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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Sumrall, D. Denton (1944-2012) was a native of Meridian, Mississippi. He surrendered to the call of ministry at the young age of fourteen and pastored churches in Northern and Central Florida for over thirty years. Sumrall was a graduate of Mississippi College, and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He retired from the Florida National Guard as a Lt. Colonel and Chaplain after thirty years. Sumrall was the founder and Director of S.E.A. Mission, for over sixteen years leading church mission trips to the Bahama Islands. In addition to his ministry there, his travels took him to the San Blas Islands in Panama, Indonesia, Belize, Guatemala, and Khazakstan. He served as pastor of Warrington Baptist Church. Sumrall and his wife Carol had three children.

Dr. Dudley Denton Sumrall

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Dr. Dudley Denton Sumrall will be held Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at Russell Baptist Church, with Dr. John Wallace, Reverend Jerry Haughton, Reverend Charles Mullis and Reverend Steve Taylor officiating. Burial will be in Old Marion Cemetery with Robert Barham Family Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.

Dr. Dudley Denton Sumrall passed away at the age of sixty-eight on June 9, 2012, after a short and fierce battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a native of Meridian, Mississippi. Dr. Denton lived a full life in service to the Lord. He surrendered to the call of ministry at the young age of fourteen and pastored churches in Northern and Central Florida for over thirty years. Over the past five years he served locally to churches in the greater Meridian area as a guest pastor. He was an active member of the Lauderdale County Baptist Association. Dr. Denton was a graduate of Mississippi College, and he received his Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He retired from the Florida National Guard as a Lt. Colonel and Chaplain after thirty years of dedication.

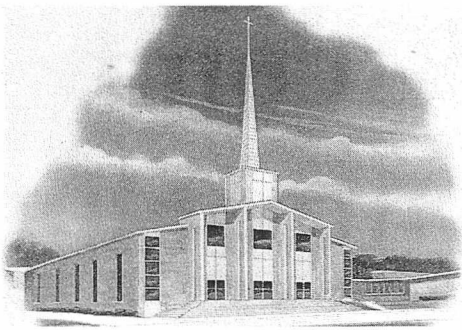
His passion and gifts collided most recently in his heart for missions. As founder and Director of S.E.A. Mission, he touched countless lives over sixteen years leading church mission trips to the Bahama Islands. In addition to his ministry there, his travels took him to the San Blas Islands in Panama, Indonesia, Belize, Guatemala, and Khazakstan.

Denton possessed a zeal for life and loved learning new skills. Over the course of his life, his pursuits included bee keeping, ham radio, wood working, hunting, fishing, and diving.

A Champion and rock for his family, Denton is survived by his wife Carol of forty-six years, his children Austin Sumrall, Hope Sumrall Parker and Wesley Sumrall, and four grandchildren, George Parker III, Jacob Sumrall, Madelynn Parker, and Chloe Sumrall. He also leaves behind a niece Allison Rice Hall and nephew Brad Rice. He is preceded in death by his father Dudley Sumrall, his mother Ida Mae, and sister Martha. He leaves an indelible mark on each of our lives.

Warrington Baptist Church

Warrington Baptist Church, located at 103 West Winthrop Avenue in Pensacola, was organized August 17, 1939. An outgrowth of a mission Sunday School begun in 1938 by Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, the charter members were Deacon and Mrs. T.V. Beckham, Imogene Beckham, Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Cloud, Deacon and Mrs. R.C. Dickson, Deacon and Mrs. E.H. Huff, Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. L.M. Vickers, Mrs. I.P. Bascle, Mrs. G.R. Eades, Mrs. Vivian Farlow, Mrs. C.J. Fehler, Mrs. Fred Hassebrock, and Mrs. Marion Gore.



Warrington Baptist Church

They met in a three-bedroom house at Barrancas Avenue (now Navy Boulevard) and Jackson Street (now Winthrop Avenue) and paid $15 monthly rent. In 1940 they moved to Turner Lee Day School on Jackson Street. That year a lot was purchased at the present church site, and the first building was erected. An adjacent two-story educational building was completed in 1954. The dedication of the present 1550-seat sanctuary and educational annex was held September 22-25, 1963.

Three missions, now self-supporting churches, sponsored by Warrington Baptist Church are Beach Haven, organized 1956; Boulevard (now Bayou Grove), organized 1957; and Lakeview, organized 1963. Warrington Baptist Church joined Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1939, and in 1996 provided space to the Association to establish the Homeport military ministry.

Pastors who have served the church are Thomas J. Anderson, E.Y. Soileau, E.R. Anderson, Dr. Ernest S. Owens, Jr., Dr. James L. Monroe, Dr. J. Larry Mayo, Dr. Randy G. Atkinson, Dr. D. Denton Sumrall, and Dr. Ric Butler.

Submitted by: Merlease Coons, 103 West Winthrop Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32506. Written by: Judith Richbourg Jolly, 8588 Belle Meadow Blvd;, Pensacola, FL 32514. Sources: The History of Warrington Baptist Church 1939-1999 by Merlease Coons; Records of Pensacola Bay Baptist Association.