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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Sutton, Bascom S. (1890-1986) was a native of Lakeland, Florida, the son of Charles N. and Rachel Keen Sutton. He served as pastor of New Home, Cedar Grove, Bradley, Alafia, Kathleen and East Thonotosassa. Sutton was a former principal of Winston and Griffin schools. Sutton and his wife Mollie O Brown Sutton had four children.



Because of a growing, and changing community, many changes have been made in the organizational structure of the church, to meet the growing needs of the people. A department for the non-hearing people has been started, and five deaf people have united with the church.

God has richly blessed the Midway Baptist Church. Today the property is valued at more than $100,000, and became debt-free in 1971. Plans are being made to increase recreational facilities for all age groups in the church, and community. A basketball-tennis court is almost completed.

Through the seventy-five years of the history of this church, each pastor had a significant roll, as leader, in the spiritual growth of the church. Not only the pastors, but each member has had a part in its growth.

Through the ministry of the Midway Baptist Church, five of its members have been ordained to the gospel ministry. They are: Rev. Mike J. Shultz, Rev. R. L. Lampp, Rev. Walter I. Lampp, Rev. W. M. Lampp, and Rev. Lonnie Norris. Several young men, who grew up in this community, and were members of this church, have been ordained to the gospel ministry since moving to other cities. Some serve as deacons in other churches, some dedicated laymen and women, serving God faithfully, because seventy-five years ago a group of people had a vision of what God could do with a local church in the Midway community.

Four of our young men paid the supreme sacrifice in giving their life in the service of our country for the cause of freedom. These are: Lacy Ginn, Gene Hull, Bill Jerkins, and Carlos Knight Plant City

The following men served as pastors of the Midway Baptist Church: Rev. E. L. Todd, 1900-1901; Rev. J. W. Johnson, 1902-1910; Rev. L. M. Chitty, 1911-1912; Rev. S. W. McLellan, 1913-1918; Rev. W. E. Cooper, 1920-1922, again in 1928; Rev. Bascom Sutton, 1923-1924; Rev. W. P. Rivers, 1925-1926; Rev. W. D. Cowart, 1930-1931; Rev. J. T. Rawlins, 1931-1932; Rev. R. N. Rimes, 1932-1933, and 1935; Rev. C. L. Berry, 1934; Rev. W. I. Lampp, 1937-1938; Rev. T. U. Fann, 1939-1940; Rev. J. B. Young, 1941-1943; Rev. D. D. Townsend, 1944-1946; Rev. E. T. Earnest, 1947-1950; Rev. Robert W. Lawson, 1951-1952; Rev. Lewis Futch, 1953-1954; Rev. T. F. O'Steen, 1955-1956; Rev. Henry Robertson, 1956-1960; Rev. Paul E. Parrish, 1961-1962; Rev. W. H. Bledsoe, 1963-1965; Rev. Hubert Barnes, 1966-1969; Rev. John J. Dorough, Oct. 1970-present.

Tampa Tribune, April 24, 1986, p. 39

Lakeland.

THE REV. BASCOM S. SUTTON, 96, of Lakeland died Wednesday. Lanier Funeral Home, Lakeland.

Tampa Tribune April 24, 1986, p. 61

The REV. BASCOM S. SUTTON, 96, of Lakeland died Wednesday. He was a native of Lakeland. He was a retired Baptist minister and pastored in many local churches. He was a member of New Home Baptist Church and a former principal of Winston and Griffin schools.

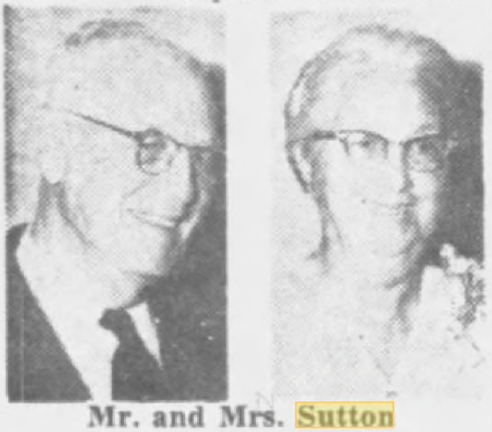
He is survived by his wife, Mollie O.; a son, Paul T. of Lakeland; a sister, Pearl Rushing of Lakeland; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Lanier Funeral Home, Lakeland, is in charge of arrangements.

