

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, D. L. served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Tavares.

the summer of 1922, when he resigned, endeavoring at all times to serve every department of our church.

In December, 1922, the vacancy was filled by Reverend E. O. Thompson, who resided in the Lakeview Hotel a short time until the pastor's home was completed. It was also during his time with us that our present five room Sunday School building was erected, and the Lake County Baptist Association was formed here on October 19, 1924.

Brother Thompson's vacancy was filled by Reverend W. E. Fuller, who came to our church from Georgia, in March, 1926, remaining until October, 1930. Brother Fuller came with high recommendations as a pastor and citizen and his reputation was superseded only by his character. His vacancy was filled by Reverend D. L. Stewart of West Palm Beach, who during his eighteen months with us proved a faithful worker, making many friends while here.

In the fall of 1932 came another vacancy in the pulpit and the committee soon filled it by calling Reverend J. Alvin Inman of Lake Alfred, Florida, who remained with us for about eight years, leading the church in a very progressive way. He was followed by Reverend W. A. Hamlett, who served for one and a half years and was forced to retire because of poor health. Reverend Edwin Harwell came in December, 1942, and served until January, 1948. He was a leader in music and the church made much progress under his guidance. In March 1948, \$1,200.00 was transferred from the general fund to a building fund, and additional funds were added as rapidly as possible. October of 1948, Reverend B. L. Ray came as pastor. After serving only two months Brother Ray returned to his native State of North Carolina.

In January, 1949, C. L. Hargrove of Lexington, Kentucky, came as pastor for three months, after which he was given an additional year. Following this one year he was extended an indefinite call. During his pastorate a new house of worship was built.

First services were held in the new building on December 15, 1951.

In July, 1956, Reverend Krama Fay DeSha Jr., was called as pastor and under his leadership the church has grown in all departments and in every way. You only have to survey the plant and observe the workings of every organization in the church to conclude that "surely the Lord has called this man to this field."

In 1959-60 Fellowship Hall was constructed at a cost of \$70,000. This sanctuary and educational buildings have been airconditioned. Five lots adjacent to the church have been purchased and paid for. The Haines Creek Baptist Mission was organized in 1957. The mission property is now almost completely paid for and is evaluated at more than \$20,000. Reverend John Magness was called as Mission Pastor and began his ministry in April of 1962. The mission was organized into the Haines Creek Baptist Church November 15, 1964.

In 1964 the First Baptist Church of Tavares constructed a new pastorium at the approximate cost of \$24,000.00. All but \$6,500 of this expense was paid off by March of 1965. The old pastorium has been remodeled into a nursery.

There have been 508 additions to the church during the past six years, 214 of these were by profession of faith and baptism.

FBC Tavares