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

Sutton, J. A. (1858-) served as pastor of Homestead Baptist Church, 1918; Frist Baptist Church, Winter Park; First Baptist Church, Kissimmee, 1920-1923; Pine Grove Baptist Church, Christmas; North Side Baptist Church, Orlando; Park Lake Baptist Church, Orlando; and North Park Baptist Church, Orlando. Sutton and his wife had two children.

Homestead

Pastors and Interim Pastors of First Baptist Church and Staff Who Served Under Each

1. **Henry Howard Sturgis*** **1909-1911**
2. **J. W. White*** **1911-1912**
3. **J. C. Rogers*** **1913**
4. **Milton M. Bales*** **1913-1916**
5. **J. W. Barton*** **1916-1918**
6. **J. A. Sutton*** **1918-1921**
7. **Charles M. White*** **1921-1922**
8. **Charles N. Walker*** **1922-1938**
9. **J. E. Johnston*** **1939-1943**
10. **Bob Willets*** **1943**
11. **L. B. Crantford*** **1943-1947**
    Virgil Lyons*, W. H. Rowe*, Lena Helen Martin
12. **J. L. White*** **1947- 1948**
13. **J. H. Witt*** **1948- 1954**
14. **B. A. Bowers*** **1954**
15. **F. H. Rice*** **1954-1957**
    Josh Wilson, Lawrence Stewart*
16. **Luther Key*** **1957-1961**
    Lawrence Stewart*, Roy Cotton, Gratten Tomlinson, James Justus, M. C. Walker
17. **Otis W. Garland*** **1962-1968**
    O. L. Jarvis*, I. L. Griffin*, Ida Mabel Clark, King Abernathy, John Christmas, Allen Simmons
18. **J. Elwood Rawls*** **1968-1974**
    J. L. Griffin*, Jack Goldfarb, Katie Burdick, Sherrie Winkleman, Richard Schinman, Gary Cason, Leon Essex*, J. W. Smith, Jerry Todd
19. **Doyle Wetherington** **1975-1979**
    Jimmy Crews, Steve Parris, Tim Lee, Harold St. Gemme, Tom Ledbetter, David Cochran
20. **David Cobb** **1980-1985**
    Pam Helms, Harold St. Gemme, Bubba Cox, Ivan Cason*
21. **Nathan Pulling** **1985**
    Pam Helms
22. **James Doyle** **1985-1992**
    Russell Philpot, Jim Kilpatrick, Pam Helms, David Watts, Eddie DelRio
23. **Emit Ray*** **1992-1993**
    Pam Helms, Russell Philpot, Jim Kilpatrick
24. **Jack Auten** **1993-2002**
    Russell Philpot, Pam Helms, Brad Higerd Matt Gilmore
25. **Ray Van der Wal** **2002-2003**
    Russell Philpot, Pam Helms, Matt Gilmore
26. **Howard Harden** **2003-Present**
    Pam Helms, Russell Philpot, Matt Gilmore, Joe Friman

Pastors listed are according to their tenure. Staff are according to records available at the present and may not include all staff members who served First Baptist as Associate Pastor, Music Director, Educational Director and Youth Director.

* Deceased

ORLANDO MORNING SENTINEL, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, Sunday, September 12, 1920

WINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Winter Park Baptist Church has extended a unanimous call to Rev. J. A. Sutton, D.D., of Homestead, Fla., to become permanent pastor. It is hoped that he will be on the field by October first. During the month of September the pulpit will be supplied by Evangelist A. A. Holmes of Orlando. The services for next Sunday, September 12th, are as follows: Sunday School 9:45 a. m.; preaching 11 a. m., subject "How May We Become More Spiritual?" Young Peoples meeting 7 p. m. Preaching, 8 p. m. Subject, "When Will Jesus Come Again?—Signs of the Times." All are welcome to these services.

ORLANDO MORNING SENTINEL, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1930

Miss Gertrude E. Stuart Rose and Mr. Amos E. Jackson were married at 6:30 o'clock last evening at the home of the officiating minister, the Rev. J. A. Sutton, pastor of the North Park Baptist church.

The ring ceremony was read, and

The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Florida) 24 Dec 1930, Wed Page 1 15 Nov 1930, Sat Page 11

MRS. J. A. SUTTON TAKEN BY DEATH

Mrs. J. A. Sutton, wife of Rev. J. A. Sutton, pastor of the North Park Baptist church, died last night following a lingering illness. Mrs. Sutton passed away at her home, 741 North Mills street.

