The Messenger

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College Newsletter

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Florida Theological Seminary and
Bible College, Inc.
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Administration

Dr. Alex Harper, Sr., President
Dr. Frank O'Harroll, Vice President
Dr. Henry Simmons, Dean
Rev. Ronald Wade, Alumni President
Rev. Hugh Strafford, Recruiter/Liaison to the Alumni Association
Sis. Linda Silas, Administrative Assist./Registrar

Faculty

Dr. John G. Hooks
Rev. Ronnie Murray, MS
Dr. Henry L. Simmons
Dr. Frank O'Harroll

Satellite Faculty

Rev. Clem Bell, MS – Dunedin, FL
Dr. Darien Bolden, Sr. - Jacksonville
Dr. Carl Brooks – Punta Gorda, FL
Rev. George Howard – Murfreesboro, TN
Dr. Lloyd Lawrence – Dunedin, FL
Rev. George Pritchard – Tupelo, MS
Rev. Johnnie Twymon – Cleveland, OH
Rev. Nathaniel Williams – Jasper, FL

Board of Directors

Dr. E. L. Wiseman, Chair
Dr. Darien Bolden, Sr., Vice Chair
Dr. Rayford Harper, Executive Secretary

Board Members

Dr. Carl F. Brooks
Dr. Willie J. Haynes
Dr. Gary L. McNealy
Dr. J. J. Pierce
Dr. Charlie Reese
Dr. Fleming Tarver
Rev. Jeremiah Trotter
Dea. Bobby Turner
Dr. Michael Warren
Rev. Nathaniel Williams

Message from the President

Rev. Dr. Alex Harper, Sr.

Greetings,

It is with great joy and thankfulness that we here at your school are privileged to communicate with our loyal supporters and alumni through this newsletter. We are profoundly happy to report that we had another successful academic year. We had fourteen (14) graduates this past semester. This is the largest number of graduates since I have been president of this great institution- to God be the glory!

We are humbly praying for more supporters, but we are forever grateful for the generous support of pastors, laymen, churches, associations, conventions, and alumni.

We are totally committed to remain loyal to the legacy of our forebears who started this school with the idea of providing students with sound biblical training at a low economical cost. We need your prayers as well as your financial assistance. Maybe you are wondering what you can do to assist the school? Well, we started five dollars a month club, and we would be most grateful for you to become a member. It will tremendously help us financially if you become a member.

Finally, we have scheduled our Annual Donation Day for Sunday, August 25, 2019, 4pm at the First Baptist Institutional Church 932 MLK Ave. Lakeland, FL.

We are kindly and humbly requesting that all our friends and supporters to attend and bring a generous donation. If you are unable to attend, then fill free to mail your donation to the seminary.

School History

The Florida Seminary was organized in October of 1901 in Bartow, at the Providence Baptist Church under the name of Florida Baptist Seminary under the supervision of the South Florida Association.

In 1902, the Seminary was moved to Lakeland to a more centralized location. Once in Lakeland, the Seminary operated out of local churches until 1903 and 1904. During those years the dormitory and academic buildings were erected.

The Seminary continued until November 1921 when the dormitory was burned down and in either 1927 or 1928 the academic building was burned down. From 1921 to 1932, classes were continued in both Harmony Baptist Church and St. Paul Baptist in Lakeland. In 1925, a charter of incorporation was issued by the State of Florida to the institution's new name of Florida Seminary.

In 1932 a building was erected and the Seminary once more began operating on its own property

Today, alumni from what is now the Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College are spread throughout the nation serving as pastors to churches of every size. Congregations are receiving the blessings from the seeds planted in these servants of God at Florida Theological Seminary.

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. is excited and proud to welcome two new Board Members. They are Elder Dr. Charlie Reese, pastor of Greater Union MB Church, West Palm Beach, Florida and Rev. Nathaniel Williams, pastor of Springfield MB Church, Live Oak, Florida.

We are pleased to announce the opening of several new satellite campuses. They are: located in Cleveland, Ohio – Rev. Johnnie Twymon; Jasper, Florida - Rev. Nathaniel Williams; Murfreesboro, Tennessee – Rev. George Howard and Tupelo, Mississippi – Rev. George Pritchard.

