

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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Stertz, James G. (1923-2001) was born in Maplewood, Missouri. He graduated from William Jewell College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Stertz served as pastor of churches in Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and Florida including First Baptist Church, Deland and First Baptist Church, Sarasota. He served as assistant secretary for missionary personal with the Southern Baptist Convention. Stertz and his wife Eda Klarer Stertz were assigned as the first missionaries to Germany serving from 1961-1964. Eda Klarer Stertz was from Fernandina Beach, FL. She graduated from Tift College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Eda met and married James Stertz while attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and they had five children.

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James G. Stertz has resigned as pastor of First Church, Sarasota, effective Dec. 28, to go to First Church, Danville, Va.

View James Stertz's Obituary on greenvilleonline.com and share memories

Dr. James G. Stertz, 78, of 232 Pickens St., died Thursday, April 26, 2001, at Edgefield County Hospital following a brief illness.

Survivors: Wife of 54 years, Eda Klarer Stertz; children, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph K. Stertz of Edgefield, James G. Stertz Jr. of Edgefield, John Christopher Stertz of Dublin, Ohio, Ira Luke Stertz of Greenville, and Kathryn S. Rainsford of Edgefield; and 11 grandchildren.

Visitation: 7 to 8 p.m. today at Edgefield Mercantile Funeral Home. Service: 11 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church, Edgefield. Burial: Willowbrook Cemetery.

Memorials: Habitat for Humanity for Edgefield County, P.O. Box 27, Edgefield, SC 29824.

New Pastor Arrives For DeLand Church

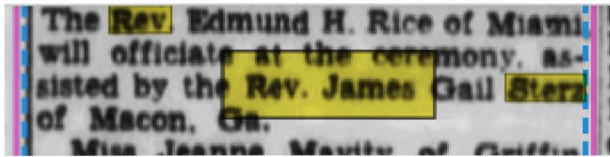
DELAND — The **Rev.** Mr. **James G. Sterz** and his family have arrived here to make their home. Mr. Sterz is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, and was formerly at the Central Baptist Church of Newnan, Ga., for five years. The Sterz family, including three children, is living at 245 E. Plymouth Ave.

Members of the congregation will honor the **Rev.** Mr. and Mrs. Sterz and Dr. and Mrs. O. L. Walker at a reception Feb. 11 at Allen Hall, Stetson University. Dr. Walker has served as interim pastor of the church for several months.

p.m. yesterday in Fish Memorial Hospital

Sterz

DELAND—**Rev.** and Mrs. **James Sterz**, 130 W. Pennsylvania Ave. are parents of a son weighing nine pounds, 10 ounces, born at 10:57 a. m. yesterday in Fish Memorial Hospital.



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Word and Way
Thu, Aug 01, 1957 · Page 7

James G. Stertz Elected to Foreign Mission Staff



Rev. James G. Stertz, pastor of First Baptist Church, De Land, Florida, was elected assistant secretary for missionary personnel at the May meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Rev. James G. Stertz, pastor of First Baptist Church, De Land, Florida, was elected assistant secretary for missionary personnel at the May meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Mr. Stertz was born in Maplewood, a suburb of St. Louis, to German immigrants who left Budapest, Hungary, in 1905 to look for political and religious freedom. He was graduated from William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, with the bachelor of arts degree and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, with the bachelor of divinity degree.

While a student in the seminary he was a boy's club supervisor for the YMCA of Louisville and for a part of that time was pastor of Dupont and Graham Baptist Churches, Dupont, Ind. Following graduation from the seminary he directed religious activities at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., for 18 months and served as pastor of Central Baptist Church, Newnan, Ga., for five years before going to the Florida church in February, 1954.

As pastor in a college town (Stetson University is located in De Land), Mr. Stertz has worked with students and has approximately 400 in his church membership of more than 2,000. Approximately 100 young people of his church are volunteers for mission and other full-time Christian service. The church has trebled its offerings since Mr. Stertz became pastor.

