

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



Stephens, Alton (1921-2010) was born in Toccoa Falls, Georgia, the son of William Roland and Nettie Gertrude Stephens. He attended Stetson University, DeLand. Stephens served as pastor in Georgia and Florida, including Calvary Baptist Church, St. Augustine, 1954, 1955, First Baptist Church, Flagler Beach, St. Augustine, River Road Baptist Church and Flora Home Baptist Church. He and his wife Martha Faye Watson Stephens had four children.

Alton Marion Stephens

Birth 28 Jul 1921

Toccoa Falls, Stephens County, Georgia, USA

Death 21 Mar 2010 (aged 88)

Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia, USA

Burial

Eastanollee Baptist Church Cemetery

Eastanollee, Stephens County, Georgia, USA

Reverend Alton Marion Stephens, age 88 of Dalton GA, departed this life on Sunday in Dalton.

He was the son of William Roland and Nettie Gertrude Whitehead Stephens, he was born in Toccoa Falls and lived in Florida, Dalton and Toccoa for a long number of years. He was a graduate of Old Madison High School in Oconee County, SC and later attended Seminary at Stetson College in Deland, FL. He was a veteran of World War II having served in the U.S. Army. He pastored Antioch Baptist Church, Temple Baptist Church, Smyrna Baptist Church, Pisgah Baptist Church and Mill Creel Baptist Church in Dalton, GA. He also pastored a number of churches in Florida and Toccoa, GA.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Martha Watson Stephens, a daughter and her husband, Faith and Ed Gillespie of Dalton, sons and daughters-in-law, Rev. Ron A. and Susie Stephens of Chatsworth, Wade R. and Phyllis Stephens of Dalton, and Rev. Brian J. and Lynne Stephens of Clarksville, GA.

Family Members

Spouse

Martha Faye Watson Stephens
1924–2010

Children

Faith Stephens Gillispie

Ronnie Stephens

Wade Stephens

Brian Stephens

Duncan took
the other day.
Ralph Ray-
all the work.
and about the
saw him.

Club gave a
d Hotel, Fri-
ds will go to
Clara Buteux

Leod left for
nts Saturday.
to know just
be away or
going, so let's
eregrinatin'.

was chair-
at the Flag-
School Sat-
rved chili and
good and we'll
next week.
no Yalesville,
an Jacobs of
isiting Esther
is week. Mrs.
sister-in-law.
ies and found
fun.

n's Club held
at the Gar-
in Hillcrest



Rev. Alton Stephens

NEW PASTOR AT CALVARY BAPTIST . . . The **Rev. Alton Stephens** has accepted the pastorate of the Calvary Baptist Church, on Arenta Avenue, St. Augustine. Mr. **Stephens** who comes from Palatka, Florida, assumed his duties last month.

The **Rev.** and Mrs. **Stephens** and sons, Ronnie and Wade are residing at 6-B Aviles Drive. Telephone 1022-X-R.



Rev. Alton Stephens

Preaches Sunday At Calvary Baptist

The **Rev. Alton Stephens**, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Palatka, will preach at the morning and evening services at the Calvary Baptist Church of St. Augustine on Sunday.

Mr. **Stephens** will also teach the Adult Sunday School Class at 9:45 o'clock Sunday.

The public is invited to join the congregation of Calvary at both services and a good attendance of members is desired.

The church is located on Arenta Street in West Augustine.

dean of men.

Rev. Alton Stephens

Resigns As Pastor Of Calvary Baptist

The **Rev. Alton Stephens** announces his resignation as pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church. We will preach his last sermon on Sunday and the public is cordially invited to attend.

The church is located at 36 Arenta Street.

Daytona Beach Morning Journal
Sun, Jul 22, 1956 -Page 1

Brannan (Friday); Walter Morris, Rev. Alton Stephens, Russell Steven (Saturday).
Lt. Harry Purdy stopped to visit

The St. Augustine Record
Fri, Jan 20, 1956 -Page 4

Flagler Beach News
By LUNA BABBITT

First Baptist Church News
A group of fifteen, including Rev. and Mrs. Alton Stephens motored to Palatka on Monday evening to attend the Sunday School Associational meeting. The speaker for the meeting was Dr. E. Hermand Westmoreland from Main Street Baptist Church of Houston, Texas.

