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First Baptist Church, Forest City - History of the First Baptist Church, 1848 - 1939

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HISTORY

OF THE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

1848 :-: 1939

The First Baptist Church

of Forest City, N. C.

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH,
ITS PEOPLE AND
WORK

THE FOREST CITY COURIER
Forest City, N. C.
1939

BARACA CLASS, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
(Picture Made August 1, 1908)

OFFICERS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1939

Dr. William A. Ayers
Pastor

J. Worth Morgan,
Clerk

R. E. Hollifield,
Treasurer

Board of Deacons

J. W. Sanders	R. R. Blanton	D. F. Beachboard
J. Worth Morgan	C. J. Hicks	P. N. Long
Charlie Whitlock	R. E. Hollifield	W. C. Grayson
George D. Horn	V. T. Davis	J. E. Caldwell
W. L. McBrayer	B. E. Hamrick	W. C. Logan
W. H. Fagan	W. B. Matheny	J. G. Yelton

Deacons Emeritus
C. G. Hill
B. R. Hicks

W. H. Fagan
Superintendent Sunday School

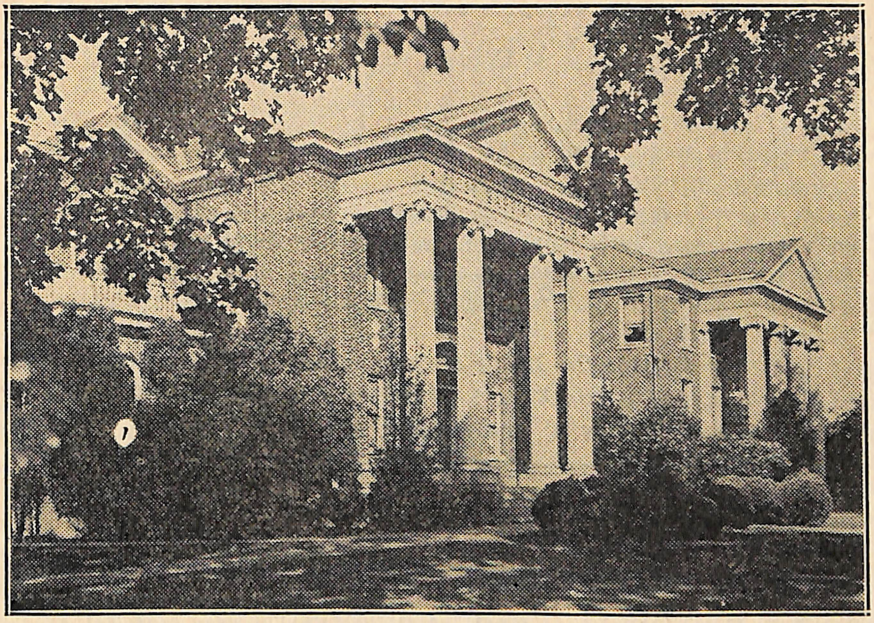
Mrs. Arval Alcock
Organist

Mrs. Chas. A. Ford
Associate Supt. Sunday School

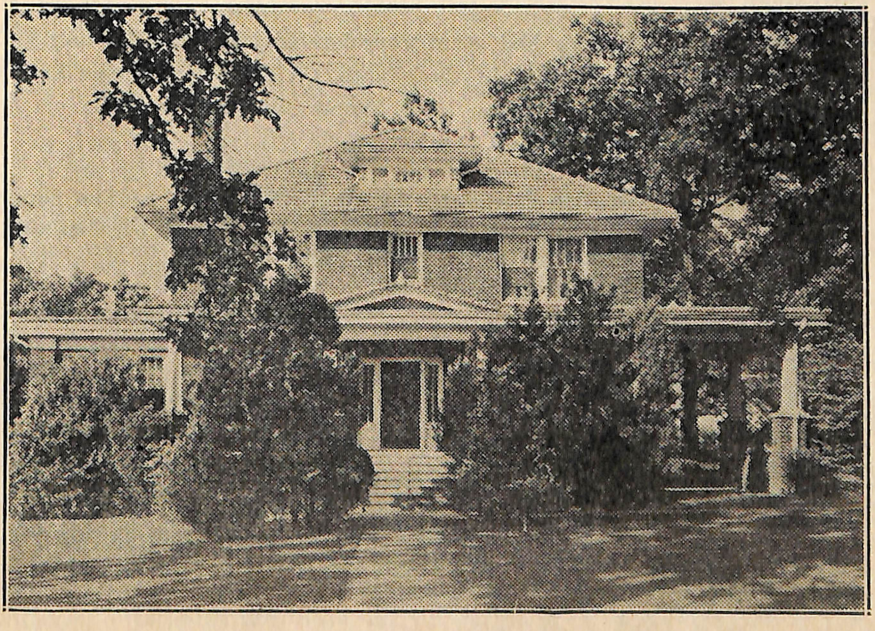
Miss Ruby Moore
Pianist

W. B. Matheny
Director Young People's Work

Due to the rotating system in effect, Deacons are elected to active service for a period of three years, and then are excused from active service for one year. Those who are excused from active service this year are: Dr. W. C. Bostic, T. T. Long, T. R. Padgett, A. B. Flack, J. B. Meares and Dr. R. L Reinhardt.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND ALEXANDER MEMORIAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING



