

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, Stan (1944-2025) was born in Clearwater, Florida the son of Daily (John) and Daisy Eva Stewart. He served as pastor of Red Level Baptist Church, Crystal River, Riverside Baptist Church, Hernando and was the founding pastor of North Oak Baptist Church, Citrus Springs. Stewart and his wife, Kathie Stewart had six children.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE 135th ANNUAL SESSION

OF

ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF INVERNESS

OCTOBER 19, 1981

AFTERNOON SESSION: "PUBLISH GLAD TIDINGS" Through BOLD PRAYING

1. Registration of Messengers and Visitors began at 1:15 P.M.
2. The 135th Annual Session opened with the singing of the theme song, "O ZION, HASTE", led by Claud Smith, Jr., Music Director of First Baptist, Wildwood; with Alice Wooten at the Piano.
3. Moderator Wilson Smith, Pastor of First Baptist, Wildwood, called the meeting to order.
4. A Mimi-Concert was presented by the Ladies Trio of Main Street Baptist Church in Inverness. Those singing were: Carol Hicks, Sue Jolly and Jenny Hughes. They sang, "He Rideth My Soul"; "Heaven Came Down"; "I've Found The Happy Side of Life"; "Gentle Shepherd, Come & Feed Us"; "We're Not Strangers Any More"; "We're Not Strangers Any More"; "Whatever It Takes" and "Let Me Share My Life In A Song".
5. The Devotion and Prayer was brought by Lamar Harris, Pastor of Webster. His Scripture was Daniel 6:4 and he spoke on Bold Prayer - Before God - Daily.
6. The Clerk, Millie Renick, moved that the Messengers who have registered and those who will subsequently register from the churches cooperating with, and affiliated with Alachua Baptist Association, constitute the working body of this 135th Annual Session. The motion was seconded and carried. She also introduced her Assistant Clerk, Polly Gideons; and helper, Karen Hamilton.
7. Ben Hicks, Program Chairman, moved the adoption of the printed program, with such changes as are necessary to conduct the business of this body. The motion was seconded and carried.
8. Ernest Stoutamire, Music-Educational Director for Inverness, and serving as Host, since F.B.C. Inverness is without a Pastor, extended a warm welcome to the Association.
9. The Response to the Welcome was given by Carl Vause from First Baptist, Wildwood. He commended the members of Inverness for their preparation for this meeting.
10. The Moderator recognized our visitors.
11. Percy Renick, Director of Missions, introduced the new Pastors and their wives:

Center Hill-Wayne Mysong	Oxford.....-David Harper
Kden.....-Allen Taylor	Red Level.....-Stan Stewart
Hebron.....-Roy Silver	Spring Hill...-Billy Byrd
Istachatta.-Ewell Sexton	Sumterville...-Bert Harbison
Inverness...-Babb Adams	Webster.....-Lamar Harris
(coming in November)	

Church's dream realized: a home

■ The years of struggling in tight quarters are over as North Oak Baptist Church dedicates its new sanctuary Sunday.

By LISA PEEPLES
Times Correspondent

CITRUS SPRINGS
It has been more than eight years now since a handful of devoted members started a small church in their pastor's living room, but Sunday they finally will have the opportunity to dedicate a long-awaited 400-seat sanctuary.

Though it has taken quite some time for North Oak Baptist Church to cross this milestone, its pastor said his congregation's prayers have been answered in a mighty way.

North Oak Baptist on Elkcam Boulevard in Citrus Springs has about 400 members and a pastor who is thrilled with the blessings he said God has bestowed upon them.

"This is the first sanctuary that we have built, and we are very excited," Pastor Stan Stewart, 56, said. "The members just stand in awe when they come into the sanctuary, they just can't believe how God has blessed us. They are very thankful for what he has done here."

here."

Stewart said that during the past eight years the church has held services in a 2,800-square-foot sanctuary, which previously housed another church on North Oak's property. The church also has a 6,800-square-foot educational building that is continuously utilized by the congregation, he said.

