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, Robert S. (1967-) was born in Jacksonville and accepted Christ at age 12. He served in numerous churches as minister of youth before becoming the pastor of First Baptist Church, White Springs (1995-1998). Sullivan married Paula Ann Militello in 1987 and they have two children.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WHITE SPRINGS



Young-At-Heart Trip to the Alhambra Dinner Theater in February, 1998

(disbanding in July and August) a year. Many day trips have been made by this congenial group including this past year: The Alhambra Dinner Theater in Jacksonville; St. Mary's, GA; Wakulla Springs; an overnight trip to Cypress Gardens, Bok Tower, and The Passion Play in Lake Wales; a Christmas Program in Lake City, and an Easter Program in Valdosta, GA; The "Young At Heart" covered dish luncheon/meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month in the Church Fellowship Hall. Membership is open to all mature (but not restricted to) members of the Church – as well as other citizens in the community.

A concrete Awana Game Square was poured in the east corner of the church yard in 1997. The Awana Club uses this game square every Wednesday evening to teach discipline, cooperation, and team spirit through supervised competitions.

In 1998, The First Baptist Church Sanctuary was designated a historical property through the efforts of the White Springs Historical Society, by the Florida Bureau of Historical Resources, Department of State, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Church is proud of this designation, and is pleased to be included in The Town of White Springs' Historic District.

We have lived, labored, and loved with 31 different pastors, and through it all The First Baptist Church of White Springs has been a continuous witness in the area since the turn of the Century. Our aim at First Baptist Church is to win souls to Christ through love, loyalty, dedication, and service to mankind. We most humbly thank God for the many years of service, and we pray for His continued blessings and divine guidance. *To God Be The Glory! Great Things He Hath Done!*

MINISTERS

Rev. Judson Reamy	From Virginia
Rev. O. J. Frier	1906
Rev. J. W. Wheeler	1907
Rev. William Wamboldt	1908-1910
Rev. C. M. Gordon	1911
Rev. H. C. Pellman	1916
Rev. A. E. Calkins	1917
Rev. T. L. Willingham	1920-1921
Rev. W. C. Taylor	1922-1923
Rev. W. G. Cate	1924 Interim Pastor
M. Sellers	1925 Interim Pastor
Rev. E. J. Dickens	Interim Pastor
Rev. W. L. Shuler	1927-1928
Rev. J. R. Higby	1928-1929
Rev. John Dicks	1929-1941
Rev. W. Y. Hunt	1941-1942
Rev. H. Hugh Walters	1943-1950
Rev. W. H. Brown	1951-1953
Rev. M. B. Archibald	1953-1957
Rev. Joe L. Wood	Interim Pastor
Rev. John Dicks	Interim Pastor
Rev. Sayer Canova	1958-1959
Rev. Francis Picker	1960-1961
Rev. Claude E. Bailey	1961-1962
Rev. J. L. McNeal	1963-1965
Rev. Pat Wimberly	1965-1966
Rev. H. Donald Freeman	1966-1978
Rev. Lowell O'Steen	1979-1986
Rev. Travis Kimbril	1986-1994
Rev. John Hutcherson	Interim Pastor
Rev. Gary A. Heath	1994-1995
Rev. John Hutcherson	Interim Pastor
Rev. Robert Sullivan	1995-1998
Richard Gibson	1998 Interim

CHURCH CLERKS

B. E. Pennington	? - 1930
W. H. Hammock	1930 - 1942
Bonnie B. Hillhouse	1942 - 1961
Mary Brown	1962 - 1974
Bonnie B. Hillhouse	1974 - 1975
Juanita Dees	1975 - 1981
Irene B. Bozeman	1981 -

CHURCH TREASURERS

T. A. Fellows	
S. B. Beauchamp	? - 1960
Ned Crow	1960 - 1961
V. H. Barber	1961 - 1963
P. D. Hillhouse	1963 - 1975
Cheryl Skipper	1975 - 1982
Juanita Dees	1982 - 1990
Joyce Warner	1990 -

FBC White Springs

Memories of Former Pastors

God blessed you as a group of believers in many ways. One special memory is the tremendous talent and love for music. The faithfulness of the musicians, director, and choir has always been a fond memory for me. The special programs, cantatas, and ministry through song blessed my life greatly.

During these years it was also a time of ingathering of several of the faithful saints. Several funerals marked the passing of loved ones like Mrs. Minnie Stormant, Mrs. Bonnie Hillhouse, and Brother Paul Hillhouse. We certainly remember so many in passed years that helped make God's family what it is today.

Many of you have offered friendship to my wife and me that continues even today. We are thankful to God for the abundant love bestowed on us through friends like you. We continue to rejoice at the great things He is doing through First Baptist Church of White Springs.