PARSONAGE, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

PREFACE

At a meeting of the Board of Deacons of the First Baptist church of Forest City, N. C., on April 4, 1939, a Committee, consisting of V. T. Davis, chairman; Dr. W. C. Bostic, A. B. Flack, Mrs. Chas. A. Ford and J. Worth Morgan, was appointed to prepare a brief history of the church.

This Committee met first on April 10, 1939, and continued to meet weekly for several weeks thereafter. While much time was spent by the Committee in research work, the task was a labor of love. Preserving in permanent form as much of the original source material of the church as is now available, was not only performing a duty but having had a part in the work was considered a special privilege by each member of the Committee.

After the Committee had spent considerable time in collecting and compiling data on the history of the church, the matter contained herein was written or put in final shape by J. Worth Morgan, a member of the Committee and Clerk of the Church.

The support given the Committee by Mr. C. E. Alcock, of The Forest City Courier, made possible the publication of this little volume. To each member of the Committee and to every one who assisted in the work, I extend sincere thanks.

V. T. DAVIS, Chairman.

History of The First Baptist Church of Forest City, North Carolina

The history of the organization of the First Baptist Church of Forest City is in reality a history of the beginning of the town of Forest City, which was known as Burnt Chimney prior to 1887. The church was organized some twenty-five years before the organization of any other enterprise for the uplift of the community, and many years before the village began to grow. Tradition has it that more than a hundred years ago a small group of the first settlers in the community began holding religious services in the homes, where all the neighbors would assemble for prayer services and preaching. At the present time and throughout the history of the town, the Baptists are and have been a dynamic force in Forest City. Their contribution has been creative and constructive in the development of the community.

Cool Springs church, as the First Baptist church was originally known, was organized in December, 1848, with seventeen charter members. The Bostic, Harrill, Goode, Hardin, Rogers and Doggett families largely made up the first membership. The church derived the name Cool Springs from the springs nearby bearing that name.

The present church building is the fourth to be erected during the history of the church. The first church, built of logs, was located just north of the present Cool Springs cemetery. On May 26th, 1855, Mr. John Bostic, grandfather of Dr. W. C. Bostic, deeded to the church three and three-tenths acres of land at a consideration of $10.00. This eighty-four year old deed, which is now in the possession of Dr. W. C. Bostic, was witnessed by Martin J. Harrill and George Doggett.

In the year 1867 the second house of worship was built following the construction of the Seaboard Railroad through the church property, which necessitated the building of a new church. This building was erected on the south side of the railroad near the center of what is now Cool Springs cemetery. Part of the land for the new location was donated by Mr. R. M. Harrill and Mr. Mills H. Flack. The second house of worship was a frame building. This building and property was used until 1889, when a new brick church, the first brick building to be erected in Forest City, was completed at the corner of West Main and Church streets, where the parsonage now stands. This property was donated to the church by Rev. J. H. Yarborough, who served the church as pastor on three different occasions.

In the church records of February 22, 1889 the following entry is found, "Motion to move into the new church house in Forest City. Motion carried." It was at this time that the name of the church was changed from Cool Springs to Forest City. The removal of the church to the new location and changing the name to Forest City did not meet with the approval of some of the older members. From the church records we find that the church Bible, records and deeds to the old church lands were in the possession of some of the members opposing the changes in location and name, and in the minutes of May 25, 1889, one reads where Brethren Matt McBrayer, William Collins and Dr. G. E.

Young were appointed as committee to take legal steps to secure the church records.

Construction of the fourth and present church building began in 1913 and the work was completed early in 1915. This church was erected under the splendid leadership of Pastor J. Q. Adams, and the following building committee appointed by the church January 31, 1913; J. F. Alexander, chairman; Dr. W. C. Bostic, vice-chairman; C. A. Wilkie, W. L. Horn, T. R. Padgett, J. V. Ware, J. C. Scruggs, R. L. Reinhardt, J. A. Wilkie, J. B. Harrill, A. B. Flack, W. S. Moss, J. T. Fortune, J. B. Long and D. O. Brackett. This building was made possible through the generosity of the late Dr. G. E. Young, Forest City's first and greatly beloved physician, and the late J. F. Alexander, the church's most outstanding layman, who offered to bear one half the expense of the cost of the new building, provided the membership would meet the other half. The proposition was accepted and the building erected and paid for in this manner. Dr. Young and Mr. Alexander included in their part the donation of a deed to the beautiful lot on which the church and educational buildings are located.