Though they did have a place to meet in years past, Stewart said, the new sanctuary is an answer to prayer for his congregation. He said their desire was to have a new structure that could be utilized to minister more within their community.

"Our desire is that this be a tool used for the Lord. It is not a shrine, but a tool that we hope God will use to bring more peo-

If you go

North Oak Baptist Church will dedicate its new sanctuary with a service at 3 p.m. Sunday at the church on Elkcam Boulevard in Citrus Springs. There will be special music, a tour of the building, food and fellowship. For information, call 746-1500 or 489-1688.

ple into his kingdom. That is our only purpose with this, is to bring people to Christ," he said.

Stewart said it took about seven months to build the nearly 10,000-square-foot structure, which houses an auditorium, office suites, library and nurs-

ery. The facility, which sits on 5¼ acres, was built for about \$632,000 and was constructed by Christian Builders, based in Mount Dora.

The sanctuary, which is the first phase, was constructed so that the second-phase addition of several classrooms could easily be added in the future, he said.

The church, which is the height of a two-story building, boasts white banding on the exterior and a towering steeple. The interior colors are lavender and purple, which signify royalty, he said. The walls are painted a pale lavender and are complemented by lavender carpet. The choir chairs and pews are upholstered in a hue of

deep purple.

The focal piece of the interior is a stained glass created by one of the church members, which pictures a dove and sun rays beaming down upon a cross.

"God has truly blessed us with so much here, and we are very thankful for what he has given us. When a church builds, it will do one of two things: It will either pull folks together or it will tear folks apart. This has definitely pulled folks together at North Oak . . . and there is such a sweet spirit here," he said.

Stewart said that in the midst of the congregation there is also a spirit of willingness to serve God. Though the sanctu-

ary is pleasing to the eye, he said, what is most important is the sincerity of the members who meet in the sanctuary and their dedication toward God.

Stewart said he anticipates more church growth and increased ministering by his congregation within the local community.

"There have been many children, their families and grandparents won to the Lord through this church so far and we know God has more blessings in store. We know God has placed us on this corner to reach out and help more families . . . to bring families together and to the saving knowledge of the Lord," he said.

ANNIVERSARIES

Stewarts celebrate 60th anniversary

Daily (John) and Eva **Stewart** celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary, Thursday, Nov. 2.

The Stewarts were married Nov. 2, 1935, in Clearwater, Fla. Mr. **Stewart** is a retired custom home builder, having built many homes in the city of Clearwater in the past 50 years. Mrs. **Stewart** has been a homemaker all of these years. The Stewarts moved to Hernando in 1978.

The Stewarts have two sons, **Stan** and his wife Kathie, and Dennis and his wife Robin, who all reside in Citrus County. The Rev. **Stan Stewart** is pastor of North Oak Baptist Church in Citrus Springs and Dennis **Stewart** is a CNA at Citrus Health and Rehabilitation Center in Inverness.

The Stewarts have 10 grandchildren, Shannon, Tiffany, Cortney, Jonathon, Michael and Jennifer of Citrus County, Tim of Avon Lake, Ohio, Joy Weldon of Cocoa, Bron Castleberry of Dunnellon and Nathan of Spring Hill. The



John and Eva Stewart

Stewarts have six great-grandchildren.

A surprise reception will be held on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. in honor of the **Stewart's** anniversary at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 N. Elkeam Blvd. in Citrus Springs.

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Ministers recognized for accomplishments

Main Street Baptist Church of Inverness, **Rev. Leary Willis**, pastor, and Riverside Baptist Church, Hernando, **Rev. Stan Stewart**, pastor, have received special recognition from the Florida Baptist State Convention for outstanding accomplishments in the area of Sunday School Attendance. These two churches, which are a part of Alachua Baptist Association, are in the top 25 churches in the Florida Baptist Convention that had an increase in Average Sunday School Attendance each year for the past five years, 1985-1990.

