

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

Stedham, Marvin V. (January 8, 1898-December 5, 1973) was born in Morgan County, Alabama. He preached his first sermon in Cullman County, Alabama, in 1917, at age 19. He served churches in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. In 1954, Stedham became a field secretary for the Florida Baptist Convention, and served with 117 churches and 55 missions in eight counties. Under his leadership 75 missions were begun. He and his wife, Mettie Loyce Riddle Stedham had one daughter, Evelyn, and one son, Ray.

FLORIDA BRIEFS

Marvin Stedham Dies



Stedham

Marvin V. Stedham died December 5, 1973 in the front yard of the Interlachen Church, Interlachen, after Wednesday business meeting was over.

Stedham was born January 8, 1898 in Morgan County, Alabama. He preached his first sermon in Culman County, Alabama in 1917, at the age of 19.

His early pastorates included churches in Alabama and Georgia. In January, 1954, he became affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention as a field secretary (later known as association missionary). His area included 117 churches and 55 missions, covering some eight counties. Their membership totaled 29,656. Under his leadership 75 missions were started, of which 20 were constituted into full-time Southern Baptist churches. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1966.

Since retirement, he served through supply preaching and as interim pastor of several churches including Hickory Grove Church, Green Cove Springs; First Church, Hastings; Lemon Heights, Palatka; and for the last four and a half years at Interlachen, Interlachen.

Funeral services were held December 9 at First Church, Palatka with John Pelham officiating.

Survivors include his wife, Mettie Loyce Riddle, Interlachen; two children, Mrs. William U. Whipple (Evelyn), Lakeland and B. Ray Stedham of Belle Glade; one brother, W. B. Stedham, Pine Bluff, Arkansas and one sister, Mrs. O. C. Marsh, Decatur, Alabama.

Dunns Creek Church, Jacksonville Calls Staff Member

Denis Murphy, Jr. is the new part-time minister of music and youth director of Dunns Creek Church, Jacksonville. A native of Jacksonville, he attended Stetson University, DeLand and formerly served as music director and director of the bus ministry at Barton Shores Church, Orlando.

Denis and wife, Margo, have two children: Cynthia and Brian.

D. D. Townsend, interim pastor of Coleman Church, Coleman, has accepted the call to become their full-time pastor this month.

First Church, Highland City has called James Horne to be associate pastor in charge of outreach. C. R. Swartz, Jr. is pastor.

Horne has already begun his work with the church. He recently retired from Westside Church, Jacksonville.

Education Workers Annual Retreat Lake Yale Assembly January 24-26, 1974

Ministers of education and other vocational church education staff workers are invited to share in the third annual Education Workers Retreat at Lake Yale Assembly, January 24-26, 1974. The retreat will begin at 2:30 p.m. on January 24 and conclude with the noon meal on Saturday, January 26. This will be a great way for education workers to begin the new year. Note some of the following attractive reasons:

- **Program Emphasis:** A study of personal motivation, leadership qualities and goal setting. A new look at the work of the education minister, his inter-personal relationships, his responsibilities, his work habits and personal improvement suggestions. Special help is provided for wives of education workers.
- **Resource Persons:** Bill Hinson, pastor, First Church, Ft. Lauderdale; Leonard Wedel, former director, Personnel Department, Sunday School Board; and Mrs. Murray McCullough, Jacksonville.
- **Retreat Atmosphere:** The discussion topics will be led by these outstanding resource persons in a relaxed spirit in the beautiful retreat setting of our Lake Yale Assembly.
- **The Audience:** Vocational church staff workers and their wives, including ministers of education, other education church staff workers, association and state staff workers.
- **The Costs:** Two full days, January 24-26, 1974, including meals—single room—\$10.00 per day (\$20.00 total), double room—\$7.00 per day (\$14.00 total).

NOW . . . is the time to make your plans and secure reservations. Write to Keener Pharr, Florida Baptist Convention, 1230 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32207, indicating your plans to attend and describing the type of accommodations required.

Don't miss this unique, helpful, spiritual experience with your fellow workers.

Harry Martin became music director for Ridgeway Church, Orange Park September 23, 1973. He was formerly director of First Church, Graceville. Martin attended the following colleges: Troy State University, University of Miami, University of Alabama, Auburn University and Florida State University. He is presently guidance counselor at Orange Park High School, Orange Park.

The Martins have five children, Kaye, Kelvin, Kerry, Karyl and Kristi.

Delano A. Cantrell, formerly of Chapin, S.C., is the new pastor of Hurricane Creek Church, Westville.

Cantrell is a student at BBI, planning to graduate with diploma in theology in 1976. This is his first pastorate.

Mrs. Cantrell works as a nurse in the Graceville hospital. They have three children, ages 16, 13, and five. They will commute to

Baptist Young Explos

Explorations are always exciting, and that is just what is planned for Baptist Young Women in February and March. Since Woman's Missionary Union is emphasizing "mission support" during this year, young adults will be participating in this emphasis by exploring ways of supporting missions through praying, giving and going. Four such EXPLOS are being planned on Saturdays so that more women can come. Married BYW's are encouraged to bring their husbands. One of these meetings is closest for you:



Russell Drinnen

February 2, First Baptist Church, Lakeland

February 9, San Jose Baptist Church, Jacksonville

March 2, Immanuel Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale

March 16, Cove Baptist Church, Panama City

The Explos begin at 10:00 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m.; luncheon is served at noon. The cost is \$3.00 per person, which includes the luncheon.

Each of these meetings will have the same type of program, but the personnel for each will be different. Each program will feature Bible study, prayer retreat, progressive prayer fellowship, music, missionary, drama, sharing times, fun fellowship, special music, lay persons and a worship celebration.

During the years of 18-29, many decisions are made in a young adult's life. Missions and mission support ought to play a major role in your life style. As these various parts of the program unfold, perhaps you will find your place in missions. No other state meeting is planned for BYW's this year. Because of distance, expense, children and other hindrances, we feel that a one-day meeting may best meet your needs. Make your reservations now. Registration forms have been mailed to BYW presidents. All BYW's (married or single) are encouraged to come.

Revival Report

Friendship Church, St. Petersburg closed their revival December 9 with 11 professions of faith, three by letter, one full-time service. Jim Wilson was evangelist and Jerry Williams, music director. Pastor is Lawrence L. Moore.

**STATE MUSIC FESTIVALS
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
JANUARY 14, 1974
Church Music Department
1230 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32207**