

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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Stewart, C. E. served as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Parrish, and Gateway Baptist Church, Bradenton.

✓ 1982 Pensacola Bay

leadership of Rev. Emory Rogers. Under the leadership of our present pastor, Rev. Robert E. Lowery, who has been with us for six years, we have installed central heat and air, installed cushions on the pews, painted, and taken care of needed repairs. Our big project was the purchase of land for future growth, a ball park, and a playground.

Klondike Baptist Church has been blessed and we ask our fellow Christians to pray for us as we continue to grow. Our prayer is to be a beacon in our community to draw men and women to Christ and that our future will be greater than our past.

The following pastors have served our church: E. E. Rice, R. L. Scott, H. J. Ramsley, I. I. Roberts, M. J. Peters, L. N. Brock, Willy Martin, J. S. Worley, L. E. Roberts, R. R. Beal, Ernest Handrop, Kirby Chapman, I. I. Roberts, Walter Dean, E. E. Roberts, Henry E. Marlow, Jess Allen, Lazelle Owens, L. L. Rawson, R. B. Pullen, A. M. Smith, Emory Rogers, W. W. Burlison, and our present pastor, Robert E. Lowery.

HISTORY OF OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1860 the Jacob A. Godwin family homesteaded on the land that is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Jess Godwin. The family saw a great need for a church building; therefore, they gave part of their land on which to build a church.

In 1883 the church was organized in an old log school house with a membership of eight persons. The membership consisted of Mr. Jacob A. Godwin, Mrs. Jacob A. (Aunt Sis) Godwin, Mrs. Caroline Godwin, Mrs. Rebecca Godwin Weekley, Uncle Jim Merritt, Aunt Sarah Godwin Merritt, Mr. Enoch Bray and Mrs. Elizabeth Bray.

No words are adequate to describe the struggle that these eight members had in completing the building. The original building faced the south and was located farther down toward the creek than the present building.

The first church was part of the Old Elim Baptist Association and remained part of that association for several years until Judge E. D. Beggs came to the church and drew up the necessary papers to transfer the church to the present Pensacola Bay Baptist Association.

The first funeral held in the church was for Mr. D. J. Buchanan, grandfather of Mr. Willis Buchanan.

In 1909 Oak Grove Church was host to the Associational meeting and has been many times since.

Mr. Jacob A. Godwin, Mr. Jess Godwin's daddy, was the first Sunday School Superintendent followed by Mr. Alex Hall.

The Reverend John McAnally was the first pastor of the church. He helped to get the church organized and served as pastor for about six years. At that time, services were held only once a month.

After the Reverend John McAnally left, the church was fortunate to get Reverend J. T. (Tom) Fillingim for pastor. He was a member of the House of Representatives, president or moderator of the Associational meetings for many years and was leader in many other responsible positions. The church paid Reverend Fillingim \$65 a year. By this time the church was having services twice a month and Brother Fillingim drove from Bluff Springs twice a month for services. He remained pastor of the church for forty years.

In 1927, Mrs. Louise Godwin invited Mrs. Mae Wemier to help organize a Women's Missionary Union. Mrs. Godwin became the first president of the W.M.U. organization and remained president until ill health made it necessary for her to give up some of her duties. This organization was so dear to Mrs. Godwin's heart that she traveled to Tallahassee on many occasions to attend workshops to make W.M.U. better. She was very careful always to have blue seal teachers and leaders in the organization. She remains a very active member to this day, and she is the oldest living President of W.M.U. in this entire association.

In 1939, the present church, which is the third building, was built. Mr. & Mrs. Jess Godwin gave the deeds to the land for the church house and pastorium. Times were hard and nobody had any money, but the members had faith and a willingness to work to get a new church. Every Sunday, Aunt Susan Buchanan would ask the congregation to sing "Jesus is All the World to Me," and she would take up an offering for the building of the church. Then she would ask the group to sing "God Will Take Care of You." Aunt Susan Buchanan, Mr. Lee Rigby and Mr. Alex Steele seemed to push the hardest and encourage everyone the most until the building was finished.

The church has had its share of pastors. Following Rev. Fillingim was Rev. C. E. Stewart, then Rev. Charlie Beal who was the first pastor of the present church. He drew the blue prints for the building.

