



The Roaring  
Twenties!

Riverside Avenue Christian Church



# Charles w. Ross, the first Reverend of Riverside Avenue Christian Church



Rev. Charles W. Ross  
1921 - 1924

Rev. Ross knocked on doors and had a vision for the people of Riverside to worship together as a friendly group. He grew the congregation from just a few to nearly 300.

Thank you for your vision for this church!

Knock Knock Knock.....Anyone home???

Let's Worship together!



## ORIGINAL CHARTER MEMBERS

1. Charles W. Ross, Statement 4-24-21
2. Mrs. Roxie K. Ross, Statement 4-24-21
3. Episcopa Ross, Statement 4-24-21
4. Harold Ross, Statement 4-24-21
5. W. S. Brinkley, Statement 4-24-21
6. Mrs. Emma Brinkley, Statement 4-24-21
7. James B. Lee, Statement 4-24-21
8. Mrs. Maryah W. Lee, Confession 4-24-21; Baptism 5-8-21 (1st Baptism)
9. J. E. Slaughter, Statement 4-24-21
10. Mrs. Etta B. Slaughter 4-24-21
11. William F. Hawley, Statement 4-28-21
12. Mrs. Eva M. Hawley, Statement 4-28-21
13. Mrs. Estella C. Lowe, Statement 4-28-21
14. Miss May F. Hawley, Statement 4-28-21
15. Mrs. A. T. Cuzner, Statement 4-28-21
16. C. H. Kenyon, Statement 4-29-21
17. Austin T. Race, Statement 4-29-21
18. Mrs. Anna Race, Statement 4-29-21
19. Mrs. M. Huck, Statement 5-1-21
20. Leola Race, Statement 5-1-21
21. Mary Agnes Race, Confession 5-1-21; Baptism 5-8-21
22. Mrs. D. E. Braswell, Statement 5-1-21
23. J. W. Ragsdale, Statement 5-1-21
24. Mrs. Oza (J.W.) Ragsdale
25. Frances Ragsdale, Statement 5-1-21
26. Virginia Ragsdale, Statement 5-1-21
27. Marguerite Ragsdale, Statement 5-1-21
28. E. M. Ragsdale, Statement 5-1-21
29. James S. Lovelace, Confession 5-1-21; Baptism 5-8-21
30. Mrs. J. S. Lovelace, Statement from Baptist 5-1-21
31. Mrs. W. W. Greenleaf, Statement 5-1-21
32. Dr. Thomas Sheridan, Statement 5-1-21
33. Mrs. Thomas Sheridan, Statement 5-1-21
34. Lois Sheridan, Statement 5-1-21
35. Miss Anne L. Fraser, Statement 5-1-21
36. J. B. Bowen, Statement 5-1-21
37. Mrs. J. D. Bowen, Statement 5-1-21
38. Mrs. Joseph H. Owens, Statement 5-8-21
39. Miss Laura C. Owens, Statement 5-8-21
40. Edw. T. Moyer, Statement 5-8-21
41. Mrs. E. T. Moyer, Statement 5-8-21
42. W. G. Bowden, Statement 5-8-21
43. Henry F. Huy, Jr., Statement 5-8-21
44. Mrs. H. F. Huy, Jr., Statement 5-8-21
45. Estelle Fraser, Statement 5-8-21
46. Mrs. R. J. Fraser, Confession 5-8-21; Baptism 5-12-21
47. Miss Eddie Slaughter, Statement 5-8-21
48. Dr. Ralph Greene, Statement 5-8-21
49. Mrs. Ralph Greene, Statement 5-8-21
50. Virginia Greene, Statement 5-8-21
51. W. T. Moody, Statement 5-10-21
52. Anna Lou Moody, Statement 5-10-21
53. Miss F. E. Lipscomb, Statement 5-11-21
54. Harry Brinkley, Statement 5-11-21
55. Alice A. Mc Cormick, Statement 5-11-21
56. Flossie Mc Cormick, Statement 5-11-21
57. Verna Clark, Statement 5-11-21
58. Mrs. J. Y. Wilson, Statement 5-15-21
59. W. W. Brown, Statement 5-15-21
60. Mrs. Mary A. Brown, Statement 5-15-21
61. Nathan H. Brown, Statement 5-15-21
62. Mrs. Hazel Chitty, Statement 5-22-21
63. Edith Harriet Saylor, Baptism from Methodist 5-22-21; 5-29-21
64. Mrs. W. G. Bowden, Statement 5-22-21
65. H. J. Ewing, Statement 5-22-21
66. J. L. Wright, Baptism 5-22-21
67. Mrs. J. L. Wright, Statement 5-22-21
68. Dr. James H. Pittman, Statement 5-25-21
69. Paul Bock, Confession 5-26-21; Baptism 5-29-21
70. Carl Bock, Confession 5-27-21; Baptism 5-29-21
71. L. C. Bock, Statement 5-27-21
72. Spencer Brinkley, Statement 5-27-21
73. L. S. Jackson, Confession 5-27-21; Baptism 5-29-21

