

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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Steele, Harwood (1920-1993) served as pastor of churches in West Virginia and Florida, including Friendship Baptist Church, Altamonte Springs. He graduated from Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida where he also served as professor and dean. He and his wife, Ann Duda Steele, had two daughters, Mary and Ruthanne.



and consider Miami their hometown.

Stan and Debra Owens-Hughes, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field and may be reached at Rua Ariberto Snell 76, 93.410-240 Novo Hamburgo, Brazil. He was born in Orlando.

Obituaries:

Harwood Steele, 73, died June 10 in Ocala. Steele served as pastor of churches in West Virginia and the Orlando area. He retired as professor and dean at Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville. He is survived by his wife, Ann Dada Steele, and daughters Mary Sizemore of Jacksonville and Ruthanne Mizner of Ocala.

Elmo Murray McCarty died June 11 in Winter Haven at the age of 83. A native of Macon, Ga., McCarty served as associate pastor, minister of education and member of Reynolds Road Church in Lakeland. He was a retired professor of Polk Community College and a member of the Florida Baptist Chaplains Association. He is survived by his wife, Lucille McCarty, of Auburndale; three sons, Jack of Jackson, Miss., Jerry of Aiken, S.C., and Pat of Orlando; daughter Michelle Shotts of Winter Haven; two brothers, Paul McCarty of Lakeland and Grayson McCarty of Ogden, Utah; sister Ione Slayton of Marshallville, Ga.; and two grandchildren.

T. L. "Roy" Forsythe, 87, died July 30. He was a member of First Church, Altamonte Springs, and previously served as a deacon at First Church, Eau Gallie, and First Church, Maitland. He is survived by his wife, Louise; daughters, Mary F. Warren of Casselberry and Doris Lavender of Orlando; brother J. W. of Moultrie, Ga.; five grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

Church news:

Idlewild Church, Tampa, will celebrate the opening of its new church facility with a parade and open house on Saturday, Sept. 18, which precedes the first service scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19. A special dedication service is set for 9 a.m. on Oct. 3 with Adrian

Trust fund established for paralyzed missionary

The Florida Baptist Foundation and First Church of Tishomingo, Okla., have set up a trust fund for Sharon Suttles, who was seriously and permanently injured when a church van overturned near Dade City, July 23 following a mission trip to Miami.

A single mother of three—ages 13, 10 and 4—Suttles is paralyzed from her waist down and will be unable to operate her day-care center, leaving her without income. Also, according to church officials, she has no insurance.

Persons wishing to offer encouragement may contact Ms. Suttles through the church at P. O. Box 158, Tishomingo, Okla. 73460. Persons wishing to contribute to the trust fund should send it to the Florida Baptist Foundation, 1320 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., as guest speaker.

Harmony Church, Lakeland, will host John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, in its 10:50 a.m. worship service, Sept. 19. His topic will be "Growing an Evangelistic Church."

Homecomings:

Lake Shore Church, Jacksonville, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 18-19. A churchwide cookout is set for 5 p.m. on Saturday, and Sunday's activities will include Dan Featherstone preaching in the morning worship service, with a covered-dish lunch immediately following and a special music program at 2 p.m.

Five Points Church, Fernandina Beach, will celebrate its annual homecoming Sept. 19 with Pastor Richard Murray bringing the morning message in the 10:40 a.m. service. The Dixieland Quartet is set to sing and a dinner will be served following the worship service.

Mayo Church, Mayo, will have its annual homecoming celebration Sept. 26. Pastor Donald Moore will bring the message, followed by a covered-dish dinner in the fellowship hall.

North Main Street Church, Jacksonville, will have homecoming Sept. 26. New Director of Missions Ron Rowe will be the guest preacher for the 11 a.m. service and Providence will be sharing in music. Dinner on the grounds will follow the morning worship.

Revival:

Central Avenue Church, Lakeland, will conduct revival services Sept. 26-29 with Evangelist Ron Mooney preaching each night at 7 p.m.

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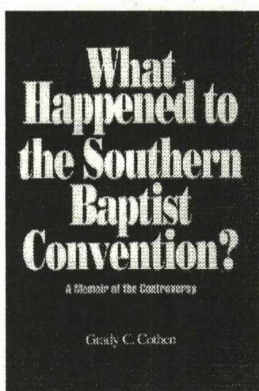
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Guest Pastor Sunday

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS — Occupying the pulpit for the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services Sunday at the Friendship Baptist Church will be the Rev. David Thomas.

The Rev. Milard Glass is to preach the service at 7:30 p.m., with R. C. Grainger directing the congregational singing.

The Rev. Harwood Steele and his family are on a one-week vacation.

4th Year Of Service Observed

The Rev. Harwood Steele has just completed four years of service at the Friendship Baptist Church, Altamonte Springs.

The church has grown considerably in all phases of activity the past four years. It has a balanced program with a place of service for those in the cradle roll to the senior adults. The church and Sunday School members is about the same, which is about 500.

Rev. Steele recently received his Th.B. degree in Bible doctrines from Luther Rice Seminary. He will continue studying for another year.

Last winter he made a trip to Israel where he visited Biblical historical spots, Athens, Corinth, and Rome. This trip was a gift from the members of the church.

Mrs. Steele works with her husband. She is coordinator for the Cradle Roll Department. Their daughter Ruth Ann is church pianist.

