

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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Steven, Edgar G. served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Hastings.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS, FLORIDA

Seeing the need for a Baptist Church in the town of Hastings, a few members from the Mt. Olive Baptist Church and others organized the First Baptist Church of Hastings on February 13, 1910 with the following charter members: S.A. Minton, M.A. Minton, Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Martin, Miss Annie Ballard, Mrs. J.C. Higginbotham, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson McCullough, Eva and Kenneth McCullough, Mrs. W.M. Thigpen, Newton Thigpen, Collins Bangstron, Mrs. Susie Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Campbell, Brother and Mrs. J.W. McNamara. Brother McNamara became their first pastor.

The church was organized in a tent which served as the first place of worship. A storm blew down the tent and destroyed the piano. The Masonic Hall was offered and used as a place of worship until the group erected a frame church building at a cost of \$5,000 in 1912. For the sum of \$3,000 a pastor's home was purchased in 1917.

By the year 1926 the membership had outgrown the original building and a committee was appointed to solicit funds and build a new meeting house. Members of the committee were: S.A. Minton, G.V. Leonard, Dr. Padget, H.A. Kuter, and M.A. Minton. They raised \$25,000 cash and borrowed \$20,000 to erect the present main church building. The new edifice had beautiful stained glass windows throughout and included a two story educational section and an auditorium that would accommodate over 375 persons. In spite of the depression the loan was paid off two years ahead of schedule.

Other construction by the church includes a Fellowship Building built in 1953 at a cost of \$13,000 which provided additional educational space and kitchen and dining capabilities. A new pastor's home was completed in 1956 at a cost of \$18,000. Both of these were debt free by the time of their completion.

Improvements to the church facilities over the years have included the addition of an electric organ, air conditioning, public address system, and cushioned pews. The church has also been able to secure properties adjacent to the original property to provide for growth and recreational space for the young people.

Through the years the First Baptist Church of Hastings has been noted as a mission minded church. From the 1930's to the 1950's the church gave 50% of all undesignated funds for world-wide missions through the cooperative program. This past year 10% of all undesignated funds received went to the Cooperative program.

In 1959 the church assumed the sponsorship of the Welaka Mission from the First Baptist Church in East Palatka. An adequate building was erected and a home was purchased for the pastor.

Several from our church family have gone into full time Christian service. Two young men were ordained by the First Baptist Church they are Lester Hall in 1956 and David McCubbin in 1959.

During the church's 80 year history there have been 25 pastors. Following is a listing of the pastors and the date they began their pastorate: J.W. McNamara 1910, Perry F. Davis, W.P. Campbell, W.A. Ferrell, A.L. Blizzard, J.A. Davis, W.H. Hubbard, H.A. Hunt, W.H. Wilson, J.F. Gable 1924, Edgar G. Steven 1931, G.M. White 1933, B.A. Roth 1938, R.A. Kelly 1941, Henry Mangrum 1945, J. Fred Breed 1949, T.O. Baldwin 1950, Lester L. Hall 1957, Ray Crawford 1962, O.D. Moore 1964, Jiles B. Lunsford 1966, W.O. Wilham 1972, George Kirkland 1976, Tim Phillips 1982, Ted Rodda, Jr. 1984.