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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Stanley, A. A. served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Altoona, 1916-1917, First Baptist Church, Umatilla, Tavares Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Mt. Dora, and Astatula Baptist Church, 1944-1946.

Astatula BC

HISTORY OF THE ASTATULA BAPTIST CHURCH

The exact date of the organization of the Astatula Baptist Church is not known, but it is believed that the present organization is the result of religious services held by General Charles P. Summerall and Mrs. Maynord in the school house of Astatula in 1883. The church's first pastor is unknown.

There are definite records of the Astatula Baptist Church as far back as June 1892.

W. T. Kerffer deeded the Astatula Baptist Church a strip of land 100 feet wide across the south end of lot 3, in block G, town of Astatula. Mr. A. N. Sibley, Mr. J. W. Joyner and Mr. H. M. Barclay were appointed as trustees.

On April 8, 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. English sold to the church the west half of lot 61, in block D, town of Astatula. The cost of this property was $28.82. It took the church two years and five months to pay off this debt. The church immediately moved its building to this location, which is the present location of the church. Mr. Newber T. English and Jessie J. Finley were appointed as trustees.

There was a time between 1934 and 1944 when the church was dead. The church was revived in the early part of 1944 and has been growing since that day.

In 1949 and 1950 a new auditorium and educational building were erected. On December 17, 1950 this beautiful auditorium and educational building were dedicated. Dr. John Maguire and Chester Mann were speakers at the dedication services. Rev. C. F. Mann was pastor of the church.

In July of 1963 Reverend Paul Middleton was called as pastor. In 1964 the church completed remodeling and installation work which included central heating and airconditioning throughout the entire building. This also included completely redoing the Nursery and laying tile on the floors.

In 1965 the auditorium platform was padded and carpeted.

Forty Fruitful years

Many of the records of the church have been destroyed, and it is impossible to give an accurate list of pastors who have served the Astatula Baptist Church. However, a partial list of pastors who have served and the dates served is given:

Rev. S. C. Butler	1908-1909
Rev. W. E. Murphy	1910-1911
Rev. W. M. Martin	1912-1914
Rev. J. A. McDougle	1915-1918
Rev. E. D. Vinning	1924
Rev. W. E. Murphy	1925
Rev. T. H. Murhky	1926
Rev. T. F. Barry	1927-1928
Rev. W. E. Fuller	1929-1930
Rev. D. R. Hickam	1930
Rev. John W. Westburgh	1931
Rev. J. L. Yeomans	1932-1933
Rev. Blackburn	1934?
Rev. A. A. Stanley	1944-1946
Rev. Elvin Harwell	1946
Rev. C. F. Mann	Oct. 1946-Sept. 1951
Rev. Elmer Evans	Oct. 1951-July 1953
Rev. J. Long	Oct. 1953-Sept. 1954
Rev. C. F. Mann	Oct. 1954-June 1955
Rev. James Lanier	Dec. 1955-Jan. 1957
Rev. Jack Rowland Jr.	June 1957-May 1960
Rev. Joseph Dearmin	June 1960-April 1962
Rev. Glynn Hickerson	May 1962-Jan. 1963
Rev. Paul Middleton	July 1963-

[redacted]

Lake County 1935

HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT ALTOONA

Our church was organized July the 31st, 1884. Previous to this, part of our charter members had been affiliated with the Live Oak Baptist Church of Umatilla. The following October, Dr. W. T. Shelton and wife donated and deeded the present church lot that we now own. Immediately money was raised to construct a building and was sufficiently finished and furnished to hold services. A W. M. Society was soon organized. The ladies had the church ceiled in 1905. Other improvements and repairs have been added from time to time. This year Sunday School rooms were added.

Our first pastor was S. F. Gove, then our next pastor was Rev. D. Palmer who served faithfully from 1886 to 1900. He organized Sunday schools and held meetings at Norristown, Bayview, Linadale and Pittman, and called them arms or branches of the mother church here. Since better modes of travel have been provided most of these missions have been discontinued, having better access to the mother church. He also began mission work among the negroes here and at Pittman. Several of our pastors have kept up the work with them. Bro. Palmer also organized a church at Cassia, which we might claim as an offspring of our church.

The following pastors who have served us faithfully since then are: Dr. T. W. Spicer, D. B. Farmer, W. E. Tallant, J. M. Devanon, D. W. Glisson, W. N. Kingsley, R. J. Gorbet from 1908 to 1915, G. W. Carrell, J. C. Rogers, A. A. Stanley, W. L. Martin, Bro. Crim, D. L. Brainerd, P. M. Yeargan, Bro. Yeoman, T. J. Knight, B. C. Collins, Bro. Vaughan and Bro. Clovis Brantley.

While Bro. Gorbet was pastor our first B. Y. P. U. was organized and has continued to grow and improve until we are very proud of our young people of today.

Our church has always been missionary in spirit, helping the needy in our midst and abroad. We never have had any very wealthy members to make any great showing, but have faithfully tried to do our bit. Our church has ordained and sent out the following young ministers of the gospel: Bro. Dave Blount, P. M. Yeargan and M. E. Brantley. May the good seed sown continue to bear fruit more abundantly and we grow in grace and admonition of our Lord and Savior is our prayer.

MRS. MYRTA BRANTLEY.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOUNT DORA

The First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, Florida, was organized on March 19, 1922, with a charter membership of 20. At this time preaching services were conducted two Sundays each month with Bible School each Lord's Day.

Worship was held in different buildings until 1926 when the church, under the leadership of Rev. G. T. Hinton, constructed a large tabernacle.

In 1925-26 a Woman's Missionary Society and Young People's arganization were perfected.