Mr. Stertz and his wife, the former Eda Klarer, native of Florida, were seeking appointment for overseas mission service when he was asked to become a member of the Board's home office staff.

As one of the assistant secretaries for mission personnel he will work with Rev. Elmer S. West, Jr., secretary for missionary personnel, and with Miss Edna Frances Dawkins and Rev. Bill B. Cody, both assistant secretaries in the department of missionary personnel.

The Foreign Mission Board's program of advance which calls for a minimum of 1,750 overseas missionaries by the end of 1963 has necessitated the enlargement of the personnel department. The Board expects to appoint 130 missionaries this year and hopes to increase the number year by year.

Mr. and Mrs. Stertz have four children.

MUSIC TEACHER NEEDED

By First Church

Rev. **James G. Stertz** Called By Baptists

The First Baptist Church announced Wednesday night that the Rev. **James G. Stertz**, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church in North Carolina has accepted the call of the local church to fill a pulpit vacancy of 15 months standing in the state's largest Baptist church.

The Rev. Mr. **Stertz** will assume his duties late in June. He succeeds Dr. L. D. Johnson who resigned more than a year ago to join the faculty of Furman University, where he is chaplain.

Unanimous standing votes by the congregation at both services Sunday morning approved a recommendation of the pulpit committee and the advisory pulpit committee that the call be issued.

The 45-year-old minister is a native of St. Louis, Mo., a Graduate of William Jewell College at Liberty, Mo., and Of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. After graduation he served as director of religious activities at Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

For four years he was pastor of Central Baptist Church at Newnan, Ga., and then went to First Church, Deland, Fla., where he ministered to students and faculty of Stetson University.

He served next on the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond as associate secretary for missionary personnel. He and his wife became Southern

Baptists' first missionaries to Germany in 1961.

Returning to the United States in 1964 on a medical furlough because of the illness of his young son, he served as assistant pastor of the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. He went to the Wake Forest Church when his son recovered and while there has been taking post graduate studies at the seminary.

The new pastor and his wife are extensive writers for religious publications in secular areas.



REV. **JAMES G. STERTZ**

J. G. Stertz To Speak at Youth Meet

An associate personnel secretary from the Southern Baptist Foreign Missionary Board will be featured speaker at a vocational guidance conference at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at North Jacksonville Baptist Church.

Dr. James G. Stertz, associate secretary in the department of missionary personnel, will appear as part of the church's youth week program.

Dr. J. M. Strickland, a local dentist, will be featured in a similar program the following night.

Before election to the Southern Baptist board in 1957, Stertz was director of religious activities at Mercer University and served as supervisor of boys clubs for the YMCA in Louisville, Ky.

He also has served as pastor of several churches. He was graduated from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville.

Last year Stertz surveyed missionary personnel needs in 10 Oriental countries. He also has conferred with missionary leaders in three European countries.

The youth week also will be featured by presentation of licenses to preach to three local men, Jim Spires, Bobby Reed and Bill McKnight. All are members of the local church and will be students at Baylor University this fall.

The young people will attend an outing at Keystone Heights Saturday and be guests at a special breakfast Sunday.



GETS NIGH

The Rev. Jerry Adkins will be honored at "Jerry Night" following evening services at First Baptist Church tomorrow. The Rev. Mr. Adkins is leaving First Baptist to become pastor of the First Church of Holly Hill. He came to the local church two years ago after being graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, Tex.

Methodist To Cond Youth W

The second annual Youth Activities Week at Southside Methodist Church will

Dr. J.G. Stertz new First Baptist pastor

Dr. James G. Stertz of Sarasota, Fla., has accepted a call to become pastor of Danville's First Baptist Church.

During his varied career, the former Southern Baptist missionary to Germany has served three other First Baptist congregations in various southern localities.

He was born in St. Louis, Mo., was graduated from William Jewell College in 1944, and later earned the Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Upon seminary graduation in 1947 he became director of religious activities at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., was pastor of a Newnan, Ga., church, and served as a trustee of Tift College.

From 1953 to 1957 he was pastor of First Baptist Church

in Deland, Fla., site of Stetson University.

