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### First Baptist Church, Gaffney - Dedicatory Service - 1955, April 24

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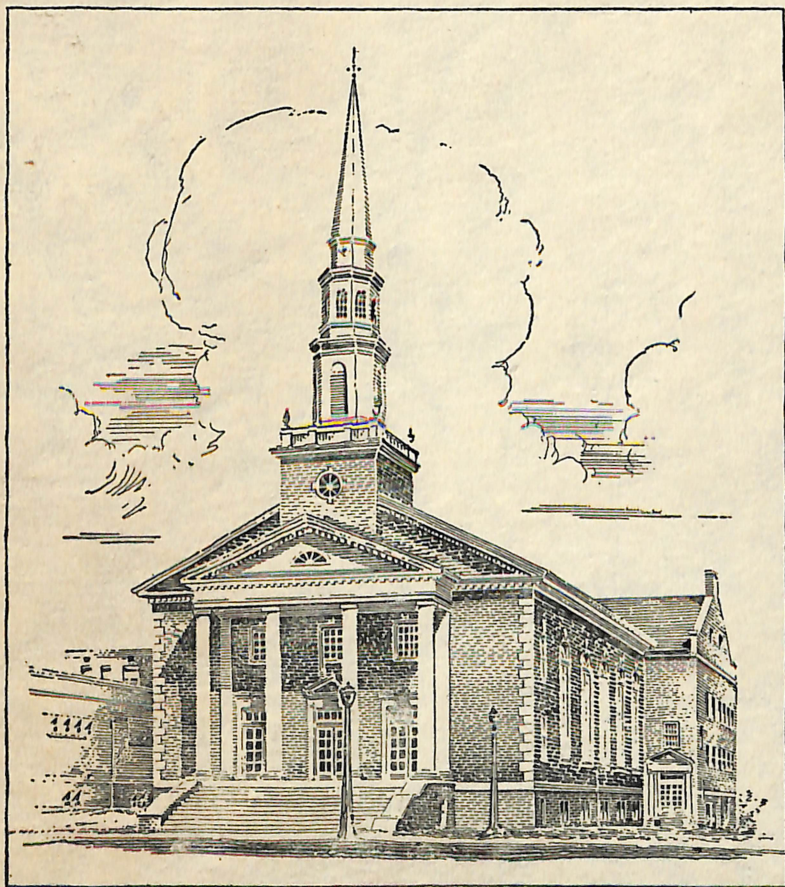
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# *First Baptist Church*

GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA



## *Dedicatory Service*

APRIL 24, 1955

*"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise."*

Psalm 100:4.





*"... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*  
—Jesus.