Rev. and Mrs. Sutton came to Orlando more than seven years ago, at which time he assumed the pastorate of the church here. They had resided here ever since.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Broadway and Amelia streets.

CARD OF THANKS

The Rev. J. A. Sutton, pastor of the North Park Baptist church, wishes to publicly thank the members of his church for their kindness and consideration in dismissing him from his duties during the critical illness of Mrs. J. A. Sutton. Members of the church, at the prayer service this week, asked their pastor to give up all church duties with the exception of the preaching services, that he might have more time with Mrs. Sutton who has been very ill since July.

The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Florida)
08 Jul 1936, Wed
Page 6

A Word for Dr. Sutton

AFTER 13 YEARS as pastor of the Park Lake Baptist Church Rev. J. A. Sutton, D. D. has resigned and for the ensuing months, perhaps years, will take a rest and refrain from active participation in his great calling. Prior to taking up his duties here Dr. Sutton resided at Kissimmee for a brief period. He has been in Florida for 18 years.

When he came here in 1923 there were only 36 members of his church, now there are 400. Much progress has been accomplished, and Dr. Sutton leaves with the good will of not only his congregation but the entire community. His daughter, Mrs. K. P. Holloway, and son, Albert S. Sutton will continue their residence here, and Dr. Sutton will always call Orlando home.

Few realize that he has reached the ripe age of 78 years, most of his life dedicated to preaching the Gospel and tending the flock. He has ever been an inspiring force wherever he preached or resided.

Extremely complimentary to Rev. J. A. Sutton, pastor of the North Park Baptist church, was the unanimous invitation of his congregation to enter his tenth year of service with the local church. He has been active in civic and club affairs and is one of Orlando's popular clergymen.

THE TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 1, 1923

strument.

Kissimmee Baptists Regret Resignation Of Church's Pastor

KISSIMMEE, July 31.—(Special).—A great deal of surprise and much regret were expressed this morning when it became generally known that Rev. J. A. Sutton, pastor of the First Baptist Church, tendered his resignation yesterday at the conclusion of the morning services.

The resignation is to take effect the last of September. Dr. Sutton has filled the pastorate of this church for the past three years, during which time he has endeared himself to the members of all other denominations, as well as to those of the public who belonged to no church. On account of his fluency of speech, his flow of wit, deep pathos and his profound knowledge of sugjects generally, he has been much in demand for making welcoming addresses and extemporaneous speeches since his residence here. He was given a month's vacation during August, after which time he will return to Kissimmee to continue his pastorate until the last of September. His plans for the future are at present unknown.

Orlando Evening Star (Orlando, Florida) 11 May 1930, Sun Page 11

vitation is extended to the public and all Elks and their families.

Rev. J. A. Sutton, pastor of Park Lake Baptist church, will deliver the invocation. A speech will be delivered by Senator Franklin O. King, "A Tribute to Mother."

An outline of the program is as

ORLANDO SUNDAY SENTINEL AND REPORTER-STAR, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1931

Keith S., the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sutton, and the grandson of Rev. J. A. Sutton, pastor of the Park Lake Baptist church, died suddenly at Bushnel Thursday and will be buried in Greenwood cemetery this afternoon. Services will be held in the Park Lake Baptist church at 3:00 o'clock.

TAMPA MORNING TRIBUNE, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1926

KISSIMMEE PASTOR GETS ORLANDO CALL

Reverend Knight to Be Head of Extension in First Baptist Church

KISSIMMEE, Jan. 26.—(Tribune News Service.)—Rev. Walter B. Knight, for the last two years pastor of the First Baptist church of Kissimmee, yesterday morning presented his resignation to his congregation, to accept a call from the First Baptist church of Orlando, as associate pastor and director of extension. Reverend Knight, with his mother and sister, came to Kissimmee in December, 1923, and during the two years of his pastorate the membership of the church has doubled.

The resigning minister has been active in civic affairs as well as with his church duties. Last summer he acted as secretary of the chamber of commerce during the vacation of the then Manager Alison T. French. Reverend Knight is deputy scout commissioner for the central Florida district, and was roll call chairman of the recent Red Cross campaign. He is still under 30 years of age and his friends expect a bright future for him in his field.

Reverend Knight makes the second consecutive minister of the Kissimmee church to be called to Orlando. He succeeded here Rev. J. A. Sutton who resigned to take the pastorate of the North Side Baptist church of Orlando.

Since Reverend Knight's acceptance of the Orlando call he has received a letter from Dr. William Russell Owen, of the First Baptist church of Macon, Georgia, asking him if he would consider appointment in his church. Mr. Knight was office director of the Macon church before coming to Kissimmee.