W. M. U. Focus Week is being observed by both circles of the Union. The week started off by holding a circle meeting on Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. J. L. Presswood.

Rev. Alton Stephens will preach both morning and evening service Sunday, January 23rd on "Baptist's Beliefs as Found in the New Testament."

The Girls' Auxiliary will hold

The St. Augustine Record
Sun, Jan 22, 1956 -Page 12

Flagler Beach Baptist Church Lists Services

for Is-ust Is- by the in the ent By on-na-ent des ere ua- no tie- end e to one. new ind-

Rev. Alton Stephens, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Flagler Beach, is announcing Sunday church services as follows: Sunday School will be held at 9:45 a.m., with Fred Schatz, Asst. Supt.; 11 a.m. Worship Service; 6:30 p.m. By Training Union, Stanley Springer, director; 7:30 p.m. Worship Service. Other services at the church during the week will include a meeting of the Girls' Auxiliary at 3:30 p.m. Monday with Mrs. Alton Stephens as leader; a meeting of the Sunbeams will be held Tuesday at 4 p.m. with Mrs. Mae Shill as leader; and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. the weekly prayer service will be held.

The Flagler Beach First Baptist Church is located at the corner of Central Avenue and 6th Street.

Rev. Alton Stephens

Holds

Service for Couple at

Home of Bride

The marriage of Miss Sarah De-
Vaney and Jarvis Ashmore was solem-
nized last evening at 8 o'clock at the
home of the bride, 2412 East Nine-
teenth street, with the **Rev. Alton**
Stephens, pastor of the Mission Ridge
(Ga.) Baptist church, officiating.

The bride, daughter of Mrs. Elton

ness meeting.

Church Sets

Addition

From The News-Journal Bureau

PALATKA—Rev. Mike Zalam-
pas, pastor of the San Mateo Bap-
tist Church, announced that con-
struction on a three room addi-
tion to the Church Sunday School
rooms will be begun this week.
The new addition will house the
nursery department.

Rev. Zalampas will attend the
Florida Baptist Convention that
opens with a pastor's conference
Tuesday in Orlando.

The general meetings will be-
gin Tuesday afternoon and con-
tinue through Thursday. Other
pastors of the county who are
planning to attend are **Rev. H. K.**
Masteller, First Baptist; **Rev. Al-**
ton Stephens, River Road Bap-
tist; **Rev. Earl Willis**, Tabernacle
Baptist; **Rev. Gail Smith**, Cal-
vary Baptist; **Rev. M. L. Greer**,
Peniel Baptist; **Rev. John Strick-**
land, Lemon Heights Baptist; **Rev.**
W. F. Oddy, Palatka Heights; **Rev.**
V. J. Major, East Palatka Baptist,
and **Rev. Curtis Waters**, Francis
Baptist.

ma
rec
I
goe
call
and
like
cize
Dal
in
tod
15
T
tern
diti
ical
con
and
ind
to
h
v
f
t
h
t
d
l
s
lat
gal
tifi
gre
me
A
bal
sal

The Florida Times-Union
Thu, Apr 18, 1963 · Page 43

San Mateo; and four grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday in North Shore Christian Church with Rev. Alton Stephens, pastor of the Flora Home Baptist Church, assisted by Rev. Fred Brown, pastor of the North Shore Christian Church, officiating. Burial will be in Restlawn Cemetery in Jacksonville under the direction of Masters Funeral Home, Palatka.