Dr. Stertz joined the Foreign Mission Board's headquarters staff in Richmond in 1957. After four years as associate secretary for missionary personnel, he and his wife were appointed as the first Southern Baptist missionaries to Germany, where he was associational missionary to some two dozen English-speaking churches and missions.

More recently he served as pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; and as senior minister of First Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., where he also was a trustee of Furman University and on the board of the Greenville Mental Health Center and the Greenville Urban Ministry.

Since 1975 he has been



DR. JAMES G. STERTZ

pastor of First Baptist Church in Sarasota, where he has headed the Ecumenical Board for Campus Ministry, served as moderator of the Southwest Florida Baptist Association, and is now chairman of Sarasota Memorial Hospital's chaplain committee.

He and his wife, the former Eda Klarer of Fernandina Beach, Fla., are the parents of five children.

Missionary Stertz Baptist Speaker Here

Rev. **James G. Stertz**, Southern Baptist missionary to Germany, will be the pulpit guest of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church Sunday at the 11 a.m. service.

Rev. and Mrs. **Stertz**, on medical leave in the United States, were the first Southern Baptist missionaries appointed to Germany. Assigned by the Foreign Mission Board in 1961, Rev. **Stertz** helps Baptists organize and maintain English-speaking churches in Germany.

AS DISTRICT missionary with the Association of Baptists in Continental Europe (English-speaking churches), he works with 18 churches and missions made up primarily of American military personnel and their dependents.

"It is amazing to see what these Baptists abroad will do and what they will do without in order to have a church. Our most critical problem is finding qualified men for pastors."

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Rev. Jim Stertz To Preach Here Next Sunday

The Rev. James G. Stertz, who served as pastor of the Central Baptist Church from 1949 until 1954, will be the guest preacher at both the morning and evening services at the church this coming Sunday, August 16.

After leaving Newnan, the Rev. Mr. Stertz served a pastorate at DeLand, Fla., and later served on the Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Virginia.

Since that time, with Mrs. Stertz and their five children, he has been living in Weisbaden, Germany, where he has been serving as Resident Missionary for European Baptists.

His many friends here are cordially invited to hear him preach at one or both services Sunday at the Central Baptist Church.

NAN TIMES-HERALD

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1961

Former Newnan Pastor and Wife To Serve With Baptists Abroad

Rev. **James G. Stertz**, former pastor of Central Baptist Church, has spent the past four years recruiting missionaries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Now he and Mrs. **Stertz** are going to Germany to fill an urgent need for a missionary couple to work among English-speaking people and to serve as the Board's fraternal representatives to German Baptists. They were appointed by the Board today at its regular monthly meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. **Stertz** served the Newnan church from January, 1949, through January, 1954. He became an associate secretary in the Foreign Mission Board's department of missionary personnel in June, 1957, having been pastor of First Baptist Church, DeLand, Fla., in the interim.

Southern Baptists have given some financial aid toward the construction of Baptist church buildings in Germany but have not had a resident missionary there. Last December, following invitations from the German Baptist Union and an organization of English-language Baptist congregations in Germany and France, the Foreign Mission Board voted to station a couple in Germany.

This decision quickened Mr. and Mrs. **Stertz's** interest in overseas service. They wanted to be appointed missionaries several years ago, but a health problem in the family at that time made the step unwise. "Surely here is a field where we can serve," they said of Germany.

"My heart was truly stirred," explained Mr. **Stertz**, son of German immigrants who came to the United States soon after the turn of the century in search of religious and political freedom. "For weeks and months my wife

and I wrestled with this challenge. In the process we realized that our desire to serve as missionaries had never disappeared."

Mrs. **Stertz** adds that although they have been happy and busy while connected with the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond there has always been "that unmet desire to go as missionaries." Ready to go with them to Germany are their four children: Joseph Karel, 13; Kathryn Gail, 11; James Gail, Jr., nine; and John Christopher, four.

