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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Swartz, Charles, Jr. (1929-2013) of Bartow served in the ministry since he preached his first sermon in 1950. He was a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, (now The Baptist College of Florida) when it was still located in Lakeland, and served churches in Georgia and the Lakeland area. He served as director of the Retired Minister's Fellowship for the South Florida Baptist Association. He served as pastor of Double Branch Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church, Wesley Chapel).



Pastoral Service to the Lord!

Ordained Ministers at Founding of Double Branch Baptist Church, June 2, 1878
T.H. Jaudon and R.T. Caddin

1878-1879.....B.L. Ray
1880.....H.D. Ryals
1881.....B.L. Ray
1882.....J.I. Spivey
1883.....B.L. Ray
1884.....J.G. Pittman
1885-1887.....R.T. Caddin
1888-1889.....H.D. Ryals
1890-1894.....J.I. Spivey
1895.....G.A. Bryant
1896-1897.....R.T. Caddin
1898-1899.....H.D. Ryals
1900-1901.....J.I. Spivey
1902-1904.....J.W. Giddeons
1905-1907.....H.D. Ryals
1908-1910.....S.S. Pickett
1911-1913.....N.T. King
1913-1914.....O.N. Williams
1914.....G.A. Bryant
1914-1916.....H.D. Ryals
1917-1919.....B.F. McKinney
1920.....H.D. Ryals
1921.....O.N. Williams
1922.....W.A. Holiway
1923-1928.....E.E. Taylor
1928-1934...No letters reported to Association
1935-1940.....Ed Bryant
1941.....Nathan J. Bennett
1943-1945.....Will Bryant
1946-1949.....W.D. Hand
1950-1951.....Clarence Long
1952.....Charles Swartz
1953.....Alex Hendry
1954.....Lawton Cothern
1955.....William B. McKendree
1955-1962.....William Hill
1963.....Carl Patrum
1964.....Robert Clark
1965.....Frank Dickerson
1965-1967.....Frank A. Scott, Sr.
1968-1970.....Jimmie Smith
1971-1972.....Lynn Foster
1973-1974.....Clyde Livingston
1975.....Rapley Armstrong
1976-1978.....Randy White
1979-1981.....Gordon Henry
1982.....Duane Evans
1983-1984.....Lyle Falkenhagen
1985-1991.....John Lennard
1991-1992.....Frank A. Scott, Sr.
1992-1999.....Jim DuBois
1999-Present...Frank A. Scott, Sr.

FBC, Wesley Chapel
AKA Double Branch

"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way," Deuteronomy 8:2

We give thanks and praise to our God who has guided and directed our steps as His church. It is to Him that we give the glory as we remember and share the history of this church and our ministry.

Deuteronomy 31:12 states "Gather the people together, men and women and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law."

In the 1840's, an influx of pioneers came to our area--central Pasco County formerly Hernando County, and the Florida Baptist Convention was founded in 1845. As Hernando County continued to develop, the need for a place to worship arose. On June 2, 1878, Double Branch Missionary Baptist Church was constituted with 34 adult charter members (24 female and 10 male). It was named for two branches of water converging nearby. The church originally met at Matchet (Magic) Lake off Elam Road near Holton Cemetery. The Church Constitution read, "Whose names are here in this book...believing it to be the duty of true believers who have been baptized be united in church capacity believing the New Testament to be our only rule of our Faith and Practice lay it as our Foundation to constitute this church."

Charles R. Swartz Jr.

THE REV. CHARLES R. SWARTZ, Jr., 83
Southern Baptist
Minister

LAKELAND - The Reverend Charles R. Swartz, Jr. went home to be with the Lord on July 2, 2013 due to heart failure.
He was born on December 4, 1929 in Gainesville, FL. He attended Mercer University and Florida Baptist College. He became an ordained Southern Baptist Minister and ministered for over sixty years. After retirement, his love was to minister to senior adults.
Charles was predeceased by his first wife, Louise Swartz.
He is survived by his wife, Dot; daughters, Carolyn (Al) Swammy, Marilyn (Buck) Boyles, Charlotte Swartz, Barbara (Richard) Hargrove; son, Chuck (Betty Ann) Swartz; 11 grandchildren; 21 + great grandchildren; brother, Frank (Arie) Swartz of Rex, GA.

Charles Swartz of Bartow has served in the ministry since he preached his first sermon in 1950. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, (now The Baptist College of Florida) when it was still located in Lakeland, and served churches in Georgia and the Lakeland area. He now serves as director of the Retired Minister's Fellowship for the South Florida Baptist Association. (FBW, November 18, 2010)

State Board committee approves $30.5 million CP budget for 2014

JACKSONVILLE (FBC)–The Budget-Allocations Committee of the State Board of Missions approved a balanced $30.5 million Cooperative Program Budget for 2014–its lowest amount since year 2000–that sends 43 percent to the Southern Baptist Convention and retains 57 percent for Florida Baptist missions and ministries.

By **BARBARA DENMAN**
Florida Baptist Convention

The proposed budget, a half million dollars below the 2013 revised budget of $31 million, keeps Florida Baptists on-track to reach an even 50/50 per-

While the Brandon pastor said he believed there was a "steadfast commitment" to get to the 50/50 split, the IIGCTF task force did not know what "all that meant or would mean in the long haul."

"I don't think we were under some type of an eternal mandate from anything," Green continued. "The Convention operates yearly and can do what it wants to do just as we did there. There are some decisions that the Board could make, and particularly as it relates to budgeting that could be considered that could help us."

steps to study their efficiency.

Green said churches continually are being asked by national entities to take on more financial commitments–such as planting churches in North America and adopting an unreached people group–which can dilute the CP commitment of many churches.

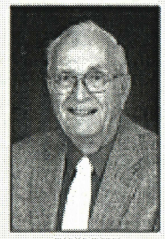
At the conclusion of the 90-minute discussion, the committee adopted three recommendations.

Mike Tatem of Lake City made a motion to appoint a committee to study the fiduciary responsibilities of the state convention as it relates to the 50/50 split of CP receipts: and to

Charles R. Swartz Jr. 83, dies

LAKELAND (FBW)–Charles R. Swartz Jr., 83, retired pastor of South Florida Baptist Association churches, died July 2.

A Gainesville native, he was a graduate of Mercer University, Atlanta; and Baptist College of Florida, Graceville.


SWARTZ

During his 60-year career, Swartz served several terms as moderator of South Florida association, and after retirement, led the Retired Ministers' Fellowship and ministered to senior adults.

According to Robert V. Roberts, Director of Missions of the South Florida Baptist Association, Swartz was ordained at Carters Baptist Church, preached his first sermon in Hardee County, and served at Highlands City First Baptist Church, First Baptist Church in Bartow, Crystal Lake Baptist Church and at Southside Baptist Church in Lakeland.

"Pastor Swartz left behind a family that mourns his death, but also a host of people who have been impacted by his ministry," Roberts said in the associational newsletter, published by the Witness. "He was a good friend and faithful minister of the Gospel. He will be missed."

Swartz is survived by his wife, Dot; daughters: Carolyn Swammy, Marilyn Boyles, Charlotte Swartz and Barbara Hargrove; a son, Chuck; 11 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Louise.

Gifts in his memory may be made to Scott Lake Baptist Church Building Fund, Lakeland.