

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.

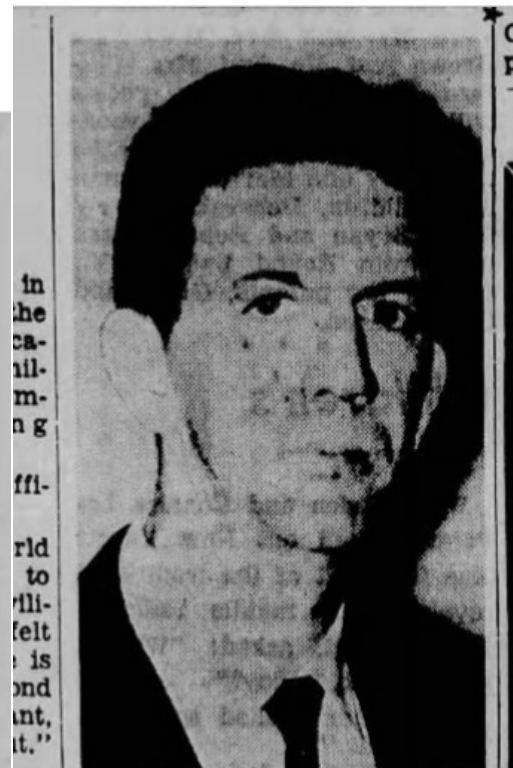
The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist 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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Stedham, B. Ray (1932-2019) was born in Molton Heights, Alabama the son of Marvin V. and Mettie Loyce Stedham. He graduated from Mercer University. Stedham was ordained by Lakeland Baptist Church, 1950. Stedham served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Georgia and Florida including South Peninsula Baptist Church, Daytona Beach and Central Baptist Church, Port St. Lucie. He and his wife, Patricia Lou Stedham (m. 1955) had two sons.



NEW PASTOR—Rev. B. Ray Stedham is the new pastor of South Peninsula Baptist Church. **Rev.** and Mrs. **Stedham** and son, John, 4, came here Dec. 17 from Melrose, where he was pastor of the Eliam Baptist Church. They are temporarily living at 929 S. Peninsula Drive. **Rev. Stedham** attended Norman Junior College at Moultrie, Ga. and Mercer University, Macon. Oct. 15 he observed his 12th anniversary in the Baptist ministry.



CH
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
202 S.W. Tulip Blvd., PSL
Rev. Ray Stedham
45
:00 Sunday Worship..... 9:45
00 Morning Worship..... 11:00
00 Evening Worship..... 7:00
00 Wed. Prayer Meeting... 7:00
H

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 202 S.W. Tulip Blvd., Port St. Lucie. Rev. B. Ray Stedham. Rev. Austin Brogan, Assoc. Pastor and Minister of Music. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. with worship services following at 11 a.m. Evening services Sunday 7 p.m. and Wednesday evening services at 7 p.m.

Ray Stedham To Be Ordained At Lakeland Sunday

The **Rev.** Clifford Walker of Jacksonville, Florida, secretary of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Florida Baptist Convention, will be speaker at the morning service at the Lakeland Baptist Church.

Mr. Walker will remain for the ordination service of **Ray** Stedham, young son of the **Rev.** Marvin V. **Stedham**, pastor of the Lakeland church.

Mr. **Stedham** will preach the ordination sermon for his son. He will be assisted by Dr. T. Baron Gibson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Valdosta; the **Rev.** A. C. Pyle, pastor emeritus, Lee Street Baptist Church, Valdosta; the **Rev.** Edgar T. Davis, pastor First Baptist Church, Homerville and Dr. Allen S. Cutts, president of Norman College.

The ordination service is scheduled for 3 p. m. Sunday afternoon.

Buren Ray Stedham, 87, of Port St. Lucie, passed away March 3, 2019. He was born in Molton Heights, Alabama and had been a resident of Port St. Lucie for 33 years, having relocated from Canal Point, FL. He was a minister at Central Baptist Church in Port St. Lucie.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia Stedham of Port St. Lucie; sons, John Stedham of Lake Worth and James Stedham and his wife Darcy of Stuart; grandson, Joshua James Stedham and his wife Chloe; granddaughter, Julia Lissette Stedham; great granddaughter, Olivia Rose Stedham; and a niece, Pamela Abbott of Nashville, TN.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tcpalm/name/buren-stedham-obituary?id=9866626>



Miss Waters Will Wed Ray Stedham

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Preston Waters, Fitzgerald, Ga., announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Patricia Lou Waters, to the **Rev. Buren Ray Stedham**, of Pitts, Ga., son of the **Rev.** and Mrs. Marvin **Stedham**, of Palatka, Fla., formerly of Decatur, Ala.

