

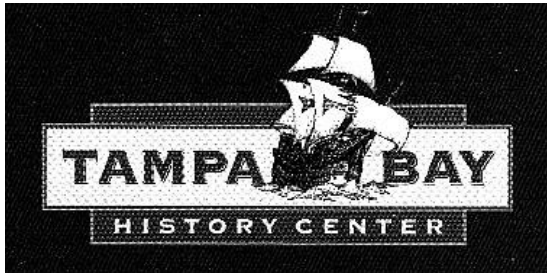
# TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 14 – Number 4

April 2012

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 1 at the Zephyrhills Depot Museum at 39110 South Avenue. Business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



## Speakers

Our guest speaker for the April meeting was Manny Leto, Director of Marketing at the Tampa Bay History Center. He showed slides of many aspects of the museum and talked at length about its mission. The Center actually gathers history from a very wide area of central Florida. They also house historical documents in their library, a resource used by many area historians. Manny talked about the original Fort Brooke, and of Major Dade's catastrophic march with his troops around Christmas in 1835, traveling from Fort Booke (Tampa) toward Fort King (Ocala), where they met their end just north of the Withlacoochee River at the hands of local native tribes. He encouraged all of us to pay a visit to the Tampa Bay History Museum. All those in attendance enjoyed his presentation very much.

Our speaker for May will be Dr. Robert Judson, former President of Pasco Hernando Community College. We look forward to hearing from him. Come and join us.

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Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

My email address is on the opening page

### ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

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**Monthly Dinner Out**



Several members meet for dinner at a local restaurant once a month. We meet at 5 o' clock on Friday, a week and three days after our regularly scheduled meeting. This past month we met at Ci Ci's Pizza, partly to repay them for their generous help with our fund-raising efforts! We enjoyed ourselves. Our meeting place varies each month. Usually whoever is having a birthday in that month gets to decide where we meet. It's great fun!

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Former ZHA President Sharon Geiger Reeves with Dick Tucker

**Losing a True Friend**

By Jerry Pricher

To say that Dick Tucker was an important member of our association would be an understatement. The photo above was posted by Sharon on her Facebook page as she explained how much the man meant to her. She credits him with having brought her out of her shell by encouraging her to take on the task of presiding over our historical association, which she did admirably. Dick was a friend like this to many of us. I worked for Dick the summer between my sophomore and junior years in high school, when he was Greens Superintendent at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club. Our friendship has only deepened over the years. He never failed to mention how much my daddy had meant to him and what a good man he was. I agreed with him, of course. He was the best man I ever knew, but I tried to point out to Dick what a good man he was himself. He has more than paid forward any kindness and inspiration my father passed along to him. Dick Tucker was a deeply religious man. He was a long-time member of Westside Baptist Church, and he could be depended on to invite everyone there whenever he was asked to offer the invocation at any event. He would tell you about his Christianity, but he was not a man who just talked the talk. Lots of folks talk about their religion nowadays, but Dick was a man who truly walked the walk. He displayed his Christianity for all to see in how he treated others. I consider myself lucky to have known the man. He has touched so many lives and been a friend to so many. The Zephyrhills Historical Association was a better organization on account of having him as a member. He will be truly missed. He was and is a hero to many of us. Rest in Peace, My Friend.

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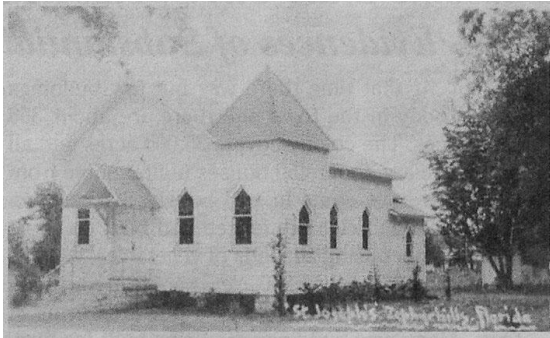
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**St. Joseph Catholic Church of Zephyrhills  
Celebrates 100 years  
March 18, 2012**



The first Mass of St. Joseph Mission was celebrated at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Brazie in 1912. This residence was a farmhouse near the site of the first church. Fr. Jerome Wisniewski, OSB, a priest from St. Leo Abbey, started the mission celebrating mass for a mere handful of Catholics in Zephyrhills.

