

**Bethel United Methodist Church**  
Pastors of Bethel from 1838-present

11:02:15 05/14/2024

Seq	First Name	Last Name	First	Journal	Itin/lic	Conf	Death	Where	Notes
1	John W.	Yarbrough	1838	52yrs p60,61, 66-67,69					One of 12 Elders at first conference in 1845; served one of first 4 districts; See also 52yrs p67-68; was "located" at 3 <sup>rd</sup> conf in Quincy, 1847; p.79 -"J. W. Yarbrough was a strong and earnest preacher."
2	Alexander	McPherson	1839						
3	Isaac	Woody	1840				1840		died during first year at Bethel
4	William	Choice	1841	52yrs p72	1832	Georgia	08/18/1855	Tallahassee	see 53-Years in Florida, p72; served Leon Circuit in 1833,34; located and was supply on the Tallahassee Station in 1842 and 1843
5	R.(H).	Ho(w)ren	1842 See also 1860	52yrs p55,p120			03/03/1905? 1889?		One of 12 Elders at first conference in 1845;served one of first 4 districts; President of Tenth Conference in Monticello; moved to Ga conference in 1866; readmitted to Fla Conf in 1874; listed as having died in 1890 conference; (p120) "Robert H. Howren was a veteran, falling at his post in the fiftieth year of itinerent career. He was one of the original members of our Conference, and had tilled all classes of work, from mission to district, always acceptable, faithful, and useful. His end was triumphant."
6	John	Carter	1843						Bethel history listed John Carter and John C. Penny as ministers in 1843
6	John C.	Penny	1843	52yrs p60,67,114	1843	Georgia	01/19/1883	Jacksonille	was at first conference in 1845; listed as missionary in 1846,died before 1884
7	Charles	Woodbury	1844	52yrs p31					father of Rev. Samuel Woodbury; builder of church in Tallahassee in 1825; 52yrs p31 "The house was a plain wooden structure without ceiling, paint, sash, or blinds; but board shutters supplied their places, and for many years this building served the people for a place of worship, and, as far as I know, was the first Methodist church built in Florida."
8	James	Harris	1845	52yrs p69,98					was at first conference in 1845 in "class of second year"; was sent to St Mary's district at 3 <sup>rd</sup> conference at Quincy in 1847; transferred to Ga Conf In 1866
9	J(ohn).J.	Richards	1846	52yrs p91	1839	Georgia	09/04/1863	Madison Co.	One of 12 Elders at first conference in 1845; at the nineteenth conference in Tallahassee in Dec 1862, was listed as having died; (p91) "John J. Richards was a man of fervent spirit, a fine singer, a good preacher, and a faithful laborer. He died of cancer, in Madison, after having served the Church twenty-four years, being forty-six years of age."
10	Ira L.	Potter	1847	52yrs p69,73,98					received by transfer at third conference in 1847; elected president of third conference in Madison; moved to Ga Conference in 1866;
11	John W.	Mills	1848	52yrs p60,,98					was at first conference in 1845 in "class of third year"; was "located" at 6 <sup>th</sup> conf and readmitted at 8 <sup>th</sup> conf; served one of 7 districts in twelfth conf in Bainbridge; still serving one of 6 districts in the 16 <sup>th</sup> session; 5 districts in 17 <sup>th</sup> session; at 19 <sup>th</sup> session in Tallahassee in 1862, had "gone into the army as chaplain"; at 23 <sup>rd</sup> session in 1866 was moved to Ga conference.
12	John L.	Jerry	1849	52 yrs p28-30,34 51-52.84	1818	S.Carolina	07/11/1859	Swift Creek Ch.	listed as John L. Jerry and Dr. Adams
12	Dr.	Adams	1849						listed as John L. Jerry and Dr. Adams
13	Alexander	Graham	1850	52yrs p60,76					was at first conference in 1845 in "class of first year"; at the eighth conference in Tallahassee "was sent as missionary to California"
14	Samuel	Woodbury	1851-52 Also 1867	52yrs p69,84,88 90,103,					Also 1867-68; P.E. 1873-76; admitted to conf at 3 <sup>rd</sup> session in 1847; served 1 of 6 districts in 16 <sup>th</sup> session; placed in Tallahassee District;
15	Thomas (N.)	Gardner	1853	52yrs p72,75,80, 87,104	1819	S.Carolina	05/04/1858	Georgia	admitted to fifth session of conf in 1849; at 8 <sup>th</sup> session in 1852 was "received from the Protestant Methodist Church"; served one of 7 districts at 12 <sup>th</sup> conf in 1855; was "located" in 17 <sup>th</sup> session in 1860,
16	James	Peeler	1854	52yrs p73					was received by transfer at 6 <sup>th</sup> Conference in 1850;
17	G.W.	Pratt	1855-57	52yrs p60,152					admitted to first conference in 1845; served one of 4 districts in ninth session in 1853; served one of 7 districts at 12 <sup>th</sup> conf in 1855;
18	L.W.	Duval	1858-59						
19	R(ober)T.H.	Howren	1860		1839	Georgia	09/22/1889	Jasper, Fl	See 1842 entry
20	T.R. (S.R.?)	Weaver	1861-62						see 52yrs p83
21	Simon P(eter).	Richardson	1863	1899 p69					president of 12/14/1864 conference in Monticello, Fl
22	John C.	Ley	1865	1907 p59	1845		03/21/1905	Micanopy	Began itinerancy 1845, died 1907, Micanopy, FL Wrote the book: <i>Fifty-two years in Florida</i> , a record of Methodism in the years 1845-1896
23	Samuel	Woodbury	1867 Also 1851-52						
24	A.J.	Woolridge	1869		1855	Tennessee	10/03/1871	Quincy, Fl	
25	J.W.	Wiggins	1870						