# Charter Members

## The Beginnings of a church family.....

75. Estelle Lois Brown, Statement 5-27-21
76. Mrs. Horace Clark, Statement 5-27-21
77. J. R. Wheatley, Statement 5-29-21
78. John S. Wheatley, Statement 5-29-21
79. Mrs. Pensacola Douglas, Statement 5-29-21
80. Miss Ollie Douglas, Statement 5-29-21
81. Mary Douglas, Statement 5-29-21
82. Mrs. L. E. Sikes, Statement 5-29-21
83. Mrs. Lessie V. Ewing, Statement 5-29-21
84. Marguerite Ewing, Statement 5-29-21
85. Harry Ewing, Statement 5-29-21
86. Mrs. Marion Hinson, Confession 5-29-21; Baptism 6-5-21
87. Miss Grace Slattery, Confession 5-29-21; Baptism 6-5-21
88. Mrs. J. W. Hill, Sr.; Statement from Baptist 5-31-21
89. Miss Anna W. Geiger, Statement 5-31-21
90. Mrs. Susan M. Bock, Statement 5-31-21
91. Mrs. Jos. Graham, Statement 5-31-21
92. W. L. Fouraker, Statement 6-1-21
93. Mrs. W. L. Fouraker, Statement 6-1-21
94. Miss Leah Bell Johnson, Statement 6-1-21
95. Dr. J. V. Seigler, Statement 6-1-21
96. Mrs. J. V. Seigler, Statement 6-1-21
97. Mrs. M. B. Summer, Statement 6-1-21
98. William Greenleaf, Confession from Presbyterian 6-1-21; Baptism 6-5-21
99. Fred E. Lueders, Statement 6-2-21
100. Mrs. Fred E. Lueders, Statement 6-21-21
101. Dr. J. C. Brown, Statement 6-2-21
102. Mrs. J. C. Brown, Statement 6-21-21
103. Marion O. Huck, Confession from Episcopal 6-5-21; Baptism 6-12-21
104. A. A. Hinson, Statement from Baptist 6-5-21
105. Leon T. Cheek, Statement 6-5-21
106. Mrs. Graham Miller, Confession from M.E. 6-5-21; Baptism 6-12-21
107. Mrs. T. T. Faulkner, Confession 6-5-21; Baptism 6-12-21
108. Mrs. H. J. Chambers, Confession M. E. 6-5-21; Baptism 6-12-21
109. J. L. Marvin, Jr. Confession Presbyterian 6-5-21; Baptism 6-12-21
110. Mrs. Belle Marvin, Statement 6-5-15
111. Mrs. F. D. Winter, Confession 6-5-21; Baptism 6-12-21
112. Mrs. F. R. Todd, Statement 6-8-21
113. W. Mulford Marsh, Statement 6-8-21
114. Mrs. Nellie Marsh, Statement 6-8-21
115. Mrs. Elsie Jenner, Statement 6-8-21
116. Miss Maude Jordan, Letter from Baptist 2-3-22

First Marriage: Clarence Kenyon - May F. Hawley, Oct. 10, 1921 (Bungalow)

First Church Wedding in New Auditorium:  
Hodges Harrell - Virginia Elizabeth Ragsdale, Sept. 11, 1923

First Baptisms in new Building - Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin C. Noonan



Group  
Picture... Say  
Cheese!!!





