# 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

**Sullivan, Ray** served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Lake Placid.

# Lake Placid, First aka Lake Stern

.ake Placid Baptist Church was founded on November 5, 1922 with nine original members. The initial name was Lake Sterns Baptist Church. Five years later the name was changed to Lake Placid Baptist Church. Over the next 77 years, the church had 15 different pastors and grew to an attendance of 200.

n 1999, Ray Sullivan came and led the church to radical change. As the church was growing for the first time in years, God led ıim to start a contemporary worship service in addition to the traditional music service. It grew to double the church attendance.

\ concerted effort was made to update much of the church's thought and ministry. Many younger men began to take the mantle of spiritual leadership. God was in the process of transforming lives. The church added a full-time youth minister and a full-time ıdministrator.

But the growth was not without cost. After Sullivan left, the church struggled for 3 years to follow God's will. To be honest, some of this wasn't pretty. Some didn't understand the shift from programs to purpose. The church sought God's face and initiated a watershed decision to move from congregational led church to a biblically based pastor led church. Through the process that God led the church through, people became stronger in their faith. This is where I enter the picture.

People are here because they want to be here. God has done so much, and He isn't finished yet. We have paid the price and we still willing to pay the price.

Now we are taking the next step. We are turning outward to God's purposes in this world. We are passionately pursuing His plan for worship, evangelism, fellowship, maturity, service, and prayer. Our desire is to be a resource in our community for good and for God. We want to know His heart and share His hope.