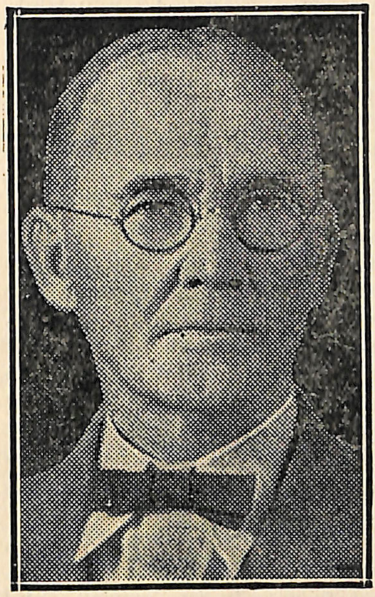
The congregation met in the new church for the first time on February 21, 1915, the occasion being a special dedicatory service and the sermon was by Dr. Livingston Johnson, of Raleigh, N. C. Dr. J. Q. Adams, the pastor, was presented the keys to the church by Mr. J. F. Alexander and the dedicatory prayer was by Dr. Adams.

It was during the summer of 1915 that the pipe organ was installed in the church at a cost of $2,200.00. The organ was made possible by a gift of $1,000.00 from the Memorial Fund of the Carnegie Corporation, of New York.

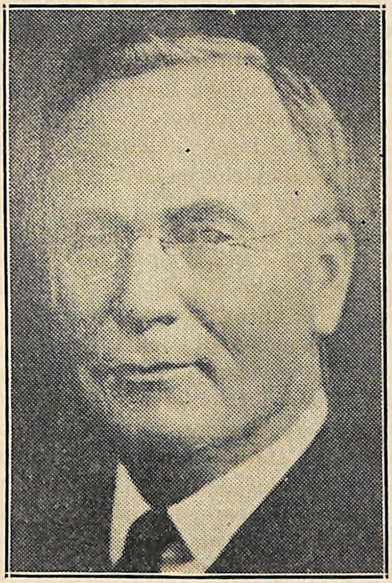
The next building program inaugurated by the church was the erection of the modern brick parsonage in 1923 at a cost of $12,000.00. The building committee was composed of Dr. W. C. Bostic, chairman; T. R. Padgett, Charles Z. Flack and J. A. Wilkie. The parsonage was completed during the first months of the present pastorate of Dr. W. A. Ayers, who has occupied the building since its completion. The old brick church erected about 1889 stood on this lot.

The Sunday school and educational annex was erected in 1926. Mr. J. F. Alexander was aware of the great need of this building, and before his death in December, 1925, pledged $10,000.00 toward the erection of the building. Mrs. Alexander carried out his wishes in this matter and paid every dollar of the amount pledged by her husband, and offered other assistance and cooperation in the erection of the building. The educational plant was named "The Alexander Memorial Building," in memory of Mr. Alexander. The building and equipment cost approximately $67,500.00 and is one of the completest and most modern Sunday school plants in the Southern Baptist Convention. Mr. Charles Z. Flack was the first chairman of the building committee, serving until the foundation work of the building was started, when he was succeeded by Mr. V. T. Davis. Other members of the committee were: Dr. W. C. Bostic, T. R. Padgett, R. R. Blanton and O. C. Turner.

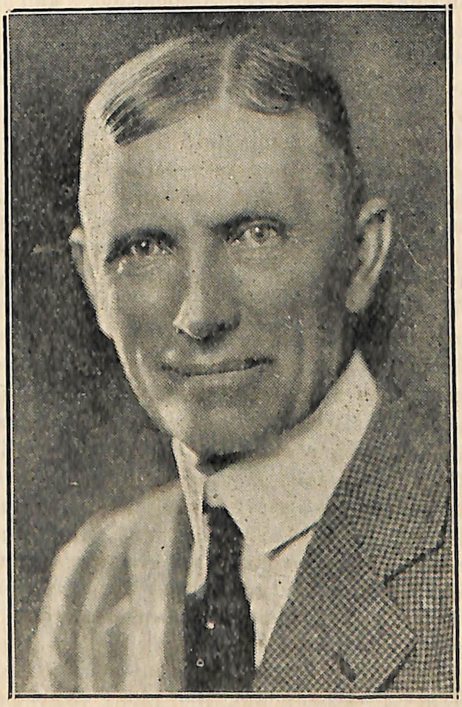
The building was first occupied in March, 1927 when "open week" was held, beginning Sunday, March 13th, with sermon by Dr. Charles E.



DR. W. A. AYERS



DR. J. Q. ADAMS



J. F. ALEXANDER

Maddry, then secretary of the Baptist State Mission Board, of Raleigh, N. C., and now secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Other notables appearing on the "open week" program of five days included Governor Clyde R. Hoey and former Governor O. Max Gardner.

