Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

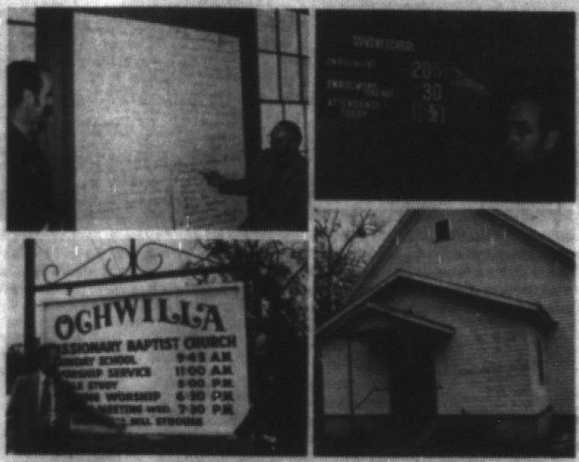
This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

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.

Visit our website at FloridaBaptistHistory.org

Strouse, William "Bill" (1942-2011) was born in Andalusia, Alabama the son of Matthew Eaton and Sallie Futral Strouse. He served as pastor of Parker Road Baptist Church, Gainesville and Ochwilla Baptist Church. Strouse and his wife, Carolyn Annetta Strouse had five children.





OUTSIDE THE WALLS—Shown (clockwise) are: Pastor Bill Strouse and Mitchell Maddox, director of missions, Brevard Association; Bill Strouse; Ochwilla Baptist Church; John Parker, director of missions, Santa Fe Association, and Bill Strouse.

The Ochwilla Story

Who said it couldn't be done? Who said a small, open country church could not grow? Who said that "all that matters is what happens *inside* the walls of the church house"?

The Ochwilla Baptist Church, located on State Road 21 between Melrose and Hawthorne, was organized in August 1873. For most of that time the membership has been stable and its ministry confined to a small number of dedicated church members.

Since Oct. 1, 1979, under the leadership of Pastor Bill Strouse, the church has broken out of the limitations of tradition, location and vision. A most unusual characteristic has been the outreach of the church through six Extension Bible Classes, Home Bible Study groups and the expanding of the Sunday School by starting new units.

The church participated in the Church Growth Crusade along with the other churches in the Sante Fe River Association in February. Mitchell Maddox, director of missions, Brevard Association, worked with the pastor and other key church leaders during the effort, in which new goals and expansion commitments were made.

Note the numerical results of strong pastoral leadership, faithful followship by long-time members, *plus* the blessings of God upon their efforts: church membership has grown from 37 in 1971 to 101 in 1980; baptisms totaled five in 1971 and 37 in 1980; Sunday School attendance in the main church has grown from 22 to 67 and on to 167 through Extension Bible Classes.

The church has most recently begun construction on a new educational building.

Who said it couldn't be done! Congratulations to Bill Strouse and the Ochwilla congregation. They did it. May their tribe increase!

Centurian Sings Birthday Wishes

MINERAL WELLS, Texas (BP)—J. M. Denson has passed his 100th birthday, but he's still carrying out a Christian ministry on the telephone.

Denson has been a church member for 78 years. He stopped driving his car when he was 97, so he can't visit sick people regularly anymore, but he calls people on the telephone and sings to them on their birthdays.

"A lot of people turned it around on me when I had my 100th birthday," said Denson. "They called up and sang happy birthday to me."

His pastor, Bobby Moore, said, "J. M. Denson is one of the greatest men I've ever known because his whole life has been characterized by the words of Jesus: 'He that would be great among you, let him be servant of all.' "

Among the spiritual highlights of his life, Denson recalls helping lead music in revivals conducted by such historical figures as George Truett; J. B. Gambrell, editor of the **Baptist Standard** in the early 1900s; and R. C. Buckner, founder of Buckner Baptist Benevolences of Texas.

Denson says his favorite motto for life is, "I shall pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there is any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do, let me do it now. For I shall not pass this way again."

Church Training Youth Assembly 1980

Lake Yale Baptist Assembly — *August 4-9*

Theme for the Week: "The Jesse Tree"

For: Junior and Senior High Youth only

Special Features: Uniquely Creative Worship Services, Fantastic Fellowships
Special Doctrinal Study: Doctrine of Missions

Recreation: Afternoons filled with: fishing, swimming, team sports (volleyball, softball), or pure leisure and relaxation.

Cost: $40 per person

Reservations: Send reservation fee of $10 per person, along with registration forms (already sent to each church) to:
Church Training Department, Florida Baptist Convention, 1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

REV. WILLIAM A. "BILL" STROUSE

Windsor, FL. Bill Strouse, age 69, went home to be with the Lord February 13, 2011 at the Malcolm Randall V.A. Medical Center. Bill was born in Adalusia, Alabama, and was an Ordained Minister with the Baptist Conference. He started the church that is now known as Parker Road Baptist Church and was the first pastor, before the church was built. He also pastored at Ochwilla Baptist Church and Monteocha Baptist Church. Bill was loved by all who knew him and enjoyed writing Christian songs and poetry. He had a Master's Degree in Theology. Bill moved to Gainesville in 1969, leaving the U.S. Air Force after serving twelve years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Matthew & Lorraine Strouse, son Robert and two brothers Paul and Hugh, and sister Janice. Survivors include his loving wife of 40 years Carolyn Annetta Burnham Strouse of Windsor, four daughters Lori Strouse of Crestview, FL., Anita Brown (Ronnie), Nadine Reed, and Carol Christen all of Windsor, FL; Nine Grandchildren and Three Great Grandchildren; Brothers, Jim and Richard; and Sisters; Dixie, Mary, Maxine, and Shirley. Bill was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, son, and friend and he will be greatly missed!

A Service in Remembrance of Bill will be held Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chapel of the Milam Funeral Home, 311 S. Main Street, Gainesville, FL. Burial will be at a later date in the Eliam Cemetery at Melrose, FL.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Haven Hospice of Gainesville, 4200 N.W. 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL. 32606.

Arrangements are under the care of MILAM FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES, 311 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL. 352-376-5361.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.
Published by Gainesville Sun from Feb. 19 to Feb. 20, 2011.
https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/gainesville/name/william-strouse-obituary?id=32880581

William Andrew Strouse VVeteran
Birth 14 Jan 1942 Andalusia, Covington County, Alabama, USA
Death 13 Feb 2011 (aged 69) Alachua County, Florida, USA
Burial Eliam Cemetery Melrose, Putnam County, Florida, USA

Family Members
Parents
Matthew Eaton Strouse 1908–1976
Sallie Lorraine Futral Strouse 1917–1994
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/94484101/william-andrew-strouse