Hendricks Ave. with field, pastor of Hendricks Memorial Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, who lived at 278 died Tuesday at home. Green Cove Springs, Jacksonville 54 years, of Lake City. She was a Hendricks Memorial M. Survivors include a dau

Daytona Beach Morning Journal
Sun, Aug 26, 1956 · Page 3

and weighed six pounds, 11 ounces. (T
Rev. William Stephens occupied the pulpit Sunday at First Baptist Church replacing his brother, Rev. Alton Stephens, now on vacation. Rev. William Stephens is on vacation from his church in East Point, Ga.

Daytona Beach Morning Journal
Sun, Oct 27, 1963 · Page 2

NEW OFFICERS elected at the meeting of the Tri-town Ministers Alliance Tuesday night in Rev. Gene Carter's study at the Methodist Church were: Rev. Jim Sledge, pastor of the Baptist Church Seville, moderator; Rev. Alton Stephens, pastor of the Pierson Baptist Church, vice moderator; Rev. Daniel Har-

History of Calvary Baptist Church

Late in September 1934, a small group of friends gathered at the home of Mrs. W. C. Winfield, to pray for the lost and unchurched of the community. From that prayer group, a church was formed and Dr. E. W. Beacher suggested the name "Calvary."

There were twelve charter members. The first sermon was preached by Rev. J. J. Johnson, in the vacant church building on the corner of Saragossa & Riberia Streets. Mr. Glen Thompson was the first member baptized.

Rev. D. F. Hickman of Georgiana, Alabama, conducted two weeks of Revival Services. Because of the large number who presented themselves for baptism and membership, the Church extended a call to Rev. Hickman. He became the first pastor, on a temporary basis, and served until February 11, 1935.

In January 1935, the Church members held services in the Y.M.C.A. on Riberia St., then in March again moved to 33 Treasury St., in the Monson Annex.

On the first anniversary of the church, Oct. 17, 1935, the members announced they would purchase property and build their own building. A corner lot on Riberia and Saragossa Streets was purchased.

The church building, built in part by the members, was ready for Easter Service, 1937. During this time the church had been served by lay members, deacons, and retired ministers. It was October 17, 1943, under Rev. E. G. Hall's ministry, when the church building was paid and the mortgage was burned.

It was at the beginning of Rev. Malcolm Galbraith's ministry (1949-52), when on the advice of a visiting minister from DeLand, that Calvary Baptist Church was moved to Arenta Street, in "West Augustine." The church then really began to grow during Rev. Alton Stephens' ministry (1954-55).

Under Rev. Armando Silverio's ministry (1955-61), the new church edifice at 110 Masters Drive was built and the first service was held January 17, 1960.

The Pastorium, 106 Masters Drive, was built in the year of 1967, under the ministry of Rev. James F. Lanier (1966-67).

Two rooms were added to the Pastorium in the beginning of Rev. Carl Franklin's ministry (1968-83). The large annex south of the church edifice was designed by Bro. Franklin and completed in 1970. Added ministries during this term included Bus Ministry, Radio Ministry, Deaf Ministry, and special education classes in Sunday School for the Mentally Retarded.

Rev. Joe J. Martin, Interim Pastor, began his ministry at Calvary June 1983, and led the church in a loving ministry for nine months, visiting every single member that could be contacted.

Rev. David Beauchamp (pronounced "Beach-em"), called by the church, began his ministry March 4, 1984.

There has been much excitement and growth, experiencing many coming to the Lord Jesus in saving faith. Calvary Baptist Church members pray that you will always feel at home in our services and that the family of believers will continue to extend to others the warmth and love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May God Bless You...

HISTORY OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

Late in September, 1934, a small group of friends gathered at the home of Mrs. W. C. Winfield, on Riberia Street, to pray for the lost and unchurched of the community. From that prayer group, a church was formed and the late Dr. E. W. Beacher suggested the name of "Calvary."

The first service was held in the Lutheran Church, which was rented for four months. The Lutheran congregation had not been holding services for some time prior to the organization of Calvary Church.

