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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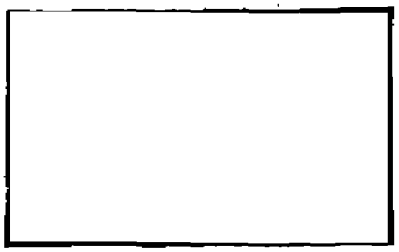
Summers, Percy served as pastor of Bostwick Baptist Church, Palatka.



BOSTWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

The work in the Bostwick area appeared to have its beginning in 1890 when the St. Johns River Baptist Association met at the Evergreen Baptist Church of Clay County. Acting on the recommendation of the Mission Committee, they voted to send Rev. D. L. Kendrick to work the west side of the St. Johns River in the vicinity of Bostwick. In the 1898 Annual Meeting of the Association Bostwick Baptist Church petitioned the Association for membership, with Mr. L. C. Williams as messenger. In the 1899 Annual Minutes of the Association, Bostwick Baptist Church appeared in the statistical pages as a member with Rev. W. H. Minton as pastor and Mr. L. C. Williams as clerk.

In the Putnam County Historical Sites, copied from the FLORIDA STATE GAZETTER AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY, Vol I. 1886-1887, Bostwick had a population of 75. The Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway ran through the town. Bostwick had a Baptist Church, public school, a saw mill, and two stores. It was only a way station but had daily mail service. The first settlement was established here in 1882. Land sold from $3 to $8 per acre. Davis & Webster ran a saw and planing mill, Rev. M. L. Dyes was pastor of the Baptist Church, Parker & Caraway were grocers , P.T.L. Quees was postmaster, general merchandise, and real estate. The following had orange groves: John Hancock, Wm. Melton, J. Sweat, Geo. Knowles, Wm. Register, and J. Williams.

Some of the early pastors to serve Bostwick Baptist Church were: W. H. Minton, 1898-1899; Charles Conway, 1900; W. H. Minton, 1903; D. W. Glisson, and J. F. McBride are listed for 1904; J. F. McBride, 1905-1913. We have no copies of the Annual Minutes of the Association from 1914-1918. In 1919 T. J. Knight was listed as pastor; J. F. McBride, 1931; L. T. Ivey, 1922.

In 1923 the church body elected to become Independent. During that time W. E. Wall, H. L. Durden, along with others served as pastor. It continued to be an Independent church until 1943 when, under the leadership of Alfred Sapp, the church voted to return to the Southern Baptist Convention, although in the 1936 Annual Minutes, W. S. Matheny was listed as pastor.

The original church was located about a mile east of the Bostwick cemetery, on property deeded for the purpose of a cemetery and a church. Later the present building was built from materials from an old school building purchased from the county when the present old school building was built. From 1937 until the present time the church has been served by fifteen pastors. They were: E. W. Tucker, D. E. Sherrouse, Percy Summers, W. E. Hall, C. C. Harris, Alfred Sapp, Nathan Wilkinson, J. S. Murphy, W. M. Dyess, Bobby Collins, D. E. Willis, J. A. Eason, John Ingram, V. J. Major, and Gene Janda. Mr. L. C. served as Church Clerk from 1889-1911 and Mr.

J. T. Hancock from 1912-1922 (Associational Annual Minutes from 1914-1918 are missing). The following are some of the people who represented the church as messengers to the Annual Meetings of the Association: John Hancock, J. J. Brooks, R. R. Brooks, D. P. Hancock, J. W. Durder, J. M. Fraser, E. R. Conway, G. W. Dyas, J. W. Glisson, W. F. Wilkinson, H. E. Bunker, Henry C. Cribbs, Avery Driggers, Mrs. Claude Guthrie, and Mrs. Mollie Wilkinson.

Billy Graham preached his first sermon at the Bostwick Baptist Church during a revival conducted by Rev. Cecil Underwood. Billy was visiting with the Underwoods here in Palatka while a student at a Bible College in Tampa and was invited to preach at one of the services.

The Bostwick Baptist Church has continued to grow down through the years. They are now in the process of building a new sanctuary in front of the present building. They will use the old building for Sunday School space. The new building will have a seating capacity of 450, and will have new office space, baptistry, and choir rooms.