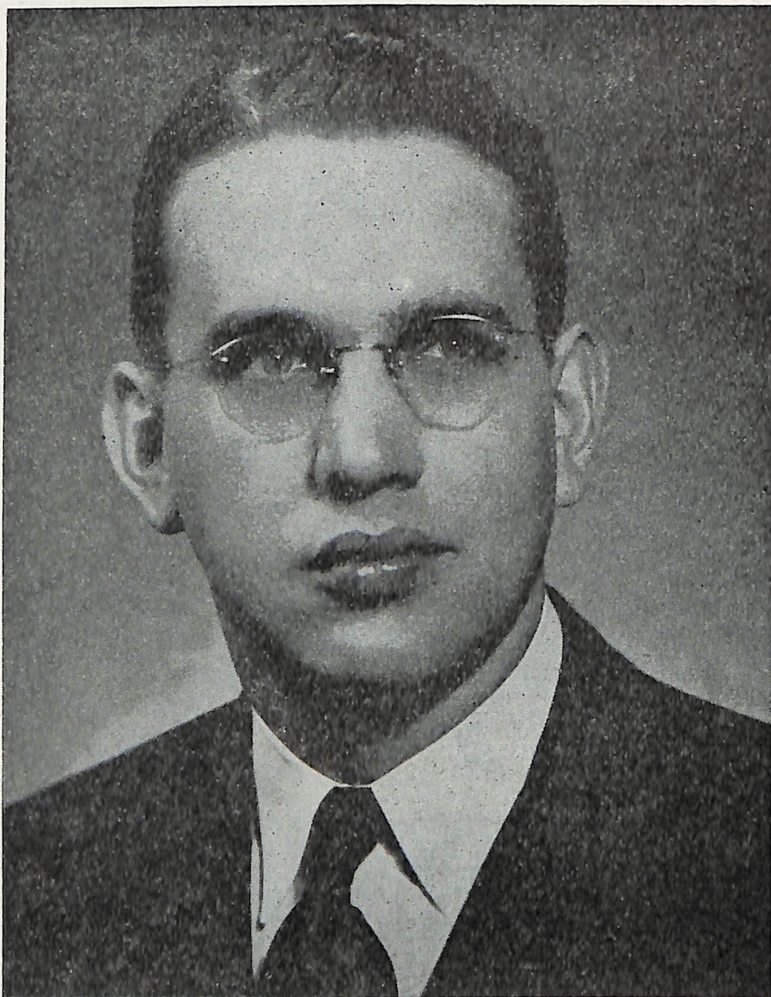


FIRST SANCTUARY  
1879-1899



SECOND SANCTUARY  
1900-1949





FRANK E. MORRIS, *Pastor*  
January 15, 1948-1955

### *Message From the Pastor*

Through its whole history the Christian religion has developed supreme affinities for best things. For the noblest culture; for purest morals; for magnificent literatures; for most finished civilizations, and for most energetic national temperaments, it has manifested irresistible sympathies. Such a devotion to the better, nobler and finer inspired the construction of this house of worship. May the lives of those, who through the coming years shall worship here, match the beauty and elegance of this structure!



The Church Christ Builds . . .

“Only once in a lifetime comes the privilege of helping to build a church that will stand for generations in the community for which it is built . . .

“When we build, let us think we build forever. Let it not be for present use alone. Let it be such work that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and the wrought substance of them, ‘See! This our fathers did for us.’”  
—John Ruskin.

*Building Committee*

John M. Hamrick, <i>Chairman</i>	E. H. Jones
Mrs. E. H. Dobson, Sr.	W. C. Hamrick, Jr.
Mrs. L. V. Gaffney	C. L. Chandler
Mrs. Lyman Hamrick	C. E. Hamrick
Mrs. Eula Vassy	A. J. Eastwood
J. B. Hatcher	V. H. Lipscomb

*List of Pastors*

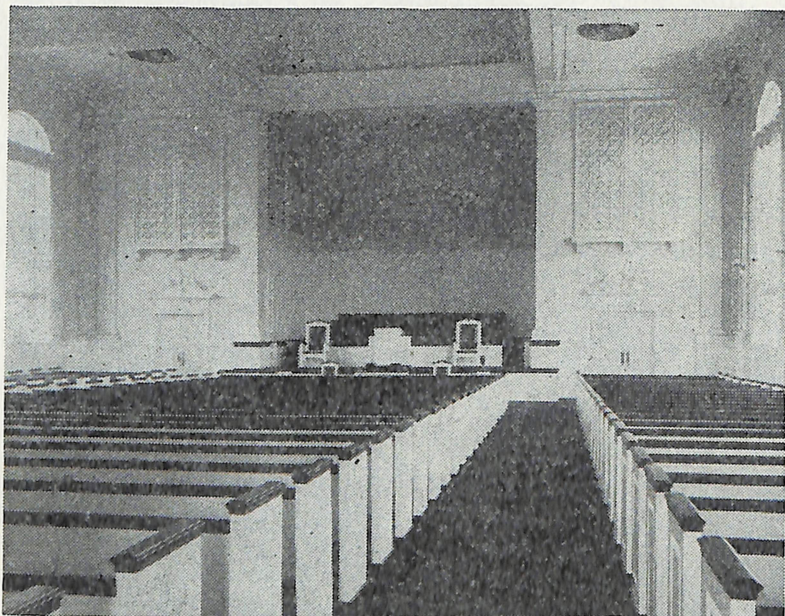
W. L. Brown . . . 1878-1882	J. S. Dill . . . . . 1911-1919
Thos. L. Smith . . 1882-	R. C. Granberry . . 1919-1924
I. W. Wingo . . . . 1882-1892	Cecil V. Cook . . . 1924-1927
B. P. Robertson . . 1892-1900	R. A. MacFarland 1927-1933
A. C. Cree . . . . . 1900-1903	D. A. Howard . . 1933-1943
A. M. Simms . . . 1903-1911	D. M. Rivers . . . 1943-1947
	Frank E. Morris 1948-1955



“When Jesus said, ‘I will build my church,’ he began an enterprise which he will carry to completion. Earthly systems rise and fall. Human institutions flourish and fail. All around there is change and decay. But **THE CHURCH CHRIST BUILDS** towers above all the wrecks of time.”

from a sermon by Dr. Millard A. Jenkins.