# "Just as I am Sermon" in newspaper....It's the Good News!

## EVANGELIST ROSS PREACHES SERMON ON "JUST AS I AM"

Many Attending Meetings at Riverside Avenue Christian Church.

Just as I Am, was the title of the sermon which Rev. Charles W. Ross delivered last night in the evangelistic meetings, which he is conducting at the Riverside Avenue Christian church, while speaking of the place of the atonement in the plan of human redemption. In part, he said:

"To understand how man can be saved in Christ we must understand the atonement. In His sacrifice Christ has made propitiation to the Father for us. He has removed our trespasses from us, taken away our guilt and furnished the basis for our reconciliation with God. While God is loving, He is also just, so that something was necessary before He could again receive disobedient man unto Himself. Christ's sacrifice provides the channel through which God could for give sins, both as an act of mercy and justice. Christ's death was necessary because of the fact that something is due to violated or offended justice. But while something was due, God's love was so great that He sent His own son that the penalty might be paid and atonement made for our sins. In this sense the death of Christ must be considered as an act of God. God gave His son, and Christ gave Himself, that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. God did not have to be reconciled to man, it was only necessary that propitiation for our sins should be made to God. But it is both essential and necessary that we shall be reconciled to God, in order that a state of at-one-ment shall be established between man and God.

"In the Old Testament the atonement meant purifying and removing

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"In the Old Testament the atonement meant purifying and removing or rolling over the sins of the one sacrificing, or for whom the sacrifice was made. This remission was ineffectual, because of the fact that the sacrifices were not made continually. But because of the fact that the sacrifice Christ was made once for all, salvation through Him has been offered unto all who will. In order for the efficacy of the atonement, or any sacrifice, in both the Old and New Testaments, the victim must be our own. Not somebody else's sacrifice, but yours. It had to be your own if you were to be benefited and purified through its offering. Not another's Savior, but your Savior. When this great fact is understood men will realize how and why it is necessary for them to accept Christ in order to be saved. Just as the old atonement did away with the sins of all who believed the Mosaic law, so the new is conditioned by faith in Christ. As Christ has made the sacrifice through which we are offered pardon and salvation, we can only be justified through faith in Him, and through obedience as the result of that faith. This side the cross all men, no matter what their condition, just as they are, may come to Jesus and receive salvation through Him. Salvation is freely and graciously offered unto us all, but before we can be saved we must accept Christ to receive it."

The splendid audience, which was present in the meetings again last night, enjoyed a spirited song service under the direction of Miss Carolyn Johnson, the singing evangelist, who is helping in the meetings, and appreciated very deeply her rendering of the beautiful Gospel hymn.

There was one response to the invitation at the close of the service. This afternoon a cottage prayer meeting will be held with Mrs. E. A. Whittle, 1840 Roselle street, at 2:30. Miss Johnson will meet the boys and girls at the church at 4 o'clock.

Tonight, at 7:45, Dr. Ross will speak on Covenants and Their Blessings.



# Ross resigned, Barnett filled in for a Year

Newspaper announced

Ross stepping down

## ***Rev. Ross Resigns Local Pastorate***

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The Rev. Charles W. Ross, pastor of the Riverside Avenue Christian church, who was granted a year's leave of absence last fall on account of failing health, has resigned. He is now at West Palm Beach, but will make his home in Fort Myers. Since his departure the pulpit has been in charge of the Rev. James A. Barnett of Chicago.

Dr. Ross was instrumental in organizing the Riverside avenue church four years ago. He led the congregation in a building enterprise and they now have the first unit of their building and a very valuable property. The congregation has grown from a few to nearly 300.

The annual meeting of the congregation of the church will be held Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at a supper. Annual reports will be made and the election of officers held.



Picnics, ball games and pageants are all good Fellowship!