Mr. Henry Adams, a generous catholic union soldier donated two lots for church construction on April 15, 1912. The lots were located on the top of a hill just north of the city limits on 10th Street. Mr. Albert Naber, provided lumber for the parishioners who completed the church by 1914.

Accommodating 75 people, the frame church had a small bell tower above the front entrance.

The Church was dedicated on April 27, 1919, by Abbot Charles Mohr, O.S.B., the first Abbot of St. Leo. Mass was scheduled only once per month. The first confirmation was administered by Bishop Patrick Barry, DD of St. Augustine on January 21, 1923, in the days when Florida had only one diocese.

In March of 1942, Mr. & Mrs. B.A. Thomas donated two lots on 5th Avenue. A donation of four adjacent lots by the city of Zephyrhills followed on May 1, 1942. Mrs. Thomas gave four additional lots on January 9, 1945, while Miss Flora Yager donated one lot. Those eleven lots comprised the property on which the church was built in 1942, by Fr. John Schlicht, O.S.B.

Later two wings were added. At this time the congregation consisted of 27 families with 32 women and 48 men. Since that initial church, the property has grown to 2 1/2 blocks with 8 buildings. Families number 2148, with over 6,000 registered parishioners.

February 22, 1959, tragedy struck when a fire destroyed the entire church, leaving only the sacristy. The sacristy was converted into a chapel seating for forty people and used for daily Mass for three years. Sunday Masses were celebrated in the Home Movie Theatre and later, the Municipal Auditorium for two years.

Fr. Cassian Foley, OSB, became the first resident priest in Zephyrhills in October of 1960, when he rented a two-story frame house doubling as both a rectory and religious education facility. Before this, the Benedictine Priests commuted from St. Leo Abbey. Architect George Stickly of St. Augustine designed the new church with an estimated cost of \$90,000.

Msgr. John McNulty, Vicar General and pastor of St. Patrick parish in Largo, dedicated the church on November 25, 1961. Abbot Marion Bowman, OSB and Fr. Keith Symons, MC were also present. Fr. Michael O'Reilly, ordained at St. Patrick's Missionary Society of Ireland, expanded the church and erected the parish center with a very successful building fund campaign. Fr. O'Reilly worked as pastor from 1971 until his death April 12, 1980.

St. Joseph Catholic Church is a very active parish. They were originally a Benedictine Parish, started by the Benedictine Monks of St. Leo Abbey, St. Leo, FL and are now a Parish in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. On any day, you will find group of people ministering to others around our parish. We welcome you to come visit us, and see the list of ministries we have available to you. For more information call (813) 782-2813 or visit our website at

[www.stjosephzephyrhills.org](http://www.stjosephzephyrhills.org)



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**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Zephyrhills Celebrates 100 Years**



Christian Church, Zephyrhills, Fla.

One Hundred Years! That’s how long ago it was when the first prospective members met to worship in 1912. With 24 members, First Christian Church was organized in 1913. For two years, these believers met in the Garfield Memorial Hall located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

The first church building was built at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 9<sup>th</sup> Street. It was dedicated on November 21, 1915. As the congregation grew the church needed more space. A fellowship area was added in 1940, and later a youth center and library. In 1951, further expansion created Sunday School rooms and a baptistery.

Rev. Millard Mount was installed as pastor in September 1958. He served for 19 years and was named Minister Emeritus by the Church.

In the mid 1960s, a five and a one half acre site on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and North Ave was purchased. It became the site where the current church is located. This building, the former sanctuary (now the current Fellowship Hall) was dedicated on February 1, 1970. The building design was unusual since it was not built like a traditional church, but was constructed in the shape of a cross.