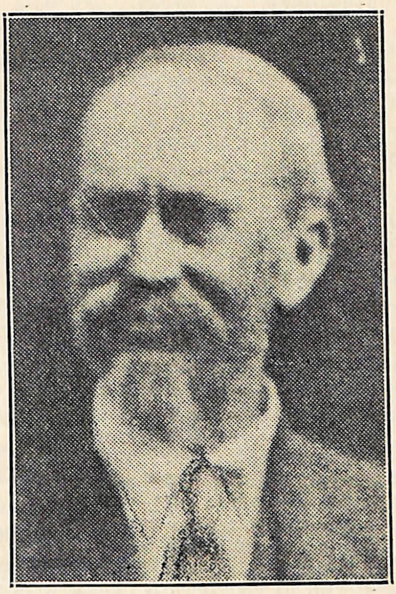
In this brief sketch of the organization, growth and progress of the First Baptist church, it is possible only to mention some of the outstanding events; to list the names of the twenty-five or more splendid pastors who have served the church, and the growth of the church under their leadership; and to make mention of some of those who have served the church in an official capacity, and other members who have served the church in an outstanding manner. A complete history of all the pastors, officers and outstanding members, past and present, would make a most interesting volume of reading matter. The growth and progress of the church represents great sacrifices and actual suffering on the part of many. Yet this program of service and progress started by the pioneer members, meant much to this community and section, and we humbly reverence the memory of the many influential members and pioneer builders of our town and community who sleep in our cemeteries today.

Elder William Harrill was the first pastor of Cool Springs church, serving from 1848 until 1867. His salary the first year was $8.37. During his long pastorate, he was absent from only one service, and that was in 1858 on account of illness. He served on many important committees in the Green River Association, and as a revivalist he ranked among the first of his day. It is stated that he baptized not less than fifteen or sixteen hundred persons. He died March 14, 1886 and is buried in Cool Springs cemetery. Elder J. H. Yarborough was the second pastor, serving from 1867 to 1869. In 1881 he was called to the pastorate again, serving until 1883. On September 7, 1889 he was called the third time, and served until January 12, 1890. Elder Yarborough was one of the best and most highly educated preachers of his day. He was a teacher of ability and was president of Mars Hill College at one time. He was instrumental in the organization of Burnt Chimney Academy, which had its beginning in 1872, when Rev. T. B. Justice, Rev. H. D. Harrill, Thomas Wilkins, J. W. Davis and George T. Bostic were named trustees.

Elder A. McMahan was pastor two years from 1869 until 1871. He served a second pastorate from 1874 to 1875. Rev. T. B. Justice was pastor during the time between the first and second pastorates of Rev. McMahan. Rev. H. D. Harrill, a son of the first pastor, Elder William Harrill, served a pastorate of fifteen months beginning in 1875. He was succeeded by Rev. Wade Hill, who served until 1879. Next in order was Rev. A. L. Stough who served from 1879 until 1881, when he was followed by Rev. J. H. Yarborough in his second pastorate of two years.

Rev. G. W. Rollins, the next pastor, served the church as pastor on two occasions, first in 1883 for one year, and a second period from January 12, 1890 to July 18, 1891. He lived the greater part of his life in this community and always stood for the things that were good and uplifting. His greatest sermon was the pious, consistent christian life that he lived, wearing himelf out in the Master's service. His splendid

ELDER WILLIAM HARRILL



DR. G. E. YOUNG

family was one of the community's finest assets. He was the father of Mrs. Georgia Rollins (W. C.) Blanton and Rev. Geo. W. Rollins, who died a few years ago.

Rev. C. B. Justice, a son of Elder T. B. Justice, the fourth pastor, was called to the pastorate in 1884 for a period of one year. A second call was extended him on September 24, 1900, when he served for a period of about six months.

Rev. T. Bright was pastor from 1885 until September 7, 1889. The pastorate of Elder Bright was very successful and the church made much progress under his leadership. Under his ministry the church was moved to its present location and the first brick church building erected and the name changed from Cool Springs to Forest City.

Two former pastors, Rev. J. H. Yarborough and Rev. G. W. Rollins, served short pastorates between September 7, 1889 and July 18, 1891, when Rev. F. C. Hickson was elected pastor and served until January 6, 1892. Rev. Hickson served a second and much longer pastorate dating from August 24, 1895 to September 24, 1900. Between the first and second pastorates of Rev. F. C. Hickson, Rev. Z. D. Harrill of Ellenboro, served a successful pastorate of three years and eight months, beginning January 6, 1892 and closing August 24, 1895.

Rev. M. M. Landrum was pastor from April 24, 1901 until January 12, 1903, when he was succeeded by Rev. R. A. Hedgepath who served until November 26, 1904. Rev. T. F. Deitz was elected pastor on December 24, 1904, but for some reason did not accept the call, and on January 21, 1905 Rev. Walter Wilson was elected pastor and served until August 25, 1906.

