

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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Steele, Mike served as pastor of Lake Ellen Baptist Church, 1976-1978.

Lake Ellen (Florida)

J.C. Holt.....	1972-1974
No Pastor (Interim P.S. Woody).....	1974-1976
Mike Steele.....	1976-1978
No Pastor (Interim P.S. Woody).....	1978-1980
J. Wyatt Pope.....	1980-1984
Donald Bell.....	1984-1987
Lowry Lee Sweat.....	1987-1990
Dr. David P. Freshour.....	1991-1993
No Pastor (Interim David Carraway).....	1994-1996
Keith Wallace.....	1996-present

Our first pastor, Elder G.W. Bostick, also started Mt. Elon Baptist Church in 1854. O.N. Revell served at First Baptist Sopchoppy from 1924-1927. He also served Lake Ellen and First Baptist Sopchoppy on alternating Sundays during his tenure with our church. The first deacons to serve at Lake Ellen were Almon Levy and J.W. Smith. The minutes did not always list the officers of the church. I have the first recorded deacon in 1929, when R.W. Langston was ordained. In 1943, Floyd Gray, L.E. Linton and Fletcher Durrance were ordained as deacons. Floyd Gray later was licensed then ordained to preach. In 1947, Truman Gray was ordained as deacon.

The earliest minutes found were April 2, 1910. The Treasurer was J.L. Langston and the clerk was Jake A. Whetstone. The pastor at this time was A.V. Reese.

The church participated in Union Meetings from 1910 through the late 1950's held monthly. From 1910 through 1952 the Union meetings and other meetings were the highlights of the minutes. These meetings were attended as far away as Bristol, in Liberty County. These meetings were held on the fifth Sunday and usually consisted of topical preaching. This was done so that the churches within the Florida Baptist Association could have doctrinal studies. They were also held so that the churches could have more opportunities to worship. At this time, most all of the churches met only once a month for worship. Some messengers elected to represent our church were J.L. Langston, John Ervin Pigott, Jr. , Jake A. Whetstone, Jas Ezill, Walter Gray and Isey Bell Gray.

The first reference to being a member of the Florida Association was made on October 1, 1910 when J.L. Langston and J.E. Pigott were to serve as delegates to the Florida Baptist Association in Tallahassee.

The first reference to participating in the Southern Baptist Convention is in 1913 when J.L. Langston was elected as a messenger.

It was voted on in conference that the church would meet on