Coming after Rev. Beal the following have served: Rev. Carl Byork, Rev. Ruben Davis, Rev. T. R. Odenaph, Rev. Peyton Taylor, Rev. Q. E. Wells, Rev. L. F. Watson, Rev. Cleve Ellis and Rev. Claud Higdeon, who was the first pastor to get the church organized on the eight-point record system, Rev. Bill Irvin, Rev. Earl Tew, Rev. Jimmy Brock, Rev. Don Steven, Rev. John Hedgepath, Rev. Ed Lewis, Rev. Emory Rogers, Rev. Charles Clark, Rev. John Stamps, Rev. R. L. Kirkland, Rev. Terrell C. Lanton, and Rev. James Gardner. Rev. Jesse Wood, Jr. is presently serving as interim pastor.

Of all the pastors who pastored the church, Bro. Lanton is the only one that preached his first sermon in this church. During the pastorate of Bro. Bill Irvin, Bro. Lanton substituted for Bro. Irvin one Sunday and delivered his first sermon.

In the late 1960's there was a great need for more space so again the mebers prayed and worked until they added Sunday School rooms, a baptistry and a choir loft. Since then new furniture has been added and Mr. & Mrs. Jess Godwin and Mr. & Mrs. Jack Liles gave an organ which has added so much to the church services.

HISTORY OF WARRINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Warrington Baptist Church had its start in 1938 when a Mission Sunday School was organized by the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Rev. J. T. Gore was the pastor at that time. The church was formally organized on August 17, 1939, with nineteen charter members. Since that time the following men have served as pastor: Thomas J. Anderson, E. Y. Soileau, E. R. Anderson, Ernest S. Owens, Jr., James L. Monroe, J. Larry Mayo, and Randy G. Atkinson, present pastor.

The first meeting place was at Jackson St. and Barrancas Ave. in a rented building. On March 1, 1940, the meeting place was transferred to Turner Lee

Gateway Baptist

The **Rev. C. Ed Stewart** will preach at both the 11 a.m. hour and at 7 p.m. tomorrow. The messages will be concerned with a church preparing for revival. The **Rev. Steve Chancey** will come to us at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 25, and will bring the evangelistic messages each evening throughout the week and both messages Sunday, August 31. This will be a youth-sponsored revival and our young people, who have been in cottage prayer meetings throughout this week, will be in charge of the services each night. Gateway Baptist Chapel is located at Whitfield Avenue and Prospect Road.

threw 6; verse 4, attire will be Matthew 1 through 8. The oftee chairmen, and ders of the Women Christian Service a dents and treasurer leyman Service Guild will be installed by land at this service.

Bible Study will Pastor Kirkland August 27, in the c p.m.

First Congrega

The First C Christian Church return of the pastor R. Lesser from his cation marked by of his offering the

CRAWFORD SERVICES

Funeral services for William Harrison Crawford, 61, who died Sunday, will be held at Shannon's Bradenton Chapel today at 2 p.m. with the Rev. C. E. Stewart, pastor of the Gateway Baptist Church, and the Rev. J. B. Smith, pastor of the Manatee Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Mansion Memorial Park with Harry Romine, Paul Coddington, Gerald Wynn, Ray Slusser and John Giddens as pallbearers.

service Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

PARRISH BAPTIST: Rev. C. E. Stewart, pastor. Sunday school 10 a.m.; morning service 11 a.m.; evening service 7:30 p.m.; a.m.; morning worship 11 a.m.; B. T. U. 6:30 p.m.; evening worship 7:30 p.m.

Mortgage Burning Set For Gateway Baptist

Gateway Baptist Church will have a special mortgage burning service during the morning worship hour on Sunday.

The church was built in 1965 with the members and friends of the church doing much of the labor themselves. **Rev. C. E. Stewart**, who was pastor of the church during the entire building program, will take part in the note burning service, which will begin at 10:30.

Rev. Kenneth Mullins, present pastor of the church, extends a special invitation to those who had part in the building to come join with the congregation in these services of thanksgiving.

Services will begin at 10:30 and a covered dish 'Dinner on the Grounds' will be held after the morning service. The church is located on the corner of Whitfield Ave. and Prospect Road.

