

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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Stewart, C. O. graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Laurel Hill, Central Baptist Church, Highland Baptist Church, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Escambia County, Seventh Avenue Baptist Church, Pensacola, Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, 1934-1939, and Walnut Hill Baptist Church.

Woodlawn: Redecorating church.

William C. Carr Chapel: Completion of Chapel with dedication on April 24, 1974.

HISTORY OF BROWNSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday, February 20, 1944, the Whitfield Memorial Baptist Mission was constituted as the Brownsville Baptist Church, with 73 charter members. Chaplain Alvin J. Lee served as supply pastor during the time in which the church was seeking out and calling the first pastor.

During the first year the church was not only getting organized to do an efficient job, but also experiencing growth in membership. The acquiring of property and erection of buildings was a vital need from the very beginning. The church has baptized into her fellowship over 1,500 new converts, and has present membership of 1,414. Records also show that \$2,368,031 have been given through the church to all causes, with \$379,183 of this amount going to mission causes at home and abroad.

Physical properties include land two blocks long upon which there has been built 3 permanent brick educational buildings and a church auditorium which seats 1,190. The total property value exceeds \$900,000.

Seven pastors have guided this congregation during its 30 years. They are: Clarence H. Elland (1944-45), Dr. A. W. Reeves (1945-46), I. Beryl Roberts (1946-51), Dr. J. Kelva Moore (1951-53), Gerald Walker (1954-59), Dr. William Dodson, Jr. (1959-66), and Clayton Baker (1966-present).

Twenty-three men have been licensed and/or ordained during the church's 30-year history. Other young people have gone out from this church into other religious work.

Four missions have been sponsored by this congregation during her history. All are now self-containing churches. They are Oakcrest Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Gulf Breeze, Laurel View Baptist Church, and Pine Forest Baptist Chapel.

Financially, this congregation has experienced tremendous growth. The annual budget has grown from \$10,723 in 1944 to the present budget of \$128,266. Annual mission gifts show an increase from \$515 in 1944 to \$28,201 this year. \$22,687 of this amount was given to the Cooperative Program.

In addition to the full program of Bible study, evangelism and Christian growth, a special emphasis on music and youth ministry is present in the church. The spirit of missions that has characterized Brownsville's history finds expression in our present plans to sponsor another mission in the Pensacola area.

HISTORY OF OAKCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

Oakcrest Baptist Church was organized Oct. 16, 1955 as a result of the mission-minded Christians of Brownsville Baptist Church. Brownsville purchased property, in the then new Oakcrest Subdivision, on May 4, 1955, and applied to the Home Mission Board for a \$25,000 loan to erect the first building. All services at this time were being held in a lumber shed that was already on the property.

The Oakcrest Baptist Mission became a church after only 10 weeks of meetings with 94 charter members and Rev. J. W. Hunsucker was its first pastor.

In five years the membership grew to a Sunday School enrolment of 497 and Training Union enrolment of 187. The average attendance was 190 per week.

Seeing the need for enlargement, the church voted on Oct. 20, 1963 to apply for a loan and begin construction on another educational unit.

Rev. Reuben Dominey was called as the second pastor of the church on August 16, 1964. Sunday School enrolment at this time was 473 with an average attendance of 230 each week. In 1966 the church voted to purchase the adjoining property on the west for recreation and parking, and the property to the north and back of the church was purchased for a pastorium.

Rev. Overl Oglesbee accepted the call as pastor of the church on Nov. 10, 1968. The total membership at this time was 459. Since this time the church has seen a dream come true of finally having enough educational space and being able to begin work on a new sanctuary. On July 21, 1970, ground-breaking ceremonies for this building were held; on Aug. 6, 1972 the building was completed and dedication services held. There is much pride on the part of the people for this building since the labor was furnished almost completely by the laymen of the church under the leadership of the pastor.

At present, the total membership is 494. We have a vision of continued outreach at Oakcrest.