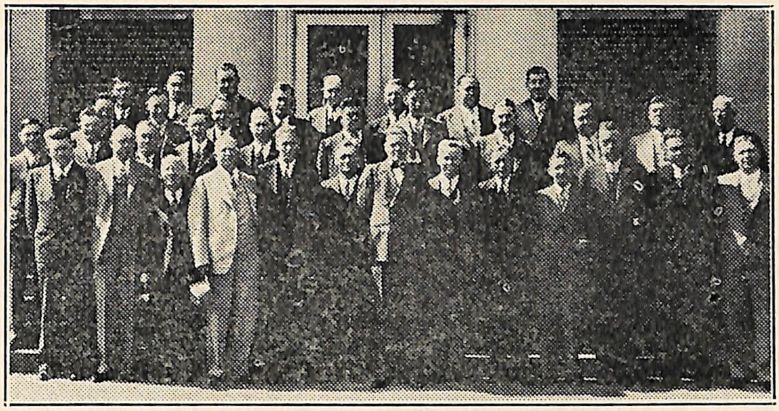
Rev. J. Q. Adams began his first pastorate November 7, 1906, serving until April 5, 1911. Between his first and second pastorates Rev. J. M. Hamrick was pastor about eighteen months from April, 1911, until October 12, 1912, when Dr. J. Q. Adams again accepted the pastorate and served until March 16, 1919. The great work of Doctor Adams in his two pastorates of almost eleven years marked the dawn of a new day for the church and community. Highly educated, cultured and charming in manner, his leadership in the church, community and the Sandy Run Association was outstanding. Under his leadership the splendid church building was erected and paid for. The church building stands as a monument to his ministry.

Dr. Adams was pastor of the church during the World War. On one occasion, when a large number of the fine young men of the church, together with others from the community, were leaving for service in the army, a special service was held at the church by Dr. Adams, at which time the pastor prayed that these soldier boys might go through the war unharmed and be returned safely to their homes. The special prayer was answered. All of the boys who attended the service went through the war and were engaged in some of the outstanding battles, but returned to their homes without scar of battle.

On November 10, 1929 a special memorial service was held in the church in memory of Dr. Adams, in which the different churches of the town participated. This service was marked by the unveiling of a portrait of Dr. Adams and placing a bronze tablet in the vestibule of the church in his memory.

Rev. S. N. Watson was elected to the pastorate on March 16, 1919, and served until June 28, 1922 when he resigned. On September 17, 1922 Rev. O. L. Stringfield was elected supply pastor, and served in that capacity until the beginning of the present pastorate of Dr. W. A. Ayers in June, 1923.

The present pastor, Dr. W. A. Ayers, will close his sixteenth year in June. The church has made great progress during these years under his wise and capable leadership. The first year of his ministry saw the completion of a modern parsonage at a cost of $12,000.00. In 1927 the Alexander Memorial educational building was completed at a cost of $67,500.00. Shortly after the completion of this building our country became involved in one of the greatest financial depressions of all times but, under the fine leadership of Dr. Ayers, the work of the church went forward in a great way, meeting all debt obligations promptly and showing a fine growth in membership. During the sixteen years, 964 members have been added to the church, 379 of them by baptism; $218,836.05 has been raised for all purposes. The following young men have gone out from the church to preach the gospel: R. H. Ayers, Charlie Walker, A. C. Lovelace and Mark Lovelace. No less have been the achievements in the work and growth of the Sunday school, W. M. S. organizations and in the B. T. U's. His pastorate has been the greatest and most outstanding in the history of the church. And the work of his great ministry has been done under the most trying circumstances. The ten year depression came shortly after the greatest building program in the history of the church was launched and the church had its greatest



BUSINESS MEN'S BIBLE CLASS
(1937)

obligations to meet during the worst years of the depression. In addition to all this Dr. and Mrs. Ayers have had to bear the burden of the illness and misfortune of their only daughter, Miss Mary Ayers, which has covered a great part of his ministry in the church. Dr. Ayers knows and his host of friends know that only support and strength from the Savior he holds up before his congregation weekly has made it possible for the accomplishment of his great work during his ministry. The membership of the church has grown from 594 at the beginning of his pastorate to 930.

While there has been at various times in the history of the church great suffering, heartaches and sadness along with the joys among the membership, Miss Mary Ayers is known as the most patient, happy sufferer. She began having trouble with her eyes some twelve years ago while a student at Meredith College. At the end of her third year she was forced to leave school and undergo a major operation in Philadelphia. No permanent cure was ever found for her trouble and since then she has undergone the same operation three times. Following her last operation about three years ago, she has been blind. No one can offer an explanation for the blight of her young, happy life except to say it may be her greatest sermon and as such it has touched the hearts of the entire membership.