JAMES, MRS. MABEL HELEN, 65, of 8205 Bradenton Road, Sarasota, Monday (Sept. 3, 1973). Born in La Follette, Tenn. In Bradenton area 12 years from Trenton, Mich. Retired employe of Oneco Elementary School lunch room. Member Gateway Baptist Church. Survived by her husband Robert J.; a daughter, Mrs. Ildren Taylor of Palmetto; two sisters, Mrs. Dennis Cordell of La Follette, and Mrs. Hattie Loy, Atlanta, Ga.; a brother, John Kidwell of Johnson City, Tenn.; four grandchildren. Visitation until 9 p.m. today. Funeral services 10 a.m. Thursday, Griffith-Cline Bradenton Chapel, the **Rev. C. E. Stewart** of Bethany Baptist Church officiating. Burial in Manasota Memorial Park, Oneco.

Stewart Reunion Draws Big Crowd

A beautiful June day added to the enjoyment of the annual Stewart reunion which was held Sunday at the C. B. Stewarts' Holiday Ranch on Arcadia Road.

Including "spouses," more than 80 descendants of the brothers, John Wesley Stewart and A. J. (Jack) Stewart, were in attendance. One member of the family who had attended all former reunions and was greatly missed was C. B. Stewart Sr., now a patient at Manatee Memorial Hospital, recovering from a recent illness.

The spacious picnic park provided ample area for games of softball and baseball. Horseback riding was the favorite sport for the children. C. B. Stewart Jr. with his Palomino gelding, "Duke", and Linda Stewart with her spirited Welsh pony, "Champ", were careful supervisors of this fascinating recreation.

Basket Lunches

Generous basket luncheons were spread on the picnic tables arranged in the cool shade of towering oak trees. An arrangement of mixed flowers and matching persimmon colored cushions placed on benches added color to the settings. The invocation was given by Rev. C. E. Stewart, grandson of John W. Stewart. In his prayer, Rev. Stewart mentioned the unselfish example of the pioneer forefathers in their patriotic devotion to our country and their staunch faith in God.

Attending

Those attending were local

residents, Mrs. Mary Edna Bolin, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Hayden, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hayden and children, Mrs. Catherine Maines and Bobby, Don and Rose Marie Maines, Mr. and Mrs. John Rhodes and sons, John, Jr. and Tod; Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Stephens with Bill and Merrie Ann; Mrs. A. B. Stewart, Mrs. C. B. Stewart Sr., Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Stewart, Jr., and Linda, Rev. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Stewart and son, David, Samuel F. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Teste with Trudie and Angela, and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Williams; from Clearwater: Mr. C. Earl McMullen.

From Dade City: Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stewart and children, Linda, Bobby and Billy; from Ft. Myers, Jesse and Eugene Stewart; from Homestead: Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Stewart and children; from Miami: Mr. and Mrs. Morton Jones.

From Ona: Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Bennett, Mrs. Robert Currie, Mr. and Mrs. Leon T. Stephens and Vernon Stephens; from Sarasota: Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Conyer and Thomas M. Conyer, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stephens and children, Bob, Nancy and Peggy; Mrs. W. O. Summers, Mrs. Mabel Bridges, Mrs. Stanley Lowe with Sandra and Frederick; from Tampa: Mr. and Mrs. Lofton Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stone and Mr. and Mrs. Walton Youngblood; from Wauchula: Prof. and Mrs. Wilton Stephens.

Birthdays Anniversaries

Deaths Here

MRS. MAUDE STEWART

WAUCHULA, July 28. (Special) — Mrs. Maude Harrison Stewart of Myakka City, wife of Sam F. Stewart, died Sunday in a Bradenton hospital. She was a teacher in the Myakka City and Boca Grande schools until her retirement in 1951, and was a member of the Baptist Church here. She is survived by five sons, The Rev. C. E. Stewart, Little Rock, Ark.; Pete Stewart, Indian Rocks; Lofton Stewart, Tampa; Robert Stewart, Merchantville, N. J.; and Fulton Stewart, Williamstown, Mass.; two daughters, Mrs. Helen Thibault, Scatt, Ark., and Mrs. Joanne Rhodes, Arcadia; two sisters, Mrs. Hazel Carnes, Palatka, and Mrs. Reba Bain, Columbus, Ga.; three step-brothers, Willis Carrol and Edwin Carrol, Tampa, and Ralph Carrol, Sarasota; her step-mother, Mrs. J. T. Harrison, Tampa, and 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.