President's Annual Banquet

The President's Annual Banquet was very well attended on May 13. It was held at the Coleman-Bush Building, Lakeland. A special thanks to Sis. Florence Ferrell for the lovely decor she provided. The First Institutional Male Chorus and Bishop Oliver Jones serenaded us with some old time gospel songs. Rev. Dr. G. I. Bradley, pastor of Providence MB Church, Palmetto, FL preached a soul-stirring and thought-provoking word from the Lord. We enjoyed a scrumptious meal prepared by Sis. Willie Mae Harper of H&H Catering Service. Thanks to everyone for the love shown to President Harper. Your kindness and generosity will always be cherished and remembered.

Congratulations
Class of 2019

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. held its graduation services in the month of May. Our theme was "Preparing for the Present and the Future" Ephesians 6:11. The Baccalaureate Service was held at First Baptist Institutional Church, Lakeland (Rev. Dr. Alex Harper, Sr., Pastor) on Tuesday, May 12. Our Gospel Messenger was Rev. Dr. Rayford Harper, Moderator of First South MB District Association and Pastor of First Baptist of West Tampa. He delivered a powerful, uplifting message. First Baptist Adult Choir and the First South Florida Praise Team blessed us with songs of praise.

Our Graduation Service was held on Thursday, May 14 and was hosted by the Mt. Moriah MB Church, (Rev. Dr. Henry L. Simmons., Pastor). Rev. Eugene Hollimon, Jr. delivered a dynamic Graduate's Address. Rev. Dr. Frank O'Harroll Moderator of Union Foreign Assoication and Pastor of New Bethel MB Church, Winter Haven was our Commencement Messenger. Dr. O'Harroll's message was dynamic and encouraging. We were blessed to have thirteen (13) participating graduates. We also recognized Rev. Dr. Leroy Kelly and Rev. Dr. Curtis L. Walker for their continuing education effort.

CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY
Ronald Brown
Brandon Elerby
Daren Gay
Philip Vernard Mercer

ASSOCIATES OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES
Bobby Turner

ASSOCIATES OF THEOLOGY
Earl Mason
Alvin Smalls

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY
Daryl S. Lewis

MASTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Florence Ferrell

HONORARY DOCTORATE OF DIVINITY
Oliver Jones

DOCTORATE OF DIVINITY
Melvin Houston
Robert LeCount, Jr.
Travis Patterson

DOCTORATE OF MINISTRY
Eugene Hollimon, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Donation Day
Sunday, August 25, 2019
4:00 PM
First Baptist Inst'l Church
932 MLK, Jr. Avenue
Lakeland, FL
Rev. Dr. Alex Harper, Pastor

Contributions are being accepted now and may be mailed to:
Florida Theological Seminary
P. O. Box 1275
Lakeland, FL 33802

Or

Online at
https://www.lakelandfts.com/donations/

Registration for 2019 Fall Semester

Present – September 8, 2019

Late Registration

September 9 – 13, 2019

Classes begin

September 9, 2019

The Application, Registration Form and Class Schedule are available via email by contacting fltheologicalseminary@gmail.com

www.lakelandfts.com

Please call the office at 863-683-3879 if you require additional information.

Office Hours:
Tuesday – Thursday
10am – 3pm
Summer Office Hours Vary

SPOTLIGHT ON
Elder Dr. Charlie Reese

Elder Dr. Charlie Reese is native of Henning, Tennessee. He surrendered his life to Christ at an early age. He is a graduate of Tennessee State University – BS, Sociology, Nova SE University – MS – Anthropology and Stamford Hill University – PhD.

Dr. Reese and his lovely wife of 41 years have lived in South Florida since 1974. His work experience includes therapeutic counseling for drug abuse and mental health patients, classroom instructor with Palm Beach County Schools and Environmental Public Health Inspector/Environmental Manager for thirty-two years with Palm Beach County Health Dept.

Dr. Reese is a co-founder of the In-Time Church of God in Christ, West Palm Beach, Florida. In 1995, he was called to pastor the Greater Union Missionary Baptist Church, where he currently remains at the helm. His motto is "Do not ask others to do what you are unwilling to do."

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. is blessed to have Dr. Reese serve as one of its Board Members.

DID YOU KNOW?

Donations are now being accepted on our secured website at https://www.lakelandfts.com/donations/

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. offers a **15% discount** on tuition fees for new students who are members of churches, congresses, associations or conventions that regularly support the institution.

Additionally, current students that recruit new students will receive a **15% discount** on their tuition fees for each new student.

Thank You

We are most grateful to each of you in your respective places for the support given to this great educational institution throughout the years. Your investment in the school and students is deeply appreciated. May God continue to pour out His bountiful blessings upon you.