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26	E(dwain).L.T.	Blake	1871	1897 p47	1845	Florida	02/09/1897	Ocala	
From 1872 to 1880 the list of pastors is not available									
27	Ira S.	Patterson	1881	1944 p146	1887	Florida	12/31/1943	Jacksonville	(1881-82) appointed to Leon Circuit in 1880, served 1881-82
28	W.J.	Gray	1882	1931 p71	1886	Florida	10/15/1930		(1882-85) appointed to Leon Circuit, also taught at local school (W.J. From W.D.)
29	A(lpheus).M.	Mann	1896	1939 p63	1890	Florida	08/29/1938	Palm Harbor	
30	W(illiam A.).S.	Wier	1897	1914 p53	1894	Florida	08/01/1914	Lemon City	listed as "William A. Weir" in Bethel's history and 2021 Roll of honored dead
31	W.S.	McMannahan	1898						(1898-1902)
	George J.	Kenelly	1900	1909 p38					in 1900 journal, served Leon Circuit
32	Isaac	Munden	1903		1857	Florida	10/08/1979	Marion Co, Fl	
33	D.G.B.	McDaniel	1907						(1907-09) as supply, during pastorate present church was built (1909)
34	E.B.	Edwards	1910						supply pastor.
35	C.E.	Boland	1911						supply pastor.
36	J.F.	Steward	1912						supply pastor.
37	T(homas).W.	Tomkies	1913	1921 p70	1869	Florida	11/25/1921	Tampa	Appointed supply In 1912 when Bethel was joined with Boulevard church.
38	J.D.	Williams	1914						supply pastor when Bethel was "put back into" Woodville Circuit
39	W.H.	Smith	1914						supply pastor when Bethel was placed on Midway Circuit
40			1916						Midway Circuit abolished and Bethel made part of Woodville Mission
41	Fred B.	Langford	1917	1927 p56	1913	Florida	06/22/1926	Jacksonville	(1917-19) pastor of Woodville Mission
42	Mr.	Duckworth	1919						served new Waukeenah Mission where Bethel was placed
43	D.G.	McDaniel	1920						(1919-21) supply pastor for Woodville mission where Bethel was placed in 1920
1921									
In 1921 Bethel was placed back in Leon Circuit where it has remained – services were discontinued at Bethel for eleven months.									
44	C.C.	Smith	1922						(1922-1931) a layman who served for "next ten years" (as a supply pastor) In 1930 journal: "Take Lake Jackson and Bethel Churches from Leon Circuit and make Lake Jackson Circuit."
	M.F.	Dukes	1929	1931 p69			03/20/1931	Pine Grove Church	From 1929 journal, Bethel assigned to Leon Circuit
45	J.R.	Gilbert	1931						(1931-32) supply pastor to Lake Jackson circuit
46	W.V.	Dukes	1933						only M.F. Dukes listed in Journal, died in 1931, memoir in 31 journal
47	C.C.	Smith	1933						(1933-34) supply pastor assigned to Lake Jackson circuit in journal
48	Frank	Robinson (Jr.)	1934	1994 p394	1932	Florida	03/21/1994	Haines City	(1934-35) in 1934 journal: "Take Bethel from the Lake Jackson Charge and place it on the Leon Charge...Discontinue the Lake Jackson Charge." In 1934 stats, Bethel had 23 mbrs and 1 building valued at 1,000 According to the dates, Frank Robinson died during his year of appointment
49	D.W. (David W.)	Ferrell	1935	1966 p294	1920		07/20/1965	Hosford	(1935-36) supply pastor
50	W(illiam).G.	Strickland	1937	1963 p302	1910	Florida	04/16/1963	Tampa	
51	W.L.	Windsor	1938						(1938-40) supply pastor; 1938 p.27 lists Wm. L Windsor assigned to Fenholloway circuit, addr Rte.2 Perry.; 1940 journal has W.L.Windsor assigned to Chaires in the Leon Circuit
52	C.C.	Martin	1941	1963 p298	1928	Alabama	01/16/1963	Tallahassee	(1941-43) 1941 journal has C.C.Martin assigned to Chaires in "Leon Mission"
53	W(illiam).F.	Dunkle	1944	1949 p158	1899	Indian Mission	10/28/1949	Tallahassee	(1944-47) Although listed as "retired 1942" in the journal, Rev. Dunkle served at Bethel in 1944-47 but this service was not noted in the journal. While Rev. Dunkle was here Bethel's history was researched and entered into the membership book.
54	W.F.	Dunkle	1947	"	"	"	10/28/1949	Tallahassee	(1947-48)
55	L.E(ward).	Herndon	1949	1992 p458	1949	Florida	10/04/1991	Arcadia FL	(1949-51) he was one of first male graduates from FSU, then on to Emory and Fla Conf in 1949; Bethel was his first pastoral assignment
56	James	Flowers	1952						(1951- 52) assigned to Chaires in Leon Circuit in 1951, Bethel in 1952
57	T(ravis).J. (Jr.)	Northcutt Jr.	1953		1950				(1953-55) approved supply pastor; assigned to "W. Leon Circuit" in 1953
58	O.B.	Allen	1956						(1956-57) Supply to "Bethel Circuit" in 1956 from Tallahassee Heights
59	Lamar	Prater	1958						until Sept 1958 (listed as lay rep from Bethel-Midway charge in 1958) In 1958, Bethel appointment was "to be supplied"

