

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, Mark D. (1966-2007) was born in Tampa, Florida. He received his music degree from the University of Florida (B. Mu.) in 1989. He received his M.Div. from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in 1977, and his D. Min. degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2003. Stephens served as a pastor of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Lakeland (1997-2001) and Lockhart Baptist Church in Orlando (2001-2002). He also served churches in Arkansas and Tennessee. Stephens was director of the Florida Baptist Convention's Theological Education and Distance Learning Department from 2002 until his sudden death of a heart attack March 4, 2007. He and his wife, Natalie Stephens, have three daughters.



Mark D. Stephens

**Director, Theological Education and Distance Learning
Florida Baptist Convention**

1237 Whispering Winds Court

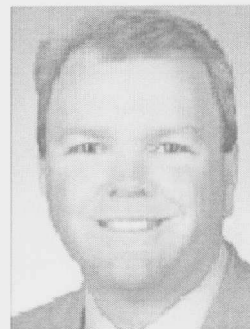
Apopka, FL 32703

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Primary Responsibility:

To develop, coordinate, promote, implement and administer the Convention's statewide strategy and program of distance learning that supports and expands theological education and skill (ministry) based training opportunities for Florida Baptists.

Personal

Birth: January 14, 1966, Tampa, Florida *DD 2007*

Family: Natalie Catherine (Brock), married May 27, 1989.
Rachel Christine, born July 21, 1991.
Sarah Danielle, born September 14, 1993.
Hannah Elizabeth, born May 24, 1996.

Church Membership:

First Baptist Church, Orlando, FL.

Salvation and Call to Ministry:

I accepted Christ as my personal Lord and Savior in 1983 during a spring revival at Lake Carroll Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida. Though I had spent my entire life in church, I came to a realization that night that I Christ was calling me to a personal relationship with Himself. I was baptized at Lake Carroll Baptist Church, Tampa shortly thereafter.

Though I struggled with the call to ministry for several years after salvation, I surrendered to full time vocational ministry in 1993. In 1994 I preached my first sermon at Oaklawn Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee where I was serving as Youth and Music Minister. That day I surrendered to the specific call to preach. Preaching is and always has been my primary call in ministry.

As a life long Southern Baptist, I believe in the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of all believers. I proudly espouse the Baptist Faith and Message of 2000 as a clear statement of Baptist faith and practice.

STEPHENS, DR. MARK DANIEL, 41, of Apopka passed away March 4, 2007. He was born in Tampa, FL to David F. and Margaret (Dreggors) Stephens. He was born January 14, 1966. He graduated from the University of Florida with a BM in Music in 1989; Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in 1997 with a Master of Divinity and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2002 with a Doctor of Ministry. He served in the following churches as a Music Director; Lake Carroll Baptist Church, Tampa and Oaklawn Baptist Church, Memphis, TN as well as Pastor of the following churches; Midway Baptist Church in Palestine, AK., Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Lakeland, FL and Lockhart Baptist Church, Orlando, FL. He was currently serving as Director of Theological Education Florida Baptist Convention and served as Interim Pastor at various Baptist churches in Central Florida. He was a loving and devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Natalie; daughters, Rachel Christine, Sarah Danielle and Hannah Elizabeth Stephens, all of Apopka; father, David F. Stephens and mother, Margaret D. Stephens of Tampa; brother, Jon David Stephens (Laureen) also of Tampa. Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday at 3PM at the First Baptist Sweetwater in Longwood with Dr. Larry Michael officiating. Visitation for friends will be Wednesday from 1-3PM at the church. Further services will be conducted Thursday, March 8 at 11AM at the Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa with Dr. Ken Whitten officiating. Visitation for friends will be one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Trust Fund for Children, College Education, First Baptist Church Sweetwater, 3800 Wekiva Springs Road, Longwood, FL 32779. BALDWIN-FAIRCHILD FUNERAL HOME, West Altamonte Chapel. 622 W. SR 436, Altamonte Springs, FL, 32714. 407-869-6065. Please view and sign the family guest book at www.baldwinfairchild.com