HISTORY OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Central Baptist Church originated on the front porch of Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Johnson at 9th Avenue and Jordan Street as a small Sunday School class. The class grew to the extent that they erected a brush arbor on 7th Avenue between Jordan and Maxwell Streets. Here they started having regular church services. A Bro. Crabtree was secured to serve as pastor of the mission church until it grew enough to organize as Seventh Avenue Baptist Church in March, 1924.

In the fall of 1952 the church voted to move from its location on 7th Avenue and Maxwell Street to 12th Avenue and Yonge Street. The name was changed to Central Baptist Church, and ground breaking took place on December 7, 1952. \$80,000 in bonds were issued to finance the building. A pastorium was also built and on May 29, 1955 the present auditorium was started. In 1956 it was necessary to issue two additional bond issues of \$25,000 each in order to enclose the auditorium and provide additional educational space. The first full-time Minister of Music and Education, L. C. Rucker, was employed.

In July of 1962 the old bonds were called in and a new bond program was issued for \$220,000. Another for \$10,000 was issued in November and in July, 1966 a \$40,000 program was issued. During these years the auditorium was completed, as well as many improvements were done, such as air conditioning, etc. The old pastorium was sold and a new one built. The front of the auditorium was remodeled and an upstairs was added to the nursery building.

In 1973 another remodeling program was entered into which when completed will include the establishing of a suite of offices; the improvement of the halls leading to and from the auditorium; and a new portico drive-in entrance.

As best as can be determined the pastors were as follows:

1924 Bro. Crabtree, Bro. Grubbs, Bro. Pool; 1927 Bro. R. R. Beal; 1930 Bro. W. D. Mann; 1931 Bro. A. E. Middlebrooks, Bro. C. O. Stewart; 1938 Bro. G. C. Eubanks; 1939 Bro. C. G. Kellum; 1940 Bro. George Speake; 1941 Bro. D. F. Hickman; 1943 Bro. A. M. Smith; 1948 Bro. A. J. Roddy; 1951 Bro. J. E. McKinley; 1952 Bro. A. B. Allen; 1955 Bro. C. S. Wemp; 1962 Dr. James H. Wright; 1968 Bro. A. C. Phillips; 1971 Bro. James A. Coleman, Jr.

Pensacola Bay

1974

Oak Grove Baptist Church

State Library and Archives of Florida

On many of the scans, text appears to bleed through from the reverse page as survey workers often used recycled paper printed on one side with unrelated material. Users should be aware that the bleed-through is not a missing page.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1880--. 9 miles south of Canoe, Alabama, on Canoe-Pensacola Road, 10 miles west of McDavid, Florida, Route #1, Escambia County.

Constituted 1880. First services in log school house, services until log church was erected 1885, then in frame building until present, rectangular, red clay brick veneer building, with basement, was erected 1939, dedicated 5th Sunday in October, same year. A half-time church, meeting 2nd and 4th Sundays. Present membership, 146. Active organizations, Sunday School and Woman's Missionary Society. First settled pastor, Rev. John McAnally, 1880-90. Common school education. Present pastor, Rev. C.O. Stewart, 1938--, Andalusia, Ala.: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

(CHURCH RECORDS), 1926--, 1 vol. Showing business transacted, reports, officers, register of members, baptisms, deaths. Custody of clerk, William M. Rigby, Route #1, Box 184, McDavid.

(FINANCIAL RECORDS), 1931--, 1 vol. Showing receipts and disbursements. Custody of secretary, W.W. Buchanan, Route #1, Box 75, McDavid.

BAPTIST CONVENTION RECORD, (Sunday School), 1936--, 3 vols. Showing membership, teachers, officers, attendance, receipts and disbursements.

Many Activities At Myrtle Grove

The Myrtle Grove Baptist Church has a busy schedule of activities for the next two weeks. On Sunday morning, November 11, **Rev. C. O. Stewart** of Pensacola, the new pastor, will begin a series of revival meetings to last two weeks. The song leader is Mr. J. Coleman. There will be services at the church at 7:30 **o'clock** each evening during the week. On Saturday, November 17th, at 2:15, a District Training Union Conference will be held at this church, closing Saturday evening around nine **o'clock**. The pastor will preach at both morning and evening services on Sunday, November 18th, and will continue the meeting during the week following, **closing** on the next Sunday evening, November 25th. The public is cordially invited to attend all the services.

