



Dr. Hal Kitchings and his wonderful wife Kellie will be such a blessing to the Community of Brookhaven, Ms... Dr. Kitchings is a one of a kind man of God... This is a win-win situation for both sides. This is one of many occasions where the church will say... God is good!

Pastor S. Guy Odom, Sunrise Baptist Church



Hal is "old in his theology, but young in heart."

Dr. Jim Futral

EASTHAVEN
FOLLOWING JESUS. GROWING TOGETHER.



Meet Dr. Hal Kitchings

Dr. Harold (Hal) T. Kitchings, Jr.

Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, October 7, 1960, Hal is the youngest of three children. His father, the late Dr. Harold Kitchings, and mother, the late Ann Overstreet Kitchings, nurtured him with great love and encouragement. He and his sisters were "Preacher's Kids," which he saw as a blessing, rather than a "curse." He attributes that in large part to First Baptist Kosciusko, and the community of Kosciusko, Mississippi, that played a huge role in his life during his formative years.

Hal's dad, Dr. Kitchings, was called to serve as Executive Director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in Jackson, Mississippi, after his sophomore year in high school. Hal graduated from Clinton High School in Clinton, Mississippi, where he played baseball and was involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the DECA club. The youth group at First Baptist Clinton played a significant role in his life during this time.

While at Mississippi College, Hal surrendered to the call of vocational full-time Christian ministry at the conclusion of his sophomore year. It was during this time that he was licensed to ministry by First Baptist Clinton. During his college career he and the former, Kellie Vaughn, his now wife of thirty-nine years, were engaged and married. Kellie received her college degree from Texas Woman's University while Hal was completing his seminary degree in Fort Worth, Texas. She's very supportive and has been involved in the music, children, and youth ministries over the years in the various churches where they have served. Kellie has also taught a ladies small group in recent years and receives great fulfillment in this area of ministry.

Hal and Kellie have two adult children, Trey and Halie, who are married and in ministry. Trey is the Discipleship Pastor at Highland Park Baptist in Muscle Shoals, AL. His wife, Holly, is a nurse. (They have two sons, Clayton, and Lincoln.) Halie assists her husband, Logan, who is a bi-vocational Worship Pastor. They live in Hurley, MS. (They have one son, Braven, and have a daughter, Atlie Joy, due in February of 2023.)

Dr. Hal Kitchings still enjoys sports and is somewhat of a sports enthusiast. His hobbies are exercising, reading, and drinking coffee. Connecting with people in the community where he serves is a natural part of his lifestyle. He also enjoys writing, and in 2013, published "Three Mississippi: A Mississippian Burning with A Passion for Reconciliation." His second book, a devotional book entitled "Next Verse" was published in December 2021.

Education

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| 2001 | Doctor of Ministry
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Kansas City, MO |
| 1995 | Master of Divinity Equivalent
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; New Orleans, LA |
| 1986 | Master of Arts in Religious Education
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ft. Worth, TX |
| 1983 | Bachelor of Science
Mississippi College; Clinton, MS |

Experience

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| 2014 – Current | Senior Pastor – Fifth Avenue Baptist Church – St Petersburg, FL |
| 2009 – 2014 | Itinerant Minister <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transitional Senior Pastor, First Baptist, Olive Branch, MS.• Supply Preacher in numerous churches, including Bellevue Baptist Church; First Baptist Jackson; and First Baptist Daytona Beach.• Led revivals, retreats and conferences.• Interim Preacher, Sharon Baptist Church, Savannah, TN.• Church Planter. (Bridge Memphis) |
| 2007 – 2009 | Senior Pastor – Germantown Baptist Church; Germantown, TN |
| 2007 – 2007 | Executive Pastor – Hope Baptist Church; Las Vegas, NV |
| 2002 – 2006 | Senior Pastor – First Baptist Church Eustis; Eustis, FL |
| 1997 – 2002 | Senior Pastor – Morrison Heights Baptist Church; Clinton, MS |
| 1993 – 1997 | Senior Pastor – First Baptist Middleburg; Middleburg, FL |
| 1988 – 1992 | Associate Pastor in Student Ministries – Morrison Heights Baptist Church; Clinton, MS |