Riverside Baptist Church presents musical ministry

Riverside Baptist Church, located on S.R. 200 at C.R. 491, Hernando, invites you to come and share in an exciting musical ministry.

Covenant, a group of young, dedicated, full-time music evangelists will be in concert at the church, Sunday evening, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

This group, consisting of Mike and

Jennifer Osborne and Libby Black, is dedicated to the ministry in the local church and has been a part of numerous Southern Baptist activities including the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga., and the 1987 Southern Baptist Evangelism Conference in St. Louis, Mo.

Their single, "Lord of Heaven,"

made the Gospel Music News Top 100 recently.

Based out of Danville, Ky., Covenant is highly recommended by Lois Jane Music Ministries, and will be a blessing to all who come and hear.

The **Rev. Stan Stewart**, pastor, and the congregation of Riverside Baptist Church invite the public.

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ntact Nancy Kennedy at
564-2927 (leave a mes-
) or email at nkenredy@nicleonline.com.

Congregation looks forward to Pastor Stan Day Oct. 13

North Oak celebrating 34 years of service

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



STEWART

Pastor **Stan Stewart** is the founder of North Oak Church in Citrus Springs. The church began in the Stewarts' living room 34 years ago and has been growing ever since.

October 13 has been designated as Pastor **Stan** Day at North Oak Church. The regular worship service which begins at 10:45 a.m. will be centered around his favorite music, a number of special speakers, a message from the word of God and a special presentation.

Pastor **Stan** has been very involved with the Nature Coast Baptist Association and the Florida Baptist

Convention. He has led North Oak to begin and be involved in many community ministries including Habitat for Humanity, Food Pantry, Beyond the Bread, AWA-NA Clubs for kids, Citrus County Detention Center ministry, KidCare ministry, ESL (English as a Second Language), Dementia Support and many more. He has been very involved in missions to Russia, Ukraine, India, South Dakota and North Dakota.

North Oak Church is located at 9324 N. Elkcarn Blvd. in Citrus Springs. For more information, call the church office at 352-489-1688. Everyone is invited to come and honor Pastor **Stan**.

Stan Stewart Obituary

Stan L. Stewart went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at his home in Citrus Springs, Florida. He was 81 years old.

Born on May 10, 1944, in Clearwater, Florida, he is predeceased by his father, Daily (John) Stewart, January 1996; his brother, Dennis Stewart, May 2004; his mother, Daisy Eva Stewart, May 2008, and his son, Shannon L. Stewart, October 2021.

Stan is survived by the love of his life, Kathie Stewart, 46 years; his sons: Timothy Stewart, (Pam) Lorain, OH, and LeBron Castleberry, (Lindsay) Trenton, GA; his daughters: Joy Weldon, Citrus Springs, FL; Tiffany Ledford, (Brian) Citrus Springs, FL, and Cortney Stewart, Marietta, GA; 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

He graduated from Largo High School, Largo, FL in 1962 and the International Bible College and Seminary in 1981 with a Bachelor of Ministry degree.

Pastor Stan, as he was affectionately known, was in ministry for over 60 years and pastored Red Level Baptist Church, Crystal River and Riverside Baptist Church, Hernando, before founding North Oak Church, Citrus Springs, where he served for 34 years until his retirement in 2024. He was named as Pastor Emeritus at North Oak upon his retirement.

Pastor Stan worked with special needs children at Citrus Springs Elementary School for several years as a volunteer, and began the relationship between the church and school, which continues to this day.

Stan preached and was involved in church planting and mentoring young pastors in several other countries and states, including Russia, Ukraine, England, Jamaica and India. He also worked with the Dakota Baptist Convention as a consultant and church planter. He had a heart for bringing the gospel to others all over the world.

Stan began numerous ministries at North Oak: ESL (English as a Second Language), North Oak Food Pantry, Beyond the Bread, AWANA Clubs for Kids, North Oak KidCare Ministry, and many others. He was also involved in the Citrus Springs Habitat for Humanity development. He was a strong advocate for the community for 34 years.