

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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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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Stephens, C. Willard (1914-2000) was born in Meridian, Mississippi the son of Benjamin and Fena Stephens. He attended Mississippi College, Howard College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Stephens served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Florida including St. Andrews Baptist Church, Panama City, 1952-1963. He and his wife, Clara Stephens had one daughter.

NEW PASTOR AT ST. ANDREW-

—Rev. C. Willard Stephens has accepted the call to the First Baptist Church of St. Andrew. He comes here from the North Edgefield Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., where has was pastor for the past four years. Rev. Stephens is a native of Meridian, Miss., and attended Mississippi College and Howard College in Birmingham. He received his theological training at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Kentucky.

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This, That and the Other

North Central Church Calls N. B. Langford as Pastor



N. B. Langford, Jr. resigned as pastor of First Church, Union Springs, Ala. to become pastor of North Central Church, Gainesville on July 14.

Langford is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. He has served as associational Sunday school superintendent, associational chairman of evangelism, and a member of the Executive Board of the Alabama Baptist Convention. He has written articles for several Baptist publications.

While at Union Springs, Langford led the church in installing an elevator, air-conditioning, and remodeling the education building. In the last three years there have been 168 additions, more than half of these for baptism. In 1962 the Union Springs Church received the Alabama Baptist Public Relations Award, sent a group of six church members to Ohio to establish a mission, and started a radio ministry.

Mrs. Langford, the former

C. W. Stephens Resigns St. Andrew Church

C. Willard Stephens, pastor of St. Andrew Church, Panama City for the past 11½ years, has resigned to go to Kansas City, Mo.

Under Stephens' leadership, St. Andrew Church has had 1,904 additions (738 for baptism). Church membership has increased from 588 to 1,097, annual budget from \$18,582 to \$67,445, and gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program from \$1,282 to \$11,989. The education building and auditorium have been remodeled, the auditorium air-conditioned, a grand piano and organ with chimes purchased, an education building erected, and four adjoining lots purchased.

Stephens has been moderator of Northwest Coast Association and a member of State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist Convention.

James L. Moore, 83, of Lake Helen, a long-time pastor in Florida, died on May 30. Funeral services were conducted in DeLand on June 3 by J. Harrison Griffin of DeLand, T. M. Johns of Lakeland, and Gale Smith of Sanford.

Surviving are his wife; a daughter, Jean Moore, a public school superintendent at Hollywood, Fla.; a son, John, a minister in North Carolina; and three grandchildren.

Wm. H. Bledsoe has resigned as pastor of Bradley Church, Bradley to accept a call to Midway Church, Plant City.

Nancy Underwood of Amarillo, Texas, is a graduate of Texas Woman's University. They have two children, age two years and five months.

Two Floridians to Assist In Hawaiian Crusade

James L. Monroe, pastor of Riverside Church, Miami, and Billy J. Dickerson, pastor of Jackson Heights Church, Tampa, will work for two weeks in the Hawaii Jubilee Revivals in Hawaii, August 18-September 1.

Thirty-nine mainland pastors and musicians from 15 states will assist 28 Southern Baptist churches and missions in the six Hawaii associations.

The mainland churches are investing their leadership and providing transportation and expenses for this state-wide evangelistic campaign.

Richardson Goes to Bristol

Bobby Richardson became pastor of Lake Mystic Church, Bristol on July 1.

A May graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Richardson was pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, near Eufaula, Ala., for the past two years.

Mrs. Richardson was Joyce Mann of Ashland, Ala. They have three children: Roger, 11; Kathy Ann, 8; and Karen, 6.

Dan Stone resigned as pastor of Southside Church, St. Petersburg to accept the pastorate of First Church, Paris, Ky., effective June 16.

Former members and friends are invited to attend Homecoming at Bethel Church, Lakeland on July 28, which will be the last day of a week of revival services led by James McKeithen.

Bethel Church is observing its 100th anniversary this year. W. A. Robinson is pastor.

Former members and friends are invited to attend the annual Homecoming Day on August 4 at First Church, Bronson, where R. G. Key is pastor. Harold Johnson of Tallahassee, a former pastor, will be guest speaker. Dinner will be served.

At its 47th Homecoming on July 7, Hasty Pond Church in Chipola Association had two of its three remaining charter members attending. R. B. Alderman, pastor of Pine Grove Church, Greensboro, was guest speaker.