All glory, honor, and praise to the Lord our God who is worthy of our love and allegiance. My God continue to richly bless each of you especially on this historic day.
(Rev. Kimbril is presently pastor of The First Baptist, Weirsdale, Fla)

Josie Kimbril (wife of Rev. Travis Kimbril)

I remember my eight years at First Baptist with much love. It brings me tremendous joy as I think of the seven years I was director of Vacation Bible School and the cooperation I received from those who worked with me.

My heart is filled with love for those who were children and young people I taught in Sunday School. They remain in my prayers and in my heart.

Being with the women in W.M.U. was meaningful to me. I felt a special bond and closeness with those women — that remains today.

I felt it a privilege to be your 'pastor's wife.' When God called us to another field of service, I carried with me from White Springs many friendships, memories, and a sincere love for the White Springs Church Family.

Dr. Gary A. Heath (Pastor, 1994-1995)

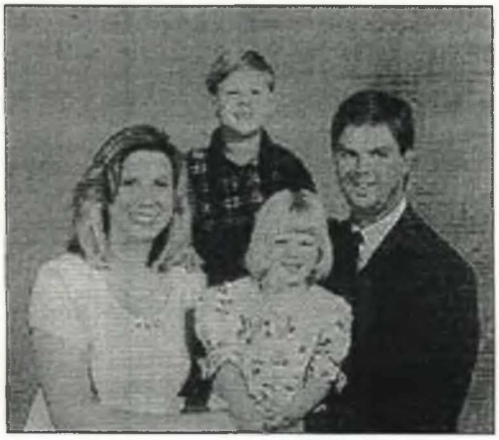
Dr. Gary A. Heath was born July 13, 1942 in Rockmart, GA. He graduated from Hughes High School, Macon, Ga and graduated from Immanuel Baptist College, Atlanta, GA; Luther Rice Seminary, International Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL, and for his doctorate went to Immanuel Baptist Theological Seminary. He also served in the United States Navy.

He married Shirley Peacock, and they have two children: Kelly (Mrs. Rev. Randy) Waters, Mayo, and Ricky Heath.

He accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, in August 1965, was ordained as Deacon in 1971, surrendered to preach in 1973, and ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1976.

He pastored at Jackson Drive Baptist Church, East Point, GA; Eastland Heights Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA; Calvary Baptist Church, College Park, GA; West Street Baptist Church, Bainbridge, GA; First Baptist Church, Trenton, FL; Hope Baptist Church, Starke, FL; and Macedonia Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL before coming to First Baptist Church of White Springs in 1994-1995. He relocated to Berea Baptist Church in Lake City, then to Cross City, FL and is now a Chaplain with the Florida Prison System.

..."Although Shirley and I cannot be with you today, we wish you the best on your Centennial Celebration and continued blessings by Our Lord Jesus Christ."



Dr. Robert Sullivan (Pastor, 1995-1998)

Dr. Robert Scott Sullivan was born in Jacksonville, Florida. He accepted Christ when he was 12 years old at his home on October 17, 1979, and took an active Christian role at his high school and at church. Brother Robert had his mind set on becoming a pitcher in the major leagues. The summer before he went into his Senior year at high school God called him into the ministry. Although he knew God had called, he did not truly surrender until 1986. He enrolled in Florida Junior College and played baseball

Memories of Former Pastors

for a year, before surrendering totally to the ministry.

He then enrolled at North Florida Baptist Theological Seminary in Jacksonville receiving his Associate and Bachelor's Degree of Christian Education. While a student in Seminary, he married Paula Ann Militello on April 10, 1987, went to work for Publix Super Markets in their warehouse in Duval County, and was bi-vocational at area churches working as minister of youth at Lakeside Baptist Church and Old Plank Baptist Church.

After his college years he was Associate Pastor for Youth at Dinsmore Baptist Church, Jacksonville, and later Associate Pastor for Youth at First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights. He was ordained in l991. His son Jarrod Scott was born in l990 and his daughter Hannah Danielle was born in l992. He relocated to New Port Richey and accepted the position of Minister of Youth and Recreation at First Baptist Church of Elfers.

The First Baptist Church of White Springs was his first full-time position as pastor. When he moved here, he lived in the Gelon and Beulah Cheshire house in the country for nine (9)months, (thanks to Dave and LaVerne Seckinger) while the new pastorium was being built. Pastor Sullivan and his family were the first residents of the Camp Pastorium. In l997, he received his doctorate degree of ministry through correspondence work.

While here, Brother Sullivan through God's guidance inspired: The Awana Club ministry for youth up to the sixth grade; a Sunday School Class for Young Married Couples; the hiring of a full-time Youth Director; A Young At Heart Club for senior adults; coached Little League Softball in the community; assisted with creating a Church Softball Team/League; and baptized over 35.

He resigned in August of l998, to accept the challenge of beginning a new church in the New Port Richey area, and has since relocated there with his family.



Inside the Sanctuary, 1969