\* \* \* \*



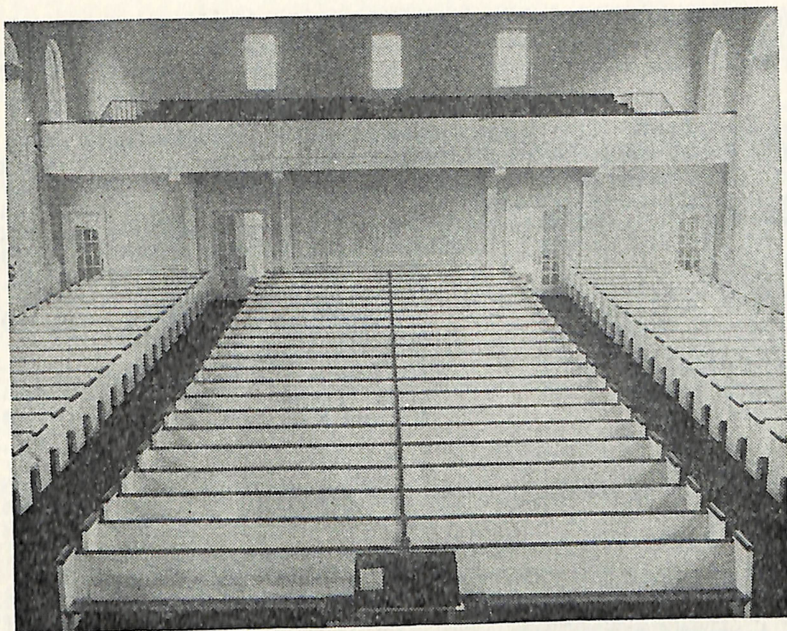
A View of the Sanctuary, From Back

### FACING THE FUTURE

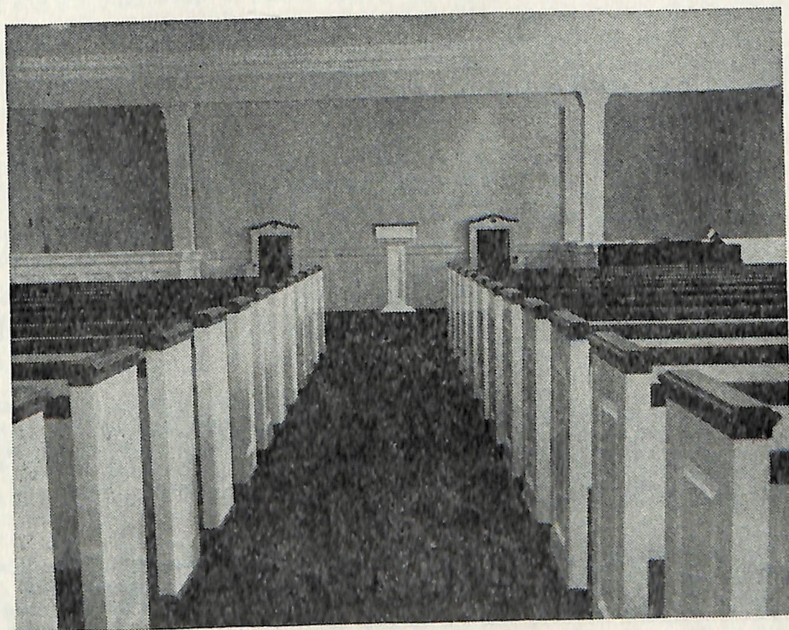
Our attitude is one of praise and thanksgiving to God for His manifold blessings upon our church down through the days and years now past. We praise His Name for bringing us to this good hour which opens up to us what we pray God will be the most fruitful chapter ever yet experienced in the life of our church. The impetus of great things accomplished, and the compelling urge of greater things yet to be done, stir our hearts.