In 1979, Rev. H. LaVern Preston came to First Christian Church. By 1983, the congregation was out-growing the church building, so a larger sanctuary was built south of the existing building, closer to North Avenue. A dedication ceremony for the new sanctuary was led by Rev. Preston on January 18, 1987. A steeple was added to the sanctuary in 2000. Before the steeple was put in place, sometimes people thought the church was a government building because of its close proximity to the Post Office and Police Department.

Rev. Preston retired in 1992 and Rev. Terrell (Terry) Harper was installed as minister. In 1998, there was a joyous celebration of the mortgage burning for the sanctuary. Terry served for 8 years. He then left to serve another congregation. During that time, his wife, Mary Beth pursued her dream and also became a pastor.

Dr. Lewis George served as Interim for almost 2 years. After he retired, Lewis returned to First Christian Church where he donated his time and talents. He made crosses out of wood, then strung them on yarn to make necklaces. He gave these necklaces away. Before his death in September 2011, Lewis had made over 7,000 crosses, which can be found on all seven continents, even Antarctica.

In December 2001, First Christian Church welcomed Pastor Denise Plante. Under her guidance, services were enhanced by utilizing new worship technology. During her tenure, the interior and exterior of the sanctuary received a face-lift.

In 2009, remodeling of the Fellowship Hall began. The dedication service for the refurbished Millard Mount Fellowship Hall was April 18, 2010. Dr. Charles Hamilton (Interim minister) presided over the service.



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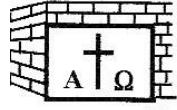
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Over the past 100 years, there have been so many dedicated people: Pastors, Trustees, Elders, Deacons, Board Members, Sunday School Teachers, Instrumentalists, Choir Directors, Choir Members, Vacation Bible School Volunteers, Church Secretaries, Technology Workers (great cooks for our fellowship dinners) Christians too numerous to mention by name. These disciples have devoted their time, talents and wealth to First Christian Church. No words are adequate to describe their endeavors. Ultimately, the wisest course would be to give God the glory, praise and thanks for every person because without God, there would be no church.

In January 2011, Rev. Paul Holland, our current minister, moved to Zephyrhills from Michigan to serve and lead (with God's help) as we journey into the future, beginning the next century for First Christian Church.

<u>Ministers</u>	
1912-1918	Rev. R. J. Massey
1920-1925	Rev. C. Redgraves
1925-1931	Rev. Frank Hartman
1933-1934	Rev. R. A. Nichols
1935-1948	Rev. Frank Hartman
1949-1950	Rev. Maxwell Cobbey
1950-1952	Rev. H. Lawson Sheppard
1952	Rev. Francis Riley (Interim)
1952-1954	Rev. Harry Box
1955-1956	Rev. R. J. McLean
1957-1958	Rev. Francis Riley
1958-1976	Rev. Millard Mount
1974-1976	Rev. Leo Laney (Assistant)
1977-1980	Rev. Leonard Stansbury
1980	Rev. Arthur Marston (Interim)
1980	Rev. Roy Johnston (Interim)
1980-1992	Rev. H. LaVern Preston
1992	Rev. Dr. Harry Purviance (Interim)
1992-2000	Rev. Terrell L. Harper
2000-2001	Rev. Dr. Lewis George
2001-2004	Rev. Denise (Plante) Terry
2005-2009	Rev. Eldon Earnest
2010	Dr. Charles Hamilton (Interim)
2011-	Rev. Paul Holland

<p><b>CornerStone</b></p>  <p><b>Baptist Church</b> 7th Street &amp; 8th Avenue</p> <p>Come be our special guest Coffee &amp; Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor * NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p>	<p>In Memory of</p> <p><b>Ryals Furniture Exchange</b> And Great Parents <b>Powell &amp; Maude Ryals</b></p> <p>From son James</p> <p><b>God Bless America</b></p>
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