

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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Steelman, Fred (1937-) was born in Mississippi. He graduated from Mississippi State University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Steelman served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida including First Baptist Church, Niceville, 1968-1974. He and his wife, Rebecca Bowman Steelman had three children.



Dr. Fred Steelman Retiring In Spring Of 2007

Sunday, March 13, 2005

Dr. Fred Steelman, longtime pastor of the Red Bank Baptist Church, told his congregation on Sunday that he plans to retire in the spring of 2007.

Dr. Steelman said he will be 70 at that date.

He said he made his announcement early so that a search committee can begin the search for his replacement.

Dr. Steelman noted there was a nationwide search when he was brought to the church in 1974 when he was 37 years old. He was preaching in Florida at the time.

Red Bank Baptist has had only two ministers in the last 57 years, officials said.

Those are Dr. Steelman and his predecessor, Dr. Ralph E. Norton.

The church now has about 3,000 members.

Dr. Steelman's wife, Becky, is a former teacher at Red Bank Elementary School.

The couple has a daughter, Allison. A son, Kerry, is an aide to Congressman Zach Wamp, who is a member of the church. Another son, Barry Steelman, is assistant district attorney for Hamilton County.

Chattanooga, Tennessee

First Baptist Church, Niceville (Choctaw)

Reverend John B. Rollins served as pastor during 1947-1948, and a baptistry was installed in the church. The church had its first Vacation Bible School in 1947.

Reverend Carlton B. Ellis became pastor in 1949 and served through 1955. During this time the church erected the present educational building (1951) and the present sanctuary (1953-1954). The sanctuary was sponsored with a \$25,000 bond issue, and much of the work of building was done by church members. Also during this time, 676 people were added to the church membership. Two of the church's young men were ordained to the ministry, and a new organ and several pianos were purchased. It was a period of rapid growth in all areas of the church's ministry.

In 1955 the church called Reverend F. H. Morgan to serve as pastor. Under his seven-year leadership, the church purchased new church furniture for the pulpit and sanctuary, ordained several deacons, began a Junior Deacon program, sponsored and began building the Seminole Baptist Chapel, now Parkway Baptist Church, remodeled and renovated the pastorium, joined in forming the Choctaw Baptist Association, received into membership by baptism and letter approximately 900 people, and purchased another one and one-third acres of land to accommodate church growth. Reverend Morgan resigned in 1962 and was succeeded by Reverend J. C. McLendon.

During the pastorate of Reverend McLendon, the church purchased and extensively remodeled a home to serve as the new pastorium. The pastorium on McKinney Street became the home of the church's first Minister of Youth and Education, Charles S. Barham in 1965. During the next two years, the church remodeled, rebuilt, and erected three new buildings for nursery, kitchen, new fellowship hall and much-needed additional Sunday School space. On March 12, 1967, a dedication service was held to dedicate the new buildings to the service of the Lord.

In July 1968, Reverend McLendon resigned to accept a call to Calvary Baptist Church, in St. Louis, Mo. He was succeeded in September of that year by Reverend **Fred Steelman**.

In 1969, Glynn Gardner was called to serve as Minister of Music and Youth, and the W.M.U. began its ministry to Internationals. Through this program people of other nationalities are taught to speak, read, and write English and they are told of Christ.

Between 1969 and 1973, the church constructed a large Activities Building, used for recreational and educational purposes, and called James Woody to serve as the Associate Pastor. Tom Townsend served a short term as Minister of Youth.

In 1974, Reverend Fred Steelman resigned and was succeeded by Reverend W. Don Wilson. Reverend Ron Moulton served as Minister of Music and Youth under Reverend Wilson's pastorate. Both men resigned in 1976.

Rev. W. H. Farmer served as Associate Pastor, then Interim Pastor, between

Steelman Family To Be Honored

The **Rev. Fred Steelman**, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Niceville for the past three years, and Mrs. **Steelman** will be honored this Sunday at "Fred and Becky **Steelman** Day" by members of the church.

There will be a church fellowship in their honor following the evening worship service.