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60	(W.) Calvin	Williams	1958	1964 p261			12/10/1963	Tallahassee	Local pastor, assigned in Oct 1958, a recent graduate of seminary, though blind he had a vision for Bethel and served until his death in Dec 1963
61	Lucene	Williams	1963						(1963-65) pastor from Dec 1963 to June 1965; ordained as Deacon 6/7/64; licensed to preach in 1956
62	Frank(lin W.)	Welch	1965		1962	Memphis			transferred from Memphis Conf to Fla Conf in June 1965; transferred back to Memphis conf in June 1966
63	Robert S.	Barefield	1966						Sem Grad Supply pastor in 1966, to Miccosukee in 67-68; no entries <66 or >68; organized Men's Fellowship, encouraged lay ministry and worked with children
64	Dana L.	Hamrick	1967	2008 p203	1954	1960 FI Conf	12/25/2007	Pierson	Deacon 57, Elder 59; Supply in 67 p152 to Bethel; from Lee-Hickory Grove; to Gainesville Dist; retired 1986 after 8 yrs in Deland; influential in keeping lay ministry at Bethel busy
65	John	Wolfe	1968						(1968-70) remodeled church
66	Richard K.	Walker III	1971						gave desk to church for office; "received more members...than any other pastor"
67	John	Booth	1972						came in August 1972
68	Richard	Fife	1972						(1972-1975) came in June 72 with wife Carol & children (David, Karen and Susan)
69	Jesse (Lloyd)	Baker	1975	2019 p267	1960	Florida	06/02/2018	Daytona Beach	(1975-77) revitalized SS from 12 to 49 (average att 32), bicentennial homecoming
70	Leslie (Clarence)	Jackson	1978	2015 p271	1970	Central, Ill	05/16/2014	Memphis Tn	Former chaplain, came with wife Addie in 1978, built storage counter in Youth Lounge/Library and put insulating and paneling of the parsonage walls. Addie played the organ and inspired the placement of the bell in front of the church.
71	Russell (Irvin)	Bean (Jr.)	1979	2019 p268	1979	Florida	08/03/2018	Canton, Ga	(1979-1982) came in 1979 with wife Aneta and children Rusty, Jim, Tom and Cyndy. Promoted construction of fellowship hall from 1980 through spring 1983 dedication with Bishop Hunt in attendance.
72	T. Glenn	Mitchell	1982						(1982-83) son of D.S. Thomas Mitchell; came for 1982-83 with wife Gail
73	Ray (H.)	Honaker	1983	2010 p211			08/30/2009	Lake Placid	came in 1983 with wife Dorothy and grand-daughter Amy intending to settle, but left for "home" of Matacumbe UMC in Fla Keys in 1984
74	David	McKelder	1984						(1984-85) Had been member of Bethel in 1979-81, left to become student minister at Miccosukee UMC before arriving at Bethel with wife Helen and daughter Rachel in 1984. Enjoyed horses and brought the spirit of the circuit-rider to the pulpit of Bethel.
75	Joseph R(ichard).	Stiles	1985	2017 p305	1990	Florida	01/08/2016	Hartwell, Ga	(1985-92) came with wife Barbara and daughter Jennie as his first ministerial assignment, each of whom became ministers, as well as other daughter Annette.
76	Barbara	Stiles	1992						(1992-94) after Bethel, Barbara followed Alex Knight at Pisgah UMC
77	Alex	Knight	1994						(1994-98) came to Bethel from Pisgah and Barbara Stiles left Bethel for Pisgah
78	Magrey	Devega	1998						(1998-2000)
79	Laura Beth	Fisher	2000						(2000-2002)
80	Steven T.	Riddle	2002						(2002-2006)
81	George	Potter	2006						(2006-2014)
82	Karen	Alford	2014				../2024		(2014-2016)
83	Ralph	Wrightstone	2016						(2016-)