When Mr. and Mrs. **Stertz** could not be appointed earlier, he was asked by the Board to join its personnel department staff. In his four years at the Richmond headquarters he has worked closely with department colleagues, other members of the administrative staff, and the Board's personnel committee in the process of appointing new missionaries.

In his main task of interviewing and counseling candidates for foreign mission service, Mr. **Stertz** has brought approximately 200 through the appointment procedure. He is presently responsible for candidates in the southeastern part of the country, including students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Much of his time has also been given to speaking in behalf of missions at the seminars, at other schools, and at conventions, assemblies, and churches. In 1959 he visited the Orient, surveying personnel needs in 10 countries. While in Japan he participated in preaching missions and in celebration of the 70th anniversary of Southern Baptist mission work there.

Before going to Central Baptist Church, Newnan, Mr. **Stertz** was director of religious activities at Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; pastor of Dupont and Graham Baptist Churches, Dupont, Ind.; and supervisor of boys' clubs for the YMCA of Louisville, Ky.

A native of Maplewood, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis, he received

the bachelor of arts degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. In November, 1960, he received the distinguished alumni award from William Jewell College.

Mrs. **Stertz** is the former Eda Klarer, native of Fernandina Beach, Fla. She received the bachelor of arts degree from Besse Tift College (now Tift College), Forsyth, and the master of religious education degree from Women's Missionary Union Training School (now Carver School of Missions and Social Work), Louisville.

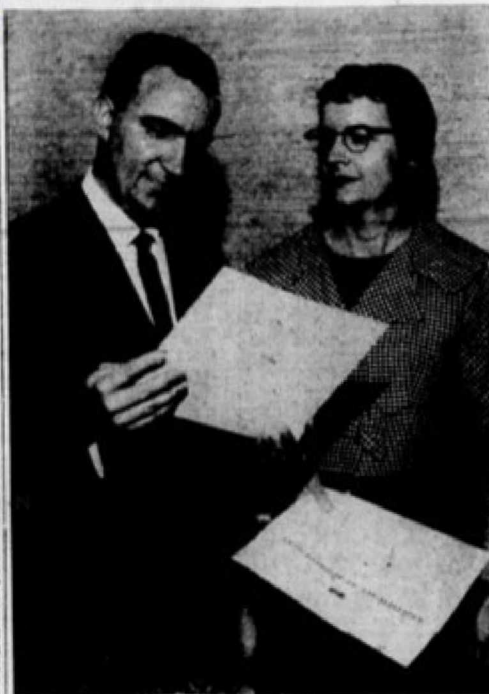
After graduating from the Training School she taught in a junior high school in Louisville for a year. She writes for publications of the Southern Baptist

Woman's Missionary Union and of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mrs. **Stertz** says she cannot remember a time when she was not interested in missions. "Our church had an active WMU with all the related organizations," she says, "and numbers of missionary speakers came to our pulpit. During high school days I thought much and often about the possibility of becoming a missionary myself."

Mr. **Stertz** says his interest in missions was stimulated during his pastorate at the missions-minded Newnan church. While attending the Foreign Missions Conference at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Assembly in 1956 he became convinced he should serve overseas. He and his wife immediately began the appointment procedure which detoured them to the Foreign Mission Board staff.

Mr. and Mrs. **Stertz** were among 19 missionaries appointed by the Board at its May meeting, bringing the total of active Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to 1,519.



REV. AND MRS. **JAMES G. STERTZ**, newly appointed missionaries to Germany, examine their appointment certificates at Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board headquarters in Richmond, Virginia.

WILLIAM RUMLEY III PARTICIPATING IN NAVY EXERCISE

California (FHTNC)—William Rumley, III, electronics technician third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Rumley Jr., of Route 1, Palmette, is serving aboard the dock landing ship USS Whetstone participating in Phase III of "Exercise Green Light" off the coast of California.

Scheduled from May 8 to June 8th, this phase of the exercise involves Navy and Marine Corps undersea, surface, air and ground forces, supported by minesweepers of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Highlight of the operation will be a large scale amphibious landing by the First Marine Division in the Camp Pendleton, Calif.