A group of fine young men have been called to the ministry from the fold of this church and are now active. They are as follows: Earl Verrigan, J. F. Brantley, Clovis Brantley, J. D. Mosteller.

The church through the years has enjoyed a steady growth led by the following pastors in the order named: Rev. E. A. McDowell, Rev. E. O. Thompson, Rev. F. W. Overhiser, Rev. G. T. Hinton, Rev. D. P. Montgomery, Rev. M. J. Bouterse, Rev. W. R. Lambert, Rev. A. A. Stanley, Rev. J. S. Wilson (supply pastor) and Rev. Neslie V. Underwood.

The present pastor, Rev. R. W. Acree, was called to the field in June, 1938. He received his education at Stetson University, South Florida Baptist Bible School, and Southwestern Seminary. Immediately after his coming the church launched a building program and began construction of a new house of worship in December, 1938. On November 12, 1939, the building was dedicated to the worship of God. Most of the money for this program was raised in one year's time. God has greatly blessed their efforts and their faith. During the present pastorate there have been forty-five additions to the church, increasing the membership to two hundred and thirty-three. The Baptist Training Union numbers more than 50, Sunday School 156, Woman's Missionary Society more than 40, Sunbeam Band more than 20, Royal Ambassadors 10.

This church has been active in the suppor tof Baptist life in this state since its beginning, regularly suporting the Cooperative Program and other Baptist causes.

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NEWS MAINLY FROM EUROPE

By DR. J. H. RUSHBROOKE
President of the Baptist World Alliance

Activity of the Baptist World Alliance

The Baptist World Alliance office is in these days more than fully occupied. Visitors from many lands have reported themselves, and the closest contact is preserved with the brethren in the continent of Europe, including all the countries closely affected by war or the threat of war. Among the callers have been Baptists from Spain, Hungary and Rumania. A lively correspondence is maintained with the Scandinavian lands, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, France and Switzerland. From Germany, too, we hear indirectly. New contacts have been secured, and within the last few days a most interesting piece of Baptist missionary work in Egypt is reported. The preparation of statistical reports and the usual New Year messages go forward, and connection with every part of the world is preserved. The Administrative Committee reappointed in Atlanta is working in full vigor, and has in fact held more meetings than in normal times. Pending the arrival of Dr. Lewis, I am "carrying on", and doing my best to ensure that my successor shall not have to face an accumulation of arrears.

Rumania—Difficulties and Problems Persist

It is disturbing to learn that though a much more sympathetic Minister of Cults replaced Archbishop Colan in the early part of the year, and a decree in some respects far milder than that of last year was substituted for Archbishop Colan's decree, ecclesiastical influence on the administration is still so strong that Rumanian Baptists find themselves unable to accept the official demands upon them. They set out their objectives in the resolution of a conference held in October. This calls for the cessation of repression and for the reopening of closed churches, and renews the request that Baptists shall be acknowledged as a recognized religious communion. To this last simple and just claim the authorities still offer unyielding opposition, though it has recently been reported that orders are given for the reopening of a number of churches that had been closed.

German Baptist Mission—British Government Attitude

The Rev. Helmut Simoleit of Great Soppo, in the British-mandated territory of the Cameroons, is a German Baptist missionary. In a letter written to me a month after the outbreak of war, he states that the mission is given all freedom to carry on its work and that the Government is rendering all the assistance it can. He expresses high appreciation of the kindness of the British authorities. [illegible] mission work. The only trouble, Mr. Simoleit adds, is shortage of funds. This has compelled the closing of at least one school. He hopes that assistance may be forthcoming from other lands. I am taking up the matter in the appropriate quarters. Readers will be interested to know

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(Lake County)

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Church To Mark 100th Anniversary

UMATILLA (Special) — First Baptist Church of Umatilla will observe its 100th anniversary Sunday. Main speaker will be Rev. James W. Parrish, vice president of Stetson University, DeLand.

All of the living former pastors of the Umatilla church have been invited to return for the activities of the day.

A basket lunch will be held after the morning service.

The early history of the church states the exact date of the organization of the church is not fixed but it is known from the records and statements of some of the oldest members that the church was in existence as early as 1862.

It was then known as the Live Oak Baptist Church and was located nearer Eustis than Umatilla. The two-story building was made of logs, the upper story being used as a Masonic Hall.

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Hall.

In July, 1888, the present site was accepted from N. J. Trowell and a church was built and occupied in 1889. It was in regular church conference on April 13, 1889 that the name of the church was changed from Live Oak Baptist Church to First Baptist Church.

Former pastors planning to attend the centennial celebration are: Rev. L. B. Johnson, Lakeland; Rev. M. J. Schultz, Lakeland; Rev. J. L. Jenkins, Boiling Springs, N.C., and Rev. A. A. Stanley, Mount Dora.

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Fri, Mar 21, 1952 · Page 49

date of resignation.

Tavares Baptist Church Dedication Scheduled Sunday

TAVARES, March 20.—(Special)—The new Tavares Baptist Church will be dedicated Sunday.

The $50,000 building is equipped with chimes and a seating capacity of 350. After dedication of the chimes at 11 o'clock, a special musical service will be held.

Assisting the pastor, The Rev. C. L. Hargrove, will be Dr. W. W. William, Dr. W. A. Hamlett, The Rev. J. Alvin Inman and The Rev. A. A. Stanley, former pastor; The Rev. E. E. Smith, Church of God; The Rev. Carl Stackman, Tavares Congregational Church; The Rev. J. W. Rogers, Tavares Methodist Church, and The Rev. C. S. Thomas.