There were twelve charter members. Dr. E. W. Beecher, Mrs. C. Vann, J.P. Davis, Mrs. J. P. Davis, Mrs. Eva Hamblen, Mrs. W. W. Winfield, Mr. Percy Walton, Mrs. Percy Walton, Mr. W. L. Cooksey, Mrs. W. L. Cooksey, Mrs. E. C. Earls, Mrs. Glen Thompson. Mrs. Eva Hamblen came in as a charter member with the understanding that Calvary would ALWAYS be a church where "the poor would have the gospel preached to them."

The late Mr. Glen Thompson was one of the first members baptized into the church. The first sermon was preached by Rev. J. J. Johnson, a retired minister of Penny Farms.

Due to a large number who presented themselves for baptism and membership after two weeks of revival services conducted by Rev. D. F. Hickman of Georgiana, Alabama, the group extended a temporary call to Rev. Hickman, who served until February 11, 1935.

Lutheran work was revived and it was necessary for the Calvary membership to move to another location. Services were held for a time at the Y.M.C.A., beginning in January, 1935, until more

permanent quarters could be secured. The church then moved to 33 Treasury Street, in the Monson Annex, the following March.

At the first anniversary of the church, October 17, 1935, the members announced they would purchase property and build their own building. The large and beautiful lot at the corner of Iberia and Saragossa Streets was purchased. Records showed that in all the history of St. Augustine, nothing had ever been built on this lot.

The church, built in part by the members, was ready for Easter Service in 1937. During this time the church had been served by lay members, deacons, and retired ministers, mostly from Penny Farms.

It was October 17, 1943, when the church was paid for and the mortgage was burned.

It was at the beginning of Rev. Galbraith's ministry, November, 1949, and on the advice of a very fine visiting retired minister from Deland, Rev. Saunders, that Calvary Church was moved to Arenta Street, in West St. Augustine.

It was during Rev. Alton Stephens ministry, that the church really began to grow.

Under Rev. Armando Silverio's ministry, the new church edifice at 110 Masters Drive, was built and the first service was held January 17, 1960.

The Pastorium, 106 Masters Drive, was built in the year of 1967. Two rooms were added in the beginning of Rev. Carl Franklin's ministry, under his direction.

The large annex, south of the church edifice, was designed by Bro. Franklin and built in 1970. Added ministries during this term, include Bus Ministry, Radio Ministry, Deaf Ministry, and Special Education for the Retarded Ministry.

April 2, 1978, Rev. Franklin's 10th Anniversary as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. The church, showing their appreciation for his ministry, presented him with a Deed to an acre of land of his and his wife's choice, as a gift.

The following are the men of God who served as ministers:

Rev. D. F. Hickman, 1934-1935; Rev. A. M. Yarborough, 1935-1938; Rev. C. M. White, 1938-1939; Rev. A. M. Yarborough, 1939-1942; Rev. E. G. Hall, 1942-1944; Rev. Isray Evans, 1944-1945; Dr. Henry Broome, 1945-46; Rev. R. W. Dickert, 1946-1949; Rev. Malcolm Galbraith, 1949-1952; Rev. George Downs, 1953-1954; Rev. Alton Stephens, 1954-1954; Rev. Armando Silverio, 1955-1961; Rev. Glenn Gaffney, 1961-1963; Rev. W. W. Fountain, 1963-1966; Rev. James F. Lanier, 1966-1967; Rev. Paul Estes (Interim), 1967-1968; Rev. Carl Franklin, 1968.....

Our church welcomed the very first pastor, Rev. Hickman, to join us in celebrating our 44th Anniversary, October 29, 1978. We praise the Lord to be soon approaching our 45th Anniversary, October 28, 1979.

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH HISTORY FOR ANNUAL MINUTES

This is a list of the Churches that have already had their history in the Annual Minutes and a tentative list of the years that we want to have the other histories. If you would like to have your church history appear at another time we will be glad to arrange it.

1970	Peniel
1971	Woodlawn
1972	Peniel; San Mateo, First; Ancient City
1973	Crescent City, First; Hastings, First
1974	Beulah; Paran; Pomona Park, First; Welaka, First
1975	Palatka, First; River Road; Southside, Palatka