During the history of the church the following, and perhaps others, have served as Sunday school superintendents: Rev. William Harrill, E. H. Byers, J. W. Davis, J. L. Wilkie, John B. Harrill, G. P. Harrill, W. W. Pool, J. L. Gamble, J. V. Ware, W. L. Horn, R. R. Flack, D. O Brackett, R. R. Blanton, Charles Z. Flack, O. C. Turner, E. E. Smart, T. T. Long, J. W. Sanders, and W. H. Fagan.

Since the organization of the church the following are among those who have served as clerks: M. J. Harrill, E. H. Byers, B. H. Bridges, E.

S. Davis, Lee W. Lynch, G. P. Harrill C. J. Young, A. B. Flack, W. C. Blanton, J. C. Scruggs, W. E. Lynch, L. C. Cobb, J. E. Caldwell, and J. Worth Morgan. J. C. Scruggs was clerk from April 1, 1911 until February 11, 1923. The present clerk, J. Worth Morgan, has held the office since January 1, 1930.

During the early history of the church the office of treasurer was combined with that of clerk. The church records reveal that the following are among those who have held the office of treasurer: J. Broadus Blanton, J. B. Long, A. B. Flack, R. L. Reinhardt, L. C. Cobb, W. E. Lynch, W. L. Brown and R. E. Hollifield.

Among those who have served the church as organists since the installation of the pipe organ in 1915 are: Mrs. R. E. Biggerstaff, Mrs. Zola Parlor Padgett, Miss Louise Wilkie, Miss Katherine Goggans, Miss Rizpah Clary and Mrs. Ruth Meares Alcock. Miss Ruby Moore, the present pianist, has rendered faithful service in this capacity for a long number of years. Prior to the installation of the pipe organ, Mrs. Georgia Rollins Blanton and Mrs. Beulah Harrill Moore were among those who served as organists.

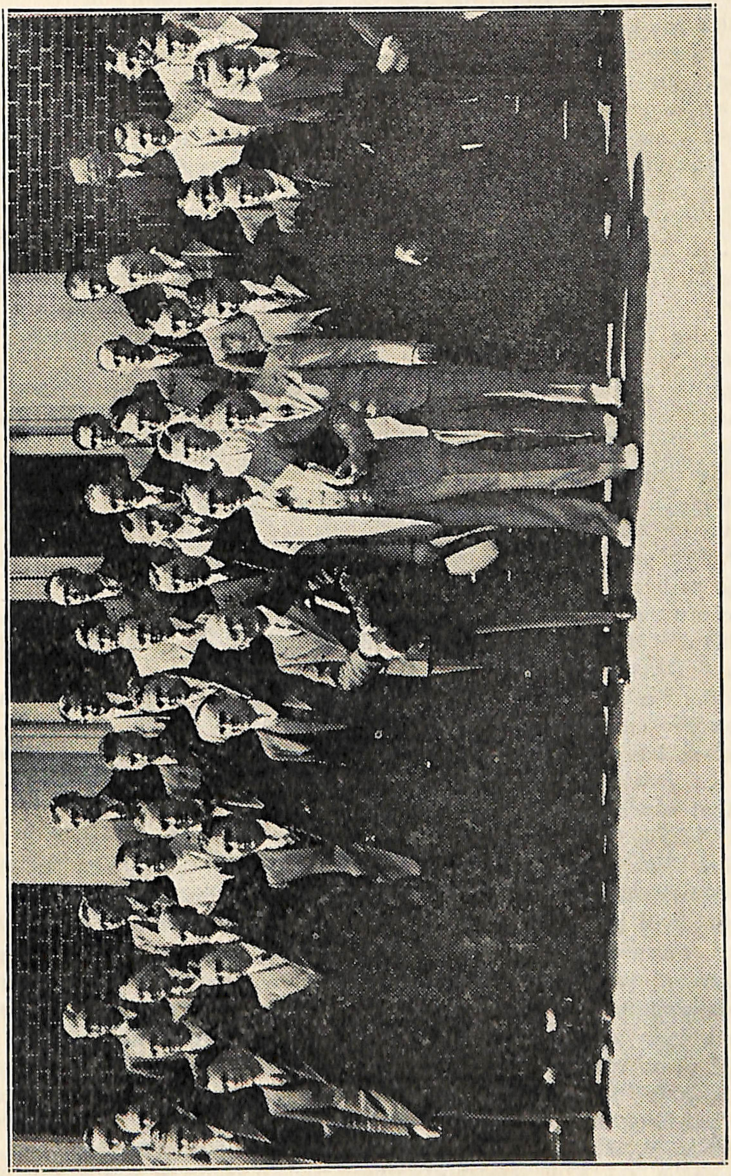
No history of the church would be complete without mention being made of some of its outstanding members. Outstanding among the pioneer members of the church was John Bostic, grandfather of Dr. W. C. Bostic. He was instrumental in the organization of the church in 1848, was one of the seventeen charter members, and first deacon. In 1855 he donated three and three-tenths acres of land to the church, gave logs for building the first house of worship, helped hew and build them into the church house. Mr. Bostic lived a pious, consistent christian life, and three of his grandchildren, Rev. G. P. Bostic, Rev. Wade D. Bostic and Miss Addie Bostic, have given a total of more than a hundred years service as foreign missionaries in China, building dozens of churches in China and teaching and training hundreds of native missionaries.