Home Stanley Morgan, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Church near Wellborn for the past four years, is retiring on July 28. During his 49-year ministry, Morgan has pastored Immanuel Church, Cambridge, Mass. and North Baptist Church, New York City.

Walter D. Agnor, pastoral missionary for the Home Mission Board, informs us that Southern Baptist work is conducted in the following places in Connecticut: First Church, C.A., East Hartford; New Haven Chapel, 355 Humphrey St., New Haven; and Pleasant Valley Church, Groton.

New Associate Pastor at Immanuel, Panama City



Thomas William Kennedy recently became associate pastor of Immanuel Church, Panama City.

Kennedy is a graduate of Howard College with a B.A. degree, and he recently received a B.D. degree from New Orleans Seminary. He pastored churches during his college and seminary days, and comes to Florida from the pastorate of Calvary Church, Tyler, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy are both natives of Dothan, Ala. They have two sons: David, 8; and Alan, 4.

Accepts Dunedin Pastorate

W. Richard Wynn has resigned the pastorate of King Street Church, Cocoa to accept a call to First Church, Dunedin, effective August 1.

A graduate of FSU and Southeastern Seminary, Wynn went to Cocoa seven years ago from his seminary pastorate at Roxobel, N. C. In the past seven years King Street Church has had 1,138 additions (394 for baptism). Church membership has increased from 200 to 850, Sunday school enrollment from 250 to 1,000, total gifts from \$11,943 to \$66,913, and value of church property from \$35,000 to \$342,000. The church has enlarged, renovated and air-conditioned the auditorium, built five education units, bought a pastory and a home for the minister of music and education, and organized Clearlake Church.

For two years Wynn was moderator of Brevard Association and was a member of the State Board of Missions for three years. He is now on the District Missions Committee and is chairman of the Missions Committee of the Association.

Mrs. Wynn is the former Bonnie Studdill of Greenville. They have three children: Dianne, 15; Bonnie Lou, 9; and Richard, Jr., 1.



Lake View Church, Miami to Erect \$65,000 Building

Some 300 people met at Lake View Church, Miami for groundbreaking services on June 16.

Participating in the services were Richard Whipple, pastor; J. B. Rogers, a former pastor; and J. Ray Dobbs, field secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention. Pictured, from left, are: Kyle Jones, Training Union director; Talmadge Sutton, Sunday school superintendent; Richard Whipple; Hubert Ledbetter, chairman of Building Committee; and Clinton Hester, member of Building Committee.

The \$65,000 building, of concrete block and masonry construction, will have six Nursery, two Beginner, two Intermediate



and two Adult departments, with a suite of five offices and a pastor's study.

In the past 10½ years, under Whipple's leadership, Lake View Church has grown from less than 100 to 900 in Sunday school, and now has a budget of \$58,000. For several years the church has averaged 100 baptisms a year.

Charles Willard Stephens

Birth

10 Jun 1914

Death

17 May 2000 (aged 85)

Burial

Arlington Memory Gardens

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, USA

Charles Willard Stephens went home to be with the Lord on May 17, 2000. He was born in Meridian, Mississippi on June 10, 1914, the son of Fena and Benjamin Stephens. Willard was a salesman for Proctor and Gamble during the early forties in Northern Alabama. He then became an ordained Southern Baptist Minister and served churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, and Missouri over a period of 45 years. His "sales" ability was channeled through his years as a minister, by sharing his faith one on one, establishing church camps, working with the Boy Scouts, doing "chalk talks", and writing and illustrating numerous booklets about the Christian Faith. He enjoyed serving as an Evangelist. His hobbies included: fishing, golfing, gardening, painting, photography, and an immense love of nature and God's universe. He was a man of strong opinions, passionate convictions about religion and politics, and a quick and friendly smile for all he met - a man who exhibited true "Southern Charm". He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Clara, who lovingly cared for him in his last years; his daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Curtis Nigh of OKC; his granddaughters and grandsons-in-law, Andrea and Kraig May, and Kelly and Steve Horton of Edmond; one sister, Nell Caldwell of Memphis, Tennessee, and 6 nieces.

Family Members

Spouse

Clara M. Parham Stephens

1916–2001