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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Suarez, John served as pastor of Wallace Baptist Church.

Wallace Baptist Church

Smyrna Baptist Church, the original church, was organized in 1905. It was located approximately 300 yards west of the present pastorium at 3287 Wallace Lake Road.

The church relocated on Chumuckla Highway on land donated by a family in the community. In about 1943, a one-room, red tile building was constructed where the church is located today. In October 1946, the name was changed to Wallace Baptist Church. In April 1949, the church began a Baptist Training Union and in February 1952, held its first weekly prayer meeting.

In 1963, the church added an auditorium to the building and converted the red tile structure into Sunday School rooms. Approximately five years later, the red tile building was torn down and the present sanctuary constructed by the men of the church. Others were employed to do the block laying or jobs the men could not perform.

On August 1, 1990, the church voted to construct a fellowship hall, and in 1992, dedication services were held for the completed building.

Some of the pastors of Smyrna and Wallace include James Arzo Abbott, Nathaniel Timothy Cardwell, Richard Wyche, James B. Ward, Charles Rockwood Beal, Hernando DeSoto Wilson, Theodore Smith, Rev. Rogers, B.H. McWaters, K.E. Hawley, Howard Higdon, Richard Edward Morris, Clettus Columbus Morris, Rodney Riddles, Holly Secrist, Joe Secrist, John Smith, Russell Sauls, Roy Barrow, Robert Grover Key, E.L. Kirkland, David Strickland, John Suarez, Earl Plant, C.B. Raley, George Westmoreland, Joe Bradford, and LaDon Hall.

The church joined Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1907 and Santa Rosa Baptist Association in 1913.

Judith Richbourg Jolly
Florida Baptist Historical Society
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Source: Church and association records;
Research of Beverly Campbell and Sandy Wyrosdick