June 12, 1960, p. 93 Tampa Tribune

Open House To Be Held For Couple

LAKELAND, June 11 (Special) — The Rev. and Mrs. Bascom S. Sutton will hold open house at their home, 837 Lake Shore Dr. tomorrow in observance of the 50th wedding anniversary. Friends have been invited to call between 3 and 7 p.m. Hosts will be the couple's sons and daughter, Lamar S. Sutton and Paul T. Sutton, of Lakeland, and Mrs. C. O. McGuirt, of Miami. Another son, Charles William Sutton, is deceased.



Mr. and Mrs. Sutton

Both the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton are members of Polk County pioneer families. He was born northwest of Lakeland in the Griffin-Winston area, the son of Charles N. and Rachel Keen Sutton, and the grandson of one of Lakeland area's earliest settlers, Jesse Keen. Mrs. Sutton, the former Mollie Bowen, was born at Fort Meade, the daughter of the late William and Mary Singletary Bowen. Mr. Bowen is a former sheriff of Polk County.

The Suttons were married June 15, 1910, at the home of the bride's parents, by the Rev. W. M. Boswell, the same minister who had performed the marriage ceremony for the Rev. M. Sutton's parents.

The Rev. Mr. Sutton taught in Polk schools for 13 years and was a Baptist minister from 1923 to 1958, at which time he retired. He has served as pastor of New Home, Cedar Grove, Bradley, Alafia, Kathleen and East Thonotosassa Baptist Churches. He and Mrs. Sutton are now members of Webster Avenue Baptist Church.

The couple has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Tampa Tribune, October 16, 1954, p. 5

Alafia Baptist Church Celebrates 104 Years

By KATHRYN S. COOKE

Times Bureau

Plant City, Oct. 16. The Alafia Baptist Church, built of logs by devout pioneers in 1850, will observe its 104th birthday anniversary Sunday with special all-day services.

The church is one of the oldest Baptist missions in Florida and its membership has grown through the years.

The present modern church building was built about eight years ago and is located 20 miles south of Plant City near Lithia. Pastor is the Rev. Ray Z. Crofton.

Morning, Afternoon, Evening

Morning service will include a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Forbes, a former pastor; Scripture and prayer by the Rev. Jesse Joiner and songs led by Jack Cowart.

A barbecue dinner will be served at non. Harney Whidden will lead singing at 2:30 P. M. and a welcome will be given by the Rev. Mr. Crofton.

The Rev. Charlie Sutton, also a former pastor, will present a history of the church, and memorial services will be conducted by the Rev. Ben Yeargan.

The afternoon message will be given by the Rev. Bascom Sutton, former pastor, with Scripture and prayer by the Rev. Cliff Johnson.

The Rev. Arlo Wilson, former pastor, will present the sermon at the night service with Scripture and prayer by the Rev. Ed Townsend.

Springhead Services

expressed hope that every member would be present. Baptismal services will be held following the Sunday night service. Sunday School night will be observed tonight at 7:30 o'clock.

The Rev. L. Don Miley, pastor of First Baptist Church, will continue his series of sermons dealing with the subject of race relations. The morning topic will be "Christian Love and Race Relations" and the night sermon will be "How Christian Can I Afford to Be?"

At the First Methodist Church Sunday morning, the Rev. George C. Gibson will preach on "The Rediscovery of Tithing" and his topic that night will be "We Believe in the Bible."

Methodist MYF Groups

First Methodist intermediate, senior and older youth MYF