Miss Waters is a graduate of the Fitzgerald High School where she was soloist and president of the Glee Club, a member of the Tri-Hi-Y and was on the newspaper staff. She attended Wesleyan College for one year and was soloist in the Wesleyan Glee Club. Miss Waters did concert work with the Pops Concert series and was "Georgia's Jeannie" to represent the state at the Stephen Foster Ball in Miami. The **Rev. Stedham** graduated from Valdosta High, attended Norman Junior College for two years where he was president of the student body. He then graduated from Mercer University, being active in all college affairs and was a member of the Ministerial Association at Mercer and Norman. The **Rev. Stedham** has served as pastor of Salem Baptist Church near Tifton and Cogdell Baptist Church in Homerville, and is now pastor of the Pitts Baptist Church.

The wedding will take place on December 27 at 7 p.m. at the Central Methodist Church in Fitzgerald with the groom-elect's father officiating, assisted by the pastor, the **Rev. Jason Shirah**.



MISS PATRICIA LOU WATERS is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Preston Waters of Fitzgerald, Ga. who have announced her engagement to the **Rev. Buren Ray Stedham** of Pitts, Ga., son of the **Rev.** and Mrs. Marvin **Stedham** of Palatka, Fla., formerly of Decatur.

Miss Waters Is Engaged To Rev. Stedham of Pitts

FITZGERALD, Nov. 5—Mr. and Mrs. Homer Waters announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Patricia Waters, to the Rev. Buren Ray Stedham, pastor of the Baptist Church at Pitts.

The marriage will take place at 7 p.m., Dec. 27, at the Central Methodist Church in Fitzgerald, where Miss Waters has been soloist for 17 years, beginning as a member of the Cherub Choir. The Rev. Marvin V. Stedham of Palatka, Fla., father of the groom-elect, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Jason Shirah, pastor of the Central Methodist Church.

Miss Waters has appeared in concerts in many towns and was

soloist with the Glee Club at Wesleyan College. A graduate of Fitzgerald High School, Miss Waters served as president of the Aeolian Choir. She was representative from Georgia at the annual Stephen Foster Memorial Jeannie Ball in Miami last spring.

Mr. Stedham was graduated from Valdosta High School and went to Norman Junior College where he was president of Student Government, active in BSU work, Glee Club and secretary of the Ministerial Association. He is a senior at Mercer University and has served as pastor of Salem Baptist Church in the Meli Association and pastor of the Cogdell Baptist Church, Cogdell.

Patricia Lou Stedham, also known as Patsy Lou and Miss Pat passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of April 15th 2025.

She was the beloved wife of Pastor B. Ray Stedham for 63 year. She worked side by side with her husband in service to the Lord and serving churches and schools in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

In addition to her work with her husband, she was well known for an angelic soprano voice that could lift even the lowest of spirits and bring them to the foot of the cross.

She had a promising career early on as she was singing with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at the age of 16 in the Fox Theater. She gave that up after only a couple years when she met and married Ray to begin what they felt was God's calling for their lives. Pat along with Ray served tirelessly and faithfully together for 63 years until Ray went home to be with the Lord in 2019. Pat continued to serve at their home church, Central Baptist Church in Port Saint Lucie as choir director and leading their music just weeks before she went home and joined Ray.

We know that she is now wrapped in God's warm embrace walking hand in hand with Ray.

Along with countless lives that she touched in her service to God, there are family members here that will carry her memory on and keep her work and spirit alive.

She had 2 sons, John Ray Stedham of Boynton Beach and James V Stedham of Palm City. James is married to Darcy E Stedham. Pat had 2 grandchildren from James and Darcy, Joshua J Stedham from Stuart, FL and Julia L Stedham from Nashville, TN. She also had 1 great grandchild from Joshua and his wife Chloe, Olivia Rose Stedham.

Additionally, Pat had a niece, Jan Stokes from Fitzgerald, GA and a niece from Ray's family, Pamela Abbott from Nashville TN. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/patricia-stedham-obituary?id=58165288>