SEVENTH AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH

—Seventh Ave. and Jordan St. **C. C. Stewart**, pastor. Preaching first and third Sundays, 11 a. m.; 7:45 p. m. Sunday school 9:45 a. m. Mr. Joe Wilson, Supt. B. T. U. 6:45 p. m. Garland M. Stewart, director, W. M. U. meets every Monday at 2 p. m. Mrs. **C. O. Stewart**, president.

MYRTLE GROVE BAPTIST. Lillian

highway. **Rev. C. O. Stewart**, pastor. Preaching every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. B. Y. P. U.'s, Phillip P. dgett, director, at 6:45 p. m. and Sunday school 9:45 a. m.

Pensacola News Journal (Pensacola, Florida)
28 Apr 1935, Sun
Page 14

Wednesday.
SEVENTH AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH
—Seventh Ave. and Jordan St. C.
C. Stewart, pastor. Preaching first
and third Sundays, 11 a. m.; 7:45
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m. Garlan M. **Stewart**, director, W.
M. U. meets every Monday at 2 p.
m. Mrs. **C. O. Stewart**, president.
MYRTLE GROVE BAPTIST. Lillian
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U.'s, Phillip Padgett, director, at
6:45 p. m. and Sunday school 9:45
a. m.

Pensacola News Journal (Pensacola, Florida) 09 Oct 1937, Sat Page 2

MYRTLE GROVE BAPTIST
Rev. C. O. Stewart pastor of the
Myrtle Grove Baptist church will
preach there both morning and eve-
ning.

Pensacola News Journal (Pensacola, Florida)
26 Mar 1938, Sat
Page 8

MYRTLE GROVE BAPTIST
Rev. C. O. Stewart will bring the
message to the Myrtle Grove con-
gregation at the 10:45 a. m. hour.
The services will be concluded by
partaking of the Lord's Supper.
The pastor will be assisted by the
Rev. J. W. Clegg who has just been
ordained to the full work of the
Gospel ministry in the Baptist
church at Myrtle Grove.
At the evening hour (7:45 p. m.)
the message will be brought by **Rev.**
J. W. Clegg.

Kensacola Bay 1973

HISTORY OF HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

Highland Baptist Church owes its beginning to Miss Ruth Riddle, a school teacher in the local school. She started a Sunday School that lead to the organization of the Highland Baptist Church in 1919.

In 1922 the church erected its first building under the leadership of Bro. Rumbley with a gift of \$200.00 from the State Mission Board.

In 1936-37 while Bro. C. O. Stewart was Pastor the church decided to find a place more central in the community. The present sight was chosen and again a gift of \$75.00 made possible the purchasing of the land. This gift came from the Association.

The church went through some very trying years and almost faltered. Then God sent Bro. E. E. Roberts, a dedicated layman. Under his leadership and pastorate of almost 9 years, the church began to grow.

In 1953 the church called Rev. C. D. Fant and the same year built a pastor's home. Under this man's leadership the sanctuary was extended and educational building was constructed.

During this time the Molino Baptist Church came into the fellowship of Highland Baptist Church. The two congregations combined their forces to win the community for Christ. The day of coming together was called Molino Highland Day.

Every pastor has made a definite contribution and the history of the church reads as if each was God's man for the hour.

In the last three years the church has reached new heights. Calling J. W. Dubose as pastor in June 1971 the church was already on the move into a new day. In March of 1972 a new record was set in Sunday School attendance. A record budget has been adopted and over subscribed. The ground breaking for the present interim sanctuary and educational space was held July 1972. The latest highlight was dedication of the new unit September 30, 1973. We are looking to God for many more.

The church has sent out 6 preachers and several into church-related vocations.

Our theme is "Thanking God for the Past, Trusting Him for the Future".