**FAITH IS THE VICTORY.**





View of Auditorium, Showing Balcony  
Seating Capacity 965



Church Chapel  
Seating Capacity 200



## Historical Sketch

The First Baptist Church was organized on the third Sunday in June, 1878, with twenty-eight charter members; viz:

Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Brown  
Major and Mrs. J. J. Brown  
Adeline Clary  
T. Davenport  
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Duncan  
Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Gaffney  
Henry M. Gaffney  
James J. Gaffney  
Mrs. Victoria Gaffney  
F. B. Gaffney

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gaffney  
Mrs. Lura Gaffney Wilkins  
Mrs. Augusta Gaffney Montgomery  
Mollie E. Montgomery  
Mrs. Julia Gaffney Gaines  
Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Gilmer  
Mrs. Martha James  
Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Robison  
E. H. Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Lipscomb

### FIRST CHURCH OFFICERS

#### DEACONS

H. G. Gaffney  
Nathan Lipscomb

#### CHURCH CLERK

T. Davenport

#### CHURCH TREASURER

E. H. Wright

The place of organization was the old Methodist Church house, known as Elam Methodist, then located on grounds now occupied by the Central Grammar School. For a short while, the new church worshipped in Carey Hall. During the following summer, a brush arbor and an old barn, located on the back of the lot now occupied, was used for worship.

Col. Wm. W. Gaffney, a son of first Deacon H. G. Gaffney, donated to the church a lot on the corner of Limestone and Smith Streets, valued at \$600.000, on which was built a wooden church at a cost of \$1,400.00. This church served until 1899.

Rev. W. L. Brown served as pastor for four years, from June, 1878 until November, 1882. The outstanding accomplishments during his pastorate were: the building of the house of worship; the erection of a small parsonage on the rear of the church lot, and a slight increase in the church membership. The church joined Spartanburg Association, remaining with this group until 1899 when it changed to the Broad River Association.

The second pastor of First Baptist, Rev. T. W. Smith, served only five months when he died.

In May, 1883, Rev. I. W. Wingo was called to serve as pastor, and remained here until January, 1892. When Rev. Wingo took up the pastorate of this church there were sixty members; upon his retirement there were one hundred, thirty-four. During this time there were several wonderful revivals, especially in the year 1886. The church held services twice a month and greatly prospered during this period.

In February, 1892, Rev. B. P. Robertson, then a student in the Southern Baptist Seminary, was called as full time pastor, at a salary of \$700.00 per annum. The first thing the church did was to remodel the building at a cost of \$400.00. During the pastorate of Bro. Robertson the church grew and by September 11, 1899, there had been additions to bring the membership up from 134 to 320. In 1899 the second build for First Baptist was constructed on the same site at a cost of about \$50,000.00.



On July 28, 1896, a second Baptist Church was organized through the assistance of First Baptist. On this same day our church was changed from Gaffney Baptist to First Baptist and the second church came to be called Cherokee Avenue Baptist.

In the spring of 1897 the ladies undertook and succeeded in raising money for a new pastorium. The lot on Montgomery Street cost \$300.00 and the building was constructed at a cost of \$800.00. The pastor moved into the new house in July, 1897. This same year First Baptist aided Cherokee Avenue in constructing a new building. Gaffney Manufacturing Company gave the lot and \$1,000.00 toward its construction.

Dr. A. C. Cree became pastor of First Baptist in 1900 and in that year the second building was dedicated.

Dr. A. M. Simms became pastor in 1903. During his tenure, the Sunday School was graded and Southern Baptist literature was used from then on.

Dr. J. S. Dill assumed the care of the church in 1911. Finding need for more Sunday School space, money was raised and a building added to the main sanctuary. In 1913, the annex was dedicated. When Dr. Dill resigned in 1919, there was a membership of 656.

Dr. R. C. Granberry, during 1919, became next pastor, serving the church until he was elected President of Limestone College in 1924. This was the period of the 75 Million Campaign. The church pledged \$90,000.00 to this drive and paid the full amount. This was a wonderful achievement for the church.

Dr. Cecil V. Cook became pastor in 1924 following Dr. Granberry and served for three years. During his stay the present parsonage was built at a cost of \$12,000.00.