## Bible School Holds Its Annual Picnic

The annual Bible school picnic of the Riverside Avenue Christian church was held at Atlantic Beach Thursday. The attendance was large, fully 150 persons being present for the picnic dinner which was spread on the pier. The school took the children of the Children's Home as their guests, transporting 54 of them in a large bus and a truck. They were fed and treated to lemonade and ice cream and had a delightful day bathing in the surf and playing games on the beach. The boys and men had a ball game on the beach in the afternoon between "pick-up" teams.

Rev. Charles W. Ross, former pastor, joined his family which has been visiting several days here with his friends, and mingled with the picnic crowd. Carl F. Brown, assistant manager of the Ford plant is superintendent of the school. Picnic arrangements were in the hands of W. M. Greenleaf, assistant superintendent.

## Xmas Pageant in Riverside Church Event Last Night

White Gifts for Him Presented By  
Sunday School Pupils in Riverside Christian Church.

The Christmas pageant, White Gifts for Him, presented in the Riverside Christian church last evening by members of the Sunday school and their friends, was enjoyed by a large audience, each of the participants acquitting himself most creditably. The stage setting most creditably effective, the snow was unusually being in one corner, while at the other side of the stage was the white cross before which the children of the Sunday school placed the gifts which will be distributed among poor families of the city and will bring gladness to many a heart and real touch of the Christmas cheer in many homes.

The illuminated star, the central feature of the setting, and in the course of the program there was a most effective snow storm the soft

flakes fluttering in realistic manner. The Sunbury Quartet including Joe Graham, Charles Craig, Green and the program were heard several times on greatly appreciated numbers being Dr. J. C. Brown, Mrs. James B. Lee, and Edward Meyer were in charge of the decorations and Mrs. J. D. Bowen designed the costumes for the fairies and snowflakes. Mrs. Austin T. Race was accompanist for the evening. The pageant was given under the direction of Mrs. William Greenleaf, Mrs. J. L. Marvin, Mrs. Charles V. Ross, and Mrs. Austin T. Race.

**Complete Program.**  
The evening's program was as follows:

**PART I.**  
Carols by school and choir:  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing.  
Proclamation, Juniors and Intermediates.  
Prayer.  
Story, The Birth of Jesus Foretold.  
Mrs. James Bright Lee.  
Solo, Joy to the World, Mrs. Fred Zimmerman.  
Story of Shepherds, Mrs. James Bright Lee.  
Holly Night, Silent Night, Sunshine Quartet.  
Story of Wise Men, Mrs. James Bright Lee.  
Solo, Where Is the King? Miss Marilu Burpee.

**PART II.**  
Reading, The Christ Child, Margaret Davis.  
Duet, Sleep, Holy Babe, Dick Wright, Charlie Race.  
Reading, White Gifts for the King, Alice McCormick.  
Solo, The Fairies Are Here, Lillian Simmons.  
Fairies, fairy queen.  
Mrs. Graham, Betty Chitty, Mary Greenleaf, Tender McCannon, Martha Lee.

**PART III.**  
Reading, Our Gifts Are White, Miss Alice McCormick.  
Solo, Glory to God, Joe Graham.  
Snowflake drill.  
Reading, The Mission of Snowflakes, Mary Ann Chitty.  
Duet, The Snowflakes Messengers, Ruth Marvin, Hazel Bowen.  
Reading, The Savior Has No Cradle, Stanfor Ross.  
Reading, The Birthday of the King, Miss Almee Fraser.  
Reading, The Birth of the King, Almee Fraser.  
Treasures, espacia Ross, Him Their Solo.  
The Children of the Poor.  
Offerory solo, Accept Our White Gifts, Marilu Burpee; violin obligato.  
Song, I gave My Life for Thee, Sunshine.  
Presentation of gifts of self-serv-ice substance.  
Remarks by pastor, Rev. Charles W. Ross.  
Benediction.

