

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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Stevens, George J. (1922-2008) was born in Trenton, Florida, the son of Alex and Pauline Stevens. He graduated from Southeastern Bible College, Birmingham. Stevens was ordained in 1953 by First Baptist Church, Orlando. He served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Florida, including, Jonesville Baptist Church, Newberry. Stevens and his wife, Laurie LeHeup Stevens, had two sons.

STEVENS, Reverend George Jackson, 86, entered rest December 5, 2008, at Horizon Bay Retirement Home, in Lutz. George was born at home November 22, 1922, in Trenton, Fla., the son of Alex and Pauline Stevens, the fourth of ten children. After World War II, George earned his degree in Biblical Arts at Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham in 1960. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard aboard the USS Richey, a destroyer escort. He made three round-trip crossings of the Atlantic, escorting convoys to Europe. After the war he worked at Orlando Public Utilities and, after beginning bible college, was ordained to the gospel ministry by the First Baptist Church at Orlando in June, 1953. He later said that, scared to death, he preached his first sermon at the Bessemer City Jail, where there were three professions of faith. Leaving school for a time, because of family responsibilities at the death of his father, he met and married his wife of 53 years, Laurie LeHeup Stevens. George pastored two churches in Alabama, Porter Baptist Church and North Highlands Baptist Church, and four in Florida, Jonesville Baptist Church,

Church, and four in Florida, Jonesville Baptist Church, Midway Baptist Church, Grace Gospel Community Church and Seffner Independent Baptist Church. His real vocation and love was the ministry. He continued to lead a Tuesday bible study at Horizon Bay, surrounded by loving friends, to the end of his life. He greatly appreciated the excellent care he received from Dr. Mark Davis and the James Haley VA Hospital. His mind was clear and his faith was firm to the end. He often referenced the verse, "...I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness" (Psalm 17:15). He is survived by his wife, Laurie; his son, Alex and daughter-in-law, Christine; and son, Mark. He is also survived by two sisters, Lina Ward and Hallie Layfield and brother-in-law, Ronald Layfield; and sisters-in-law, Ernestine Stevens, Laura Stevens and Lois Stevens Franklin; numerous nieces and nephews; and extended family. Services will take place at 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at Adams and Jennings Funeral Home, 6900 N. Nebraska Ave., in Tampa.

chapel of Snipes-Hamilton Funeral Home, 6718 N. Armenia Ave. with **Rev. George Stevens**, pastor of Grace Gospel Church of Gibsonton officiating. Interment will follow in Myrtle Hill Cemetery. The

died Thursday will be at 3 p.m. today at the Midway Baptist Church near Madison with the **Rev. George Stevens** officiating. Burial will be in Midway Cemetery.

First Baptist Ordination Service Held

The **Rev. George J. Stevens** of Orlando was ordained to the Baptist ministry in services held this week at First Baptist Church. Dr. J. Powell Tucker, pastor, officiated, assisted by the Reverends V. N. Maggard, C. C. Kiser Jr., and W. W. Stillwell.

Stevens becomes pastor of Porter Baptist Church, Porter, Ala., and will continue his studies at Southeastern Bible College, Birmingham, where he has been a student since last August.

The new minister is a native of Trenton. He served with the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II and saw action in both European and Asiatic theaters. He came to Orlando after his discharge in 1946 and was employed by the Orlando Utilities Comm. until entering Bible college.