In 1927, Dr. R. A. MacFarland became pastor of the church and served until 1933. Though pinched by the great depression, the church grew in membership and spirituality. The rotation of church officers was begun under his leadership.

Dr. D. A. Howard accepted the pastorate of the church in 1933, serving here for ten years. During his stay the present four-story educational building was erected at a cost of \$52,471.00. Dr. Howard left behind him a fine monument to remind us of his noble, quiet leadership. In 1941 this building was occupied.

September, 1943, Dr. D. M. Rivers began the pastorate of the church. Under his leadership the debt against the church was liquidated and a Building Fund reserve amounting to \$50,000.00 was collected. Dr. Rivers made a fine contribution to the spirit and growth of the church.

On January 15, 1948, Rev. Frank E. Morris came to be with us. During his pastorate, plans were made and a new house of worship was constructed at a cost of \$450,000.00. During his pastorate the membership has grown to around 1,500. The church stands near the top among the leading churches of the state in income, remaining around seventh to fifth place in gifts to missions.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Morris aided in conducting the funeral of Rev. B. P. Robertson in the old church building which Mr. Robertson helped to construct. This took place just prior to the demolishing of the building to make way for the present structure.

The future of the church is just as bright as the promises of God.



# Dedicatory Service

APRIL 24, 1955  
11:00 A. M.

ORGAN PRELUDE

CHIMING THE HOUR

† CALL TO WORSHIP:

Zion stands with hills surrounded—Zion, kept by power divine;  
All her foes shall be confounded, Though the world in arms  
combine:

Happy Zion, What a favored lot is thine!

Happy Zion, What a favored lot is thine!

—Amen.

INVOCATION

†\*\* HYMN No. 406: "The Church's One Foundation" . . . *Wesley*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

\*\* CALL TO PRAYER: Organ Interlude

MORNING PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Almighty Father, Hear Our Prayer" . . . .  
*Mendelssohn*

GREETING THE GUESTS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

†\*\* HYMN No. 149: "Something For Jesus" . . . . *Lowery*

SERVICE OF GIVING

Dedicatory Prayer

Offertory Anthem: "Hallelujah" from "The Mount of Olives"  
*Beethoven*

† DOXOLOGY

ORGAN INTERLUDE

SERMON: "THE HOUSE OF GOD" . . . . . the Pastor

SERVICE OF DEDICATION:

Burning of Note

† Reading of Service of Dedication

Dedicatory Prayer

† INVITATION HYMN No. 196: "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord" . . .  
*Williams*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL AMEN: "Seven Fold Amen"

ORGAN POSTLUDE

\*\* Ushers may seat those waiting.

† Congregation standing.



## *Service of Dedication*

**Pastor:** How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be still praising thee. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain who build it. Believing that Thou art above all the builder of this house through Thy servants, we offer unto Thee our humble and grateful praise.

**People:** BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL: AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME. BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS.

**Pastor:** To the Glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace; To honor his Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us; To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and strengthens us;

**People:** TO THEE, O LORD, WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.

**Pastor:** For the worship of God in prayer and praise; For the preaching of the everlasting gospel; For the observance of the sacred ordinance;

**People:** WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.

**Pastor:** For the comfort of all who mourn: For strength to those who are tempted: For light to those who seek the way;

**People:** WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.

**Pastor:** For the hallowing of family life; For teaching and guiding the young; For the perfecting of the saints;



**People:** WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.

**Pastor:** For the conversion of sinners; For the promotion of righteousness; For the extension of the Kingdom of God.

**People:** WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.

**Pastor:** In the unity of the faith; In the bond of Christian brotherhood; In charity and good will to all;

**People:** WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.

**Pastor:** In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church; In loving remembrance of all those who have finished their course; In hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

**People:** WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE.

**Pastor and People Together:** We now, the people of this church and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Pastor:** Accept O God our Father, this service at our hands, and bless it to the end that this congregation of faithful people may make manifest the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth, and so may this house be the place where thine honor dwelleth and the whole earth be filled with Thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *Church Staff*

PASTOR: Frank E. Morris

CHURCH SECRETARY: Mrs. C. W. Cooksey

PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY: Mrs. Paul C. Bell

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Miss Joan Martin

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Dean Ross

ORGANIST: Robert Carr