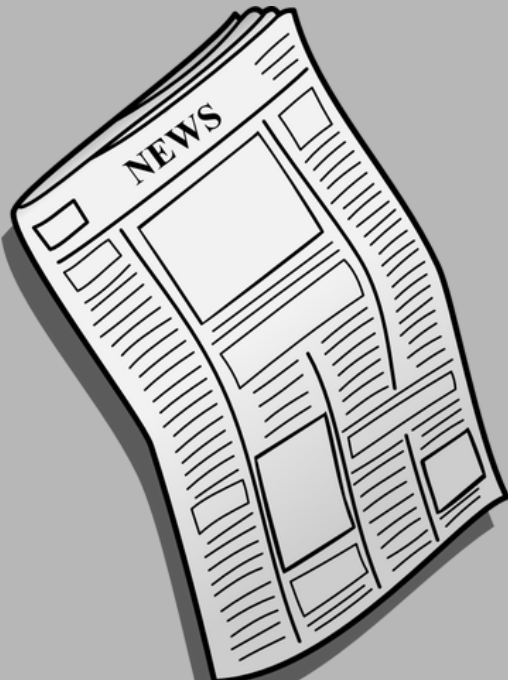


# A Wedding in the First Sanctuary

Thank you Woolsey Family for sharing this picture



# First Newsletter



116 references  
 new reality, fresh &  
 gospel, meeting Jesus  
 First Sunday, sunrise "

## The Riverside Avenue

# CHRISTIAN NEWS

Where the Scriptures Speak, We Speak; Where the Scriptures Are Silent, We Are Silent  
We Plead for the Union of All God's People on the Bible, and the Bible Alone

Vol. I. JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, APRIL 12, 1923 No. 1

### A Friendly Church

Easy  
to  
Locate:  
Easier  
to  
Like

Riverside Avenue Christian Church

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#### THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The religious people known generally throughout the country as Christians Only, and some times listed as Disciples of Christ, have organized churches throughout the world which are known as Free Churches of Christ, or Christian Churches. These people have grown in a little more than 100 years to a present membership of nearly one and a half million. They are at the present time the fifth largest protestant body.

They desire to honor Christ in the names applied to His individual followers or to local congregations; they desire to be known as Christians Only, though they have never claimed to be the only Christians.

The distinctive plea of Christians Only has ever been for the union of the whole Church upon the basis of the Bible and the Bible alone, in fulfillment of the prayer of Christ, that all His followers might be one. They have attempted to speak where the scriptures speak, and to be silent where the scriptures are

silent; believing that all matters of faith and doctrine have been revealed through Christ or His apostles, and that a "thus saith the Lord" should be the end of all controversy, and should furnish the only sane and practical basis for union.

The Church was once united upon the Bible and the Bible alone; and it is reasonable to suppose that such an ideal condition shall never again be realized until the Church, revealed and described in the New Testament, as established by Christ, and organized by the apostles, is restored, in its doctrines, its ordinances and its fruits.

romantic as that of the Restoration movement of which it is a part. It stands as a spiritual light-house in the community, to remind men and women of God, and to point them to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; to make known the terms of salvation, which were laid down by Christ himself, as essential to the pardon and remission of sins; to show the beauty, as well as the necessity, of Christian Union; and to serve its community, and minister to the needs of men and women, and boys and girls, in the spirit of the Christ.

#### RIVERSIDE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Riverside Avenue Christian Church is an individual unit, or congregation of believers, within the Church of Christ, which is dedicated to the ideals briefly summarized above. The story of its growth and development is as

#### THE RIVERSIDE AVENUE CHRISTIAN NEWS

In order for the success of the church, three things are essential: that it shall be a knowing, growing and going church. That these ideals may be realized this little paper is being launched, making its bow with this issue. It is the hope of the editor that it may be the

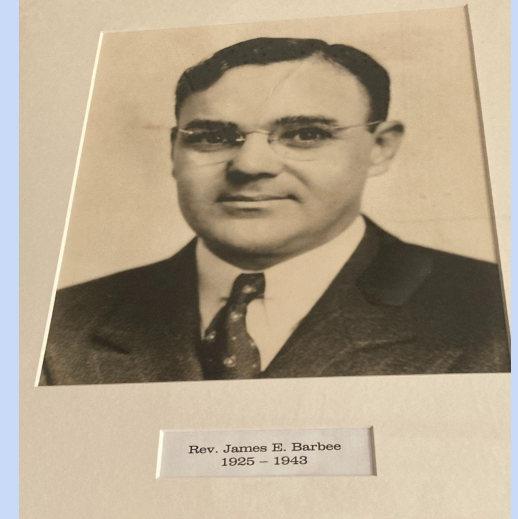
We are a friendly church that believes in Jesus!



