the former Lynn Cotten of Plant City, has a degree in English.

A "country boy" reared around homestyle cooking, Pastor Spivey said "my favorite food is 'country cooking.' My, I love collards, lima beans, rice and the like. For meat I would have to say seafood. We fished all the time and I love fish in any fashion."

He also confided "the ladies in our

Minister of Week

church are the best cooks in the world! I really must watch myself. Why, I'd be as big as a house"

Not a flashy dresser or black suited preacher, Rev. Spivey's favorite clothing colors feature contemporary "but not the mod styles." You'll almost always see him in white shoes. "That is nearly a trademark of mine. After Pat Boone started the fad of white bucks I've worn them since." He likes blue and burgundy best.

Pastor Spivey attended Plant City High School but entered service before finishing and graduated from Lindsey Hopkins in Miami through Bootstrap while in the Air Force stationed at Homestead Air Force Base.

He entered the ministry in March 1961 while a member of Lakeland's Parkview Baptist Church where Rev. Clyde Duncan was pastor. The following September he began studies at Stetson University where he earned the B.A. degree in religion. From there he attended Southern Seminary and graduated with his Masters of Divinity in 1972.

Pastorates include Kentucky while in school and a year after graduation. He came to Webster in August last year.

Since arrival here, the church under his leadership has had more than 60 additions and is formulating plans to expand building facilities. "We are going to have to enlarge the sanctuary, too, as our present one is full during services."

Immediate expansion plans call for a badly needed additional educational unit to handle 100 more in Sunday School.

The present sanctuary seats 250 and when completed the new one would more than double that space.

Webster Memorial Baptist is located on Chestnut Road. It was formerly the Webster Avenue Baptist Church.

Many young people are attending the church and Rev. Spivey says the congregation is currently considering the adding of a minister of music and youth. "Hopefully this will be in April," he said.

Religion

Couple to minister in Far East

By CAROL NEEF
Tribune Staff Writer

WIMAUMA — When Lynn Spivey flies to Hong Kong on Dec. 26 with her husband, Marvin, it will be the fulfillment of a dream she has had since she was 12.

The Spiveys will not go to Hong Kong as tourists. Instead, the couple will begin a four-year appointment as foreign missionaries.

The Rev. Marvin Spivey, who had been in pastoral work for 24 years, served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wimauma for 19 months. His last day as pastor was Sept. 29.

The couple was appointed foreign missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in August.

Their appointments will be as English language missionaries.

Spivey will be an associate pastor at the International Baptist Church in Hong Kong.

His wife will be a church and home worker.

The Spiveys fly Monday to Rock-

The Spiveys fly Monday to Rockville, Va., for an eight-week orientation prior to leaving the states.

The couple had done foreign service work in Australia and Jamaica in 1983 and 1984.

"Lynn has been thinking of foreign mission work since she was 12," Spivey said. "God, through her, led us to this commitment for the remainder of our lives."

The Spiveys said they "felt a call to serve in east Asia" after serving in Australia.

"We had a choice of three places in Africa to consider — two in Uganda, one in Ghana — and one place in Hong Kong. We chose Hong Kong because we had friends in Taiwan," Lynn Spivey said.

"We have three children, but only one will go with us. She's 11 years old and we have to consider her. She'll attend international school."

Spivey will be working in Hong Kong to establish new "preaching stations," places where church services can be held for people interested in the church.

Spivey said, "The church has no identifiable property in Hong Kong and just two preaching stations. Church services are held at homes and other places convenient to the people before preaching stations are established. Preaching stations are established where there are English

Religion

language people who are non-churched or on assignment and their church affiliations are somewhere else.

"The philosophy of the foreign mission board is to have a number of smaller church groups. It ties the people closer to the church. People often stay (in Hong Kong) only two or three years which makes the work more difficult. There isn't the continuity."

Lynn Spivey was an English teacher at Manatee High School in Bradenton until she resigned to go to Hong Kong.

At the time she was interviewed, Lynn Spivey didn't know exactly what her assignment would be.

"I may teach in the Baptist College in Hong Kong," she said. "I will be teaching Bible classes and probably teaching English as a second language to whomever wants to learn it."

The Spiveys will return to the states for a year of rest and study at the conclusion of their appointment.

They will know when they return home if they'll be appointed foreign missionaries again.

Spivey said his pastoral work in Wimauma was "one of the most desirable affiliations I could have to prepare me for foreign mission service. There are about 300 members in the church (First Baptist). The people are from Haiti, South America, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central America and the Philippines. I've been impressed at the openness of the members to assimilate the people into the congregation. There are a lot of caring people in Wimauma. It has been a harbinger of what to expect in Hong Kong."

Spivey continued, "It was a difficult task to meet the needs of the congregation. I didn't have the staff. There was only one on the ministerial staff. That was me. A desirable number would have been two or three because of the different nationalities. I could have done with one full-time Spanish speaking member on the ministerial staff."

Pastor Marvin Spivey, 85, of Plant City, born on April 20, 1938, in Homosassa, entered into eternal rest on March 2, 2024. He was a Veteran of the United States Air Force, and a career Pastor and missionary for the Southern Baptist Convention. He loved his family dearly, and enjoyed golfing and motorcycles. He is survived by wife of 66 years, Lynnette Cotten Spivey; children, Steven "Randy" Spivey (Debra) of Bradenton, and Jayln Jaures Wooten (Regan) of Bossier City, Louisiana; 14 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; son-in-law, Alberto Escobedo; and brother-in-law, Charles Cotten. He was preceded in death by daughter, Alicia Escobedo. A funeral service will be held Friday, March 8 at 3:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 South County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 2:00 P.M. Interment at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell. Expressions of condolences at www.HopewellFuneral.com.
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com/obituaries/Marvin-Spivey/#!/Obituary>