



# The Messenger

## Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College Newsletter

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**Dr. Frank O’Harroll, Sr., President**

### Message From the President...

#### Greetings,

It is with great joy and thankfulness that we here at Florida Seminary 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 five (5) graduates this past semester. This was my first class as president of this great institution—Bless His Holy Name!

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 a ten 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. Contact the office if you interested.

Finally, we have scheduled our Annual Founders Week for Sunday, February 9, 2025 – Thursday, February 13. The February 9th service will be held at Galilee M.B. Church, where our Dean Dr. Julius Wynn serves as Pastor; 505-35<sup>th</sup> Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida. We will be on the muck on Monday, February 10.

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

### 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.

## Welcome

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. is excited and proud to welcome four new Board Members. They are:

**Reverend Brian K. Brown**  
Pastor of St. Mark MB Church,  
St. Petersburg, FL



**Dr. John G. Hooks**  
Pastor of Harmony MB Church,  
Lakeland, FL



**Reverend W.D. Sims**  
Pastor of St. Matthew MB Church  
Tampa, FL



**Dr. Julius L. Wynn**  
Pastor of Galilee MB Church,  
St. Petersburg, FL



**Reverend K. T. Turner**  
Former Sr. Pastor/Teacher at  
Bethel MB Church  
Winter Park, FL  
Former Senior Pastor/Teacher  
at Second Baptist Church  
Lafayette, IN  
Former Senior Pastor/Teacher  
at Mt Gilboa MB Church  
Bartow, FL



### Administration

Dr. Frank O’Harroll, Sr., President  
Dr. John G. Hooks, Vice President  
Dr. Julius L. Wynn, Dean  
Dr. Horace Lovett, Alumni President  
Sis. Linda Silas, Administrative  
Assistant/Registrar

### Faculty

Dr. John G. Hooks  
Rev. Frank O’Harroll, Jr.  
Dr. Frank O’Harroll, Sr.  
Rev. Hugh Strafford

### Satellite Faculty

Dr. Pamela Dickey – Biloxi, MS  
Dr. Darien Bolden, Sr. – Jacksonville, FL  
Dr. Bill Griffin – Jackson, MS  
Rev E.W. Norman – Brunswick, GA  
Dr. John H. Williams – Pensacola, FL  
Dr. Leon Williams – Ft. Myers, FL  
Dr. Julius L. Wynn – St. Petersburg, FL

### Board of Directors

Dr. Darien Bolden, Sr., Chairman  
Elder Dr. Charlie Reese, Vice Chairman  
Rev. Dr. Rayford Harper, Executive Secretary  
Rev. Dr. Gary McNealy, Treasurer

### Board Members

Dr. Carl F. Brooks  
Rev. Brian K. Brown  
Dr. John G. Hooks  
Rev. Dr. J. J. Pierce  
Rev. W. D. Sims  
Rev. Hugh Strafford  
Rev. Dr. Fleming Tarver  
Rev. K. T. Turner  
Dea. Bobby Turner  
Rev. Dr. E. L. Wiseman  
Dr. Julius L. Wynn



IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF

President Dr. Alex Harper, Sr.

## President's Inauguration Banquet

The Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. (FTS), Presidential Inauguration Banquet for our new President, Dr. Frank O'Harroll, Sr., was held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2024. The event was held at the Coleman-Bush Building in Lakeland, Florida. The Banquet theme was "Called to Serve, While Standing Fast on The Word". ~ (Philippians 3:17-4:1). The charge to the President was given by Dr. Bartholomew Banks, President of Progressive M&E Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc. The Pastoral Prayer was given by Dr. Darien Bolden, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of FTS. The Inaugural Message was given by Dr. B.L. Richardson, Pastor of Christ Harvest M.B. Church in Albany, Georgia. He blessed our hearts with the Word of God as he challenged our President to do the work he is called to do as President.