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ENSLEY

The First Baptist Church of Ensley was organized on October 18, 1942, with thirteen charter members and Rev. L. B. Garner was called as their first pastor on February 3, 1943. The first worship services were held in a small one-room house located on the west side of Ensley. Later the community club house on Detroit Blvd. was rented and used for some time.

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Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (1953)

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, organized in August 1856, is located at 4600 North Century Boulevard in Bluff Springs, north Escambia County, Florida. The church was established under the leadership of the Rev. James Lazarus Bryars and early settlers in the community. Among those were the Pritchetts, Crarys, Sturdivants, Bratchers, and Fillingims. (See *Volume I* for additional information.)

The church met first in a log schoolhouse and later in a wooden building erected in 1895 on land given by John and Leona Crary. That building stood for some 60 years. The building pictured here was constructed in 1953. Additions have occurred over the years; and on Sunday, August 27, 2006, the building was filled to capacity as over 100 members and guests celebrated the church's 150th anniversary and homecoming.

Pastors who have served include the Rev. Bryars, T. Bennett, N. Parker, Robert Warren Brooks, R.M. Guy, A.A. Sims, William Rabb, John E. Holley, Wiley Francis Martin, R.M. Hunter, Joseph J. Nelson, C. Myrick, D.W. Bosdel, W.O. Mann, A. Johnson Countryman, A.C. Shell, Charles Carey Eiland, C.M. Agee, T.G. Burgess, **C.O. Stewart**, R.Grover Key, Marvin H. White, Eli Wilson Adkinson, Bruce C. Chavers, E.P. Bush, James Andrew Wilson, F.O. Robinson, J.R. Beasley, Charles D. Rice, Charles Hamilton, John Stacey, Robert Halford, George Nall, Steve Brill, Leslie Adams, and Gene Trawick. The Rev. James Hughes, present pastor, has served since 1999.

Rev Hughes resigned abt Spg 2007.
No pastor as of August 2007 Homecom



Schwab Drive Baptist Church

In October 1960, the name was changed to Bethany Baptist Church. The congregation bought land between Schwab Drive and Toni Street in July 1962. On October 7, 1962, the church held a special service commemorating the adoption of its

constitution. The church was received as a member of Pensacola Bay Baptist Association during its October 25-26, 1962 annual meeting.

Plans to build were made in early 1963, and trustees elected were H.O. Nellums, O.D. Donaldson, and G.E. Meyers. The first service in the new building was November 17, 1963, with a dedication service observed on January 12, 1964. In May 1968, the church name was changed to College Park Baptist Church and then on November 13, 1983, it was changed to Schwab Drive Baptist Church. During the November 13, 1988 homecoming service, the congregation rejoiced when the church mortgage was burned.

Pastors who have served include J. Gordon Kingsley, Navy Chaplain Marvin Howard (interim), Jesse Lipham, John Stacey, Joe Floyd, and Steven Bailey, Tor

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Seventh Avenue Baptist Church

Seventh Avenue Baptist Church began as a Sunday School class on the porch of the home of Hosea C. (April 10, 1864-December 2, 1926) and Laura L. (April 17, 1876-October 27, 1946) Johnson. Located at Ninth Avenue and Jordan Street, it was originally called Love's Chapel Mission and was pastored by Rev. W.A. Crabtree. Messengers May Johnson and Ruby Lipham represented the mission at the October 7, 1924 Pensacola Bay Baptist Association meeting. In 1925, as Seventh Avenue Baptist Church, the congregation petitioned membership in the association.

A small one-room wood building, located at Seventh Avenue and Maxwell Street, was constructed by Charles David Bass, Jewell Bass, and other men of the church. It was completed in 1925-1926 (records vary). Curtains were used to divide the interior for Sunday School classes. Membership in 1926 was 53, and Mary Alice White Bass led the Women's Missionary Society.

Through the years, clerks included Charles David Bass, J.G. Wilson, W.F. Clements, F.J. Cooley, and W.O. Caton. Treasurers included G.L. Boyett, Oswald Ernest Bass, and John Davis. Sunday School leaders included M.G. Harp, E.D. Cooper, W.A. Barnett, and M.B. Presley.