Martin J. Harrill, a son of Elder William Harrill, was a prominent leader in the church during its early history. He took an active part in all the work of the church and served as clerk for many years. He was the father of Mrs. Maggie Mauney, and grandfather of Mrs. Chas. A. Ford, Mrs. W. L. Brown, Miss Maggie Kanipe, H. L. Kanipe, Albert Mauney and Martin Mauney.

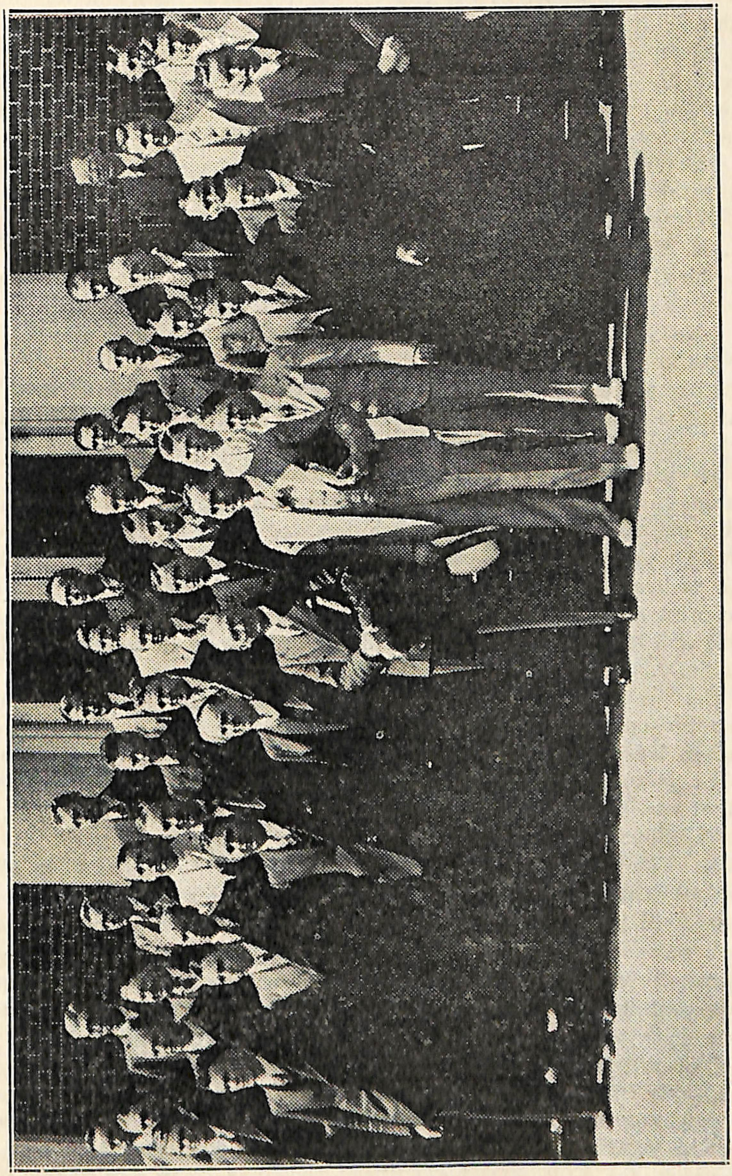
Mills H. Flack, father of A. B. Flack and S. M. Flack, was a leader in the church for many years. He donated a part of the land for the location of the second house of worship. He was prominent among the early business men in Forest City, and represented Rutherford county in the General Assembly of 1895.

William Martin, father of Mrs. Carrie Martin Scruggs, served as treasurer of the Sunday school and teacher of the Men's Bible class for fifteen years or longer, and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death in 1909. He was known for his fidelity to the church, and was never absent on Sunday except in case of illness. Many of the older members today recall that Mr. Martin always came to church riding a mule.

James W. Davis, educator and pioneer citizen of Forest City, served the church faithfully for many years, both as deacon and Sunday school



YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS
(1937)



YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS
(1937)

superintendent. He was the grandfather of V. T. Davis, a member of the present Board of Deacons.

Sheriff John B. Blanton, one of Forest City's pioneer merchants, was another prominent leader in the church, serving as deacon and teacher of the Men's Bible class for many years. His home was always open to the preachers who served the church as pastors, and he was greatly beloved by them. He enjoyed each and every church service and was always complimentary to the pastors. When the first brick church was under construction, work was stopped for lack of funds for some time, and Sheriff Blanton placed a mortgage on one of his farms in order to secure funds for the completion of the building and, as a result, lost the farm. Sheriff Blanton was the father of Roy R. Blanton, W. C. Blanton and Mrs. R. E. Biggerstaff.