## Congratulations

CLASS OF 2024

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. held its graduation services in the month of May 2024. Our theme was "Preparing for Approval from God" ~ 2 Timothy 2:15. The Baccalaureate Service was held at Harmony MB Church, Lakeland (Dr. John G. Hooks, Pastor) on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our Gospel Messenger was Dr. John G. Hooks, Pastor. He delivered a powerful, uplifting message. The Harmony MB Church Praise Team blessed us with songs of praise.

Our Graduation Services were held on Thursday, May 16 and was held at the FTS Chapel. Reverend Ralph Harris (Doctoral Candidate) of Atlanta, Georgia delivered a dynamic Graduate's Address. Rev. Dr. Rayford Harper Moderator of First South Florida Association and Pastor of First Baptist Church of West Tampa was our Commencement Messenger. Dr. Harper's message was dynamic and encouraging. We were blessed to have five (5) graduates participating. We also recognized Reverend Melvin Houston for his continuing education effort. The Chapel was dedicated in memory of our late President, Dr. Alex Harper, Sr.



**ASSOCIATES OF ARTS IN  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
Sybil Mathews

**BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY**  
Allen Shephard, Jr.

**MASTER OF THEOLOGY**  
Frank O'Harroll, Jr.

**HONORARY DOCTOR OF DIVINITY**  
Milton Williams

**DOCTOR OF MINISTRY**  
Ralph Harris

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Founders Week

*Sunday, February 9*

*through*

*Thursday, February 13*

*Places – TBD*

### Donation Day

*Sunday, August 24, 2025*

*4:00 PM*

*Place - TBD*

*Contributions are being accepted  
now and may be mailed to:*

*Florida Theological Seminary*

*P. O. Box 1275*

*Lakeland, FL 33802*

*or*

*Website*

<https://www.ftslakeland.org>

*or*

*Online at Cash App*

*\$FISeminary*

**Registration for 2025**

**Spring Semester**

**Present – January 13, 2025**

**Late Registration**

**January 13-17, 2025**

**Classes Begin January 6, 2025**

**Classes End May 9, 2025**

**Graduation Exercises**

**May 14-15, 2025**

**Place TBA**

*The Application, Registration Form  
and Class Schedule are available via  
email by contacting*

[fttheologicalseminary@gmail.com](mailto:fttheologicalseminary@gmail.com)

*or*

<https://www.ftslakeland.org>

*Please call the office at*

*863-683-3879*

*if you require additional information.*

*Office Hours:*

*Tuesday – Thursday*

*10 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

*Summer Office Hours Vary*



We are pleased to announce the opening of several new satellite campuses. They are in: Ft. Myers, Florida – Dr. Leon Williams; Biloxi, Mississippi – Dr. Pamela Dickey; Jackson, Mississippi – Dr. Lenoir and Dr. Bill Griffin; St. Petersburg, Florida – Dr. Julius L. Wynn; Pensacola, Florida – Dr. John Williams; Brunswick, Georgia – Reverend E. I. Norman



## SPOTLIGHT ON

**Dr. Darien K. Bolden, Sr.**

We are excited to welcome Dr. Darien Bolden, Sr., as our new Chairman of the Board of Directors. He served faithfully as the Vice-Chairman of the Board under Reverend E. L. Wiseman. Dr. Bolden is a native of Jacksonville, Florida, where he graduated from Andrew Jackson Senior High School. Dr. Bolden has served as Pastor of the Historic First Missionary Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach, Florida since June 1997. He received his Masters and Doctorate from Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College in 2014 and 2016 respectively. He is the Professor of the Jacksonville FTS satellite campus. Dr. Bolden is past President of the Moderators Auxiliary of Florida General Baptist Convention of Florida. He is a member of the NAACP Nassau County Branch, International Longshoreman's Association, and the Southern Christian Leadership. He is married to Renee, and they have two sons, Garron and Darrien, Jr. and a daughter, Darnequa.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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

Additionally, current students who 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. I am thanking the Lord for another day of life and FTS.

**Graduation & Banquet Pictures from  
May 2024**