Rev. Steelman assumed the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Niceville on Nov. 6, 1968, coming here from First Baptist Church, Cave City, Kentucky. Prior to that time, he occupied the pastorates of First Baptist Church, Russell Springs, Ky., Emmanuel Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss., and Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Franklin, Kentucky.

Baptist Association for the 1971-72 year. He recently was one of the speakers at the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Members of the **Rev Steelman's** family are his wife, the former Miss Rebecca Bowman, of Tompkinsville, Ky., and their three children, Barry, 7, Allyson, 6, and Cary, eight months old.

An invitation is extended by the members of First Baptist Church of Niceville to all those interested in attending the worship services and fellowship this Sunday evening to do so.

Mrs. **Steelman** is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billie Bowman of Tompkinsville and granddaughter of Mrs. Doc Miller.

that time.

Under **Rev. Steelman's** leadership the following ministries also have been started at the church—the bus ministry, presently with four in operation and two additional ones to begin soon; ministry to the church youth through the Coffee House; and International English Classes with an enrollment of 46 students at the present time.

The Women's Missionary Union and youth organizations within the church have been reorganized, also the Crusaders, a mission organization for young boys. Plans are currently underway to build an Activities Building on the church grounds. This will be a multi-purpose project in that it will house a gymnasium and church kitchen and the building will be used at times for Sunday School and worship services.

Rev. Steelman was instrumental in getting a Baptist Student Union organized on the Okaloosa-Walton Junior College campus. He led his church in sponsoring a Little League Team and has worked extensively with this group.

He is a member of the Twin Cities Ministerial Association and is presently serving as Moderator of the Choctaw

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FLOMICH AVE. BAPTIST--The **Rev. Fred Steelman**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Niceville, will be



director of a school of evangelism at Flomich Ave. Baptist Church Monday through Thursday. Training sessions for youth and adults will be at 7 each night.

Rev. Steelman is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southern Baptist Seminary. His church is among the top 20 Baptist churches in Florida in baptisms.

Purpose of the training school is to teach laymen to share their faith with others. Registration fee is \$5 a person or \$10 for a family.

Central Baptist Church to celebrate 39th anniversary

Speaker, dinner planned

Central Baptist Church and Pastor, the **Rev. Vernon R. Berry**, will celebrate the church's 39th anniversary Sunday, June 13.

Special services will be held at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Old Time Gospel Singers of Crew will perform music and the guest speaker will be the **Rev. Fred Steelman**, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C.

The **Rev. Steelman** is a graduate of Tabernacle Baptist College in Greenville, S.C., where he earned his bachelor of theology degree.

Steelman organized the Faith Baptist Church in Broadway where he was pastor for 16 years.

Steelman is married to the former Ruth Wade and they are the parents of two children.

An anniversary dinner will be provided at the church at 1 p.m. June 12.

A nursery will be available for both services. For further information or transportation, call 942-1344.



The **Rev. Fred Steelman**

Chattanooga To Head State's Baptists

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A Chattanooga minister was elected Wednesday to lead Tennessee's one million Southern Baptists.

The **Rev. Fred Steelman**, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, won the presidency of the 1983 Tennessee Baptist Convention in a runoff with the **Rev. Earl Wilson**, pastor of City View Baptist Church in Knoxville.

Also Wednesday, messengers to the 108th annual meeting adopted an \$18 million Cooperative Program budget for fiscal year 1982-83, which runs from November until next Oct. 31. More than a third of the money will go to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Steelman, 45, served as presi-

dent of the convention's executive board for the past year. He succeeds the **Rev. Wayne Allen** of Memphis as convention president.

The **Rev. Irvin Hays**, pastor of Bartlett Baptist Church, was elected vice president of the convention.

The three-day convention opened Tuesday and has attracted messengers, or delegates, from each of the state's 2,783 Southern Baptist churches. Convention officials said there are nearly 1.3 million Southern Baptists in Tennessee.

Steelman, born in Mississippi, received an undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University, a master of divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in

Louisville, Ky., and a doctorate of divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church for eight years.

Presidents of the Tennessee Bap-

tist Conventions are chosen annually on a rotating basis from the state's three grand divisions. The convention site also rotates among the grand divisions and Chattanooga will host next year's gathering.

