# 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.

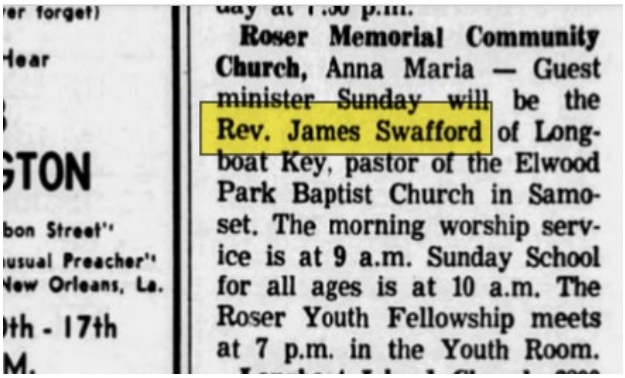
The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist 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



**Swafford, James E**. (1941-2025) was born in Jacksonville, Florida. He served as pastor of Elwood Park Baptist Church, Tampa and Shady Grove Baptist Church, Grand Ridge. Swafford and his wife, Elsie Swafford had eight children.

Tampa Bay Times
Sat, Oct 09, 1965 · Page 50



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**Roser Memorial Community Church,** Anna Maria — Guest minister Sunday will be the Rev. James Swafford of Longboat Key, pastor of the Elwood Park Baptist Church in Samoset. The morning worship service is at 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is at 10 a.m. The Roser Youth Fellowship meets at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room.

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The Bradenton Herald
Sat, Nov 27, 1965 · Page 4

# Elwood Park Baptist Church Holding Revival Next Week

The Elwood Park Baptist Church will be host to the Rev. David E. Causey during their revival next week. Services will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Causey is presently engaged as the pastor of the Bay Ceia Baptist Church in Tampa. He has been preaching for 16 years, half of this time in rural churches.

He received his B.A. degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1960, and has pastored at the Perryville Baptist Church, Perryville, Ky., and at the Broodmoor Baptist Church of Bessemer, Ala.

Elwood Park Baptist Church is located on 45th Street, E., south of Elwood Park Road, 34th Ave., or one and a half miles off highway 70, north of Gateway East; the church being pastored by the Rev. James R. Swafford.

Swafford, James E. Dec 30, 1941 — Sep 19, 2025 Blountstown, FL

James E. Swafford of Blountstown, a devoted pastor and beloved family man, passed away on September 19, 2025, at the age of 83, surrounded by his loved ones in Blountstown. Born on December 30, 1941, in Jacksonville, Florida, he dedicated his life to serving others, exemplifying a true embodiment of faith and compassion.

For most of his working career, James led people to Christ through his role as a pastor. His passion for spreading the message of love was further demonstrated by his active participation in the Gideon's, where he contributed to distributing Bibles and sharing the Gospel. Additionally, he worked with the Southern Baptist Convention and was involved in efforts at the food bank in Marianna, extending his reach to those in need within the community.

James had a warm and inviting personality, described as a caring person who never met a stranger. His belief in the fundamental importance of human connection was encapsulated in his favorite saying when speaking with others: "I love you and there's nothing you can do about it." His ability to uplift those around him will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In addition to his pastoral duties, James served honorably in the United States Air Force and the United States Army during the Vietnam War, a testament to his commitment to his country and his fellow citizens. He took great pride in serving and protecting those he loved.

Outside of his professional commitments, James cherished spending time with his family, finding joy in reading and deeply engaging with the Bible. His love for learning and growing in faith was an important aspect of his life.

James leaves behind his beloved wife, Elsie Swafford, along with a large, loving family: children Andy Swafford, Mickie Parker and her husband Darrell, Kevin Swafford and his wife Christine, Dewayne Lamm and his wife Tamara, Randall Lamm and his wife Amy, Kenneth Lamm and his wife Tina, Ronnie Lamm and his wife Robin, and Terrial Lamm and his wife Carol,. He also leaves behind thirty-three grandchildren, thirty-two great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren who will continue to carry his legacy of love and faith.

Although he is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Addison Parker, James's spirit lives on through the countless lives he touched and the love he shared. The memories of his compassionate heart and unwavering faith will remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

A visitation will be held in his honor on September 22, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the Adams Funeral Home Chapel, with a funeral service to follow from 2:00 PM. with reverend Daniel McNeil officiating. Interment will follow September 23, 2025 at 11:00 AM EST at Tiger Lake Baptist Church Cemetery near Live Oak.

James will be remembered not only for his devotion to God and his community but also for the endless love he bestowed upon his family and friends. His legacy will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps.



**SHADY GROVE, GRAND RIDGE (Chipola)**
7304 Birchwood Rd, Grand Ridge, FL 32442-3704
Phone: (850) 592-6952
Senior Pastor James Swafford (2003)