# Rev. and Mrs. Barbee in Church and Community

Rev. Barbee was the third to lead Riverside and his wife,

Mrs. Ruth Barbee served on the first Girl Scout Council for Duval County.



“Jesus won people by love rather than force”

## Pastor Scores Blue Law Idea

Better Program Is Way for  
Churches to Win.

“Sunday blue laws on recreation will do more harm than good,” declared the Rev. James E. Barbee, pastor of the Riverside Avenue Christian church, during his sermon last night on Blue Laws. C. B. Solomon, musical director, led an interesting program of inspirational music.

“Some of the restriction built around Sunday are not in the teachings of Jesus. The Sabbath law is one of the commandments that was not brought over into the dispensation. The Old Law made the Sabbath a holy day; and the Christians observed the first day of the week to Saturday, not Sunday. Jesus did not serve the first day when he commemorated the dead. They did not observe Sunday because of a law,” he said.

“Jesus incurred a lot of opposition by breaking the Sabbath laws. He healed a man who had a withered hand on the Sabbath day. The disciples plucked grains of corn on the Sabbath because they were hungry. Nothing could be more explicit than Jesus’ statement, ‘The Sabbath was made for man.’

“Some of the customs built around Sunday to help the church have done untold harm to religion. Jesus preached and lived a seven day week religion. The church has placed too much emphasis on the Lord’s day, as one day religion. It has been the influence of religion has been divided by seven. Instead of church to enforce blue laws, the church should conduct a seven day a week program of helpfulness.

“If there is one thing Jesus would not countenance, it was hypocrisy. We

## Sermon on Blue Laws

should conduct a seven day a week program of helpfulness.

“If there is one thing Jesus would not countenance, it was hypocrisy. We are hypocritical in our Sunday observance. The person who can afford an automobile goes out driving, and that is considered all right. On the other hand, if a person goes to a picture show or a ball game on Sunday, it is not approved. Personally, I cannot see the religious difference between driving, golfing, baseball, picnicking, or the eating of a big Sunday dinner. Many an old Puritanical father who would not allow the children to play on Sunday afternoon, insisted on his wife toiling all morning over a hot stove to prepare a big Sunday dinner. At least, let us be consistent.

“Jesus won people by love rather than force. You cannot force anyone into the church. There is a false idea that you can make people go to church by closing all places of recreation on Sunday. Mankind will be won to the church when the church presents a better program; when church people do more personal work, and practice during the week what they profess on Sunday. Churches are oftentimes empty because 80 per cent of the members go for weeks and months without inviting anyone to God’s house, or showing to the world that they are followers of Christ.

“A question might be raised about keeping stores and other places of business open on Sunday. It has been scientifically proven that a person can do better work six days out of the week than seven days. That is why we have ceased to work on Sunday. The first day of the week has become a national day of rest, worship and recreation.

“Questionable amusements should not only be closed on Sunday, but every day of the week. Jesus gave us a guide in this matter when He said, ‘Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do harm?’

“Do not misunderstand me. I would to God that every person should feel the need of public communion with Him on the Lord’s day. It will take more than legislation to bring this happy state of affairs. The Kingdom of God will come when we not only worship God on Sunday, but live our religion seven days a week.”



# Wanna see More??? The Thundering Thirties will be soon!

Actual artifacts are on display in the fellowship hall. This is only a taste of the walk through history that is to come. Do you have pictures of Riverside moments?

Please share!

[RACC@jaxdisciples.com](mailto:RACC@jaxdisciples.com)

Please include as many details as you can regarding your pictures and thank you!

Thank you to Patricia Knowles for her dedication to preserving these artifacts and sharing her knowledge of our church legacy with me. Her energy and love for Riverside Avenue Christian Church is a beautiful blessing!