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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Sumner, James L. was born in Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from the University of Florida and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sumner served as pastor of churches in Texas, Alabama and Florida including Shady Grove Baptist Church, Grand Ridge. He and his wife, Inez Carlton Sumner had three children.

Jackson County Floridan
Sat, Oct 17, 1964 ·Page 7



SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH — Rev James L. Sumner, Pastor Sunday School 10 a.m Morning Worship 11 a.m Training Union 6:00 p.m Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

Jackson County Floridan
Thu, Oct 07, 1965 ·Page 2



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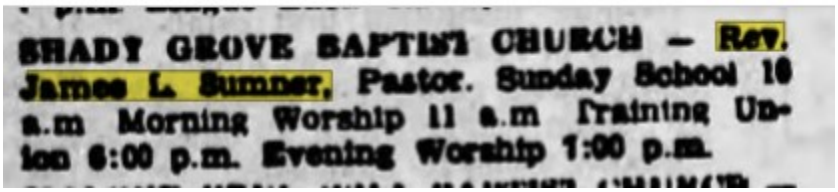
Shady Grove Sets Church Homecoming

SHADY GROVE — Homecoming of the Shady Grove Baptist Church wil ~~be held Sunday,~~ according to the Rev. James L. Sumner, pastor of the church.

All former pastors and members and friends are invited to attend, the Rev. Sumner said.

Dinner - on - the - ground will follow the morning service.

Jackson County Floridan
Sat, Feb 05, 1966 ·Page 3



SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH — Rev. James L. Sumner, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m Morning Worship 11 a.m Training Union 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

Abbeville Herald
Thu, Feb 10, 1966 ·Page 1

The congregation of Sardis Baptist Church has announced the acceptance of the Rev. James L. Sumner to serve as their pastor. Prior to his call he was serving as pastor of the Shady Grove Baptist Church at Grand Ridge, Florida. He has served churches in both Florida and Texas.

Reverend Sumner is a native of Florida, having been born in Jacksonville and reared near Ocala. He graduated from the University of Florida at Gainesville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Sumner, the former Inez Carlton, is a native of Sarasota, Florida. The Sumners have three children, Bill, age 12; and Timothy and Jo-Anna, who are married and make their home in Sarasota.

Jackson County Floridan
Sat, Oct 07, 1967 ·Page 2

Shady Grove Sets Homecoming Day

Shady Grove Baptist Church will observe Homecoming Sunday. The Rev. James L. Sumner of Abbeville, Ala., will be the guest speaker. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., with church services at 11 a.m.

Dinner will be served on the grounds after the services, and an afternoon song service is scheduled. The Rev. Merlin Morris, pastor, invites everyone to attend.

AKA Shady Grove

August 25, 1937 - Theo Edenfield resigned as clerk

August 25, 1937 - Doug Alford elected clerk.

(Minutes lost from Oct. l937 - Dec. 1940

Sept. 1940 - C.G. Garrett called as pastor

July 1941 - bought piano for church

Sept. 14, 1941 - Rev. C.T. Stewart called as pastor

January 1942 - B.D. Godfrey & Frank Stewart elected Deacons

March 1942 - B. D. Godfrey & Frank Stewart Ordained deacons

Oct. 1943 - Sam Renfroe called as pastor

Oct. 18, 1944 - Rev. G.T. Hunt indefinitely called as pastor

Jan. 14, 1946 - Building Committee empowered to proceed with building program

Sept. 21 1945 - Jeff Segrest elected clerk

Sept. 25 1949 - Henry Oliver elected clerk

March 11, 1951 - Rev. G.T. Hunt resigned as pastor.

April 15 1951 - S.A. Coxwell called as pastor

Sept. 23 1951 - J.R. Alford elected Clerk & Treasurer

April 1951 - May 5, 1958 - S.A. Coxwell pastor

July 1958 - March 1960 - D.E. Williams pastor

April 1960 - January 1964 - Raymond Estes pastor

March 1964 - March 1966 - James L Summer pastor

June 1966 - July 1969 - Merlin L. Morris pastor

August 1969 - July 1970 - Douglas Birge pastor

Sept. 1970 - Sept. 1971 - Arvil Dunnaway pastor

Oct. 1971-Sept. 1972- Ronald Salvo pastor