The church has completed a \$100,000 building program and will soon begin another.

Baptist Church Shows Growth With **Rev. Steele**

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS — Friendship Baptist Church of this community had fantastic growth since the **Rev. Harwood Steele** was called as pastor. This call came on June 11, 1965.

Friendship Baptist Church is located on Florida 436, in the heart of this city. It is a democratic organization, governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention.

ITS GOVERNMENT is vested in the body of the believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical

body, and receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice.

Since The **Rev. Mr. Steele** became pastor, the membership of the church has grown from 104 to 334, 97 of these by baptism. The budget offering has also grown from approximately \$800 per month in June 1965 to \$3,207 in April 1967.

The Sunday school and training union have been departmentalized with age level classes, providing for every age, from infants up. Ten new Sunday school classes have been organized; a new members orientation in training union; the nursery expanded to three departments; three chapters of royal ambassadors and two girl reserves between ages 9-16 have been organized; a Sunbeam Band ages 4-8 meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

ALL OF THESE organizations are active and growing. The mission offering has increased from \$80 per month in 1965 to \$350 per month in 1967.

The **Rev.** and Mrs. **Steele** reside at 207 Hermit's Trail. They have two daughters, Mary Helen, who is attending Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and Ruth Ann, a seventh grader at South Seminole Junior High School.

Friendship Baptist's Hall Dedicated

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS — Dedication services for the new social hall and expanded sanctuary of Friendship Baptist Church were held Sunday following dinner on the grounds after the morning service.

The dedicatory service was delivered by the **Rev. Girod H. Cole Jr.**, pastor of College Park Baptist Church and vice president of Florida Baptist Convention. Others participating were the **Revs. Harwood Steele**, pastor, Friendship Church; Thomas J. Draper, metro-missions director, Wekiwa Baptist Association and Howard Long, pastor of Plymouth Baptist Church.

THE RECENTLY completed sanctuary more than doubles former seating capacity, bringing it to total of 450. Additional space was acquired by taking two former classrooms at the front and two kitchen rooms at the rear of the sanctuary. A capacity crowd attended morning service Sunday.

Other visiting dignitaries included the **Revs. Joseph Pizzino**, First Baptist Church, Shady Springs, W. Va.; Ralph Taylor, First Baptist Church, Union Park and Arnie Robertson, evangelist, Greensborough, N. C.

A building committee included Ross Williams, chairman; Ed Kelsey, E. H. Tiller, J. B. Jordan and Tom Robertson. The builder was H. H. Haynie.

Baptists Utilize Plough For Groundbreaking Event

Rev. Cole Addresses Gathering

By RAYMOND MORRIS

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS — A novel twist for groundbreaking for a new \$200,000 sanctuary was employed Sunday by members of Friendship Baptist Church when a plough was used to turn the earth instead of a conventional shovel. A one-horse (or one-mule) plough harkening back to the days when draft animals did the work now performed by tractors, was drawn by members of the church in ceremonies at the site of the new church building.

Church members were advised by the Rev. Girod H. Cole Jr., pastor of College Park Baptist Church, Orlando, principal speaker for the occasion to "plough deep, get down to solid rock for a firm foundation."

Members took the words of the Rev. Mr. Cole seriously for when their combined pull was felt on a new five-eighths inch hemp plough line it snapped shortly after the blade had turned a furrow several inches in depth on the building site.

MORE THAN 300 people were present for the ceremonies that followed a covered-dish dinner provided by women of the church, served buffet style on the church lawn.

In his introductory remarks the Rev. Harwood Steele, church pastor, said, "In an endeavor of this kind cooperation is vitally needed; cooperation of church members, of business people, local governmental officials and financial institutions."

The Rev. Mr. Steele paid special tribute to the planning committee for its work and on financing he

Participating in group
Sunday for Friendship Baptist
Springs, with hands on plough

expressed the church's appreciation to the First National Bank at Maitland for its role in the overall financing program.

THE REV. Mr. Steele said that the necessary cooperation needed was shown by members of the planning committee, adding that he feels confident the building committee will carry on in like manner.

After being introduced by the Rev. Mr. Steele, Don Rogers, vice president of

the First National Bank at Maitland said, "It is a pleasure for a Presbyterian banker to meet so many good Baptists at the same time."

Rogers explained that the bank was acting as paying agent for bonds issued by the church in amounts of \$250, \$500, \$750 and \$1,000 denominations. In that manner Rogers said that the bank is assisting in the financial program.

ROGERS ALSO said, "Pastor **Steele** and church

officials are to be complimented on their foresight to enter upon a building program now, in an area where the growth potential is beyond our comprehension."

The **Rev.** Mr. Cole, who is moderator of The Wekiwa Baptist Association also said, "It takes many different kinds of people to carry on for the kingdom." He included the type of person needed to carry out the financial duties, the

unique person needed to teach a class in Sunday school, another type for missionary work, the type of men employed in the building trades, all combining their talents and efforts to build to the Glory of God."

The **Rev.** Mr. Cole also said, "This new building represents the fruition of your dreams; some will weep and some will disagree over plans but by committing your lives to

God the final decision will be made to build for the honor and glory of God."

He added that self-conceit and egotism have no place in such a program, one

designed to meet the needs of a growing church and a growing community.