Mr. M. C. Padgett, who owned and operated Forest City's first livery stable and first barber shop in the town was another loyal member of the church. He and his fine family contributed much to the church and community.

Another power in the church and an outstanding citizen of the town and county was Dr. G. E. Young, father of Miss Margaret Young, who is a faithful member of the church. After more than forty years of unstinted service in the community, he climaxed the end of his useful life by signing on his death bed the deed donating the land to the church where the church and educational buildings are located. After Dr. Young was stricken unto death, he called for the deed and asked that a magistrate be secured at once, and while waiting for the magistrate to come and execute the papers, his last words were, "Tell him to hurry up." After he signed and had the papers witnessed, he fell asleep to awaken in God's morning. Dr. Young was Forest City's first mayor.

In the death of J. F. Alexander on December 17, 1925, the church lost its most outstanding member. Mr. Alexander was a philanthropist, lumberman, banker, educator, and a Christian gentleman of the highest type. His greatest joy was in making donations to his church and other benevolent causes, and a few days before his death he gave Rev. J. W. O'Hara $17,500.00 to pay off all debts of the Alexander Schools, of Union Mills. This institution, bearing his name, and the Alexander Memorial educational building stand as monuments to his philanthropy.

Space will permit mention of only a few of the many noble women who have served the church faithfully and had a fine part in its history and progress. Mrs. Emily Logan is remembered by many for her unselfish work and fine christian service in nursing and caring for the sick, extending help and sympathy to those in need and trouble. She was an angel of mercy and served without reward or hope of reward.

The work in the church of Mrs. W. A. Ayers, wife of the present pastor, has been outstanding in many respects. She has been a guiding spirit in the W. M. U. organization, and in appreciation of her long and useful service, the Elizabeth Ayers Circle, was named in her honor.

Mrs. S. N. Watson, wife of a former pastor, the late Rev. S. N. Watson, has served the church and community in a beautiful way. For several years Mrs. Watson was president of the Woman's Missionary society, and the several organizations experienced a fine growth under her wise

leadership. Mrs. Watson has always taken an active part in the civic work of the community.

Mrs. A. H. McDaniel, affectionately known to all as "Aunt Alice," is one of the oldest members in the present congregation. During her long membership in the church, Mrs. McDaniel has always taken an active part in all the church activities, and is one of the most regular attendants at all the church services today. Mrs. McDaniel was the wife of the late A. H. McDaniel, prominent Methodist layman, pioneer business man and one time city official.

While the church has been served by twenty-five ministers during its ninety-one years history, there are in the congregation today two members who remember and were personally acquainted with all the pastors. Reference is made to Mrs. Effie Harrill (W. B.) Moore, and Mrs. Julia Harrill Collins, granddaughters of Rev. William Harrill, the first pastor.

The church was a member of the Green River Association from time of its organization in 1848 until October 2, 1890, when, along with a number of other churches in the lower part of Rutherford county, it was given a letter of dismissal by request, to help form the present Sandy Run Association, which was organized at Bethel church, Ellenboro, N. C., November 27, 1890, being one of the charter members of that body. The annual sessions of the Green River Association convened with the church in 1862, 1874, and 1886. The Sandy Run Association has also met with the church on three different occasions, first in 1891, then in 1907 and again in 1934.

Until sometime after the Civil War several negroes were members of the church in good standing. They were slaves owned by some of the white families, and were devout, faithful christians. After the war was over some of them refused to accept their freedom and remained with their white families for years. A few of them accumulated large farms and much property and were good, substantial citizens.

The church records reveal that the congregation had certain noble traits during the early years. One was strict discipline. All members, especially the men, were required to attend church meeting or give satisfactory excuse. Intoxication, profanity and dancing were severely condemned.

The Florence Baptist church, organized in 1922, was constituted largely by members from the First Baptist church. Under the able ministry of Rev. L. N. Epley, the Florence church has experienced a remarkable growth and today has a membership of around 500. The church is a power for good in the community it serves. A modern church plant will be built by the Florence congregation in the near future.

In keeping with a resolution adopted by the church June 10th, 1928, the second Sunday in June each year is observed as "Home Coming Day." All living former pastors and members of the church as well as all resident members and friends are invited to attend this annual event. The present pastorate of Dr. W. A. Ayers had its beginning on the second Sunday of June 1923, hence the 1939 observance of the day marks the beginning of his seventeenth year as pastor.

Our Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God and angels, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;

To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality;

To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines;

To give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion;

To religiously educate our children;

To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

To walk circumspectly in the world;

To be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment;

To avoid all tattling; backbiting, and excessive anger;

To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;

To remember each other in prayer;

To aid each other in sickness and distress;

To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and, mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

(Let us all honestly try to live up to our Covenant)