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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Stroup, W. G. (1905-1994) served as the church music director for the Florida Baptist Convention from 1953 to 1970. Stroup was a graduate of Wingate, Furman, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Before serving in Florida, Stroup served as music and education director for churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. He and his wife, Martha Stroup had two sons.



Retired music leaders W. G. Stroup dies

W. G. Stroup, retired church music director for the Florida Baptist Convention 1953 to 1970, died Oct. 23 following a brief illness. He was 89.

During his 18 years of service to the state convention Stroup focused upon leading Florida Baptist churches to improve and expand their music programs. His efforts resulted in an increase from 844 church choir programs in 1953 to 2,052 choir programs by the time he retired in October 1970. During this period total enrollment in church music programs grew to more than 60,000.



Stroup

Following his retirement, Stroup and his wife, Martha, served as volunteer music missionaries for the SBC Foreign Mission Board. Their first appointment was to the Philippines, where they taught piano and voice and, led choir clinics and revivals. After a brief furlough they served for a short time in Bermuda and Nassau, then returned to the Philippines for another mission tour.

During the early 1980s the Stroups served as Mission Service Corps volunteer music missionaries in Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas, West Virginia and Florida. Their assignment in each of the states was to assist small churches in developing music programs using volunteer directors and workers.

Prior to joining the Florida Baptist Convention staff in 1953, Stroup served as a music and education director for churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida.

Stroup was a graduate of Wingate College, Furman University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Martha, and two sons, Frank and William. Services were held Oct. 25 at Southside Church in Jacksonville, where Stroup had been a member and deacon for 41 years.

Staff changes:

After 44 years, **John DeVoss** has retired from active ministry. For the past 10 years he has served as associate minister of education and administration at North Park Church, Orlando. DeVoss now resides in Titusville.

First Church of Cutler Ridge, Miami, has called **Mike Tatem** to serve as its full-time youth director. Tatem is a graduate of Florida International University. He served in West Germany for four years, in the US Army, where he received several awards of achievement, including the Army Commendation Medal.

Randall Williams resigned as pastor of First Church, Tampa, Oct. 2 to accept the call to serve as pastor of Bay Area First Church in League City, Texas.

First Church, Clermont, has called **Ken Hale** as full-time minister of music and youth. He has served the church as interim since June 26. Hale was trained for the ministry at Clearwater Christian College, Temple Baptist College and Freedom Seminary.

James T. Dunnam has retired as pastor of First Church, Fernandina Beach, and is now available to do interim and supply work. He may be reached at P. O. Box 1446, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035-1446, or (904) 321-2337. Dunnam has served as pastor of churches in Florida since 1957.

First Church, Altamonte Springs, has called **Steve L. Purucker** as minister of education and administration. Steve comes from Knoxville, Tenn. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Luther Rice Seminary.

John Boozer recently resigned Gulf Beach Church, Panama City Beach, as minister of music and is now serving as interim at St. Andrew Church, Panama City.

West Bay Church, Panama City, has called **Sam Ray Clary Sr.** as pastor. A native Texan, Clary is a student at Florida Baptist Theological College.

Jeff Holley has been called to serve as full-time director of religious education for the Tampa Bay Baptist Association. He graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1969 and has served as minister of education and music at First Church, Panama City Beach, and St. Andrew Church, Panama City.

Long Avenue Church, Port St. Joe, has called **Chris Cribbs** as interim pastor. He is a student at Florida Baptist Theological College.

Ricky Clark has resigned as minister of music at St. Andrew Church, Panama City.

John Newberry has been called as interim pastor of Brannonville Church, Panama City.

Obituary:

Former Florida pastor Alva Horton of Orlando died Oct. 18 of heart failure. He was 84.

Born in Lee, the retired pastor founded Calvary Church in Palatka. He was pastor of New Home Church, Perry, for 20 years and also served Lydia Church, Cross City, and Hopewell

Florida native Duduit to speak at Southern luncheon

Florida native Michael Duduit will be the faculty/staff representative at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary State Reunion at noon on Nov. 15 at Central Church in Daytona Beach.

Duduit, a native of Jacksonville, is adjunct professor of preaching and director of public relations at Southern, where he also serves as editor of *Southern Seminary* magazine.

His wider church involvement includes editing *Preaching* magazine, an interdenominational professional journal for ministers, and serving as executive director of the American Academy of Ministry, a professional association for ministers. He plans and directs the annual National Conference on Preaching.



Duduit

Duduit is widely published in the field of preaching. He is editor of the *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*, and currently serves as editor of the *Abingdon Preaching Annual* book series for Abingdon Press. He also is the author of *Joy in Ministry: Messages From Second Corinthians*.

Duduit is a graduate of Stetson University and Southern Seminary, and earned the doctor of philosophy degree at Florida State University.

LAST CHANCE

Make reservations immediately for the following conferences by calling the department listed or the Registration Office at (800) 226-8584 or (904) 396-2351.

Lake Yale

Nov. 3-5	State Literacy Missions Conference, Community and migrant ministries
Nov. 4-6	Florida Baptist Conference for the Deaf, Community and migrant ministries
Nov. 7-8	Share-A-Tune Festival, Church music
Nov. 11-12	Pastors/Deacons/Wives Retreat, Pastoral ministries