Pastors were Richard Rockwood Beal, B.M. Grubbs, W.O. Mann, Anderson Edward Middlebrooks, C.O. Stewart, Grover Cleveland Eubanks, Clarence Guy Kellum, D.F. Hickman, Andrew M. Smith, A. Jackson Roddy, John E. McKinley, and A.B. Allen.

The church voted in 1952 to relocate to Twelfth Avenue and Yonge Street, and the name was changed to Central Baptist Church.

Submitted by: Judith Richbourg Jolly, Baptist History Researcher, Pensacola, Florida. Sources: Church and Association records; Interview with Sidney A. Bass.

Southside Baptist Church

Southside Baptist Church began as a Sunday School outreach ministry of Pensacola First Baptist Church. In October 1940, First Baptist purchased an old store building on Liberty Street. Thirteen attended the first Sunday School class.

For back taxes of \$102.13, First Baptist purchased two lots at 225 East Liberty Street, across from old Christ Church. Until the building could be constructed, services were held in homes and in a tent.

Bowden, W.E. Red. Arthur Bailey, Wendell Jarrard, and W.I. Rowland.

Southside Baptist Church joined Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1950. Per association records, some lay leaders were Mrs. Roy Inge, Mrs. V.R. Cooke, Mrs. C.H. Sims, Mrs. Annie Jones, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Henson, Mr. and Mrs. B.E. Mayo, Mr. and Mrs. B.H. Wehmeier, Mr. and



Southside Baptist Church

Mrs. L.W. Roland, W.E. Bailey, Frank E. Bradley, and Clyde Kelly.

Southside sponsored "The Power Hour," a 30-minute television program and hosted a Sunday School teaching radio program. A youth ministry brought youth from around the city each Friday evening for different events. In the 1950s, the church averaged over 450 members and over 350 in Sunday School enrollment.

Pastors who served Southside were James R. Vasser, Andrew M. Smith, DeWitt Long, W.E. Thomas, Pat Jarrard, Kenneth Sliger, and Ralph Neighbour.

On September 6, 1959, Southside Baptist Church merged with Chase Street Chapel to form the Eighth Avenue Baptist Church.
Submitted by: Hazel Jones, Cedarlawn Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida.

St. Andrew United Methodist Church

The St. Andrew United Methodist Church began in 1960 as a result of a group of people feeling the need to establish a church in a new residential area. The First United Methodist Church of Pensacola, along with Richards Memorial, St. Mark, Gadsden Street, and the Pensacola District Board of Missions, was instrumental in initiating this work. The first worship service was held in a vacant store at 949 Massachusetts Avenue on March 20, 1960. The formal organizational meeting was held May 12, 1960. By then, there were two well-attended morning services and the church school was organized with classes in homes of nearby members. A four-acre site was purchased on Michigan Avenue in June 1960. By the middle of 1961, services were being held in the newly constructed church. A parsonage was purchased in 1962 with the help of Richards Memorial and St. Mark.



St. Andrew United Methodist Church

In October 1975, a building containing a new sanctuary, offices, and classrooms was begun with the building completed in 1976.

On September 16, 2004, Hurricane Ivan damaged the church. The repairs were many and expensive but with God's blessings and hard work by the pastor and faithful members, the repairs were made.

St. Andrew has provided a Christian ministry to the community for 46 years and lives primarily to promote the Kingdom of God, serve mankind and provide the opportunity for growth in the Christian faith and fellowship among its members.

Rev. Johnny Johnson, the tenth pastor, has served the church since 1994.

Submitted by: Dorothy B. Godwin, 1001 Montclair Rd., Pensacola, FL 32505. Sources: Church History, Homecoming Program 2006.

St. James Missionary Baptist Church

St. James Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1880. Construction of the 315 East Olive Road building pictured here began September 9, 1947. Dedication services were held January 29, 1950. Those on the deacon board at that time were Robert McCant, Chair; N. Johnson; L. Walker; A. McCant; C. Thomas; and